



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** General Purposes Committee **Date:** March 8, 2023  
**From:** Cecilia Achiam **File:** 01-0100-30-SCIT1-  
General Manager, Community Safety 01/2023-Vol 01  
**Re:** **Sister City Advisory Committee 2022 Year in Review**

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Sister City Advisory Committee 2022 Year in Review", dated March 8, 2023, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

Cecilia Achiam  
General Manager, Community Safety  
(604-276-4122)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

## Staff Report

### Origin

The City of Richmond's Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) was established on February 11, 1974 (formerly the Sister City Twinning Committee) and fosters mutual understanding and meaningful cultural connections with designated Sister/Friendship cities in the interests of Richmond citizens for their common benefit.

In accordance with the SCAC Terms of Reference, this report updates Council on work completed by the SCAC, in 2022, toward the 2019-2022 Activity Plan (Attachment 1) endorsed by Council on January 14, 2019.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient, and Active Community:

*Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.*

*6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.*

*6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.*

### Background

The role and purpose of the Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) is to provide advice to and assist Council with promoting the City's culture and values. The SCAC is also responsible for delivering the Sister City Program and pursuing the City's goal to establish and sustain cultural, educational and sustainable ties with approved Sister/Friendship Cities. Additionally, the SCAC will advise the City of any economic development, international trade and business opportunities presented to the Committee or its subcommittees arising from SCAC activities.

The City of Richmond has had a Sister City relationship with Pierrefonds, Quebec since 1967; Wakayama, Japan since 1973; and Xiamen, China since 2012. The City formed a Friendship City relationship with Qingdao, China in 2008.

### Findings of Fact

#### Summary of 2022 Year in Review

In 2019, Council approved the Sister City Advisory Committee Four Year Activity Plan (2019-2022) (Attachment 1), which outlines the SCAC's work plan for that period. The 2022 SCAC Program Activity budget was \$60,000 and the Program Administration budget was \$11,000. The SCAC activities and events during 2022 are outlined in Attachment 2.

Some of the highlights from 2022 include:

- **Pen Pal Program, January** – The City of Pierrefonds, Wakayama and Qingdao school boards partnered with the City of Richmond under the Sister City Program to connect students as pen pals through greeting cards, letters and emails. The Pen Pal Initiative was well received and over 130 students participated in the program. This was the first time Qingdao participated in a pen pal exchange.
- **Celebrating 55<sup>th</sup> milestone anniversary with City of Pierrefonds, June/July** – The mayors and select council members from City of Richmond and City of Pierrefonds met to celebrate the milestone anniversary at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. On July 29, the day of the anniversary, the community participated in a Walk Richmond walk from City Hall to the Pierrefonds garden at the Minoru Chapel. Throughout 2022, six street banners were installed featuring the image of a landmark in Pierrefonds and included alternate English and French text.
- **Steveston Salmon Festival, July** – The SCAC participated in its first in-person City event since August 2019. The goal was to share information with the public about the Sister City Program through fun trivia questions and everyone who visited the SCAC booth got to spin the new Japanese lottery wheel to receive a prize.
- **Photo Exhibitions, April, July and October** – The Sister City Program experimented with a variety of photo exhibitions at the Cultural Centre. These were collaborations with our sister cities to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> milestone anniversary with Xiamen in April and 55<sup>th</sup> milestone anniversary with Pierrefonds in July. Additionally, in collaboration with the Richmond Public Library, the SCAC celebrated Canadian Libraries Month in October, showcasing photos of all Sister/Friendship City public libraries.
- **Virtual Dialogue, year-long** – Virtual dialogues with our city contacts continued in 2022, including meetings between committee members and Pierrefonds, Wakayama, Xiamen, and Qingdao. The committee also communicated with the City of Vancouver, the City of Baltimore, Maryland, and the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia to share best practices.

### Looking Ahead to 2023

Work is well underway for Sister City Program activities in 2023. The activities planned for this year include:

- Continuing virtual information exchanges including:
  - a pilot virtual city tour and cooking demos;
  - an active living info exchange on hockey; and
  - continuing the virtual student Pen Pal Exchanges with Pierrefonds, Wakayama and Qingdao.
- Participating in City events throughout the year to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sister City relationship with Wakayama and the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Friendship City relationship with Qingdao.

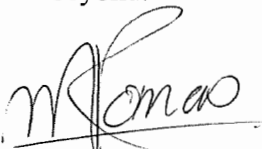
- Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sister City relationship with Wakayama, including: unveiling the “Look up” Street Banner in March and a Walk Richmond walk in July.
- Exploring a “One Book for Kids” StoryWalk® for preschoolers/early elementary grade children. Intended as an interactive way to share stories about Richmond’s Sister and Friendship cities, a StoryWalk® is designed to promote literacy and physical activity among young children. Children and adults would walk along a path in a local community park discovering pages of a children’s picture book on a post to read aloud. Richmond Public Library recently launched a StoryWalk® in Mclean Neighbourhood Park in Hamilton.
- Supporting and encouraging in-person events including:
  - Supporting 21 students from Richmond’s Japanese Language Program participating in Japan Bowl; and
  - Supporting a Richmond Girls Softball team to travel to Wakayama for a tournament and tour of the Sister City.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

The SCAC 2019-2022 Four Year Activity Plan provided a structure to deliver events and activities to further strengthen the existing sister and friendship city relationships. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause a disruption to the 2022 SCAC Activity Plan, momentum was not lost. Planned activities pivoted to virtual and conversations have resulted in a resiliency to strengthen the sister/friendship relationships with activities within reach for 2023 and beyond.



Mike Romas  
Manager, People Development  
(604-276-4081)

MR:mr

- Att. 1: SCAC 4 Year Activity Plan (2019-2022)  
2: SCAC Year in Review (2022)



# Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee

## Four Year Activity Plan Proposal 2023 - 2026

GP - 109

### 2022 Sister City Advisory Committee Members:

**Chair**

Lisa MacNeil

**Vice-Chairs**

Allen Chan  
Glenn Kishi  
Melissa Zhang  
Victor Zhuo

**Members**

Charan Gill  
Joan Page  
Karen Shigeno  
Nick Sturtevant

**School Board**

Ken Hamaguchi  
Debbie Tablotney

Polly Tang  
Sue Tian  
David Yang  
Jenny Zhang



# Building meaningful connections in our global community

The past four years have been rather unique yet we learned so much. Going into 2019, the Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) wanted to broaden our reach in Richmond with more non-visit activities. 2020 provided us with new possibilities and opportunities as we learned to live within pandemic times. SCAC initiated dialogue with community partners, participated in community events and co-hosted internationally known authors in partnership with Richmond Public Library. Video platforms like Zoom opened up communication with our sister/friendship cities to real-time exchange of ideas. As a committee, we look forward to continuing this path and seeing more experiences between our residents and the residents of Pierrefonds, Quebec; Wakayama, Japan; Xiamen & Qingdao, China.

