



2008 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2009

Award Promotes Excellence in Development

The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Huntingdon County Planning Commission are proud to announce the winners of the fourth annual Community Improvement Award. The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee have jointly reviewed the nominees, with the final selection being made by the Planning Commission. Sponsor for the awards is Kish Bank. Award categories include: Commercial, Residential, Public/Non-profit, and Special Merit.

Community Improvement Awards are based on both the visual and the environmental impact of the project. Nominations will be judged on how the project:

- Enhances the attractiveness of Huntingdon County;
- Is compatible with the site area and environment;
- Shows creativity/innovation in design and use of materials;
- Enhances the quality of life, including job creation; and
- Exhibits the principle of sustainability.

HUNTINGDON FARMERS MARKET
Special Merit Category - The Huntingdon Farmers Market at Portstown Park in Huntingdon Borough is organized by James Pingry. The Huntingdon Farmers Market, started in 2007, completed its second season in 2008. The Farmers Market operates every Thursday afternoon from noon until 6:00 PM. There are generally 3 or 4 vegetable stands, a fruit stand, a pasture raised beef vendor, a honey vendor, a bread and baked goods vendor and a free-range chicken vendor. Several of the farmers are organic growers. Locally grown food minimizes the energy needed for food production and maximizes nutrition by providing farm fresh food.





STANDING STONE COFFEE COMPANY

Commercial Category - Greg and Jessie Anderson redeveloped an old laundromat in uptown Huntingdon into a neighborhood coffee shop, transforming the building interior with vibrant colors. And the laundromat is still there. The Andersons roast and blend their own fairly traded and organically grown coffees. Standing Stone has become a neighborhood center, sponsoring events such as acoustic guitar and violin performances, discussion groups and art displays. This business models the principles of sustainability with a commitment to neighborhood revitalization.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Residential Category - The Habitat for Humanity Huntingdon Chapter is honored for their Mount Union Project. Habitat purchased and subdivided a vacant lot to create two new one-story homes, and an adjacent older home was totally gutted to prepare for its rehabilitation into a four bedroom home. The homes were completed by Habitat volunteers and the 'sweat equity' of prospective owners. The completed project provides affordable housing and is compatible with its neighborhood.



BROAD TOP COMMUNITY PARK

Public/Non-profit Category - The Greater Broad Top Area Park and Recreation Association organized in 2002 to redevelop an existing ballfield into a community park, completing in 2008.GBTAPRA obtained funding, purchased the site, developed plans and constructed a 3.1-acre handicapped accessible community park, including ballfield, playground, picnic pavilion, 2,000 foot walking path and paved basketball court. This project models great sustainable community development by preserving and enhancing public open space.

Sustainability Criteria

- ⇒ Create walkable neighborhoods.
- ⇒ Direct development toward existing communities.
- ⇒ Encourage a mixture of land uses.
- ⇒ Preserve open space, farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.
- ⇒ Create housing choices.
- ⇒ Provide transportation choices.