



National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre | 2000-2010

Celebrating 10 years of building a strong & vibrant community at Nikkei Place

ナショナル日系博物館・ヘリテージセンター | 2000-2010

強くて活気に満ちた日系プレース・コミュニティの10周年を祝う





## *Celebrating Ten Years!* 10年を祝う!

In the journal for the grand opening of the National Nikkei Heritage Centre in September of 2000, the welcome message shared a vision "to honour the past and to step forward into the future with new aspirations and dreams." As the relatively new Executive Director of NNMHC, I feel privileged to be able to look back and appreciate the accomplishments of the founding directors and past staff. The organization has grown and thrived over the past decade, and the current directors and staff hope to build on the legacy that the founders worked so hard to establish.

At the beginning of 2010, NNMHC directors, staff and volunteers embarked on a strategic planning process so that we could develop goals to help us further our mission and vision. During the process, it was evident how wonderfully diverse our community is and how important our programs are to our constituents. We were also reminded that there is always more work to be done and if we are to be as inclusive and accessible as possible, we need to increase our programming scope and expand our outreach activities.

Our new mission statement, adopted in June, is to **preserve and promote Japanese Canadian history, arts and culture through vibrant programs and exhibits that connect generations and inspire diverse audiences.** We are proud to be celebrating our 10th anniversary this year, and we are excited at the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead. The new events and exhibits that are planned for 2011 are just an example of our desire to engage with more communities, individuals and organizations. I'd like to thank all of the current directors, volunteers and staff for their dedication to the organization and for their commitment to taking the NNMHC to the next level of success in the coming years.



Miko Hoffman | ミコ・ Hoffman  
Executive Director  
National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre

## National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre

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Miko Hoffman	Executive Director
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Beth Carter	Director-Curator
Nichola Ogiwara	Museum Assistant & Program Coordinator
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Alexis Jensen	Collections Manager
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Reiko Miki	Facility Rental Coordinator
Shinobu Mekada	Facility Rental Assistant
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Ella Law	Accountant
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Yujin Fukao	Facility Staff
Mits Goto	Facility Staff
Gavin Lau	Facility Staff
Ben Liu	Facility Staff
Melbourne Williams	Facility Staff
Zelos Chiang	Facility Staff

### NIKKEI PLACE FOUNDATION STAFF

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NATIONAL NIKKEI

センターの夢

# THE DREAM OF THE CENTRE

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BY CATHY MAKIHARA | キャシー・横原



The idea of a cultural centre within a multipurpose complex came about in 1988 after the Japanese Canadian Redress Settlement. The Redress Settlement precipitated the creation of the “Site Management Committee”, an ad hoc committee of people and organizations, charged with locating and acquiring the site, gaining community support and fundraising. The complex was to house a senior’s home, health care home and a cultural centre. Its goal was to build together in unity and its vision was to be a beacon of light bringing together young and old through culture, education, and seniors care.

The process took many years. Prior to 1988, there were attempts by the Japanese Canadian Health Care Society to open a health care home for Issei seniors. The Japanese Canadian Society for Seniors Housing opened Sakura-so on Powell Street, in the 1970’s and occasionally various committees tried to create a cultural centre. It was only after the Redress Settlement that the idea to join forces materialized.

Between 1988 and 1998, there was a monumental effort which brought in thousands of people, one at a time, to support the building of a cultural centre and eventually a museum. Robert Banno was volunteered as the Founding President of the cultural centre and led the fundraising efforts. Bob Nimi, George Oikawa, Gordon Kadota, Bob Iwata and Ruth Coles were among the other pioneers. They were later joined by Mits Hayashi and Sam Yamamoto. With support from every volunteer, more people responded to the call for action to “Put the Centre into Place”. Immeasurable contributions came from Honorary Advisors, architects, engineers, volunteers who chaired numerous committees and led teams of hundreds of volunteers, staff members who worked late into the night and weekends, and the thousands of donors of all ages, from Canada to Japan. Every single community meeting provided valuable information for the architects (Design Architect - Raymond and Jason Moriyama; Project Architect - Kenneth Takeuchi) and programs committees; every survey filled in by groups and individuals provided guidance in what was needed; and each meeting with a donor gave us better insight into what our mission and vision was going to be.

