

# ANNUAL AWARDS

BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL



**2009 ANNUAL REPORT** *to the people of the Blackstone Valley*  
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009



**Tourism**  
Celebrating Diversity  
[www.UNWTO.org](http://www.UNWTO.org)

# BLACKSTONE

# VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL

## Our Purpose

*Over the years, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council has created, hosted, promoted, produced and managed innumerable events, programs, projects and functions, always with an eye toward sustainability – to repair, heal and make sustainable for tomorrow the resources of today. We aim to educate, enlighten and entertain; to bring out the best in the Valley, its people and communities. In doing so, we become better able to build, balance and husband our economies, in order to proudly share this place of scenic beauty, diverse culture and distinctly significant history with friends, family and visitors from all over our shrinking globe. Here are some accomplishments of the preceding year, none of which would have been possible without your support.*

## Recognitions: Given and Received

The 2009 John H. Chafee **Rivers Day Award** goes to **Citizens Bank** in recognition of its ongoing support and efforts to protect the quality of Rhode Island rivers, notably the “River Rescue Study” of the 1990s and its continuing sponsorship of the “Free Sundays on the River” program for the past three years.

The American Academy of Hospitality Sciences (AAHS) presents the **State of Rhode Island** with its highest honor: the **International Five Star Diamond Award**. Rhode Island is the first U.S. state to receive this recognition – the AAHS seal of approval.



The RI Hospitality & Tourism Association, representing private sector interests in food service, lodging and tourism, presents its annual **Mary Brennan Tourism Award** to BVTC president, **Robert D. Billington** for his achievements in promoting sustainable tourism development, and for his accomplishments in elevating the stature of the Blackstone River Valley on its journey to become a heritage tourism destination.

The **Governor’s Blackstone Valley Regional Tourism Award** is presented to **Wright’s Farm Restaurant** of Burrillville. The longtime food establishment owned by the Gallishaw family is noted for being the state’s most popular “Chicken Family Style” restaurant, and is a quality of life staple for the Blackstone Valley.



**Bob Billington**, BVTC president, is presented the **Tom Roberts Prize** from the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities for his work in sustainable tourism, demonstrating an “inventive and innovative approach to traditional fields of study.”



Paul Darling



Ray Boswell



# BLACKSTONE VALLEY EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AWARD

## Danny Smith

Writer/Executive Producer, *Family Guy*



Danny Smith began his television career as a writer and on-air personality for the syndicated show P.M. Magazine in Providence, Rhode Island. After relocating to Hollywood he worked as a stand-up comic and a performer at the Groundlings Theater before being hired as a writer for the television series Head of the Class. He has worked steadily as a sit-com writer and producer ever since, on such shows as Third Rock From The Sun, Yes Dear, Nurses, Soul Man, In The House, Platypus Man, The Parent 'Hood, Bette, and The Misadventures of Fiona Plum. But he is best known for his work as a writer, performer and producer of the popular animated series Family Guy. Hired as one of the original writers back in 1998, Danny has remained a staple of the Family Guy creative team. Series creator Seth MacFarlane has often called him, "The heart and soul of Family Guy".



# OUR WORK THIS YEAR

## Events

The **Tenth Annual Rivers Day** was marked in June with environmental exhibits and free Wilderness River Tours aboard the Educational Vessel *Blackstone Valley Explorer*, sponsored by the Citizens Bank Foundation. Partners in the event included the Blackstone River Coalition, the Blackstone River Watershed Council, the Ocean State Dragon Boat Club and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission.

The Council hosted the **200th Birthday Celebration of President Abraham Lincoln** with the unveiling of a full size painting of the 6' 4" President by artist Peter Campbell. Speakers included Chief Justice Frank J. Williams (Ret.), author and renowned Lincoln expert, and Park Ranger Chuck Arning, whose topic was the industrial contributions of the Blackstone Valley to the Civil War effort. Ricardo Pitts-Wiley, artistic director of Mixed Magic Theatre, performed a magnificent reading from *John Brown's Body*.