Sister City Advisory Committee  
City of Richmond  
October 2022

## 2023 – 2026 Activity Goals

- ✓ Build on current relationships with sister/friendship cities
- ✓ Promote Sustainability & Active Living
- ✓ Continue exploring non-visit activities and showcase innovative programs around the city
- ✓ Consider activities for ALL age groups
- ✓ Encourage more information sharing
- ✓ Develop archival process to preserve Sister City Program collection

COVID PANDEMIC NOTE:  
This plan was made in late 2021 / early 2022 when the COVID 19 pandemic continued. Given the uncertainty at what may happen in the time span of this proposal, this plan is subject to change.

## Sister City

a city that is linked to another,  
usually for the purposes of  
cultural exchange

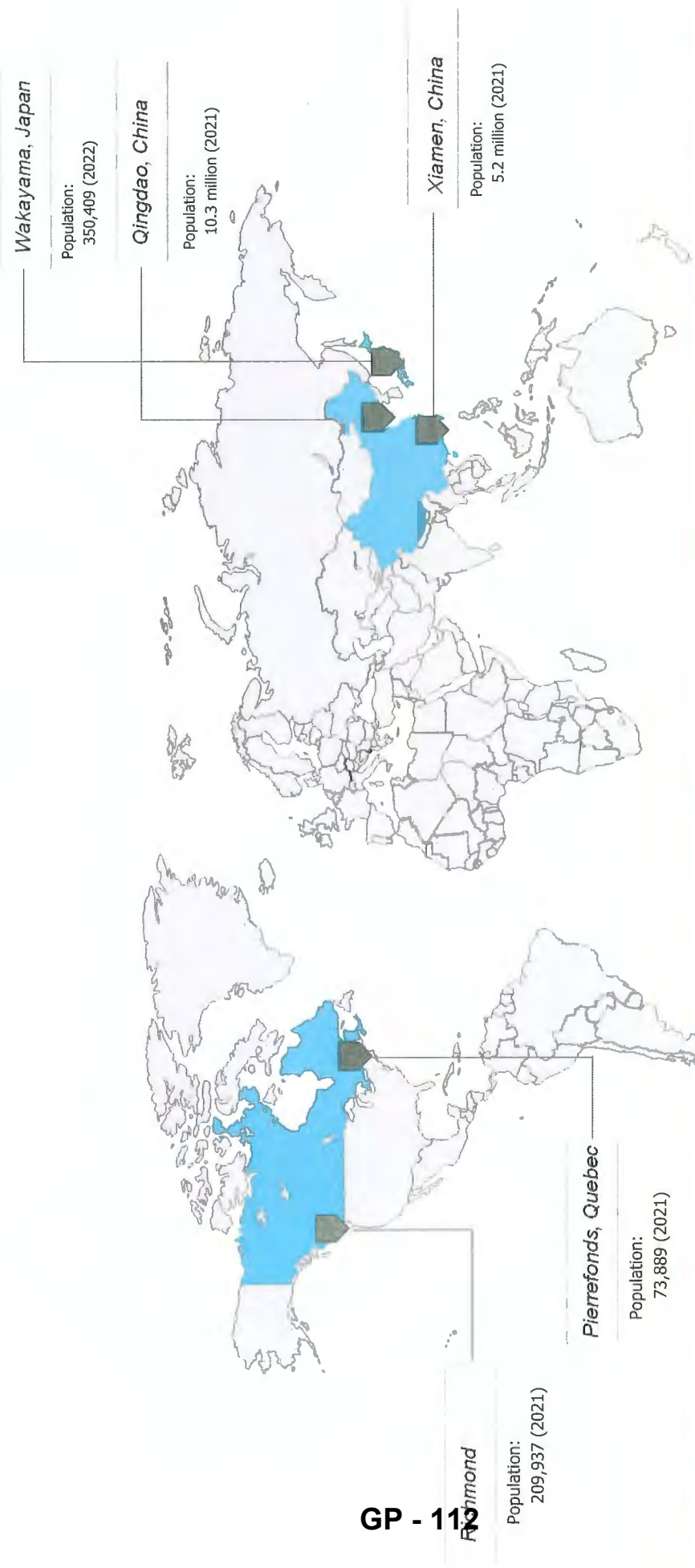
GP - 111

## Friendship City

less formal relationship than  
sister city

# Definition

**GP - 113**



3 sister cities

**Pierrefonds, Quebec | Wakayama, Japan | Xiamen, China**

1 friendship city

**Qingdao, China**



# Relationship Review

All cities rated highly engaged since 2019

Goals in the upcoming four years:

GP - 113

## Pierrefonds

- Continue building on strong relationship

## Wakayama

- Document Budget Planning Timeline
- Encourage non-visit activities

## Xiamen

- Explore education non-visit activities

## Qingdao

- Explore education non-visit activities

# Activity Summary

2023 2024 2025 2026

## Annual Base Program Activities (Visit)

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Education	Pierrefonds	Pierrefonds	Pierrefonds	Pierrefonds
Active Living	TBC	Wakayama	Wakayama	Wakayama
	TBC	TBC	Hockey Jamboree	Xiamen: FIFA Football
	TBC	TBC	Kendo	TBC
			Choir	

Outbound Activity

## Annual Base Program Activities (Non-Visit)

Annual "state of the city" letter	X	X	X	X
Exchanges of cities' annual reports and city plans	X	X	X	X
SCAC Year in Review Summary	X	X	X	X
Community Engagement	X	X	X	X
Activities	X	X	X	X

## Relationship Activities

Anniversary Milestones	Wakayama (50 years) Qingdao (15 years)			
City Council/Delegation Visits		to be scheduled		
Activity Plan Relationship Review				X

## Future Twinnings

Explore new Sister City Relationship	X	X	X	X
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# Budget Summary

	2023	2024	2025	2026
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## Annual Base Program Activities

Education	\$17,000	\$22,000	\$14,000	\$22,000
Active Living	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Arts	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$23,000	\$15,000
Community Engagement	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000

## Relationship Activities

Anniversary Milestones*	TBA			
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## Administration

Administration Costs	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
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<b>SUBTOTAL (year total)</b>	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$71,000
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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$284,000</b>	
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\*Official celebration plans in separate report to Mayor & Council

