

Latitudes



Duluth Sister Cities
International

MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS & ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT DULUTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

Sunday, November 15, 5–7 PM
First United Methodist Church
(Coppertop Church)

Please join us! A free dinner prepared by the DSCI Board of Directors will be served. (chili, cookies and beverages). The program will feature presentations from several of last year's exchanges:

- Belfast, Ireland; Sister Cities International Youth Conference Delegation
- Technical Visit Delegation
- Open World Delegation
- Ohara-Isumi City Student Exchange

TECHNICAL VISIT TO VÄXJÖ

A delegation of 8 went to Växjö Sept 30 - Oct 8 to learn about their sustainability practices. The delegation included: Mindy Appold, Appold Designs; Josh Christie, Homeland Security & Superior School Board; Natalie Hoff, F.I. Salter; Melissa Kadlec, DSCI; Sarah Kerton, City of Thunder Bay, Community Action Plan Environmental Coordinator; Julie McDonnell, Eco; Eric Schlacks, City of Duluth (representing DEDA); & Jodi Slick, Common Ground Construction.

The visit included various seminars and tours of Växjö's great efforts in sustainability. Some of the

highlights included: visiting a home made of straw bales, city district heating, passive housing complexes, the biomass plant, and various presentations on how Växjö has implemented their practices in the community and how they have succeeded with sustainability. They receive delegations from all over the world for their Technical Visits.



FROM PRESIDENT, GLENN PETERSON & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MELISSA KADLEC

This past summer has been a busy season filled with international delegate visits and local committee activities. In this issue you will get a glimpse of some of these exciting programs. Again this year, we have also had some private visits to our Sister Cities as a result of personal friendships that have developed over the years. This is a hoped for and wonderful byproduct of the more formal Sister City program.

Please mark your calendar for our DSCI membership event on Sunday evening, November 15. There you will hear first hand reports, from delegates to our Sister Cities and to the International Sister City Conference. Come and enjoy the food and informative program. We hope to see you there.

JAPANESE PEACE BELL GARDEN CHALLENGE/MATCHING GRANT

The JPBG Committee is very pleased to announce that the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation is providing us with a \$10,000 challenge/matching grant. In order to receive the grant funding, we must raise \$10,000 by July 2010. A condition of the grant is that a dollar-for-dollar match is required. We are excited for the challenge as this is a great way to double funds to reach our goal for the garden funding! Thank you to all who have already shown your support to the garden. Please remember that a donation made now will be doubled! That is always a good thing! We will continue to keep you informed on the progress of the matching funds.

DSCI RECEIVES AWARD FROM SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

At the 2009 SCI Annual Conference, Duluth Sister Cities International received an award for its partnership with Växjö in the area of sustainability "Innovation: Sustainable Development-Energy". Along with the award, DSCI received \$1,000, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. We were also awarded a 1 year global membership which we gifted to the City of Växjö for their mentorship and collaboration. The \$1,000 award was turned into two \$500 scholarships for the Technical Visit to Växjö. They were awarded to Mindy Appold and Julie McDonnell. As recipients of the scholarships, Mindy and Julie will share with the community presentations about the Technical Visit.

Calendar of Events

Nov. 2-3	Adult Delegation to Thunder Bay – Rededication of Thunder Bay City Hall
Nov. 7	Bus Trip to Russian Art Museum & American Swedish Institute
Nov. 14 – 22	Open World Delegation
Nov. 15	Member/Volunteer Appreciation, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, First Methodist Church (Coppertop Church)
TBD	Medical Exchange
Spring 2010	Nordic Summit
May 14, 2010	Gala Event – “Dancing with the Czars”
May – June 2010	Business Delegation to Petrozavodsk
June – July 2010	Växjö Official Delegation to Duluth
Aug. 2010	Duluth Students to Ohara-Isumi City
Oct. 2010	Petrozavodsk Official Delegation to Duluth
Oct. 2010	Duluth Official Delegation to Ohara-Isumi City

2009 Board of Directors

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WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBER ELLIE ALSPACH

Ellie lives on Park Point and gardens until the frost. She retired a few years ago having spent 15 years as a school counselor. One of her passions is travel. Her interest in the Sister Cities organization began in 1990 when her husband and three others sailed in a regatta on Lake Onega, part of the exchange at that time with sailors in Petrozavodsk.

