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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Trude Brown Fitelson to be honored for Individual Achievement

ALBANY, NY – May 1, 2008 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected **Trude Brown Fitelson** of Rochester to receive its prestigious Excellence in Historic Preservation Award for her leadership in saving and enhancing the historic character of Thousand Island Park. This statewide awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York State’s irreplaceable architectural heritage.

“While many look forward to time at Thousand Island Park as an opportunity to relax, Trude’s year-round preservation efforts have been described by some as a second career,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “The National Register listing of this unique community and its protection are a testament to her remarkable patience, stamina, and perseverance over many decades.”

Thousand Island Park, located on Wellesley Island in Jefferson County, began as a Methodist campground in 1875 and became a popular resort area by the turn of the century. According to Paul Malo, author and nationally recognized authority on the art and architecture of the Thousand Islands, “The remarkable renaissance of Thousand Island Park over the past thirty years is due in large part to the unflinching work of Trude Brown Fitelson.”

Trude Fitelson was a founder of a community organization, the Thousand Island Park Landmark Society, which conducted a survey of more than three hundred buildings, leading to the 1982 designation of the entire community on the National Register of Historic Places. Trude also spearheaded a long-range land-use plan that conserves several hundred acres as “forever green.” She has been active in design and landscaping of outdoor public spaces, initiated a master zoning map, and drafted the Preservation Code. At the present time, she serves as senior

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advisor to Preservation and Design Review Board and is working on a primer to inform residents about the heritage of Thousand Island Park and the ongoing need for vigilance in steering development in an appropriate course.

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, organizations and individuals, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give Trude Brown Fitelson the statewide recognition she 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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