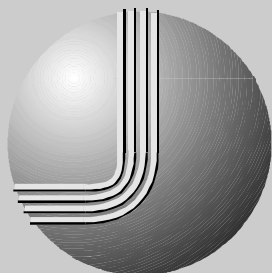


CJST News

The Canada-Japan Society of Toronto



VOLUME 16, No. 1
SEPTEMBER 2000

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2000 AGM Report

Many, many thanks go out to the law firm of Stikeman, Elliot for being the most gracious and generous of hosts. **BY JOHN E. LE BLANC**

Since finding our dusty minute books last year, we were able to confirm that the by-laws of the CJST require us to have an annual general meeting. The by-laws even tell us what we are supposed to do at these meetings; as it turns out, we have been pretty close to the mark all these years although we were "winging it." The most important elements of the meeting are the reporting of the financial matters of the year past, and the election of the Board of Directors.

The May 18th meeting began with a few words from **Craig Martin** of Stikeman, Elliot who regaled the crowd with his bilingual welcome. After wowing us with his ability to speak Nihongo, Craig turned things over to me for the report of happenings in the past year and some general ramblings about how wonderful it was to be here and ... you know how it goes.

Our sitting treasurer, **Michael Rajbar**, made his financial report: to bottom-line it, we are doing very well with a very healthy set of books, continued member support levels and prudent fiscal management. All looks good in this department (...*optimistic outlook added by President*).

Margaret Buckworth then got the all-important election process underway, and to spare you the voting drama I will just list the elected Board of Directors for fiscal year 2000:

John Le Blanc	President
Scott Rutherford	Past President
Margaret Buckworth	Secretary
Ken Bole	Directory Coordinator
Craig Martin	Membership Director
Robert Bracey	Director without portfolio
Trevor Fencott	Treasurer
Michael Rajbar	Webmaster
Eiko Shaul	Cultural Director
Robert Tran	Director without portfolio
Fumiko Shiba	Director without portfolio

If the Board looks a little trimmer to you this year, you have a sharp eye. It turns out that our by-laws require that we have no more than ten Board members. As a result, I approached **John Harris**, **Alan Middleton** and **Ted Goossen** and asked if they would take on the title of "Senior Advisor" rather than Board member. All three very graciously accepted and we look forward to their continued support of the Board and the CJST in this new role. John, Alan and Ted join **Margaret Cornish-Kehoe**, **Rick Wolfe** and **Michael Donnelly** as the Society's sober second chamber - think of them as the Canadian Senate, only younger, more active and above all, extremely valuable to our operation and governance.

LOOKING FORWARD: This calendar year we're been focusing almost exclusively on **Access Japan 2000** - the Consulate General's initiative to showcase Japanese culture (go to www.japancc-toronto.org for details, or see the insert included with this mailing for those of you receiving this via snail-mail). The CJST is backing three very exciting events, which I personally can't wait to attend. The organizing committees for the three events have shown tireless dedication, and are doing the CJST proud. Keep up the good work and thanks!

So, that's our focus until at least November, after which we will plan for the remainder of the fiscal year. Got any ideas on what you would like to see happen? If so, get involved and tell us about it.

P.S. - Once again, I cannot express strongly enough our deep gratitude to Craig Martin and his law firm Stikeman, Elliot for hosting our AGM. Anyone who has an AGM catered by Hiro Sushi is pretty fantastic, if you ask me. If you missed it -- don't you wish you had attended?



The Japanese Children's Museum Prototype

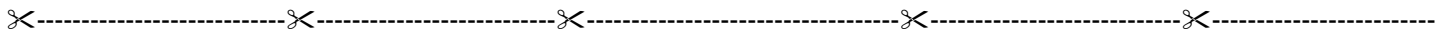
September 23 - November 5, 2000

Spearheaded by the Consul General of Japan, Hara Satoshi, various Japanese - Canadian organizations* (see note) have formed a committee to realize a vision of an interactive Japanese Children's Museum for Canada.

