

NIKKEL IMAGES



Powell Street, ca.1936. Canadian Centennial Project fonds. JCNM 2010.23



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Powell Street, c.1936

Canadian Centennial Project fonds. JCNM 2010.23

According to the photographic caption, these young girls were dressed for a Buddhist Church Festival. However, the numerous flags and banners decorating the street and car indicate a potentially larger occasion. In 1936, Vancouver was celebrating its 50th Birthday, known as the Golden Jubilee. Many special events took place, including a huge Dominion Day parade on May 24th which marked the official opening of the year-long celebrations. Many community groups participated in the parade - were these girls included? Other major events included the opening of the new City Hall, a Chinese Carnival Village in Chinatown, a large Boy Scout rally, a replica “Indian Village” at Lumberman’s Arch, and of course, a huge and very beautiful, 4-tiered birthday cake.

This image was collected in the mid 1970s from Mr Nishimura to be used in the Dream of Riches Exhibition. In 2010, it will also be used to celebrate the Open Doors Project - a collaboration between the Powell Street Festival and the Japanese Canadian National Museum. During the 34th annual festival, we are inviting current building occupants along the 300 and 400 block of Powell Street to open their doors to the public to highlight the area’s varied street life and, in particular, the Japanese Canadian presence through history. Funded by the City of Vancouver, this project will showcase this historic neighbourhood’s past and present with the addition of descriptive panels located on several storefronts and businesses. We hope these panels can become permanent in the future. The Museum will also continue to offer several Historical Walking Tours each day, and will incorporate many of these building in the tours.

Celebrating our National Heritage

by Beth Carter

The Japanese Canadian National Museum started as a dream in the mid 1990s to create a central resource to collect, preserve and make accessible archives and artifacts related to Japanese Canadian heritage.

Starting with oral history interviews and lots of legwork, dedicated volunteers slowly gathered materials relating to Japanese Canadian history in Vancouver and the rest of Canada. Sometimes, they were saving this information from being thrown in the trash bin! With few resources, and only a small work space with limited storage, they persevered because they knew that this information was important, and might soon disappear. After moving into the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre in 2000, the museum was able to expand more quickly. Currently the collection includes more than 4000 photographs, 350 oral history recordings, over 50 metres of archival and textual materials, and over 1000 artifacts.

As the Museum (and the Heritage Centre) celebrates its 10th Anniversary at Nikkei Place, maybe it's time to ponder what it means to be a "national" museum. We are certainly not part of the National Museum of Canada. Instead, we are a self-supporting, community based organization, which means we do not receive core operating funds from any level of government.

In a recent survey, we were sad to learn that only half of the respondents felt we were living up to our national museum status. Many people felt we were too small, and our west coast location prevented access to our collections and resources. The good news is - the Museum is growing. We are working on developing some partnerships with other Japanese Canadian organizations across the country, and because our facility is the only museum and archives directly representing Japanese Canadians, we are a first point of contact for researchers across Canada and around the world.

I am also pleased to announce a significant new project, that in this digital age will allow researchers to have increased accessibility, and community members to find essential family information in the collections. With the assistance of a grant from the Irving K Barber BC History Digitization Project, over the next six months the Museum will digitize 2000 photographs and 500 artifacts and make them available through our website.

The photographs range in date from early settlements and fishing communities, through the internment years, and through the important redress movement of the 1970s and 1980s. Most of the early photographs are black and white, although there are a few colour images from the 1960s onward. This important resource is in great demand with researchers, both scholars and community members.

Overall, this project will allow us to showcase this important collection on-line, to provide accessibility to the Japanese Canadian community, and to increase our collective knowledge and ability to distribute information on the history and contributions of Japanese Canadians to all Canadians. And last, but not least, I hope this project will have a huge and immediate impact on our ability to act as your NATIONAL museum.

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Editorial Committee:

Beth Carter; Stanley Fukawa, Grace Hama, Frank Kamiya, Kaye Kishibe, Linda Reid, Edzard Teubert, Mitsuo Yesaki, Carl Yokota

Editorial Design:

Kaori Ide

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NNMHC
6688 Southoaks Crescent,
Burnaby, B.C., V5E 4M7
Canada
tel: (604) 777-7000
fax: (604) 777-7001
jcnm@nikkeiplace.org
www.jcnm.ca
www.nikkeiimages.com

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We have returned from an incredible trip with memories to sustain us in our work and daily lives! About a year ago, I learned of an upcoming exhibition in Korea when a national “Call for Entry” was put out to artists throughout Canada. I was successful through the jurying process and was accepted to be one of 211 artists in the Canada Exhibit in Cheongju, Korea.

So, my friend, Shirley Inoue and I had an opportunity that we couldn’t turn down - a Korean adventure with artists, arts administrators/organizers from across Canada to attend the Sixth Cheongju Craft Biennale... definitely a trip of one’s lifetime. Sixty people in two busloads eagerly set off on a 14-day quest to gain insight into Korean culture. Joyce Lui of Mimi Holidays, Richmond, B.C. prepared a broad range of programs which included visits to national museums, galleries, artist’s studios and partaking in the culinary arts. We not only ate Korean cuisine but also tried our hand in a cooking class to prepare “*bimbimbap*” or Stone Bowl Rice that seemed much like a spicy Japanese *donburi*. Of course much Kimchi was consumed with every single meal.

It would take pages to describe details of the exquisite treasures in the National Museums, Folk Museums - the Namdaemun

Architectural detail on Gyeongbokgung Palace, 2009. (Y. Wakabayashi photo)



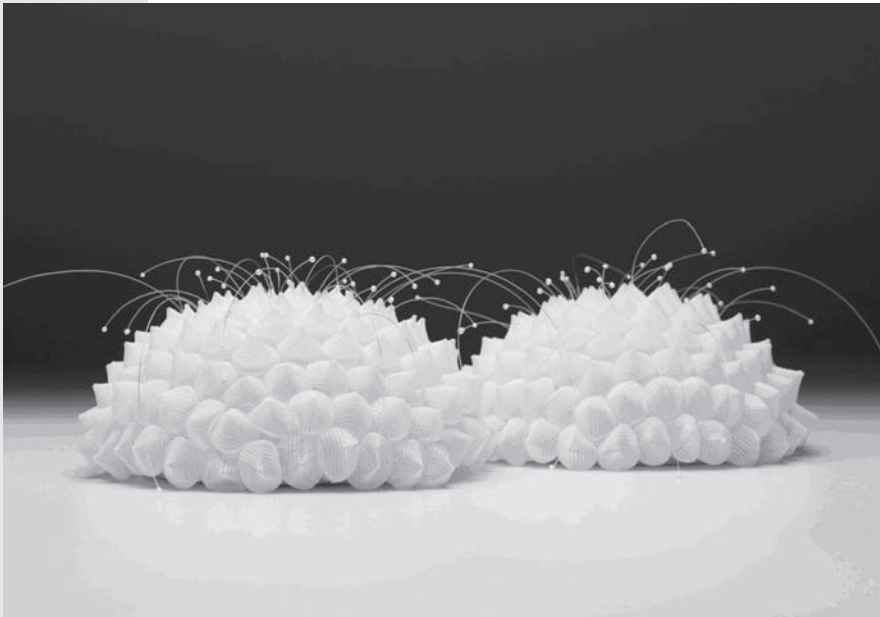
Canadian Delegates at the Mayor’s Reception in Cheongju, Korea (Y. Wakabayashi photo)

and Myungdong Markets with its indoor/outdoor vendors selling a multitude of souvenirs and wholesale items to tempt us, the historical Gyeongbokgung and Changdeokgung palace tours; and an elaborate dinner on a Han River Cruise complete with fireworks for the finale. At a more relaxed pace, we shopped on the famous Insadong Street in Seoul; we found ourselves going to the bank machines often as the shopping was so enticing and affordable. But the main purpose of this trip was the official opening of the Canada Exhibit. Yes, I felt very proud and privileged to be Canadian, participating as part of the guest country delegation in this huge and prestigious international

venue. The Symposium speakers, who offered thought-provoking topics including, “Re-defining Contemporary Crafts” complemented this event on the global level. The major theme of this Biennale event entitled, “Outside the Box,” was also discussed by academics. The fully packed symposium ended with final words on the “Future of Craft, Art and Design.” Korea has in this decade stepped up to look at arts and crafts from all corners of the world to build relationships to exchange ideas and to move forward from a tradition-based perception to a more contemporary aesthetic. The Biennale started in 2001 and continues to be the largest event of its kind in the world.

