



NIKKEI

Japanese Canadian National Museum Newsletter

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Ucluelet: As It Was Before 1942 by Larry S. Maekawa

The First Japanese Settlement

In 1919, Kunizo Uyede, who lived in Victoria, was the first Japanese to go out halibut fishing off the coast of Ucluelet. There, he observed a number of White men and Indians trolling for spring salmon, and bringing in good catches. After returning to Victoria, he drew attention to his friends in Steveston on the rich resources of salmon and halibut in Barkley Sound.

In the following year, Matakichi Uyeyama and several Japanese ventured out from Steveston. It took two full days to reach Ucluelet in those days, so they stayed overnight in Victoria. From there, two Shimizu brothers and Mokuhei Minato joined the group and set off to Ucluelet. At the end of the season, they all came home with a fair sum of cash in their pockets. Matakichi Uyeyama remained in Ucluelet, and spent the winter all by himself. No doubt he was the Japanese Pioneer of Ucluelet.

The news spread quickly amongst the Japanese community in Steveston. Fraser River fishermen had been hit with poor sockeye run since 1914; so this was welcome news for them. In the spring of 1921, over one hundred Japanese fishermen rushed to Ucluelet. There was less than ten White fishermen at the time. Needless to say White fishermen were enraged. Japanese were met with violent oppression. White fishermen started protesting to the gov-



Japanese trollers racing in Ucluelet Inlet during Dominion Day Festivities. (Larry Maekawa photo, 1936)

ernment that the Japanese were fishing away from their homes in Steveston. Then the Department of Fisheries issued a law restricting fishing licenses to permanent residents only, effective March 1, 1923. Japanese fishermen, who saw a promis-

ing future in salmon fishing, immediately bought land and started building homes in the fall of 1922. In early 1923, fifty Japanese families migrated to Ucluelet. This was how the Japanese fishermen's colony was

continued on page 2

Contents

Ucluelet: As It was Before 1942	1
Community Memorial Services for Dr. W. Fujiwara	4
Japanese Newspapers and Magazines in Vancouver	4
Portland's Japanese American Historical Plaza	6
Why do You Want to Volunteer for the JCNM	7
Why I Became A Board Member	7

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NATIONAL NIKKEI
HERITAGE CENTRE
6688 Southoaks Crescent,
Burnaby, B.C., V5E 4M7
Canada
tel: (604) 777-8000
fax: (604) 777-7001
jcnmas@telus.net
www.jcnm.ca

established. At the same time the Department of Fisheries limited the number of Japanese fishermen to fifty in Ucluelet, thirty in Tofino and ten in Bamfield. Their fishing boundaries were restricted between Pachena and Estevan Points. There was a rich fish bank off Kyuquot Sound, but it was off bounds to the Japanese. White fishermen in Ucluelet fished on that bank for most of the summer.

Founding of Ucluelet Japanese Fishermen's Co-operative

Two Japanese fish buyers followed the fishermen from Vancouver, and stationed their fish collecting camps in Spring Cove. One was Howe Sound Camp and the other was Ito Camp. The former was owned by two Japanese businessmen, and they started on a big scale with two packer boats. They drew forty Japanese fishermen under their control. Other ten joined the Ito Camp.

A dispute had been brewing between the fishermen and the brokers regarding the price of spring salmon. Fishermen were being paid five cents per pound, which was the price of sockeye paid by the canneries. Fishermen maintained that spring

salmon should be valued more than the sockeye. The brokers argued that if it were not for them what would the fishermen do with their catch. Fishermen were astounded by the broker's defiant attitude. Soon the fishermen found out the brokers were getting fifteen cents per pound in Seattle markets and making outrageous profits.

In the fall of 1923, after the fishing season was over, the fishermen held a mass meeting in the open. They unanimously passed a resolution to organize a co-operative and handle their catch themselves. Fishermen all agreed to contribute two hundred dollars per member and they raised ten thousand dollars as a working capital. Thus the Ucluelet Japanese Fishermen's Co-operative was established in January of 1924. It was indeed the fruit of their determination, courage and solidarity. Fishermen were immediately paid eight cents per pound, a 60% raise for the salmon. They were all satisfied and so were the White fishermen.

