



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: April 29, 2010

From: Mike Kirk
Deputy CAO

File:

Re: Sister City Committee 2009 Annual Report and 2010 Activity Plan

Staff Recommendation

1. That the staff report dated April 29, 2010 from the Deputy CAO, which includes the Sister City Committee 2009 Annual Report be received for information.
2. That the Sister City Committee 2010 Activity Plan be approved with the exception of the program planned for the Shanghai Expo.

Mike Kirk
Deputy CAO
(604-276-4142)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE				
Economic Development	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

Council Resolution Nos. R07/19-7, R07/19-8, R07/19-9 on November 13, 2007 resolved that a “three year Activity Plan be presented to Council for approval by the end of the first quarter of 2008 and thereafter in accordance with the new Program policies and procedures and updated Sister City Terms of Reference” Also, that

“ the Sister City Committee report to Council on an annual basis on the measurable outcomes of the specific activities undertaken by the Sister City Committee with our various Sister/Friendship cities.” This report includes the 2009 Sister City Committee Annual Report.

At the April 6, 2009 meeting of the General Purposes Committee, a report was presented by staff regarding the Richmond Sister City Committee 2009-2010 Activity Plan. The 2009 Activity Plan was approved and the 2010 Activity Plan was referred back to staff for further analysis. This report provides updated information for the Committee’s consideration.

Analysis

The primary purpose of the City of Richmond’s Sister City Program is to foster mutual understanding and meaningful connections with other cities and cultures in the interests of our citizens for their common benefit. Projects and exchanges should promote cultural awareness, joint learning opportunities, economic development and trade.

The Sister City Committee develops a broad base of activities for Sister/Friendship City relationships in which many people and organizations in Richmond and the Sister/Friendship community participate through planned and on-going contact.

With these goals in mind, and in order that the Sister City Committee have a clear understanding of their role and objectives, the 2010 plan is attached. This plan identifies cultural, educational and economic priorities for 2010 and has a proposed program of activities and events.

Staff does not support the Sister City Committee’s 2010 Plan in its entirety. Staff support all aspects of the 2010 Plan except the component involving a program in Shanghai. Shanghai is not an official Sister or Friendship City and staff believe any possible City led mission to the Shanghai Expo should be justified by economic development benefits.

The theme of the 2010 Shanghai Expo is “Better City, Better Life” and Canada is participating through a Canada Pavilion that is available for Canadian government and non-profit partners of all three levels to use during the Expo from May 1st to October 31st 2010. Staff were asked to assess the opportunity for the City to participate in the Expo and initiate an economic development program for the City of Richmond.

In determining potential economic development benefits to the City of Richmond of participating in 2010 Shanghai Expo, staff undertook the following steps:

1. Sought feedback from the Economic Advisory Committee on the merits and potential of Richmond participation in the 2010 Shanghai Expo.
2. Surveyed what, if anything, major business stakeholders in Richmond are doing to participate in 2010 Shanghai Expo.
3. Sought feedback and opinions from the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Richmond.
4. Generated data and assessed what other municipalities, senior government, industry associations and other non-profit entities are planning for Shanghai Expo 2010.

Staff viewed this opportunity from the perspective that an economic benefit for Richmond is a key requirement for deriving value out of Shanghai Expo 2010. Staff concluded that there is not sufficient economic benefit to Richmond participation based on:

- The uptake from the EAC was rather neutral, with major businesses represented on the EAC not planning significant activation in Shanghai.
- The Chamber is pre-planning a mission to Xiamen this fall, which will target 10 – 12 local companies with strong business interests in the Xiamen market. This is in response to an invitation from the City of Xiamen and is planned to be coordinated in the third week of September
- Tourism Richmond has indicated that if there are benefits from the Shanghai Expo to marketing Richmond to the tourism industry in Shanghai, they may be interested in going. It is noteworthy that Tourism Richmond are already in China developing relationships with the tour and travel industry and markets.
- Both federal and provincial participation in Shanghai Expo is minimal and highly political in nature (ministerial rather than business visits), with no business-to-business component solidified to date.
- Other local governments (including Metro Vancouver Commerce municipalities) are not interested in participating, except for Vancouver who are developing an exclusively Vancouver-branded event on September 10 at their pavilion, with little industry participation expected.
- No senior government or other funding sources exist to leverage travel costs and any Richmond participation, in partnership or not, needs to be self funded
- Funding requirements could be anywhere between \$60,000 and \$100,000, including up to \$7,000 per head in travel costs and up to \$30,000 for a reception, with the source of potential funding currently unclear.

With these factors considered, staff does not see the benefit of creating a Richmond focused economic development program for the Shanghai Expo.

Another report to Committee has a staff recommendation to continue a Friendship City relationship with the City of Qingdao. Should this relationship not continue, the 2010 Plan would change accordingly.

This Plan is very ambitious and continues to have an impact on staff resources. Two staff from Corporate Services are currently assigned to liaise with this committee. They are working at capacity in their efforts to provide support. Should the Sister City Committee want to establish additional goals, it would be difficult to achieve at current levels of staff support.

Financial Impact

The total Program budget for 2008-2010 is \$150,000.00. The committee has \$80,000.00 in the current year's budget. There is no net impact to the 2010 budget as a result of this recommendation.

Conclusion

The Sister City Program is a valued and long-standing City program. It is supported by the Sister City Committee, a dedicated group of community volunteers who are committed to achieving their goals. Approval of the 2010 Plan will set clear direction for the Sister City Committee to maintain robust and meaningful Sister and Friendship City relationships. The current plan that includes a trip to the Shanghai Expo can not be fully endorsed by staff. If the Shanghai component is excluded, staff support the plan.



Richard Toda
Manager, Customer Service
(604-276-4335)

rkt

**CITY OF RICHMOND
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
2010 ACTIVITY PLAN AND BUDGET**

PRIORITIES

- 1) SCC Policy and Guidelines state that the frequency for an official delegation exchange with a Sister City should take place each three years. The last Richmond official delegation visited our Sister City, Wakayama, Japan in the spring of 2005 in conjunction with a trade delegation to Expo 2005 in Nagoya Japan. In 2005 a program of activity was developed for the visit in partnership with the federal department of Canadian Heritage, local business and secondary and post secondary education officials. In 2008 an official 35 member delegation led by Mayor Ohashi, City Councillors, Dr. Iwahashi and members of Wakayama Sister City Committee visited Richmond to celebrate 35 years of twinning. Recognizing that it is our turn to visit Wakayama, officials have requested that we conduct our official visit in 2010 rather than 2011 as Wakayama will be in Bakersfield, California in 2011 celebrating 50 years of their twinning relationship. The Committee is also planning to visit China in order to promote the interests of Richmond as well as further enhance our friendship city relationships there.
 - a. The SCC will organize and lead an official City of Richmond delegation to the Sister City of Wakayama, Japan in the second half of 2010. As per policy the visit will be over four days and three nights.
 - b. Objectives: The SCC will work with the Wakayama International Affairs office to develop a program focused on the Wakayama region's agriculture, tourism, parks and green technology. It is expected that the program will include their highly successful Kuroshio Market, where seafood and local products are exhibited and sold; the Yuasa district which is the birthplace of Japanese soy sauce and its warehouse and museum adjoining Kadocho Soy Sauce; the plum groves of Minabe, famous for pickling and international export and Arida mandarin oranges.
 - c. Program budget for trip attached.