Annual Base Program Activities

# Visits

# Education

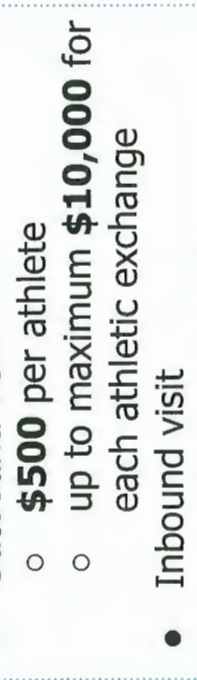
## Student Exchanges/Visits

<p>GP - 117</p> <p>Pierrefonds</p> <p>Wakayama</p> <p>Kiamen</p> <p>Qingdao</p> <p><b>inbound &amp; outbound</b></p> <p>Students</p>	<p>✓ Student exchanges/visits include opportunities to inbound/outbound to sister cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue annual exchanges with Wakayama, Japan</li> <li>• Explore school visits to Montreal (Pierrefonds)</li> </ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outbound visit             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>\$500</b> per student participant</li> <li>○ up to maximum <b>\$10,000</b> for each annual student exchange</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Inbound visit             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>\$200</b> per student participant</li> <li>○ up to maximum <b>\$4,000</b> for each annual student exchange</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>NOTE: Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)</p>
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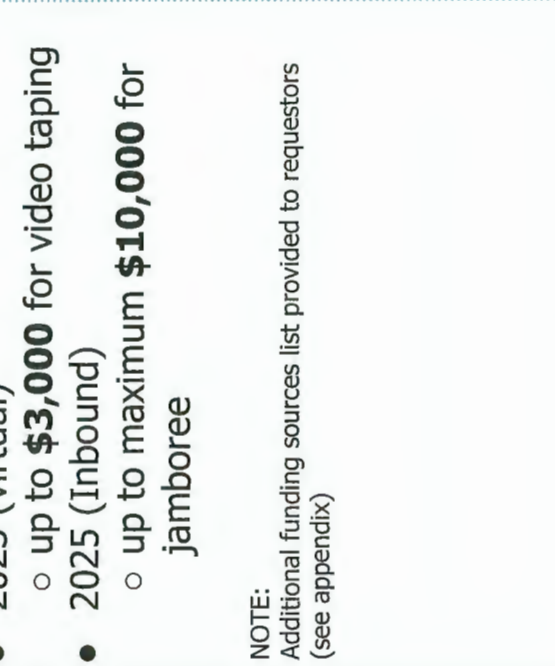
# Active Living

## Sport Exchanges

<p>GP - 118</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sport exchanges open to ALL age groups</li> <li>✓ Competitions or Skills Clinics</li> <li>✓ Schedule of Inbound &amp; Outbound activities to be confirmed             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inbound activities                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 2025: Richmond Hockey Jamboree</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outbound activities                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 2025: Kendo Club</li> <li>◦ July/August 2026: Xiamen Youth FIFA Football</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Budget Breakdown:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outbound visit             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>\$500</b> per athlete</li> <li>◦ up to maximum <b>\$10,000</b> for each athletic exchange</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Inbound visit             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>\$200</b> per athlete</li> <li>◦ up to maximum <b>\$4,000</b> for each athletic exchange</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)</p>
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# Active Living

## Hockey Jamboree: 2023 (virtual) | 2025 (in person)

<p>GP - 119</p>  <p>virtual (2023) &amp; inbound (2025) activity</p> <p>Youth</p>	<p>✓ Hockey Jamboree to discuss / practice player skills development with sister/friendship cities in virtual format (2023) &amp; in person format (2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023: virtual Zoom workshop to discuss respective minor hockey systems (from Intro Hockey to the NHL)</li> <li>• 2025: in-person Hockey Jamboree in Richmond             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Jamboree to include 1) mixing all the players up and form new teams AND 2) a skills program (hockey school)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 (virtual)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ up to <b>\$3,000</b> for video taping</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2025 (Inbound)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ up to maximum <b>\$10,000</b> for jamboree</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>NOTE: Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)</p>
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# Performing Arts

## NEW! Richmond Youth Honour Choir (RYHC)

	<p>✓ Choir exchanges include opportunities to inbound/outbound to sister cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2025: Wakayama</li></ul> <p>✓ Choir available for participation in delegate visits</p>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outbound visit<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ \$500 per participant</li><li>○ up to maximum \$10,000 for each exchange</li></ul></li></ul> <p>NOTE: Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)</p>
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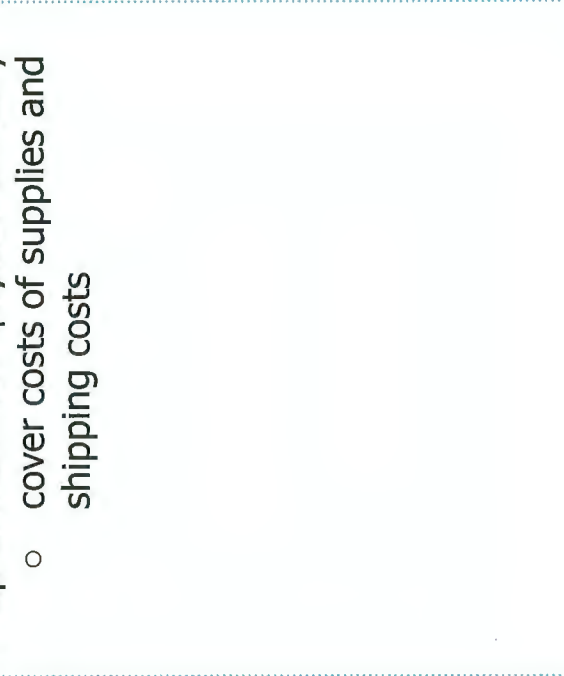
Annual Base Program Activities