Rescheduled to September 26, the 2009 **Chinese Dragon Boat Races and Taiwan Day Festival** annually brings thousands to "Festival Pier" off School Street. It celebrates local Asian heritage and culture and is presented as part of the Pawtucket Arts Festival in conjunction with the City of Pawtucket, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office of Boston, The Rhode Island Association of Chinese Americans, Taiwan ROC and the Taiwan Visitor Association. Twenty-two Dragon Boat teams are signed up this year.



The 2009 **World Dynamite Cook-Off**, part of the Northern Rhode Island Council on the Arts' French Farmers Market, was expanded this year to include a **French Meat Pie Bake-off**. Featuring over 20 amateur and professional chefs the event was produced in cooperation with the Northern Rhode Island Council on the Arts, the City of Woonsocket, Lil' General Stores, WOON Worldwide, WNRI, Jen's Dish Radio Program, *The Call* and Narragansett Beer. This year's Dynamite Cook off winner was Tom Bouckaert. Winners of the French Meat Pie contest were Michelle Marcotte and Lynne Leroux.

The **Annual Blackstone River Valley Fall Foliage & Shopping Train Excursion** rolls again in October aboard the Providence & Worcester Railroad. The Tourism Council partners with the town of Putnam, CT to welcome over 350 passengers from the region on a tour through the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor to the Quinnebaug Shetaucket National Heritage Corridor.

**"Tour Rhode Island - There's No Place Like Home"** has practically become a rally call! Now in its sixth successful year, this statewide event, managed by the BVTC, is a familiarization daytrip offering 24 in-state destinations. The aim is to give local residents an appreciation of their state's environmental, cultural and historic attractions and resources.



The Annual **Polar Express** train excursions, presented in conjunction with the Providence & Worcester Railroad, continue to be the Holiday hot ticket, bringing multi-generational joy to some 3000 true believers each year. With inspiration from *The Polar Express*, by RI-based author Chris Van Allsburg, this magical ride is generously sponsored by Navigant Credit Union.

Four **Special Occasion Breakfasts** were introduced in 2009 at the Ground Round in Pawtucket. They broke up the winter blahs and greeted spring, but mostly they were a good time that promoted affordable dining in the Blackstone River Valley.

Sixty-four avid golfers hit the links and hundreds of bids were placed on auction items donated by area businesses, artists and entertainment venues during the **Fifth Annual Blackstone Valley Heritage Golf Tournament** at the Crystal Lake Golf Course this year. Funds raised are put toward Tourism Development programs in the Blackstone Valley. The Navigant Credit Union returns as the major sponsor for this highly anticipated event.

The Council gave of its time, talent and expertise in working with the Columbian Community on the production of the **Columbian Independence Day Celebration**, and with the **Pawtucket Arts Festival** to promote this Tenth Annual event.

In its fourth year, the Blackstone Valley **Footsteps in History** program promoted over 100 recreational, environmental, artistic, cultural and historic activities over the Columbus Day Weekend. This is a partnership program of the Heritage Corridor Commission and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce.



The Council, in partnership with Conway Tours, brought 60 exhibitors and 200 tour planners to the 20th annual **Travel Experiences** group travel trade show, which was held at the Twin River Event Center, a new and larger venue for this exposition of travel destinations.

## Promotion and Publicity

Enhancement of our new web-based events calendar, **EventsBlackstone.com**, continues with the calendar being linked to all BVTC websites. This user friendly, interactive calendar allows non-profit organizations to input their own events and attractions directly. Visitors to the site easily link back to web pages of interest.

Look for the **Blackstone Valley on PBS!** The Tourism Council, in a collaborative effort with the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor, RI Public Broadcasting Service and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, has produced a 15 second sponsorship video for broadcast during the Ken Burns special *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*.

