

# ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Essex Steam Train & Riverboat* **Kicks Off 40th Anniversary with Neighbor Appreciation Weekend!** **Neighbors Ride Free on Opening Weekend . . . May 7 & 8**

**April 18, 2011, Essex, CT** - - *Essex Steam Train & Riverboat* is delighted to kick off its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season with Neighbor Appreciation Weekend, May 7 & 8, 2011.

Robert Bell, *President of the Valley Railroad Company*, says, "Neighbor Appreciation Weekend is particularly special this season, as Essex Steam Train & Riverboat celebrates 40 Years of unique passenger access to the natural beauty and history of the Connecticut River Valley. I can't think of a better way to celebrate than to offer FREE train *and* boat rides to the community residents who support our efforts to share this traveling museum and nature excursion with visitors!"

Neighbor Appreciation weekend includes *free* TRAIN and BOAT rides for residents in 5 towns along the Valley Railroad's operating line - - **Essex, Deep River, Chester, Haddam, and Old Saybrook.**

- ***New in 2011...***passengers may ride the 1-hour *Saybrook Special*, from Essex Station to Old Saybrook! Departs Essex Station at **10:00am only**.
- Passengers may elect a 1-hour train ride or 2 1/2-hour train and boat ride at **11:00am, 12:30pm, 2:00pm**, or a 1-hour train ride at **3:30pm**.

Hop aboard this springtime adventure bursting with flora and fauna! The magnificent Connecticut River Valley that's our own backyard, will be on full display from the multiple decks of the Becky Thatcher riverboat. Enjoy close up views of the wildlife's natural habitat as the train traverses the tidal wetlands of Pratt Cove and Chester Creek. Treasure the historic sights including East Haddam Swing Bridge, Goodspeed Opera House, and Gillette Castle.

**Tickets for "Neighbor Appreciation Weekend" are available for all 5 departures, on a first come, first serve basis. Adult residents must present picture identification at the Essex Station Ticket Window.**

### *The Valley Railroad Company*

Incorporated in 1969, The Valley Railroad Company opened the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat to the public in 1971. Today, the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat attracts 140,000 visitors a year and continues to be one of Connecticut's most iconic and vibrant tourist attractions. Tour goers enjoy a 2½ hour narrated steam train and riverboat journey through the scenic Connecticut River Valley. Special events include *Day Out With Thomas, Circus Train & Big Top Show, Fright Train, Santa Special* and *North Pole Express*. Please visit [www.essexsteamtrain.com](http://www.essexsteamtrain.com).

[essexsteamtrain.com](http://essexsteamtrain.com)