

Speech of Harold Pereverseff
President – Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Association
President – Lethbridge Twinning Society

November 7, 2008
Towada City, Aomori, Japan

Presented before Towada City Chamber of Commerce; Towada City Officials and members of the Towada City- Association for International Relations (T-AIR)

I would like to share a few moments with you regarding the twinning of Towada City and Lethbridge from my perspective as President of the Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Association and that as President of the Lethbridge Twinning Society.

The “twinning of communities” is only an idea, an innovative opportunity that if defined and directed by active organizations like the Towada City Association for International Relations (T-AIR) and the Lethbridge Twinning Society (LTS) will succeed. However, without the innovative passion of our community residents these efforts for twinning are very difficult, even impossible. The passion for twinning also requires the recognition, promotion and the support of our respective community leaders and Mayors.

I appreciate that Lethbridge Mayor, Robert Tarleck together with Towada City Mayor, Haruo Nakanowatari are supportive of the passion to effectively build a strong twinning relationship between their two communities.

“Ad Occasionis Januam” is Latin meaning “Gateway to Opportunity” this is the motto of the City of Lethbridge. Gateway to opportunity! The definition of opportunity is that there are only two types, those opportunities that are taken and those that are missed. We appreciate that Mayor Tarleck has taken this opportunity of visiting Towada City for his second time, the first being in the year 2002. This exemplifies to us as twinning organizations that we are indeed moving forward and the passion for establishing strong community twinning is being supported.

“Exciting, Creative City” I learned yesterday after reading Towada City Mayor Nakanowatari’s greeting in the booklet of the Towada City Art Centre, is the motto of Towada City.

This motto is extremely well fitting for Towada City, the gateway to the Oirase River and beautiful Lake Towada. The city where the spring and autumn festivals fill the streets each year and now the home of the fabulous Towada Art Centre. “Gateway to Opportunity” and “Exciting, Creative City” are definitely two city mottos that meld together perfectly, complimenting each other richly.

Even though over 9,000 kilometers separates Lethbridge from Towada City, I am very honored and pleased to be a part of the passion of twinning that has brought our two communities, geographically separated together globally!

It is definitely my passion towards a strong twinning between Towada City and Lethbridge and the strong twinning between other municipalities in Alberta to communities in Japan. This is my true passion, nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else!

Thank you.