September 25, 2003,

On behalf of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Council. Your support has enabled us to accomplish our vital mission and your continued interest is most appreciated. Thank you to the state of Rhode Island, our nine communities for their support and a special thank you to the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission for their continued partnership. With everyone’s help and support, Rhode Island’s Blackstone River Valley has gained international recognition as a Visitor Destination. Enjoy our “Seeds of Change” Annual Meeting. Watch our seeds sprout and grow.

David W. Balfour, Chairman
**FISCAL 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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<th>Blackstone Valley Tourism Council held its 17th Annual Meeting recognizing local officials for their commitment to tourism development. Governor Almond addressed the meeting noting investments in the bike path, McCoy Stadium and open space acquisition his administration made to the region. Candidates York and Carcieri pledged to support and enhance regional tourism efforts. Pawtucket historian Betty Johnson inducted into the William Blackstone Society, noted for her preservation of city history and her archival library.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Supported the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in testifying in support of the agency’s Federal FY 2004 funding.</td>
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<td>Recognized by the Governor’s Growth Planning Council in its August 2002 report on Growth Centers. Tourism agency cited for its efforts to promote cultural, heritage, environmental and recreational tourism development as a focus on community development, quality of life and sound economic growth in the region as an effective model for smart growth planning and development in Rhode Island.</td>
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<td>The Council hosted over 3000 parents and children aboard the Blackstone Valley Polar Express.</td>
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<td>Received grant award from the Narragansett Bay commission to provide scholarships for student groups to participate in the Blackstone Valley Explorer ecology program.</td>
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<td>Presented riverboat tours on the Blackstone River for catch and release fishing aboard the Blackstone Valley Explorer to acquaint people to the recreational uses of the Blackstone River.</td>
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<td>Purchased authentic 1981 model British double decker bus that will be used for group tour excursions throughout Blackstone River Valley. Bus is the only one of its kind in Rhode Island and is the first double decker to travel the state in over 15 years.</td>
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<td>British Double Decker Bus profiled as feature article in AAA Southern New England March 2003 newsletter, being exposed to over 250 thousand readers. Double decker bus was also featured in Pawtucket St. Patrick’s parade.</td>
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<td>Assisted the JHCBRNHCC with the creation of the new Corridor web sites for the Corridor, the Blackstone River Coalition and the Blackstone Valley Institute.</td>
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<td>Launched the New England General Store on-line in cooperation with Gladworks of Pawtucket. Visit the store at <a href="http://www.tourblackstone.com">www.tourblackstone.com</a></td>
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<td>The Council launched “Blackstone Valley Passport” an online coupon offering discounts to historic and cultural attractions, performing arts, dining and retailing throughout Blackstone River Valley.</td>
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<td>The Samuel Slater Canal boat was featured in the Providence Sunday Journal and Rhode Island Monthly magazine as a “hidden treasure.” The Valley was also featured in a special article to be published in Fodor’s, a renowned travel and tourism publication.</td>
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<td>Hosted local attraction training session in June 2003 to continue quality service development with owners and operators of tourist destinations in region.</td>
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<td>Contacted over 400 local, regional, national and international news media and travel trade media weekly via successful e-mail releases on Blackstone River Valley events. Each week new themes are highlighted and focused on targeted activities and attractions appealing to travelers and residents. Events are regularly picked up in newspapers in Providence &amp; Boston media markets.</td>
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The Tourism Council led a group of 12 Blackstone Valley citizens on a trip to our sister valley, the Amber Valley of England.

Purchased authentic 1981 model British double decker bus that will be used for group tour excursions throughout Blackstone River Valley. Bus is the only one of its kind in Rhode Island and is the first double decker to travel the state in over 15 years.

Blackstone Valley Scenic Railway Tours has sponsored train trips on the Providence and Worcester Railroad since 1989. Over 15,000 passengers have travelled the rails in the last 15 years.

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The Blackstone River Watershed Council in partnership with the Heritage Corridor, the Blackstone River Watershed Association, the Blackstone Headwaters Coalition and Mass Audubon Society started a watershed-wide, citizen water-quality monitoring program.
Worked in cooperation with The Valley Breeze newspaper to produce the 2003 Blackstone River Valley Visitor Guide. The tabloid newspaper publication is distributed in every Blackstone River Valley visitor center and destination free of charge to the public. The Valley Breeze and its publisher, Tom Ward, were given the Governor’s Regional Tourism Award for producing this publication. Over 60 thousand copies are distributed within the Blackstone River Valley of MA and RI three times yearly (Spring/Summer, Fall, Holiday Season).

Attended the Travel Industry Association of America trade industry expo in St. Louis, MO to promote the Blackstone River Valley as a cultural destination to group travel and tour industry representatives.

Held first ever King Philip’s War historic interpretive tour on March 22 on double decker bus. Profiled early 1676 Colonial battle of Nine Men’s Misery that occurred in the Blackstone River Valley.

Presented the John H. Chafee Award on RI Rivers Day to Dave Newton of the Environmental Protection Agency for his continued involvement and support over the last 7 years.