Part B of visit to Asia: Visit to Friendship Cities of Xiamen, Qingdao, and Expo 2010 in Shanghai. The City of Xiamen is about a two hour flight from Osaka, with 61 flights a week connecting by eight different airlines while the City of Qingdao is just over an hour flight from Osaka with 88 flights a week and 10 airlines. Both cities show Shanghai as the most popular connection for one-stop flights. It makes both economical and logistical sense to try and time the visit to our Sister City in Asia with our two Friendship Cities.

- a. The SCC has been working with the International Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to bring together like business interests in Xiamen and Richmond. Last year the Chamber hosted two luncheon presentations for visiting business delegations from Xiamen. In 2008 the President of the Chamber travelled with the official delegation and met with the Xiamen Chamber of Commerce to explore joint business opportunities. The Chamber is now prepared to travel with a business delegation to conclude two or three agreements. The SCC and the International Committee believe there is much value in signing these first

agreements in Xiamen as well as in the Canadian Pavilion in Shanghai during a Richmond Day (similar to 2005). It is planned that the Chamber's trip will be arranged by the BC Economic Development Ministry, but will overlap for certain business events with the City of Richmond to achieve maximum success.

Another major developer has expressed an interesting in partnering in a Richmond Day, as has Xiamen business to participate in such an event. In addition, the SCC has been approached by a representative of another community who followed our lead and signed two friendship agreements in China late last year and asked if we would be interested in hosting a day long joint business fair in Shanghai. They have strong connections in the private education sector.

- b. Over the last 10 years the SCC has developed strong relations with senior representatives in Asia's travel industry. The SCC would use these contacts to significantly reduce the costs of a combined trip. In addition the SCC will work to assist tourism in the promotion of Richmond and to support Approved Destination Status (ADS).
- 2) The primary focus for the SCC base program activities in its relations with our Sister Cities and Friendship Cities is to assist in building bridges and connections in order to engage the Richmond Community and its Sister/Friendship cities abroad in projects and exchanges that promote cultural awareness, joint learning opportunities, trade and economic development.
- a. Thirty-five students and teaching staff from Wakayama will visit Richmond schools for a five-day visit over the May long weekend. During the past year the SCC worked with the Richmond Board of Education to reinvigorate the exchange program between students of Wakayama and Richmond. The SCC is committed to supporting the new district exchange by providing bus transportation and hosting an event each day of the visit. See budget attached.
 - b. In order to support economic development opportunities the committee will work to complement and enhance the activities of the Economic Development Office of the City of Richmond, the Economic Advisory Committee, and partner organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Richmond and the provincial and federal government economic development offices using the connections established with our Friendship and Sister Cities.
 - c. The SC Committee will work to support opportunities for visits to Richmond after the implementation of the ADS for Chinese visitors.
 - d. In order to broaden the community involvement in Sister City and Friendship City relations the SCC will work to further develop the close working ties with local friendship city associations such as the Xiamen Friendship Society of Canada, Richmond-Qingdao Friendship Association, Qingdao Fellowship Association, Fujianese Friendship Association and Wakayama Kenjinkai.
 - e. In order to broaden the impact and connections of SCC activity it is important to involve and utilize partner organizations (Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Richmond and Friendship Societies) to assist and coordinate visiting delegations from their corresponding cities. The SCC aims to develop closer liaisons and recruit people from these organizations to serve as advisory members.

- f. The SCC will encourage Social networking with our Cities through Facebook, Twitter, etc. Work with Tourism Richmond as a host for such activities. This has not yet been discussed with the Information Technology Division.
 - g. The SCC will expand relations with post secondary institutions in Richmond, linking with Kwantlen University, Trinity University and BCIT. The Committee will identify and contact point people in each of these institutions.
 - h. The SCC will continue to reinvigorate School Exchange programs with Wakayama, and our other SCC cities.
 - i. The SCC will continue to strengthen relations with Friendship Associations, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Richmond and Foreign Affairs Offices – establish clear communication and organizing protocols headed by SCC for visiting delegations among the organizations mentioned.
- 3) As a Host City of the 2010 Winter Olympics the SCC will develop a hosting program for our two Sister Cities.
- a. The SCC will provide logistical assistance in order to secure hotel nights and tickets at their own cost or offer a home stay program.
 - b. The SCC will develop a program of activities that will showcase the Richmond Olympic Oval, tourism opportunities in Richmond, connect with representatives of the Richmond Board of Education, and profile local business.
- 4) The revised policy, mandate, terms of reference, and budget support for the activities of the SCC has had immeasurable positive and unexpected outcomes, as demonstrated by the success of the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra performance in October 2009. The event was funded through ticket sales, sponsorships, and countless volunteer hours from both Richmond and Xiamen business. The SCC has had offers to repeat business sponsorship both here and in China. An immense pride for our community of Richmond was brought together through a unique cultural event. The accolades for the City of Richmond and its special vision through the activities of the SCC found their way into many media articles and Internet blogs. It is necessary to:
- a. present to Council the future vision, program and budget request for activities and visits and delegations for the next three years, as the three-year base program funding ends in 2010;
 - b. improve Sister Cities and Friendship Committee presence on the City website and in various languages (French version for Pierrefonds, Japanese version for Wakayama, Chinese for Xiamen and Qingdao). Create reciprocal links to sister and friendship cities (See Wakayama’s website);
 - c. continue to develop archiving program and SCC promotional material;
 - d. establish SCC fund raising initiatives to develop the means to maintain, beyond the three-year sister city government funding program, the activities of four sister/friendship cities; and
 - e. review our status with Xiamen and Qingdao as friendship cities and determine if there is substantive basis to graduate either or both cities into full-fledged sister city status. Determine the interest of each city in becoming a Sister City. As well, continue to maintain casual relations with Yantai/Yangzhou to assess if there is value in developing further relations with SCC.