Under the auspices of Access Japan 2000, a prototype will be displayed at the JCCC for six weeks, from September 23 to November 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the JCCC, 6 Garamond Court, Toronto. The theme will be "Aki Matsuri" ("Autumn Festival"). This prototype will help determine the future of a permanent Japanese Children's Museum in Toronto.

At this time we are looking for volunteers for the following positions: fundraising; set-up of the centre (lighting, walls, moving equipment and furniture); workshops; origami centre; computer centre; play centre; attendants at the door to welcome visitors.

Finally, we welcome any material or financial donations for the development of programs, workshops, and the physical space of the room.



Please mail this form to: The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
Attn: The Japanese Children's Museum
Mr. Yoshihisa Nagaishi
6 Garamond Court
Toronto, ON

Name(s):
Address:
City:Province:Postal Code:.....
Phone: (.....)..... Fax: (.....).....
Email:

- Volunteer - Interests:
- Donation - Materials:
- Donation - Financial: Please make cheque(s) payable to Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in order to receive a charitable tax receipt.

Cash VISA MasterCard American Express JCB Cheque enclosed
Number:
Expiry Date:
Signature:

*Harmony International, Japanese Consulate in Toronto, Ikebata Nursery, Association of Japanese Canadians, the Heritage Japanese Language School, plus individual members from the Japanese community.



From the world of anime...

We hear that Twentieth Century Fox has shut down its animated production unit (their most recent feature, *Titan AE* flopped big at the box office). Cartoons continue to be hot, however, driven at least in part by the increasingly sophisticated and popular work being done in Japan. Disney and DreamWorks SKG, as a result, are reported to have at least nine animated features in the works. And, more important, Hayao Miyazaki's highly successful *Mononoke Hime* (released in Japan in 1997, dubbed in English and released in North America in the fall of '99 as *Princess Mononoke*) will be released to the North American video market this fall (English version only).

If you haven't seen this movie, you may have heard about it: North American reviewers have called Miyazaki (of *Tonari no Totoro* fame) "a Japanese national treasure." Others have said that the animation work on this film "puts even Disney's best to shame." It's not appropriate for your four-year-old (complex plot, scary content, etc.), but you sure will enjoy its stunning visuals.

Ah-nold says no-no to Gaijin a Go-Go:

The Globe and Mail reports that a Victoria-based Internet site dedicated to showing clips of Western celebrities in Japanese TV commercials was forced to remove an Arnold Schwarzenegger ad, after receiving a cease-and-desist order from Tokyo lawyers. The **Gaijin a Go-Go Café** site downloads cheesy Japanese commercials by the likes of Meg Ryan, Keanu Reeves, Demi Moore and Leonardo DiCaprio, who boldly hawk everything from facial creams to cars. The site, which normally averages 5,000 hits a month, has been swamped since the legal action made international news. (www.zeroonedesign.com/gogo/main.html)

And what was it that was so ban-worthy? It was an ad for DirecTV, a Japanese satellite TV channel: Schwarzenegger played several characters, including a reporter, a politician, and even his *Terminator* role. He also donned a wig and moustache for a 70s "funky guy" character. One of the site's co-founders was quoted as saying that it was best not to mess with the Terminator: "He could squish us like a bug."

"OTHER" News from Japan

While you were reading about politicians and ¥ rates, this is what's really been going on...

Two important stories from the world of science:

From Nury Vittachi (*Far Eastern Economic Review*): "Japanese scientists have produced a product that combines the functions of a fridge and a pocket memo recorder. The NR-E46W2, produced by Matsushita Refrigeration Co. at ¥265,000 (US\$2,430) can hold enough food for a family for a week, and can also record four messages of ten seconds that can be continually updated." (Editor's note: What were these guys thinking of?! I'd *much* rather have Sony's new robot dog.)

Second, from *New Scientist* magazine, this happy tale: "Japanese researchers at Osaka University now believe eating chocolate could one day help fend off tooth decay. They found that rats that had cocoa bean husk added to their water had healthier teeth. They speculate that parts of the cocoa bean, the main ingredient of chocolate, are potent sources of antibacterial agents that fight mouth bacteria. The bean husk could eventually be put back into chocolate to make it better for teeth." Ah.... Huge smile...