The Watershed Council with the Blackstone Valley Rivers Project, MA Audubon Broad Meadow Brook and the BRVNHCC presented a Clean Water Festival at which over 10 schools from Worcester to Central Falls presented projects on water quality.
**Revenue and Expenses 1985-2003**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>$7,750.00</td>
<td>$5,293.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>9,250.00</td>
<td>8,814.00</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>58,243.00</td>
<td>52,560.00</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>102,729.00</td>
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<td>1989</td>
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<td>1990</td>
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<td>1994</td>
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<td>1995</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>894,148.00</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>789,920.00</td>
<td>758,655.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>841,130.09</td>
<td>821,609.75</td>
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**Source of Funds 2002-03**

- Hotel Occupancy Tax: $192,019.17 (23%)
- Cooperative Agreements & Management Contracts: 210,592.89 (25%)
- Programs: 212,580.14 (25%)
- Elderhostel & Group Tours: 115,281.93 (14%)
- Grants and Donations: 63,563.53 (8%)
- Watershed: 10,300.00 (1%)
- State & Community Support: 13,750.00 (1%)
- Conway Ticket Sales & Store: 11,884.24 (1%)
- General: 11,158.19 (1%)
- Total: $841,130.09 (100%)

**Use of Funds 2002-03**

- Personnel: $326,121.39 (43%)
- Programs: 354,438.47 (40%)
- Operations: 101,641.40 (12%)
- Watercraft: 39,408.49 (5%)
- Total: $821,609.75 (100%)

**Directors, Staff & Volunteers**

**Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Staff**
- Robert Billington: President-Director
- Natalie Carter: Director of Operations / Business Manager
- Donna Houle: Manager of Special Projects
- Angela Hyllested: Trade Show Manager / Canal Boat Coordinator
- Amanda Wood: Office Manager / Spanish Translator
- Olon Reeder: Public Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

**Volunteers**
- JoAnne Billington
- Joseph Billington
- Christine Boudreau
- Stu and Mimi Freeman
- William “Billy” Hulme
- Barbara Leach
- Jay Newton
- Donna Sakkinen
- Tiffany Shaw
- Ellen Spilweski
- Barbara Steinbrick
- Tolman Key Club

**Johnson & Wales Teaching Assistants**
- Patrizia Barone
- Kristine Mendes

**Ongoing Internship Programs**
- Rhode Island College
- Bryant College
- RI State Internship Program
- Johnson & Wales University
- Rochester Institute of Technology

**Blackstone Valley Tour Guides**
- Rosemary Danforth
- Gordon Beeton
- Paul Papineau
- Charlie Sciaraffa
- Yvonne Fitts
- Barbara Barnes
- Betty Grayson
- Mike and Jan Ferry

**Elderhostel Group Leaders**
- Richard Danforth
- Beverly Pettine

**William Blackstone Society**
- David Balfour
- Robert Billington
- Luther Blount
- Michael Cassidy
- John Chan
- David Guvlin
- Clinton Johnson
- Al Klyberg
- Louise Lind
- David Macaulay
- Patrick Malone
- Carol Metivier
- Robert Metivier
- Ben Mondor
- Dana Newbrook
- Leon Panaggio
- Thomas Shanahan
- Betty Johnson
- Wil Gates

**Board of Directors**
- David Balfour, Chairman
- Robert Conway, Vice Chairman
- Louise Champigny, Secretary
- Daniel O’Brien, Treasurer
- Sue Tessier MacKenzie
- Joe O’Donnell
- Helen Fairbrother Moroney
- R. Kenneth Smith
- Leon F. Clingham
- Normand Beaugerud
- Dave DePetrolio
- Dave Richards
- David Goldstein
- Richard Murphy
- Robert Cahlil
- Jackie Moran
- Dr. Tim Tyrell
- Thomas V. Ward
- John Lefrancois
- Leo A. Beliveau

**Blackstone Valley Tourism Center**
- 175 Main Street
- Pawtucket, RI 02860
- www.tourblackstone.com
- 1-800-454-2882

**Visitor Center Staff**
- Wendy Jencks: Manager

**Volunteers**
- Captain John Amalfitano
- Captain Tom Koolen
- Captain Randy Smith
- Captain David Pinson

**Blackstone Valley Riverboat Staff**
- Ramon Rodriguez, River Engineer
- Lucy Rivera
- Kimberly Jerzegana
- Carol Lussier
- Eric Hogan
- Captain Frank O’Keefe
- Captain Bob Dombrowski

**Blackstone Valley Watershed Council**
- Co-Chairs
- Linda Jyk
- Frank Matta

**Double Decker Bus Drivers**
- Walter England
- Mary Murphy
- Janice Rigano

**Volunteers**
- Frank Carter
- Alice Clemente
- Frank Geary
- Judy Hadley
- Keith Hainley
- Charlie Hawkins
- Steve Kears
- Karen Mateleska
- Armand Morin
- Brian Murphy
- Dave Newton

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