PROGRAM

1) Official Delegations (from or to city)

- Host delegates from our Sister Cities during the 2010 Winter Olympics.
- SCC to lead a delegation to Wakayama, Japan
- Travel from Osaka to Xiamen, Qingdao and Shanghai Expo 2010 with economic and logistical economies in consideration. Co-host Richmond Day at the Canada Pavilion, Shanghai Expo 2010. Invite both Qingdao and Xiamen business delegations. Support the work of the Economic Development Committee and link with Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Richmond and Government of Canada.

2) Exchange visits

- Thirty-five students from Wakayama Schools visit Richmond Schools May 2010.
- Xiamen delegation visit in May to promote CIFIT.
- Qingdao Judo Club is expected to visit Richmond in fall 2010. Link with Steveston Judo Club.
- Propose to host the internationally renowned Wakayama Children's Choir May 2011. Link with the Richmond Community Orchestra and Choir.
- Plan for an athletic exchange with Pierrefonds in 2011.
- Plan for 45th Anniversary with Pierrefonds in 2012.
- Plan for visit to celebrate 40th Anniversary with Wakayama in 2013.

3) Base Program Activities (non-visit)

- July 1st Salmon Festival Parade. Sister City Committee and Sister Cities as well as Friendship Cities to be involved.
- Annual state of the city letter from Mayor and City's annual report and any new significant city plans from CAO/Senior staff to be sent out.
- Saturday October 16th 2010 Washington State Sister Cities Conference is held in Bellingham, Washington.

RICHMOND SISTER CITY
2010 BUDGET

2010 Olympic Hosting:

Representatives from Pierrefonds and Wakayama-to provide transportation to tour Richmond, attend various City of Richmond events, four days lunch and dinner meetings with Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Richmond, elected officials, gifts, plus misc. \$4,000.00

Sister City School Exchange Program

Provide transportation bus, plus one joint City event each day \$8,000.00

Visiting delegation Judo

Contribute to hosting event \$1,500.00

Visiting delegation China

Lunch \$1,500.00

Program Costs to Wakayama:

Flight tickets to: Wakayama, Vancouver
Mayor or Acting Mayor, three other Council Members, City staff as appropriate, three Sister City Committee, Translator.
Costs allowed are transportation, hotel, meals, not covered by official events, and gifts.

10 delegates at \$1,200.00 = \$12,000.00

Hotels:

Wakayama 4 nights

10 delegates for 3 nights x \$200.00 = \$ 6,000.00

Meals:

10 delegates for 4 days X \$75.00 = \$ 3,000.00

Miscellaneous in Xiamen, Qingdao & Wakayama: \$ 3,000.00

Gifts: \$ 1,000.00

Bus Transportation: \$ 3,000.00

Total costs Wakayama \$28,000.00

Additional costs to travel to Shanghai, Qingdao, and Xiamen China: 10 delegates X \$700 each (*group price with above)	\$ 7,000.00
Hotel Costs: 10 delegates X 7 nights X \$200 each	\$14,000.00
Meals: 10 delegates for 5 days X \$75.00* =	\$ 3,750.00
Canada Pavilion Hosting of Xiamen & Qingdao: Entrance fees- 70 X 2 Cities X \$30.00 =	\$ 4,200.00
Luncheon 2 X \$3,000.00* =	\$ 6,000.00
Miscellaneous & tips:	\$ 2,000.00
Total China	<u>\$36,950.00</u>
<u>Total Program & Budget 2010</u>	<u>\$79,950.00</u>

*Note: \$30,000 of 2009 budget available was reserved for 2010 for total approved budget available \$80,000.

RICHMOND SISTER CITY

Review of 2009 Activity Plan

PRIORITIES

(Review comments are in italics)

- Promote the 2010 Olympic Winter Games and the Richmond Olympic Oval to our Sister and Friendship Cities. Develop a strategy plan to secure Olympic tickets for high-ranking officials who may be visiting Richmond to attend the 2010 games. Determine if and how the SCC can utilize the Oval pre and post Olympic games to enhance SCC activities and events. *Done.*
- Encourage Social networking by setting up Facebook account. *Workshop held for committee by outside communications specialist. City working on policy, ongoing.*
- Improve Sister Cities and Friendship Committee presence on the City website and in various languages (French version for Pierrefonds, Japanese version for Wakayama, Chinese for Xiamen and Qingdao. *Small improvements made, carry through to 2010.*
- Rejuvenate School exchange programs. *Done: Sponsored Steveston-London student and teacher delegation to Japan.*
- Develop archiving program and a SCC promotional material. *In progress - to be continued.*
- Establish program for visits and delegations for next three to five years. *Carry through to 2010.*
- Strengthen relations with Friendship Associations, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Richmond and Foreign Affairs Offices – establish clear communication and organizing protocol headed by SCC for visiting delegations among the organizations mentioned. *In progress - carry through to 2010.*
- Establish SCC fund raising initiatives to develop the means to maintain, beyond the three-year sister city government funding program, the activities of four sister/friendship cities. *Cultural event contributed to this. To be carried through to 2010.*
- Commitment from Friendship City re: Cash in kind and expectations.

PROGRAM

(✓ = completed)

- a) **Official Delegations (from or to city)**
 - ✓ Host Xiamen Overseas business delegation in February.
 - ✓ Host two to three other delegations from Qingdao and Xiamen.
- b) **Exchange visits**
 - Seafair Bantam Hockey team to visit Quebec in February.
 - ✓ Vice-chair to visit Pierrefonds in March.
 - ✓ Vice-chair to visit Xiamen in April.
 - ✓ Invite all Sister/Friendship Cities representatives to attend the 2nd 2009 Global Zenith Citizenship Conference May 14 attended by Pierrefonds in 2008.

- ✓Vice chair to visit Qingdao in May-June.
 - ✓Host Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra for concerts and visits October 2-4.
- c) **Base Program Activities (non-visit)**
- ✓First Anniversary celebration of Xiamen and Qingdao signings in April. Link with Friendship Associations.
 - ✓Library recognition event to acknowledge City of Xiamen book donations.
 - ✓July 1st Salmon Festival Parade. Sister Cities and Friendship Associations to join in the annual Sister City Committee entry in the parade.
 - ✓Host Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra for concerts and visits October 2 – 4.
 - Richmond to donate books to Pierrefonds Library. Link with Steveston Community Society, Richmond Public Library and Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society for book donations.
 - Annual state of the city letter from Mayor and City’s annual report and any new significant city plans from CAO/Senior staff to be sent out.
 - ✓Develop Qingdao Friendship group.
 - ✓Committee members to be speakers to attend community meetings. Chair to be keynote at one Sorority’s event.
 - Show Pierrefonds’ promotional video at various events including The Seniors’ Games.
 - ✓Donate Maple trees to a park in Qingdao where a house is being built from Canadian lumber.



