



2008 DETAILED ACTIVITY REPORT

Funded By:

Department of Canadian Heritage
Immigration and Population Growth Secretariat
City of Fredericton



Local Asian Performers at 2008 Gala Night



From left: Madhu Verma, Honorable Minister Greg Byrne and the Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of Japan in Montreal, Mr. Takashi Futagi at the 2008 Asian Heritage Month Opening Ceremonies.

Submitted by:

The Asian Heritage Society of NB, Inc.
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Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick

Annual Report

2008

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Message from the AHSNB Executive Committee

Dear Readers:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of AHSNB, please allow me to submit to you the following annual report, which outlines and details the workings of AHSNB for 2008. 2008 has been a busy year for AHSNB and there have been many successes to celebrate. This year, AHSNB launched its official website, adopted a logo, and has recruited more volunteers who have enriched our organization and contributed many new talents to our group. AHSNB is also proud to have organized and hosted Asian Heritage Month 2008. This was one of our most successful Asian Heritage Month celebrations to date, with hundreds of people attending events hosted by AHSNB.

The mandate of AHSNB, which is to promote the acceptance of Asian Canadians in not only New Brunswick society but also Canadian society in general, has been greatly advanced by successful events such as AHSNB's annual Cultural Gala, an Asian Film Festival, and by hosting an Asian Story Hour at the Fredericton Public Library. These events helped broaden the public's understanding of Asian traditions, customs, religions, foods, and languages. More importantly, the public was able to experiment with different aspects of Asian cultures through Asian Heritage Month celebrations, which this year celebrated the contributions of Japanese Canadians to Canadian society. By participating in events hosted by AHSNB and affiliated cultural organizations, such as a Japanese tea ceremony at Asian Heritage Month opening ceremonies, people who ordinarily might not have had the opportunity to experience elements of Japanese culture could do so. This, perhaps, is the greatest achievement of AHSNB's efforts.

It would be impossible for AHSNB to celebrate Asian Heritage and promote awareness of ethnic diversity the way it does without the support of its many sponsors, both financial and otherwise. The continued support of various levels of government, businesses, and of volunteers who tirelessly give their time to AHSNB is much appreciated. AHSNB looks forward to 2009 with hope that the mission it started will be continued and is confident that only better and brighter things await us. 2009 will see the celebration of Filipino culture. AHSNB anticipates Asian Heritage Month 2009 to build on previous efforts and continue to allow the public to engage in the various cultures that make up our beautiful province and country.

With kind regards,

Madhu Verma, Chair

Email: madhuverma@ahsnb.org

David Lee, Vice-Chair

Email: david@ahsnb.org

Tony Mina, Secretary

Email: tony.mina@ahsnb.org

Speech Given by Honourable Senator Dr. Vivienne Poy
Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick Gala
Fredericton, New Brunswick
May 31, 2008

Hon. Guests, Ladies & gentlemen:

Good evening. On behalf of the Senate of Canada, I bring greetings to the City of Fredericton as you celebrate Asian Heritage Month.

I would like to thank my friend, Madhu Verma, for inviting me here tonight. As you all know, she is the driving force behind celebrations in this province, and this year, helped to formally establish the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick. She is the kind of person who inspires others with her passion for creating greater understanding between peoples, and building bridges between diverse communities.

I am delighted that I had the opportunity to speak at the New Brunswick Museum Theatre in Saint John yesterday, and tomorrow, I will be heading to Charlottetown. I expect that, in the next few years, thanks to Madhu's efforts, and that of many others, more and more cities in the Maritimes will celebrate the Asian Canadians in their midst.

Our Census of 2006 has certainly highlighted the diversity of Canada today. It pointed to the highest percentage of foreign born Canadians in 75 years, at almost 20%. It also tells us that our visible minority population now stands at over 5 million, half of whom are from Asia.

While this may be more evident in the streets of Toronto or Vancouver than here in Fredericton, immigration is the key for any province in Canada to increase its prosperity by attracting new labour, new markets, new investment, and most importantly, new ideas.

How can Fredericton attract new immigrants? The most important thing it can do is to make immigrants feel at home. Part of laying out the welcome mat is supporting Asian Heritage Month activities.

But celebrating Asian Heritage Month isn't just about attracting new people to the province. It's also about making those of Asian heritage, who have been here for a long time, feel that their contributions to the province, and to the Maritimes, are recognized.

Canadian culture as it is expressed in food, visual and performing arts, dance, literature, and even our ideas, is increasingly diverse. The fusion of different peoples from many backgrounds creates a brand new culture that is uniquely Canadian. This helps to make Canada an exciting country to live in.

Asian Heritage Month is a multicultural festival that emerges from Canadian society. It merely highlights the new face of the Canada that we live in today, where Asian Canadians are very much part of the Canadian and scape.

Although grassroots organizations across the country have been celebrating Asian Heritage Month in Vancouver and Montreal since the early 1990s, it was only in May, 2001, that I attended my first Asian Heritage Month festival, and it was in Calgary. Although it was called "Asian", it was really a group of Chinese Calgarians gathered together with very little participation from other groups.

When I returned to Ottawa, I wondered why Black History Month was recognized by the federal government and not Asian Heritage Month. When I looked into it, I discovered that in the U.S., the government had recognized it since 1978. So, what was lacking was a champion in

Ottawa.

The notion of Asian Heritage Month also made me reflect on Canada's multicultural model which typically funds separate organizations, leading to multiculturalism, and not interculturalism. I thought about the concept of Asian Heritage Month and how it could be a vehicle for bringing Canadians of different ethnic origins together, and for sharing our cultural heritage with mainstream society, and carrying on a dialogue with one another.

When the motion I introduced in the Senate of Canada to recognize May as Asian Heritage Month was passed unanimously in December, 2001, the concept fitted well into the future of Canada. As a historian by training, I have long recognized that Canada is an immigrant receiving country. And now, due to a declining birth rate, it is becoming entirely dependent on immigrants for the growth in its labour force, the majority of whom are from Asia.

What has happened since 2001 has been very gratifying. I have watched as Asian Heritage Month celebrations spread across the country, becoming established, and attracting new members and participants. It has been truly a grassroots effort carried out by volunteers, with celebrations springing up in the most unexpected places. Last year, Yukon commemorated May as Asian Heritage Month, and an exhibit was held in Whitehorse.

I have watched friendships flourish, and I have made many new friends myself. Through Asian Heritage Month, I have had the chance to appreciate so many people who have shared the beauty of their own cultures – their music, performing and visual arts, and literature, with a Canadian twist.

I will give you an example. At one of the events I attended in Toronto this month, called Education Through the Arts, one of the presenters was a South Asian Science teacher who gives dancing lessons to her students outside of class time. Some of her students performed a mixture of Indian, hip hop and modern dance. It was beautiful and fascinating!

My friends, Asian Heritage Month celebrations open doors to the world. I invite you to come along with me, to learn from one another, and enjoy all the cultural diversity that Canada has to offer.

Have a wonderful evening. Thank you.

Message from Honourable Senator Noel Kinsella



SENATE



SÉNAT

CANADA

May 31, 2008

On behalf of the Senate of Canada and in my own name, I would like to congratulate the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick on the completion of another successful celebration of Asian Heritage Month, this year with a focus on Japan, culminating in this evening's Asian Cultural Gala.

Since 2001, when the Senate unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing the month of May as Asian Heritage Month, all Canadians have gained a greater appreciation of Asian culture and the achievements of Asian-Canadians. It is a rich contribution to the diversity of Canadian society.

Tonight's event is an opportunity to experience a portion of that diversity and I hope all present will enjoy it. Congratulations once again to the organizers.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Noël A. Kinsella



Message from the Multicultural Association of Fredericton Inc. (MCAF)

It was so good of Asian Heritage Society to have invited me to your opening ceremonies with all those dignitaries. The ceremony was very impressive and I did appreciate that immensely.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the AHSNB committee on a job very well done. The organization of all the events and the quality of the various offerings, cultural and otherwise, brought enjoyment, inspiration, important and timely information to the greater Fredericton community.

What impressed me, most of all, was the way that all those who participated were left with a sense of belonging, of being part of it all.