As a result of the input, the National Nikkei Heritage Centre and Japanese Canadian National Museum was taking shape. For the first time in our community’s history, a bold step was taken to establish itself as national institution. The museum and its programs of history, education, research and archive was going to be national in scope and a place where the community’s history and heritage would be preserved.

In 2000, the National Nikkei Heritage Centre and Japanese Canadian National Museum was finally built and opened. After a history of close to 30 years it was a vision that had become a reality. The first 10 years of operations symbolizes the establishing of our mission, and the next year 10 years will be the realization of our mission **“to preserve and promote Japanese Canadian history, arts and culture through vibrant programs and exhibits that connect generations and inspire diverse audiences.”**

‘Thank you to the many people who shared the dream’.

夢をいっしょに見続けたみんなにありがとう。



日系カナダ人の歴史を救う

# SAVING THE HISTORY OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

BY FRANK KAMIYA AND STAN FUKAWA | スタン・府川とフランク・神谷

The Centennial of 1977, celebrating the arrival of Manzo Nagano, the first Japanese person in Canada, inspired many younger Nisei to start learning about their history and heritage. In 1980, the Japanese Canadian History Preservation Committee (JCHPC) was formed by Frank Hanano as a sub-committee of the Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens Association (GVJCCA). This committee realized the importance of preserving the history of our elders who were aging and passing on. Over the next few years, the committee recorded some 50 interviews which were forwarded to the UBC Special Collections for safekeeping. This important work was the foundation for the collections of what became the Japanese Canadian National Museum.

From 1984 to 1987, Dan Tokawa, and after him, Frank Kamiya continued the work of the JCHPC by hiring summer students and recruiting dedicated volunteers who conducted and transcribed many interviews. With limited funds the committee purchased tape recorders, a transcriber, a 35 mm. camera, secure filing cabinet and some archival supplies. Gradually, through fundraising, and with some financial assistance from the GVJCCA, the committee was able to upgrade the equipment and hire part-time staff.



The JCHPC officially became the Japanese Canadian Archives (JCA) in 1993. With limited secure storage space the committee was only able to accept archival material and continued to record interviews. Shane Foster was hired part-time in the early 1990s to maintain archival standards. Lana Panko provided essential guidance on the operations of a museum. By 1994, the JCA had over 1000 historic photographs and 234 oral history recordings in both Japanese and English.

On June 22, 1995, with endorsement from the NAJC, the Japanese Canadian Museum & Archives Society was federally incorporated. With funds provided by the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation, the Society hired qualified staff including an executive director, Dr. Michael Wilson, Susan Michi Sirovyak as Curator of Collections, Naomi Sawada as Curator of Programs, Shane Foster, continuing as Archivist and Minnie Hattori as part-time Office Assistant. Suzi Nitta Petersen, our General Secretary, later took on the task of setting up the Museum Shop in 2000. Ray Ota, Director and Treasurer, ensured that our finances were in order.

Our purpose was “to collect, preserve, research, exhibit and interpret historical artifacts and archival material covering the history and culture of Japanese Canadians from the 1880s through World War II to the present day.” The first office of the JCNM&A was a 190 sq. ft. space on the second floor of the GJVCCA at 511 E. Broadway. Some of the furniture and equipment were donated or built by volunteers. We still use some of these desks and filing cabinets today!

The first issue of our quarterly journal “NIKKEI IMAGES” was published in January 1996, edited by Michael Wilson, and is now in its 15th year. A new logo was designed by Gerry Foster, son-in-law of director, Dr. Wesley Fujiwara, using the traditional Japanese “mon” motif in a simple and pleasing way with maple leaves, the symbol of Canada. In 1999, the JCNM&A officially changed its name (again!) to Japanese Canadian National Museum as it was felt that the “archives” was redundant.

