



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 HERITAGE ANNOUNCES  
2008 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM***

January 15, 2008 (Salem, MA) . . . The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) has announced that it is accepting applications for its 2008 Partnership Grant Program. For over 10 years, this grant program has provided match funding to projects that encourage greater understanding, interpretation or enhancement of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources within the Essex National Heritage Area.

Open to Essex County non-profit organizations, cities and towns and government agencies, grant awards will range from \$1,000 - \$7,500 per project. This year Essex Heritage Partnership Grants will be awarded in four categories: Thomas M. Leonard Educational Grants, Heritage Interpretation and Programming, Heritage Preservation and Resource Stewardship, and Archives and Historical Records. Proposals that link together resources and communities and increase the public's understanding of the Heritage Area's historically significant themes of Early Settlement, Maritime Era and Industrial Development are encouraged. This year, Essex Heritage is also encouraging communities that participated in the 2004/2005 Essex County Heritage Landscape Inventory project to apply for funds for activities that further the conservation of the properties and "places of the heart" that were deemed at risk.

The Partnership Grant Program is designed to provide "seed funding" that would foster partnerships and encourage collaboration among organizations and municipalities to preserve and promote the unique resources and heritage of Essex County. Since the program began in 1998,

the ENHC has awarded a total of \$1.5 million to 266 matching grants that have generated an additional \$4.56 million in educational and historic preservation projects in the region.

In 2007, thirty-eight matching grants totaling \$112,000 were awarded to organizations in eighteen communities, providing financial support to projects that encourage education, interpretation and preservation of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources within the Essex National Heritage Area.. For a complete list of 2007 grant recipients, please visit:

<http://essexheritage.org/partnershipgrants/spotlights.shtml>.

For more information about the Partnership Grant Program and to download the 2008 grant application, visit the ENHC website at [www.essexheritage.org](http://www.essexheritage.org) or contact the Essex National Heritage Commission at 978-740-0444. The deadline for submitting grant applications is Monday, March 3, 2008 at 5:00pm. Recipients will be notified in June.

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**About Essex Heritage Partnership Grant Program**

The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) Partnership Grant Program is a matching grant program created to foster collaboration between organizations that share the ENHC's mission to preserve and promote the historic, cultural and natural resources in the region. Since its creation in 1998, the program has awarded \$1.5 million to 266 projects in all 34 Essex National Heritage Area communities.

**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.