



December 2008

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## *Celebrating 2008: A Year of Milestones and Achievements*



### *Commons Sense: Monthly Column in the Exeter NewsLetter*

Read about The Commons the third Tuesday of every month in "Commons Sense," our column in the Exeter NewsLetter.

Community members will offer perspectives based on their fields of expertise. Learn about The Commons and how it will change our community through a variety of viewpoints and experiences.

As 2008 comes to a close, it's appropriate to pause and consider the tremendous strides The Commons has made during these past 12 months, and to thank everyone who made them possible. We are truly fortunate to enjoy the support of so many dedicated volunteers and donors, whose energy and enthusiasm continue to reinforce the importance and timeliness of building a Seacoast community center and YMCA.

Our most notable milestone was the purchase of the future home of Squamscott Community Commons. After three years of planning, zoning applications, wetlands permits, site designs, parking studies - and a six-town vote - we closed the deal on the purchase of the old Exeter AREA Junior High School on June 30th. It was with great appreciation that we hosted a July 1st celebration event at the Exeter Inn for everyone who helped move us toward this achievement.

Without a moment to rest on our laurels, we marched onward, conducting a multi-faceted feasibility study. After interviewing nearly 40 stakeholders and prospective donors, the results were resoundingly clear: the Seacoast community is ready, willing and able to support a \$16 million capital campaign to build a regional community center and YMCA. Even in this volatile economic climate, community members have responded - and continue to respond - with remarkable enthusiasm and support.

The confidence and spirit of this community groundswell carried forward into the RiverWoods Auction in October, in which nearly 400 guests bid high and often to raise a record-breaking \$50,000 for The Commons. The auction engaged the support of the entire Seacoast community, including hundreds of volunteers, donors and sponsors. It's a rare nonprofit that will throw an event to raise money for another; RiverWoods exemplifies effective collaboration and community support, and The Commons is truly grateful to be beneficiary of their generosity.

As our capital campaign surges onward, we look forward to a new year of record-breaking fundraising results. Each step forward, every dollar raised, is a step closer to bringing a community center and YMCA to the Seacoast.

Thank you to everyone who helped make 2008 such a resounding success. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year.

### Participating Agencies

Exeter Center for Creative Arts providing high quality arts education and resources for people of all ages and abilities in the community.

Great Bay Kids' Company providing quality early childhood education and school-age enrichment programs for children.

Richie MacFarland Children's Center helping young children reach their full developmental potential and supporting their families

through the process.

Rockingham Community Action preventing, reducing and working towards the elimination of poverty by helping people in need.

Seacare Health Services providing access to medical care for uninsured adults, prescription assistance for low-income families and home visiting & health education services for uninsured children.

Southern District YMCA/Camp Lincoln creating strong kids, strong families and strong communities through the operation of a full service recreational facility for Seacoast residents of all ages and economic capacities.



## How to Give the Perfect Gift while Supporting a Great Cause . . .

### *Introducing the New Squamscott Community Commons Pendant*



The Commons vision for a community center and YMCA has long been inspiring community members to offer their support. From architects to environmentalists calling to offer their expertise, to local residents interested in hosting a house party, community members are just plain excited about this project. Now, jewelers and artists Lisa Cochran, of Lily Designs in Exeter, and Laurie Farrell, of Keith O'Connor Pottery Beads, have collaborated to design and produce a necklace featuring the

Squamscott Community Commons logo.

"I can't wait until the new community center and YMCA is open," said Lisa Cochran. "Creating a unique piece of jewelry to benefit the project is a way I can share my excitement and offer my support."

The porcelain pendant, handcrafted by Laurie Farrell, is finished with a hand-died silk cord. All profits will be donated to Squamscott Community Commons to benefit the campaign to build a Seacoast community center and YMCA. The necklace retails for \$28.

"It feels good to give a gift and get a gift, knowing that there's meaning behind it," said Lisa. "Not all of us can write a big check, but we can buy a pendant and support this great cause."

Limited quantities will be available at Water Street Books and at the Squamscott Community Commons office at 56 Linden Street in Exeter. Please call 778-4722 or [email](#) for more information.

## The Commons Welcomes New Board Members

Squamscott Community Commons is pleased to welcome four new members to its Board of Directors.

Beth Kerr, owner of Glimmerglass Consulting Group, provides team development and strategic implementation programs for a broad range of industries and several U.S. business schools. She also serves on the Southern District YMCA Board of Directors and resides in Exeter.

Bob Mitchell also joins us from the Southern District YMCA Board. Bob manages the contract manufacturing of products in Asia through his Stratham-based company, Mitchell & Monti

International LLC. He lives in Stratham.

Janice Lauer Miller is a Managing Director at the Monument Group in Boston, working to raise capital from institutional investors for private equity investment funds. She lives with her husband and sons in Kensington.

Jane Oldfield Spearman is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, specializing in community health promotion and violence prevention. Jane and her family live in Exeter.

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