# Non-Visits



# Education

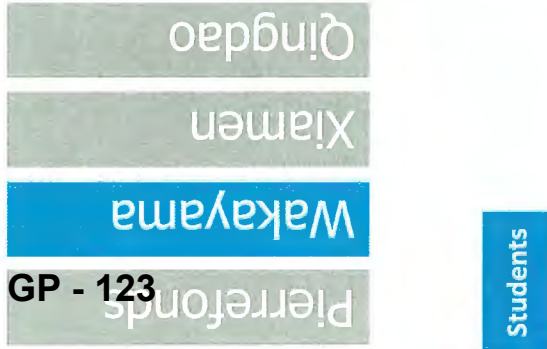
## Non-visit Activities

 <p>GP - 122</p> <p>Pierrefonds up to 122</p> <p>Wakayama</p> <p>Xiamen</p> <p>Qingdao</p> <p>up to 2 activities annually</p> <p>Students</p>	<p>✓ Non-visit activities to engage students &amp; teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pilot sharing of lesson plans with educator in sister city</li><li>• Pen Pal Exchanges - Pierrefonds &amp; Qingdao elementary school level</li><li>• Information Exchanges   Artwork Exchanges<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Exploring Sustainability activities</li></ul></li><li>• Pierrefonds: Postal Art Poetry</li></ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• up to maximum <b>\$3,000</b> annually<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ cover costs of supplies and shipping costs</li></ul></li></ul>
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# Education

## 2023 Japan Bowl®

	✓ Secondary school competition around Japanese culture sponsored in part by the Government of Japan, local Japan Embassy and Nikkei Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Target: Richmond students who are in the Japanese Language Program</li><li>• Sister City Program to present talk on sister city relationship with Wakayama</li></ul>	<b>Budget Breakdown:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Giveaways</li><li>• In-kind contribution</li><li>• Team registration fees</li></ul>
<p>Event website: <a href="https://www.jetaabc.ca/news/2022-metro-vancouver-japan-bowl/">https://www.jetaabc.ca/news/2022-metro-vancouver-japan-bowl/</a></p> <p>Video of event - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1G-SzFc28E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1G-SzFc28E</a></p>		


# Art & Culture

## Richmond Public Library - Book Club

<p><b>GP - 124</b></p> <p>Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p> <p><b>1 program annually</b> inbound &amp; outbound</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Launch various programs to coordinate sharing of information with sister city libraries with various target audiences from young children to seniors. The activity plan would be to continue or expand on successful activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ One Book, up to Five Cities adult book club<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2023: Wakayama Public Library to recommend book</li></ul></li><li>✓ StoryWalk® young children<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offer sample stories to libraries in our sister/friendship cities</li></ul></li><li>✓ Commemorative Milestone Anniversary Bookmarks<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2023: share with Wakayama &amp; Qingdao Public Library</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sister Cities to participate in Richmond Public Library book club program</li><li>• Bookmarks: printing &amp; distribution</li></ul>
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# Art & Culture

## NEW! Take & Make It!

 <p>GP - 125</p>	✓ Take & Make crafts for all ages with a cultural inspiration from our sister/friendship cities to be used with schools, at City events (Culture Days) and as giveaways	Budget Breakdown: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printing of instructions</li><li>• Supplies</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QR code business cards to share instructions on how to make craft<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Paper folding - fans &amp; origami</li><li>○ Calligraphy - Chinese &amp; Japanese Shūji</li><li>○ Canada Day crafts</li><li>○ Koinobori kite making</li><li>○ Chinese knot tying</li><li>○ Teru Teru Bozu (Japanese Sunshine Doll)</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Culture Days website <a href="#">City of Richmond - Culture Days</a></p>	

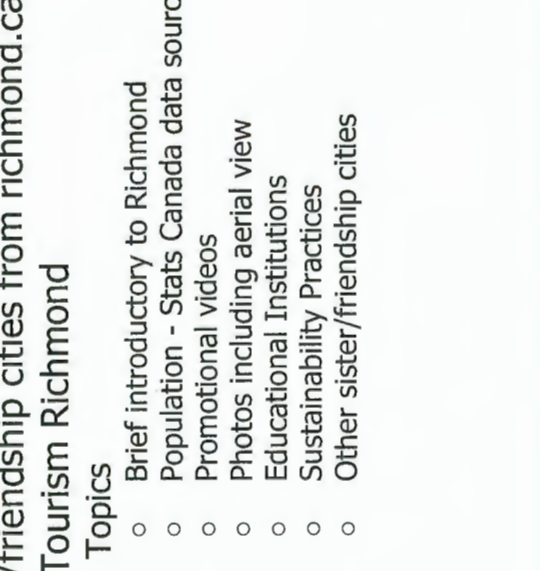
Annual Base Program Activities

# Information Exchange



# Information Exchange

## About Richmond

 <p>GP - 127 as requested <b>Updated annually</b></p>	✓ Build a toolkit of information requested by our sister/friendship cities from richmond.ca website & from Tourism Richmond	Budget Breakdown: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• no cost</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Topics<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Brief introductory to Richmond</li><li>○ Population - Stats Canada data source</li><li>○ Promotional videos</li><li>○ Photos including aerial view</li><li>○ Educational Institutions</li><li>○ Sustainability Practices</li><li>○ Other sister/friendship cities</li></ul></li></ul>	



# Information Exchange

## Speaker Series

<p><b>GP - 128</b></p> <p>Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p> <p>1+ sessions <b>annually</b></p> <p>Adult Youth</p>	<p>Launch interactive sessions with sister/friendship cities to promote sharing of information utilizing new technology at RPL. The activity plan would be to continue or expand on successful activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let's Go! virtual tours of sister/friendship cities             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Live or prerecorded sessions via Zoom of local attractions, parks, cultural events, museums and libraries</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Speakers Series             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations on cultural customs, cuisine &amp; crafts</li> </ul> </p> <p>Virtual Sister/Friendship City Youth Session             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students chat with youth in French, Japanese &amp; Chinese to learn about each other and each other's culture</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speakers Fee: estimate between \$500 - \$4,000</li> </ul>
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# Information Exchange

## Community Groups / Advisory Committees

<p>GP - 129</p> <p>Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p> <p>as requested <b>Virtually</b></p> <p>All</p>	<p>✓ Knowledge sharing between like groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial thoughts<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Advisory Committees</li><li>○ City Staff</li><li>○ Community Groups</li><li>○ Community Partners</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• no cost</li></ul>
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Annual Base Program Activities

# Community Engagement

# Community Engagement

## Participation in City Events / Activities

<p>GP - 131</p>	<p>Annual up to 2 City Events</p>	<p>Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p>	<p>✓ Sister City Advisory Committee members participate in activities to increase Community Engagement and sharing of experiences with our sister/friendship cities</p> <p>✓ Steveston Salmon Festival Activation</p> <p>✓ City Events - exhibitor booth</p> <p>✓ Commemorate the Wakayama Sister City Garden</p> <p>✓ Sister City Program theme Geocaching (2024)</p>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event booth decorations</li> <li>• T-shirts for participants</li> <li>• Handouts for attendees</li> </ul>
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# Community Engagement

