



# **Sister City Relationships**



# SisterCities

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

Non-profit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between communities in the United States and other countries, particularly through the establishment of "sister cities".

<http://www.sister-cities.org/>



# Sister Cities International

The organization "strives to build global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development"

Sister Cities International's stated goals are to:

- Develop municipal partnerships between U.S. cities, counties, and states and similar jurisdictions in other nations.
- Provide opportunities for city officials and citizens to experience and explore other cultures through long-term community partnerships.
- Create an atmosphere in which economic and community development can be implemented and strengthened.
- Stimulate environments through which communities will creatively learn, work, and solve problems together through reciprocal cultural, educational, municipal, business, professional and technical exchanges and projects.
- Collaborate with organizations in the United States and other countries which share similar goals

# The Carleton Place Experience

Carleton Place is twinned with

- Comrie, Scotland (1992)
- Franklin, TN, USA (2005)





## Comrie, Scotland

- Comrie relationship was formed in 1992 after suggestion from a Canadian Citizen, originally a Comrie native
- Simultaneous ceremonies were held in both communities to formalize the twinning agreement
- Connection was largely historically based



**Comrie, Scotland**



## **Franklin, Tennessee, USA**

- Franklin relationship was formed in 1995 after suggestion stemming from a ‘Leadership Franklin’ class project
- Goal: “form an organization to enhance leadership in citizens who are positioned to make a difference for Franklin.”



Franklin, Tennessee, USA





BRIDGE ST.

The Bloom Shop

COURTESY X WALK

FOR RENT

FOR RENT

P

COURTESY X WALK

LE GARAGE OPEN

RENTAL OFFICES



# Staff Exchange

- Development Permit
- Recycling Program
- Franklin purchased a fire truck from Carleton Place company Seagrave Fire Apparatus Company





# Municipal Initiatives

- Comrie – Communities in Bloom
  - Village has won Royal Horticultural Society "Large Village Britain in Bloom Winner" in 2007 and 2010
  - Also won a number of awards in the 2009 Beautiful Scotland Campaign, including Best Village and a special award for Continuous Community Involvement



# Municipal Initiatives

- Franklin – Leadership Franklin
  - Carleton Place Municipal Academy
  - 2013 will be 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - Civics 101 Course will cover topics ranging from the role of government, parliamentary procedures, how decisions are made, how annual budget is allotted and how to get involved in community



# Tourism

- Senators/Predators
- Canadian Winter
- Festivals
- Brochures in Visitor Centre
- Hotel Hyatt Place Sister City Rate

*Sister Cities International*



*Town of Carleton Place*

## **Sister City Committee**

- Twinning Committee formed in 1992
- consisted primarily of interested community members and Mayor of that time
- 2005 - staff support and municipal budget of \$2,500
- 2012 no longer required municipal funds



# Community Initiatives

- Special Events
  - Bridge Street Bazaar
  - Wine'd Around Downtown
  - Heritage Ball
- Junior 'A' Canadians Tail Gate Home Opener
- Franklin "PumpkinFest"
- Brea Lawrenson
- Chef Exchange



# Community Initiatives

- **Student Exchange Program**
  - Annual with Franklin
  - Semi-Annual with Comrie





# Relationship with US Embassy

- Attended Sister Cities International conference held at the US Embassy in Ottawa of 2011
- US Ambassador came to tour Sam Bat
- Education Community Outreach Program came to speak to elementary school students about earth day
- American students were invited to Embassy as part of student exchange program in 2012
- Mayor and Chair have been invited to Fourth of July Independence Day Garden Party the last two years
- Representative came to Carleton Place for 'Great Pumpkin' send off – Mentioned on their social media accounts



# How To Start a Sister City Program

- Find a ‘twin’ city with similarities (cultural festivals, industry, geographic influences, etc) so that you can learn from each other and share experiences
- Decide what you would like to get out of the partnership/what you would have to offer them
- Have your Mayor reach out to their Mayor with an expression of interest
- Formalize the agreement through Council
- Form a Committee to steer relationship efforts