



NEWS RELEASE

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VCB announces third annual Tourism Awards during National Tourism Week

CAMBRIDGE, OH (May 14, 2009) - Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau recognizes part of their mission is to encourage the further development of the tourism industry in Guernsey County. To fulfill that purpose, the VCB created two annual tourism awards and have had two recipients selected for these awards to be presented during National Tourism Week. The awards ceremony took place at the Tourist Information Center in downtown Cambridge May 14.

The two awards presented included the Tourism Development Award and the Tourism Volunteer Award. Nominees for both awards were solicited from VCB tourism members, supporters and others. Those making nominations were asked to submit information and materials that justify the reasons why they believe their nominee is the best candidate. The staff of the Ohio Travel Association in Columbus made the final selections from the nominees submitted.



The Tourism Development Award honors the individual, organization, or business that has done the most to develop tourism in Guernsey County within the past calendar year. **The winner of the 2009 Tourism Development of the Year Award is the National Museum of Cambridge Glass.** In 2008 the museum developed programs that involved visitors in active learning and participation in activities. The museum increased attendance and formed creative partnerships with several other organizations and attractions.

The Tourism Volunteer Award honors an individual or organization that has done the most to further the growth of tourism in Guernsey County within the last calendar year on a volunteer basis. **The winner of the 2009 Tourism Volunteer of the Year is Cecil Carlson for his tireless work on the Byesville Scenic Railway in Byesville.** His nominator said, "He (Cecil) contributes countless hours to the Byesville Scenic Railway as the Station Master and the Vice President of the organization. Cecil is the person that keeps the train staffed and running on time. He may be selling the tickets, flagging the train or running the engine, but he will always be there."



"Each year, the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau Board of Directors and staff celebrates National Tourism Week in May. We take this opportunity before the busy tourism season begins to recognize and thank our tourism industry members for the terrific job they do throughout the year," VCB Executive Director Debbie Robinson said. "Our county is blessed with talented and dedicated individuals and organizations who realize the great economic impact tourism has in our area and who spend countless hours to make their tourism product an enjoyable and meaningful experience for visitors and residents alike. For these reasons, we award the Tourism Volunteer of the Year and Tourism Development of the Year to remind our community of the services these individuals and organizations provide."