



CITY OF
Burlington

**30TH
ANNIVERSARY**

板橋区
ITABASHI

Contents



🍁 To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning relationship	P 01
🍁 The Cities of Itabashi and Burlington	P 02
🍁 Chronology of the Exchanges	P 04
🍁 Interactions of the Youths	P 06
🍁 Twin Symbols in Itabashi and Burlington	P 08
🍁 The 30th Anniversary of the Twin-city relationship	P 10
🍁 Key Figures and Organizations of the Twinning relation	P 12

Burlington



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.



坂本 健

SAKAMOTO Takeshi

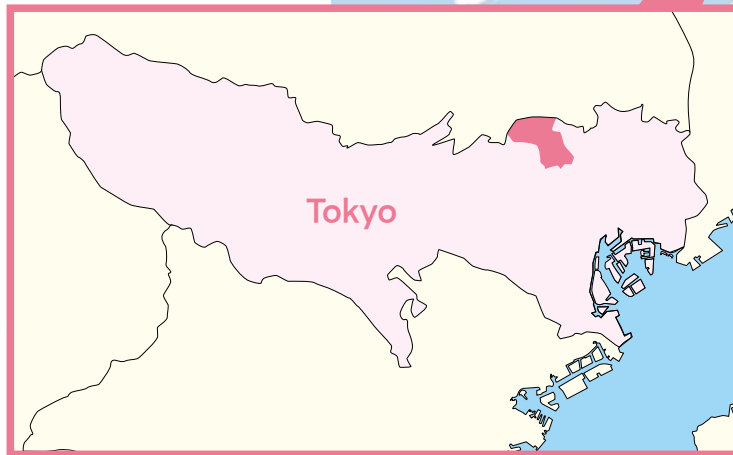
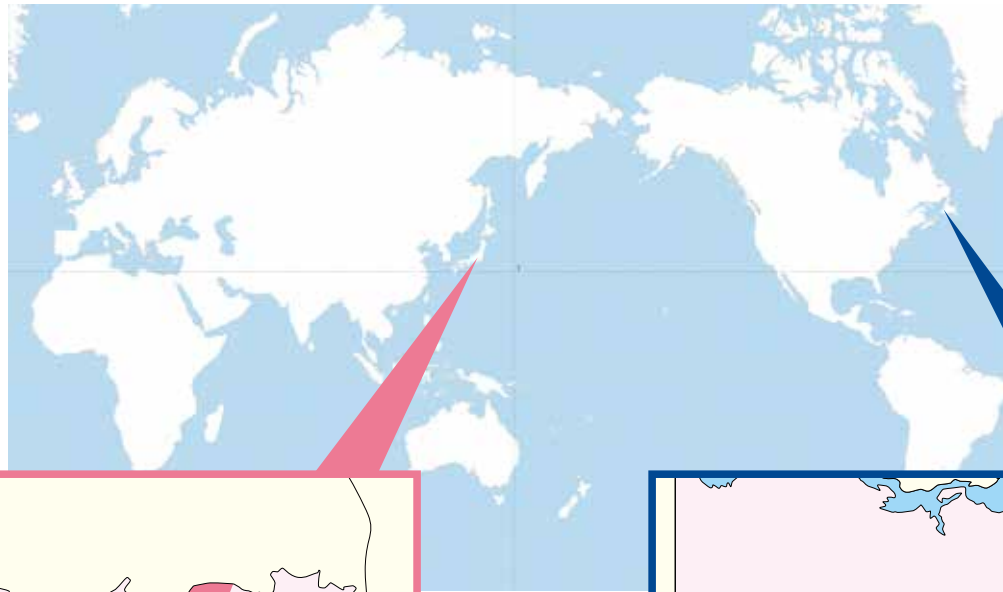
2

Burlington



The Cities of Itabashi & Burlington

板橋区とバーリントン市



Itabashi



Burlington

Itabashi

Burlington

City of Itabashi, Tokyo, Japan

Locations

City of Burlington, Ontario, Canada,
located on the same latitude as Sapporo, Japan
Time difference: 13 hours (14 hours in winter)
ahead in Itabashi, Tokyo

Average temperature for summer 25°C , winter 6°C
It has similar length of each season of spring,
summer, autumn and winter and rarely snows.

Climate

Average temperature for summer 22°C , winter -5°C
It is much cooler than Tokyo in summer and snows
a lot in winter.

Approximately 570 thousands.

Population

Approximately 190 thousands.

Itabashi Fireworks Festival

One of the greatest fireworks festival
in Japan highlighted with “the Great
Niagara Falls” featuring lengthy falls
of firework flows and competitive
launchings of the best masters of
Japanese pyrotechnicians.



Major Event

Sound of Music Festival

One of the most spectacular music festi-
vals in Canada hosted by Burlington
every June. The main site is Spencer Smith
Park facing the Lake Ontario.



Burlington in Itabashi

Burlington Plaza

(inside the JR Itabashi Station
Park)

The Plaza was created in commemo-
ration of the 5th anniversary of the
Twinning relation. A stone named
“Burlington Rock” presented by Bur-
lington is placed side-by-side with map-
le trees and symbolizes the strong bond of
friendship between the cities.