A Cultural Trip to Korea

by Yvonne Wakabayashi



Yvonne Wakabayashi,
Gunma Silk Sea Forms, 2009
(Y. Wakabayashi photo)

With three huge buildings plus the Canada Pavilion brimming with the works of international artists, it took more time than we allowed to linger and thoroughly read, digest and understand each artist's statement. Thank goodness there were catalogues that helped to describe those items we missed in our haste to get back to the bus on time. We did not want to be the last ones on the bus to avoid getting "that glare."

Our attention was on the Canada Pavilion, which was the main focus of the whole trip. This exhibition included all mediums including glass, metal, clay, wood, and fibre. Ten provincial Craft Councils from the west coast to the east coast including Yukon and the Northwest Territories organized the jurying and provincial selections. The final exhibit was further juried by curator Dr. Sandra Alföldy, Professor of Craft History from the Nova Scotia University of Art and Design. Her goal was to investigate "if" there

was a "uniqueness or unified theme in today's contemporary Canadian craft". Her conclusion is evident in the title chosen for this exhibition called "Unity and Diversity". She created a narrative using themes which lead you through the gallery in an orderly tour of the massive body of 211 art pieces.

Quoted from "Unity and Diversity" catalogue and written by the Art Director, Ihnbun, Lee....

"These (7) sub-themes gather various issues explored by different artworks and it is like a landscape painting of contemporary Canadian craft. Among the works in the 'Water', 'Land', 'Contact', and 'Flora and Fauna' themes clearly show how Canadian craftspeople harmonize their powerful process with the natural environments. Artist in the 'Arrivals' and 'Myth and Metaphor' sections show their responses to Canadian politics, society, economy, culture, history, myths and history of religions. On the other hand, artists in the 'Departures' section

illustrate their attempts to pioneer a new area of craft by stepping further from traditional materials and techniques."

The Unity and Diversity exhibit was recently on display at the Museum of Vancouver, along with two other amazing craft exhibits. I was honoured to participate and would like to share with the reader, the following as my artist's statement for the exhibition:

"My inspiration comes from living close to the water's edge on the west coast of British Columbia. I am moved to recreate the delicate beauty and fragility of our living sea. Japanese Gunma silk, in danger of becoming a lost tradition, connects me to my cultural heritage. These sculptural forms are made by the Japanese *shibori* process of wrapping/typing/binding; an attempt to fuse the diversity of the two cultures of east and west."



The Name of the



By Stan Fukawa

On the 21 Aug, 2009 Brian Eida was invited to the Richmond Cultural Centre as an honoured guest of the City of Richmond to unveil the statue of the famous horse named after his father, Minoru Eida. Minoru, the horse, won the 1909 Epsom Derby and instantly became famous throughout the British Empire, especially as he ran under the King's colours. The race-track that opened in Richmond that same year was named Minoru Park after the horse - a racetrack long gone - but leaving the horse's name to the Park and a Boulevard.

The story of the Richmond connection has already been recounted in *Nikkei Images* (Summer 2006) by Jack Lowe who discovered that the father of Minoru

Tassa Eida.. The antique-dealer history of Kuitert's Saburo Ida matches Brian Eida's description of Tassa Eida in Mrs. Nishimura's notes as "not a gardener but a Japanese antique dealer."

More evidence on his grandfather's name has come from Brian himself who took the time to go through the family papers to locate, copy and send two legal documents – a marriage certificate and a death certificate. They show his grandfather as Saburo Eida. The marriage certificate states that Saburo's father, Kassou, was a medical doctor and that Minoru's mother was not Margaret as earlier reported but was Clara Florence Alice Nairn. The report of Tassa's death in 1911 was made by his father-in-law, Charles Nairn, who gave his son-in-law's occupation as "gardener" – meaning he did not go back to antiques after

Father of the Boy Minoru

the boy was known as Tassa Eida, a strange name for a Japanese and one that aroused this writer's curiosity. When I had the opportunity on Aug. 21, I mentioned to Brian that "Tassa" was more likely to be a nickname for his grandfather and that he probably had a more formal Japanese name. Brian kindly offered to look for papers that might shed light on this question and to send them to me.

In the notes accompanying the Lowe article, Sakuya Nishimura, a frequent contributor to *Nikkei Images*, found Japanese sources which state that there was a "Saburo Iida" (double "i") who completed the famous garden in Kildare, Ireland in 1910 with his son Minoru. This name is much more plausibly Japanese. Tassa Eida seemed to really be Saburo Iida.

A recent history of the Japanese gardens in Shepherd's Bush (1910) and Clingendael (c. 1915) by Wybe Kuitert in 2003 identifies a Saburo Ida (single "i") who arrived in England in the 1880s, successfully importing antiques and bonsai for a while before going bankrupt, whereupon he took up gardening and seems most likely the man mentioned by others as

leaving Kildare in 1910.

Masato Saito, the horse-race columnist for the *Weekly Asahi* magazine in Japan, visited with Brian and using perhaps the same documents as a guide, visited the Foreign Ministry's Library of Diplomatic Relations in Tokyo and ascertained that Saburo Iida had left Japan for England in 1893 and that his father, Keishuu, had a medical practice in Yokohama.

The misspelling of Iida as Eida occurs in both certificates and may be one that was adopted by Iida early in his stay in Britain. It may have arisen due to a misspelling of the name by a customs and immigration official, a mistake often easier to continue than to correct. Minoru became an engineer in London and fathered seven children. Brian also became an engineer.

The Japanese garden in Kildare, Ireland, attributed to "the Japanese Eida and son Minoru" claims to be "the finest Japanese garden in Europe," "one of the most loved gardens in Ireland" and is visited annually by 150,000 people.

PHOTO: Photo of the statue of the horse, Minoru, sculpted by Sergei Traschenko and flanked on the left by Brian Eida and on the right by Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie (S. Fukawa photo)

Grandfather Kenjiro

by Laurie Dinsmore

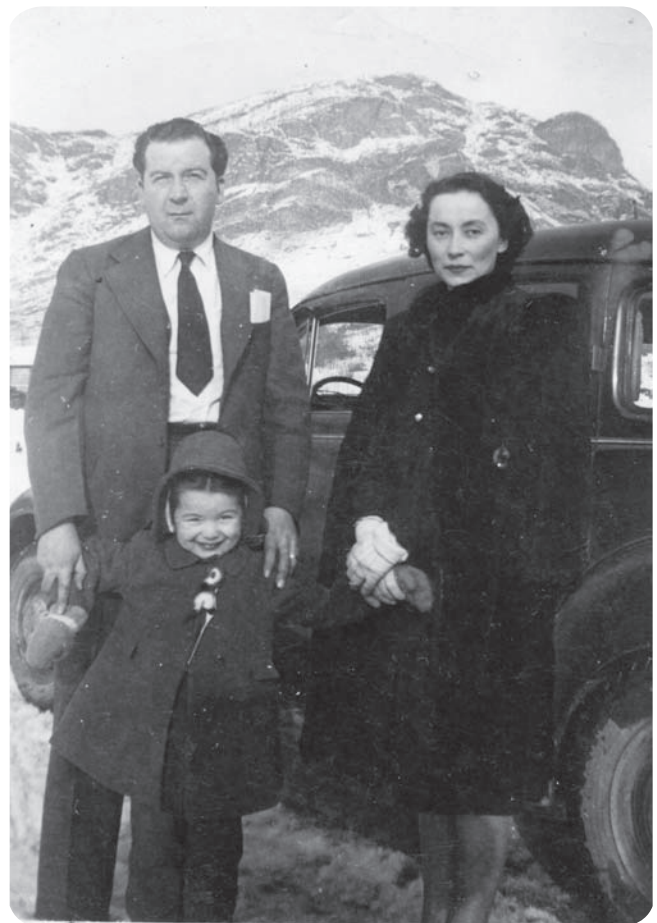
My grandfather on my mother's side, Kenjiro Okada, was born in Shiga-ken, Gamo-gun, Japan in 1886. After completing his high school education, he left his parents, two younger sisters and one younger brother and sailed for Canada. He arrived in Canada in 1907 and made his home in Vancouver, British Columbia. In the same year back in Japan, his sister Yasu married and had one daughter.

Not long after arriving in Vancouver in 1911, he married Beatrice Ballard, a Scottish woman who had recently arrived in Canada from Glasgow, Scotland. According to the 1911 Canada Census, Kenjiro was working at a Canadian Pacific Railway hotel. In 1912 their only son, Graham, was born in Vancouver and Kenjiro's mother died in Japan. Two years later in 1914, Kenjiro's sister Yasu died.

