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Building Community through the Oldtown Calendar

Natick, MA— The Oldtown Calendar Project today announced publication of the *2008 Oldtown Calendar*.

In development for over a year, the *Oldtown Calendar* is a fundraiser for local nonprofit organizations, including this year the *Bacon Free Library*, Mass Audubon's *Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary*, *The Morse Institute Library*, *Massachusetts Horticultural Society*, *The Natick Historical Society*, the *West Virginia Work Camp*, and *The Eliot Church* (the project organizer). The Calendar is now on sale at these institutions, where net proceeds are a charitable donation.

The Calendar celebrates the community along the Charles River made famous over a century ago in *Oldtown Folks*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Twenty local photographers submitted images made around “Oldtown” (including Natick, Wellesley, Dover, and Sherborn, especially along the river) to the first *Oldtown Photo Calendar Competition* in October 2006. Over 100 community members visited to vote for their favorite photographs, which appear in the new calendar.

This year’s Calendar has been sponsored by two local businesses, Faith Casler Associates and Hughes & Hughes Real Estate. “The mission of the Calendar,” said Faith Casler, “goes beyond fundraising. It provides a platform for passionate local photographers, and builds a sense of community and appreciation for the history of this wonderful place. I’m delighted that we are able to help make the calendar possible.”

“I believe the *Oldtown Calendar* will appeal to people who live and work in the area,” said Diane Wallace, Director of the Bacon Free Library, “and also be a great gift for people who have lived in our community over the years, even if they’re now far away.” The Project encourages people interested in the calendar to visit their favorite participating institution soon, while limited supplies are available. Over 100 preliminary orders have already been taken.

The Calendar Project also announced the date for the next *Oldtown Photo Calendar Competition*: October 21, 2007, at the Community Fall Fair in South Natick. Photographers, while space remains, are once again invited to enter their images of “Oldtown”. For further information, calendar orders, and registration information, visit www.oldtowncalendar.org, or contact oldtownphoto@comcast.net.