# OUR WORK THIS YEAR

Promotion of the Blackstone Valley was further pursued with advertisements placed in *Yankee Magazine*, *Rhode Island Travel Guide* and the Massachusetts Office of Tourism's *Getaway Guide*.

## More Publicity/Media/New Media

The *New York Times* published a terrific article by C. J. Hughes about the Blackstone River Valley in its travel section on July 10th of this year. Over a thousand words covered Worcester to Providence, and key points in between.



*Gourmet* magazine and the website *RoadFood.com*, each featured the Blackstone Valley's Chicken Family Style in published articles this year, and the Fall Foliage train trip to Putnam, CT was highlighted in the September/October issue of *Victoria* magazine.

Barry Mechanic, newspaper publisher and BVTC board member, added immensely to the exposure of our projects and programs, providing space in *The Call* of Woonsocket, *The Times* of Pawtucket and their sister weeklies to promote events, activities and the Valley itself.

Blackstone Valley is now on **Facebook** and **Twitter**! A "share button" for ConstantContact email communications is also enabled.

## Programs



Over 3000 students and members of the general public boarded the **Blackstone Valley Explorer** to ply the Wilderness Waters of the Blackstone River. Captain Bob Dombrowski and board member John Lefrancois of The **Blackstone** nightclub spearheaded a highly successful fundraiser that helped make it possible to operate the *Explorer* this season. Total

community support was evidenced by major grants from the Citizens Bank Foundation and the Narragansett Bay Commission. Additional support came from Cadillac Mills and Community Development grants from Pawtucket and Central Falls allowing many local students to learn about and enjoy our beautiful Blackstone River.

**"Backyard Tours"** is a new series of themed public familiarization tours highlighting the heritage, culture and unique natural resources and scenic beauty of the Blackstone River Valley. Each tour is a mix of enriching activities, such as cultural events, farm visits, stops at locally owned shops with the opportunity to view or purchase local arts and crafts, plus commentary-enhanced sightseeing.

The secret is out! This year's **Secret Ingredient Food Tours** introduced many new customers to over a dozen of the Valley's authentic ethnic restaurants, presenting patrons with new dining options and a fun learning experience. It has stimulated business with more than a thousand meals served, and will continue into the winter.



**Blackstone Valley Salsa** is coming to a grocer near you! With a generous donation from board member Helen Moroney, the product was created for retail sale. This adds to the many new products now available on the **ShopBlackstone.com** website, which promotes items made in, and of interest to the Valley.

**"Events of the Week"** is a regular news release that is e-mailed to over 300 media outlets, including newspapers, magazines, broadcast and cable stations, and internet websites throughout the northeastern US. Interactive links increase visits to and from a widening network of websites.

The **Civic Tourism II Conference**, based on concepts of the Council's Sustainable Tourism Laboratory, brought attendees to Southern New England destinations to learn how they implemented Sustainable Tourism Development. One hundred eighty people from all over the United States participated.

In December we initiated the **Broad Street Winter Festival** to highlight multicultural Holiday celebrations along Broad Street in Pawtucket, Central Falls and Cumberland. The Council also worked in conjunction with **Brown & Hopkins Country Store** to assist them in celebrating their bicentennial as the nation's oldest continuously operating store.



January presented the opportunity to dispatch the only **Presidential Inaugural motorcoach trip** going from Rhode Island to Washington, DC. Over 55 passengers made the round trip to witness the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The Visitor Center in Pawtucket proved an ideal spot to host a local **celebrity cookbook signing** and presentation. The occasion marked the release of a new cookbook by **Joe Zito** of *TV Maitre'D* and food writer **Linda Beaulieu**. Selected recipes from area restaurants are featured.



Working with the Heritage Corridor. The Council has assembled a "next steps" plan for the **Blackstone Alert program**, a river alert system managed by the Council for businesses and communities in order to warn of the potential for high water in the Blackstone River Valley.

# OUR WORK THIS YEAR

## Visitor Centers

We welcomed over 80 thousand visitors to the Visitor Center in Pawtucket, which serves Slater Mill, the City of Pawtucket, the RI Public Transit Center, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the State of Rhode Island.



