

Lethbridge Twinning Society – Report



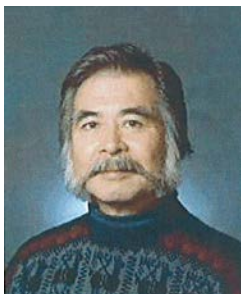
Our twin relations with the Towada-Association for International Relations (T-AIR) has gone very well this past year and we look forward to a T-AIR delegation this year.

Some of the highlights of the past year can best be expressed in a few pictures and some short notes:



(L-R) Tsuzura (Towada City) - Ali (Hinton)

The interaction with the Town of Hinton the Lethbridge Twinning Society (LTS) and T-AIR that brought the opportunity of Tsuzura from Towada to visit with Ali and her family in Hinton. Thank you Erynne from A/JTMA for assistance in this excellent youth exchange.



Dr. Hiroshi Shimazaki participated in the University teacher exchange for a six month period. Dr. Shimazaki was at the Hokkai-Gakuen University in Sapporo. 2011 was the 30 year anniversary between Hokkai-Gakuen University and the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Shimazaki returned back to Lethbridge in January 2012. We appreciate

the contributions of Dr. Shimazaki to the Lethbridge Twinning Society.



(L-R) His Worship Mayor Rajko Dodic,
Michael Bennett (Director LTS) and
Consul General for Japan (Calgary)
Susumu Fukuda.

We had a special Taiko Drum dedication ceremony on December 06, 2011. A Taiko drum originally donated to the LTS in 2004 was used to initiate the first Taiko group “Kaze No Rhythm” in Lethbridge. The drum was decommissioned, refurbished and on December 06, 2011 was instilled at Lethbridge City Hall. The ceremony was well attended and we were very pleased that Consul General for Japan, Susumu Fukuda was able to partake in the ceremony.



(L-R) Jennifer Brodoway (Director LTS)
Adam Mason (UofL Global Drums)

The UofL Global drums ensemble previously travelled to Japan (2010) to perform. While in Japan a visit to Towada City was made. A performance and providing music workshops while there. The effort did not go unnoticed! Adam Mason has been invited back to Hirosaki, Japan this summer where he will conduct steel drumming workshops. He has been invited back to Towada City...so to speak, “the beat goes on!”



Megumi (Towada City)

We will welcome Megumi to Lethbridge later this year, she was recently in Lethbridge scouting out educational facilities to study English as a second language. The choice is wide, (University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge College or the Flexible Language Centre) While Megumi is in Lethbridge, she will be staying in the home of LTS Director Kyle wife Misty. We look forward to a great year with Megumi here!



(L-R) Harold (LTS President) Trish Jackson
(LTS Member) Dr. David Ibsen (FACTS)

Dr. Ibsen of Spruce Grove, AB. came to Lethbridge for an information session with members of the LTS. Opportunities for travel to Japan, student exchanges, University course opportunity as well as summer employment strategies were discussed.



(L-R) Haruo Shirayama (T-AIR President)
Teiichi Arao (T-AIR Member/Translator)

We greatly express our thank you to T-AIR in particular to President Shirayama and Dr. Teiichi Arao. Your assistance and co-operation in our twinning relations has brought us this far as we continue to enrich our ties and friendships.



Diane Minamide has assumed the role of LTS Director for Towada City Relations.

Diane has been involved in twin relations with Japan for over 20 years and in 1993

was a student participant in an exchange. The exchange program has a huge impact on her life and it was because of the program that she was influenced to live in Japan for four years! Welcome as our new director, and best wishes.



(L-R) Tsumura Kikuchi (Towada City, Japan) Ali Janeczko (Hinton, Alberta)



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Jennifer Brodoway (Director LTS)

Outgoing Director of Towada City Relations (2007 – 2012) Jennifer Brodoway. Jennifer is a very active member of LTS. Having visited Towada City as well as a participant at the Hokkaido Twin City Conference in 2007. M/C of the Lethbridge, Makoto Sakurada concert in 2009 several events and functions along with translation services and all around volunteer extraordinaire, “Arigato Gozaimasu”.



Carol Kensley – Director, Public Relations LTS.