

N.A.J.C. Community News

HAMILTON CHAPTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

Vol.2018, No. 1

45 HEMPSTEAD DRIVE HAMILTON

MAILING ADDRESS: 45 Hempstead Drive, Hamilton, ON, L8W 2Y6

Beauty in a Broken World

A group of Japanese Canadians were recently invited to participate in a community consultation by ROM organizers. The session was organized in order to provide feedback on how you feel the ROM can successfully engage the Japanese Canadian community and beyond. I attended the session and was struck by the intense interest and caring that was demonstrated by members of our community who participated in the ROM Community Consultation for Beauty in a Broken World on Monday, March 5th, from 6 – 8 pm. Japanese aesthetics and approaches to everyday life are apparent in the Japanese subconscious. We as Japanese Canadians are also affected by these aesthetics and we are often unaware but when we get together as a group to talk about how we would like to be presented to the world through an exhibit at the ROM we become passionate about terminology and the importance of factual representation as opposed to euphemisms to depict the events. The pain of the past becomes tangibly present in the room and becomes a spark to ignite conversations long after the event. I will urge you all to speak to each other about how you would describe the events that are part of your own family history. Participants described themselves based on their knowledge of the “Japanese Canadian situation during WWII” as

Walker- I know only a little bit

Jogger- I've heard stories and know some information

Runner- I've heard stories, read information and am fairly knowledgeable

How do you identify on this scale?

How do members of your family and your friends see themselves?

MISSION Statement: *To promote and to develop a strong Japanese Canadian identity, and thereby strengthening local communities and the national organization. And striving for equal rights and liberties for all persons -- in particular the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.*

N.A.J.C. Vision: A strong unified community founded on diversity, and committed to human rights for all, for the enrichment of Canada.

We plan to bring a presentation about the exhibit to Hamilton soon and will follow up with a trip to the ROM to view the exhibit. Please let us know your interest.

Patti Simpson

Keirokai 2018

Celebrating Our Seniors

30 years after the Historic Redress Settlement and the formation of the NAJC

Please indicate your attendance by April 1 (Easter)

This year's special features:

Toronto Chapter NAJC historical photo exhibit

Terry Watada is coming to Hamilton.

He will read from his new book at Keirokai 2018.

Terry is a sansei author and musician.

Terry's book The Three Pleasures will be available at the Keirokai

We will be again having the photobooth for your family and personal photos.

Thank you to Chris Hourmouzis for organizing and donating time and equipment to help us.

A note of Congratulations

Congratulations to author Mark Sakamoto who's book *Forgiveness* is a 2018 finalist for the CBC Canada Reads competition

Congratulations to Toronto media artist Midi Onodera who is the winner of a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.

Congratulations to the Hamilton based Ehara family for the successful screening of Sweet Dreams for Chiyo

Congratulations to Bryce Kanbara winner of the Art Miki National Leadership Award for 2017 which was presented at the national NAJC AGM held in the Nishga'a Girl Salon at the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa.

Congratulations to

Fumi Kanbara on turning 100
Marlene and Bruce on second grandchild
Masako Uchida on turning 95
Tamiko Hikida on turning 75
Masako Honda on turning 102

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Mailing Address:

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Location:

45 Hempstead Drive, Hamilton, ON.
(on the East Mountain)

NAJC Email: hamiltonnajc@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

Advertising Rates

Business Card Size	\$20.00
3 x 4 inches	\$25.00
4 x 5 inches	\$30.00

Better Communications

When you receive your Membership Card Application, you will see a space for your e-mail address. Would you please provide this. Through e-mail, we would be able to keep you better informed in a timely and economic way. This will be an additional service for our members. Our Newsletter will continue as always, however there are occasions between Newsletters when we would like to share information with you, or send reminders of events which may be of interest to you. We endeavour to publish 3 newsletters per year. Postal mail costs are huge and prohibitive, but by e-mail and having you pass on information to our non-online members, we can be more closely joined together.

