

Lethbridge Twinning Society Newsletter



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The Russians are Coming!

The Lethbridge Twinning Society is very pleased to host five students from Timashevsk, Russia. The Students are from various Schools in Timashevsk, Russia, one of our twin cities. Our relationship with the teacher responsible for coordinating the student delegation, Tatiana Ponomareva goes back to 1992 when a eight member delegation from Lethbridge visited Timashevsk. At that time, we were piloting a 5 tonne shipment of humanitarian relief aid that had been donated by residents of our community to the City of Timashevsk to assist in their sudden influx of immigrant refugees fleeing from Georgia. Tatiana, a teacher at Timashevsk School No. 1 acted as our hostess and translator during our visit. Subsequent to our visit, her son, Vadim immigrated to the United States where he now resides in Seattle, Washington and works for a little computer

company, I believe the name is something like "Microsoft" or something like that. Last year, Tatiana visited Lethbridge and she shared a dream of having some of her students coming to Lethbridge for a brief Educational tour. This year, the realization of her dream is coming to pass.

The visit has been somewhat delayed due to the instance of H1N1 (Swine Flu) and precautions in that regard and of course



Host families meet to plan and coordinate the home stay for the five Russian Students.

the usual Visa waiting and processing times. Although plans to have the students here at the start of the school year was our goal, it was not to be. We are anxious to meet our students, but we realize we have to be patient. Already, host families are e-mailing and "Skype - chatting" with their students, getting to know one another and sharing pictures. A very neat and unique opportunity thanks to modern day technology.

Preparation is well underway to ensure that the students have a meaningful and memorable experience here in Lethbridge. They will study at Immanuel Christian High School for their eight weeks in Lethbridge. Immanuel Christian High School is no stranger to Timashevsk. In 1992 students from the school took on a project to gather cloth-

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Meet & Greet—November 5th



Meet Shelley Astill—Shelley is a grade 12 student, 17 years old, from Whitecourt, AB. She has travelled to Japan and is an excellent speaker /ambassador sponsored by Whitecourt town council. We hope that her speech would encourage local students to consider visiting Japan in the near future (with the Lethbridge Twinning Society and/or any other twinned municipality in Japan).

Shelley has a few schools in mind that she would like present her speech and PowerPoint to the students of Lethbridge.

The meet & greet is set for November 5th between 8:00 pm and 9:15 pm at the Ramada Inn.

All members are encouraged to come out and visit with Shelley!



Shelley Astill

Gift Certificates Available!

We are selling Gift Certificates to Save on Foods in \$100 units - they are redeemable dollar for dollar but the Society will raise funds for selling the certificates. Use them at Save on Foods anytime (even on 15% off Tuesdays.)

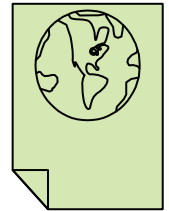
Members should contact Carol Kensley if they want to purchase the certificates: (403-329-6666 Ext. 612) or towada37@hotmail.com

Whitecourt—Annual A/JTMA Conference 2009

It is NOT all business at the conference.... This year Lethbridge had a delegation attend the conference in Whitecourt. Once business was out of the way the Whitecourt hosts treated attendees to some special treats including a helicopter tour and a exhilarating jet boat ride on the Athabasca River. Next year, Stony Plain will be hosting the conference. Members are encouraged to consider attending. We usually go up the night before the conference and stay overnight. The conferences are an excellent opportunity of getting an excellent introduction to the hosting community and to meet delegates from around Alberta who have like interests in twin cities. It is also an excellent time to share ideas and best practices.



Consul General Minemura and his wife watch the procession of flags from each Alberta/ Japan twinned municipality



A/JTMA 2009/2010 Executive L-R Ian (Hinton) Diane (Stony Plain) Harold (Lethbridge), Edie (Barrhead) Robert (Stony Plain)



Lethbridge delegates experience jet boat ride, "way beyond a thrill" cruising at unbelievable speed, you literally feel like you are about to blast into orbit as the water beneath you explodes.

The Russians are Coming! (cont'd)

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ing that was included in the five tonne of relief products sent to Timashevsk. Then the School hosted a student from Timashevsk, Natasha for one whole year. The school has again been very gracious in accepting the five students this year. The Lethbridge Twinning Society is very grateful to Immanuel Christian High School for their willingness to welcome the students to their facilities.