In closing and on behalf of the Multicultural Association of Fredericton Inc. I extend our heartfelt congratulations on the most successful Asian Heritage Month.

Cordially,

Dexter Noel
President
MCAF

Message from the Board of Directors of the Chinese Cultural Association of Saint John

Thank you very much for motivating us for the first Asian Heritage celebration in Saint John. Mrs. Verma's attendance at Senator Poy's public lecture held at the New Brunswick Museum is also much appreciated. I was very much moved by your passion and dedication to promote the Asian Heritage in New Brunswick. With your resilient efforts, multiculturalism and more specifically the different Asian ethnic groups in New Brunswick are very active and united with common goal to promote and share our rich Asian cultures with our local Canadians. Although I was not able to attend the Gala celebration at the Fredericton on May 31, I in fact, watched the event broadcast on the Roger's channel. Congratulation! I hope next year, we in Saint John could start a bit early to get other ethnic groups participating in the celebration.

Thank you very much for your support.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chinese Cultural Association of Saint John,

Li-Hong Xu

Background

In 2002, May was officially declared Asian Heritage Month by the Government of Canada. The Asian Heritage Month Committee (AHMC) was established in the same year to promote the Federal objectives of Asian Heritage Month, and to organize educational and cultural events that commemorate the legacy of Asian Canadians, past and present. In the fall of 2007, the Asian Heritage Month Committee was incorporated, and changed its name to the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick

Who Is Asian?

The definition of “Asian” may be inclusive and broad, and applies to people who come from or whose ancestors come from:

East Asia: China, Hong Kong S.A.R., Japan, Mongolia, Korea, Taiwan
South Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Central Asia: Iran/Persia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Southeast Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

Over the course of the last century, Asian Canadians have helped to build and shape our nation and province in many diverse fields, such as labour, business, science and technology, health care, arts and humanities, politics and community service. A major aim of Asian Heritage Month is to make the public aware of these contributions and the unique struggles of Asian Canadians throughout history. For the last six years, the AHSNB has organized and supported activities to promote Asian Canadian history, culture and art during Asian Heritage Month in Fredericton and other communities in New Brunswick.

Major Objectives

The major objectives of the Asian Heritage Month project are as follows:

- (1) Promotion of the Federal objectives of Asian Heritage Month in New Brunswick.
- (2) Public outreach to build understanding between Canadians and Asian immigrants.
- (3) Collaboration with the City of Fredericton and New Brunswick Government, Department of Education and School Districts to encourage teachers in New Brunswick to engage students with activities that foster understanding of the culture and history of Asian Canadians, and their contributions to the growth and development of Canada.
- (4) Provide Asian Canadians with the opportunity to work closely with Post-Secondary Institutions to create a curriculum in Education departments that will train future teachers to reflect Asian Canadian identity.
- (5) Create interest in smaller local communities across the Province in organizing AHM celebrations in their own cities and towns.

Exciting News from AHSNB

Background

Previously, AHSNB was known as the Asian Heritage Month Committee before its incorporation in 2007. This is a big step in ensuring the credibility and accountability of the organization that represents the Asian-Canadians within the province.

AHSNB Logo

A logo designed by Filipino-Canadian graphic artist Duane Orozco, has been adopted as the official AHSNB logo. This logo symbolizes the geographical map of the Asian Continent and its various colors, illustrating the diversity within the region. This official representation is currently being used in all communication and promotional items.

AHSNB Website

AHSNB is pleased to announce the launching of its new website developed by Mr. Tony Mina. This website will serve as a bridge between AHSNB and the general public, providing information on the organization as well as upcoming events, items of interests, and researched and published materials that AHSNB has developed over the years. AHSNB's activities and events will be posted on the website so that a larger public audience can be reached. The AHSNB website can be viewed at www.ahsnb.org.

Asian Heritage Month Celebrations 2008

Asian Heritage Month 2008 (May) celebrated the history of the Japanese community in Canada as well as the important and valuable contributions made by Japanese-Canadians. To honor the Japanese community, an exhibit entitled 'Explorasians' was launched at the Centennial Building in Fredericton. The launching of this exhibit coincided with the opening ceremonies for Asian Heritage Month, which also took place at the Centennial Building.

Preparing for both the opening ceremonies as the Explorasians exhibit took several weeks. Plans were made in March and AHSNB and its affiliated organizations prepared from March until May to make sure that a fun and informative opening ceremony was ready for the general public. The preparations for Asian Heritage Month 2008 were divided into four main parts: logistics, invitations, exhibit and content, and publicity.

Logistically, the first thing that had to be done was to secure a location that could both house the Explor/Asians exhibit and serve as a venue for the opening ceremonies. This venue had to be able to hold several hundred people (though not at once) and had to be accessible to all members of the public. It was also important to have a venue that was located in a high-traffic area so that as many people as possible could participate. It was decided by AHSNB to secure the centennial Building for these events. The Centennial Building lobby was large enough to accommodate the Explorasians exhibit as well as host the crowd that would come to view the exhibit and take part in the opening ceremonies. Once the location was confirmed, invitations to distinguished guests as well as the public could be sent.

Sending invitations proved to be a time consuming task. By March, nearly 1000 emails were sent to various cultural groups, associations, provincial and municipal politicians, members of parliament, members of the Canadian senate, etc. A general invitation letter was carefully crafted to aid in this process. During this time AHSNB also updated its email database to add new contacts and revise old ones. This was crucial, as it was important to reach as many people as possible.

Once invitations were taken care of, it was necessary to complete the concept for the Explorasians exhibit. Since the exhibit would be featuring the history of Canada's Japanese community, AHSNB wanted to make the exhibit as interpretive as possible. It was decided that the exhibit be divided into three parts: A historical timeline describing the chronological history of the Japanese in Canada, a showcase of prominent Japanese-Canadians, and the personal reflections of Japanese-Canadians regarding their experiences living in Canada. The historical timeline was generously shared with AHSNB by the National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Center and was researched by Mr. John Endo Greenaway. The National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Center also donated a variety of other source materials, including a display of traditional Japanese food and toys, which were extremely useful to AHSNB. To ensure that historical timeline fit with the theme of Explorasians, it was edited for content and supplemented by a variety of photos of Japanese-Canadians at various times in Canadian history. These photos were extremely useful in illuminating events such as the internment of Japanese-Canadians during WWII and were very popular with the public. The previous coordinator for AHSNB as well as Mrs. Tomo Ingalls researched these photos. The layout of the timeline, memoirs, and biographies of prominent

Japanese-Canadians was completed by Mr. Hasnain Mirza and translated into French by Mr. Jean-Claude Arluison. Once the final proofreading was completed, all documents were sent to the printer. The finished product was then posted on display boards around the Centennial Building lobby in both English and French. Funding provided by federal, provincial, and municipal organizations made this possible.

After close consultation with the Japanese Association of Fredericton, it was decided that it would be a good idea to showcase various elements of Japanese culture that were interactive and that could offer a glimpse into Japanese culture. Demonstrations featuring origami, calligraphy, and the rituals of Japanese tea ceremony were all featured at Asian Heritage Month opening ceremonies. These demonstrations were a perfect compliment to the theme of Explor/Asians since the public could literally 'explore' Japanese culture by folding paper cranes, sampling tea, and practicing brush strokes with a traditional Japanese calligraphy brush. After several meetings, the materials necessary for each demonstration were decided on, as well as how each demonstration should be set up. It was decided that the demonstration tables would be interspersed between the Explor/Asians display boards so that people could easily wander through the lobby reading and observing photos as well as taking part in activities.

Advertisements were sent to all of Fredericton's major media outlets, including television, radio, and print media. Thousands of fliers were printed and were handed out at the weekly farmer's market and other popular events in the city. Posters were also placed in businesses and throughout the St. Thomas and University of New Brunswick campuses. Volunteers were responsible for this part of advertising.

To set up the displays and decorate the lobby, a total of 15 volunteers were recruited. These volunteers worked for a total of 20 hours to ensure that the opening ceremony and the Explor/Asians exhibit was perfect. Without these volunteers neither could have succeeded.