In the spring of 2000, the many years of volunteer initiative paid off when the JCNM moved into a newly constructed 2870 square foot space in the NNHC building. After years in cramped quarters, we were thrilled to have access to an exhibit hall, museum offices, archival storage space, research centre and museum shop.

Grace Thomson, who began as executive director in 1999, secured funds for the inaugural exhibition which she curated and titled “Reshaping Memory, Owning History: Through the Lens of Japanese Canadian Redress.” The exhibition successfully toured Canada and an abridged version is currently used in education programs.

The museum was able to flourish in the new space with exciting exhibits and a growing collection. In addition, several educational programs were developed, including the Taiken program and the Journeys Outreach kits. To date, over 10,000 students have learned about the internment history through the JCNM programs.


The merger of the Museum with the National Nikkei Heritage Centre Society was a critical event for both organizations. Both societies had identical missions and goals, and cooperation was seen as more fruitful than competition. At a special membership meeting in June 2002, where the mail-in vote of members was announced at 95% of the ballots in favour of the merger, a new society was formed: the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre.

Since then, the museum has been actively involved in many important community and historical events. The 2002 Nikkei Week celebrations highlighted both the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to Canada, Manzo Nagano, and the centennial of the fight for citizenship rights for Canadians of Asian origin taken to the Privy Council by Tomekichi Homma.

In 2003, Jari Osborne presented the world premiere of “Sleeping Tigers” an NFB film about the Vancouver Asahi baseball team in the NNMHC Events Hall in recognition of the help that was given to her by the JCNM. In October 2005, the JCNM opened the exhibition “Leveling the Playing Field: Legacy of the Asahi Baseball Team”, curated by Grace Eiko Thomson. This exhibit also traveled across Canada.

The Suian Maru Centennial project and celebration in 2006 introduced the fascinating story of the 1906 voyage of the Suian Maru, a three-masted schooner transporting 84 people from Miyagi Prefecture to the BC coast. It was part of Jinzaburo Oikawa’s dream of establishing a colony of people to turn BC scrap fish--chum salmon--and offal--salmon roe--into valuable trade commodities in Japan--salt salmon and salted roe. Through the involvement of people in the Nikkei community with contacts with the Oikawa family, the museum was able to receive the family’s historic collection of artifacts including Jinzaburo’s hand-written autobiography, clothing, and many photographs. The Suian Maru Centennial program attracted visitors from Japan and descendants from across Canada and the U.S. Almost 400 guests crammed into the Nikkei Centre Events Hall for the sold-out dinner. The museum staff, led by Manager/Curator Timothy Savage and Archivist Reiko Tagami, created a Suian Maru exhibit from artifacts received shortly before the celebratory event, which was received with great appreciation.

The Japanese Canadian National Museum is the successful result of many volunteers who had the foresight to start saving the heritage of the community for future generations. The museum is excited to celebrate the Centre’s first decade and continues to be dedicated to the care and preservation of important Japanese Canadian historical records and artifacts from across the country. As we enter our next decade, the museum is committed to the highest standards of preservation for the collections, and is using new technology to digitize collections and make them available to a much wider audience through the internet. We continue to work together with several community groups to gather historical information and prepare exhibits. We are also excited to feature younger contemporary artists who are looking to the future and interpreting their Japanese Canadian ancestry through new media. As the collections grow, we look forward to expanding the museum into a large permanent history gallery which will truly reflect the national scope, significance and influence of Japanese Canadians.



コレクションの宝物

# TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTIONS

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Japantown Reimagined, by Mary Anne Tateishi, 2010



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 artefacts 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. 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 artefacts.