## Walk Richmond - community walks

<p>GP - 132</p> <p>Pierrefonds</p> <p>Wakayama</p> <p>Xiamen</p> <p>Qingdao</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Partner with Walk Richmond to coordinate sister city community walks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pierrefonds walk             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting at Pierrefonds Sister City Garden at City Hall</li> <li>• Ending at Pierrefonds Garden by Minoru Chapel</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Wakayama walk             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to Pierrefonds walk</li> <li>• Garry Point Park to Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Xiamen &amp; Qingdao walk             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park (TBC)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giveaways</li> </ul>
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# Community Engagement

## Photo Exhibition

<p>GP - 133</p> <p>Pierrefonds up to 2 activities annually inbound</p>	<p>✓ Photo shows at Cultural Centre to showcase sister/friendship cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upper Rotunda - 15 photos highlighting city</li> <li>▪ Atrium - 8 photos highlighting theme             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2023: Public Art</li> <li>○ 2024: Fire Halls (to be confirmed)</li> <li>○ 2025: to be confirmed</li> <li>○ 2026: to be confirmed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>\$1,000</b> annually for photo development</li> </ul>
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# Community Engagement

## Richmond Museum

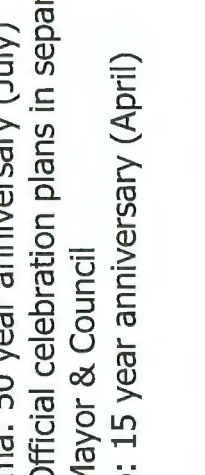
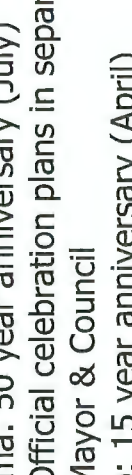

 <p>GP - 134</p>	✓ Share artefacts collected from Sister City Program at Richmond Museum <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• July 2023 - Wakayama</li><li>• February 2024 - Sister City Program</li></ul>	Budget Breakdown: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No cost</li></ul>
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Annual Base Program Activities

# Milestone Anniversaries

# Milestone Celebrations

## Occurring in 2023

 <p>GP - 136 Pierrefonds</p>	 <p>Wakayama</p>	 <p>Qingdao</p>
<p>✓ Two major milestones will be celebrated in 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wakayama: 50 year anniversary (July)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Official celebration plans in separate report to Mayor &amp; Council</li></ul></li><li>• Qingdao: 15 year anniversary (April)</li></ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TBA</li></ul>	

2 milestone celebrations

# Milestone Celebrations

## Street Banner Contest

- ✓ 2023 Street Banner IN Richmond to be designed by individual IN Wakayama sharing a photo of a landmark in Wakayama

- around City Hall

### Budget Breakdown:

- estimate around ~\$1.5K

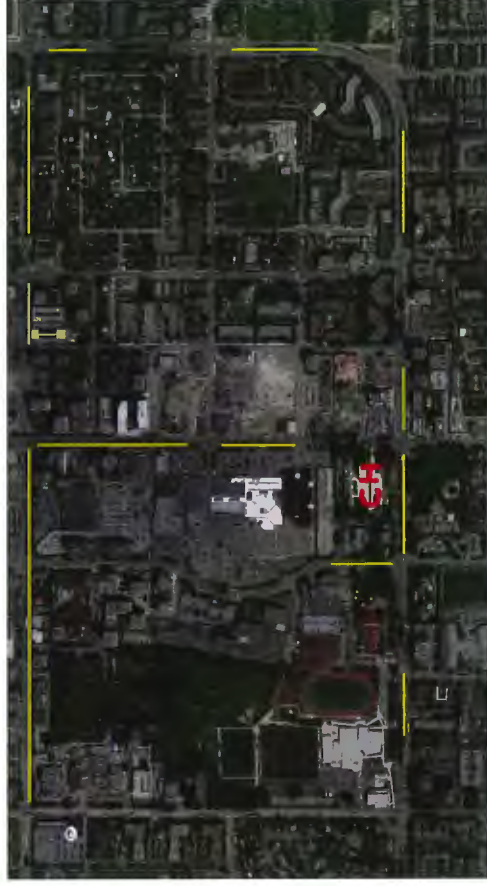
Pierrefonds - GP - 137

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

2023





Community Spaces

# Community Tribute Space/Site

# Community Tribute Space/Site

## Create a community tribute to sister city

- ✓ Recommendation for a commemorative space (i.e. garden or public art piece) to recognize the sister city relationship with Wakayama
  - Location: to be recommended by city staff
  - Installation by 2026 for next MOU signing with City of Wakayama
  - Tone: elegance garden / public art piece or garden structure such as pergola
  - Committee to collaborate with local Japanese community groups
  - Ask to Staff to further investigate

Pierrefonds  
GP - 139

Wakayama

Xiamen





Qingdao

Annual Sister City Program Activities

# Administration

# Administration

## Operational & Relationship Activities

   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Annual administrative costs</li><li>✓ Letters between Mayors - annual "state of the city" letter</li><li>✓ Exchanges of City Annual Reports</li></ul>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$11,000</b> annual administrative costs</li></ul>
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# Administration

## Project 2024

Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee will celebrate **50 years** on February 11, 2024. In order to continue building meaningful connections with our global community, the committee must do our part to future proof our legacy and set up processes for the future. Steps to be taken:

- ✓ Digital File & Photo Management including archival process
- ✓ Website Enhancements
- ✓ Document activity timelines for each city
- ✓ Document names of current & past committee members
- ✓ Our extended family - establish & strengthen ties with sister city committees around the world sharing best practices

Celebration in February 2024

- Photo Exhibition
- Update committee logo used for online & print communications



# Appendix

# Looking to the Past

Report adopted by Council, February 11, 1974, Resolution 157.

The Mayor and Aldermen,  
of the Township  
of Richmond,  
New Jersey, Burlington,  
New Jersey, N.J.

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

As Council are aware, Richmond has teamed with Flemington, New Jersey, to form the Sister City Program. The teaming with Flemington, New Jersey, has been particularly successful. The teaming with Flemington, New Jersey, has been particularly successful. The teaming with Flemington, New Jersey, has been particularly successful.

This is particularly true in the field of organized exchange of our students, young people in general, and to a certain extent the visitation by various members of each community.

Richmond has set up a Committee called "The Sister City Program Committee" and this is generally composed of members of Council, some members of the senior staff and a large number of non-political citizens, such as members of the Board of Trade, the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Education, and other ordinary citizens. The Richmond Committee has been successful in establishing a sister city relationship with Flemington, New Jersey, and is very active in promoting sister city relationships.

