

Report of the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee

The Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee (ESRLAC) is comprised of volunteers representing the twelve communities in the Exeter-Squamscott River watershed: Chester, Raymond, Fremont, Sandown, Danville, Kingston, East Kingston, Brentwood, Kensington, Exeter, Stratham and Newfields. The Exeter-Squamscott River is one river with two names, reflecting the fresh and salt water portions of this major tributary to Great Bay.

ESRLAC celebrated its 17th year of stewardship of the river and its watershed in 2013. The year was marked by on-going discussions with municipalities and state and federal agencies about water quality in the river and its impact on water quality in Great Bay. Water quality in the river is impacted by land use in all communities in the watershed.

Highlights From 2013 include:

- Annual Vernal Pool Workshop - ESRLAC partnered with the Kingston Conservation Commission in May to hold the 12th Annual Vernal Pool Workshop. Children and adults waded into woodland pools to identify salamanders, turtles and clusters of frog eggs. Development of forestland threatens vernal pools in every watershed community and ESRLAC continues to advocate for the protection of critical wildlife habitat like vernal pools.
- Annual Fish Ladder Tour - ESRLAC partnered with the Exeter Conservation Commission and NH Fish and Game in late May for the annual tour of the fish ladder located next to the Great Dam in downtown Exeter. As always, this event attracted a large crowd interested in learning how NH Fish and Game manages the fish ladder to enable annual fish migration from the salt water of the Squamscott River to the fresh water of the Exeter River.
- Canoe and Kayak Paddle on the Squamscott River - ESRLAC partnered with the Exeter Conservation Commission in October to lead a canoe and kayak paddle on the Squamscott River.

ESRLAC seeks representation from all communities in the watershed. Please call the Rockingham Planning Commission at 603 778 0885 for more information.