Kenjiro and Beatrice's only daughter, Annette, was born in Vancouver in 1915. At that time Kenjiro was working as a merchant. My grandfather grew very fond of Canada and wanted to remain in his newfound home,



Kenjiro's wife Beatrice Ballard in Scotland, ca. 1900. (Dinsmore Family photo)



Aubrey, Laurie and Annette, British Columbia, ca. 1946 (Dinsmore Family photo)

so in 1916 he became a naturalized citizen. That same year in Japan, Kenjiro's unmarried sister, Muna, died at the age of 19.

Annette (my mother) said that her father's parents were heartbroken when they learned that their son did not plan on returning to Japan. My mother said that her father's trip to Canada was supposed to be just a holiday reward for finishing his higher education.

My mother had memories of visiting the hardware store in downtown Vancouver that her father owned. Grandfather probably was in the hardware business from about 1915 until 1926. He enjoyed this business and went on buying trips to the United States in 1919 and 1920. He travelled as far away as New York. Unfortunately due to extending too much credit to his customers, this business failed. After that, he worked for many years as a bookkeeper for a private organization. In 1928 back in Japan, his sister Yasu's only daughter Tetsu died.

In the early 1930s my grandfather legally changed his name to Kenjiro Ballard. He was usually called Ken. Kenjiro's only brother Tominosuke married in 1930 and died in 1935 leaving no children. Perhaps the reason for my grandfather's name change had something to do with his family's land in Japan and inheritance issues.

Grandfather was one of the teachers at S-20, the Canadian Army Japanese Language School, Pacific Command.

Roy Ito's book, *We Went to War*, describes S-20, "as a unit of the Canadian Intelligence Corps," (p. 212). "The school opened in August 1943 and graduated five classes, the last one leaving in June 1946," (p. 213). Grandfather is in a picture of the staff at S-20 on page 220.

I had the privilege of talking to two of my grandfather's students. One student, a member of the last graduating class of June 1946, mentioned that my grandfather was a most interesting teacher and that he handed out lessons in his own handwriting. He also said that my grandfather taught the most advanced class at S-20. The other student, Denise Church, kindly gave me many photos of her time at S-20 at Ambleside Camp. S-20 first opened in Vancouver and then on November 15, 1945 moved to Ambleside Camp in West Vancouver (p. 228). The camp was situated almost under the First Narrows Bridge (more common-



S-20 Japanese Language school.
Kenjiro Ballard teacher, ca. 1946
photo courtesy of Denise Church
(Dinsmore Family photo)

ly called the Lion's Gate Bridge). Ambleside Park still exists today. The views of English Bay and Burrard Inlet from the windswept shore are picture-perfect.

Kenjiro's son, Graham, joined the Canadian Army and was sent for training near Barrie, Ontario. The war ended before Graham was sent overseas. After the war, Graham worked in the flooring industry and was a cost estimator at the time of his untimely death at age 50.

Kenjiro's daughter, Annette, was a legal secretary until her marriage in 1936 to Aubrey Dinsmore. After marrying, Annette spent her time at home devoted to her husband and only daughter.

I was born in Vancouver in 1943 and remember wonderful visits with grandmother Beatrice and grandfather Kenjiro at their home on East 21st Avenue in the Grandview Heights area of Vancouver. Grandfather was a wonderful gardener and had an immaculate yard. The grass and flowers were beautiful. I remember that along the wooden walk from the street to their front door were planted a thick row of plants with small pink flowers called thrift. In the back yard he had wonderful Cuthbert raspberries, black and red currant bushes, a gooseberry bush and various other plants that at the time I wasn't too interested in. I was mostly interested in the raspberries which my mother and I would go over to pick when grandfather said they were ready. They were the best raspberries I'd ever tasted.

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In the winter time, grandfather would build me a snow slide. He'd pile the snow up high and build steps at the back and hold the sled until I climbed up. Then he'd give me a push and down I'd go. I probably wasn't going to school at that time and I remember mother asking dad to watch me because she was terrified that I'd fall. She'd let me have a few slides and then she'd say "enough for today!"

Grandfather and grandmother continued to live at their Vancouver home during the war because Japanese in mixed marriage relationships were granted a special permit from the Minister of Justice in Ottawa. From the April 17, 1943 issue of the VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE (page 3) "Japanese associated with whites through mixed marriage account for a majority of the total of 54 Japanese who have been granted a special permit to remain in vital defense areas of British Columbia"

In his retirement, my grandfather liked going to the races at Exhibition Park. Grandfather continued to enjoy gardening as well as his beloved dog, Mickie. The yard of his home was always immaculate.

In 1970 at the age of 84 years, Kenjiro returned to Japan for a short visit on the occasion of the Japan World Exposition in Osaka. He was warmly welcomed by relatives in Japan. He visited his childhood home in Omihachiman. His childhood home was still occupied by his relatives. At the back of his old home, his relatives had constructed an additional building that was a factory that made clothes for foreign dolls. Grandfather visited the Todaiji Temple in Nara, the Amagase Dam at Uji in Kyoto and Hikone Castle at the shores of Lake Biwa (Biwa-ko) among other places. Grandfather enjoyed his trip very much and was hoping to return again when he was 90. However, he never made that second trip.

Grandfather passed away in 1981, over 11 years after my grandmother Beatrice passed away. Their son Graham, my uncle, passed away in 1963 and my mother in 2001. I am Kenjiro Okada Ballard's only grandchild and was happy to be able to have his name placed among the names on the Windows To The Future at the National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Centre. I graduated from UBC with a B.Sc. and M.A. degrees and am now retired from a full-time career of teaching senior high school mathematics.

Jordan Kitagawa

by Landon Kitagawa



Jordan in action
UBC vs. Cap College - 2009

This verse from the Bible is not only a favorite of Jordan Kitagawa's; it is also a firm belief. On the one hand it represents her strong Christian faith. On the other hand, it expresses the attitude that has propelled her to her current place as an accomplished soccer player playing for the 2009 National Bronze Medallist UBC Thunderbirds Varsity women's soccer team. Jordan is known to be a fierce competitor and loyal teammate who also leads off the field by ensuring that teams learn to work well together.

Where many accomplished athletes start their chosen sports at a young age and begin to relinquish all other activities in order to focus their efforts, Jordan was fortunate in being able to do many

things. Born in 1991, the daughter of Landon and Karen Kitagawa and the grand-daughter of Tosh and Mary Kitagawa, Jordan was always noticeable. Whether she was running around sports fields, singing in elementary school concerts or hanging out with her friends, Jordan stood out.

She had the advantage of growing up in a great community in Tsawwassen, B.C. This small community provided a safe environment with lots of choices for activities. She had a natural aptitude for school, winning the top academic award in elementary school and continuing to carry a 4.0 grade point average through high school.

Throughout her life, Jordan was always a busy girl. She started swimming with the Boundary Bay Bluebacks and through that discovered triathlon. In her age group, Jordan won the Qualicum Beach Triathlon and was on the podium in four other races. Even at this early age, Jordan was showing her athleticism, particularly her speed.

Her first real love though was softball. Playing minor softball in Tsawwassen, Jordan showed her tenacity and skill when she was called up to play with girls two years older in a Provincial Championship. Not only did Jordan play, she started as catcher! From there, Jordan was selected to play for the Delta Heat '91 Rep "A" Fastpitch team which represented the best players from the three Delta communities.

For seven years, Jordan started for the Delta Heat '91 playing both shortstop and catcher. She was fortunate to have been coached by a terrific mentor in Colleen Moffatt, who had represented Canada as a

pitcher. Jordan usually was the lead-off batter who was expected to use her bat and speed to get on base.

Preparation for softball was intense, with training year round and during the season, more than 5 sessions per week. The payoff though was a fantastic team environment where Jordan was taught the value of teammates, sportsmanship and will to win. Her Delta Heat '91 team travelled extensively, winning tournaments in B.C., Washington State (including a State Championship), Oregon, Nevada and Colorado. In 2005, her team won the Western Canadian Championships in Saskatchewan.

Individually, Jordan excelled in the environment of this team. She continued to develop her softball and competitive skills, and was selected to start at 2nd base for the 2003 BC Summer Games Gold Medalist. In 2007, Jordan was selected to be part of Team B.C.'s "top 21" program, identifying her as one of the top 21 Softball players in B.C.

