



ESSEX NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Barbara McGowan  
Marketing & Communications Mgr.  
978/740-0444, Ext.16  
[bmcgowan@essexheritage.org](mailto:bmcgowan@essexheritage.org)

Annie Harris  
Executive Director  
978/740-0444

**ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE COMMISSION  
ANNOUNCES KEY MILESTONES FOR 2007**

*Seeks Community Support for Annual Appeal*

December 20, 2007 (Salem, MA) . . . For more than a decade the Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) has been gaining recognition for building awareness of the Essex National Heritage Area through a wide range of initiatives designed to help Essex County residents preserve our historic treasures, celebrate our cultural uniqueness and enjoy our exceptional landscape. In collaboration with a network of regional historical sites and open spaces, Essex Heritage has worked passionately to ensure the sustainability of our Heritage Area's treasures and enhance the quality of life for our 700,000 residents.

Some of ENHC's most significant milestones in 2007 include:

- Awarding over \$114,000 in 38 Partnership Grants in the areas of Education, Interpretation, Preservation, Historic Records and Trail Development, to local communities and not-for-profit organizations in a large number of the 34 cities and towns that make up the Essex National Heritage Area.
- Expanding the popular and free collaborative community outreach event, *Trails & Sails: A Weekend of Walks and Water*, now in its sixth straight year of increased site and resident participation.
- Developing thematic guides to the region, which encourage regional exploration by connecting residents and visitors with heritage sites.
- Enhancing education in our school systems through the *Using Essex History* program, enabling Essex County high school teachers to infuse their curricula with local history

through developmental seminars and instruction.

- Sustaining a regional coalition to advance development of the Border to Boston Trail for bicycle and pedestrian recreation in partnership with the National Park Service's rivers and trails program and the communities where the trail will exist.

In Salem alone, a matching grant from Essex Heritage enabled the Writer's Group of the Salem Council on Aging to publish and promote a booklet of personally written perspectives on the evolution of their city. Entitled "Personal Perspectives of a Changing Salem," these first-hand accounts draw from recorded memory and actual research, and give a unique spin on Salem's colorful past. With stories that range from "Afternoons at the Paramount" by Carol Harrington Mulholland to "Memories of the Willows" by Gloria Wallis, this priceless tome will now become fully accessible for both current and future generations with Essex Heritage's help. Other ENHC grants awarded in the city of Salem supported the publication of a children's guide to local architecture by PEM and the restoration several years ago of the 1912 Roger Conant statue by the Salem Common Neighborhood Association.

All around Essex County are examples of how Essex National Heritage Commission has made a significant impact on the quality of life in individual communities. Essex Heritage is committed to your community, and asks for support in their efforts to safeguard hundreds of irreplaceable cultural, historic and natural resources in the region. Only with community support can Essex Heritage continue to connect communities, promote smart-growth development and preserve open space –linking residents, businesses and visitors to the resources of the region through educationally engaging activities.

A personal contribution to ENHC will ensure that the unique qualities of this region are here and protected for years and generations to come. For more information on how simple it is to support this work, we ask you to visit [EssexHeritage.org](http://EssexHeritage.org) and click on the *How I Can Help* logo.

-- # # # --

**About the Essex National Heritage Area**

Designated in 1996 by the U.S. Congress, the Essex National Heritage Area covers 500 square miles of northeastern Massachusetts, and is comprised of an abundance of historical sites, renowned museums, wildlife refuges, working farms and inviting nature trails. It offers a uniquely New England landscape of pristine beaches, quaint seaports, town commons and renovated industrial mills, and chronicles the historical treasures of our region, the richness of our culture and the extraordinary beauty of our natural resources.

**About the Essex National Heritage Commission**

The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) is the non-profit supervisory authority for the Essex National Heritage Area, one of 34 such areas affiliated with the National Park Service. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, the ENHC promotes public/private partnerships and develops and implements programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources found within the Area. For more information, visit the ENHC web-site at [www.essexheritage.org](http://www.essexheritage.org) or call (978) 740-0444.