Alaskan salmon had been coming into Seattle from Ketchikan, but by the time they arrived in Seattle they were two to three weeks



Students in front of Ucluelet Public School built by Japanese fishermen. (Larry Maekawa photo, ca. 1925)



LOYAL#2 and LOYAL#1 tied alongside collecting barge in Spring Cove. (Larry Maekawa photo, ca. 1936)

old. This was the reason why Ucluelet salmon was in great demand. Fishermen's Co-op chartered four packer boats owned by individual Japanese in Steveston. The brokers abandoned their camps, and they never made an appearance in Ucluelet again. At the end of the 1924 fishing season, fishermen's average catch was one thousand dollars. They celebrated the new year of 1925 with joy and triumph.

As the number of children increased, the public school became crowded. There were thirty-two pupils ranging from grade one to eight under one teacher—twelve Whites and twenty Japanese. The Board of Education realized the alarming situation and supplied all the building materials for a new school. The residents were told to erect the school themselves as it was going to be used as a community hall as well. Fortunately there were two fully qualified Japanese carpenters— the Shimizu brothers. Japanese fishermen worked under their supervision, and rendered their services to build the school. They worked during their slack time. The construction of the school was completed in the fall of 1925, and the

Board of Education provided two teachers. The school was a significant landmark of Ucluelet. This was indeed a proud contribution made by the Japanese to the community of Ucluelet.

A Man's Good Deed that Inspired an Entire Village

When Japanese families first migrated to Ucluelet in 1923, they were met with cool reception by the Whites. There was one young man, named Norman Lyche, who was outspoken and a racist. At every opportunity he advocated to reduce the number of Japanese fishermen's licenses to half. His father, Alex Lyche was the reeve of Ucluelet and his wife Alice was a schoolteacher. They were both, unlike their son, understanding and respectable people.

One day, Norman's fishing boat was seen beached near the entrance of the inlet, but no body was found. It was assumed that he fell off his boat and drowned. Mr. and Mrs. Lyche's loss of their only son was heartbreaking. Every fisherman took part in dragging the bottom of the inlet. They dragged back and forth all day for two days, but in vain. Fishermen judged that the body had

drifted out into the ocean with the tide and gave up the search. Alex Lyche posted a fifty-dollar reward for anyone who found the body.

There lived an elderly Japanese couple, whose name was Kyuzo and Shima Shimizu. Kyuzo was not a fisherman. He and his wife made "tofu" once a month as a hobby and sold them to Japanese families. They needed lots of firewood to cook the soybeans. As usual, they went to the head of the inlet to gather firewood. There they saw a flock of crows picking on something. At first glance, it looked like a sea lion's carcass. Then they noticed the clothing and realized it was a man's body. They immediately notified Alex Lyche and took him back to the scene. He identified his son's body. Alex and Kyuzo loaded the body onto his boat and brought it to Alex's home. Alex made a makeshift casket. Japanese Fishermen's Co-op provided their packer boat to take the casket to Port Alberni for burial. After they returned, Alex Lyche promptly took the fifty-dollar reward to Kyuzo Shimizu, but he gratefully declined the reward. Alex went home puzzled, and was rather offended. He went to see Kanzo Maekawa who was the president of the Co-op at the time. Alex asked, "Why did he not accept the reward, or was the reward not enough? If it is not, I will double it." Maekawa replied, "Had this been a happy occasion he would have accepted it; but on a sad incident like this no Japanese would accept any reward. So do not feel concerned about it." Alex Lyche was greatly impressed by his words.

