



On April 21<sup>st</sup> a delegation of 23 residents of Lethbridge travelled to our Sister City, Great Falls Montana.

Members of the Lethbridge Twinning Society and Members of “Hibikiya” (Lethbridge’s authentic Japanese Taiko group) formed this delegation.

We were warmly greeted by Charity Jacobson of the City of Great Falls, Advisory Commission on International Relations (ACIR) and members of ACIR on Saturday afternoon at the “Every Day IGA” store where the City of Great Falls winner of the 2017 “Lethbridge Get-A-Way” (Scott Gillespie) works. Hibikiya set up their set in front of the Every Day IGA store and presented a half hour, Taiko Drum performance. Many residents came out to hear the performance. After the performance we all got together for dinner at a wonderful Great Falls local restaurant.

On Sunday, Hibikiya was welcomed to the stage at the City of Great Falls, Civic Centre by Patty Rearden of the City of Great Falls, Parks and Recreation Department. Hibikiya performed from 12:00PM until 3:30PM only taking shorts breaks in between sets. Participants in the Ice Breaker Road Race we staged in the Civic Centre and enjoyed Hibikiya while they prepared for their race starts.

There were three races, a 5 mile a 3 mile and 1 mile. Members of the Lethbridge Twinning Society had participants in each of the races. Our Director for Great Falls relations, Brandy Old had an impressive showing in the 5 mile race where she ran the course in well under one hour! The Ice Breaker provides an excellent opportunity of meeting, one on one, with residents of the Great Falls community. This year, the weather was excellent which provided even more opportunity to interact in a casual fashion. With close to 4,000 people in attendance (over 3,200 “officially registered” to run in the races) the 2018 Ice Breaker Road Race was an absolute success.

Brandy Old was interviewed by KRTV of Great Falls with focus on our Sister City relations with Great Falls as being the reason why we were there.

Charity Jacobson from the City of Great Falls, ACIR was at the Ice Breaker Road Race and along with Patty Readon from the City Parks and Recreation were excellent hosts to us and made us feel right a home!

After the Hibikiya performance, Patty Readon presented the members of Hibikiya with an official "Ice Breaker Road Race" tee shirt, the gesture being very much appreciated.

As a standard practice at the Great Falls Civic Centre, where most of the City administration are located, they fly the "Star Spangled Banner" the "Montana State Flag" and the "Canadian Flag". (This year, all the flags were flown at half-mast in respect for the passing of First Lady, Bush.)



The massive "Star Spangled Banner" flying at half mast in Great Falls in due respect of the passing of First Lady Bush.



Charity Jacobson of the City of Great Falls, Advisory Commission on International Relations (ACIR) welcomes us to Great Falls as Brandy Old of the Lethbridge Twinning Society (LTS) gets ready for the Hibikiya performance at the “Every Day IGA Store”.



Great Falls residents gather as Hibikiya begins their performance.



A member of the ACIR prepares to “live stream” the Hibikiya performance over Face Book.



Some young Great Falls enthusiasts try their hand at the big Taiko!



Brandy Old (Front Left) stands along with member of the ACIR and Hibikiya after the performance. Scott Gillespie, (In red vest) from Every Day IGA was our host that invited Hibikiya to perform in front of the store, not the ideal “stage” but it worked out very well!



Hibikiya sets up for there performances at the City of Great Falls – Civic Centre, the venue for the Ice Breaker Road Race (Sunday – April 22<sup>nd</sup>)





Lethbridge Twinning Society's Director for Great Falls Relations, Brandy Old prepares for interview with KRTV Channel 3.



Hibikiya was a huge hit at the Ice Breaker, so many positive comments and words of sincere appreciation were extended.



The crowd starts to filter in and begin taking their seats while Hibikiya welcomes them.



Young Sho (front right) shows his skill while performing on the “Shime-Diako”



Youngsters from Lethbridge get ready for their races.



Great Falls Civic Center, flags fly at half-mast (passing of First Lady, Bush)  
\* Canadian flag permanently is flown at the Civic Center.



Great Falls Police Department close off street traffic to accommodate the Ice Breaker Road Race.



Runners get ready for the start of the three mile, Ice Breaker Road Race.



Strategy being discussed prior to the race.





Marisa and Harold and young Titus are joining the hundreds and hundreds of runners.



And.....they're off!



Marisa sets the pace in the 3 mile race.



Harold pushes on in the 3 mile race.



Michael appears to be heading the wrong way..... this was just for the photo opp!



Michael and Harold celebrate their three mile completion.



Charity and Michael pose with the Ice Breaker Mascot.



Patty makes a presentation of the "Official Tee Shirt" to members of Hibikiya





Hibikiya display the Tee Shirt at the conclusion of their afternoon long performances.



Bob Harris (former Chairman of ACIR) and Cheryl Pereverseff meets with members of the LTS after the Ice Breaker Road Race.



We were certainly welcome to Great Falls, one of our Sister Cities! We will be back!