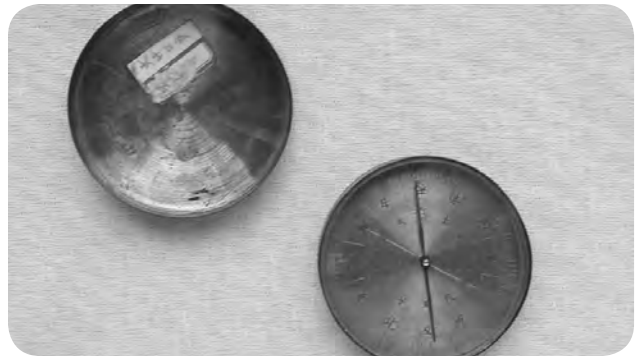
The museum is dedicated to preserving the heritage of Japanese Canadians. Please consider donating your family photos, archival materials or artefacts. We are especially interested in collecting materials that relate to Japanese Canadian communities outside of BC, as well as anything to do with the historic Powell Street area, and Japanese Canadian labour history relating to farming, fishing and lumber. If you are cleaning out your storage areas, please give us a call!





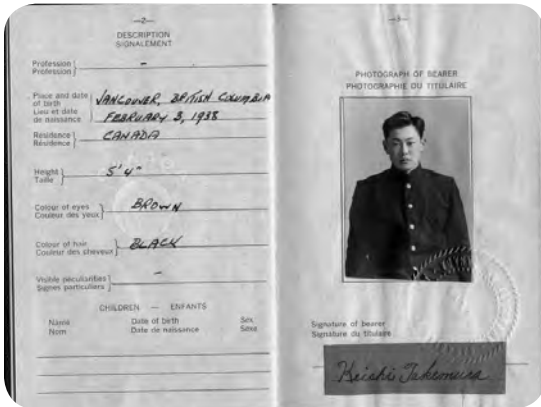
#### BASEBALL JERSEY, 1939

This jersey belonged to Kaye Kaminishi. Playing "brainball," the Asahis triumphed over their bigger, harder-hitting opposition to become the most popular Vancouver team of their era. JCNM 1998.6.1.A



#### COMPASS

This compass belonged to Jinzaburo Oikawa, the famous Japanese pioneer who brought a large Japanese population to settle on the BC Coast. JCNM 2009.2.79



#### PASSPORT

Belonging to Mr Keishi Takemura, issued in 1938. JCNM 2010.9.1



#### SAIBASHI SOCKS

Made by Mrs Shio Yabuno using a First Nations knitting technique. Even when wet, these wool socks kept fishermen's feet warm. JCNM 2003.6.2




#### TEAPOT AND LID (THAT ALSO SERVED AS A CUP).

These were used on train platforms in Japan in the Tohoku area - served through the train windows. JCNM 1996.9.2



#### PLAY ORCHESTRA

These seven men hold driftwood or other abandoned objects in an attempt to mimic various musical instruments. JCNM 2010.17.1.47



活動補助グループ：  
センターとコミュニティのためのサービス

# THE AUXILIARY:

Volunteer Service for the Centre and  
the Greater Community

BY YOSHI HASHIMOTO | ヨシ・ハシモト

The passage of the seasons at the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre can be marked by several key events: Spring Bazaar, Fall Japanese Farmers' Market, Breakfast with Santa and the ever popular Mochitsuki Day. These wonderful family events are made possible by the dedicated group of volunteers called The NNM&HC Auxiliary Committee.

The core group of the committee was formed back in 2000 as part of the Museum, but became the NNM&HC Auxiliary Committee in 2002.

“The Museum volunteers decided to merge with the Auxiliary after [their] collaboration on the 2001 Mochitsuki, a long-standing Museum event. It did not make sense to have separate volunteer organizations. In 1995, the Museum and Archives group had its first Mochitsuki at 511 E. Broadway, formerly the VJCCA offices. At that time, Mochitsuki was an all-you-can-eat for 5 dollars affair. Even in those early days, the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners' Association was demonstrating traditional mochi pounding. This tradition has been carried on to the NNMHC Auxiliary's Mochitsuki Days. Museum volunteers also sold plants and sacks of manure at early fund-raising events, and had food booths at the annual Powell Street Festival selling hot dogs, and later, chow mein (2001). It involved a huge amount of work and success depended on good weather.”