Jordan is also talented in the arts. She loved to sing and perform and took leads in almost every group, choir or concert right up to Grade 10 in school and at church. She was chosen to be one of the kids featured in a kid's dance/fitness series that was played within schools and on public television across the country called "Energy Blasts."

One of her proudest performance moments though was being asked to be a part of a feature on her great grandmother, Kimiko Okano Murakami. "Mother Tongue" is a Canadian television series dedicated to exploring women's roles in ethnic Canada. "Kimiko Murakami:

Triumph Over Internment" chronicles how Jordan's great grandmother ensured the survival and success of her family despite the horrific conditions of World War II internment. Jordan loved being asked to be a part of the filming including speaking parts. It enabled her to honour her great grandmother while showing her passion as a Japanese Canadian girl.

Her next real love in sports was volleyball. Beginning in Grade 8, Jordan played high school volleyball for her high school, South Delta Secondary School. Early in her volleyball life, she was able to play most positions but as the other girls grew taller, she focused more on defensive roles. She also played club volleyball for Big Kahuna Volleyball. She stood out in both settings, starting in the defensive role of lebaro which required her to throw her body all over the court to keep the ball in play. During volleyball season, the skin on her arms and in particular her hips were constantly sacrificed to the volleyball floor.

Ironically, early on in her athletic career, soccer was just a pastime. In fact, up to Grade 8, soccer was an off-season sport she enjoyed that kept her busy, fit and in shape. As a result of this, Jordan continued to play in the community at the Gold level even when she was offered positions to play at higher levels. Her coach at the time, Jeff Irving, was instrumental in ensuring that his teams always had a great balance of camaraderie and fun while still playing excellent soccer. In fact, her club team the Tsawwassen Xtreme, won the 2007 Provincial Championships when Jordan was

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the leading scorer.

The turning point for Jordan was being recognized by her high school coach Stephen Burns. Burns, a former professional soccer player with the Vancouver 86'ers, selected her to play as a Grade 9 student on his South Delta Sun Devils Senior Girls' soccer team. Although Jordan played midfield with her club team, Burns identified her potential as a defender and started her with girls four years older and significantly bigger. That season, Jordan showed her value from day one when she was identified as the best player on the pitch, a theme that was repeated a number of times that season and multiple selections as game MVP in tournaments. All of this as a Grade 9 student!

She continued to start each year through Grade 11, as a shut-down defender charged with marking the other team's best player out of the game. Her trademarks are her speed, her ability to head the ball and aggressiveness. Burns commented that "no one" beats Jordan to the ball. While many girls did not like to head the ball, Jordan comes out of a crowd and out leaps all players to bash the ball away. Jeff Irving often said Jordan attacks other players like she was a 300-pounder despite the fact she is smaller.

In Grade 11, Burns identified that his team needed to score. While Jordan had only played striker (the forward scoring position) at the Provincial Championships the previous summer, he decided to

move Jordan from being the heart of defence to become the engine of the team's offense. Alternating between midfield and striker, Jordan used a combination of her aggressiveness, speed and skill to lead the Sun Devils in scoring during the regular season.

South Delta was a very young team with one grade 8 and three



grade 9 students and only four seniors. They won the Delta and finished second in the Fraser Valley zones, which was disappointing but only stiffened the team's resolve to do something special at the BC AAA (largest schools) Secondary School Provincials. Jordan maintained her scoring touch and was counted on to play various positions depending on the opponent and the game situation.

Despite an opening round 2-1 loss to Kitsilano, the Sun Devils still had the opportunity to advance. They would have to win both their

final pool games and get some help. They beat both Burnaby South (3-1) and Reynolds Secondary (2-1). Jordan was a force in all of the games, scoring two goals each in the last two games. The team's performance was enough to qualify them for the Provincial final four.

The semi-final was a very physical game against an older and much larger South Kamloops team. Jordan was asked to play defence to control the bigger, offensively minded South Kamloops team. Throughout the game, South Kamloops pressed but Jordan and the rest of the backline held fast. The plucky Sun Devils managed a counter attack goal and hung on to win 1-0 and reach the final.

There were a lot of people on hand to watch the final vs. Handsworth. In addition to the crowd, coaches from UBC, UVic and many of the lower mainland colleges were there to watch Jordan. Many felt that South Delta was the underdog. The Sun Devils opened up fast and pushed hard. Jordan headed the ball straight up at the 18-yard line and then followed it aggressively to push in their first goal.

Later in the 1st half, Jordan, who had been taking all penalty kicks, caused Handsworth to take a foul just outside the right side of the penalty area. Jordan, a natural right-footed player, was asked to take the penalty kick with her left and put it into the box. She hit the ball perfectly, bending the ball left to right and curling it into the left

corner of the goal for a 2-0 lead.

In the second half, Handsworth stormed back very late to get within one goal and finally tie the game. After two scoreless overtime periods and with a Provincial banner at stake, Jordan and her teammates would have to prevail on penalty kicks. With South Delta going first, both teams traded goals and misses until the last players. Jordan was last for South Delta and she kicked a perfect penalty that hit the inside of the left post and went in. After a fantastic stop by the Sun Devils' goalkeeper, the Sun Devils were named 2008 AAA Secondary School Girls Soccer Champions. For her efforts, Jordan was named Provincial Tournament MVP.

Throughout the summer, Jordan was asked to play Pacific Coast League soccer for Surrey United. They had a good run and made the semi-finals before bowing out to the eventual league champions. Jordan began to be contacted by universities and colleges in both the US and Canada.

Beginning her Grade 12 year, Jordan had clearly made her decision to pursue soccer. She gave up softball and a team that she loved, to focus her efforts on soccer, playing Women's Premier in Richmond and club soccer with her Tsawwassen team. During the Canadian Intra-University Sport (CIS) National Women's Soccer Championships in Langley, Jordan was interviewed by 6 schools.

From Canada, Jordan was pursued by UBC, UVic, Toronto,

Queen's, Western, York, Ottawa, Manitoba, McGill and Dalhousie. From the US, Jordan had interest from NC State, Tulsa, Seattle Pacific, Vermont, MIT, Brandeis, Biola and others. Early in the spring, Jordan was asked to visit US and Canadian schools to discuss offers of scholarships. It was at this time, she decided to stay close to home.



Jordan and Baachan, 1997

She chose the University of British Columbia and become a UBC Thunderbird.

The rest of her high school soccer season ended up being quite difficult. An ankle injury in the exhibition season kept Jordan off the field until the Provincial Championships. She was not completely healed, but despite the injury and not having played for months, Jordan was the most dangerous person on the team and led them to a fourth place finish in Provincials.

Upon graduation, Jordan was

awarded scholarships from UBC (athletic and academic), the BC Soccer Association, BC Secondary School Sports, Tsawwassen Minor Softball, Tsawwassen Soccer Club and the Greater Vancouver Japanese Citizen's Society. After graduation, she began to turn her attention to her university team and trained hard throughout July. Her

goal entering training camp in August was to win a starting spot on the team, despite the fact freshmen played little and rarely started.

After a great camp, Jordan was bonding well with her new teammates. She was pleased that there were lots of girls "like her." Three other girls on the team were of Japanese descent and two were of Asian descent. Jordan is proud of her heritage and was excited about the other girls. Coming out of camp, Jordan had done her best and earned a starting spot at left fullback.

Throughout the year, she battled the same ankle injuries which took her in and out of the line-up. She travelled to Victoria, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba during league play. In the end, the T-Birds did very well, finishing third in Canada West league play. After a spirited battle, they fell to Trinity Western University and earned the Canada West silver medal. More importantly, they earned a spot to the Nationals in Toronto. This was very exciting to the team but especially to a freshman like Jordan.

Toronto was a great experience. The 2009 Canadian Intra-university

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Sport (CIS) Nationals involved two teams from the West (Trinity Western and UBC), two teams from the Maritimes (PEI and St.Fx), one Quebec team (Montreal) and three Ontario teams (York, Queen's and Toronto). UBC beat Ontario #1 York University in the quarter final before falling 1-0 to Montreal despite significantly outplaying them. This result set UBC up in the bronze medal match against Queen's University. Jordan started and played well, containing the speed of the Queen's midfield and creating opportunities in the offensive zone. A 2-1 final meant that UBC had won a National Bronze medal!

