

## THE LETHBRIDGE TWINNING SOCIETY – 2013-2014



The Lethbridge Twinning Society (LTS) and the Towada Association for International Relations (T-AIR) formed a twinning relationship agreement in 2002. Our organizations follow the model of “Sister Cities International”.

Our LTS Director for Towada City, Japan relations, Diane Minamide and the T-AIR Director for Lethbridge, Alberta relations, Dr. Teiichi Arao of Towada City, Japan, have woven a close web that has greatly enhanced our “Alberta – Japan” experience! One of the pivotal achievements that have been forged in our relationship is now our standardized and formal student exchange procedures. As a proven result, we offer sustained opportunities for students in the advanced high school grades and/or post secondary to attend at “English as Second Language” (ESL) courses in one of three facilities in Lethbridge:

- 1- The University of Lethbridge (International Students Centre)
- 2- The Lethbridge College
- 3- Flexibility Learning Systems

Each of these facilities offers a wide range of opportunities for foreign students to come and learn the English language together with Canadian culture. The student experience is further enhanced by the Lethbridge Twinning Society members offering “home stay” accommodations. This provides the students with convenient, safe and compassionate family settings. The proto-type of this process began in February of 2013 when we hosted Risa Kumasaka. Risa attended “Flexibility Learning Systems. (Please see: <http://risacanada2013.wordpress.com/> ). In March of 2014 we hosted Toshihiko Kawashima and Katsuhito Shimada both “Katsu” and “Toshi” attended at our Lethbridge College. (Please see: <http://katsutoshi2014.wordpress.com/>).



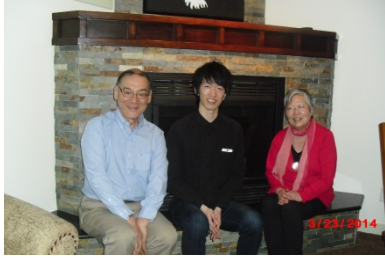
*Even though Katsu and Toshi are anything but Irish, they did enjoy “Saint Patrick’s Day” celebrations in Lethbridge!*



*Toshi and Katsu meet former Towada City, Japan resident, Takako Pereverseff (nee Yamada).*



*Katsu’s homestay family, the Khourier’s (Sam and Rina)*



*Toshi's homestay family, the Arinobu's (Edward and Suni)*

The LTS is encouraging all communities in Alberta to consider the three ESL programs available in Lethbridge. We have contacted a number of communities already and have received inquiries and expression of interest. For further information, please contact Carol Kensley, Public Relations Director of LTS - [carolkats337@hotmail.com](mailto:carolkats337@hotmail.com)

*\* (In the summer of 2013, LTS President, Harold Pereverseff had a formal meeting with Mr. Paul Pan of the University of Lethbridge – International Students Division, to discuss student programs involving our students from Japan.)*

Conversely, our LTS associate, Dr. David Ibsen was in Towada City, Japan in December, 2013. At that time, He, Dr. Teiichi Arao along with members of T-AIR were instrumental in organizing a “reunion reception” for a number of Alberta students who were in studying in various regions of Japan!



*(L-R) Johanna Ibsen (Spruce Grove), Sara Lipp (Calgary), Ali Janeszko(Hinton) Alberta Students. Nozomi Kaneko, Japanese student who homestay hosted Johanna and Risa Kumasaka, Japanese student who homestay hosted Sara and had studied in Lethbridge. (Note: the Alberta, Japan and Lethbridge City Flags proudly raised in the background!)*



*Dr. David Ibsen presenting at the T-AIR reception.*



*Towada City, Japan's –Recording artist, Makoto Sakurada was on hand at the T-AIR reception and welcomed everyone. Makoto was pleased to meet the ladies from Alberta. Makoto has performed throughout Alberta in 2009 and again in 2012!*

- Lethbridge Twinning Society – Events and Activities 2013-2014
- Hot Dog Bar-B-Que Fund Raiser – June 29, 2013



*Members of the LTS held a successful Bar-B-Que as a fund raiser event. We served a specialty “Japanese” style hot dog with wasabi, sea weed and daikon radish! “Yummy!”*

- Attendance at the A/JTMA Conference hosted in Town of Didsbury, July 5 & 6, 2013



*(LTS President) Harold Pereverseff; Mayor Brian Wittal; (LTS PR Director) Carol Kensley; (LTS Member )Garry Pickett*



*Consul General for Japan  
Mr. Susumi Fukuda*

- LTS President, Harold Pereverseff along with Youth Ambassador, Vanessa Rabel attend Sister Cities International Conference in San Antonio, Texas, July 11 – 13 2013





(L-R) Harold Pereverseff; SCI President Mary Gordon; three delegates from Thunder Bay, Ontario; Vanessa Rabel.