Our volunteers welcomed over 300,000 visitors to the Blackstone River State Park Visitor Center along I-295 in Lincoln, which is also serving as the meeting point for the new “**Backyard Tours.**”

## Sustainable Tourism Planning and Development Laboratory

The Tourism Council’s Sustainable Tourism Planning and Development Laboratory was accepted as a partner to: the Global Sustainable Tourism Alliance, established by the United Nations Foundation; the Rain Forest Alliance; and the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

BVTC coordinated and hosted a **Sustainable Tourism Conference** to demonstrate use of social media networking and the role of new information technologies in attracting visitors and developing new markets. A Sustainable Tourism workshop on the status and quality of area rivers was also presented. It resulted in and an action agenda to address environmental protection and future development impacts.

The *Achievement in Rhode Island Sustainable Tourism Award (ARISTA)* is created to acknowledge the efforts of qualified non-profit organizations who are incorporating sustainable practices.

## Regional Planning

The Broad Street Regeneration Project moves ahead vigorously with VISTA Eric Wood and Pratt University student Alex Sommer. It aims to treat that thoroughfare as a unit through Pawtucket, Central Falls and Cumberland.

## Community Projects

The Tourism Council sponsored, with a donation of funds, the **Blackstone River Fish Ladder** project. It is also working with the Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation and Rhode Island Housing on the development of the “**Keep Space**” programs in Pawtucket and Central Falls.



This spring the Council coordinated the Ribbon Cutting for the **Cherry Tree Project**, importing Cherry Blossom Balloons from Washington D.C. The Cherry Blossom Parade was a light-hearted strolled down Roosevelt Avenue, inaugurating Rhode Island’s **Cherry Blossom Festival**.

Working with Woonsocket’s **Family Resources**, the Council coordinated 28 local youths to help them learn about environmental promotion, heritage development and transportation connections. They applied themselves to apprenticeships in bicycle repair and refurbishment, and in hospitality and maintenance work at the Visitor Center. The youth participants will be provided with paying-jobs as well as valuable job-training, leadership and team-building skills that can be carried into the future.

**NeighborWorks** of Woonsocket, with the help of their VISTA staff member, Matt Demello, is assisting the Tourism Council with its responsibilities to “**Green up and Clean up**” the Blackstone Valley.

## On-going Work

BVTC works closely during each year with the Rhode Island Tourism Division and the five other state tourism districts. The comprehensive state and regional tourism development work plan and strategy is key to the direction we take to reach our economic goals.

## Grants

Navigant Bank becomes the naming sponsor of the Blackstone Valley Polar Express with a \$10,000 grant.

Citizens Bank continues the last Sunday of the Month free tours on the *Blackstone Valley Explorer* with a \$5,000 grants.

Narragansett Bay Commission continues its support of the Riverclassroom program in Central Falls and Pawtucket with a \$2,500 grant.

Managed Champlin Foundations grant for Smithfield Preservation Society for the Smithfield Union Meeting house.

Received a Rhode Island Foundation grant to establish the *Blueprint for Sustainable Tourism in Rhode Island*.

Assisted Pawtucket Arts Festival in securing grant funding from Rhode Island Council on the Arts, Webster Bank and Bank of America.

## The Next Generation of Leaders

Our college intern program gives practical experience to students from Johnson and Wales University, Boston University, Rhode Island College, Bristol Community College, Bryant University and the University of Florida. These students are also a tremendous resource and a terrific adjunct to staffing on larger scale projects where adding paid staff is impractical or impossible.

The Council participates in the federal Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program, accepting three VISTA workers to participate in sustainable tourism projects:

**Emily Sorgel** coordinated numerous recycling events, gathering electronics, plastics and tires, ensuring proper “green” disposal or recycling of all collection. She also worked with the Pawtucket Arts Festival to assist in its “greening.”

