

Canmore/Higashikawa Twinning 2010 Report

In the spring of 2009 the Town sent a young woman named Kori Czuy who grew up in Canmore and had extensive ESL work experience and training to Higashikawa to teach English. She spent the first three months of 2010 in Higashikawa. During this time she helped us set up details for three wonderful exchanges with the Town of Higashikawa.

In April, Canmore Town Councillor Jim Ridley was traveling to Japan on a personal holiday so the Town asked him to stop in Higashikawa to make an “official” visit on behalf of the Mayor. Councillor Ridley spent two days in Higashikawa meeting with staff, the Mayor and members of Council, and touring Higashikawa facilities and the community. During this trip Councillor Ridley brought a gift to the Higashikawa Mayor from the Mayor of Canmore. Once in Japan, the Town of Canmore funded Councillor Ridley’s travel to Higashikawa and his expenses and gift to the Mayor for his “official” visit.

In July, ten students and two chaperones came to Canmore to study at the Banff Education Centre for two weeks. They took ESL courses in the mornings and had activities and tours in the afternoons. During their visit the Town of Canmore hosted a barbeque for them, inviting Town staff to meet and greet our visitors. The students also participated in an afternoon at Canmore’s “Big Fun” summer camp program. They taught the camp participants how to make origami animals and made sushi with the camp staff. Their visit was very well liked by the campers at “Big Fun.”

In August, four delegates from Higashikawa came to visit Canmore. We were pleased to host Kei Hamabe, the Chairman of Higashikawa Town Council and the Chairman of the Tourism Association, Toshimitsu Matsukura, Head of The Section of Industrial Promotion, Shuji Takebe, Head of the Regional Revitalization, and Kanae Suzuki, Regional Revitalization staff for two days. A copy of the itinerary of their visit is attached. The Town of Canmore covered all costs associated with the delegates’ itinerary.

During these visits we discussed ways to continue to develop a strong and consistent link and a vibrant sister city relationship. We look forward to moving these ideas forward in coming years.



Canadian Rockies

August 6, 2010