- Frank Kamiya



The Auxiliary founding meeting was organized by staff members Roy Sakata and Mary Matsuba. The Committee is made up of a group of mostly Nisei volunteers, somewhat bilingual with strong ties to a common heritage and Japanese history in B.C. They are a very talented, skilled, and exceptionally social group with expertise and knowledge of special traditional cooking such as making sushi, manju and mochitsuki.

“A preliminary constitution was drafted and it included as its priorities the following concepts: that the Auxiliary provide volunteer service for the Centre and the greater community, raise funds to enhance the programs and facilities of the Centre, and support the work of the staff of the Centre, and assist with special events taking place at the Centre.”

– Avalon Tagami

It was not long before the organizational and culinary skills of the Auxiliary were put to the test. In 2002, the Nikkei Centre decided to commemorate and celebrate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant 125 years earlier. Assisted by volunteers, friends, spouses, and the City of Burnaby, the event became a reality. As part of the fundraising, the Auxiliary started the annual fall Farmers’ Market selling Japanese vegetables (*kabocha*, *daikon*, *napa*, *gobo*, and *kyuri*) donated from several Fraser Valley farmers (Mukaida, Matsuda, Urasaki, Nakamoto, Brady).

During Nikkei 125, the Auxiliary prepared a huge variety of Japanese foods for sale to the public. However, the Centre’s existing kitchen facilities were inadequate to handle food preparation on a large-scale and simultaneously maintain strict Health and Safety Standards. The idea for constructing a new Community Kitchen at Nikkei Centre was born. At first it seemed to be an enormous, almost impossible project, but everyone involved pulled together, and the Community Kitchen Fund grew sufficiently to allow the construction to begin in March 2005.

Architect Ken Takeuchi spent several months on planning and coordination and director Sam Yamamoto provided enormous assistance to carry the construction phases to completion. The Nikkei Centre now has a fully equipped stainless steel kitchen, available for use by all community groups. The Auxiliary Committee is very proud of their achievement, and thanks all those who donated funds and worked tirelessly to achieve this goal. A dedicated army of approximately 200 volunteers helps in preparing all the delicious food items and in coordinating the many major events organized by the Committee. It is to their credit that events are as successful as they are.

In the pre-Community Kitchen period, in order to raise funds for supplies and equipment, some of the members formed their own little event known as “Everyone’s a Chef” or “EaC” where special dinners would be prepared for invited guests and a modest fee was charged. The proceeds went to purchase the pots and pans, utensils, rice cookers, serving dishes, bowls, etc. Kaori Yano describes it like this:

“The conception of EaC started as a fund-raiser to stock the kitchen with equipment. It was the Auxiliary members who organized and started EaC. In the early days, many of the members brought pots, , etc. from their homes to make food to raise funds. They cooked as a group and invited friends to dinner for a fee. Occasionally some Board members attended as well. Also, a couple of dinners were held for a group from Telus. There was a charge to cover the cost of the food which helped to produce a small profit.”

– Kaori Yano

The EaC grew into a social and fun event where members and friends could ‘recharge’ their batteries, prepare and share some very delicious foods, thank the efforts of fellow volunteers, enjoy good fellowship and catch-up on all kinds of news and stories. They have featured bocce tournaments, barbecues on the lawn, and evenings of games and catered food (no cooking for once!). Based on the experiences at the EaC, the Auxiliary decided to produce its own cookbook, containing all the recipes produced at EaC, as well as recipes from Auxiliary members, including those from the days in the Internment Camps. Under the guidance and editing of Karol Dubitz, the book titled “Everyone’s a Chef” came to fruition in November 2006, and quickly sold out.

Where lies the future of the Auxiliary? As with many other similar organizations, getting the next generation involved to carry on is a real challenge. The Auxiliary encourages anyone of any age to join and help support the Nikkei Centre. It is a highly motivated, energetic, fun-loving and extremely friendly group. Assist us in planning and organizing activities and learn about traditional Japanese food preparation and customs before they are lost. Join the Auxiliary - you will be glad you did!



ボードメンバーのみなさんありがとう!

**THANK YOU TO OUR MANY BOARD MEMBERS!**

The National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre is made successful by the hundreds of people who give their time and commitment to the leadership of the Centre. We would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and expertise over the last ten years.