It is therefore the recommendation to this Council that a sister-city committee, to be called "The Sister City Program Committee", be organized and it is suggested that Mr. Jim Harvey be named as Chairman. It is further suggested that Mr. Harvey be named as Chairman and Mr. Harvey be named as Chairman. It is further suggested that Mr. Harvey be named as Chairman and Mr. Harvey be named as Chairman. It is further suggested that Mr. Harvey be named as Chairman and Mr. Harvey be named as Chairman.

I would earnestly recommend the adoption of this report.

  
U. J. BLAIR  
Mayor

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE SISTER CITY TRAINING COMMITTEE

1. To conduct and organize exchanges between our Sister Cities, Flemington, Quebec, and Winnipeg, Japan.
2. To carry out a continuing program of cultural exchanges for the benefit of our communities and citizens.
3. To emphasize student and athletic exchange for the benefit of our younger people.
4. To foster economic ties with our Sister Cities, wherever possible.
5. To continue to enhance our mutual friendship through contacts and ways of life.

Since inception of the Sister City Advisory Committee in February 1974, the objectives of the Sister City Program (SCP) remain the same:

- Carry out a continuing program of cultural exchanges
- Emphasize student and athletic exchange for the benefit of youth
- Promotion of better understanding of our cultures and ways of life

The addition in 2019 is SCP is inclusive of ALL ages to participate in activities.

## Funding Sources

	Funding Source & Website URL
1	Kiwanis Club <a href="https://richmondkiwanis.org/">https://richmondkiwanis.org/</a>
2	KidSport <a href="https://kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/">https://kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/</a>
3	Canadian Tire <a href="https://corp.canadiantire.ca/English/community/default.aspx">https://corp.canadiantire.ca/English/community/default.aspx</a>
4	TELUS <a href="https://www.telus.com/en/social-impact/giving-back/community-grants?INTCMP=boom-social-impact_home_cta_to_community-grants">https://www.telus.com/en/social-impact/giving-back/community-grants?INTCMP=boom-social-impact_home_cta_to_community-grants</a>
5	Viasport BC funded by Province of BC <a href="https://viasport.ca/grants">viasport.ca/grants</a>
6	Community Gaming grants for Recreation, Parks and Culture, Events and Celebration funded by Prov. of BC. <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gaming-grants/community-gaming-grants">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gaming-grants/community-gaming-grants</a>
7	Civic Info BC has a grants database of federal, provincial grants <a href="https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/grants">https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/grants</a>
8.	Government of Canada Youth Exchanges Grants - in Canada only <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/exchanges-canada/funding-organizations.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/exchanges-canada/funding-organizations.html</a>
9.	Richmond Rotary Clubs
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	

## City of Richmond

# Sister City Advisory Committee 2022 Year in Review

## 2022 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Pierrefonds, Quebec (since 1967), Wakayama, Japan (since 1973), and Xiamen, China (since 2012); as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (since 2008). Information from various SCAC activities and events are outlined in the following pages and can be found on the City's website at [www.richmond.ca/sistercity](http://www.richmond.ca/sistercity).

## 2022 Committee Members:

<b>Chair</b>	Lisa MacNeil
<b>Vice Chair, Pierrefonds</b>	Allen Chan
<b>Vice-Chair, Wakayama</b>	Glenn Kishi
<b>Vice-Chair, Qingdao</b>	Melissa Zhang
<b>Vice-Chair, Xiamen</b>	Victor Zhuo
<b>Members</b>	Charan Gill
	Joan Page
	Karen Shigeno
	Nicholas Sturtevant
	Polly Tang
	Sue Tian
	David Yang
	Jenny Zhang
<b>Council Liaison</b>	Councillor Andy Hobbs
<b>School Board Liaison</b>	Ken Hamaguchi
	Debbie Tablotney (Alternate)

## 2022 Sister City Relationship Highlights

### January

- The newly appointed SCAC member(s) were introduced at the first meeting in January.
- The SCAC elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Pierrefonds, Wakayama, Xiamen and Qingdao sub-committees and selected members to the following sub-committees:
  - Pierrefonds Sub-Committee;
  - Wakayama Sub-Committee;
  - Xiamen Sub-Committee; and
  - Qingdao Sub-Committee.

### February

- The City of Richmond sent Lunar New Year greetings to Xiamen and Qingdao.



Lunar New Year Greeting from Council and Sister City Advisory Committee

- As part of the Sister City Program, 28 students in grades 6 and 7 from General Currie Elementary School sent Lunar New Year Greetings to a class in Qingdao, China.

*“What a wonderful gesture of friendship for sending us the Chinese New Year packages from one of your elementary schools! When we receive and relay this package to students in Qingdao, I believe they will be deeply touched by this warm friendship coming from afar.”*

*Wu Chunmei, Qingdao City Contact*





Lunar New Year Greetings from General Currie Elementary School

- To celebrate Valentine’s Day, 30 Richmond Kindergarten students created Valentine’s Day greeting cards for seniors at Manoir Pierrefonds, a seniors residence home in Pierrefonds, to brighten their days due to the ongoing lockdown.



Valentines Greetings for Seniors at Manoir Pierrefonds

- In late 2021, the Committee began planning and preparing for Richmond’s relationship milestone anniversaries with Wakayama, Japan (50 years) and Qingdao, China (15 years), which will be celebrated in 2023. One action was to establish a “SCAC Alumni” group made up of past chairs and vice chairs.

## March

- On March 1, 2022, the Sister City Advisory Committee met with key stakeholders from past SCAC membership to plan for the 50th anniversary relationship milestone celebrations for Wakayama, Japan occurring in 2023.

### Current Sister City Membership

Lisa MacNeil, Chair, SCAC  
 Glenn Kishi, Vice-Chair, Wakayama  
 Charan Gill, SCAC Member  
 Karen Shigeno, SCAC Member

### Past Sister City Membership

Hans Havas, Past Chair, SCAC  
 Sylvia Gwozd, Past Chair, SCAC  
 Jim Kojima, Past Vice Chair, Wakayama  
 Kevin Lainchbury, Past Vice Chair, Wakayama

- In early 2021, the Sister City Program launched a street banner photo contest in Pierrefonds, similar to the photo contest held in Richmond. Pierrefonds resident, Ginette Biron’s photo of the Centre Local De Services Communautaires (the Local Community Service Centre) was selected as the winner! This building provides health and social services to the residents of Pierrefonds.

The “Look Up” street banner was created to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> milestone anniversary between the City of Richmond and the City of Pierrefonds. The cities twinned on July 29, 1967. Six street banners were installed on Granville Avenue between No. 3 Road and Minoru Boulevard, outside Richmond City Hall. The banners had alternating wording in both English and French.



