

Robert DeVita

1950 – 2009



On September 23rd, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC) lost a great friend and tireless employee with the passing of Bob DeVita.

Bob was a 32-year employee of PVSC. He served, since 2002, as Manager of the PVSC *River Restoration Program* and his commitment to improving the environment and educating our children about doing the same was unparalleled. Bob didn't just love the work his Program did, he attacked it. Every day. Mayors, Council Members, Legislators, Community Activists – as well as school principals, teachers and administrators – remarked often about seeing Bob at his job and the passion he brought to it. The file containing letters of thanks and praise received from the hundreds of people Bob touched over the last 10 years is overwhelming.

The PVSC *River Restoration Program* was a dream of the Commissioners back in 1995...but Bob turned it into a reality and made it into something so much more than the Commissioners envisioned it ever could be.

Over that time, Bob and his tireless staff conducted more than 250 shoreline clean-ups with volunteers and school students, removing over 7,000 tons of litter and debris. They visited hundreds of school and delivered a curriculum about how the kids' everyday actions affected the environment to thousands of students. And they helped many a local Mayor who needed a fallen tree or other debris that was causing flooding in their community, removed from a local waterway.

As the *River Restoration Program* grew, so did the requests and the workload. Bob and his staff always rose to the occasion. The Program, and its legacy, is a testament to Bob DeVita that will endure for years. The positive affect Bob had on the Passaic Valley will be there for so many thousands to enjoy.

Our thanks go out to Bob DeVita for the lifetime of work he gave to PVSC. And, our prayers go out to his family, especially his daughter...and our hopes that they know what a tremendous, important, positive impact Bob had on the lives of so many others.