

## City of Richmond

# Sister City Committee 2012 Year in Review

### 2012 Summary:

2012 was another busy year for the Sister City Committee. The committee manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Wakayama, Japan (since 1973), Pierrefonds, Quebec (since 1967) and Xiamen, China (since 2012); as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (since 2008).

### Committee Members:

**Chair**

Sylvia Gwozd

**Vice-Chair, Wakayama**

Jim Kojima

**Vice-Chair, Xiamen**

Weiping Liu

**Vice-Chair, Qingdao**

Wei Liu

**Vice Chair, Pierrefonds**

Francis Turmeau

**Second Vice-Chair, Wakayama**

Donalda Buie

**Second Vice-Chair Pierrefonds**

Priscilla Bollo

**Second Vice-Chair, Xiamen**

Juliana Yung

**Second Vice-Chair, Qingdao**

Carol Zheng

**Members**

Amy Yu

Gayle Morris

Ben Branscombe

Sophie Zhang

**Council Liaison**

Councillor Ken Johnston

Councillor Linda Barnes (Alternate)

**School Board Liaison**

Debbie Tablotney

(Alternate)

## January

- The committee elected a Chair and Vice Chairs.
- Councillor Ken Johnston was appointed as Council Liaison.
- Richmond Economy and Asia Pacific Gateway Presentation:
  - The Manager, Economic Development provided a presentation on the “Richmond Economy and the Asia Pacific Gateway – Opportunities for Business,” and the committee agreed to continue to refer all economic opportunities to the Manager of Economic Development for further review and comment.
- Wakayama sent a note inviting the City of Richmond to Japan in 2013 for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The choir requested a visit to Richmond in 2013.
- The Committee Congratulated Jim Kojima for receiving the Order of the Rising Sun on his visit to Wakayama, Japan.
- Qingdao: The current Mayor of Qingdao was promoted to Vice Governor of Shandong Province. A congratulatory letter on the promotion of the Mayor of Qingdao was sent as well as a letter to the new mayor from Mayor Malcolm Brodie inviting him to visit.
- Xiamen: Planning for the April 2012 Official Sister City Signing Ceremony.
- Szechuan Airlines made its inaugural flight with three flights per week and a capacity of 280 passengers. Two agreements were developed: (1) tourism and (2) education with Jimei University.
- Xiamen appointed Mrs. Yang Ying as the head of the Xiamen Friendship Association.

## February

- Wakayama: Quilt Project – Nippon Express sponsored the shipment of quilts made by the Richmond Textile Quilters Guild to Wakayama to assist with the relief effort from the earthquake and tsunami.
- Edo Exhibit at the Richmond Cultural Centre:
  - The Sister City Committee sponsored the opening of the Edo Exhibition for February 9, 2012 and provided assistance for the school programming and securing sponsors.
  - The high profile exhibit included 500 artefacts and ran from February 9 to May 21, 2012.

## March

- Pierrefonds engineering staff has invented a way to clean water more efficiently. The patent was bought by Veolia, the world’s leading company for water services and treatment. The committee identified this as a potential exchange item.
- Wakayama: A letter was received from the Principal of Onagawa, Mr. Shungu, thanking the Sister City Committee for the quilts made by the Richmond Textile Quilters Guild. The committee sent a letter of thanks to Nippon Express for facilitating the shipment.
- A letter was received from Qingdao FAO advising that they had a high calibre children’s performing arts group. They have scheduled a visit to their Sister City in Long Beach,

USA and asked about Richmond's interest in hosting. A subcommittee to plan a program to showcase Richmond at the Qingdao Expo from April to October 2014 was formed.

- Xiamen: SCC members met with three Xiamen schools including: Jimei School; the Xiamen Foreign Language School; and the Xiamen Science and Technology School, where all the students live on campus and their soccer team came in 4<sup>th</sup> in all of China.
  - A meeting was established with the head of the International Program at Jimei University. The head of the International Program participated in a 2 month service working in Richmond schools.
  - A meeting was established with the Xiamen Director of Tourism who is interested in enhancing the cooperation and framework for mutual benefit. They have 7 large planes on order and were hoping our cities can promote a direct flight; the director looks forward to signing a memorandum of understanding. A Tourism workshop was established with Qingdao and Xiamen.
  - The Committee learned the Panda in the Xiamen Zoo was coming to Vancouver. This was established as a focus of Council's trip in April.
  - The Committee received a draft of Councillor Bill McNulty's research on SCC documentation as he is writing a book.
- A request was received from the Honorary Ambassador of Yeosu in Korea proposing that Richmond and Yeosu become Sister Cities, and also invited Richmond to visit Korea's 2012 Expo site.

## April

- Xiamen: An official delegation traveled to Xiamen to sign the Official Sister City Agreement. Other trip features included: a tour of the Municipal Planning Bureau; special performance of the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra; tour of the Xiamen Zoo; and a tour of the Xiamen Olympic Museum and the Jimei University. The trip was supported by China Eastern Airlines.
- On April 28, Mr. Su Wen Jin, the Principal of Jimei University, met with Philip Laird from Trinity Western and Anne Lavack from Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
  - Trinity Western would like Jimei University's support in the martial arts field when they open the new campus in Richmond in 2014.
  - Mr. Su presented the model of the joint program to Kwantlen, similar to Humber College, Toronto and Keuka College, USA.
  - Kwantlen provided three potential joint programs with Jimei University. Both sides will discuss the details in the near future.
  - Jimei University has joint programs in Logistics Management with Humber College Toronto and in the Business Administration and Accounting with Keuka College USA.