This could possibly be the biggest and most

rewarding project/effort in twinning relations that our Society has every undertaken in our twenty year existence. When you reach out and welcome a guest into your home, you have the incredible opportunity of extending hospitality. You may never realize the impact that it has had on your guest. In this case, very impressionable young Russian students. Home stay families often learn more from their guests than they expect and when the time comes that your guest is to leave it is like losing a member of your family. Ties made, are sometimes maintained indefinitely and

enriched by future visits in years to follow.

We are very excited about this opportunity and it tears at the very being of what we are in the realm of a twinning society. Our host families are ready to receive the students.





Towada News

In June, Jennifer (Director of Towada City Relations), Harold (President) and Mayor Bob Tarleck were invited to a dinner meeting at the Japanese Consul General, Minemura's official residence in Calgary. Mayor Brian Wittal of Didsbury and his wife were also in attendance. The Consul and his wife are most gracious hosts. An incredible Japanese, six course meal, prepared onsite by an authentic Japanese chef, wow! The meeting was centered around twinning relations, in particular welcoming Mayor Brian Wittal of Didsbury and the town of Didsbury into the fold of Alberta/Japan

twinning municipalities. The support and enthusiasm of Consul General Minemura to promote international relations is so important for these efforts to succeed. Mayor Tarleck shared some of his experiences from his recent visit to Japan last November when he had the opportunity of visiting Haeburu Town in Okinawa as well as Towada City. Our Society is very appreciate of all the efforts that Mayor Tarleck extends towards our various twinning relations.



Jennifer and Consul General Minemura



Culver City News

The Culver City delegation is already planning their visit to Lethbridge for July 2010! They intend on being here during our Canada Day celebrations.

Culver City has a new Director for Lethbridge Twinning Relations, Marla Wolkowitz. Marla and her husband Ed have made previous visits to Lethbridge and we look forward to seeing them again next year.

A number of us have been fortunate enough to visit Culver City, but for those who haven't, I thought I'd share a few pictures from our last visit.



Downtown Culver City



Michael Bennett and Carol Ariza in front of the historic Culver Hotel



Timashevsk, Russia News

Tatiana Ponomerava from Timashevsk, Russia was here last year for a visit.

At that time she visited Immanuel Christian High School where she was most impressed with the school and curriculum.

After her visit, and back at home in Timashevsk, she communicated with us about the possibility of bringing some students here for a couple months. Immanuel's principal, Rob van Spronsen was most gracious in extending an invitation to the students.



Tatiana Ponomerava

The students have now been working on Visa approvals and we are expecting them to arrive soon. Tatiana was here recently and once again toured the school and visited with the home stay families. She is very satisfied and excited that the students will have such a wonderful opportunity.

Tatiana has gone through so much personal effort and expense to make this student exchange a reality. The students are expected to be in Lethbridge for 2 months once they finally arrive.

Profiles—LTS's Michael Bennett

Michael Bennett has been indirectly involved with the Society for a number of years. Last year, Michael officially joined the ranks of membership and joined us on our delegation visit to Culver City.

Since then, Michael has attended many functions and events. He lives in Calgary and has volunteered his time and efforts to secure venues for us in Calgary. He assisted greatly when Makoto Sakurada visited and toured around Calgary. Michael has stepped to the plate to assist in the directorship of our Culver City relations. We value Michael's diplomacy and he has proven to be an excellent citizen advocate for the Society.



Michael Bennett (right)

TROIKA: Olga, Karl and Joseph !



Olga (Angel) has been active in a distant sort of way with our Society for ten years now. Originally from Khabarovsk, Russia, Angel has been living in Vancouver for the past five years. This year, she proudly became a Canadian Citizen. Angel's home city, Khabarovsk is a twin city along with Victoria, British Columbia, and by strange but very fortunate circumstances, she became aware of the Lethbridge Twinning Society. Her excellent command of the English language and her professional computer skills quickly found a place for her talents in our Society. It was ten years ago that she introduced the Lethbridge Twinning Society to the "web". She and Karl Marten worked together, and continue to work together to keep our web site current, and in proper format.