Opening Ceremonies: Explor/Asian Exhibition (May14)

Welcoming Address from Chair of AHSNB, Madhu Verma

Good Afternoon. On behalf of the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick, I am honored to welcome our distinguished guests, Hon. Greg Byrne, the Deputy Council General of Japan, and the Asian Heritage Society's partners and friends.

We are deeply saddened with the news of the earthquake in China and the cyclone in Burma. To express our condolences, please observe one minute of silence. Thank You.

There is a donation box in the entrance, please contribute for the victims of this disaster. Funds will be given to the Red Cross for distribution.

Today we gather here to have our Opening Ceremony for our Explor/Asians Exhibition.

Asian Canadians come from many different ethnicities, backgrounds, and faiths. This year's focus is on Japanese Canadians. They are small in numbers in New Brunswick, but their contributions to our province is very valuable. They have been working hard for the last several months to prepare for this event. Please join me in thanking them.

This year the Asian Heritage Society has prepared its materials in both official languages. We will be sending the resource material to both French and English school districts to display in their schools. Japanese Canadian communities in Ontario as well as in the West have been actively involved in putting together educational material for educators and for future generations.

The Asian Heritage Society is thankful to the Japanese Canadians Culture Center of Toronto and to the Japanese Council General Office for sharing some of their materials with us for this Exhibition.

Why do we celebrate Asian Heritage Month?

This is an attempt to break down barriers and to get people talking, learning from one another, and making new friends. It also aids in the fostering of intercultural understanding in the province of New Brunswick.

Hon. Greg Byrnes, in his message in the house yesterday mentioned that the number of Asian immigrants has increased. The Asian Heritage Society was very pleased to hear this news. But we must not forget the many challenges to multiculturalism that remain, especially in providing quality services and a welcoming environment to new immigrants.

We believe that the Department of Education, along with several other Government Departments, universities, school boards, educators, parents, and students must all take on an

active role in both welcoming and retaining new immigrants in New Brunswick. There is a need for curricular change so that it is culturally inclusive, and so that it includes Asian Canadian history, culture, beliefs, and their contributions in building our beautiful nation. New immigrant students need a great deal of support, especially in second-language training. Teachers must be trained to educate students about diversity.

Mr. Minister, the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick needs your help in meeting with the Minister of Education with other multicultural groups to discuss these issues. We have invited teachers and students to join us in celebrating Asian Heritage Month in schools and to use our resources. I'm very sorry to say that we have gotten no response.

I request the Hon. Minister to make his address. Thank you very much for your participation and Financial help. The Asian Heritage Society also wishes to acknowledge the Canadian Heritage Department and the City of Fredericton's Cultural Affairs Department for their financial support. Without funding, it would not be possible to organize these events.

Please join me in welcoming Minister Greg Byrne. We are also honored to have the Deputy Council General of Japan, who we will hear from later.

Hon. Minister Greg Byrne addressed the crowd and expressed his gratitude at being invited to participate in the opening ceremonies. Minister Byrne also publicly announced for the first time that funding for multiculturalism would be doubled to support the increase of New Brunswick's multicultural population and to celebrate diversity in the province. This announcement was met with great enthusiasm by AHSNB, as well as by the multicultural community as a whole.

Deputy Consul Takashi Futagi applauded the efforts to honor Japanese-Canadians through educating the public about their experiences in Canada as a means to understand the present and prepare for future generations. The Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of Japan at Montreal, Mr. Takashi Futagi, also gave an inspiring and encouraging message. After the speeches were over, a ceremonial ribbon was cut to declare Asian Heritage Month officially open. A celebratory cake was then enjoyed by all.

Well over a hundred guests from various levels of government, the business community and the general public attended these opening ceremonies. Not only were the exhibit posters informative, but the simultaneous cultural activities and displays also contributed to the festive atmosphere during this occasion. The Japanese Association of Fredericton proudly wore their *yukata* or summer traditional clothes as they welcomed the guests and performed a tea ceremony, calligraphy, and origami. Adventurous guests also took part. Those who participated in the tea ceremony marveled at the intricate details involved in this important and ancient Japanese ritual. The grace and precision of each movement captivated the audience and participants. Children and adults alike enjoyed learning basic calligraphy and origami skills. The facilitators were very cordial and friendly and were complimented on their good work by the public.

The Explor/Asians exhibit was opened to the public from May 14th to June 26th. Several hundred visitors viewed the Exhibits.

Asian Heritage Month Celebrations Poster



**ASIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF NEW
BRUNSWICK, INC.**

*invites you to join us this May & June 2008
vous invite à vous joindre à nous en mai et juin 2008*



www.ahsnb.org

ExplorASIANS EXHIBIT
Centennial Building Lobby - 670 King St.
May 14 (12:15pm) Opening Ceremony
May 14 to June 26 - Exhibit display
featuring the "Japanese-Canadian History
and Culture"

ASIAN CULTURAL GALA
May 31(7:00pm) - Communautaire
Sainte-Anne: 715 Priestman St.
Join Senator Vivienne Poy & the Asian-
Canadian communities.

ASIAN STORY HOUR
May 3,10,17,24(10:30-11:30 am)
Public Library, 12 Carleton Street

ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (7:00-9:00pm)
Film Showing at UNB's Marshall d'Avray
Hall Rm. 143

EXPOSITION ExplorASIATIQUES
Hall de l'Édifice du Centenaire - 670, rue King
le 14 mai (12 h 30) - Inauguration
du 14 mai au 26 juin - Exposition Découvrez
l'histoire et la culture canadiennes-japonaises

GALA CULTUREL ASIATIQUE
le 31 mai (19 heures) - Le Centre
communautaire Sainte-Anne:
715, rue Priestman
Venez vous joindre à la sénatrice Vivienne Poy
et aux communautés canadiennes-asiatiques.

HISTOIRES D'ASIE
Les 3, 10, 17 et 24 mai (de 10 h 30 à 11 h 30)
Bibliothèque publique, 12, rue Carleton

FESTIVAL DU FILM ASIATIQUE
Les 2, 9, 16 23, et 30 mai
(de 19 heures à 21 heures)
Présentation de films en salle à Marshall
d'Avray Hall, à UNB, la salle 143









"Special Thanks to the Multi-Cultural Groups, Sponsors, and Volunteers for helping make this event possible"

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Nouveau-Brunswick,
le Secrétariat de la croissance démographique, et la Ville de Fredericton*
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Secretariat and the City of Fredericton






Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez composer le 506-457-0257 ou le 506-471-5679 ou
envoyer un courriel à l'une des adresses suivantes madhuverma@ahsnb.org,
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madhuverma@ahsnb.org, jorge.vanslyke@ahsnb.org

Asian Heritage Opening Ceremony Photos (Explor/Asians Exhibition)





2008 Selected Exhibition Materials

Japanese Canadian Timeline

For a brief overview of Japanese Canadian history, please see the timeline below.

1877

Arrival of Manzo Nagano, first Japanese person known to land and settle in Canada. 1895 British Columbia Government denies franchise (voting rights) to citizens of Asiatic origin

1907

Anti-Asiatic Riot in Vancouver led by the Asiatic Exclusion League.

1908

Hayashi-Lemieux Gentlemen's Agreement: Japan voluntarily agreed to restrict the number of passports issued to male labourers and domestic servants to an annual maximum of 400.

1916-1917

200 Japanese Canadians volunteer for service with Canadian army in France (WWI). 54 are killed and 92 are wounded.

1919

Japanese fishermen control nearly half of the fishing licenses (3,267). Department of Fisheries reduces number of licenses issued to "other than white residents, British subjects and Canadian Indians". By 1925 close to 1,000 licenses stripped from Japanese Canadians.

1920

Japanese Labour Union (eventually the Camp and Mill Workers' Union) formed under Etsu Suzuki.

1923

Gentlemen's agreement: Number of Japanese male immigrants (same categories as in 1908) not to exceed 150 annually.

1924

The labour union newspaper The Daily People [Minshu] begins publication.

1928

Gentlemen's Agreement amendment. Wives and children now included in the annual quota of 150.

1931

Surviving veterans are given the right to vote.

1936

Delegation from Japanese Canadian Citizens League goes to Ottawa to plead for franchise (the right to vote). They are unsuccessful.