Pierrefonds Street Banner in English and French located on Granville Avenue



- In March 2022, the Pierrefonds Pen Pal Program at Mitchell Elementary School was in full swing in a Grade 1 class and a Grade 3/4 class.

The Grade 3/4 class enjoyed sending letters and participating in a video chat.



Mitchell Elementary School Pen Pal Video Chat

The teacher even shared their experience on Mitchell Elementary’s Twitter account:



Mitchell Elementary School Social Media Posts

The Pierrefonds schools enjoyed the experience with their new friends in Richmond as expressed by our city contact:

*“This is so great! Johanne received some letters this week and the students are answering back this morning. The kids love the project! Thank you for sharing this with us!”*

*Olivia Marleau, Bibliothécaire - Animation, médiation et hors les murs*

- In an effort to preserve and digitize historical Sister City Program documents, the SCAC hired a photographer and worked with staff at the Richmond Archives to photograph key relationship documents. The documents that were photographed include signed twinning documents for Pierrefonds (1967) and Wakayama (1973) plus various historically significant documents such as letters establishing the Sister City Twinning Committee in February 1974.



Photographing historical Sister City documents at the Archives



## April

- The SCAC partnered with the organizers of the Cherry Blossom Festival and highlighted the historical connection between Richmond and Wakayama as sister cities through a blog post co-authored by the City of Wakayama city contact. The full post can be found here: <https://richmondcherryblossomfest.ca/blog/richmond-cherry-blossom-festival-celebrating-the-season-in-canada-and-japan/>
- Twenty-six students from a Grade 6/7 class from General Currie Elementary School paired with 40 students from a Grade 5/6 class from Qingdao Hengshan Road Elementary School to exchange emails in English. This was the first pen pal program with Qingdao.
- The SCAC initiated phase 1 of a full-scale redesign of the Sister City Program webpages on the City of Richmond’s website. The webpage’s content was audited and reduced to a single page to standardize content among all sister/friendship city relationships. Check out the new page at: [www.richmond.ca/sistercity](http://www.richmond.ca/sistercity)

Phase 2 and 3 will be addressed following the City’s web-redesign and will include links to external Sister/Friendship City relationship webpages and highlights of photos from key moments in the relationship.

- From April 1 to April 22, 2022, the SCAC hosted a Sister City Photo Exhibition to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> milestone anniversary with Pierrefonds, Quebec and the 10<sup>th</sup> milestone anniversary with Xiamen, China. Photos were on display at the Richmond Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda from students in Richmond, BC and Xiamen, China in addition to the “Look Up” Street Banner Photo Contest Winner Ginette Biron’s photo.



Sister City Photo Exhibition – Pierrefonds and Xiamen

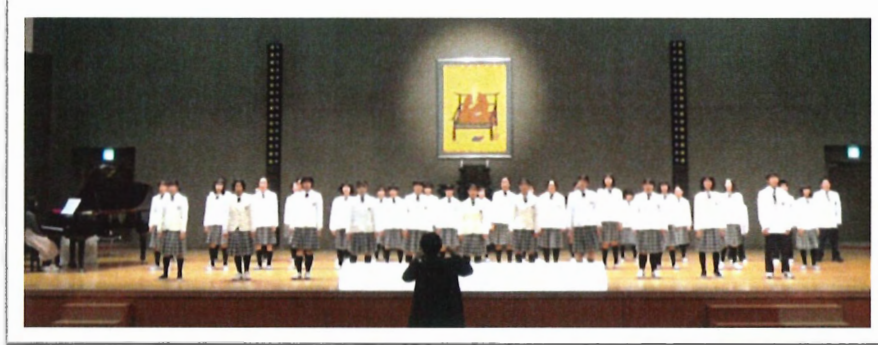
- With letters from both mayors, the cities of Richmond and Xiamen celebrated their 10th milestone anniversary on April 27, 2022.



Sister City Web Page

## May

- In recognition of Richmond Youth Honour Choir’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the choirs in our sister/friendship cities sent well wishes and pre-pandemic videos of their favourite performance.



**Choir Performance sent to Richmond Youth Honour Choir**

- During May, Wakayama featured a Tourism Display of their sister cities promotional videos at Wakachika Square. Wakachika Square is an open space with display screens and is used for events and performance arts. Tourism Richmond provided the Tourism Richmond Anthem video. Feedback from Japan was “Richmond is a cool city!”



**Scan for the Tourism Richmond Video**

- As the pandemic protocols and travel restrictions continued into 2022, the Richmond-Wakayama Student Exchange adapted to ensure the continuity of this long-standing program. In the spring of 2022, students met via Zoom to share introduction videos of their country, city and school; sent New Year postcards; and connected through a pen pal program. The schools in Wakayama have already declined to travel to Canada in 2023 so we hope an in-person connection will happen in 2024.



**Joto Junior High School Art (2000) and Celebration of 50th Anniversary at Steveston-London**



- Christmas came in May! Much to the delight of the students of one class at General Currie Elementary who received Christmas cards from Wakayama Fukko School. Due to COVID, Japan postal services terminated usage of air mail meaning all packages had to be sent via ground, which takes months to receive. As the students said, “it is always the thought that counts.”

## June

- In celebration of the 55th milestone anniversary of Pierrefonds and Richmond’s Sister City relationship, delegations from Pierrefonds & Richmond met in Regina, Saskatchewan on June 2, 2022. The delegations were in Regina to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference.

### City of Richmond

Mayor Malcolm Brodie  
Councillor Chak Au  
Councillor Alexa Loo  
Jason Kita, Director

### City of Pierrefonds

Mayor Jim Beis  
Councillor Chahi (Sharkey) Tarakjian  
Councillor Benoît Langevin



Left: Gift to Richmond from Pierrefonds

Right: Gift to Pierrefonds from Richmond



From left to right: Councillor Alexa Loo, Councillor Chak Au, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Mayor Jim Beis, Councillor Benoît Langevin, Councillor Chahi (Sharkey) Tarakjian



Left side: (front to back): Councillor Alexa Loo, Jason Kita, Councillor Chak Au  
 Back: Mayor Malcolm Brodie  
 Right side: (front to back): Mayor Jim Beis, Councillor Chahi (Sharkey) Tarakjian, Councillor Benoît Langevin



Presentation of City to City Gifts from Pierrefonds and Richmond



## July

- On July 1, 2022, SCAC members hosted a booth at the Steveston Salmon Festival to promote the Sister City Program to the community. The booth featured display boards with information about the Sister City Program and each of Richmond's sister/friendship city relationships, as well as an interactive Japanese lottery wheel to select a give-away item when answering a question about the Sister City Program.