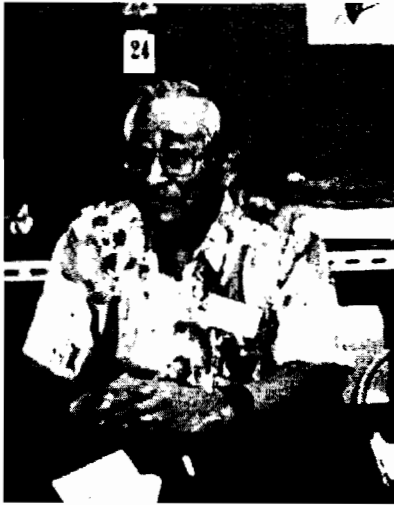
Before long, Kyuzo Shimizu's good deed echoed throughout the village of Ucluelet and deeply inspired the White people. Since this incident, anti-Japanese sentiment eased considerably.



Continued in next issue

Community Memorial Service For Dr. Wesley Fujiwara

by Frank Kamiya



Dr. Fujiwara. (I. Dijks photo, 1996)

On November 24, 2000, the relatives, friends and acquaintances of Wes Fujiwara attended a community memorial service held at the National Nikkei Heritage Centre.

I first met Wes when he volunteered for the JCCA History Preservation Committee in 1993. He was an active committee member helping us with our displays at the Powell Street Festival, Open House and assisting at our fundraising events. He also donated much needed filing cabinets, typewriter and other miscellaneous items from his previous medical practice.

In January 1994, Wes and Misao and 5 other committee members visited the Japanese American Historical Society in San Francisco and the new Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Our committee was looking at a vision for a Japanese Canadian Museum & Archives and the Japanese American National Museum experience gave us encouragement to pursue this dream. On this trip we had the opportunity to get to know Wes better as he spoke of his many stories which were all very interesting and humorous.

The Japanese American National Museum invited the Japanese Canadian Archives, as we were called at that time, to participate in the International Symposium & Family Expo in November 1994. A contingent of 12 Canadians from across Canada attended which included Wes & Misao Fujiwara. We were given a booth where we displayed our Japanese Canadian historical photographs. Over 15,000 visitors attended the Family Expo and many of our American cousins were surprised to learn that Japanese Canadians were also incarcerated in 1942. Wes and the late Norm Tsuyuki were ex-

cellent in telling their personal histories to the visitors. Wes met a female acquaintance at the Family Expo whom he had not seen for over 58 years and they exchanged past memories.

In June 1995, the Japanese Canadian National Museum & Archives Society was granted federal charitable status with Wes being a founding director. He played an important role as the History Preservation Committee evolved to become the Japanese Canadian National Museum that show cases your history and provides archival services to many people. Wes was not able to experience the new NNHC and the JCNM which were his visions.

Wes was very generous of his time and resources. He had his son-in-law, Gerry Foster design our JCNM logo. He rarely missed a committee meeting, a museum event or party. Professionally he dedicated his life to helping people and in retirement he enjoyed preserving our history. We in Vancouver knew him for a short while but we enjoyed his cheerful personality and dedication to the community and will miss him. Sayonara Wes. ❀

Japanese Newspapers and Magazines in Vancouver

by Sakuya Nishimura

In Japan almost all the people subscribe to at least one daily newspaper. However, here in Canada it seems most people do not rely on newspapers as much, and some will buy only the Friday edition of a newspaper to obtain the **TV Guide**.

In the early stage of Japanese immigration to this country, most people worked in the remote fishing villages or sawmill camps, usually where friends or relatives might be. So perhaps they have had a kind of community mini-newspaper. For example, around 1897 the Vancouver Methodist Church issued weekly church news, which later became the **Canada Shimpo**.

In 1934 there were three newspapers in

Vancouver: **Nikkan Minshu**, **Tairiku Nippo** and **Canada Shimpo**. However, after December 7, 1941 when the Pacific war broke out, all the newspapers were suppressed. The only surviving paper was the **New Canadian**, which was published in English by some Nisei, second generation Japanese. Later, a Japanese section was added to this paper, and it is still being published in Toronto.

I cannot find any information regarding Japanese newspapers in Vancouver for the years 1945-1978. When I came here in 1978 there were two Japanese publications; one was the **Vancouver Shimpo**, which was hand written in the early editions. The other was a weekly

newspaper, which was issued for Japanese tourists and contained, for the most part, advertisements of gift shops, restaurants and sightseeing tours.