1941 (January 8)

Despite citizenship, Japanese Canadians are excluded from military service (WWII).

1941 (March 4)

Registration of all Japanese Canadians.

1941 (August 12)

Japanese Canadians are required to carry registration cards that have their thumbprint and photo.

1941 (December 7)

Japan attacks Pearl Harbour.

1941 (December 8)

1,200 Japanese Canadian fishing boats are impounded. Japanese language newspapers and schools close.

1942 (January 16)

Removal begins of Japanese immigrant males from coastal areas.

1942 (February 24)

All male Japanese Canadian citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 ordered to be removed from 100-mile-wide zone along the coast of British Columbia.

1942 (February 26)

Mass evacuation of Japanese Canadians begins. Some given only 24 hours notice. Cars, cameras and radios confiscated for "protective measures". Curfew imposed.

1942 (March 4)

Japanese Canadians ordered to turn over property and belongings to Custodian of Enemy Alien Property as a "protective measure only".

1942 (March 16)

First arrivals at Vancouver's Hastings Park pooling centre. All Japanese Canadian mail censored from this date.

1942 (March 25)

British Columbia Security Commission initiates scheme of forcing men to road camps and women and children to "ghost town" detention camps.

1942 (April 21)

First arrivals at detention camp in Greenwood, British Columbia.

1942 (May 21)

First arrivals at camps at Kaslo, New Denver, Slocan, Sandon and Tashme, British Columbia.

1942 (June 29)

Director of Soldier Settlement given authority to buy or lease confiscated Japanese Canadian farms. 572 farms turned over without consulting owners.

1943 (January 19)

Federal cabinet order-in-council grants Custodian of Enemy Alien Property the right to dispose of Japanese Canadians' property without owners' consent.

1945 (January-May)

150 Japanese Canadians volunteer for service with Canadian army in Far East.

1945 (April 13)

Beginning of intimidation campaign towards Japanese Canadians living in British Columbia to move to Eastern Canada or be deported to Japan.

1945 (September 2)

Japan surrenders after atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (WWII).

1946 (May 31)

"Repatriation" begins; 3,964 go to Japan, many of whom are Canadian citizens.

1947 (January 24)

Federal cabinet order-in-council on deportation of Japanese Canadians repealed after protests by churches, academics, journalists and politicians.

1948 (June 15)

Federal franchise (the right to vote) extended to all Japanese Canadians.

1949 (April 1)

Removal of last restrictions; Japanese Canadians are free to move anywhere in Canada.

1967

Canadian government announced new immigration regulations - a point system for selection. It no longer used race as a category.

1988 (September 22)

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announces the Canadian Government's formal apology for the wrongful incarceration, seizure of property and the disenfranchisement of thousands of Canadians of Japanese ancestry. A redress settlement was also announced which included individual compensation for all survivors.

1992

National Nikkei Heritage Centre Society is incorporated. Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation grants \$3.0 million for heritage centre project.

1995

Japanese Canadian National Museum & Archives Society is incorporated and begins planning for museum and archives facility in National Nikkei Heritage Centre (NNHC).

2000

Proposed date for the opening of NNHC in Burnaby, B.C. The official home of the Japanese Canadian National Museum, JCCA Nikkei Resource Centre, a special events complex, a restaurant and shops.

The Internment Travesty

1942 - The Canadian Government's Policies of Mass Evacuation, Internment and Expropriation of Property

On January 14, 1942, the government of Canada declared a 100 mile security zone along the coast of British Columbia and ordered all males of Japanese ancestry between the ages of 18 and 45, whether or not Canadian citizens, to vacate that zone. These men were sent to forced labour camps, building roads in the interior of B.C.

This was followed in February, 1942 by orders for the mass removal of all Japanese-Canadians from the coast of B.C. The B.C. Security Commission was established to oversee the removal and internment of the Japanese -Canadians. The horse barns at Hastings Park in the Pacific National Exhibition grounds in Vancouver were converted into an initial "staging" area where thousands of Japanese-Canadians were incarcerated prior to their transport to hastily constructed internment camps in the interior of British Columbia. Conditions were primitive and harsh, particularly for the women and children.

Life in the Canadian Internment and POW Camps



Men's Dormitory during Internment

The B.C. Security Commission established a number of internment camps in the interior of British Columbia. One new "model" camp, Tashme, was built outside of Hope B.C. but the rest were located in abandoned ghost towns in the remote mountain valleys of the interior of B.C. Unlike the internment camps in the United States, the Canadian internment camps (with the exception of Angler in northern Ontario) were not barbed wire encampments but were located in areas so isolated and remote that escape was theoretical at best. These camps were "home" for the Japanese-Canadians from 1942 until 1946. In the meantime, all of the homes, businesses and properties of the Nikkei, including that of Canadian citizens, were sold by the Custodian of Enemy Property, an agency that had originally been established on the promise to the community that it would safeguard such property while the Japanese-Canadians were interned. The proceeds from the sale of their property was used to pay the costs of their internment.



Men in road camp

Despite the harsh and primitive conditions of the Canadian internment camps, the internees made the best of their situation. They worked hard to improve the physical condition of the camps and their tar paper shacks and instituted a variety of institutions and activities designed to maintain the community including schools, sports and social clubs. The B.C. and Canadian federal governments disavowed any responsibility for educating the nisei children in the camps. With the assistance of church groups, notably the United Church of Canada, makeshift schools were established and teaching groups, largely comprised of nisei volunteers, were organized.

Official Canadian Government Redress



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a people, Canadians commit themselves to the creation of a society that ensures equality and justice for all, regardless of race or ethnic origin.

During and after World War II, Canadians of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were citizens, suffered unprecedented actions taken by the Government of Canada against their community.

Despite perceived military necessities at the time, the forced removal and internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II and their deportation and expulsion following the war, was unjust. In retrospect, government policies of disenfranchisement, detention, confiscation and sale of private and community property, expulsion, deportation and restriction of movement, which continued after the war, were influenced by discriminatory attitudes. Japanese Canadians who were interned had their property liquidated and the proceeds of sale were used to pay for their own internment.

The acknowledgement of these injustices serves notice to all Canadians that the excesses of the past are condemned and that the principles of justice and equality in Canada are reaffirmed.

Therefore, the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, does hereby:

- 1) acknowledge that the treatment of Japanese Canadians during and after World War II was unjust and violated principles of human rights as they are understood today;
- 2) pledge to ensure, to the full extent that its powers allow, that such events will not happen again; and
- 3) recognize, with great respect, the fortitude and determination of Japanese Canadians who, despite great stress and hardship, retain their commitment and loyalty to Canada and contribute so richly to the development of the Canadian nation.

RECONNAISSANCE

En tant que nation, les Canadiens se sont engagés à édifier une société qui respecte les principes d'égalité et de justice pour tous ses membres sans égard à leurs origines culturelles ou raciales.

Pendant et après la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, des Canadiens d'origine japonaise, citoyens de notre pays pour la plupart, ont eu à souffrir de mesures sans précédent prises par le gouvernement du Canada et dirigées contre leur communauté.

En dépit des besoins militaires perçus à l'époque, le déplacement forcé et l'internement de Canadiens japonais au cours de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, ainsi que leur déportation et leur expulsion au lendemain de celle-ci, étaient injustifiables. On se rend compte aujourd'hui que les mesures gouvernementales de privation des droits civiques, de détention, de confiscation et de vente des biens personnels et communautaires, ainsi que d'expulsion, de déportation et de restriction des déplacements, qui ont été maintenues après la guerre, découlaient d'attitudes discriminatoires. Les Canadiens japonais internés ont vu leurs biens liquidés, le produit de la vente de ceux-ci servant à payer leur propre internement.

En reconnaissant ces injustices, nous voulons signifier à tous les Canadiens que nous condamnons les abus commis dans le passé et que nous reconfirmons pour le Canada les principes de justice et d'égalité.