Sister City Booth at Canada Day Festival in Steveston



- From July 18 to August 2, 2022, the SCAC hosted **Pierrefonds Art & Museum Exhibition** to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> milestone anniversary with Pierrefonds, Quebec. Photos and museum artefacts were on display at the Richmond Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda including the “Look Up” Street Banner Photo Contest Winner Ginette Biron’s photo. The featured photos are from Pierrefonds Photo Club showcasing the City of Pierrefonds.



**Pierrefonds Art and Museum Exhibition to Celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> Sister City Anniversary**

- On July 27, 2022, SCAC members hosted a follow-up meeting with the SCAC Alumni. This was an opportunity to continue the discussion around milestone anniversary celebrations with Pierrefonds and Wakayama and ask those questions that committee members continually asked. One output was the document about why the differing twinning anniversary dates and the details behind the promotion from friendship to sister city for Xiamen. Current committee members found this continual contact with past committee members invaluable.

- On July 29, 2022, SCAC members partnered with Walk Richmond to host a special Sister City Walk on the 55<sup>th</sup> milestone anniversary of the twinning of our first sister city, City of Pierrefonds. The walk began at City Hall, walking by the Pierrefonds Sister City Garden and ending at the Pierrefonds Garden adjacent to the Minoru Chapel.



Walk Richmond Walk to Pierrefonds Garden in Minoru Park



- On July 29, 2022, the anniversary milestone for the Richmond-Pierrefonds relationship was featured on the City’s social media pages (Facebook / Instagram / Twitter). This post highlights the sustained efforts made by the SCAC to increase the program’s visibility and reach to the residents of Richmond. In return, Pierrefonds responded by sharing the posts on their social media pages.



Social Media Post Celebrating the Twinning of Richmond and Pierrefonds

## August

- An ongoing exhibit opened at Nikkei National Museum called **TAIKEN: Generations of Resilience**. SCAC was consulted as the coordinator was interested in potentially using one of our photos in a section celebrating the continuing connection between Wakayama and Steveston’s Japanese Canadian community.



Digital Promotional Banner for TAIKEN Exhibit

## September

- Expression of Interest invitations were sent to sister/friendship cities to participate in the Canadian Adult Recreational Hockey Association (CARHA) tournament happening in Richmond from March 19-26, 2023. Pierrefonds, Xiamen and Qingdao expressed interest however hockey clubs were not ready to travel due to continuing COVID concerns.

<https://carhahockeyworldcup.ca/>

## October

- From October 3-31, 2022, the SCAC in partnership with Richmond Public Library celebrated **Canadian Library Month** with photos of public libraries from each of our sister/friendship cities. Photos were on display at the Richmond Cultural Centre Atrium.



Photo Exhibit of Libraries in Richmond's Sister/Friendship Cities for Celebrating Canadian Library Month



## November

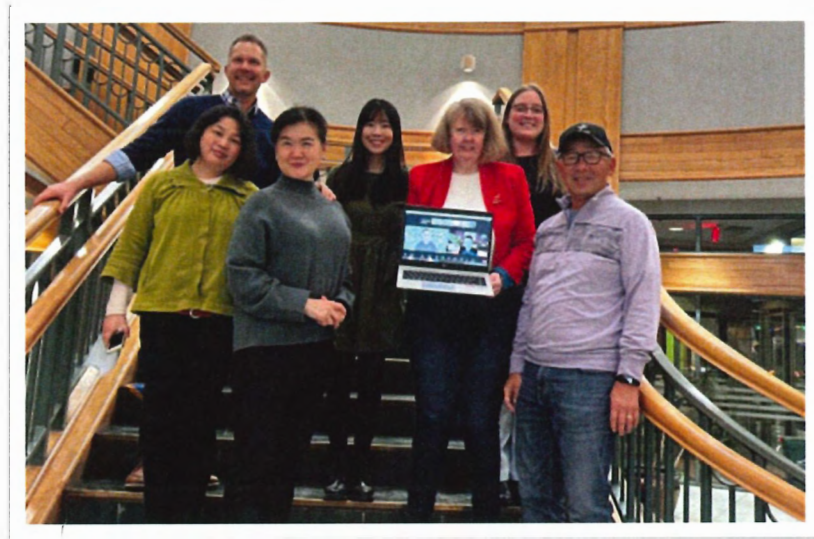
- The Sister City Advisory Committee turns 50 in 2024. In preparation for this milestone, the Committee has been interested in learning how sister city relations originated, particularly with Pierrefonds, Quebec, the first sister city. Why Pierrefonds and Richmond? What led to the successful twinning in July 1967? These questions were researched by Joan Page and her initial findings were documented in a report.



Scan the QR code to view the report

## December

- The SCAC had its final meeting where the Committee scored each of the Sister/Friendship cities participation over the past year. All cities achieved a highly engaged score on the Sister City Program's annual relationship scorecard.



Final Meeting of the 2022 Sister City Advisory Committee

- On December 12, 2022, SCAC participated in a virtual information exchange with sister city representatives around the globe to discuss proposed activities. It was decided to move forward on exploring having a Spring book club.



## 2022 Acknowledgements

### Council Appointed Advisory Boards

- Advisory Design Panel
- Aquatic Advisory Board
- Minoru Centre for Active Living Program Committee
- Public Library Board

### City of Richmond Partners

- Arts Services
- Corporate Communications
- Development Applications
- Economic Development
- Major Events
- Museum & Heritage Services
- Parks Services
- Production Centre
- Richmond Archives

### Community Partners

- Jennifer Strang Photography
- Metro Vancouver Japan Bowl
- Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre - Education Program
- Richmond Art Gallery
- Richmond Arts Centre/Media lab
- Richmond Museum
- Richmond Public Library
- Richmond School Board
- Sister City Advisory Committee Alumni
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond (TAGOR)
- Tourism Richmond
- Walk Richmond

### Special Thank You

- Mayor Malcolm Brodie
  - Councillor Chak Au
  - Councillor Carol Day
  - Councillor Laura Gillanders
  - Councillor Kash Heed
  - Councillor Andy Hobbs
  - Councillor Alexa Loo
  - Councillor Bill McNulty
  - Councillor Linda McPhail
  - Councillor Harold Steves
  - Councillor Michael Wolfe
- 
- City Staff – Cecilia Achiam, Mike Romas and Kaitlynn Staples