

Lethbridge Twinning Society Newsletter



President's Message

What's wrong with this picture? Poor Adam Mason and his Global Drum Ensemble are pictured here in front of the University of Lethbridge (U. of L.). Dressed in tropical tee-shirts standing in the snow; something just didn't seem right! The Lethbridge Twinning Society to the rescue! The Honolulu Festival in Honolulu, Hawaii, seemed a more like spot for this ambitious group of artists, and so it will be!

The Honolulu Festival <http://honolulufestival.com/eng/events.php> has been held for the past 16 years and is meant to encumbrance all the countries washed by the Pacific Ocean. The Festival features top notch groups of various musical, dance and artistic talents performing together celebrating what is referred to as "Pacific Harmony".

Last year, my wife, Cheryl, and I, while on vacation in Honolulu, attended the festival. It was fan-

tastic, but there was one aspect missing, there was no representation from Canada! The opportunity availed itself that I spoke with the organizing committee at the festival and asked why there was no representation from Canada was present at the festival? I was told that in the history of the festival, they have invited various groups from Canada, but never has there been any representation. The learned that I was from Canada and soon an organizer came seeking me out in the crowd; he asked if perhaps I knew of some group that might come to the festival next year. I advised that he would have to see.

On return to Lethbridge, I contacted Adam Mason and Global Drums at the U. of L. Not only was Adam interested, he said it was uncanny, that they were considering the group going to Honolulu in 2011! They had not heard of the festival and Adam felt that they would definitely contact the festival committee and see if they would be ac-

cepted. The rest is history, Adam Mason and the University of Lethbridge Global Drums will be performing at this year's festival! It will be the very first time that any group has performed on that stage from Canada and to have the group come from Alberta, wow, Good on Alberta.



University of Lethbridge's Global Drum Ensemble

The Lethbridge Twinning Society is assisting the U of L Global Drums in the payment of their registration fees and other expenses. Thanks to Marvin Schneider of the Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations, a grant was extended to the Lethbridge Twinning Society to assist in these expenses.

Stay tuned for updates on how the festival went.

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Two smiling busy ladies..... Carol and Masie always there to support Society activities and events in a big way

Membership Matters!

Membership does matter! We, like all other organizations count on our members. We need you, your ideas, your support and your commitment. No, you are not required to attend all meetings, all fundraisers or all functions. Your membership in the Lethbridge Twinning Society is an expression that you believe in what the

organization stands for:

"To promote friendship, peace and understanding among people from different countries."

Please keep your membership current. Dues are to be paid at the beginning of each year.

**Family dues: \$25.00/yr.
Single dues: \$15.00/yr.**



Timashevsk, Russia News

From Russia with Love!



Kyle Pereverseff, Director Lethbridge/Timashevsk Relations in Timashevsk

The summer of 2010 is burned into my mind and heart! In July, Mayor Bob Tarleck, Alderman Tom Wickersham and I were invited to our sister city, Timashevsk. Never would have I imagined or expected HOSPITALITY that we as a delegation received. I have done a fair bit of traveling in Canada, the USA and some abroad and have always had a good experience but what I experienced in the way of



Kyle receiving another friendly dose of Timashevsk culture!

genuine extended hospitality while in Russia can not be expressed in words or pictures...it is something that has touched my heart! As you can see from these few pictures, the countryside is lush and unfettered. The city doesn't expend a huge amount of money making all parks look like championship

golf courses with grass cut to exact millimetre lengths, rather grasses grow along with native wildflowers making the parks unique and beautiful "naturally". The residents of Timashevsk are sincere and genuine, they still gather on street corners and discuss all issues, sometime in

graphic manners with hands and arms adding their emphasis to the topic of the day. It is definitely a slower pace of life for the most part where people enjoy the simple pleasures of their community. Our visit also involved the "official meetings" that took place in civic buildings and City Hall. The meetings were serious in nature, because they had to be, but underlying I developed the comfort and understanding of what was



Former mayor Bob Tarleck and Kyle attending one of the "official meetings" at Timashevsk City Hall

really going on.....the Russian Officials were so glad to see us and wanted our visit to be "normal" as they would refer to situations that go smoothly. Even the head officials had a fantastic sense of humor.... "Dah laudna!" is a phrase often heard, and means something like "Yeah, right!" our somewhat sarcastic comment sometimes made after something unbelievable stated or inferred.

Food was fresh, abundant and very tasty. Home cooking is an art and not so much a science, often variations of traditional Russian foods like the ever present "verenekee" and "borscht" added interesting twists to what I expected. Bread is the order

of the day, heavy brown or even black in colour and consistency of a brick...but very delicious, especially when topped with the homemade preserves and fresh butter.

