

A/JTMA President's Annual Report 2012



Without a doubt, serving as President of the Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Association (A/JTMA) since 2007 has been an honour and a privilege.

I am a firm proponent of the twinning movement. I believe that the personal relationships established through twinning at the grass roots is the key that sustains the A/JTMA.

The individual municipalities and friendship societies that form the membership base of the A/JTMA have impressed me with their innovation and their zeal. There are success stories we love to share, and there were challenges that have been faced and needed to be addressed. These are all part of being an active organization, especially when growing and expanding of vision occurs.

Truly, the support of the Ministry of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations (IIAR) has financially sustained the A/JTMA. Since the incorporation of the A/JTMA on February 16, 1999, IIAR has provided grant funding in the amount of \$90,000.00. In 2010 IIAR provided a one time grant in the amount of \$21,000.00 that was distributed equally among the member municipalities/associations. That is \$111,000.00 in funding!

The Ministry has also assisted in the logistical matters like protocol, teleconferencing and attending at conferences. It has always been a sincere pleasure working with Yvette, Kim and Evan (and their former colleagues) and "Arigato Gozaimasu!" (Thank you!) goes out to them.

I believe that there are ways and means to have the A/JTMA not as reliant on grant funding. There are ways to support ourselves and to operate within the parameters of funds we raise ourselves. This is the norm for non-profits societies. I believe we can begin with collaboration and utilization of existing resources throughout our membership. Two of the Motions for resolution we will be hearing at our AGM are steps towards less financial dependency for the A/JTMA. Please consider your support of the Motions.

As I reflect back on my 4 years presidency of the A/JTMA:

- We worked together to formulate the Constitution for the A/JTMA.
- We designed a logo for the A/JTMA and followed up with impressive lapel pins and flags.
- We created business cards for executive members to assist in their promotion of the A/JTMA.
- It was most impressive to keep the ball rolling, to have Town of Didsbury become members of the A/JTMA followed by the Lethbridge Okinawa Cultural Society and the City of Brooks.
- The creation of the A/JTMA web site, carrying relevant information with frequent updates from members.
- To have the first ever sharing of twin city exchange visits in 2011 when a youth from Towada City was hosted in Hinton, and the promise of a youth in Hinton to visit Towada City. These cross sectional exchanges are exciting and open up doors in the A/JTMA.
- To bring a youth into the Executive of the A/JTMA. We now have a youth "Executive Visionary".
- We have maintained stellar relations with the Consulate General of Japan in Calgary.

It was all good, and there is so much more good to come. Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

Best,

Harold Pereverseff