Karl has been active in the Society since 1996. Often, "behind the scene" Karl has contributed so much..... he was our visionary, when at our first meeting re-

garding our "stone monument" he introduced us to what an "Inukshuk" and then went on to sketch out on a paper napkin his idea of what the monument would look like. There were some necessary engineering modifications made, but over-all the basic concept is what we see today at the monument site! Karl as well had introduced us to bingo for fundraising at the Winner's Bingo, linking us up with the Lethbridge Astronomy Club to raise funds for a number of years for our Society. Karl was married to Charlotte last year and both of them have participated in various events over the years. Harold can not remember just how many times Karl has come to the rescue, at all hours of the day, to fix a computer problem, not only on the Society Computer but on computers of many Society members!



Joseph is a Charter member of the Society. Twenty years! Joseph and his artistic and photographic talents are second to none. Joseph also works behind the scene in many ways, but when you look at our

Society Logo, our special brochures, and our photo albums.....they have Joseph written

all over them.

The troika, Angel, Karl and Joseph are key to our Society. They are the mortar holding us together and keep us who we are in a current and active Society. Our hat goes off to you.



Global Drums Hit Japan

Adam Mason and his group "Global Drums" attended Japan at the end of August. The group visited Towada City and performed before a sell out audience of over 400 people! A workshop was well attended and the short visit can be touted nothing less than a huge success. On September 2nd Towada Association for International Relations (T-AIR) President, Dr. Kawamura arranged for the group to visit Nohkohen, a sheltered workshop facility for intellectually disabled people. A tea ceremony and an opportunity for some of the ladies to wear Kimono was a treat. Dr. Kawamura later wrote that the visit seems to have become a big encouragement for the people at the facility. It was the very first foreign guests to visit the facility.

of T-AIR was instrumental in arranging the performance for Global Drums and he not only hosted Adam Mason in his home, he helped arrange homestay for the rest of the students. Dr. Arao also travelled to meet Adam in Southern Japan to ensure they made their way with proper connections to Towada City! T-AIR were excellent hosts, and have invited Global Drums to return at some



Dr. Adam Mason introduces members of the University of Lethbridge, Global Drums at Nohkohen in Towada City during their visit.

later date.



Logo Design Finalized

Joseph and Angel have been working on a logo/design for when the Russian Students come to Lethbridge for their visit.

They have come up with some possible concepts. They did great work together and with the internet they were able to jointly design what you see today!

Members were asked to vote for their favorite design, and after a lot of consultation, tabulation and Oh-wow-ization, our Executive has selected the logo that we feel is most fitting.



Logo Final—with blue frame

"! Oh WOW ... I LOVE it!!! ☺ Thank you so much Joseph and Angel!!!! - Elisha Wickersham

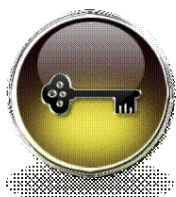


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Lethbridge Twinning Society Executive

President: Harold Pereverseff

Treasurer: Cathleen McFarland

Directors:

Carol Kensley (Public Relations)

Vince Hunt & Michael Bennett (Culver City, California, USA)

Kyle Pereverseff (Timashevsk, Russia)

Jennifer Brodoway (Towada, Japan)

Betty Reimer (Director at Large)

Lethbridge Twinning Society Lapel Pin is available for only \$5.00 Cdn.

Newsletter Editor: Karl Marten

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"Key to the City"
to be presented to Lethbridge
Twinning Society President,
Harold Pereverseff
at
3:00PM – November 13, 2009

On October 13, His Worship Mayor Bob Tarleck advised that Harold would be one of the recipients of a Key to the City. The honor of this award has caught us by surprise, and we are very encouraged of such prestigious recognition.

Harold states that the Society is the true recipient of the award, each and every member who has volunteered time, effort and yes, personal sacrifice. Harold will not be at the ceremony however, son Kyle (Society Director for Timashevsk, Russia Relations) will accept the award on Harold's behalf. (Harold and Cheryl will actually be in Hawaii where they are meeting friends they made through the Twinning Society, Ed and Marla Wolkowitz.

Members are very strongly encouraged to come to the Key presentation ceremony at 3:00PM – November 13, 2009 at City Hall.