RECAP OF SUMMER VISITS & EVENTS

YOUTH CONFERENCE BELFAST, IRELAND

The conference this past summer was a marvelous experience. The land around Belfast was green and the city was exceptionally clean. The day usually started with brilliant blue skies, but always brought a little and sometimes a lot of rain. The people of Belfast and the staff at the conference were welcoming, hospitable and caring. The conference was well organized with a good balance of work and play. Queen's University was a contrast between historic and modern. Castle-like buildings with beautiful stone and gleaming wood as well as modern steel and glass shared the same campus. The youth attending the conferences were from all over the US as well as from Ireland and Russia. They were open to new situations, enthusiastic, accepting, and focused. Many lasting friendships were forged during the week.

BELFAST DELEGATES: Kelsey Anderson, Stephanie Davich, Katie Sieger and Chaperones: Jean Anderson and JoAnn Anderson



about City-wide green initiatives from Växjö's Mayor and staff, visited the Växjö Lord Mayor's private estate and attended a locally produced play, met Duluth artist Allison Aune and her children and attended her opening art exhibition in Växjö, toured castles and museums on Oland Island and the city of Kalmar, and met the Swedish-American of the Year, Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey. A wonderful, memorable time was had by all, and our sister city relationship strengthened. Thanks to everyone in Växjö!

VÄXJÖ OFFICIAL DELEGATION

This past August, a delegation of four Duluthians visited Sister City Växjö, Sweden. Adelaide Cline, Shirley Graham, Lois Maine and lead delegate Mike Nordin learned



THUNDER BAY SUMMER VISIT

On June 23-24, Thunder Bay Mayor Lynn Peterson and twelve other delegates representing their city, economic development, medical, university/college, and sports communities exchanged ideas, experiences, and future plans with counterparts in Duluth. Commonalities, good food, scenic tours, new friendships, and discussions on budding aspirations led the group to set a follow-up visit to Thunder Bay on November 2-3. The official visit ended with a Little League Baseball game in which Thunder Bay's Sister City Chair presented Duluth's Mayor Don Ness a USA Baseball hat to draw attention to the 2010 World Junior U19 Baseball Championships to be held in Thunder Bay, July 23-August 1, 2010.



PETROZAVODSK

The hospitality put forth by our Russian hosts was unrivaled, and the food a culinary marvel. The three delegates: Roger Reinert, Jon Niemi, & Yvonne Wakeley, had a whirlwind of activities, one of the most memorable being the Rodnik--a day center for children with special needs, and partaking in the "Day of an Old City--which reminded them of our Renaissance festivals in their reenactment of all aspects of life in century-old Karelia. Jon's summary of his experience in Petro: I travelled around the world to find myself in our own Northland backyard, and that it truly is a

globalized world--we all share common triumphs and challenges, and only by crossing the "borders" can we embrace the future and overcome obstacles by learning from each other.

OPEN WORLD

For the third consecutive year, DSCI was again selected to participate in the Open World Program which is funded by the U.S. Library of Congress. This year's focus will be on social service programs to children and youth with special needs. Delegates from Petrozavodsk will visit Duluth November 14-22, 2009.

MAYOR DON NESS & DELEGATION ATTEND REDEDICATION CEREMONY OF THUNDER BAY'S CITY HALL; NOVEMBER 2-3

An Official Delegation represented the City of Duluth and Duluth Sister Cities International in Thunder Bay to celebrate the recent renovations to their city hall at its rededication ceremony.