THE CITY OF RICHMOND
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
YEAR IN REVIEW

2009



The Sister City Committee of Richmond has earned the reputation as one of the top ten most active Sister City Committees in Canada. 2009 was a remarkable year that saw the SCC undertake its most significant cultural event of the decade - hosting the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra for four days and two concert performances at the River Rock Show Theatre.

The Committee believes that the benefits of hosting the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra were very significant and multi-level, and fulfilled the Committee's mandate not only for cultural events but also for joint learning opportunities and economic benefits. This activity of the SCC reached a very broad audience and benefited the community with an important multi-cultural event that generated much goodwill and pride in our City. So many volunteers, city staff and, significantly, business both in Richmond and in Xiamen contributed to its success. As this was not an event funded from the Committee's 2009 budget, the cost of hosting 96 people for the entire visit, from Friday morning until their departure on Monday, was based on the Committee's ability to generate sponsorship, sponsorship in kind, and ticket sales. The success of the XPO visit, both culturally and financially, was particularly significant as the event occurred as a worldwide recession set in and companies cut their sponsorship budget significantly.

Thanks and accolades go to many but in particular, recognition must go to Walter Soo, SCC member, and Juliana Yung, Friend of SCC who Co-Chaired the two performances of the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra.

February 6, 2009

SCC Members Richard Toda, Sylvia Gwozd, Priscilla Bollo, Francis Turmeau, and Joe Greenholtz attended a presentation at the UBC Centre for Japanese Research entitled "Japan-US Sister City Exchanges: Assessing the value of the Bellingham Tatayama Relationship" by Patrick H. Buckley, of Western Washington University. The primary exchange activity between Tatayama, Japan and the City of Bellingham is the exchange of City staff. Staff would stay for a one or two week period shadowing their counterpart. This research project attempted to measure the economic benefit of the exchange. Quantifiable measures are difficult but could measure the number of students, hotel room nights, air traffic, city participation etc. This report identified that the most important benefit to a Sister City relationship is quality of life and community sustainability. Researchers could not find any one who had been able to measure such data. The researcher developed a research model called the Delphi Model based on exchanges between 1992 and 2006. Participants (anonymous) were interviewed through a guided discussion, which began with an evaluation of each city's Quality of Life in twelve areas, then were asked what each city could learn from the other. Did the exchanges show cultural borrowing and sharing of new perspectives? The preliminary results of the study suggest there is value in such exchanges as they stimulate participants to think about things, each city sees things in the other that it does not in its own, bringing forth suggestions on how to improve the quality of life for its citizens. (Refer to website <http://www.bsca.org/> for Bellingham Sister Cities.) Bellingham has sister cities in Japan, Russian, South Korea, Australia, Chile, and Finland.

Note: Saturday October 16th 2010 Washington State Sister Cities Conference is held in Bellingham, Washington.

February 27, 2009

Visit from Xiamen, China - Friday, February 27th, 2009

The following was the plan for a visit from Xiamen China on Friday February 27th, 2009:

Delegation Members:

Head:

Mr. Ouyang Jian

Chairman, Xiamen Overseas Friendship Association

Other Delegates:

Mr. Chen Guorong

Standing Member of Council, Xiamen Overseas Friendship Association

Mr. Huang Xiaolin

Standing Member of Council, Xiamen Overseas Friendship Association

Mr. Lin Chongyang

Vice President, Xiamen General Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Huang Feng

Division Director, Xiamen Foreign Affairs Office

Purpose of visit:

To further discussions with the City of Richmond on economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, education and art, the China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), and exchange visits for high school students from Richmond and Xiamen. To provide further information to the City on the industrial parks in Huli and Tong'an districts of Xiamen.



Sylvia Gwozd, Chair, SCC, and members of the Xiamen Delegation at the Richmond Olympic Oval

Itinerary: Friday Feb. 27, 2009

7:45 a.m. Breakfast meeting Max Liu with delegation at Sheraton to review schedule

8:45-9:45a.m. Meeting with Sister City Committee at the River Rock Casino Resort, Lillouette Conference Room, 2nd Floor. City Councillor Linda Barnes, Sister City Liaison in attendance. Sister City Committee members touring with delegation:

Sylvia Gwozd, Max Liu, Wei Liu, Francis Turmeau, Priscilla Bollo, James Hsieh, Richard Toda or Sue Mackie, Donalda Buie and Ben Branscombe to attend parts of day.

9:50-10:20a.m. Visit Blundell Seafood, fish wholesaler and processor on the river, 11351 River road (River between Simpson and # 5 Road) Tour plant and short meeting. Contact Jeremy Law, 604-270-3300

10:30-10:50a.m. Richmond 2010 Olympic Speed Skating Oval.

11:00-1:30p.m. Lunch hosted by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce at Quilchena Golf and Country Club, 6 spots reserved for Sister City and City of Richmond

2:00-2:30p.m. Meet with Mayor Brodie at Richmond City Hall. Carol Zheng to act as translator for Mayor Brodie

2:30-2:45p.m. Tour Richmond City Hall.

3:00-4:00p.m. Tour BCIT Aerospace complex – on arrival at the campus, the group will go to Room #120 on the Main Floor and ask for Lenalda Sutherland. Mr. Jack Baryluk (reciprocating tour he took of Xiamen Aerospace University) to lead the tour

4:00-4:45p.m. Tour Steveston Waterfront.

6:00 p.m. City bus to pickup guests for dinner. Dinner at Neptune Sharkfin Seafood Restaurant, 100-110, 8171 Ackroyd Rd, (Ackroyd and No. 3 Rd) hosted by Richmond Sister City Committee. Others guests from Xiamen Friendship Society and business reps encouraged to attend at their cost.



Mayor Brodie meets the Xiamen delegation

March 10 2009

Vice Chair Wakayama, Jim Kojima was presented with a Provincial Community Service award in Victoria

March 10-12 2009

The SCC arranged for meetings of Richmond staff with staff member Shinya Bando from Wakayama. He arrived in Richmond after two-year's training from the Japan Local Government Center in New York City. His goal during the visit was to learn about Richmond's educational system, economic development plan, environmental policies and the Vancouver Olympics.

The following was the plan for his visit:

Wednesday, March 11th is:

9:15 AM - Richmond Oval but cannot go inside since the Olympic Group have taken over for this week with a World Speed Skating Championships starting on Thursday. Denise Tambellini, Community Relations and Protocol (Oval Site will meet us). She will take us around the outside the Oval area until 10:15 AM.

10:45 - 11:15 – Meet Tom Stewart, Manager of Sewerage and Drainage at the Richmond Works Yard.

11:30 - 12:45 PM- lunch.

1:00 - 1:45 PM - Mark Mansfield will take us on a tour of Richmond City Hall.