**Jason Skinner** worked with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank coordinating Food Drives at the North Smithfield Pumpkin Festival’s town-wide drive, and with the City of Pawtucket’s Food Drive during their RI Philharmonic Concert at Slater Park.

**Eric Wood** is currently developing an environment community support group for Central Falls and Pawtucket. His efforts are expected to bring higher awareness and cooperation among neighbors as they help keep neighborhoods clean while properly disposing of trash and recyclables.

## Presentations

President Billington was invited by the US Travel Association to speak in Nevada on his work in Sustainable Tourism Development in the Blackstone Valley.

# 24th ANNUAL BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL HONOREES

## William Blackstone Society Inductions



**Donna Houle**

Donna Houle has been Manager of Special Projects at the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for the past 21 years. She has coordinated over 100 train excursions including the Polar Express and Fall Foliage trips to Putnam, Ct. She is currently planning a train excursion in May 2010 that will commemorate the 150th anniversary of a trip by President Abraham Lincoln from Providence to Woonsocket.

Donna has also been involved in the Pawtucket Steamboat Muster, the celebration of RI Tourism Week, Vista Jubilee cruises leaving from Pawtucket, the Tourism Council Annual Dinner and Silent Auction and other fundraising events. She has served as a State Commissioner of the RI Heritage Commission and was chairman of the British sub-committee for many years.

She lives in Pawtucket with her husband Richard Houle and has two children, Lindsay and Michelle.



**Gary E. Furtado**

Gary has been with Navigant Credit Union for 30 years. He is the architect behind the business strategy that took a single-branch community credit union and grew it into a leading, multi-branch financial institution serving the state of Rhode Island.

Gary is an active member of the community. He serves on the Board of Directors of several community organizations including Memorial Hospital, the Pawtucket Boys & Girls Club and the Pawtucket Rotary Club. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Members United Corporate Federal Credit Union and the Credit Union Association of Rhode Island.

Gary obtained his MBA from Bryant University. He lives in Warren, Rhode Island with his wife of 30 years, Bethany, and has two children. In his spare time he enjoys the Boston Red Sox, the New England Patriots and golf.

### William Blackstone Society Members

The William Blackstone Society is made up of people who have spent much of their lives making a difference in Blackstone River Valley. The Society nominates and chooses its members each year from a wide list of nominees in the Blackstone River Valley. This year we are pleased to welcome Donna Houle and Gary Furtado into the this esteemed group of Blackstone Valley place-makers.

David Balfour	John Chan	Betty Johnson	David Macauley	Ben Mondor	Thomas Shanahan	Robert Conway
Dr. Robert Billington	Wilfrid Gates	Al Klyberg	Patrick Malone	Dana Newbrook	Rose Lavoie	Peter Conway
Luther Blount *	David Gulvin *	Rose Lavoie	Carol Metivier	Joseph H. O'Donnell, Jr.*	Tom Ward	Helen Moroney
Michael Cassidy	Clinton Johnson *	Louise Lind *	Robert Metivier	Leonard Panaggio	John A. Worsley, Ph.D.	* Deceased

## Brown & Hopkins Country Store 200th Anniversary Footprints in History Award 2009



Rhode Island has a number of historical landmarks that date back to the 1700's. Among them is Brown & Hopkins Country Store. It has been reported by the Bond Map Company of New York to be the oldest country store in continuous operation in the United States.

The building was erected in 1799 by Timothy Wilmarth. In 1809 the building was purchased by Ira Evans who started the business as a general store. After several changes in ownership it was then purchased in 1921 by James L. Brown and William W. Hopkins. Brown and Hopkins operated the store until 1964, when it was purchased by Roscoe and Lillian Steere. In the late 1900's Brown & Hopkins experienced a few more changes in ownership.

In July 2004, Liz McIntyre of Foster, Rhode Island purchased Brown & Hopkins Country Store and is honored to carry on the tradition. The store now specializes in primitive and country home accessories, reproduction furniture, and period lighting.

## PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

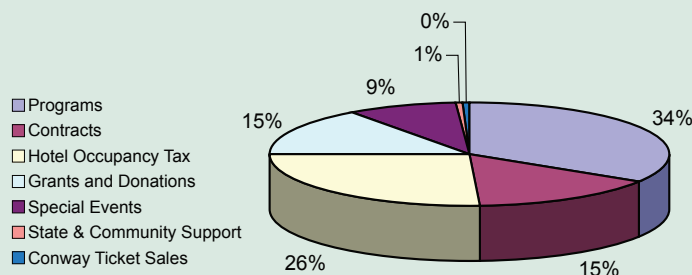
### Source of Funds FY 2008-2009

Programs	\$310,547.74
Contracts	\$140,301.85
Hotel Occupancy Tax	\$234,950.13
Grants and Donations	\$138,457.72
Special Events	\$80,796.45
State & Community Support	\$6,250.00
Conway Ticket Sales	\$4,281.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$915,585.75</b>

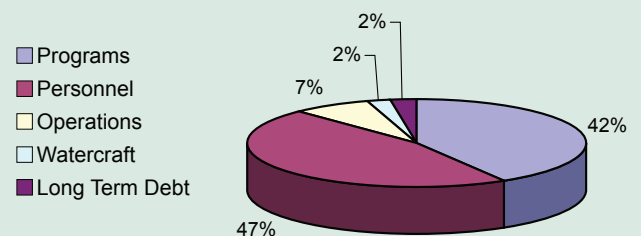
### Use of Funds FY 2008-2009

Programs	\$361,127.75
Personnel	\$405,622.57
Operations	\$64,436.80
Watercraft	\$20,425.21
Long Term Debt	\$21,380.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$872,992.48</b>

### Source of Funds Fiscal Year 2008-2009



### Use of Funds Fiscal Year 2008-2009



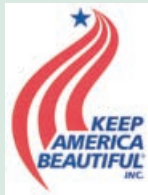
# BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & WEBSITES

## Board of Directors

David Balfour, Chairman  
D W Balfour Associates  
Jaqueline Boudreau, Treasurer  
Sue Tessier, MacKenzie, Secretary  
Louise Boulanger, Vice-President  
Catholic Family Services  
Robert Conway, Conway Tours  
Mark Brodeur, Executive Director,  
RI Tourism Division  
Dave Richards, Owner WOON Radio  
John Lefrancois, Owner The Blackstone  
Helen Fairbrother Moroney,  
Owner Echo Lake Campground  
Richard Murphy, Owner Comfort Inn of  
Pawtucket/Providence  
Leonard F. Clingham, Esq.  
Ted Garille, General Manager  
Pascoag Utility District  
Anthony Capuano, Jr., Vice-President  
Webster Bank  
Louis Yip, Real State Developer  
Paul Eno, Owner New River Press  
Moe Rondeau, Travel Advisors International  
Najwa Murphy, General Manager, Hampton Inn  
Barry Mechanic, Editor, *The Times* and  
*The Woonsocket Call*

