



# To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning relationship

姉妹都市提携 30 周年によせて

## Message from Ms. Marianne Meed ward, the Mayor of Burlington

The 30th anniversary of the twinning relationship between Burlington and Itabashi comes at a time when building and strengthening international friendships is more important now than ever.

I am proud as Burlington's Mayor to continue this deep bond that began with the signing of the twinning agreement between our two cities on May 12, 1989. It is a beautiful thing to be able to continue to share and celebrate each other's unique cultures and traditions with our own citizens.

Over the past 30 years, we have visited each other's cities through official and citizen delegations, have had an active pen-pal exchange between high school students (that has been ongoing since 2017), a student art exchange that marked its 13th year this year and exchanged several cultural gifts that were significant to both of our cities.

This year's anniversary was extra special for Burlington and for me because we were lucky enough to host Itabashi Mayor Takeshi Sakamoto and the Official Itabashi Delegation in July 2019 during our Canada Day celebrations — and for the official opening of our new Itabashi Garden that was inspired by gardens of the Itabashi area and landscapes in Burlington, including our Niagara Escarpment and some of our native plants.

Thinking back on that visit, we discovered when talking about the issues each of our cities face that we have more in common than we originally thought. It was great to have been able to share ideas with each other on how each of our cities deals with those issues and I look forward to continuing those conversations.

I believe I can say both I and Mayor Sakamoto truly treasure this enduring bond between our two cities and I hope you all can take pride and share in the spirit of friendship that has lasted 30 years and will hopefully continue for 30 more.



Marianne Meed Ward

## Message from Mr. SAKAMOTO Takeshi, the Mayor of Itabashi

On May 12, 1989, the City of Itabashi signed the first-ever Twinning Proclamation with the City of Burlington. Many citizens of Itabashi and Burlington have exchanged lots of interactions and deepened the friendship in the past.

I strongly believe that the Itabashi people has fostered a love for mutual understanding with friends across the border and a love for peace through the interactions with the people of Burlington.

In this year of 2019, we have marked the commemorative 30th anniversary of the Twin-city relationship. I would really like to appreciate the Burling people for the warm reception of the Itabashi people and the continuous cultural exchanges with us.

Burlington created "Itabashi Garden" which combines features of Japan with those of Canada. It was my honour and privilege to be invited to the Official Opening of the Garden and to Canada Day Festival to celebrate the Canadian national foundation together with Itabashi official delegation.

In October this year, we invited the official delegation and citizen group from Burlington and hosted them with hospitality program themed "Look, Experience and Enjoy Itabashi" and fostered further friendship.

We signed the agreement in the common belief that the mutual understanding of the both citizens and deepening friendship among ourselves contribute to build a foundation for world peace. The very supporting force for world peace is the exchanges between the cities and the visible people-to-people contacts like ours. I wish the wonderful twinning relationship continue and prosper for ten, fifty and a hundred years to come.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Mayor, Ms. Marianne Meed Ward, the city office staff, the Mundialization Committee members and all of the citizens of Burlington on this commemorative occasion of the 30th anniversary.



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SAKAMOTO Takeshi