1:45 - 2:30 PM – Meet Neonila Lilova, Manager, Economic Development

3:30 - 4:30 PM - Meet at the Richmond School Board Office with Richmond School Trustee, Donna Sargent.

4:30 - 6:00 PM - Tour of Steveston and surrounding area.

March 21, 2009

Vice Chair Relations with Friendship Cities in China, and Co Chair XPO event Bennie Yung passed away on March 21, 2009. In 2006 Bennie was chosen by the Vancouver Sun as one of the 100 Influential Chinese Canadians in B.C.

March 27, 2009

Sylvia Gwozd, Max Liu, and James Hseih attended a luncheon hosted for Hon. Changfu Han, Governor of Jilin Province, China at the Pan Pacific Hotel. Minister Stockwell Day greeted him, and Richmond GenCap Equity Inc. Susan Schwetje, Sr. Manager Marketing and Support Canada, and Tri Star Seafoods were major sponsors of the event.

April 2009

Sponsorship drive began for Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra event, and SCC members met with Alice Wong, MP, and various potential corporate sponsors, and community centre representatives.

Jim Kojima, Vice Chair, Relations with Wakayama, Japan travelled on a private visit to Japan. The City of Wakayama hosted a special dinner to honour Jim's contributions to the promotion of lasting relationships in the twinning of the City of Richmond and the City of Wakayama.

May 2009

Sponsorship drive was successful, and met its \$50,000 goal. Staff presented a report to Council who gave official approval to proceed with XPO event. Walter Soo, SCC member and VP, of the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation and Juliana Yung, Friend of SCC and VP Business, G& F Financial Group, volunteered to Co-Chair the XPO visit and performance.

Richmond Sister City Committee Invitation to Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra

Council adopted the following recommendation in connection with the above:

- (1) *That authorization be given to the Richmond Sister City Committee, on behalf of the City of Richmond, to invite the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra to perform in Richmond between October 3-6, 2009; and*
- (2) *That the General Manager, Corporate Services, or his designate, be authorized to execute any necessary agreements or documentation in relation to the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra performance*

May 26, 2009

Former Chair of SCC Gord Ellis passed away. Gord's contributions to the Richmond community consisted of long-time involvement in the Kinsmen Club, Richmond Sister City Committee, Tourism Richmond, and he was the first recipient of the 2000 Volunteers Are Stars Award.

May 2009

As part of the program to reinvigorate the exchanges between Wakayama Schools and Richmond Schools four London Steveston students plus two teachers travelled to

Wakayama. Wakayama City went beyond the call of duty to home-stay students and provided a culturally rich experience. Students went to Mio and met with a former resident of Steveston who as an adult moved back to Japan.

This trip was one of the main priorities in terms of budget and activity of our committee this year and part of the rebuilding program for the school exchanges between Wakayama and Richmond. The extraordinary work of the Wakayama International Division along with the Sister City Committee must be recognized in view of the outbreak of H1N1 flu and the intense Japanese media against anyone from the Americas. Eighty people from Wakayama including Mayor Ohashi, some Councillors, the Wakayama Affiliation Committee, and Board of Education staff welcomed the Richmond visitors.

The following is the itinerary for this trip:

May 15 - May 24 visit of Steveston-London to Wakayama

The Sister City Chairman, Dr. Iwahashi and the Foreign Affairs Department of the Wakayama City, Mr. Hayashi, made arrangements for everyone to be billeted and trips planned in Wakayama, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara, Mio, Osaka, to experience more of the culture, traditions in other parts of Japan that will give the students and teachers a great experience of Japan. Teachers from Steveston-London: Dan Stewart homestays at Mr. Hayashi's (retired B of Ed and seconded to work on SCC in International Div.) house and Connie Easton will be staying at Ms. Kitagawa's (Vice Chair SCC) house.

Steveston-London Students: Mr. Andrew Yan, Mr. Kish Lee, Ms. Devon Fremantle, and Ms. Joanne Ho.

June 2009

CBC radio French channel asked Vice Chair Francis Turmeau to be interviewed about Pierrefonds and the Sister City Committee goals in general. They were also interested in knowing about our other Sister Cities.

June 1, 2009

Max Liu, Vice Chair relations with Xiamen visited that city and met with FAO Xiamen. Attending the meeting was the Deputy Director General Mr. Li Xiao Ping, who had recently received an MBA from UBC, Mr. Leon Yu, and Mr. Casper Lian who was responsible for translation services for the XPO. Also in attendance at this meeting were Mr. Lin He Ping and Mr. Chen Kai Jun from the Canada-Xiamen friendship Association. Discussion centered on details of XPO visit. The new itinerary without final confirmation was that they would arrive in Richmond on October 3 from Tokyo by JAL and leave for San Francisco US on October 6. The following day Max Liu met with XPO and the conductor of XPO, Madam Zheng Xiaoying.

June 4, 2009

Max Liu, Vice Chair met with FAO Qingdao and traveled to Zhongshan Park to determine the best place to plant the trees for a tree planting ceremony .

June 16, 2009

In honour of our first anniversary of relations with the City of Qingdao, Mayor Brodie sent an official letter to Mayor Xia Geng. The SCC marked the occasion with an official dedication of maple trees in Qingdao.

Dedication plaque, Zhongshan Park, Qingdao



Vice Chair, Max Liu represented and spoke on behalf of the SCC at the maple trees donation ceremony. The following letter was read at the dedication ceremony on June 17, 2009:

“The Richmond Sister City Committee is proud to work with the Foreign Affairs Office in the City of Qingdao to further the official friendship established between our two cities just over one year ago. We are pleased that along with the Qingdao Friendship Association, we were able to join with the Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII) in working with Qingdao authorities to develop a landscaping demonstration project and that in this endeavour we were able to plant 9 maple trees in Zhongshan Park that will honour the strong bond that we are establishing between our two cities and two countries.

Since 1965, the maple leaf has been the centrepiece of the National Flag of Canada and the maple tree bears the leaves that have become the most prominent Canadian symbol, nationally and internationally. Maple leaf pins and badges are proudly worn by Canadians abroad, and are recognized around the world. Maple Trees have played a meaningful role in the historical development of Canada and continue to be of commercial, environmental and aesthetic importance to all Canadians.



Max Liu & Sun Yatsen

The Richmond Sister City Committee would like to thank everyone for his or her many efforts in the support of this project.

Sylvia Gwozd,

Chairman Richmond Sister City Committee, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada”

*Note: that due to budget constraints the SCC funded five trees, and members of the SCC committee privately funded the other four trees. Thanks go to Wei Liu, James Hsieh, Max Liu and Paul Yeou for their generous contribution of \$2,000 towards the purchase of these trees.

