

City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee 2019 Year in Review

2019 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Pierrefonds, Quebec (since 1967), Wakayama, Japan (since 1973), and Xiamen, China (since 2012); as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (since 2008). Information from various SCAC activities and events are outlined in the following pages.

2019 Committee Members:

Chair	Lisa MacNeil
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds	Ed Gavsie
Vice-Chair, Wakayama	Glenn Kishi
Vice-Chair, Qingdao	Melissa Zhang
Vice-Chair, Xiamen	Helen Quan
Members	Seemah Aaron
	Allen Chan
	Charan Gill
	Bernard Loh
	Ihsan Malik
	Kim Ng
	Polly Tang
Council Liaison	Councillor Linda McPhail
School Board Liaison	Heather Larson
	Donna Sargent (Alternate)

2019 Sister City Relationship Highlights

January

- Newly appointed SCAC members were introduced at the first meeting in January.



**Back: Melissa Zhang, Glenn Kishi, Allen Chan, Heather Larson, Ed Gavsie, Bernard Loh
Front: Seemah Aaron, Helen Quan, Kim Ng, Polly Tang, Lisa MacNeil, Councillor Linda McPhail,
Ihsan Malik, Charan Gill**

- The SCAC elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Pierrefonds, Wakayama Qingdao and Xiamen sub-committees and selected members to the following sub-committees:
 - Pierrefonds Sub-Committee;
 - Wakayama Sub-Committee;
 - Qingdao Sub-Committee; and
 - Xiamen Sub-Committee.

February

- Richmond City Council and the Sister City Advisory Committee sent New Year's greetings to Richmond's Sister City Xiamen and Friendship City Qingdao, China on February 5, 2019.



Richmond City Council New Year Greeting



SCAC New Year Greeting

- Members of the Sister City Advisory Committee welcomed a business delegation from Wakayama, Japan from on February 14, 2019. Local Japanese products were displayed at the Cultural Centre from February 13 to 28, 2019.



Left: Japanese products on display; Right: Delegation from Wakayama, Japan

- The Sister City Advisory Committee celebrated its 45th anniversary of the Committee. Since the inception of this committee in February 1974 the objectives of the Sister City Program remain the same:
 - Carry out a continuing program of cultural exchanges
 - Emphasize student and athletic exchange for the benefit of youth
 - Promote a better understanding of our cultures and ways of life.



Signing Ceremony Pierrefonds, Quebec (1967) and Wakayama, Japan (1973)



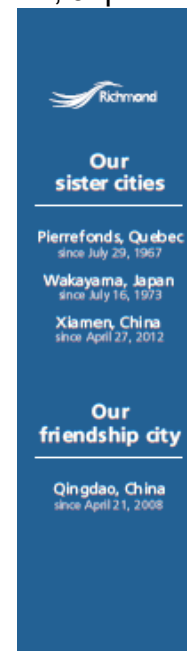
Signing Ceremony Qingdao, China (2008) and Xiamen, China (2012)

April

- On April 7, 2019 SCAC members participated in the Cherry Blossom Festival, held among the Akebono cherry blossom trees at Garry Point Park in Steveston. The booth featured a photo gallery of relationship milestones with Wakayama, Japan.



Left: Bookmark front Center: Sister City Booth Right: Bookmark back



May

- From May 13 to 26, 2019, 36 students and 8 adults from Richmond travelled to Wakayama, Japan for the annual Richmond-Wakayama student exchange. The City of Richmond is a financial sponsor of this trip. The students participated in a homestay with local families in Wakayama and visited local schools. In addition to their stay in Wakayama students travelled to Nara, Arashiyama, Katsuragawa River, Kiyomizu, Okayama, Yakage, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Tokyo, and Joto.

The Richmond-Wakayama exchange has a rich history of over 45 years of exchanges. This program continues because of the strong ties made by students and teachers who participate in these exchanges.



Students and teachers from Richmond, BC and Wakayama, Japan



Students learning Japanese dancing and playing the Koto instrument

June

- On June 4, 2019, the Richmond-Wakayama Student Exchange was featured on the City of Richmond’s Facebook page. This is the first time the Sister City Program has been featured on social media and highlights sustained efforts made by the Committee to increase the program’s reach to the residents of Richmond.



City of Richmond - Local Government 13 hrs · 🌐

The annual school exchange with the City of Wakayama, Japan, a Sister City to Richmond, took place in May.

This year, 36 students from Burnett, Palmer and Steveston-London secondary schools visited Wakayama. Thank you to the Wakayama School District for being such a great host.