En conséquence, le gouvernement du Canada, au nom de tous les Canadiens :

- 1) reconnaît que les mesures prises à l'encontre des Canadiens japonais pendant et après la Deuxième Guerre mondiale étaient injustes et constituaient une violation des principes des droits de la personne, tels qu'ils sont compris aujourd'hui;
- 2) s'engage à faire tout en son pouvoir pour que de tels agissements ne se reproduisent plus jamais;
- 3) salue, avec grand respect, la force d'âme et la détermination des Canadiens japonais qui, en dépit d'épreuves et de souffrances considérables, ont conservé envers le Canada leur dévouement et leur loyauté, contribuant grandement à l'épanouissement de la nation canadienne.

Prime Minister of Canada Le Premier ministre du Canada

Outstanding Japanese Canadians

Art Miki



Art Miki was born in Vancouver B.C. in the 1930's, a second generation Japanese Canadian. At the age of five, Miki and his family were among the 22 000 Japanese Canadians from British Columbia who were displaced and interned during World War II. Many families left their homes, businesses and other belongings in trust, expecting to find them intact when they returned after the war, but a friend of Miki's parents warned against it. He didn't believe anything would be saved. The 14-acre farm owned by Miki's grandparents sold for a mere \$2000.

Miki's family managed to avoid both concentration camps and being deported back to Japan by coming to Manitoba to work in a sugar beet factory. The work in the sugar beet factory was quite difficult and strenuous, and they were forced to share a one-room house with other families. Miki was educated in a French school, despite the fact that he did not speak the language.

Miki received a Master of Education degree from the University of Manitoba in 1975, and was a teacher for 29 years. In 1984, he became President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC). Through involvement in the NAJC, Miki realized that many of the Japanese Canadians felt that to be punished like they were during World War II, they must have done something to deserve it. Miki looked into the case and found that there was no threat of national insecurity when the Japanese were displaced. He felt obligated to do something.

Miki's goal was to receive individual recognition for all Japanese Canadians who had been treated unfairly during the war, and to receive payment for what had been lost to them. This, however, was more difficult than he had expected. Finally, in 1988 the government agreed to pay \$21 000 for each survivor and \$12 million for a community fund, and pledged to set up a Canadian Race Relations Foundation. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney also delivered an apology for the wartime internment policy to the Canadian House of Commons.

In 1991 Art Miki received the order of Canada for the work he put into getting the Japanese Canadians recognized and refunded for losses. In 1995's federal election, he ran for the liberal party, and came within 100 votes of winning. He has continued to work with the NAJC, and in 1998 he was appointed citizen and immigration judge in Ottawa.

Hiromi Goto



Hiromi Goto was born in Chiba-ken, Japan, near Tokyo. In 1969, when she was three years old, her family immigrated to Canada. They lived on the west coast of British Columbia for eight years before moving to Nanton, Alberta, where her father fulfilled a dream of starting a mushroom farm.

Hiromi attended the University of Calgary, and graduated in 1989 with a B.A. in Humanities (English and Art).

Her work is influenced by Japanese stories her grandmother told her

when she was growing up, and by her father's stories of life in Japan. These stories often featured ghosts and folk creatures such as the kappa — a small creature with a frog's body, a turtle's shell and a bowl-shaped head that holds water.

Her novel, *A Chorus of Mushrooms* (1994), received the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book in the Caribbean and Canadian Region and was co-winner of the Canada-Japan Book Award. Her short stories and poetry have been widely published in literary journals. Her second novel, *The Kappa Child* (2001) was nominated for the Sunburst Award for Literature of the Fantastic and for the Commonwealth Prize for Best Regional Book. *The Kappa Child* was awarded the James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award. Her first children's novel, *The Water of Possibility* was also published in 2001.

Hiromi is an active member of the literary community, a writing instructor and editor. She is also the mother of two children and lives in Burnaby, B.C.

Joy Kogawa



Daughter of an Anglican minister and a musician, Joy Kogawa was born in Vancouver in 1935. Her award-winning novel *Obasan* (1981) is a memoir of her family's forced relocation from the West Coast during World War II when she was six years old.

The family was herded into converted barns on the PNE grounds, then sent by train to internment camps, first in the Slocan district ("a shack made of newspaper walls"), then in Coaldale, Alberta, where the family lived in a one-room, mud-walled shack and she graduated from high school. The fictional memoir of Naomi Nakane, who recalls her early childhood in the Marpole area of Vancouver in 1942, has become a touchstone for the pain and drama and racism associated with the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II. It describes how Naomi Nakane's father, as an enemy alien, was forced to provide labour for sugar beet farms while the family lived in a one-room shack "with no water, no heat, no toilet, no electricity, surrounded by gumbo."

Kogawa's family was relocated to Saskatchewan and Ontario. As a child, Kogawa sent letters to the family's former residence in Vancouver, but these letters were never answered. Her mother dreamed of moving back. "I would have done anything to get it for her," Kogawa said in 1992, "but I couldn't. It's so tragic when I think about my mother's life. She clung to an entirely spiritual life but there was such an underlying sadness".

Kogawa's novel *Itsuka* (1992) recounts Naomi Nakane's gradual reconciliation with Canada against the backdrop of the Redress movement. The Redress Movement in which Kogawa "totally immersed" herself for three years succeeded in Canada prior to the publication of *Itsuka*.

A third Kogawa novel, *The Rain Ascends*, deals with painful and complicated memories of molestation in early childhood and the importance of mercy. Kogawa has published numerous collections of poetry since 1967, plus a children's novel, *Naomi's Road*, about the internment of

a girl named Naomi and her brother Stephen, both separated from their parents during World War II. A revised and illustrated 2005 edition, based on an expanded version published in Japan, includes added historical information and new information on the fate of Naomi's mother. A Vancouver Opera version of Naomi's Road premiered in 2005.

A member of the Order of Canada, she received an honorary doctorate from Simon Fraser University in 1993. The City of Vancouver proclaimed November 6 as Joy Kogawa Day in 2004 and passed a motion to plant a cherry tree, propagated from one growing in the backyard of the former Kogawa home, on the grounds of City Hall.

In May of 2006 Joy Kogawa was named as a recipient of the Order of British Columbia.

Roy Miki



Roy Miki was born in 1942 on a sugar beet farm in Manitoba where his second-generation Japanese Canadian parents were forcibly settled during the Second World War.

Miki received a B.A. from the University of Manitoba, a M.A. from Simon Fraser University and a Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. He has achieved success as a poet, editor, critic and teacher. He lives in Vancouver and teaches contemporary literature at Simon Fraser University.

Miki is the author of *Justice in Our Time* (co-authored with Cassandra Kobayashi) (Talonbooks 1991), a documentary history of the Japanese Canadian redress movement in which he actively participated.

He has also published two books of poems, *Saving Face* (1991) and *Random Access File* (1995), and a collection of critical essays, *Broken Entries: Race, Subjectivity, Writing* (1998).

His latest book of poems, *Surrender* (Mercury Press 2001), received the Governor General's Award for Poetry. In 1994, he released a non-fiction book, "Given Redress: Japanese Canadians in Negotiation."

In July 2006, Miki was named a Member of the Order of Canada for his contributions in voluntary service and arts-writing.

Tomekichi Homma



Domenici Homma was born in Japan and came to Canada when he was 18 years old. He found work in Steveston, BC, a community near the mouth of the Fraser River, where many Japanese people took part in the fishing industry. Homma was a leading member of the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society, an organization that had its hand in all manner of projects, including a Japanese Fishermen's Hospital. Gyosha Dantai, the first Fisherman's Union, was formed in 1887. Homma started the first Japanese Language School in Richmond, B.C. He also started a Japanese-language daily newspaper, the Canada Shimpo.

Affronted that he could not participate in elections, Homma led a campaign to win the vote for Japanese Canadians. In 1900, he challenged the B.C. government, asking why Japanese Canadians were not allowed to vote. The government refused him the right to put his name on the voters' list. Determined, Homma sued the B.C. government and won. The government took the case to the Supreme Court of Canada to try to overturn the decision. Homma used his own savings to continue his fight in Ottawa, where he also won.

But in 1903, the matter was referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, England, which was then the ultimate court of appeal. The Privy Council ruled that the British North America Act gave the provinces exclusive jurisdiction over civil rights, including the right to vote, so British Columbia had the power to exclude Asian Canadians from the franchise. Saddened, Homma conceded defeat.