(Please see attached Qingdao Landscaping Demonstration Project article by Sally Liang)

July 1, 2009



Salmon Festival Parade –
Xiamen Friendship

Annual Salmon Festival Parade in Steveston, Richmond. The SCC had representation from all Sister Cities and Friendship Cities with more than 50 people participating in the walking/riding parade. Thanks to Donalda Buie for organizing everyone's participation.

Salmon Festival Parade -
Pierrefonds Sister City



July 7, 2009



SCC members attended the ceremonies to greet Their Royal Highnesses The Emperor Akihito and The Empress Michiko of Japan on the occasion of their visit to the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Their Royal Highnesses The Emperor
Akihito and The Empress Michiko of Japan
with Mayor Brodie Premier Campbell

July 2009

One hundred and fifty books arrived in the Richmond Public Library, a special donation by Mayor Liu Cigui, Mayor of Xiamen, as a result of his visit in the fall of 2008, and his tour of Richmond's award winning library. Mayor Liu was inspired to undertake this personal project as Xiamen's sister city in Australia had organized a similar book donation to the Xiamen library. A special recognition ceremony with the Richmond Public Library was planned for November.

July 27, 2009

Sylvia Gwozd, Chair, SCC, Co-Chairs of XPO event Juliana Yung and Walter Soo, and Ryan Chen, representing three Xiamen Friendship Associations, and B. C. Lee, met with the Consul for Culture at the Chinese Embassy. The Consul for Culture committed the full support of the Consul General to the XPO event.

July-October 2009

The SCC met weekly or more frequently when necessary to plan the extensive details required to host the XPO. These included lodging and touring as well as organizing the event logistics for 96 people.

Sincere thanks go to so many for their assistance in this special project in particular Mr. Richard Toda, our staff liaison, and Ms. Liesl Jauk, Manager, Community Cultural Development, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services.

Max Liu, Vice Chair, Relations with Xiamen, made several visits to Xiamen to make arrangements.

October 2-5, 2009

The Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra led by Conductor Madam Zheng Xiaoying performed on Sunday October 4, 2009 at the River Rock Show Theatre with two special performances. At the 2 p.m. show special guests were the Richmond Youth Honour Choir, singing “The Song of Richmond”, and at 7:30 p.m. special guests were the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus featuring the Chorus performing “A song of Hakka”. The Master of Ceremonies was David Fromager, Music Director and Conductor, Richmond Youth Concert Band and John van Deursen, Instructor of Conducting, University of British Columbia, and Viktorie van Deursen, translating into Mandarin.

Mayor Brodie greets XPO Conductor
Madam Zheng Xiaoying



The event was organized by the City of Richmond in partnership with Richmond’s Sister City Committee and the presenting sponsor was Mercedes-Benz, Richmond Retail. Other major sponsors included the Xiamen Friendship Society of Canada, the Canadian Fujianese Friendship Association (Vancouver), the Canadian Xiamen Friendship Association, the Milan and Maureen Ilich Foundation, and the River Rock Casino and Resort.

The Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra arrived on Friday morning in Richmond and gave two performances on Sunday departing on Monday for a concert in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The visit was a resounding success.

On October 5, 2009 the following letter to the Editor was published in the Richmond Review:

I would like to go on record with a resounding thanks to the Sister City Committee, the City of Richmond and all of the friends and supporters of this past weekend’s performances of the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra at the River Rock Show Theatre. Months and months of preparation culminated in an exciting international event, which came together to celebrate not only incredible musicianship but also exemplified community involvement with the inclusion of the Richmond Chorus and the Richmond Youth Honour Choir performing separately at the two performances. It was truly awe inspiring to perform under the baton of such a prestigious conductor as Madam Zheng Xiaoying as our membership stepped out of their comfort zone and participated in the Hakka Song sung in the Hakka Chinese language. We were humbled by the appreciation the orchestra and Madam Xiaoying showed for the hard work we had undertaken to memorize and deliver an accurate portrayal of this inspiring and historical song. After the performance Madam Xiaoying’s own translator told of taking this rendition of the Hakka Song all over the world and in each city enlisting a choral group to join in the performance. In the other world cities the choirs were composed of Chinese singers far from home. On the evening of October 4th we were the first primarily non-Chinese speaking choir to perform this piece and we “nailed” it. As a performer it was exhilarating to perform with such a young and polished orchestra and working with Madam Xiaoying was truly a moving

experience. We were gratified that the audience was noisily appreciative and in the end our membership was overwhelmed by the warmth of inclusion in this program that truly celebrated multi-cultural excellence.

Yours truly,

Jennifer Dufour

Performing Chorus Member

Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association

Following are some quotes from a variety of sources on the XPO performances:

- Wei Liu, Vice Chair says: "We should be proud of our team work, and understand what this event brought to both cities. Both cities got further recognized by the community and public. We built up the confidence from sponsors. Fujian Earth buildings and XPO get promoted. The SCC got recognition and was endorsed by audiences. And so did the three Fujian/Xiamen associations. Lots of communities get benefit from this event..."
- A call from Mercedes Benz, said they thought last night's concert was beyond their expectations. They have had calls from customers thanking them and telling them what a great time they had. And Philip Chan General Sales Manager called to say that even he learned many things."
- Matt Hoekstra reporter from the Review: "Tremendous concert last night. Your team did an incredible job organizing the visit—no easy feat. Thanks for doing it. Please pass on to everyone who helped make the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra visit a resounding success our sincere appreciation. You have all contributed so much over these last few months that has shaped an experience that few will ever have and one that will be in our memory forever."



Sylvia Gwozd, Chair, SCC, and XPO Conductor, Madam Zheng Xiaoying at City Hall.

- Sylvia Gwozd Chair of SCC to the committee after the performances: "Did you know that Jim's young granddaughter so loved the afternoon performance that she asked if she could come back for the evening performance and I watched her absolutely mesmerized with the evening performance. You must know that this will leave a lasting impression on her. Did you know the young people of the Youth Honour Choir, made thank you cards for the Orchestra, which we presented to conductor Zheng last night? Did you know that at one point the Pipa Player and the Pianist were left behind and Wei had to make a special trip to bring them back to the theatre? Did you know that Wei Lui and Francis Turmeau sponsored the wine for the Friday night dinner and the VIP reception, and I forgot to publicly acknowledge them for their wonderful contribution? Thank you to you both! Did you know that the Friendship Associations sponsored a late night dinner for the Orchestra after both performances, so they could enjoy and share their experiences too! Did you know that Max being such a good Vice

Chair of Relations with Xiamen stayed out with some of the Orchestra until 3am on Saturday night? And we learned how many restaurants in Richmond are still open and serving meals at midnight on a Sunday in Richmond. The Orchestra has said that this was a wonderful experience for them. They have not had such a well-organized and enthusiastic reception anywhere else in their travels. Did you know that the orchestra had three standing ovations at last night's performance, and I didn't know that symphonies came out for encore performances too! This has brought so many of us together in a common purpose of international friendship. You have all truly fulfilled the mandate of the Sister City Committee building bridges in our community. Thank you for everything you did!!!!" The visit is not only a cultural success but the sponsorship fund account that supports SCC initiatives not funded by SCC policy and budget is replenished by the event."