Spots of the association

Itabashi in Burlington

“ITABASHI WAY”

Rows of cherry trees donated by the
Itabashi people are planted along the
way named after Itabashi.





Chronology of the Exchanges

交流年表



Twinning Proclamation "The common belief that the mutual understanding of the both citizens and deepening friendship among themselves contribute to build a foundation for world peace." (May 12, 1989)



Itabashi Matsuri Stall (2004)



Burlington Teen Tour Band visited Itabashi (2009)

1985		Associated with Canada Fair at the Itabashi Festival, exchanging views started between Itabashi City and Canadian Embassy.
1987		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itabashi began researching the possible relationship with information on Burlington City. • The fact-finding teams of the cities made mutual visits for further research.
May 12, 1989	Signed	Itabashi & Burlington signed the Twinning Proclamation in Burlington. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itabashi presented Burlington with a replica of "Peace Memorial Statue".
1990	1st Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor of Burlington and the Burlington Teen Tour Band, consisting of 257 members, visited Itabashi. • Fireworks event was held at the lakeside of the Lake Ontario sponsored by Itabashi • Itabashi citizen group participated in the Sound of Music Festival.
1994	5th Anniversary	Fireworks event was held at the lakeside of the Lake Ontario donated by Itabashi
1996		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Burlington Rock" was donated by Burlington to Itabashi. • Itabashi & Burlington made reciprocal Citizen Tours. • Burlington named "ITABASHI WAY" street.
1997		City of Itabashi presented "Itabashi Bridge" to Burlington.
1999	10th Anniversary	"Burlington Friendship's Clock" was gifted by Burlington to Itabashi
2004	15th Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itabashi official delegation, cultural and citizen group visited Burlington and joined the Sound of Music Festival with "Itabashi Matsuri Stall". • Mr. Taroo ENOMOTO, honorary citizens of Burlington donated Azalea trees to Burlington.
2009	20th Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Burlington Teen Tour Band, consisting of 230 members, visited Itabashi and held concerts including exchanges with Itabashi youths. • Burlington gifted Itabashi with Red Maple tree. • Mr. Kan NAKAZAWA, honorary citizens of Burlington donated Sakura cherry trees to Burlington.
2014	25th Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samurai Armors and Ukiyo-e woodblock prints possessed by Itabashi City were exhibited in Burlington. Introducing Tea ceremony, Ikebana Flower Arrangement and Koto music performance. • Burlington donated Sugar Maple trees to Itabashi. • Students of High schools and Universities in Itabashi visited Burlington and participated in the English lessons as well as home stay program. • Burlington Official Delegation with the citizen group visited Itabashi and joined Japanese traditional festival named "Mori no Nigiwai", in a sacred grove surrounding a forest shrine.
2019	30th Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegation from Burlington joined Itabashi Residents Festival. • Itabashi Garden has been opened in Burlington • Official delegation from Itabashi visited Burlington and participated in the Canada Day Festival. • Itabashi Youth delegation made a homestay tour to Burlington.

※ On every five year commemoration, both cities exchange visits of official delegation, citizen and culture group.



4

Interactions of the Youths

青少年の交流

Itabashi and Burlington have various interactions between the citizens of youths including junior and senior high school students.



Exhibition at Art Gallery of Burlington



Exchanges of art works

The students of Fujimidai Elementary School of Itabashi and Clarksdale Public School of Burlington started the interaction program just after associated with the kite works exchange between the schools in 2007. Since then the art works such as paintings, craft works and calligraphies have been exchanged between the schools of the two cities. The works of Itabashi children are exhibited at Art Gallery of Burlington around May every year and those of Burlington kids are displayed at an Itabashi school or the lobby of Itabashi Culture Hall.

Burlington International Games (B.I.G)

B.I.G. is an international sports game alternately held in Burlington of Canada and that of Vermont State of the US for the youths between 12 to 17 years of age. Itabashi has dispatched such sports teams as selected soccer team and volleyball club members of high schools to the Game four times since 1988 and had good interactions through sports.



Pen pal Program

The both cities introduce pen pals of the same aged children of the two cities and promote correspondence of emails and letters in English. The students of M.M. Robinson High School and Daito Bunka University Dai-ichi High School participated the exchange as a class activity.

English training course and homestay

As a special program of the 25th commemoration of the Twinning relationship, nine students of senior high schools and universities in Itabashi participated in the program. They joined English course, exchanged with host families and joined sightseeing to the Niagara Falls, etc.



Photo exchanges

An amateur photographer's group LATOW of Burlington and the clubs of Itabashi high schools and universities exchanged the works of photographs.

The participants of the two cities took pictures of a common theme such as nature, people and other favorite places in each city on the same day and interacted with each other.



Twin Symbols in Itabashi and Burlington

板橋区とバーリントン市のおそろい

Burlington Friendship Clock

The Burlington Friendship Clock placed in front of the Itabashi City Hall is a gift of Burlington City in commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Twin-city and the replica of the one set in front of Burlington City office. There is thirteen hours difference in time between the cities and two clocks ring the bell at the same time of every hour.