Tomekichi Homma did not live long enough to vote in a Canadian election. He was evacuated from the coast during World War II and died in the BC interior at the age of 80. On June 15, 1948, Japanese Canadians were granted the right to vote. Homma's son, Seiji, was at the provincial legislature when it granted the franchise to Japanese Canadians.

In 1991 in Steveston, B.C., a school was opened in Homma's honour, called the Tomechiki Homma Elementary School. Future generations of Canadians of all ethnic backgrounds can go to school there and learn with each other. Japanese Canadians can still go to the Japanese Language School in Richmond to learn more about their history, culture and language.

Today there is a school named for Tomekichi in the Vancouver suburb of Richmond.

Asian Story Hour

As part of Asian Heritage Month celebrations this year, the idea to involve children as much as possible was put forward by one of the committee members. It was accepted by all members that the best way to educate and inform members of the public about the Asian communities in New Brunswick would be through opening the minds of children. The idea of having a story hour on Saturday mornings at the Fredericton public library featuring Asian stories was discussed with children's librarian Mrs. Deborah Venderlinde and the staff of the children's section of the library. The library was very receptive to this idea. Mrs. Vanderlinde offered a great deal of good advice on selecting stories and activities that the children would respond to and made her staff available for consultation throughout the entire process.

Members of the various Asian cultural groups in Fredericton were contacted to see if they might be interested in participating in this event. Four Asian communities accepted this invitation. These four communities were: the Chinese community, the Korean community, the Japanese community, and the Filipino community. Members of each community agreed to read a story and provide an activity on a different Saturday throughout May. To compliment this, the library generously permitted AHSNB to use its display case to showcase various items from Asia. Items were collected from volunteers and were displayed throughout May at the library. These items included Japanese and Chinese tea sets, a mahjong set, Indian scarves and jewelry, Japanese toys, photos, and various other Asian items. The library then added books related to Asia to the display. Volunteers Mrs. Krista Li and Mrs. Tomo Ingalls set up this display.

There were at least 8 volunteers who participated in Asian Story Hour. They spent nearly 15 hours preparing and facilitating these events, which were all well received by the children. Volunteers told stories, planned activities, and helped transport interested children to a magical world through the sharing of Asian folktales. The story hours were held from 10:30-11:30 on Saturday mornings and were advertised via the Fredkid website and through the library.

Krista Li, who told a Chinese folktale called 'The Magic Sack', hosted the Chinese story hour. The story detailed how a poor peasant who used to sell firewood met a dragon that gave him a magic sack in return for firewood. The sack was filled with gold coins and the peasant was told not to take more than one coin out per day. One day, his wife suggested that they build a new home and that they take several coins out of the sack. The peasant and his wife did so, and built a beautiful hillside mansion. Several weeks later, the peasant's wife fell sick and needed very expensive medical treatment. When the peasant went to the sack to take out a gold coin, the sack was empty. This story underscored the importance of not being greedy. Mrs. Li also taught the children who attended to use chopsticks, and gave them a coloring sheet featuring a traditional Chinese dragon.

The Filipino story hour started with a member of the Filipino community sharing the country's national symbols. Some children were dressed in their Filipino national costumes. The storyteller shared a couple of folk tales including one about the story of "The Turtle and The Monkey". These two animals used to be friends until they found a banana tree. The "wise" monkey divided it into half, giving the root part to the turtle and kept the top part of the tree, which held the fruit, for himself. He ate all the fruits, which greatly angered the turtle. The

turtle got back at him by putting a prickly object where the monkey sat and caused the monkey to yelp. The monkey threatened to throw the turtle on the rocks, the turtle laughed. When the monkey said that he would throw the turtle in the sea, the turtle begged for forgiveness and mercy and told the monkey that he would drown if tossed in the sea. The monkey did just that and the turtle swam away laughing at the monkey's stupidity. The technique that the storyteller used was interactive and engaged the children present.

Mrs. Tomo Ingalls hosted Japanese story hour and began by teaching the children how to fold origami. The children used construction paper and alphabet stickers to make their crafts and everybody had a great time. Afterwards, Mrs. Ingalls introduced Japan geographically and talked about some of its symbols. She also told the children two interesting stories using colorful paper characters and a picture book. The story hour concluded with a well-known English song translated into Japanese. The first story told by Mrs. Ingalls was that of the 'Inchikin', a story similar to the popular children's tale of 'Tom Thumb'. Once upon a time, there was an old couple that didn't have any children. They prayed and prayed and one day they received a baby, but he was as small as a thumb. So they called him Inchikin. Even though he grew up to be a very wise and brave boy, he was still small. One day he told his parents that he wanted to see the capital. He asked for a bowl, a chopstick, and a needle. He used the bowl as a boat, the chopstick as an oar, and the needle for his sword. He sailed up the river to the capital. It wasn't an easy journey, but he made it. When he met a minister of the city, he told about his adventures during his journey and the minister hired him as a bodyguard for his daughter. When Inchikin was accompanying the daughter to go visit a temple, an Oni (monster) came out of nowhere and he tried to eat up the minister's daughter. The brave Inchikin tried to stop him, but the Oni swallowed him. However, he was very clever. He attacked the Oni inside his stomach. Oni coughed out Inchikin and ran away. When he left, he left his magical hammer. The princess shook the hammer wishing that Inchikin was bigger and Inchikin grew as big as a normal boy. They got married and lived happily ever after. The second story Mrs. Ingalls told involved the mythical character 'Onis'. Mrs. Ingalls told how once in the seaside village of Tosa, people suffered from huge tidal waves after storms. When Onis, who lived in the nearby mountain heard this story from a boy who just lost his parents to a tidal wave, he took two big rocks and carried them down to the shore during the storm. Onis' son came with him and they went into the sea and held the rocks there to prevent the tidal waves from attacking the village. The water swallowed them up, but they hung on until the storm passed. When everything was calm, the villagers did not see Onis. Instead, they saw only the two rocks. These rocks are still there protecting the village up to this very day. The song Mrs. Ingalls taught the children was a Japanese version of 'Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes':

Atama kata hiza chon
 Hiza chon hiza chon
 Atama kata hiza chon
 Me mimi kuchi hana

The Korean Cultural Association facilitated Korean story hour and Ms. Angie Lee told a Korean folktale, taught the children a Korean song, and even taught them the common Korean greeting of 'Annyoung'. Ms. Li told the story of a little girl who was raised by her blind father after her mother passed away. . When the daughter became a teenager, she started to work as a housemaid

housemaid and supported her father. Her reputation for being a good daughter even spread to neighboring villages. One day, she worked in a very rich governor's house, and the wife of the governor wanted to adopt her. She politely refused, however, because she had to take care of her blind father. Meanwhile, her father encountered a monk who told him that his eyes could be cured if he offered \$3000 to the Buddha. When the daughter got home, he told her what the monk said just as a joke. However, the daughter took it seriously and decided to sacrifice herself to obtain that amount of money. In the village, there was a custom of sacrificing a girl to the sea because it was believed that a monster lived in the sea. She was very scared but was determined to do it for her father. She jumped into the water without her father knowing about it at all. The money was sent to the temple, but his eyes were not cured. When she opened her eyes, she found herself in a beautiful underwater palace. The King and Queen of the marine world were greatly touched by her love for her father so they decided to send her back to land. She floated to the ground covered in lotus flowers. As a gift from the sea she was sent to the capital of the kingdom. She became the Queen and there was a big celebration. Finally she met her father and they lived happily ever after in the kingdom.

Asian Story Hour Photos



Asian Film Festival

To prepare for the Asian Film Festival, a meeting was arranged with the NB Film Co-op. This proved to be very beneficial, as the team representing the organization was very helpful and knowledgeable. One of the immediate challenges faced was getting permission to show the pre-selected films to the public for free. Initially, AHSNB requested recommendations for films that could be shown from the various cultural groups in Fredericton. While the suggestions were good, trying to locate the films and obtain permission to show them proved to be challenging.

