



March 23, 2015

Spring blossoms signal travel time for young ambassadors

As the 25 Sakura trees bloom in front of City Hall, the canopy of pink blossoms remind us that spring is here, and it's time for Campbell River Young Ambassadors to visit our Sister City of Ishikari, Japan.

This year during spring break, seven Young Ambassadors, three chaperones and Mayor Andy Adams, will set off to Japan for three days touring the historic temples and sights of Osaka, Nara and Kyoto before arriving in Ishikari, where they will be home-stayed and hosted by the Ishikari International Association for six days and five nights.

As with all Young Ambassador trips, the students, chaperones and the Mayor travel at their own expense and represent Campbell River at various sister city events.

"The 32-year relationship with Ishikari brings countless benefits to our city, including awareness, diversity and the opportunity to experience a vastly different culture," says Mayor Adams, "I am looking forward to visiting with Ishikari's Mayor Taoka and seeing many friends as well as the two Campbell River high school students, Maeve Milligan and Vanessa Harrison, who are currently on the full-year senior exchange in Ishikari."

"We are extremely proud of the fact that we have been able to maintain one of the most successful and recognized sister city relationships between Canada and Japan, with both our great cities fully committed at our continued success," says Campbell River Twinning president, David Armitage. "Having visited Ishikari on numerous occasions, I am envious of the Young Ambassadors and the experiences they will encounter while visiting our sister city."

The 25 cherry blossom trees planted along the walkway at City Hall were a 25th anniversary gift from Ishikari to Campbell River in 2008. In return, a Glen Greensides' chainsaw carving commissioned by the City of Campbell River is on display in the lobby of the Ishikari community centre.

For more information on these programs, and the Twinning Society, go to www.twinningcr.bc.ca.

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