

January 2011

Kelowna-Kasugai Connector



President's Message

2010 was an amazing year for the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association. Our membership grew and we accomplished our fundraising goal once again. A year well earned.

It started with another successful garage sale in May. Thanks again to Jean and Eldon Anderson for the use of their garage and, of course Bernice Sebastian for working tirelessly to orchestrate the sale. Many thanks to our members for their donations and coming out to the sale while promoting our organization. Ken Fix, as usual did an outstanding job organizing the Canada Day/Folk Fest booth. Thank you to all of his helpers.

The highlight of the year was the "Kelowna-Kasugai" Friendship trip. 38 delegates left for Japan on October 13. After being treated royally by our host families and mingling with the citizens of Kasugai during Kasugai Festival, we were treated to an unbelievable trip to Kyoto, Hiroshima and Tokyo. Thank you to Nagisa Wood. We had a wonderful time in Japan and look forward to working with the newest members of the KKSCA.



Upon our return it was time to get busy and organize the "Taste of Japan". It turned out to be a very successful event surpassing our expectations both financial and cultural. Many thanks to all of our members and volunteers.

December 13 was the Pot Luck Christmas and Volunteer Appreciation evening held at the Kelowna Luxury Penthouse, which I am sure everyone would agree, was an unbelievable location with a million dollar view. Thank you very much to Suzan Hardy and staff for your generous hospitality.

2011 marks the 30th anniversary of the relationship between Kelowna Canada and Kasugai Japan. It is our goal to recognize the year with a book or memoir detailing the history of the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association. We are at the beginning stages of this historic undertaking, and with the help of some past and founding members from both Kelowna and Kasugai, we are hoping to make this happen. Let the memories begin...

So here is to another great year and thank you to our outstanding directors and members. Watch for the launch of the KKSCA website coming soon.

Cathy Jennens

President

Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association

Events & Happenings

Canada Day - by Ken Fix

Happy 143rd Birthday Canada! What an honour to be able to live in a country with so much cultural diversity. On top of that, we have the privilege to present different cultures and opinions freely to our community and the world.

Folkfest gave the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association the opportunity to bring awareness of some Japanese culture to the people of Kelowna.

This year there were some new members working with the longer term members during Folkfest at Prospera Place. Dalton and Agnes Polyvas worked with Ken and Yoshiko Fix to prepare on the day before. On the day of Folkfest, Susan Thesen and Emily Dudka came to demonstrate and teach kids and adults alike what origami is all about. Dalton was with them teaching people Japanese as a second language. Agnes and Carol were in the booth helping all around collecting cash, serving food and drinks, and even taking photos of everything going on. TJ and Julia Fix were in there helping youngsters use chopsticks.

Everyone had a great time and in the end the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association raised a net profit of \$192.

Thank you to Yamabiko Taiko Group for representing Japan and the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association on stage with their fantastic performance. Kelowna was in awe of their talent.

Thank you to all the people who supported the booth and were available to help out.

It was a huge success and I believe next year will be even better.

Domo arigato gozaimashita!

Kasugai Friendship Delegation 2010

In October 2010, 38 delegates including Mayor Sharon Shepherd and Councillor



Luke Stack travelled to Kasugai Japan to attend Kasugai Festival and experience Japan.

The Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association worked directly with Kasugai City Hall and the Kasugai Sister City Civic Association to ensure that host families were found for all of the delegates. This truly was a

rewarding experience and many lasting friendships were formed.

We all attended and worked at Kasugai Festival distributing pins, brochures and items purchased, by the delegates in Canada.

Kasugai asked us to perform a song on stage at the Festival. Thanks to Lars and Gloria Pada, who after only a few practices (one in the airport) managed to coordinate us enough to entertain the audience. It was an experience we will never forget. We even got our picture in their local newspaper, thanks again Lars and Gloria. Kasugai Festival is a 2 day event of family activities with booths selling items and many different types of food. The opening ceremonies were held on Saturday and Mayor Shepherd gave a short address to the citizens of Kasugai. The Parade was on Sunday and is a must-see.

There are lots of floats, community groups, martial arts and history. It is about 2 hours long, well attended, lots of color and incredibly organized.