In the early 1980s, the Overseas Japanese Newspaper Society in Japan was established. During Newspaper Week (every October) the Society (an extra departmental agency of the Japanese Foreign Ministry) helped with the expenses and invited the representatives of overseas newspaper companies. Those days there was only one newspaper in each country, except in the USA.

Mr. Kazuo Ito, former journalist and researcher of immigrant matters, once told publishers that the future of overseas newspapers was not optimistic. At present, the future for overseas newspaper is even more pessimistic because of Japanese satellite newspapers, Japanese TV, and the computer. It is very difficult for overseas newspapers to survive under present circumstances. Now we can get enough information about Japan and international affairs from these media, so the present overseas newspapers should focus on covering local community activities.

Surprisingly there were three more periodical publications here at the end of the Twentieth Century, and I do not know why these were established, and how long they would survive. These new publications are a kind of community newsletters.

Vancouver Shimpo

Form: Weekly newspaper, 32+20 pages

Price: \$52.43/yr

Publisher: Saeko Tsuda

Established: 1979

Contents: News of Japan, Canada, international and local Japanese community events; information about movies, sports, arts, music, etc.; buy and sell.

Advertisement: Travel companies, restaurants, language schools, gift shops, Japanese food stores, real estate, car dealers, religious organizations, etc.

Target: General.

Fraser Monthly

Form: Photogravure magazine, monthly, 50 pages

Price: Free

Publisher: Isao Miyasaka

Established: 1998 (the first issue of the former "The Fraser" was published in 1992)

Contents: Essays; review of Canadian novels; Japanese classic stories; community news; information of everyday life; review of movies, videos, music, books; buy and sell

Advertisement: Language schools, travel companies, Japanese food stores, restaurants, etc.

Target: People who want to read something in Japanese

Vancouver Tonight

Form: Photogravure (cover page) magazine, monthly, 40 pages

Price: Free

Publisher: Noble J.C. Enterprises, Inc.

Established: 1998

Contents: How to select schools, rooms, stores to buy daily necessities; readers' experiences of Canadian life; review of music and movies; community events; buy and sell.

Advertisement: Language schools, travel companies, Japanese food stores, convenience shops, karaoke, etc.

Target: Young Japanese travellers, students, working persons, tourists.

Oops!: (subtitle: Daily Lives and Recreational Information in Vancouver)

Form: Tabloid newspaper, twice a month, 24 pages

Price: Free

Publisher: J. Wave Communications

Established: 1998

Contents: How to survive in Vancouver (clothes, food, room, etc.); how to enjoy Vancouver (fashions, wines, travels, etc.); information about Japan; review of movies, music, arts, sports, community events; buy and sell.

Advertisement: Language schools, travel companies, restaurants, karaoke bars, telephone companies, etc.

Target: Students, working persons, tourists, young wives.

Adballoon

Form: Bi-monthly community magazine, 12 pages

Price: Free

Publisher: Japan Graphics Inc. Hitomi Uchimura

Established: ca. 1985

Contents: Japanese, national and international news; local topics, interviews of local people; sports, golf course guide; buy and sell.

Advertisement: Restaurants, travel companies, Japanese food stores, hairdressers, auto mechanics, etc.

Target: Japanese students, working persons, tourists.

As you know most of these publications are free and their expenditures are covered by advertisements. However, there are not many Japanese merchants and companies in Vancouver so it is very difficult for publishers to obtain sufficient advertisements to cover costs. I have heard that merchants are being offered cut-rate prices for advertising space.

I hope in the future there will be a Japanese-Canadian magazine that readers would be willing to pay a few dollars, so that publishers need not be concerned with generating income entirely from advertising.

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continued on page 6

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Acknowledgement

I express my gratitude to Mrs. Marie Katsuno who kindly corrected my poor English manuscript.

