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REALTOR® ASSOCIATION PREMIERS SMART GROWTH COURSE

Fairlee, Vermont (September 7, 2006) – At their recent annual convention, the Vermont Association of REALTORS® (VAR) unveiled the first Smart Growth course in the nation designed for REALTORS®. With funding from the National Association of REALTORS®, VAR partnered with the Vermont Forum on Sprawl to produce and teach the course.

“We are proud to lead the nation in this effort to understand how we can make our neighborhoods more livable and affordable,” VAR President Nancy Gale observed. “Smart Growth has as much application to small rural towns as in large metropolitan areas. Perhaps it is even easier to pursue those concepts here where sprawl is not so entrenched in the culture.”

Governor James Douglas also spoke to the gathering following the course, noting the timeliness of the effort with the implementation of the recent growth center legislation, which was passed in the last session and he signed in June.

The convention was primarily sponsored by the Chittenden Bank.

Association officers for 2007 were also installed at the Convention: Sonja Stevens, Williston, Coldwell Banker/Hickok and Boardman will serve as President; Marlene Finger, Rutland, RE/Max Town and Country is President Elect; Lori Pinard, Montpelier, Century 21 Jack Associates will be the Treasurer.

The Vermont Association of REALTORS® is the trade organization serving over 1,900 members throughout Vermont.