**WE ESPECIALLY OWE THANKS TO OUR DEDICATED BOARD PRESIDENTS!**

Robert Banno, Founding President  
 Stan Fukawa, President, JCNM  
 Mitsuo Hayashi, President, NNMHC  
 Gordon Kadota, President, NNHC  
 Frank Kamiya, President, JCNM  
 Craig Ngai Natsuhara, President, NNMHC  
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\*This list reflects all the members of Boards of Directors for the Japanese Canadian National Museum, the National Nikkei Heritage Centre and after the merger, the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre.





## THOMAS KUNITO SHOYAMA

By Michiko Midge Ayukawa

Thomas Kunito Shoyama (1917-2006), our Japanese Canadian “National Treasure” was an exceptional nisei who, as his samurai ancestors had for generations served their clan leaders, dedicated himself to serve the Nikkei as well as Canadians in general. He was the editor of the NEW CANADIAN newspaper from 1939 to 1945, our most turbulent years. He, then, went on to work alongside Premier Tommy Douglas of Saskatchewan in bringing medicare to that province. Later, he went to Ottawa where he reached the pinnacle of Canadian Public Service by being appointed to several senior positions, including Deputy Minister of

Finance. He “retired” in 1979 and joined the faculty of the University of Victoria.

He was admired and loved by all. His reputation reached beyond Canada and he was often asked by newly developing nations to lend his expertise. And yet, he was modest and never “tooted his own horn.”

It was not until after Tommy passed away that many learned about the major part he had played in the fund-raising to build the National Nikkei Heritage Centre. In a short tribute, Board member, Robert Banno, who was involved since the very beginning wrote: Tom’s sterling reputation and creditability with the Federal government were critical in obtaining the \$1,000,000 Federal Provincial Infrastructure Grant. This grant came at a make-it-or-break time in the fund-raising for the Centre and obtaining it with Tom’s help enabled the balance of the fund-raising to succeed and made it possible for the Centre to be built. [NIKKEI IMAGES, Spring 2007, 12:1, p.5]

Robert Banno’s tribute startled me. Tom had become a close mentor, confidant, and friend in Victoria. And yet, it was so typical of him that he had never mentioned the major part he had played in the birth of Nikkei Place.



## GEORGE OIKAWA – PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF!

By Linda Reid

Starting his career in real estate in 1956, George was recognized as a Governor at Real Estate Institute of BC, serving 25 years from 1971-1996. He served as the chair of the Professional conduct, Admittance and membership, Publication, Finance committees and elected president of the Institute in 1992. The Real Estate Institute of BC established a bursary in his name at UBC Urban Land Economics department. Serving as a consultant in all matters relating to real estate, he was an accredited appraiser, was an expert witness before arbitration boards, assessment appeal boards, the Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal

Court of Canada and later chaired numerous arbitration boards.

George’s 33 year journey in realizing Nikkei place started in 1974 with a survey of the Japanese communities in BC. The survey identified the need for seniors housing and a community center in Vancouver and the Okanagan. George volunteered to head the JCCA Building committee to realize these facilities. He arranged purchase of the Richmond Hotel on Powell Street, applied for funding for renovations to open Sakura-So on Powell Street in 1976. Still in the quest for Nikkei Place, through his contacts at City Hall a couple of offers came his way, the best one being an enclave in Champlain Heights. But the deal fell through when the NDP called an early election in 1977. By the mid 1980’s under the leadership of Robert Banno and Mark Ando, the building committee conceptualized the facilities on one site, so George turned his attention to finding the property. He met with Gordon Campbell and turned down two sites due to lack of space. Finally in 1992, George found 3 acres of land in Burnaby, the current site, and devoted his energy to realizing Nikkei Place. After it was completed he still continued to devote many hours of his time to management and maintenance issues at the Centre. He also lobbied hard to realize Nikkei Home as one of the first assisted living units in a community environment.