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Koyukai 60+ seniors of Hamilton

The Koyukai Board and all Koyukai members would like to thank President George Ikeda for his service. We appreciate all he has done for our organization and wish him well as he retires.

Donations to Koyukai were gratefully received from George Ikeda, Betty Sonoda, Marlene Frazer, Tami Hikida during 2017.

April 09, 2018 will be the Annual General Meeting following the lunch at Mandarin Restaurant Upper James location. Please pay your dues to treasurer Tom Simpson at the restaurant if you are not planning to go the centre following lunch. This year the dues are \$ **15.00** per person.

Koyukai bowlers continue to meet on Thursday mornings at Sherwood Bowling Centre.

Koyukai euchre group continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at CJCC.



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Hamilton NAJC AGM

Hamilton Chapter NAJC held the AGM on February 4, 2018 on a snowy Superbowl Sunday. We traditionally have been holding our AGM on the same day as Superbowl for the past few years. This year we were able to meet with our board and a few dedicated members who braved the weather to attend. The meeting was exciting as we planned for events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the historic Redress settlement and the formation of the NAJC.

The Three Pleasures tells the stories of Japanese Canadians who lived in the Powell Street area and were then uprooted. The story is told through the eyes of a junior reporter for the New Canadian newspaper. It is highly recommended and is a feature of this year's Keirokai event with a reading by author Terry Watada.

"Terry Watada's literary tour de force, The Three Pleasures, lifts the Japanese Canadian internment experience beyond passive victimization by giving life to a host of historical figures - heroes, villains and tragic characters - in a fascinating yet little-known resistance movement within the camps. An absolute page-turner and worthy read." (jim wong-chu)

National NAJC AGM and Conference in Ottawa/Gatineau September 2017

Hamilton Chapter NAJC was able to send three representatives to the national NAJC AGM and conference in Ottawa. Marlene Frazer, Anri Simpson and president Patricia Simpson attended. The attendees were able to drive together and share accommodations. This national event is the only event that is attended by Japanese Canadians from across Canada who represent the local populations. It is an important time to meet other Japanese Canadians and share both concerns and successes.

In the following report, board member Marlene Frazer shares her experience.

I enjoyed attending the NAJC Annual General Meeting and Conference in Ottawa/Gatineau September 22 – 24, 2018. We had the opportunity to visit Mosaic Canada 150 in Jacques Cartier Park, which was just down the street from our hotel. It took about 90 mins to view all the exhibits. It was a memorable experience. The theme of the exhibit reflects 150 years of history, values, culture and arts in Canada, represented by some 40 different arrangements.

It was an honour to attend Ambassador Kenjiro Monji's residence Saturday evening. This was a special opportunity for us because the AGM was held in Ottawa.

Sessions that I enjoyed during the conference section were:

The Past - Finding a New Home : Postwar Relocation to Eastern Canada and Japan" moderator Dr. Pam Sugiman;

The Present - Being "Japanese" and "Canadian": How Both Identities Have Influenced My Life", moderated by Melisa Kamibayashi-Staples.

I enjoyed hearing Reverend Yoshi Ouchi who was a panel participant. Reverend Ouchi is from the Toronto/Hamilton Buddhist temple. The panel discussions were well organized and thought provoking.

I thought the excerpts of Lillian Nakamura Macquire's play "Hidden Memories" was very good and enjoyed the reading. I will look forward to hearing more about her plays.

On Saturday evening there was a gala reception in the Nishga Girl Salon of the Canadian Museum of History. CTV Montreal's Mutsumi Takahashi was emcee for the event. The evening began with a welcome from NAJC President David Mitsui. Local artist Bryce Kanbara presented with the Art Miki National Leadership Award. Enjoyable entertainment from Oto-Wa Taiko and Bear Nation, an indigenous drumming group lead by Brian Sarazin with a keynote address from Montreal born Hollywood actor Peter Shinkoda. The event closed with a performance by the Minyo-kai dance group and the silent auction results.