In front of Itabashi City Hall



In front of Burlington City Hall



Courtyard of Burlington City Hall



In front of Itabashi City Hall



"Itabashi Bridge" in Burlington



"Itabashi Bridge" in Itabashi

Peace Memorial Statue

Itabashi donated Burlington the Statue in commemoration of the Twinning Proclamation. The replica of the Statue set in front of the Itabashi City Hall is placed at the courtyard of the Burlington City Hall. They are symbolic twins of the Twin cities seeking for world peace together.

Itabashi Bridge

Itabashi named after its wooden bridge is also seen in Burlington as "Itabashi Bridge".



30th Anniversary of the Twin-city relationship

姉妹都市提携 30 周年記念事業

Participation type event “We ♥ Burlington!”

Itabashi City hosted an event “We ♥ Burlington!” introducing Burlington and Canada extensively on the Entrance Hall of the City Office and roof-top garden (Oct. 15~25). The event included Gallery Mall display of history of exchanges between the two cities, art works exhibition of Burlington children as well as serving Canadian special menu at the restaurant in the City Office as Canada Fair. Prepared various events including experience typed events as below and had many visitors:

Set a message stand for Burlington “Maple Tree Message”, a photo setting with Canadian background making the visitors feel like visiting Canada, workshop “Crafting Dream catcher” a craft workshop making the native Canadian folk craft.



Mutual visits of the official delegations

● Itabashi Official Delegation to Burlington (June 30~July 4)

Courtesy call, attending the Opening ceremony of the Itabashi Garden, Canada Day Ceremony and city tours, etc.



Attended Canada Day commemorative ceremony



Itabashi Garden Opening Ceremony

● Burlington Official Delegation to Itabashi (October 16~20)

Courtesy call, attending Welcome and Tree Planting Ceremonies, participating in the Itabashi Residents Festival, traditional culture experience and city tours, etc.



Maple tree Planting Ceremony at the roof top garden



Participated in Itabashi Residents Festival

Mutual Visits of the Citizen Groups

● Itabashi Youths Group to Burlington (August 14~21)

Ten Itabashi youths between 15 to 23 years old visited Burlington. They exchanged with local people experiencing homestay, attending English lessons, sightseeing to the Niagara Falls and Toronto, visiting Students Theater, etc.



Welcome Ceremony at Burlington City Office



Together with host families

● Burlington Citizen Group to Itabashi (October 17 and 20)

Burlington citizen of sixteen people visited Itabashi. They exchanged with local people through home-stay, home-visit, and city tour including tea ceremony, visiting high school, participating in the Itabashi Residents Festival, etc.



Tea Ceremony at Tokusui-Tei



Joined Awa-Odori dance at the Itabashi Residents Festival

7 Key Figures and Organizations of the Twinning relation



Sakura Cherry trees along the Itabashi Way and Spencer Smith Park were presented by Mr. Kan NAKAZAWA, Honourary citizen of Burlington



The azalea trees in the Paletta Lakefront Park and Itabashi Garden were donated by Mr. Taroo ENOMOTO, Honourary Citizen of Burlington

姉妹都市に関係する人物・機関

Mayors of Itabashi

- Mr. Keizo KURIHARA 1979-1991
- Mr. Teruo ISHIZUKA 1991-2007
- Mr. Takeshi SAKAMOTO 2007-

Itabashi Culture and International Exchange Foundation

Mayors of Burlington

- Mr. Roly Bird 1977-1991
- Mr. Walter Mulkewich 1992-1997
- Mr. Rob MacIsaac 1998-2006

Honourary Citizens of the City of Burlington

- Mr. Keizo KURIHARA the Mayor when the Proclamation was signed
- Mr. Kan NAKAZAWA the Chairman of the City Assembly when the Proclamation was signed
- Mr. Taroo ENOMOTO the person of merit for the long time contribution for Burlington

- Mr. Cam Jackson 2006-2010
- Mr. Rick Goldring 2010-2018
- Ms. Marianne Meed Ward 2018-

Burlington Mundialization Committee

It is a committee consisting of volunteer citizens, Councillor in charge and assisting officer of the City Office created in 1985. The Itabashi subcommittee is in charge of the relations with Itabashi including the Twinning and citizens exchanges. In the event of the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning, Mayor of Itabashi presented the Letter of Appreciation to the three people who made great contributions in fostering the friendly relation.

The persons of merit for the contribution for the City of Itabashi

- Mr. Roly Bird
The Mayor when the Proclamation was signed
- Mr. Ako Matsubayashi
The Chair, Burlington Mundialization and Itabashi Sub-committee when the Proclamation was signed

Logo commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning relationship

Symbolizing friendship between the Cities of Itabashi and Burlington



Logo designed by Burlington



Logo designed by Itabashi

Recipients of the Certificate of Appreciation Commemorating the 30th Anniversary



Mr. Ed Dorr
Chair of Mundialization Committee



Mr. Rob Lyng
Chair of Itabashi Subcommittee



Mr. Chuck Morris
Former Chair of Itabashi Subcommittee