Delegates included:

Mayor Don Ness

Mark Branovan, St. Luke's Hospital
Sean Dean, Citon, DSCI Board of Directors

Brian Graff, DSCI Board of Directors
Bruce & Olivia Hansen, DSCI Board of Directors

John Heino, President & CEO, Como Oil & Propane

Melissa Kadlec, DSCI Executive Director

Bob & Valarie Ouellette, Duluth Boat Club

Glenn & Erna Peterson; DSCI Board of Directors

Michael Sawinski

Liz Taylor, DSCI Board of Directors



PEACE BELL RINGING CEREMONY SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

As a kick-off to our 20 year anniversary celebration, the Peace Bell was rung in both Ohara-Isumi City and Duluth on the same day, September 11. Mayor Ness, Councilor Gardner and about 30 others gathered for a reflective time on the 20 years of memories, on a very poignant day, as we shared our vision for world peace and our past accomplishments.



BELL CART

The Japanese Bell Cart has a new home! Thank you to the Duluth International Airport for allowing our Bell cart to be relocated to the airport! It now has great visibility in the main level corridor. A special thanks to Fred Rouse and Blaine Peterson for their efforts in getting the bell cart moved.

OHARA - ISUMI CITY COMMITTEE REPORT

We are looking forward to celebrating 20 years as Sister Cities in 2010. Duluth will be sending a delegation to Japan in October, 2010 to commemorate the anniversary. Be looking for information on a watercolor exchange for elementary students as part of our celebration. A goal for our celebration of the 20 year anniversary is to secure all funding for the Japanese Peace Bell Garden.

The Student Delegation has had a long year's wait, as the student exchange was postponed due to H1N1. They have begun to meet and plan events again. The first event was a Japanese dinner on October 25 which included a demonstration of how to prepare some of the dishes.

THE STUDENT DELEGATION IS LOOKING FOR MORE STUDENTS

Please contact the office or visit the Sister Cities website for an application. We are looking for 5 more 13-15 year olds.

NORDIC SUMMIT STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

As a result of our work with the City of Växjö "the Greenest City in Europe", Duluth has been selected to participate in a Nordic Summit, which will take place in Stockholm in the spring of 2010.

Sister Cities International has invited Mayor Don Ness to a special three-day Nordic Sister Cities Summit on Green Energy in Stockholm, Sweden. The event is organized in

conjunction with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

An exclusive group of 15 U.S. elected officials and private sector leaders and 15 Nordic counterparts will be invited to speak and participate in a summit focusing on green technology and energy. Elected officials will be asked to present their best practices in urban development and energy policy, and draw attention to private sector opportunities at the municipal level. The summit, which will also be webcast live on the internet, will include panel and roundtable discussions focusing on sustainable technology and will aim to bring investors, business leaders, and elected leaders together in meaningful conversations. Congratulations DSCI!

2nd ANNUAL GALA EVENT MAY 8, 2009

Thank you to all who supported our 2nd annual fundraiser "One World, Many Flavors". Just over \$16,000 was raised for DSCI. A special thanks to the committee: Joyce Benson, Val Christiansen, Nicole Corbin, Maureen DeGrio, Laura Doty, Marie Margitan, Susan Poupore, Anita Rouse, Cherie Sawinski, & Photographer Masha Jordan. Thank you to all who donated items for the silent auction as well. We are especially grateful to the City of Thunder Bay and their Sister Cities Association for their sponsorship and generous gift of the evening's entertainment "Ivanka".



DANCING WITH THE CZARS 3rd ANNUAL GALA EVENT

Save the date....May 14, 2010 for the 3rd Annual Gala Fundraiser! We are very excited to announce that next year's event will feature 6 ballroom dancing pairs from the Ballroom Dancing Club "Rhythm" in Petrozavodsk. The event will take place at Greysolon Ballroom. This is sure to be an event you won't want to miss!!



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

*For more information about Duluth
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check our website
www.duluthmnsistercities.org
or call the office at
218-727-8375*

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