October 12, 2009

The SCC Chair met with City Councillor Bill McNulty to provide historical information for a book he was writing on the history of Sister City relationships in Richmond.

October 13, 2009

Sylvia Gwozd and Mel Goodwin made a presentation to Richmond City Council supporting the inclusion of Sister City names on refurbished Richmond Gateway signs.

October 14, 2009

Vice Chair, Francis Turmeau visited Wakayama. The following email is from Henry Hyashi, former Board of Education Principal and now International Affairs Department:

This morning Mr. and Mrs. Turmeau went to Kyoto by JR from Wakayama. We had wonderful days with them. We could reserve a nice hotel in Kyoto. They will stay on 14, and 15. Because we had a holiday on Monday, Dr. Iwashashi and Akedo, Kitagawa, and I went to Negoro temple, Kokawa High Land Park (where we can see Kansai Air Port and the mouth of Kino river on the top of the hill), Hanoaka Seishu's Museum (Medical Science in Early Japan 1760-1835, and in the evening we had a welcome party with them. (There were 23 people with them.) Yesterday we went to Kada (Awashima Shrine) and Shima Knitting Company. Because they came to Wakayama we are very happy to have chances to meet with our members who Francis are very talking with them. them. I hope they will and our friends in



Francis Turmeau, Vice Chair, Pierrefonds, SCC visits Wakayama.

visited your city. Karen and friendly. So we enjoyed Thank you for your help to bring back our smiles to you Richmond.

October 29, 2009

SCC Chair Sylvia Gwozd, SCC Vice Chair, and Staff Liaison Richard Toda met with George Duncan, CAO to review planning for Sister City visits during the Olympics.

October 2009

Richmond artist Raymond Chow advised the SCC that he was so impressed with the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra's performance that he was doing a painting commemorating this event that he will present to the SCC early in the New Year.

November 2009

SCC recommended to City Council that friendship cities' names be included on gateway signage in Richmond.

Pierrefonds and the City of Montreal-Union Montréal (UM) hold elections:

- Borough Mayor and City Councillor: **Monique Worth** Executive Committee member responsible for sports and recreation Agglomeration Council member mworth@ville.montreal.qc.ca
- **Dimitrios (Jim) Beis** Borough Councillor East (Note new Councillor)
dimitrios.beis@ville.montreal.qc.ca
- **Catherine Clément-Talbot** Borough Councillor West
catherineclementtalbot@ville.montreal.qc.ca
- **Christian G. Dubois** President of the Municipal Council's *Commission sur le transport, la gestion des infrastructures et l'environnement*
Member of the Municipal Council's *Commission sur les finances, les services administratifs et le capital humain* christiangdubois@ville.montreal.qc.ca
- **Bertrand A. Ward** City Councillor West
President of the Municipal Council's *Commission sur les finances, les services administratifs et le capital humain*
Member of the Agglomeration Council's *Commission sur les finances et l'administration*
bward@ville.montreal.qc.ca

Francis advised that two Pierrefonds Councillors would be coming to Richmond for the Olympics between February 24th and 28th - M. Christian Dubois and Mr. Bertrand Ward. The Committee needed to find hotel rooms for them and plan for their proposed visit.

Wakayama City International Affairs Office advised that two City Councillors would like to visit Richmond as part of the Olympics, and would pay their own expenses. SCC would be responsible for planning for this visit.

Vice Chair Jim Kojima assisted Japan Speed Skating Federation in locating offices in Richmond and arranged for the Steveston Community Centre to adopt the delegation from the Japanese Speed Skating for the duration of the Olympics.

Meetings were held with representatives of School District 38 and were attended by Jim Kojima, Donalda Buie, Francis Turmeau, along with School Trustee Donna Sargent and school district staff on the issue of declining interest in student exchanges with the City

of Wakayama. A Board of Education meeting resulted in the following resolution being adopted:

“That the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the steps to preserve the Wakayama/Richmond School Exchange Program as outlined in the November 16, 2009 memorandum from Assistant Superintendent Brennan.”

November 15 – 16, 2009

Xiamen Delegation in support of Xiamen Mayor Lui Cigui, Library Book Donation arrived for official dedication and thank you at the Richmond Public Library. The delegation of nine people led by a Vice Mayor of Xiamen, arrived on Sunday, November 15th. On Monday November 16th, Mayor Brodie and Library Chair Lyn Greenhill led a welcome event and book donation ceremony held at the library for the delegation. This was followed by a tour of the Library and the Richmond Olympic Oval. In the evening, a joint dinner was held with the delegation and SCC.

The delegates were:

Name	Title and organization
Hong Biling (Mrs)	Standing Vice President, Xiamen International Culture Confraternity
Zhou Min (Mr)	President of Xiamen Media Group
Su Yuqun (Mr)	Deputy Director General of Xiamen Overseas Chinese Affairs Office
Hong Chunfeng(Mrs)	Vice President of Xiamen Returned Overseas Chinese Federation
Zou Zhendong(Mr)	President of Xiamen Star Satellite TV
Huang Xiaolin(Mr)	Director of General Office of Xiamen Star Satellite TV
Yao Yuan (Mrs)	Producer, News Department of Xiamen Star Satellite Television
Lin Longfeng (Mr)	Compere, Program Department of Xiamen Star Satellite Television
Chen Hsin-tien(Mrs)	Hostess of the Xiamen Star Satellite Television

November 27, 2009

An official delegation led by a Vice Mayor of Xiamen along with business representatives arrived to meet with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to discuss future business possibilities. At City Hall, Councillor Greg Halsey-Brandt officially greeted the Vice Mayor and the delegation. The delegates were:

Ms. Huang Ling, Deputy Mayor of Xiamen City
 Mr. Lin Shuxi, Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Xiamen Branch

Ms. Wu Jiahua, Chief Economist of Xiamen Municipal Office of State Administration of Taxation

Mr. Fu Rurong, Deputy Director General of Xiamen Trade Development Bureau

Mr. Dai Lesheng, Division Director of Xiamen Foreign Investment Bureau

Mr. Zhang Quan, Director of Xiamen Investment Promotion Agency

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce International Committee, Chair Tony Kwan, presented a welcome lunch sponsored by Pryke, Lambert, Leathley, Russell LLP for the City of Xiamen delegation. This was the second luncheon that the Chamber hosted for Xiamen business this year resulting in some strong business connections and the potential of new business agreements in 2010.