Sakuya Nishimura immigrated to Canada in 1978. She settled in Vancouver and started contributing to the Vancouver Shimpo, which

was one of the two community Japanese-language newsletters at the time. She had a regular column in the weekly Shimpo. Sakuya also translated interesting articles from the Vancouver Sun for inclusion in this newsletter. During her early years in Vancouver, she met many of the older Issei in Vancouver and became interested in the history of Japanese-Canadians. One of the Isseis she befriended was A. Katsuyoshi Morita, whose memoirs she subsequently edited and which were published as POWELL STREET MONOGA-

TARI. At present, Sakuya writes a regular column about crime in the Lower Mainland for the Fraser Monthly and also submits articles occasionally to the New Canadian. She has also contributed articles to Nikkei Images.

Sakuya started volunteering at the Japanese Canadian National Museum about four years ago. She spends each Tuesday assisting Susan Sirovyak, the Collections Curator, in translating Japanese and cataloguing artefacts donated to the Museum. ❀

Portland's Japanese American Historical Plaza by Stan Fukawa



Japanese American Historical Plaza. (S. Fukawa photo, 2000)

From Vancouver, B.C., Portland Oregon is a pleasant drive in the springtime. If you decide to make the trip in April, you will probably be rewarded with beautiful cherry blossoms, an open-air market and a moving monument, by the banks of the Willamette River in the Old Town area of that city.

The Portland Saturday Market, the largest, continuously operated open-air market in the U.S. is situated under the Burnside Bridge. It has the usual range of booths, with

crafts and foods and toys and is a major tourist attraction mentioned in the travel books.

Across the Naito Parkway at the back of the Market, is the Japanese American Historical Plaza. It is not prominently mentioned in the tourist pamphlets but will interest many Nikkei more than a lot of other sights in the City of Roses.

Near the entrance, two large, impressive bronze sculptures depict Japanese American suffering during World War II. It is the suffering that

is only too familiar to Japanese Canadians—the assumption of guilt of treason based on race, removal from homes along the Pacific coast and internment in camps far inland. A dozen stone monuments stand around two clusters of cherry trees. On one of them are the names of the American internment camps—Gila, Granada, Heart Mountain, Jerome, Manzanar, Minidoka, Poston, Rohwer, Topaz and Tule Lake. On another is the American Bill of Rights. On others, are brief, powerful poems, mostly in English. A few of them are in Japanese script. It is quite a touching monument.

The late Bill Naito, a Japanese-American City of Portland councilman and real estate tycoon (after whom the Naito Parkway has been named) was one of the Nikkei leaders who spearheaded the drive to erect the plaza. At the huge and famous Powell Books, just down Burnside Street, you can find a book which commemorates the building of the plaza. It is **Touching the Stones: tracing one hundred years of Japanese American History**, edited by Mark Sherman and George Katagiri and published by the Oregon Nikkei Endowment. ❀

Volunteering is challenging but rewarding as well

by Hiroko Cummings

“Why do you want to volunteer for the JCNM?” This is the first question I ask a potential volunteer. I believe it is important to explore where a volunteer’s motivation comes from. People have a range of reasons for volunteering. Some want new experiences, new friends and challenges. Others are looking for personal development and career contacts. Many are looking for a way to channel their skills, aspirations, interests, and concerns in a way that their work or home life doesn’t provide for.

In my case, I applied to volunteer at the JCNM to get connected to the community and to meet people in a new town. We moved to Vancouver from Toronto the summer of 1999. The summer went by very quickly when we were busy settling in a new place. But early in September, after the children went back to school, I needed a new challenge and a way to fulfill my personal satisfaction!

I saw the ad for a volunteer for the JCNM in a Japanese newspaper, and right away I thought this could be a good way to get know the Japanese Canadian community in Vancouver, meet new people, and hopefully to find a way to fulfill my personal satisfaction.

In the summer in 2000, the JCNM relocated to the National Nikkei Heritage Centre, which allowed for greater exhibition space and the opening of a museum shop.

This markedly increased the demand for volunteer services. I have a strong interest in working with people and have experience coordinating volunteers, so I was assigned responsibility for coordinating volunteers for the museum shop. The JCNM described its goals for the task and encouraged me to decide how to achieve them. This allowed me to take initiative and challenged me! The JCNM’s decision to make me the Volunteer Coordinator met my expectations and satisfied my needs – I was a happy, committed volunteer!