Logistics are the issue, it is not that easy getting to Timashevsk, and it is rather costly. My airline trip set me back about \$3,000.00. This is well worth the trip

and I truly can not wait to make my next visit back. For now, I am learning more Russian and hoping to take Russian Language classes soon, it would be great to be able to communicate more on my own next time and not have to use an interpreter



This is Russian "Fast Food" as I experience in Timashevsk! Fresh fish from the local lake, mashed potatoes, hearty salad garnished with cilantro and dill and the ever present sour cream!

Great Falls News

Just this past November, Mayor Michael Winters and City Manager Greg Doyon from Great Falls, Montana were invited to visit Lethbridge by the Lethbridge Twinning Society. They had the opportunity of touring the city in a limousine while member Felix provided the guided tour information of our great city. Later, there was an opportunity for Mayor Winters and Greg to meet our city council during a regular City Council Meeting enjoy the cuisine at a couple of our fine restaurants and beat the weather for their trip home.

We were a little concerned that Mayor Winters might have some problems at the border as he did not yet possess a passport. We laughed when he told us that if the US Customs Officials don't let him back into the US, would anyone be willing to take him in! (He made it home just fine)

The relations and friendship between

Lethbridge and Great Falls is a natural given our logistics; Great Falls, being the first major centre south of the border and Lethbridge, the first major centre north of the border. Less than 250 KM (140 Miles) separate our two great communities. (Less than 3 hours – border time included). Great Falls is a wonderful destination, great shopping, fantastic restaurants, comfortable accommodations and really great friendly people. (Just like Lethbridge). We (Lethbridge



Great Falls delegation addressing City Council in the Lethbridge Council Chamber

Twinning Society) hopes that the positive relations between Lethbridge and Great Falls grows through our residents, one person, one community in harmony.

Culver City News

Camilla is preparing for her international student exchange to Culver City, California in 2012. The exchange is part of the Sister Cities International "tri-lateral" student exchange and will entail three cities in Canada (Vancouver, Vernon and Lethbridge) students along with students from Mexico who will join together in an international setting to discuss issues pertaining to each country in particular youth issues. They will also be given the incredible opportunity of visiting Washington,



Camilla giving her presentation.

DC. Sister Cities International is the umbrella organization from which the Lethbridge Twinning Society was formulated in 1989.



The Ice Breaker Road Race - Great Falls, Montana! April 17, 2011 - VERY close, VERY affordable, VERY much fun and a VERY good way to shake off the winner blahs and get moving! Come join us as we car pool down to Great Falls for this event! For further information, please contact Carol at 403-915-3668



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Lethbridge Twinning Society Executive

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- Secretary:** Michelle Kensley
- Treasurer:** Cathleen MacFarland-Crowell
- Directors:**
 (Culver City, California, USA) - Michael Bennet
 (Timashevsk, Russia) - Kyle Pereverseff
 (Towada, Japan) - Jennifer Brodoway
 (Public Relations) - Carol Kensley
 (Director at Large) - Betty Reimer



FUNDRAISER!!! Bens' Beef Jerky and Ben's Beef/Pork Sausage.
 Enjoy the products that are made right here in Lethbridge! We will be taking orders for a fund raiser that we had last year, selling beef jerky. The jerky is very tasty and comes in three flavours, "Smoky - Teriyaki - and Original" The large bag sells for \$25.00. The sausage is your regular Pre-cooked, smoked "kolbasa" ready to eat and excellent on the bar b que if you choose to kick it up a notch. The sausage comes in a shrink wrapped package of 2 and we are selling it for \$12.50. Samples of these are available if you would like to try them before you order. Please get your orders into Kyle by March 31st as we want to place our order for delivery by April 15th. Call 403- 715-9970 to place your orders!



Towada City News

Save the date!
 August 19th & 20th, 2011
 Please join us at this year's Alberta/ Japan Twinned Municipalities Association Conference to be held in Hinton, Alberta. Always an exciting time, we have the opportunity of sharing our experiences with our Japanese twin city, Towada City, and meet with the many other communities in Alberta that have a Twin City in Japan.

There are always work-shops, great food and entertainment and fun activities to join in at the conference.



"I'll be back" This statement was made famous by former governor of California, Arnold....but was also made by Rostislav Shpygar last year when he visited Lethbridge for two months. Well, it is true, Rostislav (Rostic) and will be coming back to Lethbridge in April! He is bringing along with him his cousin, Dasha and the two of them will attend Immanuel Christian School. Rostic and Carol are pictured as Rostic dropped by to say his good byes, and yes, he said, "I will be back!" True to his word, we welcome Rostic and his cousin back to Lethbridge.