**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Free Appraisal Clinic for Antiques & Collectibles at Binghamton July Fest**

Binghamton, NY, June 28, 2005 -- Have you ever wondered how much that vintage item in your attic is worth?  You can find out for free on Friday, July 8 or Saturday, July 9 at the Appraisal Clinic for Antiques & Collectibles conducted by Bob Connelly, an internationally renowned authority.  Bring your item, or pictures and documentation, to Bob at the 43rd Annual July Fest in Binghamton, NY, and find its value, a whole lot of art, and street fair fun, too.

Nationally known as a lead appraiser on Fox Cable Network's Personal FX Show, Bob was recently elected a Fellow (FRICS) of the British Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.  His appraisal specialties include antiques -- spanning a variety of household items such as furniture, china, glassware -- decorative arts, clocks & watches, sports memorabilia, military items, paintings, prints and more.  Bob will share his expertise during July Fest in free Antiques Roadshow style appraisals at his 205 State Street booth in front of the Connelly Gallery.

Bob is an enthusiastic supporter and organizer of Binghamton's July Fest.  His efforts led the City to close State Street between Henry and Lewis Streets, and name it Artists Row for the duration.  In addition to his Appraisal Clinic -- and nationally acclaimed ceramic artist Margie Hughto's exhibit at the Connelly Gallery -- visitors will enjoy artists-in-action, arts & crafts, fine art exhibits, live music, and food vendors, including a farmer's market.

Bob, whose FRICS designation makes him something of a local celebrity, says "The big attraction on Artists Row won't be me but five-year old Marla Olmstead."  Marla, the child prodigy whose remarkable paintings were highlighted last year on CBS' 60 Minutes, will be exhibiting down the block at Anthony Burnelli Fine Arts.  Marla's exhibit is titled "Artist Marla: Five."

The arts won't be the only attraction at Binghamton's July Fest.  There will be a children's area with balloon sculptors, jugglers, storytellers and face painters. Athletes from the Binghamton Mets and Senators will meet, greet and sign autographs. July Fest will also showcase the Gorgeous Washington Art Walk and an exhibit from the Ross Park Zoo.  The Fest is free and open to the public from 10:00 a.m. both days until 8:00 p.m on Friday and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. The events will take place along Court, Hawley and Washington streets in downtown Binghamton as well as on the Connelly's Artists Row.

This year's Binghamton July Fest is a cooperative effort between the City and the Downtown Binghamton Business Association. For more information about the July Fest, contact event coordinator, Dave Pessagno at 607-761-2475.

Bob -- the "Bob" in Bob & Sallie Connelly, whose business includes antiques, auctions, appraisals and the art gallery -- has been appraising antiques and collectibles in the Binghamton area for more than 30 years.  He is active in the American Society of Appraisers and the Appraisers Association of America and has earned their highest levels of professional accreditation.

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**Appraisal Clinic at Binghamton July Fest**

The Connelly Gallery is the premier gallery in the Binghamton area for vintage 19th, 20th and 21st century art. In addition to Margie Hughto, the Gallery shows, sells and brokers artwork by many distinguished regional artists such as Ernestine Bucking, Jo Buffalo, Douglas Arthur Teed, Armondo Dellasanta, Henry Wilcott Boss, Viggo Madsen, Susan Waters, Catherine Bartoo, Thomas Hart Benton, and Gordon Grant.

For information about the Appraisal Clinic or Margie Hughto's exhibit at the Connelly Gallery, visit Bob's website: http://www.bobconnelly.com.

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