For more information on our Sister Cities, visit www.richmond.ca/discover/about/sistercity/about.htm... ✓

You and 57 others 12 Shares

City of Richmond post on Facebook

July

- On July 1, 2019, the SCAC participated in the Steveston Salmon Festival. Fifty volunteers participated in the parade including the Taiko 55 Drummers, Wakayama school exchange students and Richmond community volunteers.

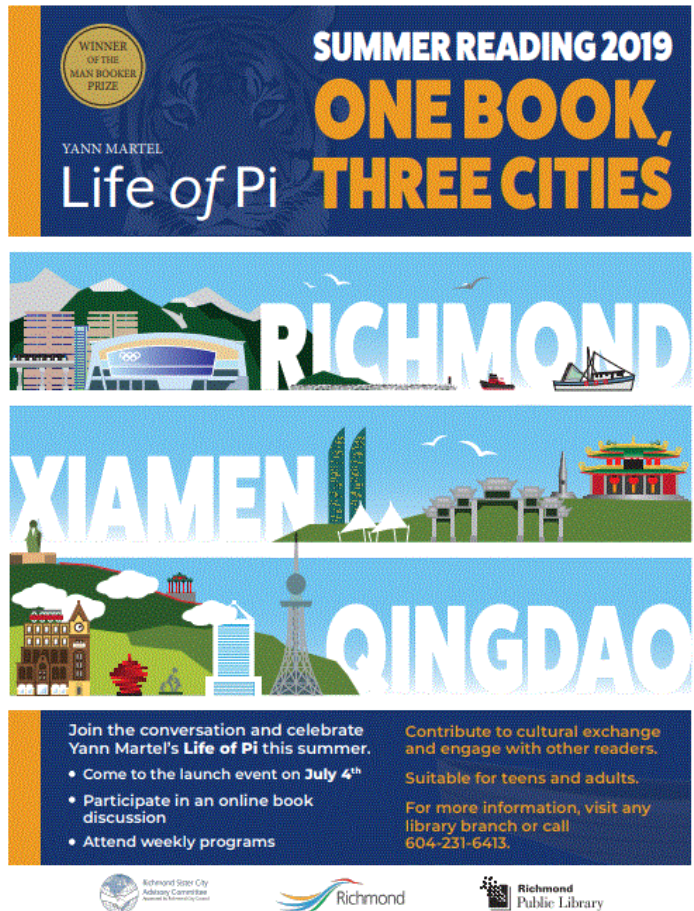


Sister City Advisory Committee entry to the Steveston Salmon Festival Parade



Taiko 55 Drummers in the SCAC entry to the Steveston Salmon Festival

- On July 4, 2019, the Sister City Advisory Committee and the Richmond Public Library partnered for the first annual “One Book, Three Cities” book club. This event featured residents from Richmond, Qingdao and Xiamen who read the “Life of Pi” by Yann Martel and participated in a number of events throughout the summer, including an online discussion forum.

SUMMER READING 2019
ONE BOOK, THREE CITIES
 YANN MARTEL
 Life of Pi

RICHMOND
XIAMEN
QINGDAO

Join the conversation and celebrate Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* this summer.

- Come to the launch event on July 4th
- Participate in an online book discussion
- Attend weekly programs

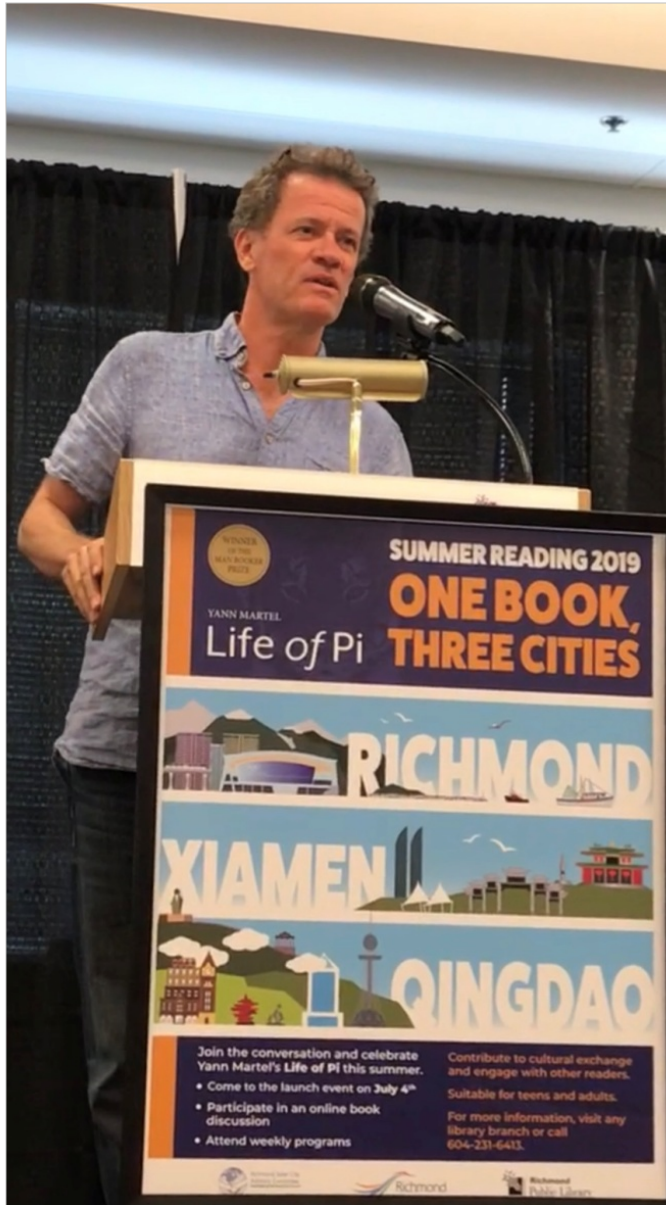
Contribute to cultural exchange and engage with other readers.
 Suitable for teens and adults.
 For more information, visit any library branch or call 604-231-6413.

Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee, Richmond, Richmond Public Library

Opening Ceremony at the launch event for the “One Book, Three Cities” book club

August

- On August 1, 2019, Yann Martel, the author of the “Life of Pi”, visited the Richmond Public Library to facilitate a discussion and meet with book club readers. In addition, Mr. Martel participated in the online discussion forum to engage with readers in China and signed translated copies of his book for book club participants in China.



Yann Martel presentation and signing at the “One Book, Three Cities” book club



Yann Martel presentation and signing at the “One Book, Three Cities” book club

- On August 2, 2019, students from Mio, Japan met with Acting Mayor Harold Steves and Councillor Bill McNulty at Richmond City Hall. The students were presenting a film at Vancouver’s Powell Street Festival.



Acting Mayor Harold Steves addressing students from Mio, Japan with Councillor Bill McNulty

- On August 20 and 21 an economic delegation from Wakayama, Japan met with a local grocery store and members from the Sister City Advisory Committee.
- On August 30 and 31, 2019, the Sister City Advisory Committee hosted a booth at the Richmond World Festival to promote the Sister City Program to the community. The booth featured display boards with information about the Sister City Program and each of Richmond’s sister city relationships and an interactive question board asking the community “What activities would like to participate in with Richmond’s Sister Cities?” and “What book should we read for the next book club?”.



Richmond World Fest Sister City Program booth display

September

- On September 7, 2019, the summer reading program concluded, ending the wildly successful “One Book, Three Cities” book club. This program was so well received; each of Richmond’s Sister City relationships has expressed an interest in participating in 2020.



Summer Reading Snapshot




Mayor Malcolm Brodie speaking at the conclusion of the summer reading series.

Summer Reading 2019 with Your Library

Congratulations to all of our Summer Reading Club and One Book, Three Cities participants for a fantastic summer of reading and discussion.

A special thank you to award-winning author Yann Martel for visiting RPL to talk about his book “Life of Pi”.

Join us in 2020!



October

- From October 15 to 31, 2019, art from local artists in Qingdao, China was displayed in the atrium of Richmond City Hall as part of the Sister City Program, in partnership with the Richmond Art Gallery. The art was donated to the City of Richmond.



Artwork on display from Qingdao, China

- The SCAC released the first bookmark collection titled the “Skyline Scenery Bookmark Collection”. These bookmarks will be distributed at local community events and will be used as gifts for delegations with Richmond’s sister and friendship cities.



Skyline Scenery Bookmark Collection



Our sister cities

Pierrefonds, Quebec
since July 29, 1967

Wakayama, Japan
since July 16, 1973

Xiamen, China
since April 27, 2012

Our friendship city

Qingdao, China
since April 21, 2008



City of Richmond

November

- In November 2019, 48 elementary school students corresponded in French for a French Immersion pen pal program with Pierrefonds, Quebec. The Sister City Advisory Committee facilitated the connection and provided an oversized post card featuring iconic Richmond scenery.



City of Richmond,
British Columbia

Name (Nom): _____

Teacher (Professeur): _____

School (Ecole): _____

Postcard for French Immersion Pen Pal Program

- On November 1, 2019, a China Fair for International Trade (CFIT) delegation from Xiamen visited Richmond’s Olympic Oval and met with Councillor Chak Au and members of the SCAC.



CFIT Delegation Visit to Richmond Olympic Oval

December

- The SCAC had its final meeting where the Committee scored each of the Sister/Friendship cities participation over the past year. All cities achieved a highly engaged score on the Sister City Program’s annual relationship scorecard.