The NB Film Coop suggested coordinating with the National Film Board of Canada. By going this route, AHSNB could choose films that were readily available and ask permission to show the movies in public. The National Film Board proved to be another valuable resource because they did not charge anything for the movies (except for the shipping cost). Tony Merzetti helped select the movies and the NB Film Co-op also made the posters, which were later circulated to the various contacts of the AHSNB and the NB Film Co-op. The goal was to showcase culturally rich and diverse films in line with AHSNB's objective of educating the public about the negative effects of racism, as well as to promote the necessity of accepting the differences exhibited in our society.

Finding a suitable venue was another challenge but after talking with staff in charge of the University of New Brunswick's D'Avary Hall, AHSNB was permitted to use an auditorium and all necessary equipment free of charge. Two regular volunteers attended each film screening and helped register participants and introduce the films being shown. A total of 30 volunteer hours were spent on the film screenings.

From May to June 2008, a total of 18 short films were screened at D'Avary Hall. All films began at 7:00 pm and were very well attended. At least 20 people attended each screening, which speaks volumes to the successful organization and advertising completed for the event. Noteworthy amongst the films shown was Ali Kazimi's 'Continuous Journey', a film documenting the 1914 Komagata Maru incident. The screening of this film coincided with the British Columbian government's apology for the shameful incident. A small gathering was held after the film and guests enjoyed several delicacies from India while they discussed the film and the apology.

The films shown included:

May 2

Obachan's Garden by Linda Ohama (2001) – 94 minutes



Film Screening
Obachan's Garden
(free admission)

Friday May 2, 2008 7:00pm

Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143 (Dugald Blue Auditorium)

Director: Linda Ohama, 2001, 94 min

In 1923, Asayo Murakami left Hiroshima and settled in a fishing village in Steveston, BC. Her family remembers a happy woman who sang, danced and nurtured a colourful flower garden, but underneath, the memory of what she left in Japan haunted her deeply.

Delicately peeling back the layers of her grandmother Asayo's life, filmmaker Linda Ohama discovers a painful, buried past. In poignant interviews, Obachan, now 103 years old, recalls life in Japan, her arrival in Canada as a picture bride, her determination to marry a man of her choice, the bombing of Hiroshima and the forced relocation of her family during World War II.

Beautifully rendered dramatic sequences are merged with an exquisite collection of memories, feelings, images and voices. Culminating in an emotional reunion with a long-lost daughter, this film is an intensely personal reflection of Japanese-Canadian history and a testament to one woman's incredible endurance and spirit.

Info: contact Jorge.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-5679



Fredericton

May 9

Shepherd's Pie and Sushi by Craig Anderl & Mieko Ouchi (1998) - 45 min

A Sense of Family by Paul Lang (1980) - 54 min



Asian Film Festival

SHEPHERD'S PIE AND SUSHI

A SENSE OF FAMILY



Friday May 9, 2008, 7:00pm
(free admission)

Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143 (Dugald Blue Auditorium)

Shepherd's Pie and Sushi, 1998, 45 min Directed by Craig Anderl & Mieko Ouchi
Mieko Ouchi is half Celtic, half Japanese... and all Canadian. In 1993, Mieko, an actor, began researching a documentary about her grandfather, Edward Ouchi, a Japanese immigrant to Canada. Then she was cast to star in *The War Between Us*, a film on the World War II internment of 22,000 Japanese-Canadians--re-enacting a key episode in her own community's history. Part Japanese-Canadian history, part autobiography and family chronicle, *Shepherd's Pie and Sushi* looks at complex questions of personal and cultural identity with a light touch. Using archival material, dramatic re-enactment, powerful scenes from *The War Between Us* and moving interviews with members of the Ouchi family, the film relates the early history of Japanese-Canadians and looks at Mieko's and her family's struggles with their own identities.

A Sense of Family, 1980, 54 min Directed by: Paul Lang
This one-hour film charts East Indian immigration from the early 1900s to the present day. The families profiled relate their immigration experiences, as well as their struggle to integrate themselves economically and socially into Canada. These families also talk about their culture and its traditions, throwing the problems of their emigration to Canada into sharp relief.

Info: contact Jorge.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-5679



Fredericton



May 16

What are you anyways by Jeff Chiba Stearns (2005) - 11 min

Under the Willow Tree: Pioneer Chinese Woman in Canada by Dora Nipp (1997) - 51 min

Minoru: Memory of Exile (1992) - 18 min



Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick
Presents

Film Screenings (free admission)

Friday May 16, 2008 7:00pm

Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143 (Dugald Blue Auditorium)



WHAT ARE YOU ANYWAYS - 2005, 11 min

Follow the adventures of the Super Nip as filmmaker Jeff Chiba Stearns explores his cultural backgrounds growing up a mix of Japanese and Caucasian in a small white-bred Canadian city. This short, classically animated film looks at particular periods in Jeff's life where he battled with finding an identity.

UNDER THE WILLOW TREE: PIONEER CHINESE WOMAN IN CANADA - 1997, 51 min,

A rich and little-known part of Canadian history unfolds through the stories of the first Chinese women to come to Canada and of subsequent generations of Chinese Canadian women. Beautiful old photographs from family albums, the recollections of seven women who grew up in Canada in the first half of the 20th century, and the memories of narrator and director, Dora Nipp, whose grandfather came to Canada in 1881 to build the railway, create a remarkable story of stunning impact.



MINORU: MEMORY OF EXILE - 1992, 18 min

The bombing of the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, by a nation he knew only by name, thrust nine-year-old Minoru Fukushima into a world of racism so malevolent he would be forced to leave Canada, the land of his birth. Like thousands of other Japanese Canadians, Minoru and his family were branded as an enemy of Canada, dispatched to internment camps in the interior of British Columbia, and finally deported to Japan.

Info: contact Jorge.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-5679



May 23

Continuous Journey by Ali Kazimi (2004)



ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL SPECIAL SCREENING EVENT

CONTINUOUS JOURNEY

(free admission)



Friday May 23, 2008 7:00pm

**Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143
(Dugald Blue Auditorium)**

In 1914, Gurdit Singh, a Sikh entrepreneur based in Singapore, chartered a Japanese ship, the Komagata Maru, to carry Indian immigrants to Canada. On May 23, 1914, the ship arrived in Vancouver Harbour with 376 passengers aboard: 340 Sikhs; 24 Muslims and 12 Hindus. Many of the men on-board were veterans of the British Indian Army and believed that it was

their right as British subjects to settle anywhere in the Empire they had fought to defend and expand. They were wrong...

Continuous Journey is an inquiry into the largely ignored history of Canada's exclusion of the South Asians by a little known immigration policy called the Continuous Journey Regulation of 1908. Unlike the Chinese and the Japanese, people from British India were excluded by a regulation that appeared fair, but in reality, was an effective way of keeping people from India out of Canada until 1948. Thus began a dramatic stand-off which would escalate over the course of two months, becoming one of the most infamous incidents in Canadian history.

During their two-month detention in the harbour, Canadian authorities drove the passengers to the brink of thirst and starvation. The stand-off was broken with the intervention of Prime Minister Robert Borden who also called in a Canadian battleship to underline his stance. On 21 July, over two-hundred fully armed local militia lined the shore, while The Rainbow, prepared for confrontation on the sea. All of Vancouver was out for the spectacle. Major confrontation was averted through eleventh-hour negotiations, and in the end, provisions for the Komagata Maru's return journey were provided. The consequences of the incident were dire though. Upon its return to India, the Komagata Maru encountered hostile British authorities. Over forty people went missing or were killed.

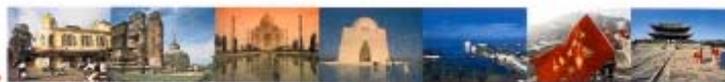
Info: contact Jorze.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-5679



May 30

Sleeping Tigers: The Asahi Baseball Story by Jari Osborne (2003) - 50 min

When Strangers Re-Unite by Marie Boti, Florchita Bautista (1999) - 52 min



Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick
Presents

Asian Film Festival Screenings
(free admission)

Friday May 30, 2008 7:00pm

Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143 (Dugald Blue Auditorium)

Sleeping Tigers: The Asahi Baseball Story

Directed by: Jari Osborne, 2003, 50 min

In pre-WWII Vancouver the Asahi baseball team was unbeatable, outplaying the taller Caucasian teams and winning the prestigious Pacific Northwest Championship for five straight years. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, the Canadian government declared war against Japan and sent every person of Japanese descent, whether born in Canada or not, to internment camps. Faced with hardship and isolation, the former Asahi members survived by playing baseball. Soon attracting the interest of the RCMP and local townspeople, this quintessential North American game helped to break down racial and cultural barriers.



