



ESSEX NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE COMMISSION TO BE HONORED  
FOR WORK IN THE MERRIMACK VALLEY**

**Essex Heritage to be Honored by the Amesbury Chamber at their “Good News” Business  
Salute Breakfast**

(Salem, MA, April 28, 2011) –Annie C. Harris, Executive Director of the Essex National Heritage Commission is being honored, along with two other businesses, by the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce at the Good News Business Salute on May 18th at 7:30 a.m. at the Amesbury Sports Park located at 12 South Hunt Road. For tickets or more information, contact the Amesbury Chamber at 978-388-3178.

Ms. Harris has been active for many years in civic and community organizations around the Merrimack Valley. Ms. Harris was a leader in starting a collaborative effort between the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Commission to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program (HLI) to communities in Essex County. As a result of this collaborative effort, The Amesbury Reconnaissance Report was produced as a critical tool in starting to identify the rich and diverse heritage landscapes in Amesbury and in beginning to promoted discussions about preservation strategies. In addition, like many communities along the Merrimack River, Amesbury is seeing a revitalization of its historic downtown. At the center of this revival is the newly opened Amesbury Cultural Center which received an Essex National Heritage Commission Partnership Grant for planning and design work. The town received another Partnership Grant for the center, to help fund an interactive kiosk linking visitors with other historic sites.

Ms. Harris also worked to collaborate with the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce, Town of Amesbury, ArtsFest Merrimack Valley and the Newburyport Chamber of Commerce to showcase a cluster of events in a unique array of historic, cultural, and natural sites within the Lower Merrimack section of the Essex National Heritage Area for the TRAILS & SAILS program. Trails & Sails includes hundreds of free events throughout the region, involving non-profit and community organizations, as well as recreation-based businesses, to promote tourism and regionalism throughout Essex County.

“This is an honor to be recognized on behalf of Essex National Heritage Commission,” said Ms. Annie C. Harris, Executive Director. “I, along with our President Emeritus Tom Leonard, have spent the better part of our lives promoting regionalism and cultivating partnerships throughout Essex County. We are proud of the commitment to the Merrimack Valley and look forward to working with the Amesbury Chamber to continue to promote the history and culture of this region.”

**About the Essex National Heritage Area**

The Essex National Heritage Commission (Essex Heritage) is the non-profit management entity for Essex National Heritage Area, one of forty-nine heritage partnership parks of the National Park Service. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, Essex Heritage 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 Heritage Area. For more information, visit the website at [www.essexheritage.org](http://www.essexheritage.org) or call (978) 740-0444.

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