



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rob Merrifield, MP for Yellowhead, left, poses with Consul General Susumu Fukuda and A/JTMA president Harold Pereverseff of Lethbridge.

Alberta/Japan twinning relationships going strong

SUBMITTED BY LETHBRIDGE TWINNING SOCIETY

Lethbridge's Harold Pereverseff was among those greeting Susumu Fukuda, Consul General of Japan, at the annual conference of the Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Association (A/JTMA) in Hinton.

Pereverseff, of the Lethbridge Twinning Society, will continue his role of president of the A/JTMA for another year. Establishing Alberta/Japan twinning relations was the vision of former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed in 1972 when there was formalization of the relationship between the Town of Jasper and Hakone-cho. Since then the number of twinned municipalities in Alberta has grown to 22. The Lethbridge Twinning Society has established relations with Towada City.

The A/JTMA acts as a conduit to

encourage Alberta/Japan twin relations and also supports and enhances existing relations by sharing new ideas and innovative opportunities.

Consul General Fukuda addressed the delegates and thanked them for their kind and compassionate assistance to Japan following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in March of this year. He also was encouraged by the diligence of the A/JTMA in supporting and encouraging strong twinning relationships.

The A/JTMA is working with municipalities in Alberta to assist in establishing new Japanese twin relations, and to help strengthen existing ones. Informal relationships in municipalities can be supported by the A/JTMA and they are encouraged to join the organization. Further information on the A/JTMA can be found on www.ajtma.com.