December 2, 2009

SCC Chair, Sylvia Gwozd was presented with the Star of Richmond Award at the 9th Annual "Volunteers Are Stars" Gala Dinner and Awards in recognition of her volunteer activities, particularly with regard to her leadership contribution as Chair of the Sister City Committee.

December 3, 2009

Beijing, China: Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced that the Government of China has granted Canada Approved Destination Status, a designation that makes it easier for Chinese nationals to visit Canada. Approved Destination Status allows Chinese travel agents to advertise and organize group tours to countries with the designation. As a result, this should encourage more people from China to travel to Canada, which will have a positive impact on the Canadian economy.

December 2009

The Friendship City of Qingdao advised that staff in FAO, American & Oceanian Affairs Division had changed. The Committee's new staff contact is Ms. Yu Yu (Same role as Susie); Division Director: Ms. Guo, Yu; Deputy Director: Mr. Feng, Bin. (Address: Suite 1121, No. 17 Hong Kong Zhong Road, Qingdao, China 266071. Email: qdfao@yahoo.cn).

Xiamen Vocation School requested an invitation for March 2009 and would like to connect with a similar school in Richmond. A letter was provided by the Chair of SCC and plans began to match schools.

Much of December was spent trying to arrange hotel rooms and begin the detailed agenda planning for the visit of two Sister City official delegations from Wakayama, Japan and Pierrefonds, Quebec at the Winter Olympics to be held in February 2010.

The work of the SCC could not have been accomplished without the hard work of the Friends of the SCC, many of whom spent as much time as committee members on the tasks. In particular, this year the new formation of three Friendship Associations of Xiamen was integral to the XPO event and invaluable to the activities of the SCC and we thank them. Qingdao business expatriates also came together to form a Friendship Association. A founding meeting was to be held in early spring of 2010.

Sincere appreciation goes to Donna Sargent, Richmond Board of Education, Vice Chair and Trustee who completed her appointment to SCC and we welcome Debbie Tablotney as the new Trustee Liaison.

Many thanks are owing to hard working SCC Members leaving the Committee, Mr. Walter Soo, Ms Carol Zheng, and Mr. James Hsieh who have also volunteered to remain active in the SCC as friends of the Sister City Committee, and sincere thanks to former member Mr. Joe Greenholtz.

Qingdao Landscaping Demonstration Project

Sally Liang

Project Background:

Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII) is a British Columbia Crown Corporation reporting to government through the Minister of Forests. FII China is a subsidiary of FII. FII China works with partners in the Chinese government to develop demonstration projects that showcase advanced Canadian wood frame construction technology and BC wood products. These projects promote innovative wood construction solutions in the renovation market, multi-storey multi-use market and in the landscaping market. Given Qingdao’s picturesque geography, its rapid economic development and widespread use of exterior wood, FII China is working with Qingdao authorities to develop a landscaping demonstration project to be completed this year. FII China’s objectives are to foster bi-lateral technology transfer, keep informed about the latest government construction regulation changes and to expand BC wood applications to areas in and around Qingdao.



Project Milestones:

Date	Milestones	Coordinator	Parties
08. 11. 17	Announcement event	FII/FAO	BC Forestry Delegation/ FAO/GB/ Park
09. 02. 18	MOU signing event	FII/FAO	FII/Embassy/FAO/Garden Bureau/Park
09. 03. 13	Cooperation Agreement signed	FII	FII/Park
03. 13-03. 31	Construction period for Phase 1 and definition on phase 2		
09. 04. 12	Phase 1 completion date	FAO/Embassy	TBD
09. 04-09. 05	Phase 2 Construction and Completion (TBC)		

Phase 1 location:



Seaview Gazebo

- The Seaview Gazebo is the symbol of Zhongshan Park. It was built more than 60 years ago and needs to be reconstructed. Benches, boardwalks and trellis,

among others, around this main structure will be added later to make up what is going to be called a BC demo area;

Phase two:

Measurement and material estimation are still under discussion for phase two of the project, but highlights will include the two structures displayed below, as well as other landscaping pieces in the park:



Fairy-meet Gates



Vine Gazebo and Zhongshan Square

- *Fairy-meet gates (two)* are along the entrance main road.
- *Vine Gazebo and Zhongshan Statue Square* is to be second main demonstration area in phase 2 construction.



Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone: 604-276-4123
Fax No: 604-276-4332
www.richmond.ca

May 27, 2009

Mayor Liu Cigui
No.61 Hubin North Road
Xiamen, Fujian Province
PR China 361012

Dear Mayor Liu:

It gives me great pleasure to write to you in recognition of the one year anniversary of the signing of the Friendship Agreement between our two cities on April 18, 2008. It was a very special occasion, and I have many pleasant memories of that day and the generous hospitality shown to our delegation during the visit to your fine city.

During the past year the City of Richmond and the Sister City Committee have been fortunate to welcome a number of visitors from Xiamen and most memorably you and a delegation were kind enough to visit us in September. Occasions such as these provide a wonderful opportunity to exchange information, and develop a deeper understanding of our cultures. While the global economic downturn has impacted some plans this year, I am sure there is a bright future ahead for greater prosperity both here and in Xiamen which will lead to further activities between us in the years to come.

Our first year of friendship has been most rewarding, and has created a very solid foundation upon which to build a lasting and meaningful relationship.

Sincerely,

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor





City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone: 604-276-4123
Fax No: 604-276-4332
www.richmond.ca

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

May 27, 2009

Mayor Xia Geng
City of Qingdao
11 Xianggang Middle Road
Qingdao, Shandong
PR China 266071

Dear Mayor Xia:

It gives me great pleasure to write to you in recognition of the one year anniversary of the signing of the Friendship Agreement between our two cities on April 21, 2008. It was a very special occasion, and I have many pleasant memories of that day and the generous hospitality shown to our delegation during the visit to your fine city.

During the past year the City of Richmond and the Sister City Committee have been fortunate to welcome a number of visitors from Qingdao including Mr. Chen Fei who led a delegation from the Qingdao Volunteer Association. Occasions such as these provide a wonderful opportunity to exchange information, and develop a deeper understanding of our cultures. While the global economic downturn has impacted some plans this year, I am sure there is a bright future ahead for greater prosperity both here and in Qingdao which will lead to further activities between us in the years to come.

Our first year of friendship has been most rewarding, and has created a very solid foundation upon which to build a lasting and meaningful relationship.

Sincerely,

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

