

Burlington Mundialization Committee - Executive Summary

The Mundialization Committee executes its mandate through three subcommittees:

- Itabashi subcommittee
- Apeldoorn subcommittee
- United Nations day subcommittee.

Detailed reports of the activities of each subcommittee are included in this annual report.

The Mundialization Committee had another very successful year in 2016. In addition to the annual celebration of Canada Netherlands Friendship Day and the Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Festival, Burlington was visited by the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums, Apeldoorn Mayor John Berends and 21 Apeldoorn high school students on their travel exchange with Burlington students. The travel exchange was once again a total success with Burlington students going to Apeldoorn in April 2017.

The elementary school pen pal and art exchange programs with Apeldoorn are flourishing with five schools participating in each City. This program continues to grow with great support from teachers and principals

On the cultural front the Committee held the annual Dutch Food and Game night as well as lecture about the life and works of a famous Dutch Painter. There was also a bit of progress on the business front with an Expression of Interest signed by both Mayors during the visit of the Apeldoorn Mayor to pursue economic development between the two cities. A business meeting has been arranged for the Spring in 2017 in Apeldoorn.

The twinning relationship with Apeldoorn is in good shape thanks to the work of our Apeldoorn subcommittee as well as the Apeldoorn -Burlington committee in Apeldoorn and we look forward to a similar slate of activities in 2017. A highlight of 2017 to date was the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and her husband Pieter van Vollenhoven on May 16. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of city staff and the committee, the visit was memorable and enjoyed by all who participated.

Itabashi activities were also very successful with the members of the subcommittee arranging cultural and youth activities throughout the year. The Sakura Festival was well attended in 2016, and the elementary school art exchange culminated in an exhibit at the Art Gallery of Burlington.

Great progress was made with the future Itabashi Park/Garden.

The Itabashi relationship is also firing on all cylinders thanks to our subcommittee and staff at Itabashi City Hall and to that end the Mundialization Committee requests a modification to the city's twinning protocol, approved in 2007. The protocol presently states that after 25 years, official visits will be celebrated every 10 years instead of every 5 years. The Committee would like to request that twinning celebrations continue at 5 year intervals. Not having official contact for 10 years will jeopardize the level of interest and the committee is looking forward to planning for a formal celebration of the 30th anniversary in 2019.

With respect to the work of our United Nations Day subcommittee, it has been outstanding resulting in a very successful Model United Nations 101 event held in October 2016.

The subcommittee was able to attract approximately 100 local high school students to the event. The subcommittee chair is a highly motivated high school teacher who has to be congratulated on her achievements to date as well as her initiatives for 2017 to bring awareness of the United Nations to Burlington youth and to expand Burlington's involvement

We look forward to continue our successes in 2017. Thanks to all Mundialization Committee members, City Council and the clerk's department, for your continued support.

Ed Dorr, Chair, Burlington Mundialization Committee