And finally, Protests of a Geisha...

The *Far Eastern Economic Review* reports that former geisha Mineko Iwasaki is angry. In 1992 Iwasaki provided first-time author Arthur Golden with information about the secretive world of the geisha, which Golden subsequently incorporated into his international bestseller, *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Iwasaki claims that she had asked Golden to honour the geisha code of secrecy (*shuhi gimu*) by not revealing her identity. Golden, who denies that there was ever any confidentiality agreement, 'outed' Iwasaki in the novel's acknowledgement and in countless media interviews.

The 400-year-old geisha tradition is little-known even among the Japanese, and the number of geisha is rapidly dwindling to near-extinction. Iwasaki is apparently aghast at being linked to a hugely successful novel which she considers offensively misleading. She fears that Golden's portrayal of geisha as exotic, top-tier prostitutes will shape the definitive stereotype of geisha, much in the same way that James Clavell's *Shogun* shaped the Western stereotype of the samurai.

Iwasaki, who retired as a geisha in 1980 at age 29, plans to sue Golden for breach of contract, defamation and invasion of privacy. She wants to embarrass him; to regain her honour after being branded a betrayer of the geisha code; and most of all, to rehabilitate the reputation of geisha.

Canada-Japan Society of Toronto
presents:



Saké Pure + Simple saké tasting and book launch

Come taste, enjoy and learn about premium chilled saké from the author of *Saké Pure + Simple* and the owner of North America's only brewer of premium saké, Grif Frost. You will sample 8 premium sakés, and learn all the fun stuff about saké (No hangover? An aphrodisiac?). Food to complement the saké will be served.

Where: WOW Restaurant (formerly Masa), 250 Richmond St. W.
(corner of Richmond and Duncan)

When: Wednesday, September 20, 2000, 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 for CJST members; \$20 for non-members (to cover food costs)

Space is limited, so please RSVP by Sept. 15th by calling 406-2578 or by e-mail to rtan@virtualexpat.com

WHAT'S COMING UP?

CJST EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sept. 23 – Nov. 5/00: ACCESS JAPAN 2000

See the enclosed AJ2000 brochure for a listing of all events. Keep checking our website www.cjst.org and we'll keep you updated on everything, including the events presented by CJST.

Oct. 5/00: Ichi-Moku-Kai

The semi-legendary monthly social event continues at Megumi Japanese Restaurant (9 Church Street) from 6:00 p.m. to ?? Eat! Drink! Party! Free admission for CJST members; \$5 for non-members.

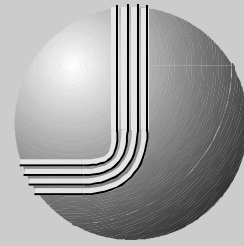
OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Sept. 9/00: Toronto Japanese Language School

The TJLS will be holding its fall registration from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Orde School, 18 Orde St. TJLS offers classes for adults and children of all levels. Visit www.tjls.on.ca or contact Mrs. Toshiye Tanaka, principal @ (905) 455-0340.

Sept. 30/00: Hitomi Nishimura

The popular Japanese singer performs at David & Mary Thomson C.I. Auditorium, 2740 Lawrence Ave. E. Tickets \$25/\$20/\$15. Call (416) 267-8007 or (416) 751-0064.



CJST NEWS

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We welcome comments, suggestions and contributions you may have on Japan and related topics for this publication.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not of the CJST or its Board of Directors.

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CJST News

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Fundraising for the **Sakura Project** continues. Let's try to bring Japanese flowering cherry trees – *Sakura* – to Ontario. It's a symbol of goodwill and friendship. Please help – all donations appreciated.

Donations to date: \$25,000

Three-year goal: \$50,000

Contact: **Sakura Committee**
c/o Consulate-General of Japan
P.O. Box 10, TD Centre
Toronto, ON M5K 1A1
www.japancg-toronto.org
access@japancg-toronto.org
Tel: (416) 363-7038 Fax: (416) 367-9392