My challenge is to recruit new volunteers and maintain them. I do this by ensuring that the placement meets the volunteer’s exceptions and satisfy their needs. I believe the key to attracting volunteers is by showing them what the JCNM has to offer. If a volunteer is looking for social contact to increase self-esteem and self-fulfillment, working in the museum shop provides this. If a volunteer wants experience to support an application for paid employment, working in the museum shop provides experience in money handling, retail management, merchandising and sales. Some volunteers want to expand professional or business contacts relevant to their current or future business operations. Others may have been introduced to the JCNM as a client or recipient of services and they seek to return this favor of service. In all these cases, working in the museum shop (or other areas in

the JCNM) can meet these expectations.

The museum shop requires two shifts a day for five days. It needs at least ten regular volunteers who can commit to working a certain length of the time once a week. It also needs volunteers “on call” for a specific day of the week, to fill in when necessary.

My greatest challenge is to maintain volunteer satisfaction and commitment. I believe volunteer motivation, satisfaction, and commitment are interrelated. By that I mean, if volunteers’ needs are met, commitment to the JCNM increases.

I call the museum shop volunteers at the end of each month to reschedule for the next month, and I acknowledge their services informally. From time to time we recognize volunteers formally, through awards and events. Since I don’t meet volunteers at the museum shop, talking to them on the phone helps me identify concerns, share ideas, set goals and generally strengthen commitment. Currently the JCNM, its Board and a couple of us are working on the effective recruitment, management and recognition of volunteers to carry out JCNM’s vision.

For me, volunteering has been challenging but rewarding as well – I encourage anyone interested to phone the JCNM (or me at 948-9859) and try it out. And don’t forget to stop in at the museum shop!



Why I became a board member

Tamako Y. Copithorne - I don’t believe that the significance of Japanese Canadian heritage is in a monument; it must be relevant to Canada as a nation today, it must be a source of energy for our future, and the museum must be a leader in linking generations, ethnic groups, and Japan and Canada. I would be happy to be on the team for promoting these ideas through exhibitions and other public programs.

Paul Kariya - In my middle age I feel a sense of wanting to contribute. I am proud of my JC heritage and want to build up the JC community and to inform Canadians of who we are. What do I envision for the museum. I

continued on page 8

would like to see an accessible museum - first to the JC community and to the larger community. Also, I would like to see the museum help JC community members get in touch with their pasts, who we are (this can only help our collective future). Finally, I want to see the museum gain a solid financial and program footing.

Todd Tomita - I moved to Vancouver with my wife and 7-month old son in September 2000 to do a forensic psychiatry fellowship. We saw a piece in the Vancouver Sun about the new NIKKEI HERITAGE CENTRE and the Japanese Canadian National Museum. We attended the opening weekend and thought the inaugural exhibit at the Museum was wonderful. After this, I decided to become involved as a volunteer and I applied to the JCNM board. 🌸

Special thanks to our supporters. Your generosity is much appreciated. We gratefully acknowledge the following donations received during the period November 20, 2000 to February 15, 2001 as follows:

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Yoshio Hyodo, Brantford, ON		Kazuko Smith, Ithaca, NY

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Anonymous	Frank & Naomi Kamiya, N. Vancouver	Frank & Mary Takayesu, White Rock
Joan & Misao Fujiwara, Surrey	Yosh & Gail Kariatsumari, Abbotsford	Tony & Kim Tamayose, Port Coquitlam
Beverley Inouye, Burnaby	Isamu & Margaret Shishido, Vancouver	Irene Tsuyuki, Surrey
Judy Inouye, Port Moody	Wataru & Barbara Shishido, Vancouver	

We are grateful for support from our members. Your support is vital to our efforts. New and Renewing members for the period November 20, 2000 to February 15, 2001 are as follows:

Mieko Amano Burnaby	Tatsuo Kage, Vancouver	Joanne R. Rollins, Regina, SK
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