No one is able to accomplish what Jordan has without fantastic support. Her parents, Landon and Karen, tried to create an environment for her where she could set and achieve the goals for herself. She had fantastic support from the teachers of English Bluff Elementary school and South Delta Secondary. For her athletics, she was fortunate to have been in the company of coaches and mentors like Colleen Moffatt, Jeff Irving and Stephen Burns, just to name a few. She got support from friends, family, church and church youth groups. Teaching her wisdom, patience and kindness were her grandparents Bill and Shirley Papuc and Tosh and Mary Kitagawa.

Japanese culture and heritage were always important to Jordan. She was fortunate to spend a lot of time with her paternal grandparents Katsuyori and Kimiko Murakami where she was exposed to everything from Japanese food to language to culture. Most importantly, she was supported on a weekly

basis by Tosh and Mary Kitagawa, who not only told her about the value of her family and her heritage, they exhibited it to her.

Jordan was fortunate to have the support of her two younger brothers as well. Josh, six years her junior, taught her humour and excels in his own right in academics, guitar, field hockey and soccer. Jordan's other younger brother, Jacob, has begun to show promise in his own right on a grander scale. Besides being a good student and rounded athlete, Jacob has proven himself on the Provincial scale by being selected to a Provincial team in field hockey. As a U-14 player with BC Team, Jacob competed in the U-16 Nationals in 2009. Despite being underage, Jacob was named to the Tournament XI as one of the most valuable players.

If you ask her, Jordan would say that she is truly blessed. She understands the opportunities that has been provided so far in her young life and does not take any of this for granted. She knows that people, beginning with her great grandparents, sacrificed for her to have these opportunities. "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." One could get the feeling that there are many more things that God and Jordan have in store in the coming years.

MY OLYMPIC PAINTINGS

BY JOYCE KAMIKURA

I can hardly remember the chain of events leading up to the competition and selection of my paintings for the Olympic Speed Skating event. It started so casually, haphazardly and even with a blasé feeling at the beginning.

About a year before the Olympic Games were to take place, the Speed Skating Canada based in Montreal sent a Request for Proposal to all artists in Canada. It invited visual artists and sculptors throughout Canada to submit proposals for speed skating related work to be displayed and used during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The purpose of the project, according to the Speed Skating Canada, was to create awareness of the sport, “to share the excitement of the Olympics and to generate revenue for future speed skating programs”, known as the Inuksuk Fund-raising. Criteria of the works were to “capture the grace, beauty, power, concentration and excitement of short track or long track speed skating”.

In some earlier years I competed in international painting competitions including those in Australia, England and the United States. However, that phase for me was now over and I ignored the proposal from Speed Skating Canada for a long time, until a member of a Life Drawing group which I belong to asked if we should do something about this call for submissions. The Life-Drawing group is an informal group of artists getting together at Richmond’s Cultural Centre once a week to draw/paint human figures. My experience with this group started about 35 years ago.

When one of the members

asked me if we as a group are planning to submit a proposal, I took it to mean “please organize something”. From there, I sent in a proposal that we submit our paintings as a group to create a large collage and mount a show at either the Richmond City Hall or Speed Skating Canada House. As the new Speed Skating Oval is located in Richmond we thought it appropriate to show our paintings in Richmond.

Our proposal was accepted and we were given free rein to sketch and photograph at the Oval during five days of Speed Skating competition leading up to the Olympics. Fifteen members from our group gathered information by sketching and photographing during the competition. During this time, we also started a documentary film of the process. The group collage-making process, and the fun of getting together with other artists as a collective, was filmed. What started as a blasé affair started to really peak my interest at this point.

Our proposal was accepted in its entirety including the Speed Skating Canada to send its own judges for selection of works. Thereby a panel of three judges from Alberta came to Richmond Cultural Centre to jury not just ours but all painting proposals accepted. In total, we’ve collected 56 paintings, of which fourteen were selected, my two among them. There were four artists involved.

It was decided to show the accepted pieces at the Richmond City Hall along with the documentary DVD which included the artists’ creative process at their studios. Two paintings from each artists

were chosen for giclée high-quality limited edition prints. They were also made into greeting cards for the Inuksuk Fund for Speed Skaters Fundraising. At the conclusion of the Olympics, both my paintings were sold at full price, half of which went to the fundraising cause.

It has been an extremely fun and satisfying chain of events and I’m glad to say that my creative works played a minor part in the Olympic events.



Joyce Kamikura
Speed Skaters I, 2009



Joyce Kamikura
Speed Skaters II, 2009

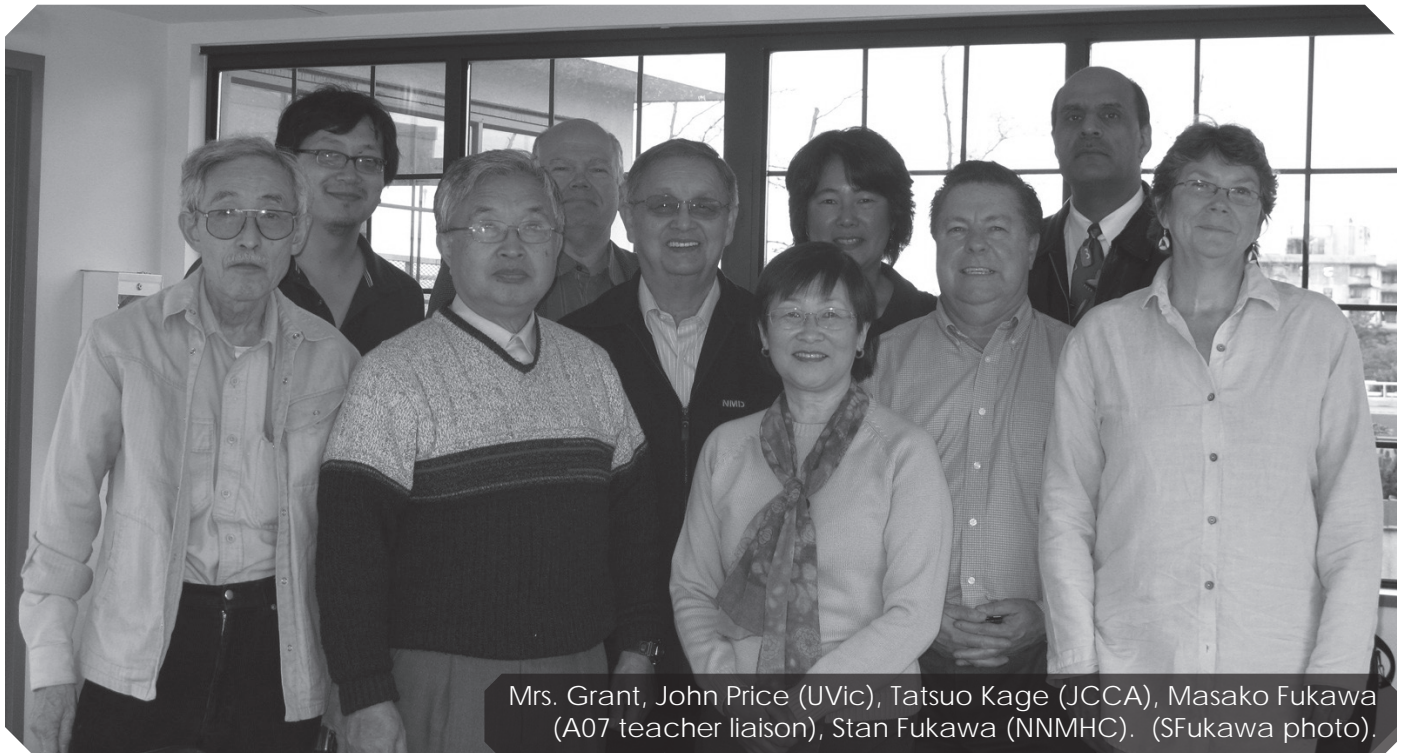
Remembering the 1907 Anti-Asian Riot

By Stan Fukawa

Several years ago, representatives of three Asian community groups—Chinese, Japanese and South Asian—plus the Musqueam First Nation and the Vancouver Labour Council, formed the Anniversaries '07 Steering Committee to commemorate the centennial year of the Vancouver Anti-Asian Riot of 1907. The Vancouver Riot took place in Chinatown and Japantown over a few days beginning on Sept. 7, 1907 having gained impetus from an Anti-South Asian Riot in Bellingham, Wash. just across the Canada-U.S. border on Sept. 5 which had used violence to run the Sikh minority out of town.

