

City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee

2015 Year in Review

2015 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory 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). 2015 was another busy year for the SCAC. Information from various SCAC activities and events is outlined in the following pages.

2015 Committee Members:

Chair	Hans Havas
Vice-Chair, Wakayama	Kevin Lainchbury
Vice-Chair, Xiamen	Helen Quan
Vice-Chair, Qingdao	Richard Qiu
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds	Francis Turmeau
Members	Boo Jock Chong
	Glenn Kishi
	Tony Kwan
	Ihsan Malik
	Shaolin Rahman
	Howard Smythe
	Iryna Vodchenko
	Eden Jiang Zhang
Council Liaison	Councillor Bill McNulty
School Board Liaison	Alice Wong
	Eric Yung (Alternate)

January

- Newly appointed committee members were introduced at the first meeting in January.
- Sister City Advisory Committee elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Wakayama, Pierrefonds, Xiamen and Qingdao; and selected members to the following subcommittees:
 - Pierrefonds Initiatives;
 - Wakayama Initiatives;
 - Xiamen Initiatives;
 - Qingdao Initiatives;
 - Website Updates and Electronic Information Display Initiatives; and
 - Community Engagement / Youth Groups Initiatives

February

- A Richmond Youth Honour Choir Gala was organized to raise funds for their upcoming visit to Wakayama. The SCAC provided support in the amount of \$7,000 for their March 2015 Japan visit.



Richmond Youth Honour Choir



Consul General of Japan and guests at the Richmond Youth Honour Choir Gala



Councillor Bill McNulty



Hans Havas, SCAC Chair

March

- SCAC members attended the annual Richmond Chinese Community Society dinner on March 5.
- SCAC members attended the Wakayama Kenjin Kai tree planting event on March 27th. This group was formed in 1965 and the event marked their 50th Anniversary. The Cherry Trees at Garry Point honour the Japanese pioneers who worked and lived in Steveston; this group built the gardens to commemorate the first Japanese who came to Steveston.

April

- SCAC Council Liaison Bill McNulty and SCAC member Kevin Lainchbury travelled to Japan on a Best Practices trip with respect to Tall Ships; also visited Onagawa where the tsunami hit a few years ago, then to Wakayama to visit the new Mayor and Council. They also attended the Nagasaki Tall Ships Festival and met with the National Institute for Sail Training (NIST) to invite ships to participate in the 2017 Richmond Maritime Festival.

May

- Official opening of the Xiamen International Book Company at Aberdeen Mall; also in attendance - Vice Director of Xiamen and the Consul General of China.



Consul General of China & Hans Havas, SCAC Chair join ribbon cutting for the Xiamen International Book Company

Annual Wakayama – Richmond School Exchange Visit

- 20 students and 4 staff from Richmond visited Wakayama as part of the annual student exchange visit which is supported by a \$7,000 contribution from the SCAC.



Richmond students and staff visit Wakayama



Richmond students and staff visit Wakayama

July

- SCAC members and supporters participated in the annual Steveston Salmon Festival Parade.





November

- SCAC Electronic Information Display unveiled at City Hall, showcasing various SCAC activities and providing information on Richmond's sister/friendship cities.



SCAC members join Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Councillors to unveil electronic information display

December

- *The SCAC partnered with the Wakayama Sister City Affiliation Committee on the production of book to commemorate 40th Anniversary: A working group consisting of current and previous SCAC members completed a book to celebrate the long standing relationship between Wakayama and Richmond.*



Wakayama 40th Anniversary Book Working Group