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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Canajoharie Revitalization Program to be honored

ALBANY, NY – May 1, 2008 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected **The Canajoharie Revitalization Program** in Montgomery County to receive its prestigious Excellence in Historic Preservation Award. This statewide awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

“The renaissance of Canajoharie should serve as a model for heritage tourism development and downtown revitalization across the state,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “This community retains a wealth of historic and architectural resources that have been renovated in a way that celebrates the historic character of the village. Canajoharie’s downtown demonstrates the impressive results that can be achieved when not-for-profits, local governments, architectural professionals, consultants and state agencies work toward a common vision.”

Contributing to the success of this effort were the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission; the Village of Canajoharie; Carlson Associates of Cooperstown, and Crawford & Stearns Architects & Preservation Planners of Syracuse. Funding from the NYS Office for Small Cities, NBT Bank of Canajoharie, and The Arkell Hall Foundation helped support the project.

Canajoharie had once been a thriving canal-side community and was distinguished by many handsome rough-cut limestone buildings constructed with local Canajoharie Stone, the same material that was used in building the Brooklyn Bridge. Just a few years ago, however, Canajoharie looked like far too many other upstate communities with boarded up storefronts, water-damaged masonry and inappropriate vinyl replacement windows.

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“To date, the team of Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission and the Village of Canajoharie has been successful in applying for a number of grants for the revitalization of the core intersection of Church and Main Streets,” said Fred Miller, executive director of the Commission. “Six buildings, which encompass 11 facades and 12 storefronts, have been brought back to the way they might have appeared in the heyday of the Erie Canal. Five new projects are slated to be undertaken in 2008.”

The award will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, May 15th** at the historic **Park Avenue Armory**, 643 Park Avenue.

The complete list of award winners is: Webb Lofts in Buffalo, Erie County; MacNaughton House Stabilization in Newcomb, Essex County; U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, Kings County; Downtown Revitalization Program, Canajoharie, Montgomery County; Eldridge Street Synagogue, Lower East Side, New York County; Proctors, Schenectady, Schenectady County; Hotel Kirkland, Kingston, Ulster County; Model Development Block, New Rochelle, Westchester County. The Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors will be honored for organizational excellence, and Trude Brown Fitelson of Rochester will be honored for individual excellence. *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City’s Landmarks* by Anthony C. Wood (Routledge, 2007) will also receive a special citation.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give Canajoharie’s Revitalization Program the statewide recognition it deserves.”

The Preservation League’s Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.

By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.

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