On Monday May 31, the group reconvened to celebrate the achievement of a major objective of the organizers – a new curriculum resource package related to the riots. The meeting was held at the Vancouver Japanese Language School, a significant location since the first VJLS building was almost torched by an arsonist during the historic disturbance. VJLS president Rika Uto, one of the three co-chairs of the A07 Steering Committee, welcomed everyone including the other co-chairs, Henry Yu, a History Professor at UBC and Bill Saunders, President of the Vancouver and District Labour Council. Other principals were Larry Grant, Elder of the Musqueam Band and Harbhajan Gill, President, Komagata Maru Heritage Foundation.

After Elder Grant welcomed everyone to the traditional land of the Musqueam people, Jane Turner, the BC Teachers' Federation Manager of the Resource Project presented to the A07 group the curriculum resource materials – the result of all their hard work. She described the process used to create the lesson plans and materials written and pre-tested by master teachers and utilizing the framework of the Critical Thinking Consortium under Roland Case. The approach in this instance requires students to adopt the identity of one of the five pivotal groups and to try to understand their adopted position as well as the positions of the others. It is quite an exciting approach to teaching and learning history. The project was funded by the Law Foundation of BC and supported by the BC Teachers' Federation. The resource is available through the Critical Thinking Consortium at www.tc2.ca.



Mrs. Grant, John Price (UVic), Tatsuo Kage (JCCA), Masako Fukawa (A07 teacher liaison), Stan Fukawa (NNMHC). (SFukawa photo).



The *koinobori* (carp kites) were made by the children at a nearby daycare centre. (S. Fukawa photo)

EBISU PARK

by Masako Fukawa

“Ebisu” the Japanese God of fishermen, of the working man, of business success for merchants in all trades, and the protector of young children was selected by the Vancouver Parks Board following a public process that included submissions from community residents. The name was submitted independently by Terry Slack, a long time resident of the area, and Stan Fukawa.

Ebisu was chosen because it *“reflects and celebrates the heritage of the community and acknowledges the history of this area of Marpole that was once home to a thriving Japanese fishing community in the early part of the 1900s and destroyed with the forced removal, dispossession and internment of Japanese Canadians in World War II.”* It will also *“help educate the current community, and celebrate some of the thoughtful design themes of the park itself.”*

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Located between Osler and Selkirk along 72nd Ave., the 0.4 hectare park has two parts. The eastern area is quiet and reflective. It features a Japanese gate, landscaped lawns with pathways, flowing feather grass and a dry stream bed of rocks that empties into an ornamental garden. The western area is a playground with a climbing rock for the children who live in the area.

Marpole is situated on the southern edge of Vancouver, BC immediately northeast of Vancouver International Airport and is approximately bordered by Angus Drive to the west, 57th Avenue to the north, Main Street to the east and the Fraser River to the south. The area is believed to have been inhabited as far back as 3500 B.C. evidenced by the discovery of the Marpole Midden by workers in 1889 during the extension of Granville Street. Marpole Midden Park is located at 72nd Ave. a block east of Granville St.

In 1885 when Harry Eburne established a general store and post office to service the farming community, the area became known as "Eburne." Four years later, Harry moved his enterprise to Sea Island when a wooden bridge was constructed linking Eburne to Sea Island. There were now two Eburnes. Eburne on Sea Island had the post office where *Nikkei* families collected their mail and Eburne Station at Hudson St. and Marine Drive on the mainland that became the hub of transportation and hence home to labourers, managers and office workers.

In 1902 Vancouver, via Eburne was connected to Steveston by the CPR's "*Sockeye Limited*" so nicknamed because it carried cannery employees to their jobs. In 1905 the B.C. Elec-

tric Railway Co. replaced the heavy trains with the lighter interurban trams. In 1909 the tram line was extended to New Westminster and another line that joined Marine Drive and Fairview (Granville Island area) along Oak Street was added. Trams departed or arrived every 15 minutes. The two Eburnes led to confusion and in 1916, 250 of its residents signed a petition for a name change to Marpole in honour of Richard Marpole, the General Superintendent of the CPR. The area became readily accessible by automobile also when the streets were paved. Real estate ads in the 1920s offered properties in Marpole that "had both electric power and light", as well as "872 telephones." (The Vancouver Courier, June 2, 2006)

With the increasing number of school-age children, David Lloyd George School was built in 1921. It was a 12-room brick structure at 8370 Cartier Street near 67th where it stands today. Class photos of the 1920s, 1930s and in 1940 show *Nikkei* children in attendance. (Mas Kitagawa collection) The students continued their secondary education at Magee Secondary and at Richmond High on Sexsmith when it was completed in 1928. A.W. MacNeil, who lived in Marpole, became the first principal. His son Allan remembers his father coming home after hearing about the relocation. "*It was the first time I saw my dad*

Dr. Yuko Shibata gave a historical account of Japanese Canadians while Terry and Stan assisted the dignitaries and children cut the ribbons.
(M. Fukawa photo)





Sam Yamamoto at Ebisu Park, Jan. 2010.
(S. Fukawa photo)

cry... 'my kids'."

It is unknown when the first *Nikkei* families moved into the area but those who lived there worked at the Eburne and other sawmills in the vicinity and at Japanese boatworks on Sea Island. They also worked as fishermen for nearby canneries: Celtic Cannery at the foot of Blenheim near Pt Grey Golf and Country Club; Terra Nova Cannery on Lulu Island, and Acme and Vancouver Canneries on Sea Island. Sam Yamamoto recalls that Japanese gardeners lived in the area also and that the Suzuki's (David's parents) had a dry cleaning business. The Piggly Wiggly grocery store where many of the *Nikkei* shopped was located next door to the David Lloyd George School. Nat Bailey opened the White Spot Barbecue on 67th and Granville in 1928. A year later Marpole amalgamated with the City of Vancouver.

Sam Yamamoto was born on Sea Island in 1921, the second of 7 children. *My father was a fisherman for BC Packers and in the mid 1930s also leased his boat to BC Packers to transport fish from Celtic Cannery a short distance downstream from Marpole to Imperial Cannery in Steveston. I completed grade 8 on Sea Island and went on to graduate from Richmond High. When I was about 15 years of age my family moved to a house near southwest Marine Dr.*

and Oak St. to escape the tuberculosis bacteria that was spreading on Sea Island. It had started at Shita-no-cannery (lower Vancouver Cannery) and moved to Uye-no-cannery (upper Vancouver Cannery). *TB was a dreaded, contagious disease until the first antibiotic, streptomycin, was discovered in 1944 and came into common use in the 1950s.*

As a teenager, I helped my dad as a puller (the person who rowed the boat)

*and after graduation worked at a sawmill for a short while. Because I was bilingual, I was hired by the Union Fish Co. as a store clerk and salesman. The company sold Japanese items and also owned a rice mill to polish rice imported from Japan. I can still remember the address - 469 Powell Street. It used to take me 40 minutes to get there. I'd take the #17 Oak Street car to Cambie and Pender, walk 2 blocks, and transfer to the #14 bus to Powell Street. My job also included visits to *Nikkei* homes in Marpole to take orders for groceries, fish, seafood, rice.*

*My father passed away in July 1941. Six months later, all the boats owned by *Nikkei* were confiscated. I had to take his fish boat to Celtic Cannery, later to be impounded and left at Annieville slough in New Westminster with hundreds of other boats. Subsequently, it was bought by Nelson Bros. I remember having to sign papers while in the Okanagan. Grudgingly, I accepted \$550. I didn't have a choice. None of us had a choice.*

David Suzuki's grandparents also settled in Marpole. His grandfather was a salmon fisherman who became a boatbuilder. In Marpole, he raised chickens for eggs and meat and his sons cleaned the coops and sold the manure to farmers for fertilizer. The Suzuki

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family was one of 15 Japanese families that had settled within a 3 block radius. His father attended the “almost exclusively Caucasian school.” (Metamorphosis, p. 27)

His mother spent her childhood on Powell Street and later worked for Furuya where she met his father who was also in their employ. They married in 1934. When a dry-cleaning shop owned by a Japanese man came up for sale, his grandfather, wanting to keep his family close by, urged him to buy it and offered to put up the money. It was located near his grandfather’s place. His dad went into the dry-cleaning business and the family lived in the back. They also owned a lot with a small house that they rented for income.

In June 1942, David and his twin sister were 6 and his younger sister 4 when they were relocated to the ghost town of Slocan, British Columbia with their mother. Their father had been sent off to Solsqua, near Salmon Arm, in April with some of the other men from Marpole to work on the Trans-Canada Highway. David’s uncles stayed behind to finish the boats they were working on. His mother was left to do all the packing, close up the business and the house which were taken over by the Custodian of Alien Property. They were eventually sold.

