

## START: HARRY AOKI



**YEAR: 1941    AGE:19**

**VANCOUVER, BC**

Harry works for a lumber company. He plays the violin, piano, and harmonica, and hopes to go to university soon.

## EVENT

**IRON SPRINGS, ALBERTA**

**1942-1945:**

After being injured in a logging camp in Blind Bay, joins family on a sugar beet farm. To pass the time, plays harmonica, studies music, and learns to ski.

## EVENT

**PRINCE GEORGE, BC**

**1950s:**

After being unable to accept a university scholarship in the United States due to immigration laws, teaches self to play the double bass while injured in a skiing accident.

## EVENT

**VANCOUVER, BC**

**1968:**

Co-stars in a CBC television show called Moods of Man with African American singer and guitar player Jim Johnson.

**END: HARRY AOKI**



**YEAR: 2002    AGE:80**

**BURNABY, BC**

While serving on the board of the Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association, Harry starts the First Friday Forum, a monthly event for intercultural music and dialogue, at the Nikkei Centre in Burnaby, BC.

**START: MARY MURAKAMI**



**YEAR: 1941    AGE:7**

**SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC**

Mary is an elementary school student. She lives with her mother, father, brother, and sisters on their 17-acre farm with 5000 egg-laying hens.

## EVENT

**VANCOUVER, BC**

**1942:**

Father is taken away by the RCMP. Is unable to attend school due to racism. With mother, siblings, and hundreds of other Japanese Canadian families, is made to go live in Hastings Park in Vancouver in a huge barn built for animals.

## EVENT

**VANCOUVER, BC**

**1960:**

Applies for a teaching job on Salt Spring Island but is rejected due to anti-Japanese racism; becomes a teacher at Kitsilano Secondary in Vancouver.

## EVENT

**VANCOUVER, BC**

**1982:**

Retires from teaching to go back to school, studying Japanese language and Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia.

## END: MARY KITAGAWA



**YEAR: 2012    AGE: 78**  
**VANCOUVER, BC**

A retired teacher, great-grandmother, and UBC graduate, Mary is a highly respected human rights activist. She successfully lobbied UBC to grant honorary degrees to 76 Japanese Canadian former students who were expelled from the university in 1942 during the forced dispersal.

## EVENT

**VICTORIA, BC**

**1931:**

As president of the Japanese Canadian Legion Branch #9, successfully lobbies the BC government to win the right to vote for all Japanese Canadian veterans of the First World War.

## START: MASUMI MITSUI



**YEAR: 1916    AGE: 28**  
**VANCOUVER, BC**

Masumi joins the Canadian Japanese Volunteer Corps, a group of about 200 Japanese immigrants who train to fight for Canada in the First World War. He has lived in Canada for eight years, and is a naturalized British subject (Canadian citizen).

## EVENT

**VANCOUVER, BC**

**1942:**

Is taken away from his poultry farm in Port Coquitlam and forced to live in Hastings Park. Throws his medals on the floor of the British Columbia Security Commission office in rage and frustration.

## EVENT

**CALGARY, ALBERTA**

**1919:**

Is honourably discharged from the army at the end of the First World War with the rank of Sergeant and a Military Medal for bravery.

## END: MASUMI MITSUI



**YEAR: 1985    AGE: 97**  
**VANCOUVER, BC**

Masumi travels from his home in Hamilton, Ontario to represent his fellow Japanese Canadian veterans in a special ceremony in Stanley Park: he re-lights the eternal flame of the Japanese Canadian War Memorial, which was extinguished during the Second World War.

## START: KINORI SHINOHARA OKA



**YEAR: 1927    AGE: 23**  
**KURUME, FUKUOKA, JAPAN**

A Japanese picture bride, Kinori meets her husband, Sanzo Oka, for the first time years after their marriage. She sails with him from Japan to Canada to join him at his family's farm in Abbotsford, BC.

## EVENT

**ABBOTSFORD, BC**

**1929:**

Learns how to sew Western-style clothing while nursing her first child.

## EVENT

**WOODFIBRE, BC**

**1942:**

Pregnant with her third child, tries to induce labour before she is forced to move to Hastings Park.

## EVENT

### VANCOUVER, BC

#### 1955:

After elder daughter has moved to Toronto and son has gone to live at Woodlands School in New Westminster, returns to Vancouver with husband and younger daughter. Family turns to running a grocery store on Commercial Drive.

#### END: KINORI SHINOHARA OKA



YEAR: 1990 AGE: 86

#### KURUME, FUKUOKA, JAPAN

After receiving Redress funds from the Canadian government as compensation for the hardships she endured due to racist policies under the War Measures Act in the 1940s, Kinori uses the money to travel to Japan to visit relatives, accompanied by her daughter and son-in-law.

#### START: IRENE UCHIDA



YEAR: 1941 AGE: 24

#### YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

Irene is a student at the University of British Columbia, but she has taken some time off from her studies for an extended visit to Japan with her mother and sisters. Irene catches a boat back to Canada. Her family plans to follow her soon.

## EVENT

### LEMON CREEK, BC

#### 1944:

Principal of the school in Lemon Creek internment camp. Lives in shack with father until he joins their family who are stuck in Japan.

## EVENT

### TORONTO, ONTARIO

#### 1951:

Earns PhD in zoology from the University of Toronto, hoping to help people through a career in genetic research.

## EVENT

### MADISON, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

#### 1959:

After a lengthy struggle with United States immigration, is allowed to live there for six months to study genetics as part of a prestigious fellowship.

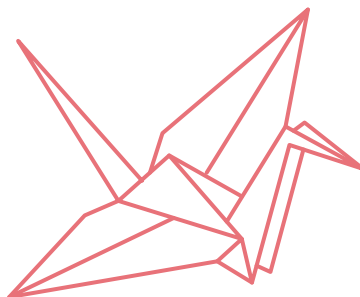
#### END: IRENE UCHIDA



YEAR: 1993 AGE: 76

#### HAMILTON, ONTARIO

Awarded an Officer of the Order of Canada for her contributions to scientific research. Continues her research at McMaster University Medical Centre.



CHANCE