**XIAMEN, APRIL 2012, MAYOR AND COUNCIL SISTER CITY DELEGATION**



**XIAMEN, APRIL 2012, JIMEI UNIVERSITY TOUR**



**XIAMEN, APRIL 2012, OFFICIAL SISTER CITY SIGNING  
MAYOR BRODIE AND MAYOR LIU KEQING**



**XIAMEN, APRIL 2012, TAN KAH KEE MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND SHRINE TOUR**

## May

- Qingdao: A meeting was held with Ron May from Ocean Spray and Dave Semple, General Manager, Community Services to discuss the focus of the 2014 Horticultural Expo. Qingdao will help construct a design at minimal cost, but may require a delegation to attend. VP at Kwantlen Polytechnic University was contacted to discuss partnership.
- Planning began for the Elementary Student Art Group Exchange from Qingdao to perform at River Rock Theatre on October 1, 2013.
- Planning underway for the Wakayama student delegation occurring from May 15 to May 20, 2013.
- The Children's Choir will arrive from Wakayama, April 29 to May 6, 2013.

- Planning underway for the Steveston Judo club's travel to Japan from March 21 – 24, 2013

## June

- Pierrefonds: A letter was received from Mayor Worth from Pierrefonds requesting Richmond visit Pierrefonds in September for the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## July

- The Committee participated in the Steveston Salmon Festival Parade.

## September

- Planning continued for:
  - The Wakayama Delegation visit to Richmond in November to celebrate the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
  - Wakayama Children's Choir visit to Richmond April 29 to May 2, 2013.
  - The Pierrefonds 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013
  - Qingdao Little White Sailing Junior Art Troupe that are coming to Richmond in October 2013.

## October

- Councillor Ken Johnston reported that Council's long term priorities included the planning of the Minoru Seniors Centre, Garden City Lands, and the Police Review. Councillor Johnston also announced the Sister City Committee 2011 Activities Report will be going to the October 15, 2012 General Purposes Committee meeting.
- SCC members thanked Richard Toda for his assistance over the last years.
- Grace Tsang, from the Richmond School Board, outlined the process for twinning with Richmond schools and requested that a formal letter be sent directly to the School District.
- Xiamen: Richard Hudson, Director of International Programs from the Richmond School District traveled to Xiamen to meet with the Vice Mayor to develop joint projects.
- Pierrefonds: A photo of the SCC Committee was arranged to send to Pierrefonds as a group greeting. The picture was taken at the Minoru Rose Garden dedication fountain.
  - Richmond updated their website reflecting their relationship with Pierrefonds and a letter was sent to Mayor Worth. A plaque was created to mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to be sent to Pierrefonds along with a congratulatory letter.

## November

- Wakayama 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events were scheduled from November 4 to November 7 for an official Wakayama Delegation, to honour the upcoming 40th year of twinning with the

City of Richmond. The itinerary included a tree planting in Steveston, a formal signing in Council Chambers, and an official dinner at the Hilton. Other events included: Nissei curling, a tour of the Alexandra District Energy Utility which uses geothermal energy to heat and cool Richmond's West Cambie neighbourhood, a tour of the Sharing Farm in Terra Nova, a tour of Jim Ratsoy's private car collection, and a Community Tea at Steveston-London Secondary School to remember 40 years of twinning.



**WAKAYAMA OFFICIAL DELEGATION, NOVEMBER 2012, TREE PLANTING CEREMONY  
MAYOR BRODIE AND MAYOR OHASHI**



**WAKAYAMA OFFICIAL DELEGATION, NOVEMBER 2012  
OFFICIAL CEREMONY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
MAYOR BRODIE, MAYOR OHASHI AND VICE CHAIRPERSON HIROKO NOJIMA**



**WAKAYAMA OFFICIAL DELEGATION,  
NOVEMBER 2012  
OFFICIAL BREAKING OF THE SAKE  
MAYOR OHASHI, MAYOR BRODIE, AND VICE  
CHAIRPERSON HIROKO NOJIMA**



**WAKAYAMA OFFICIAL DELEGATION,  
NOVEMBER 2012  
MAYOR & MRS. BRODIE,  
AND MAYOR & MRS. OHASHI**





**WAKAYAMA OFFICIAL DELEGATION, NOVEMBER 2012**  
**RICHMOND AND WAKAYAMA CITY COUNCILLORS EXCHANGE**



**WAKAYAMA OFFICIAL DELEGATION, NOVEMBER 2012**  
 CHAIR SYLVIA GWOZD, DR. NOBUTADA IWAHASHI, CHAIRPERSON, WAKAYAMA SISTER CITY, VICE-CHAIR, JIM KOJIMA



**WAKAYAMA OFFICIAL DELEGATION, NOVEMBER 2012**  
 LOCAL TALENT



**WAKAYAMA OFFICIAL DELEGATION, NOVEMBER 2012**  
 CHAIR SYLVIA GWOZD, DR. NOBUTADA IWAHASHI, CHAIRPERSON, WAKAYAMA SISTER CITY

- Pierrefonds: *Update on 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities* completed and implemented.
- Wakayama: A letter was received from Mayor Ohashi thanking the City of Richmond and the SCC for hosting their delegation in November. He complimented the entire visit and particularly enjoyed visiting the Alexandra District Energy Utility and curling, along with Nitobe Gardens, and the Museum of Anthropology. More school visits were suggested for next time, as Wakayama Council is directly responsible for education.
- Qingdao: Little White Sailing Junior Art Troup (LWS) planning continued.