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# Lethbridge Twinning Society Newsletter

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*"The Lethbridge Twinning Society"  
Alberta Government Corporate  
Access Number 504019381"  
Registered: July 7, 1989*

## A.G.M. Special Report

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LETHBRIDGE TWINNING SOCIETY MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2009

Guests and visitors mingled at the Park Side Inn banquet room. Maisie presented the grace. Dinner was served at 6:45 pm.

Harold introduced Professor Kubilay Gok of the University of Lethbridge. Originally from Turkey, Professor Gok spent several years at the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A. Arriving in Lethbridge 8 months ago with his wife and two children, Professor Gok shared his experiences from Turkey to U.S.A. to Lethbridge, Alberta.

The cultural differences, religious beliefs, understanding, lack of intolerance, discrimination he experienced reflect strongly on his nature and characterizes his wishes to contribute to local community to make a difference. Sharing his experience of being homeless for 24 hours with U. of L students, he was the first faculty member to take up the challenge this March 2009. His gratitude and appreciation for success encourages him to support human kindness and promote understanding of people worldwide.

No minutes of the 2008 AGM available for adoption.

No amendments to the evening's agenda.

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### President's Report:

Harold highlighted the L.C.I. band trip to Culver City and the warm welcome they received by the Culver City sister city society. He is in constant contact with President Kathleen McCaan and they are looking at the possibilities of visit exchanges every two years rather than the existing 3 years.

Other highlights included the Xmas party and Makoto's visit and performance. Thank you to the homestay hosts: Bob, Maisie, Ruth and Terri and Cheryl.

Being invited to the United Nations conference in Seville, Spain in February was unbelievable. He was surprised to be contacted by CIDA in Toronto and their inquiry into his invitation to the conference. Harold was one of the presenters, along side Spain, Italy, Bethlehem, He was the only one from North America to present other than the UN rep from New York who was in attendance. The conference report is available on the internet May 25, 2009.

He shared his experience of presenting the Canadian Flag to the hotel. Discovery of an exchange program with our U. of L. and a twin University in Juan, Spain provided an opportunity to exchange information.

### Treasurer's Report as of May 27, 2009

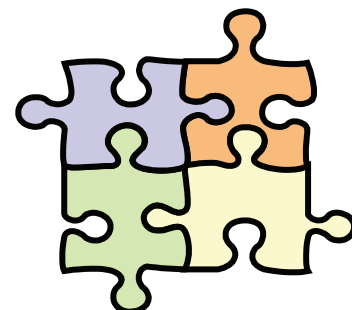
Chequing Account	\$ 694.10
Savings Account	\$ 54.87
Cash	\$ NIL
Cheque (s)	\$ NIL
Total:	\$748.97

DEBTS o/s: NIL

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### Towada City Report:

- Jennifer enjoyed Makoto and hosted a special night for him.
- She mentioned the upcoming meeting June 5, 2009 in Calgary with government officials.
- Whitecourt, AB will host this year's AJTMA conference June 19 & 20, 2009.
- Due to the NIH1 cases in Canada, Towada City students will not be coming to Lethbridge, AB this year.



## Timashevask, Russia Report:

Kyle sends his regrets.

○ Harold mentioned Tatiana Pomerov, who visited Lethbridge 2 years ago (mother of Vladim), has expressed interest to bring over 16 and 17 year olds to learn English for 6 weeks. Students will be prepared to pay tuition and rent.

○ Harold has been in contact with Wendy Fox of School District 51 and there is interest. He will also contact Elma at Flexibility Learning Systems.

○ Kyle has submitted LTS as a consideration for the Sunlife Financial's annual pancake breakfast proceeds.

## Culver City report:

Vince sends his regrets.

○ Special thank you to Bob for helping out and visiting Culver last July 2008.

Michael B. is interested in keeping in touch with LTS. and Heather, President of Calgary Chamber of Commerce, is in the wings re: Next Culver Delegation visit 2011 to Alberta with possible Calgary Stampede parade VIP Seating and white hat ceremony.



### MAKOTO PERFORMING AT THE YATES MEMORIAL CENTRE IN LETHBRIDGE

Our most welcome guest from Towada City, Japan, Makoto Sakurada impressed the crowds at the Yates on February 21, 2009.

The concert was perfect; to hear the multi-talented artist Makoto perform was a treat we will not forget for a long time. The University of Lethbridge Global Drum Ensemble was not only complimented in the performance, they were a performance unto themselves! They were incredible! Adam Mason and his group extended themselves so much and our Society is very grateful for their attendance.

## Public Relations Report:

○ Makoto opened doors for us. Great coverage from Craig Albrecht of the Lethbridge Herald, Mark Campbell of Global TV, and the Lounge Radio 94.1 and Scene & Heard. Dory at CTV provided assistance in promoting his concert.

○ With the loss of astronomy society bingos, there may be a possibility of working together with another organization to do Sunday bingos only. This will have to be reviewed in details and discussed with membership as a specific commitment of volunteers is needed.

○ Still a few more registrations available for the AJTMA Conference in Whitecourt, AB June 19 and 20, 2009.

○ Looking into highlighting LTS in the Lethbridge Living magazine for Fall 2009 capturing the AJTMA Conference, Seville, Spain and the Annual Sister Cities Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland July 2009.

**Makoto opened doors for us...**

○ Several members attended the opening of the Water Sciences Building at the U. of L. A fantastic world class building and addition to our local community providing education and training about our wetlands, humming birds and water resources.

○ Possibilities of future fundraiser: Chinese auction and role for corporate sponsors with LTS.

