

## Celebrating Sister Cities 25th Anniversary

Activities include Japanese lessons for Mayor and Council

City Council is learning from exchange students in preparation for celebrations to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Campbell River's twinning with sister city Ishikari in Hokkaido, Japan. Mayor and Councillors aim to be proficient in basic phrases and words of welcome in time for the arrival of an official delegation from Ishikari at the end of June. Their lessons will be televised as part of regular council meetings.

Campbell River and Ishikari formalized our sister city relationship on February 2, 1983. Council plans to host a formal dinner for guests from our sister city June 30. The next day, they'll enjoy Canada Day festivities, some participating in the parade. Ishikari visitors will also take in the Transformations on the Shore carving contest, and the City's gift to mark the 25th anniversary will be done by master carver Glen Greensides.

*"Japan and Canada are celebrating 80 years of diplomatic relations this year, and we're celebrating the 25th anniversary of our sister city relationship with Ishikari as well as our future, ongoing relationship," says Mayor Roger McDonell.*



Members of the Campbell River Twinning Society set up a Torii gate at the airport, smaller than the one in Sequoia Park, to welcome Ishikari visitors in June.

*"Twinning between our communities has resulted in numerous cultural, educational and professional exchanges. The Young Ambassadors program has hosted more than 800 exchange students in home-stay programs in both Campbell River and Ishikari," adds Mayor McDonell.*

*"We've also seen increased tourism and anticipate more opportunities over time as we grow closer in this global economy and understanding."*



In February, Mayor Roger McDonell proclaimed 2008 the year to celebrate the sister city relationship between Ishikari and Campbell River. Councillors Andy Adams and Morgan Ostler, twinning society president Dom Bozman and exchange students Maho Yamakawa, Siobhan Baird and Matt Fitzsimmons were part of the event that also lit The Light of Prayer sculpture, a gift from Ishikari.

Campbell River's official delegation will visit Ishikari in September for our sister city's salmon festival. Campbell River residents will be able to join the delegation at their own expense. Watch for an advertisement outlining steps to apply for one of the limited number of seats.

The Ishikari Reserve fund will cover costs associated with the anniversary celebration, including repairing Campbell River's 10th anniversary gift to Ishikari, a Henderson totem. Mayor McDonell has requested the totem be moved indoors once repair work is complete.