Harold Pereverseff and Seiichi Watanabe (Japan Government of the Interior)

- Welcoming Mr. Haruwo Shirayama – President of T-AIR and his delegation from Towada City, Japan. July 24<sup>th</sup> – July 29<sup>th</sup> – 2013



At Calgary International Airport



T-AIR President Shirayama reads over Official Twinning Agreement as displayed at Lethbridge City Hall.



*LTS Farewell Bar-B-Que for the Towada City Delegation guests.*



*No "clowning around" President Shirayama had a great visit to Lethbridge!*

- Attended the JET Alumni Bar-B-Que in Calgary – September 14, 2013



*Consul General Fukuda*



*Taiko in the park*



*Sumo wrestling*



*LTS members attend*

- Attended on November 19, 2013 at McDougall Centre – Calgary Celebrating Alberta-Hokkaido Relations



*Attendees at the reception*



*(L-R) Consul General Susumu Fukuda  
Hon. Teresa Woo-Paw, M.L.A.*



- Attended reception celebrating the birthday of the Emperor of Japan – Calgary Petroleum Club – November 26, 2013



*Delegates from Lethbridge join Consul General Fukuda and his wife at the reception.*



*(L-R) Consul General Fukuda; His Worship, Lethbridge Mayor, Mr. Spearman; Harold Pereverseff. (Presentation of "Makoto Sakurada" CD to Consul General Fukuda)*

- Consul General Fukuda visits Lethbridge – February 12, 2014  
LTS hosted Consul General Fukuda in Lethbridge for a lunch reception followed by a brief tour. A visit to City Hall was made, where the Consul General met His Worship, Mayor Chris Spearman. In the evening, the Consul General Fukuda was hosted by Diane Minimade at the University of Lethbridge's Annual International Dinner Reception.



*(L-R) Diane Minimade (LTS Director for Towada City, Japan Relations); Consul General Fukuda; George Takashima (LTS Member) Fran Cofell (LTS Member); Peggy Takashima (LTS Member); Carol Kensley (LTS Director for Public Relations)*



*Consul General Fukuda with His Worship Mayor Chris Spearman and Lethbridge City Hal*

- Attended on March 07 – 09, 2014 – Honolulu Festival – Honolulu, Hawaii.



*President Harold Pereverseff attended the Honolulu Festival "Pacific Harmony" The festival was widely attended by groups, performers and delegates from Japan. All countries "washed by the Pacific Ocean" are welcome to participate in the festival. Once again this year, the festival was a huge success and very well attended. It was the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the event, plans for 2015 are underway.*

- Attended on March 26, 2014 at McDougall Centre – Calgary

Asia Pacific  
Foundation  
of Canada

Fondation  
Asie Pacifique  
du Canada



*Michael Bennett (LTS Director)*

*Michael Bennett attended the reception and reports that the Alberta/Asia focus (which of course includes Japan) is a strong focus of the Alberta Government. \* Complete speaking notes from the evening may be researched on the LTS website: [www.lethbridgetwinningssociety.com](http://www.lethbridgetwinningssociety.com)*

In May, 2014, Diane Minamide, LTS Director for Towada City, Japan relations, will be in Japan and will be attending in Towada City where she will meet with T-AIR representatives and will align focus between LTS and T-AIR objectives and commitments.

In July, 2014 we will look forward to welcoming a delegation from Towada City, Japan for a one week visit.

Thank you,

Diane Minamide  
Director of Towada City, Japan Relations  
Lethbridge Twinning Society  
e-mail: [minamide@outlook.com](mailto:minamide@outlook.com)

\*We are very grateful to Professor Teiichi Arao of T-AIR for his translation services provided to have this report translated into Japanese. Thank you Tei-San!\*