

## Hibikaya drummers visit sister city of Great Falls for weekend

Written by Submitted to L.A. Beat

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In collaboration with Lethbridge's authentic Japanese Taiko group, HIBIKIYA, they will be travelling to our Sister City, Great Falls, Montana, April 22-23.

The City of Great Falls is hosting their 38th Annual "Ice Breaker Road Race", an event which, since 2006, members of the Lethbridge Twinning Society have participated in.

"We value, greatly, our established Sister City relations with Timashevsk, Russia, Culver City, California, Towada City, Japan, and our newest 'Sister City', Great Falls, Montana (2014). With this being Canada's 150th anniversary, the Lethbridge Twinning Society is celebrating and wants to share a unique opportunity with the Great Falls community," says Lethbridge Twinning Society President, Harold Pereverseff.

The Lethbridge Twinning Society has been invited by the City of Great Falls, Park and Recreation Department, to the Ice Breaker Road Race, and at the venue, HIBIKIYA will be performing throughout the day.

The performances are being offered free of charge, in the spirit of the Lethbridge community extending the 'hands of friendship' across the United States border. "We are very grateful to have the support of the Canadian Consulate in Denver, Colorado (which oversees Montana) in this extension of 'Sister City' relations with Great Falls," says Pereverseff.

HIBIKIYA, under the direction of sensei, Bryan Pereverseff, is an authentic Japanese Taiko drumming group that performs original Japanese Taiko which has been gifted to them from their sister groups in Lethbridge's "Sister City", Towada City, Japan.

HIBIKIYA is affiliated with and supported by the Southern Alberta Taiko Society.

The Great Falls participation is actually a troika of Sister City relations (Lethbridge, Towada City, Japan, and Great Falls, Montana), and is a unique way of celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary while building meaningful relations between the Lethbridge and the Great Falls communities.

—□ *Submitted*