Our delegation took a day trip to Kyoto, then it was on to Hiroshima, lots of sight seeing and we finished with two days in Tokyo. Nagisa Wood did an outstanding job planning and coordinating this part of the trip. Thanks Nagisa (and Harold) for making sure no one got lost and that all had a great time.

Congratulations!

On October 25, 2010, Nagisa Wood received a letter from Mayor Shepherd saying that she was the recipient of the "Spirit of Kelowna" award. This award recognizes someone or something extraordinary that Mayor Shepherd has encountered. She recognized the hard work and energy that Nagisa put into arranging details for the trip to our Sister City, Kasugai Japan.

Congratulations Nagisa!

Thank you to Al Horning for donating photo albums to the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association. These photos, dating back to the 1980s, will be very helpful in documenting the history of the Association over the next year.

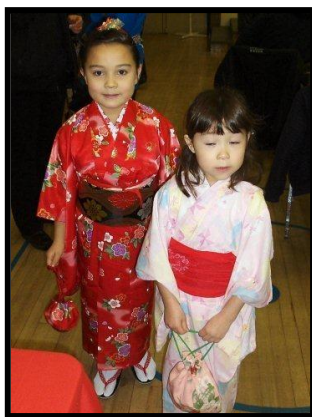
Miss Kelowna Lady of the Lake & Princess



The Kuwahara family have been very generous for the past 10 years by offering a trip to Kasugai Japan for the Lady of the Lake to attend Kasugai Festival. In 2010, our delegation had the opportunity to travel with the Lady of the Lake (Breanne Cleland), Kelowna Princess (Juliet Kaczmarek) and their chaperone (Jane Tench). We were able to meet with the Kuwahara family and show our

appreciation for the hard work they do, hosting them and transporting them to various events. A big "Thank you" to the Kuwahara family for all that they have done in making this experience a life-long memory for these girls.

Taste of Japan



The 2010 Taste of Japan was held on Sunday November 28 at the Water Street Centre. Over 200 people attended and were treated to an afternoon of Japanese culture, food and entertainment.

The bake sale was a huge success bringing in over \$700 in revenue. Many thanks to Melody Mackay, Carol Rath and many others who worked for weeks prior to the event to make sure we had enough baked goods to sell. It was well worth their efforts and we thank you. I am sure everyone appreciated going home with their Christmas baking.



Other highlights at the Taste of Japan:

Traditional Japanese Pastry
Ikebana - Jeanne Bates
Origami - Susan Thesen
Calligraphy
Sushi Lessons- Ken & Yoshiko Fix
Food Services- Victor & Linda Nishi

- Children's Games - TJ & Julia Fix
- Raffle - Brian Rowe
- Emcee - Kathleen Rowe
- Kimono Fashion show - Nagisa Wood
- Judo Demonstration - Lake Country Judo Club
- Kendo Demonstration - Kelowna Kendo Club
- Taiko Drum Performance- Yamabiko Taiko Group
- Admission - Chris Jennens & Luke Stack
- Ticket Sales - Arlene Henderson
- Hospitality - Bernice Sebastian

Many thanks to all of the other volunteers. This was a very enjoyable event and would not have been as successful without all of your efforts.

Thanks again for a job well done.



Garage Sale

On May 29, 2010 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 \$400. It was a day well spent.

Kasugai Gardens - by Nagisa Wood

In April 2010, the City of Kelowna Parks department and the Kelowna-Kasugai Sister



City Association invited Mr Junji Shinagawa, the gardener from UBC Nitobe Gardens to Kelowna. He was in Kelowna for 2 days. On the first day, he presented a slide show and lecture to the Parks Department to show the local gardeners different styles of Japanese gardening. The second day, at Kasugai Gardens, he demonstrated pruning techniques and advised on how to eliminate some of the shrubs and trees. The Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association held a Pot Luck Dinner for him to show our appreciation.