About his childhood memories, David writes: *Because I was just over six when we moved away, I only have a few memories of Marpole. In my childhood, ice boxes and pantries were refrigeration while horses were the engines for most wagons and carts. When the ice wagon made deliveries, we would run out on the street to pick up pieces of ice that dropped off. It was a great treat to suck on ice in summer. I remember being amazed when dad dug into the sawdust bin he had in the back of our house and hauled out a block of ice that he had stuck there in winter. I didn’t understand the concept of insulation, but sawdust’s ability to keep ice from melting made a lasting impression.* (p. 50)

Almost all of my early memories involve fishing and camping with my dad. My first trip was to a small lake called Loon Lake, located in an area that is now a forest endowed to the University of British Columbia. ...Those early experiences camping and fishing shaped my interests for the rest of my life. (p. 52)

The most famous Canadian Nikkei author, Joy Kogawa, born Joy Nozomi Nakayama in 1935 spent her childhood in a house at 1450 West 64th Ave. She

too was sent to Slocan, an internment camp, and later relocated to Coaldale, Alberta. Joy writes about her experiences in her poems and novels. She now divides her time between Toronto and Vancouver. In 2006 with the help of The Land Conservancy of BC, a non-profit land trust, the house was purchased as a writer’s residence.

Before the forced relocation, 8,500 or one third of Nikkei in BC lived in the greater Vancouver area. Approximately 5,000 lived in the Powell Street area, commonly called “Japan Town” or “Little Tokyo”. It had its beginning around Hastings Sawmill and grew to become the financial, cultural and economic centre of the Japanese community. Nikkei flocked here to do their weekly shopping, attend churches and language schools. Prohibited by law, there were no Nikkei lawyers, pharmacists or undertakers but Issei professionals and wealthy businessmen maintained offices here although many lived beyond the Powell Street fringe. (Toyo Takata)

Outside “Japan Town”, the 3,000 Nikkei were also clustered in settlements around sawmills or fishing canneries. North of Powell Street Nikkei homes were established around Heaps Sawmill. Waterfront settlements included Fairview (near Granville Island) on the south bank of False Creek and Kitslano on the south shore of English Bay which was also home to Japanese gardeners who worked in Shaughnessy Heights and Point Grey. Canneries including the Great Northern Cannery in West Vancouver and Celtic Cannery on Blenheim St. and Celtic Ave. attracted Nikkei as well.

On a recent visit to Marpole, Sam Yamamoto pointed to an area near the foot of Arthur Laing Bridge (built in 1976) where the Suzuki family ran their dry cleaning business before the dispersal. He recalled that the Japanese hall/school was on Selkirk St. and Nikkei homes lined both sides of the Street which was considered the “main” street of the Japanese community. They have been replaced with low rise apartments. Evidence of the pre-war Nikkei community no longer exists. The name “Ebisu” for the park is the only acknowledgement of what was once “home” and a “community” to the Nikkei families who lived there.

Pre-WWII Nikkei Residents of Marpole

The list of families who lived in the area was compiled from several sources. Tosh Seki (deceased) who lived on Selkirk Street before the relocation provided the names in 1996. Sam Yamamoto and Allan Masayoshi Arima in Ontario added to the list in 2010. Stan Fukawa uncovered the names of 29 families living in the Marpole area in 1938 in an article by Suenaga Kunitosh, *Kanada-Vancouver ni okeru Nikkei Kanadajin no Kyoju Chiki to Eigo Katsudo*.

Hudson Street: Minoru Higo (fish store), Komiyama (variety store), Jujiro Nishimura (grocery store), Shohei Ono, Otara, Kaoru Suzuki (dry cleaners), Takahashi, Yamasaki.

Selkirk Street: (west side) Fukuda, Furukawa, Japanese Hall consisting of Kindergarten, Buddhist Church and Japanese Language School, Shoichi Kakino, Kumamoto, Eiichi Kuwabara (doctor), Kumakichi Nakagawa, (east side) Akase, Itaro Arima, Fujioka, Sataro Fujita (import-export), Fukumoto, Toshijiro Hiruta, Kodama, Kubo, Zenshichi Matsumiya, Jihei Miike, Nishi (boarding house, mostly single men- among them were Teramura, Iwata), Nunoda, Seki, Santaro Suzuki, Seisaku Uchida, Uchiyama, Utsunomia, Seitaro Yabuki.

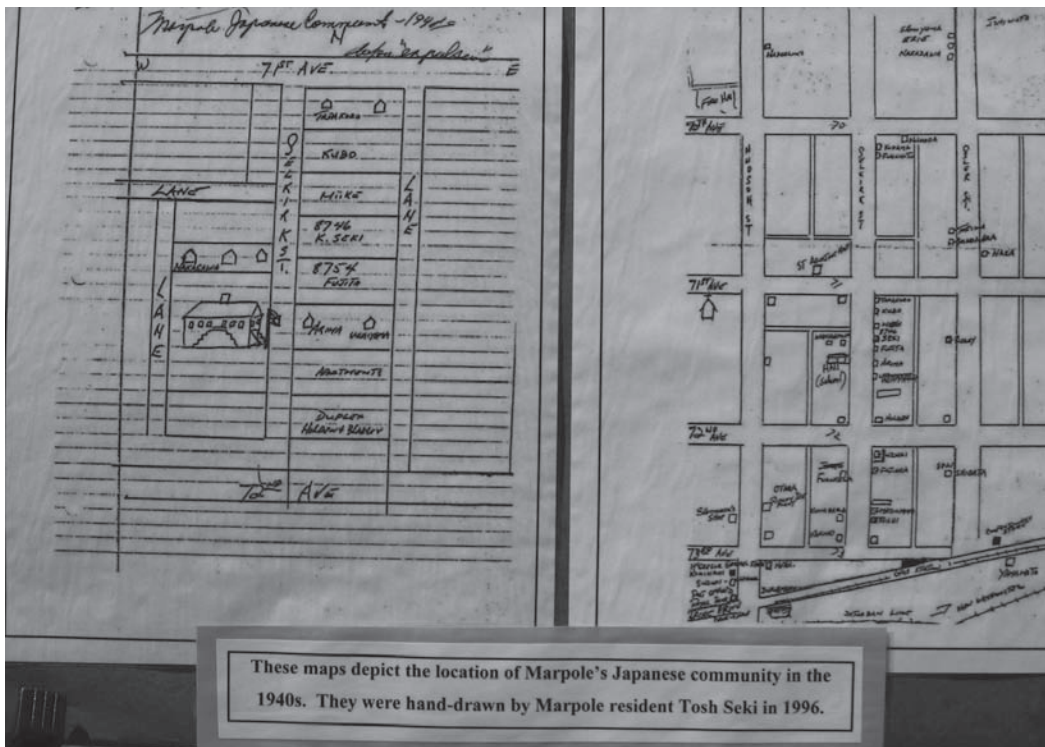
Osler Street: Hara, Junichi Haruhara, Shihei Hirota, Kieimon Irie, Ishiwata, Mikawa, Naito, Naka, Nakazawa, Seitaro Omiya, Fujikichi Ooi (rooming house), Yasuhiro Ono, Shibata, Kichinosuke Shimoyama, Jun Sunahara, Tokiwa, Toyofuku, Yamamoto.

Fremlin Street:
Ishiwata, Murota, Nakazawa, Yosomatsu Nishizaki, Osaka, Tadokoro, Toyosaku Yoshitomi.

on edge of Fraser River: Akase, Hirota, Naoichi Ono, Ono.

Southwest Marine Drive: Hirota (dressmaker), Yamamoto.

Other: 64th near Oak St., Nakayama; 68th, Hikoshiro Ishiwatari; 69th & Heather, Matsui; 70th, Kumaichi Nunoda and Yukiharuru Tasho; 77th, Yohei Hirota; Granville, Shukichi Ito and Gentaro Wakabayashi; ?Matsunosuke Komori.





Jackson, Ted and mother with models and toys.
(Hirota Family photo, ca 1943)

Japanese evacuees gathered together to play hockey. (Hirota Family photo, ca. 1943)



Happy Times

by Theodore T. Hirota

While much pain and suffering occurred for many Nikkei during the ‘evacuation’ in the 1940s and have been well documented, there were also periods of joy especially for those of us who were young and carefree. An amendment to the Order-in-Council P.C. 365 of January 16th, 1942 on February 5th, 1942 formally identified an April 1st, 1942 deadline of evacuation beyond the 100-mile ‘protected area’. My family left Steveston, B.C. on May 15th, 1942. I was three and a half years old when we moved to Coaldale, Alberta and then to a farm just outside Turin, south of Lethbridge.

