

Friday, May 9, 2008

Silk scarves add to Preservation Worcester effort



Helping to save a historic building usually is quite challenging. But sometimes it's as smooth as silk.

Preservation Worcester, which works to save significant sites and structures in the city, is offering a silk scarf with a special design: a scene from Elm Park.

The design is taken from the work of local watercolor artist Mark Waitkus, who also is the official artist for the Boston Red Sox. "He has been extremely generous to Preservation Worcester," said Deborah Packard, the organization's executive director. "He has painted some of the buildings from our endangered structures list as well as other sites and structures across the city. We sell his prints at Preservation Worcester and he generously agreed to let us use his watercolor of the wood bridge in Elm Park as the inspiration of our scarf."

It wasn't easy adapting Waitkus' image to the dimensions of a long scarf, but the PW design team came up with a unique and attractive result.

They placed the watercolor at one end of the rectangular scarf and then abstracted part of his painting to reach around to the other end. Board member JoAnn Morency, senior vice president at Commerce Bank and Trust Co., has been an important member of the team that designed and will market the scarf, Packard said.

The scarf costs \$50 (Preservation Worcester members get a 10 percent discount) and is available at the organization's headquarters, 10 Cedar St., Worcester. For more information, call (508) 754-8760.

— Nancy Sheehan