## New Business / Other:

- Discussion about the Mayor's policy on twinning was mentioned and challenged by Harold. Apparently this includes Saint Laurent and Xang Yung, China only.
  - Lethbridge council has a committee and LTS was not invited to sit on it or included.
  - In the past, LTS has had a city alderman for our society. This may have to be addressed again and ask for some inclusion re: New policy.
- Drum donation to Japanese Garden: The case is built and delivered. Members will be notified when the ceremony will take place.
- The Annual LTS June POTLUCK BBQ will be held the fourth Wednesday, June 24 at Ruth Chell's home. 6:00 pm. Please r.s.v.p
- Shirley D. congratulated Harold on his accomplishments re: putting Lethbridge on the world map at the Seville conference and all his hard work for the society.
- Re: Culver City: Michael B. mentioned that he would like to assist with Culver City, U.S.A. Perhaps in the capacity of alternate director or director in training.
  - **MOTION;** Karl motioned to keep the Executive as is with this inclusion of helper for Culver City. Seconded by Michael B. Carried

**Maisie expressed a vote of Thanks to the Executive and excellent work.**

***"Apparently the Mayor's (City's?) policy on Twinning extends to Saint Laurent and Xang Yung, China only"***



## The Year in Pictures



Towada City, Japan, November 2008



T-AIR member, Teichi Arao receives T-Shirt "I speak English" from LTS, Nov 2008



Mrs. Arao & Mrs. Murayama, Towada City, Japan, November 2008



Aboard the "Shinkansen" bullet train in Towada City



Consul General of Japan and his wife with Harold and Carol, Emperor of Japan Birthday, Calgary, 2008



The DeBows and the Pereverseffs, Chancellor's Dinner, U of L, 2008

## The Year in Pictures (continued)



Betty Reimer and Marisa Boles



Bingo Fundraising !



Dean Cofell, Bob Hironaka & Michael Bennet at Bar-B-que, May, 2009



Cheryl Perverseff at the Lewis & Clarke "Art Walk" Event in Great Falls, June 2008



Bar-B-que at Harold's place, July 2008



Bar-B-que at Harold's place, July 2008



Getting ready for the Whoop-Up days parade, 2008



Getting ready for the Whoop-Up days parade, 2008



Getting ready for the Whoop-Up days parade, 2008



Bar-B-que fundraiser in front of Save-On Foods



Bar-B-que fundraiser in front of Save-On Foods



Bingo Fundraising 2008



Volunteer fair—LTS table, September, 2008



Volunteer Fair poster showing LTS as a participant, September, 2008



Bob Hironaka and friend at the volunteer fair, September, 2008



Bob answering questions at our table at the volunteer fair, September 2008



Dedication ceremony regarding A/JTMA at the Edmonton Legislature Grounds, 2008



Dedication ceremony tree-planting, Edmonton, 2008



At the drum donation ceremony, U of L



At the drum donation ceremony, U of L



Makoto in Airdire with Michael McAllister



Makoto in Calgary



Makoto in Banff



Makoto at Yates performance with Misty and Kyle

# LTS Presentation in Seville, Spain



From left to right in first row: Pedro Maestre (Sevilla Global), Luis Pedro Gonzalez-Cordero (Humanitarian Logistic), Haitham Fallaha (EAAS Mundy), Evan Arias (Guimaras, Philippines), Harold Pereverseff (Lethbridge, Canada), Gilberto Muñoz Coronado (Corinto, Colombia), Aladeen Shawa (UNCDF), Zoughbi Al Zoughbi (Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories), Luis Heichi Umezawa and his wife (Ate, Perú), Alfonso Marquez (University of Jaen), Jorge Manrique and Ana Concejo (Avilés, Spain), Kresla Brutau (Havana, Cuba), José Chira (UIM), unknown, Felipe Hilan (Gumaras, Philippines).

From left to right in second row: Naraya Gopal (Kathmandu, Nepal), Inma Ortiz (Ministry for Decentralisation, Senegal), Diana Lopez (UN-HABITAT), unknown, Devendra Dongol (Kathmandu, Nepal), Mamadou Dior Diaw (Ministry for Decentralisation, Senegal), Martin Gasser (ILO), unknown, Christina Marent (Barcelona Province), Susan Handley (LGA, UK), Dave Wilcox (Derbyshire, UK).

## ... an excerpt from Harold's presentation to the UN conference:

Twinning relations bring communities that are geographically separated together in our global community. The major emphasis of twinning is driven by citizen diplomacy at the "grass roots" level. The Lethbridge Twinning Society has been instrumental in maintaining friendship relations with four cities in three different countries: Timashevsk, Russia, Towada City, Japan, Culver City, California (USA) and Great Falls, Montana (USA). The society is the vehicle that delegations for twinned cities and Lethbridge opportune for visitation and communication efforts. The society encourages and promotes student exchanges, cultural and language education opportunities.

The society is instrumental in accommodations provided to visiting delegations by arranging home stay visits. While encouraging opportunities for trade and industry, the society is accredited with promoting tourism and travel not only to Lethbridge but to southern Alberta in general.

The Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Association is the gel that holds twinning relations between the Province of Alberta wide network of municipalities twinned with Japanese communities together. The association promotes twinning of new municipalities providing guidance and assistance to formulate official twinning agreements and to intervene in issues that may cause the twinning relations to falter. The association is instrumental in promotion of twinning arrangements and encourages student exchanges, trade and commerce and opportunities for import/export. Both organizations are best identified as relating to Mrs. Maragret Mead's famous quotation: *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."* [Margaret Mead (1901-1978)]

Here is the link to the final report on the Seville, Spain Conference for those who are interested:

[http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/NUMBER\\_1\\_SEVILLA.pdf](http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/NUMBER_1_SEVILLA.pdf)