My earliest recollection of the evacuation is the fear I experienced while crossing Marpole Bridge on the tram between Richmond and Vancouver on our way to the train station for our trip east. In fact my recollection is probably a false one and is likely based on stories recounted by my mother of my reaction on crossing the bridge. However, the fear of heights is still with me after all these years and perhaps the memory is not totally a false one. Many of my recollections are probably based on stories told repeatedly by my parents or on pictures of the times when the events occurred.

One event I recall while living on the farm outside Turin is helping my brother and dad build a biplane from a balsa wood and paper kit. The finished result was recorded in the picture shown here. The boat on the right was crafted by my Obayashi grandfather without using a kit. One winter I remember my father making root beer and bottling the brew and capping the bottle with a levered contraption.

Another winter scene shows that even the adults took time out to enjoy themselves. The picture shows my dad (far left) with friends with hockey sticks and skates. Note that my older brother and I are holding home-made hockey sticks. On seeing this picture my brother remembered that the rubber heel from a pair of old gum boots was fashioned into a hockey puck when the one they were playing with was lost in a snow bank.

Since many of the evacuees were commercial fishermen I heard stories of my dad and others who placed gillnets across the Old Man River and trapped carp. The carp were filleted and then ground up in the hand-turned

grinders that were commonplace at the time. Cooking deep-fried tempura patties in a Canadian prairie town must have resonated with memories of activities from an earlier period in Steveston. In the accompanying picture, my dad stands in gum boots (far right) with my mom and their friends on the bridge across the Old Man River near Lethbridge. A picnic near the bridge followed.

On another occasion I recall returning home in dad's 1927 Pontiac from Lethbridge after a day of visiting and shopping. On leaving Lethbridge at night the glowing slag heaps outside the town left me with an impression that I always equated with Hell in later years. Without a heater in the car we bundled up with blankets to stay warm.

In our farmhouse shack oval stones the size of cantaloupes were placed in the oven to heat up and then were wrapped with cloth strips and then placed at the foot of our beds under the blankets so that we went to bed feeling nice and cozy. The rubber water bottles that were initially used would cool within half an hour and were quickly discarded in favour of the stone heaters that stayed warm for hours.

In the first winter in Alberta the snow would blow into the shack through cracks in the side boards. The shack had originally been built to house summer farm workers and had neither inner wall nor insulation. My mother would tell us that the blankets next to the wall would freeze and stick to the wall in the morning. I have no such memory of that! Another event that I have no memory of but was recalled by my brother was a hot tub or 'furo' that was built by dad and attached to the side of the farm shack. It was decided that the furo should be placed just below the window

so that one could get in and out of the furo from inside the shack rather than running around the outside to the door. The problem was that the window lay just outside where my parent's bedroom was located and my mother objected to naked men (two bachelors were part of our farm unit and lived in the other room) crawling in and out of our bedroom to get to the furo. During a June 2000 trip to locate where we had lived, I was surprised to see the shack was still standing on the farm after all these years.

My brother and I tried to snare gophers while we lived on the farm. We would take baling twine, make a loop over a gopher hole and then back away from the hole with the twine. The plan was to yank on the twine when the gopher came up out of the hole to see if everything was clear. We never succeeded in trapping any gophers but while we waited, the fruit that we collected from the prickly pear plants growing in the area were delicious. When we tired of these activities we took a tea break on the sugar beet fields along with dad and the two other farm workers.

In the spring, we would carve little wooden boats and when the irrigation ditches were flooded we would place the boats in the ditch and run alongside as the water carried our boats to the fields. While my parents worried about the dwindling savings that were eaten up during the winter months of unemployment, my brother and I were untouched by these fears and enjoyed our carefree life, oblivious to the constraints imposed by the Orders-in-Council in particular, and more generally, the wartime conflicts raging around the world.



Hirota family with friends on a bridge over the Old Man River. (Hirota Family photo, ca. 1943)



House where the Hirota's lived during their stay in Alberta. (Hirota Family photo, ca. 1943)

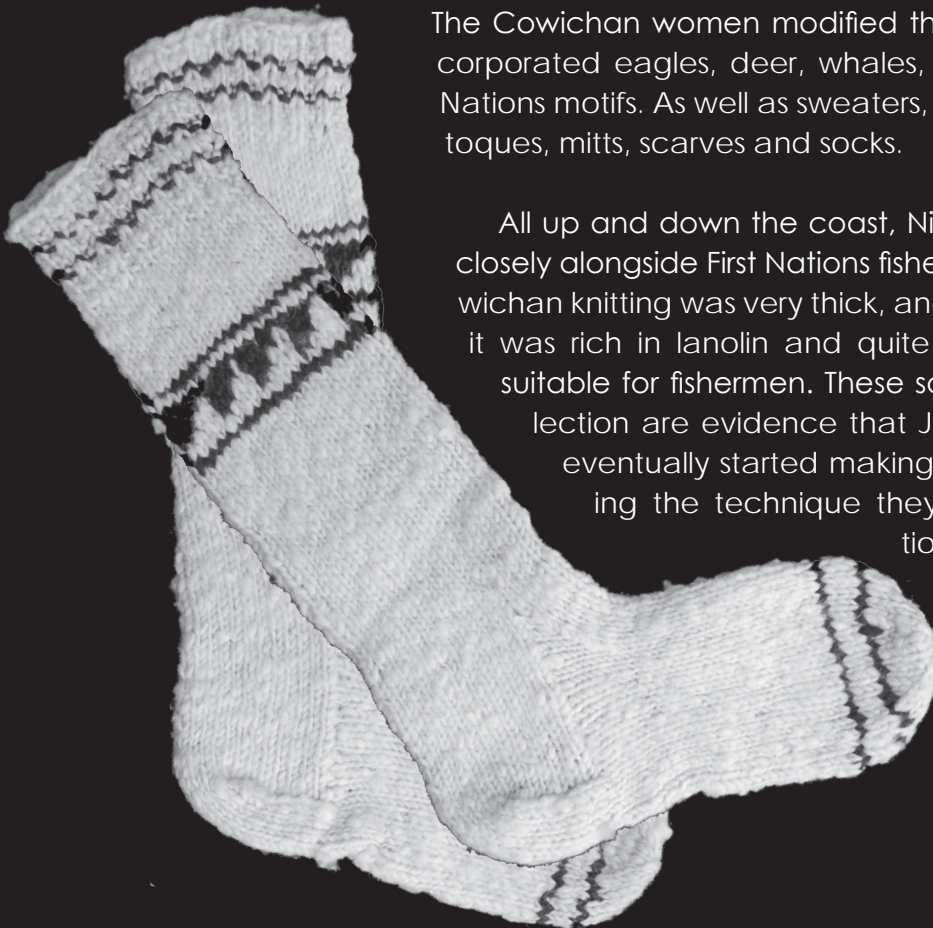
TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTIONS

Saiwashi kutsushiita
wool

Made by Mrs. Shio Yabuno
JCNM 2003.6

These *Saiwashi kutsushiita* (socks) were hand-knitted by Shio Yabuno. 'Saiwashi' is the word used by Japanese Canadians to refer to local First Nations. The term was adopted from the Chinook jargon.

The Cowichan people of Vancouver Island have a long textile tradition, and are now known for their famous Cowichan sweaters. In ancient times, they took the wool from dogs and mountain sheep and spun it into a thick, dense yarn. This was woven on an upright loom into warm blanket robes. Knitting with sheep's wool was first introduced in the late 1800s. Missionaries often taught "essential" household skills to young women. In Cowichan knitting, the unique technique of knitting in the round, and the elaborate patterns used, are thought to come from early Scottish immigrants. The Cowichan women modified the European designs and incorporated eagles, deer, whales, thunderbirds and other First Nations motifs. As well as sweaters, First Nations women also knit toques, mitts, scarves and socks.



All up and down the coast, Nikkei fishermen often worked closely alongside First Nations fishermen. The wool used for Cowichan knitting was very thick, and because it was hand spun, it was rich in lanolin and quite water-resistant —especially suitable for fishermen. These socks from the museum's collection are evidence that Japanese Canadian women eventually started making socks on their own, borrowing the technique they learned from the First Nations knitters. Those socks were knee-high and even when they were wet, they kept a fisherman's feet warm out at sea.