October Trade Delegation Visit to Japan

- by Richard Takai

In October 2010, the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (COEDC) organized a trade delegation to visit Kasugai and the Nagoya region of Japan. The timing of the visit was coordinated to overlap with the Sister City delegation's trip and the annual Kasugai Festival. Scot Speiser, Chair of the COEDC Advisory Board, and Richard Takai, Export Development Officer, represented the COEDC, and were joined by Wes Shields, President of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from local companies and schools. The delegation met with private sector companies and educational institutions, as well as with organizations such as the Kasugai Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Nagoya Initiative, and the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce. Opportunities in high tech, construction, building products, and personal care sectors are being pursued. The COEDC is continuing to work with companies and schools interested in developing relationships with counterparts in Japan and further expand economic ties with Kasugai and other areas of Japan.

Judo Delegation 2010 - by Nagisa Wood

Last summer, a Judo delegation consisting of four university students from Kasugai City visited Kelowna. They were led by Mr. Takahama, an eighth degree black belt instructor. Their goal was to show the local Judo Clubs new Judo techniques and to establish a Judo Tournament in the Okanagan area with the support of the local clubs. They gave two demonstrations at the Judo Clubs in Kelowna and Vernon. While they were here in Kelowna, the Sister City Association invited the Vernon, Lake Country, Penticton and Kelowna Judo representatives to a Welcome BBQ dinner, where they discussed the possibility of a future judo tournament in the Okanagan. On the second day, the KKSCA took them around Kelowna for some sight-seeing, wine tours, walking around the downtown promenade, orchard tours and a lunch at the Summerhill Pyramid Winery. They had a great rewarding time and were very pleased with everyone's welcoming and warm attitudes.

Kelowna Kendo Club - by Victor Nishi

Graeme Mclvor of the Kelowna Kendo Club visited Japan for about 4 weeks in the fall of 2010. He practiced at many Kendo dojos in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya and Kasugai. As a beginner student, the Japan trip was invaluable in raising Graeme's Kendo level. One of the highlights of his trip was a practice session at Mayor Ito's personal Kendo dojo on October 9 during his stay in Kasugai. With Mayor Ito and 20 other students of the club, he had a memorable 1 hour practice. Mayor Ito commented on how well Graeme has learned the basics of Kendo for being a student for only 1 year. A reporter from the local newspaper was also present and an article on the practice was published on the following day. Graeme tells me that Kasugai is a very beautiful city and everyone he met was very nice. The food was also good and in particular the ramen noodles he had. His host family during that time was Masatoshi and Kazuko Takeda whom he describes as very generous and accommodating hosts. With their help, Graeme was able to practice at other dojos in the Kasugai area and visit some tourist attractions. It was an amazing experience to practice Kendo in Japan and visit all the dojos. He enjoyed every minute of the Kasugai visit and would highly recommend people in Kelowna to go there. Graeme will be going back one day for sure.

KKSCA Tourism Report - by Ken Fix

Tourism plays a huge role in Kelowna's economy. According to Tourism Kelowna, 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.

At one time Japan had a great interest in Canada, especially British Columbia. 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 2011. If anyone is interested in working on this project, please contact Ken Fix at 250-763-8853.

Rutland Middle School Delegation *By Sandra Sellick*

The Rutland Middle School delegation is set to leave for Hong Kong en route to Kasugai on Mon, Mar. 21. There will be 14 in total: 9 students and 5 adults. They will arrive at Minamishiro Jr. High School on Sat, Mar. 26 for a one week homestay. Students and chaperones will tour their sister school on Sun, Mar. 27 and then attend a welcome party at a local cultural centre. For the remainder of the week,

students will participate in activities organized by their homestay families.
The team will return to Kelowna on Sat, Apr. 2.

Annual General Meeting & Election of Directors **February 14, 2011**

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

Harold Wood
Heidi Mitchell
Bernice Sebastian
Richard Takai

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

Chris Jennens
Cathy Jennens - President
Ken Fix
Arlene Henderson - Secretary
Kathleen Rowe
Brian Rowe - Vice President
Nagisa Wood - Treasurer
Luke Stack (appointed)

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

2011 Membership fees are now due.
An application form is enclosed

The Kelowna-Kasugai Sister City Association
meets on the second Monday of every month,
7-9pm at the Water Street Ctre., 1360 Water St.

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