

For Immediate Release

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Southbridge Savings Bank Supports Development of Local Sculpture



Phil Pettinelli of Southbridge Savings Bank presents a check to Nancy & Janina Swiacki in front of a model replica of the AO Sculpture

April 6, 2009 – An Optical Sculpture Committee of twelve has developed plans for a monumental sculpture to be located on the Southbridge Town Common. This work of public art will honor the workers of American Optical as the catalyst for the growth of the optic industry in the area. The twenty foot sculpture in the shape of an eyeglass frame, will be created by Woodstock, CT metal smith Michael J. Saari and should inspire the area’s budding revitalization. Included in the design will be a bench so that visitors can get a full appreciation for the artistry while contemplating the imagination and hard work ethic of local citizens.

“Southbridge Savings Bank is proud to support this project with a donation of \$2,500.00,” stated Bank President Phil Pettinelli. “We are proud of our community and a sculpture like this signifies that pride. This is a great way in which we show that Southbridge truly is the Eye of the Commonwealth.”

“Thanks to the gift by Southbridge Savings Bank we now have enough donations to hire the sculptor,” commented Co-Chair Nancy Swiacki. “However, to complete the project we still need more contributions to help make this project a success.”

For more information about Southbridge Savings Bank call them at 800-939-9103 or visit them at southbridgesavingsbank.com. Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation can forward a check to QVCAH (Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities), 111 Main St, Southbridge, MA 01550. Please add a memo indicating the Optical Sculpture Fund.