It is very encouraging to attend conferences and a great opportunity to meet members across the country. The Ottawa NAJC did a fantastic job. The entertainment, origami menus, table decorations, dinner were great. Thank you to Hamilton Chapter NAJC for sponsoring my registration for the AGM, conference and attendance at the banquet.

Hamilton NAJC --- Be a Part of the Activities!

Being a member of the NAJC Board of Directors of Executive requires a significant commitment but it is very worthwhile. We hope that you will consider this as part of your voluntary work for now or in the near future. There are also opportunities for those who may wish to participate on a more ad hoc basis.

Kerokai and Picnic:

Join a CJCC/NAJC Planning Committee for the Annual Keirokai and/or the NAJC/CJCC Annual Community Picnic.

Education Committee:

Be a member of a teaching team to visit area high schools to talk about the J.C. Internment during WW II

National Updates

The Nikkei National Museum is presenting an exhibit called Beta Vulgaris: The Sugar Beet Projects from February to May. If you are in the Burnaby BC area please drop by the Museum.

The Globe and Mail published an article in November about the Landscapes of Injustice project. Historian Jordan Stanger-Ross found letters in the federal archives that were written by Japanese Canadians protesting the sale of their homes, businesses, heirlooms and other effects while incarcerated in internment camps and forced to live east of the 100 mile zone. There were over 300 letters in the archives. For many Japanese Canadians they were prepared to withstand being moved but they were not prepared to lose everything. They were promised that their homes and businesses would be kept for them. The letters reflect the sense of loss and betrayal they felt. Many express their shock at the prices which their lands and properties were sold for. To quote from the Globe and Mail "Museum curator Sherri Kajiwara said Japanese Canadians were prepared to do their time in internment, but losing everything was not part of the deal. "The thing I find with the letters is the unbelievable politeness and eloquence," she said. "The language is so painfully polite; basically saying, 'kindly, please, stop it. You are not allowed to sell my belongings.' "

The Nikkei National Museum is developing a multimedia online exhibit for the Virtual Museum of Canada inspired by the protest letters written by Japanese Canadians opposing the forced sale of their property in the 1940's. *Writing Wrongs* will launch in 2019 and use multimedia technology, interviews, archival documents, art and photographs to give context to the letters. The Nikkei National Museum is seeking to make connections with descendents of the authors of these letters.. If you know of a family connection to any of the people listed on our website document or in this publication. Please contact Carolyn Nakagawa for more information.

75th anniversary of Internment Luncheon

When Toronto Chapter NAJC first announced that they were planning an event on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the incarceration of the Japanese Canadians from the west coast of BC to the 100 mile zone in concentration camps, the rush to get tickets was immediate. There were many from Hamilton who would like to go but were unable to drive to the event. The Hamilton Chapter NAJC arranged to reserve tickets for their seniors and also arranged to have drivers take the seniors to the event in Scarborough for the day long luncheon and celebration. The seniors attended with their walker and their enthusiasm as they were able to reunite with friends and family. The overflowing room was full of friendly familiar faces. There was bento and entertainment. There were photo exhibits and multimedia presentations. Thank you to Toronto Chapter NAJC for organizing an event in recognition of this occasion.

There is frequently an event that is interesting for our seniors but they feel frustrated trying to get to these out of town events. We try every year to help them attend Issei day at the JCCC and other concerts and events. Please think about volunteering if you would like to help the seniors attend out of town events or if you are taking your parent(s) and have extra room in your car please let us know that you are willing to take passengers. Special thanks to Frances Campbell and Tak Yano for helping our friends attend this special commemorative luncheon.

Toronto Chapter NAJC invited Anri Simpson from our board to volunteer at the event.