## Volunteers

Ann Thorndike  
Anna Prymak  
Barbara Leach



*Special Thanks to Thomas Mann  
and Aaron Hertzberg*



Blackstone Valley Visitor Center  
175 Main Street • Pawtucket, RI 02860



## Staff

Robert D. Billington, MBA Ed. D., President  
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations  
Donna Houle, Manager of Special Projects  
Amanda Wood, Office Manager, Manager of The  
Samuel Slater, Translator  
Olon Reeder, Public and Intergovernmental Relations  
Lilly Kayamba, Market Analyst, Conference Coordina-  
tor, Group Tour Development  
Lesley McLaughlin, Marketing, Travel Experiences  
Trade Show, Tour RI  
Patti McAlpine, River Education Coordinator  
Lorraine Provencher, Special Projects and  
Website Manager  
Ramon Rodriguez, Blackstone River Engineer  
Lucy Rivera, Canal Boat Maintenance  
Emily Soergel, AmeriCorps\*VISTA Volunteer Keep  
Blackstone Valley Beautiful Coordinator  
Alex Sommer, Broad Street Initiative Coordinator  
Eric Hogan, Crew  
Robert Dombrowski, Riverboat Captain  
David Pinson, Riverboat Captain  
Irene Blais, River Guide  
Paul Papineau, River Guide  
Morgan Grefe, River Guide  
Rosemary Danforth, Group Tour Guide  
Wendy Jencks, Blackstone Valley Visitor Center  
Manager  
Michael Arcisz, Blackstone Valley Visitor Center  
Keith Wilkinson, Blackstone Valley Visitor Center  
Robert Gilson, Volunteer Staff Manager, Blackstone  
River State Park Visitor Center  
Linda Rannacher, Blackstone Valley Visitor  
Center, Project Co-ordinator

## Blackstone River State Park Visitor Center - Volunteers

Jerry Aissis  
Joe Billington  
Bev Daignault  
Jim Fusco  
Constance Gauthier  
Maureen Jones  
Claudette Moore  
Ruth Pacheco  
Lori Shaken  
Eric Sjoblom  
Michael Moriarty  
Gerry Noel  
Helen Carney  
Carol Majeau  
Jim Wilbour  
Donna Longo-Kumes  
Lolly Graveline

## Tourism Council Websites

[www.tourblackstone.com](http://www.tourblackstone.com)  
[www.blackstonevalleytourismcouncil.com](http://www.blackstonevalleytourismcouncil.com)  
[www.sustainablelab.com](http://www.sustainablelab.com)  
[www.dragonboatri.com](http://www.dragonboatri.com)  
[www.golfblackstone.com](http://www.golfblackstone.com)  
[www.blackstonealert.com](http://www.blackstonealert.com)  
[www.eventblackstone.com](http://www.eventblackstone.com)  
[www.pictureblackstone.com](http://www.pictureblackstone.com)  
[www.travelexperiences.com](http://www.travelexperiences.com)  
[www.bedandbreakfastblackstone.com](http://www.bedandbreakfastblackstone.com)  
[www.creativeblackstone.com](http://www.creativeblackstone.com)  
[www.cycleblackstone.com](http://www.cycleblackstone.com)  
[www.paddleblackstone.com](http://www.paddleblackstone.com)  
[www.dineblackstone.com](http://www.dineblackstone.com)  
[www.shopblackstone.com](http://www.shopblackstone.com)  
[www.keepblackstonevalleybeautiful.com](http://www.keepblackstonevalleybeautiful.com)  
[www.rivertourblackstone.com](http://www.rivertourblackstone.com)  
[www.volunteerblackstone.com](http://www.volunteerblackstone.com)  
[www.cumberlandbytheblackstone.com](http://www.cumberlandbytheblackstone.com)  
[www.footstepsinhistory.com](http://www.footstepsinhistory.com)  
[www.broadstreetexperience.com](http://www.broadstreetexperience.com)

Cover photo by Richard Benjamin



WORLD TOURISM DAY is commemorated on September 27 each year by events that highlight that year's theme, on recommendation of UNWTO's Executive Council. This date was chosen to coincide with an important milestone in world tourism: the anniversary of the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes on September 27, 1970. The main purpose of WORLD TOURISM DAY is to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic values.



Through the Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful environmental program, BVTC assisted in coordinating with local Blackstone River Valley cities and towns in their annual **Earth Day** cleanup efforts. KBVB also provided the Pawtucket Foundation with tools and staff for **Pawtucket Pride Day**, raised over \$20,000 for **recycling programs** throughout the Blackstone Valley, and established a **Baseline Litter Index** in its efforts toward earning final certification from the national Keep America Beautiful program.

Throughout the year Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful hosts a series of **computer and electronics recycling events** that are announced and promoted by statewide media. Helping KBVB is WNDC VISTA Matt DeMello.