

January 2010

Kelowna-Kasugai Connector



President's Message

2009 was a successful year with lots of enthusiastic fundraising and increased membership.

With the help of the City of Kelowna (matching funds) we were able to plan and coordinate 4 fundraising events and build our funds to a manageable amount once again. We are thankful that the City of Kelowna has approved the same program for 2010. Thank you Councillor Luke Stack for your support and we look forward to working with you again in 2010.

We have some great new members, some with experience and many who are only interested in the Japanese culture and helping out at events which is perfectly fine. I would like to thank a few of our hard working members, Bernice Sebastian, Chris Jennens, Nagisa Wood, Junko Charpentier, Ken Fix, Kathleen and Brian Rowe and Heidi Mitchell. This core group of volunteers have helped plan and orchestrate all of our fundraising events in 2009. This is the backbone of the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association and it takes a team to run a successful organization.

A new committee was formed this year revolving around the development of economic trade between Kelowna and Kasugai. Richard Takai and Ken Fix (tourism) have been working tirelessly to bring this dream to a reality. We are all excited to see what the future unfolds for this area of economic potential.

We are in the process of planning a trip to Kasugai Japan in October 2010. This will be an official delegation including Mayor Sharon Shepherd and Councillor Luke Stack. This trip is open to all members and interested people. Included in the trip will be a side trip to Hiroshima, Miyajima and Tokyo. Nagisa Wood is working very hard to finalize plans so please call her (250-769-6771) to sign up or for more information.

In conclusion, the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association is active and looking forward to strengthening and growing in 2010.

Cathy Jennens

President

Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association



2009 Executive

Arlene Henderson	Secretary
Nagisa Wood	Treasurer
Cathy Jennens	President
Brian Rowe	Vice-President

Garage Sale

On May 30, 2009 the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association held a Garage sale at the home of Eldon and Jean Anderson. Many thanks to Bernice Sebastian who organized the sale. We had lots of help and donated items from the volunteers and managed to make over \$500.00. It was a day well spent.

Ongoing Bottle Drive

As part of our fundraising efforts, we have been collecting bottles at the home of Chris and Cathy Jennens (1180 Pinecrest Lane). Chris then gathers the bottles and with the help of a few members, takes them to the depot for a refund. This has netted us nearly \$400.00 for 2009. Keep up the good work everyone.

Canada Day



Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association participated in Folk Fest on July 1st, 2009. With the help of Ken Fix and Komatsu Japanese Market, we had a food booth combined with the sale of some Japanese items. This year we also had the opportunity to have a booth outside where we demonstrated origami (thanks to Susan Thesen) and shared history and old pictures of our Association. Once again, many thanks to our core members for their hard work in putting this event together.

Lady of the Lake & Miss Kelowna Princess



Pooja, Lady of the Lake and Caitlin, Miss Kelowna Princess had the opportunity to visit Kasugai Japan in October 2009. Thank you to the Kuwahara's for their continued support of the Lady of the Lake Society.

“Taste of Japan” fundraiser

On November 22, 2009 we held an event at the Water Street Seniors Centre. This fundraiser turned out to be a huge success and was attended by about 180 people. Our core members did a fantastic job putting this event together and with the help of many of their friends, both members and non-members, we were able to host an incredible afternoon of Japanese culture.

The “Taste of Japan” consisted of:

Bake Sale - Bernice Sebastian
- Jean Anderson

Traditional Japanese Pastry

Ikebana - Val Wojtula
- Jeannie Bates
- Dagmar Pearson

Origami -Junko Charpentier

Calligraphy -Nagisa Wood

Japanese Tea Ceremony – Junko Charpentier

Sushi Lessons – Ken & Yoshiko Fix

Food Services - Victor & Linda Nishi

Raffle - Brian Rowe

Emcee - Kathleen Rowe

Kimono Fashion Show – Nagisa Wood

Admission - Chris Jennens
- Luke Stack

Without the talents and hard work of these volunteers the “Taste of Japan” would not have been such a success. Many thanks to the other volunteers who helped out (too many to name each one) with the fashion show, tea ceremony, origami, calligraphy and of course the

Taiko Drummers.



Christmas Party

Our 2009 Christmas Dinner was held at Wasabes on Pandosy Street. The dinner was delicious and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Junko Charpentier for arranging the evening.

Membership

2010 memberships are now due. Please see the enclosed membership/renewal form. If you are unsure if you have already paid your 2010 membership, call Nagisa 250-769-6771.

2009 Youth Delegation

Unfortunately the 2009 Youth Delegation was cancelled last year due to the outbreak of H1N1. This was the first time that this Delegation has not taken place but we supported Kasugai’s decision. We are hoping that the 2010 Youth Delegation will carry on as usual.