# FOND RECOLLECTIONS 早期の回想

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With great pleasure I applaud the ten-year anniversary of the opening of Nikkei Place, which has become a beacon in the Canadian Nikkei landscape. As the first executive director of the Japanese Canadian National Museum and Archives, I witnessed the early steps. At the Museum and Archives we busied ourselves with the necessary development of collections, accessions, and display policies for the facility that was to come. Volunteers did their best to pursue other projects as well, recording the reminiscences of older members of the community and keeping a watchful eye for things that might belong in such a museum.

**MICHAEL C. WILSON**

I can't believe the Centre has been open for ten years! As we stood with excitement outside in the Nikkei Garden listening to the opening speeches, the illuminated Ellipse Lobby looked breathtaking. Inside the Event Hall, everyone looked so proud to have such an amazing community centre. During the merger of the Museum and the Heritage Centre, I was a director of both societies so participated in discussions on both sides. The merger is a good example of two groups realizing that they valued each other, and working through potential misunderstandings. I look forward to when we are able to expand the Museum, better reflecting its national mandate. My most prevalent memory is seeing the happy and appreciative faces of community supporters at museum exhibition openings, breakfasts with Santa, mochitsukis, and annual galas. These are the faces of parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents, sons, daughters, grandchildren, and I am grateful that they are all carrying on the legacy of the Nikkei community in British Columbia and beyond.

**CRAIG NGAI NATSUHARA**

Having been involved throughout the process for the building of the Center and being part of the operations since the beginning, I am amazed at the cooperation, the talent, the dedication of the individuals involved. Disagreements were handled so that the goal of creating the Centre could be achieved. It has been a pleasure to see the community embrace and support the effort to build and operate the centre and it is gratifying that the community recognizes the Centre as their own.

**RUTH COLES**

As part of our fundraising, we worked hard to obtain a major grant from the Canada-BC Infrastructure Program. I remember lining up at a political dinner to present our Fundraising Brochure to then Premier Dan Miller. Mr. Miller was a key decision-maker on the provincial side of the Program. When we finally gave him our brochure, it did not seem to register. To truly resonate and make an impact, we couriered our brochure to Bruce Tasaka of Prince Rupert and asked Bruce to present our brochure to Mr. Miller the next day. At the same time, we arranged for Tom Shoyama and Dick Nakamura of Victoria to present the brochure to David Anderson, who was the main BC representative of the Federal Government. Involving community members in Prince Rupert and Victoria certainly helped as we obtained a grant of \$1,000,000 from the Canada-BC Infrastructure Program. The late Fred Randall, the MLA for Burnaby Edmonds and a good friend of our society, told us we received the grant because of our hard work and the fact we did our homework. The grant served as an important turning point for our capital building campaign.

**ROBERT T. BANNO**

My recent visit to the NNMHC reminded me of the official opening of the Nikkei Heritage Center and the National Nikkei Museum. Those two days conjure up many images, voices and experiences which captured the aspirations of Japanese Canadians to remember the past and to move on into the future. As the first Executive Director of the Centre, my fondest memories will always be the numerous rich and rewarding relationships that evolved with the Board of Directors, staff, Nikkei elders, volunteers, program instructors, school groups, and the general community. Best wishes with the 10th anniversary celebrations!

**TSUKASA ROY SAKATA**

For me, the most memorable event at Heritage Centre & Museum and Nikkei Place in the last 10 years was the Japanese Imperial visit in July 2009. The Japanese Government started the preparations by stealth a good one year before the visit to Nikkei Place, with a series of visits by Japanese Government officials of various levels. It was a very honorable and memorable event for the entire Nikkei Place. We are glad that our facility includes Gladstone Japanese Language School. A community facility including heritage / culture centre with Japanese language school, museum, senior independent housing and senior assisted housing is very unique worldwide.

**MITS HAYASHI**

A major factor in building the Nikkei Place complex was the Redress Foundation. In '88 they had given each individual \$21,000 for compensation for all the problems that we had. They had also set aside some money for community development because our community was decimated. And so we managed to receive money from them which allowed us to buy the property.

**BOB NIMI**







