

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ako Matsubayashi recognized as Tourism Burlington's Ambassador Award Recipient

BURLINGTON, April 9, 2010 - Ako Matsubayashi of City of Burlington's Mundialization Committee was recognized last evening at the Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Gala by **Tourism Burlington** as the **2009 Tourism Ambassador Award Recipient**.

Tourism Burlington congratulates and applauds the efforts of Ako Matsubayashi for his extensive contributions to tourism in Burlington. Ako has been an active member of the Burlington Mundialization Committee for almost 19 years. He has been the chair of the Itabashi Sub-committee for much of this time and also Vice chair and Chair of the Burlington Mundialization Committee. He has been an inspirational leader, helping to foster strong international relations between Burlington and its twin cities. In particular, Ako has championed the relationship with Itabashi, Japan.

Ako played a major role in the creation of the twinning relationship between Burlington and Itabashi in 1989. Last fall the 20th anniversary was celebrated through a visit by a delegation of over 40 Itabashi officials, citizens and a Taiko drummer band. Due to the strong relationships built between the cities, almost every year groups of 20 or more come to visit us. There is no doubt that this relationship has been of great benefit to Burlington through the many annual visitors as well as the information and cultural exchanges and the many lasting friendships that have been formed.

The Tourism Burlington Ambassador Award, sponsored by Burlington Hotel Association, recognizes an individual or group who has made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of Burlington as a tourism destination, which has had a significant impact on visitation to the city. The recipient has contributed over a prolonged period of time in primarily a volunteer capacity, has demonstrated leadership, professionalism and integrity, established a strong legacy and shown dedication to customer service and regularly goes above and beyond to contribute to the success of the event, service or business for which they represent.

Tourism Burlington is the destination management organization for Burlington and operates a Visitor Centre that is open 7 days a week at 414 Locust Street just minutes from our beautiful waterfront. Contact www.tourismburlington.com for more information or call 905-634-5594.

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