Kasugai Gardens – by Nagisa Wood



This spring, with the support of the City of Kelowna Parks Department we intend to

invite Mr Junji Shinada, the gardener from UBC Notobe Gardens to Kelowna. Mr Shinada is a member of the International Gardeners Association. He is coming to assist local gardeners and share his many years of knowledge and expertise to help maintain Kasugai Gardens as it was originally intended.

Kelowna Economic Initiative with Kasugai & Japan – *by Richard Takai*

The Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (COEDC), with the support of the City of Kelowna and the Province of British Columbia, has launched an economic initiative with the City of Kasugai and the Greater Nagoya region of Japan. The excellent relationship between Kelowna and Kasugai developed over the past 29 years through hard work of the respective Sister City Association, provides a good base to enhance the ties between the cities by adding an economic component.

Kasugai is located in the heart of the Greater Nagoya region, Japan's biggest industrial area with a population of 12 million. Japan has a sophisticated knowledge-based economy with needs and wants that fit well with products and technologies being developed in the Okanagan. The COEDC hopes that the initiative with Kasugai can act as a trade gateway to other parts of Japan, as well as other countries in Asia. COEDC representatives will visit Kasugai in early February to meet with the City of Kasugai, the Kasugai Chamber of Commerce, and Chubu University, as well as attend the Discover Kasugai Business Forum, which will showcase about 100 of Kasugai's leading companies.

Glenmore School Garden *by Ken Fix*

Doug Obst, the teacher responsible for making the Glenmore School garden have a Japanese flair recently gave me an update.

Since the fall, a tree has been planted to give the area more of a Japanese essence. Come spring, there will be more work done on the white sand as well as the pathway. It will really depend on the school district's cooperation to make that happen. I think we should be proud to share in the representation of Kelowna's first elementary Japanese garden. These kind of projects bring more and more awareness to what the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association is all about.

Kelowna Springs Fundraiser

On August 26th, 2009, The Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association (KKSCA) and the Kelowna Springs Business Ladies' Club (KSBLC) partnered resources to put on a Japanese cultural presentation. The KSBLC were raising monies to bring awareness to breast cancer as the KKSCA were fundraising as well. The night went very well as some of our members were there displaying different facets of the Japanese culture. Susan Thesen was showing off her incredible origami skills. Nagisa Wood was showing ladies what their names would look like as Japanese characters. Yoshiko Fix was dressing ladies in kimono and having them take pictures of each other and I was teaching the art of sushi, in a comfort food level of the potentially complex cuisine. Everyone had a great time and the KKSCA ended up with \$130.00 and a new membership signed. This event taught us that sometimes partnering with others could add flavour to fundraising as it brings awareness with its participation within the community

KKSCA Tourism Committee

Tourism plays a huge role in Kelowna's economy. It was told to me by someone from Tourism Kelowna that because Kelowna has so many diverse qualities that attract visitors here, it is very difficult to pinpoint which one to choose. That would be a problem that **any** city would love to have. The challenge is to market all of these great amenities to the rest of the world.

Japan had a great interest in Canada and especially British Columbia at one time. However, with the lack of nurturing of this relationship, it has led to a drastic drop-off in visitors from Japan. In order to increase those numbers, there must be a catalyst to spark the interest again and then the tourist industry needs to be on board to prepare for that market and finally maintain that relationship.

As many companies in the tourism industry know, the Internet has become a great medium to convey messages of marketing. Kelowna will be one of them, utilizing the relationship that we have between Kasugai and Kelowna to promote our beautiful city. I believe that Kelowna and Kasugai can work together to create interesting tour packages that can attract people from each other's city at a more personal level. Doing this will not only help spark an interest in Kelowna from Japan but it will bring more awareness of the great relationship between our two cities and countries.

Steps are being taken to introduce this idea to different tourist based businesses in the Kelowna area to find if there is an interest or not. From positive feedback, a campaign will be organized to market Kelowna and area to Kasugai at the Kasugai Festival in October of this year. If anyone is interested in working on this project, please contact Ken Fix at 250 763-8853.

Annual General Meeting & Election of Directors - February 8, 2010

The following directors have 1 more year to complete their 2 year term.

Chris Jennens
Cathy Jennens
Ken Fix
Arlene Henderson
Kathleen Rowe
Brian Rowe
Nagisa Wood

The following directors were elected by acclamation for a 2 year term

Harold Wood
Heidi Mitchell
Bernice Sebastian
Luke Stack (appointed)

The Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association would like to thank all out-going, incoming and current directors.

The Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association meets on the second Monday of every month.

7:00pm – 9:00pm

**City of Kelowna, Recreation & Cultural Services Board Room (Unit 133)
Capri Centre Mall**

**For more information call 250 862-2801
or email cjennens@telus.net**