NAJC National AGM

Patti as president was able to attend the national NAJC AGM with board members Anri Simpson and Marlene Frazer in September. 2017 was a special year because we recognized the contributions of the Issei pioneers and the Nissei who suffered during the forced relocation and dispossession 75 years ago. The closing gala was held in the Nishiga' Girl salon at the Canadian Museum of History. Nishiga'a Girl is a gill net boat built by Nissei Judo Tasaka that was reinstalled at the Canadian Museum of History. It is a permanent reminder of the forced incarceration and the friendship and cooperation between fishermen Eli Gosnell and Judo Tasaka. These two friends were both commercial fishermen who shared fishing skills and day to day life struggles as brothers. Eli was outspoken in his protest against the use of the War Measures Act against his friends and when the boats were offered for auction was able to bid to buy the boat built by his friend to protect it. This boat was called the Orient. When the war was over BC Packers had a meeting to discuss whether Japanese Canadian fishermen should be allowed to return and Eli was able to speak up to support their return. He was instrumental in helping the Japanese Canadian fishermen. Judo Tasaka built the boat Nishiga'a Girl which was fished by Eli's son in law, Harry Nyce and Eli's grandson Harry Nyce Jr.

Travel to Japan

Hamilton Chapter NAJC was invited to attend a JNTO sponsored event at the ROM. It was held in the ROM close to the Prince Takamado gallery allowing us to inspect the gallery after the event. This meeting focus on taking a school group to Japan but there could be implications for any group visit to Japan. There were travel experts and a presentation on why it is desirable to visit Japan. Perhaps this is something that should be investigated. If you would like to go to Japan with a group of your friends from Hamilton area would you please contact Hamilton Chapter NAJC and we will see if we can arrange a special trip.

Bryce Kanbara - Chirashi Sushi

On February 4th artist Bryce Kanbara celebrated the gala opening of his solo exhibition at the art gallery at JCCC, Chirashi Sushi and array of art works from 1972 to 2016 by Bryce Kanbara selected by Akira Yoshikawa is a 40 year retrospective exhibition representing 8 phases of Bryce's artistic creativity. He held an Artist Talk/Walkabout on Sunday March 18th to a packed gallery. The audience was able to journey with Bryce through this talk to understand the concepts, passions and messages that permeate his work and increase our appreciation for the world Bryce creates through his artwork.

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Donations since last newsletter

Keirokai 2017 donations:

George and Alice Nakamura
Yoji and Marie Murase

In Memory of May Miyasaka

Mas Miyasaka
Ruth Shkumat

Picnic 2017:

Darlene French
April Takeda and Chris Hourmouzis
Tad and Kay Suzuki
Ed Itakura
Terry and Jim Suenaga
Joyce Hirasawa
David Kajjura
Stony Nakano

General donations:

David Yamashita
Jennifer Hashimoto
Dennis and Diane Nishizaki
John Keznaric (In appreciation and memory of Shintani-sensei)
Katherine Suzuki
Grant K. Inouye

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Ruth and Nick Shkumat In memory of Mas Miyasaka

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Hamilton Chapter NAJC Membership Form

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New Member

Change of Address

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Senior Membership \$10.00

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Hamilton Chapter NAJC

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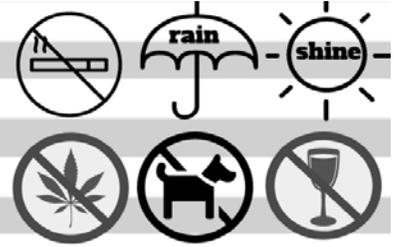
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NAJC/CJCC

Annual....



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2018 NAJC PICNIC

Location: F.H. Sherman Recreation and Learning Centre (Arcelor Mittal)

Address: 388 First Road EastStoney Creek, ON L8J 2X3

Time: 11:00 am ~ dusk

Access to: mini putt, driving range, basketball court, beach volleyball, soccer field, playground

\$5.00 adult
\$3.00 child

August 12th
2018

Child ticket includes: admission to the park, hotdog, drinks, games

N

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Contact:
Anri Simpson
simpsoac@gmail.com
for more info!

Bring your family and friends for a day of fun, food, and community!

Adult ticket includes: admission to park, 1 hotdog, drinks, fukubiki prize, games