



# 2009 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce  
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2010

## Award Promotes Excellence in Development

The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Huntingdon County Planning Commission are proud to announce the winners of the fifth 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 and 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.

### **ALLEGRIPPIS TRAILS AT RAYSTOWN LAKE**

Special Merit Category - The Friends of Raystown Lake partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the International Mountain Biking Association to create 32 miles of single track multi use trails at Raystown Lake. As pictured here, since completion in the spring of 2009, over 6,000 mountain bikers have banked around hairpin curves, through streams and over hill and dale to enjoy this world class recreation facility. Funding came from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This is a first rate example of partnering to create sustainable recreational opportunities.





## **SUBWAY/SNAP FITNESS**

Commercial Category - Chris and Jackie Confer redeveloped the 14,000 square foot former hardware store into a restaurant and fitness center in downtown Mount Union. The building owners remodeled the space to meet the requirements of Ralph Parks, owner of the two new businesses, while retaining two current tenants. This project is a good example of neighborhood revitalization and sustainable development within the existing community. Renovation work began in August 2008, with completion in April 2009.

## **WOODS MANSION**

Residential Category - Joel and Barbara Brown are honored for restoring the 1874 Italianate Woods Mansion in Huntingdon Borough. The Browns completed the project in 2009, seven years after purchasing the under used building. Exterior features restored include the cupola, eaves brackets, scrolled corbels, front door and porch. The interior has been designed by noted painter John Rita of Altoona and features stenciled walls and trompe d'oeil to create the illusion of curtains and columns. A large ceiling mural of the nine muses adorns the 25 foot long double parlor.



## **STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

Public/Non-profit Category - The goal of this project was to provide handicapped accessibility to this 1918 church. The project provided accessible entries on the basement and first floor levels. Restrooms on each floor were made accessible and a lift between the basement and first floor was installed. The bell tower entrance received major renovation with the addition of new lighting and a higher ceiling. Sustainable construction techniques included use of recycled gypsum board, framing lumber from sustainable forests and recycling of construction debris.



## **Sustainability Criteria**

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