When Strangers Re-Unite

Directed by: Marie Boti, Florchita Bautista, 1999, 52 min

Every year thousands of women enter Canada as domestic servants, the majority of them from the Philippines. Leaving their own children and families behind, they can spend many isolated years cooking, cleaning and caring for others. Sending much of their wages back home, they dream of the day their families can join them. When Strangers Re-Unite looks at what happens after years of separation and sacrifice. Virtual strangers at the airport, family members face a confusing journey of rebuilding relationships while adapting to an often unwelcoming environment. Within the Filipino community in Canada, several groups and organizations have been actively working for the rights and welfare of migrant workers. It is largely thanks to them that most of these families are able to overcome what can seem like insurmountable obstacles.

Info: contact Jorze.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-5679



June 6

From Harling Point by Ling Chiu (2003) - 40 minutes

Between: Living in the Hyphen by Anne Marie Nakagawa (2005) - 43 minutes



Friday June 6, 2008 7:00pm

Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143 (Dugald Blue Auditorium)

FROM HARLING POINT

Directed by: Ling Chiu, 2003, 40 minutes

Traditional Chinese belief says that the soul of a person who dies in a foreign place wanders lost until their bones are returned home. For Chinese pioneers who died in Canada, Victoria's Chinese Cemetery at Harling Point was a temporary resting place until their bones could be sent back to China.



This beautifully expressive film uses archival materials and interviews to trace the history of the Vancouver Island cemetery, from controversy and neglect to its revival as a National Heritage site. It also examines how this past reflects the emergence of a contemporary Chinese Canadian identity, through the voices of two women from different generations. Their vibrant stories illuminate the complexities of growing up Chinese Canadian, including the loss of culture, the pain of not fitting in and the joy of finding one's place.

From the experiences of Chinese pioneers in an unwelcoming land to the efforts of subsequent generations to establish roots in Canada, *From Harling Point* is an eloquent exploration of tradition, belonging and the notion of home.



BETWEEN: LIVING IN THE HYPHEN

Directed by Anne Marie Nakagawa, 2005, 43 minutes

In Canada, diversity often means "one ethnicity + hyphen + Canadian," but what if you don't fit into an easy category? What if your background is a hybrid of ancestries and you live somewhere between, where cultural identities overlap? *Between* interweaves the experiences of a group of Canadians with one parent from a European background and one from a visible minority. They're all struggling to find a satisfying frame of reference. Cultural identity, it seems, is more complex than what our multicultural utopia implies. Seven individuals share stories of being multi-ethnic in a world that

wants to put each person into a single category.

Info: contact
5679



Fredericton

Jorge.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-



June 13

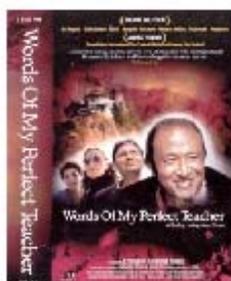
Words of my Perfect Teacher by Lesley Ann Patten (2003) - 101 min

Flutter by Howie Shia (2006) - 6 min 52 sec



Friday June 13, 2008 7:00pm

Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143 (Dugald Blue Auditorium)



WORDS OF MY PERFECT TEACHER

Directed by Lesley Ann Patten, 2003, 101 min

From the World Cup to the mythical mountain kingdom of Bhutan, Words Of My Perfect Teacher follows three students on a quest they hope will lead to wisdom. The catch is the teacher. Soccer obsessed, charismatic filmmaker and citizen of the world: Dzongsar Khyentse Norbu. Featuring appearances by Bernardo Bertolucci and Steven Seagal. Filmed in the UK, Bhutan, Canada, the US, and in Germany at the World Cup. Set to a world beat with music by Sting, Joy Drop, Steve Tibbetts, U. Man. Tek and others. Words Of My Perfect

Teacher is a poignant and hilarious tale of students who follow a teacher that defies convention.

Words Of My Perfect Teacher was made during the course of a year that included attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, months of tension as India and Pakistan went to the brink of nuclear war, multiple suicide bombings in Israel, a stock market drop that plunged the world to new depths of economic uncertainty and the US war on Iraq. If ever there was a time to inspire students to "wake up" and learn the wisdom necessary to engage in compassionate activity, this was that year.

FLUTTER

Directed by Howie Shia 2006, 6 min 52 sec

How big is the world? Searching for an answer, a young boy waves goodbye to his classmates, hops the schoolyard fence and disappears into the city, swallowed by the din and decadence of its machines and masses and automobiles. In Flutter, award-winning artist and illustrator Howie Shia marries traditional and digital media with a mish-mash score of jazz, electronics and sampling to create an urban fairy tale that sets to reclaim the contemporary world as fertile ground for epic adventure and romance.



Info: contact Jorge.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-5679



June 20

Some Kind of Arrangement by Ali Kazimi (1998) - 46 min

The Tibetan Book of the Dead: A Way of Life by Yukari Hayashi, Barrie McLean (1994) - 46 min



Friday June 20, 2008 7:00pm

Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143 (Dugald Blue Auditorium)

Some Kind of Arrangement

Directed by Ali Kazimi 1998, 46 min

Preety is the quintessential woman of the 90s: confident, independent and career-driven. But she's about to do something most of her contemporaries would never consider--the 20-something accountant is preparing to enter into an arranged marriage. Focusing on three second-generation South Asians--Preety, Hanif and Rajni--Some Kind of Arrangement is a smart, stylish and thoughtful examination of an age-old tradition in the midst of being adapted and transformed in North America. Engaging and refreshingly candid in their opinions, the three young people make it clear that arranged marriages aren't what they used to be. Nowadays, they involve negotiation, beginning with introductory phone calls and matrimonial classifieds in East Indian community newspapers, and continuing with long-distance trips, lengthy get-to-know-each-other sessions and the option of saying "no."



The Tibetan Book of the Dead: A Way of Life

Directed by Yukari Hayashi, Barrie McLean 1994, 46 min

This film explores ancient teachings on death and dying. It was filmed over a four-month period on location in the Himalayas where the original text still yields an essential influence over people's views of life and death. A Way of Life contains footage of the rites and liturgies surrounding and following the death of a Ladakhi elder. The Dalai Lama explains his own feelings about death. This film, narrated by Leonard Cohen which reveals ancient teachings on how to think about death and dying, can be a valuable source of counsel and comfort.

Info: contact Jorge.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-5679



June 27

Cut & Dry by Siu Ta (2006) - 12 min

Showa Shinzan by Alison Reiko Loader (2002) - 13 min

Cecil's Journey by Rohan Fernando (2002) - 54 min



Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick

Presents

Asian Film Festival Screenings

(free admission)

Friday June 27, 2008 7:00pm

Location: Marshall D'Avray Hall, UNB Room 143 (Dugald Blue Auditorium)

Cut & Dry

Director: Siu Ta 2006, 12 min

What do you get for a \$6 haircut? At the Rainbow Hair Salon, Wendy Su can make you look like Jackie Chan or Tiger Woods! Cut & Dry follows Wendy, a Vietnamese/Chinese immigrant as she confesses the numerous challenges of owning her own salon, from juggling a multicultural clientele who doesn't always speak the same language to handling overly flirtatious clients! Through it all Wendy takes each with stride.

Showa Shinzan

Directed by: Alison Reiko Loader 2002, 13 min

This animated story, based on actual events, evokes the look and feel of the Japanese art of Bunraku puppetry. During the Second World War, young Yasuko goes to live with her grandparents in Hokkaido, northern Japan. When nearby Mount Usu erupts, her grandfather, postmaster Masao Mimatsu, decides to record its activity. As the realities of war creep into their remote village, the volcano continues to spew rocks and smoke. As Yasuko looks at her grandfather's drawings, she realizes that she is witnessing the birth of a new mountain, named Showa Shinzan.

Cecil's Journey

Directed by: Rohan Fernando 2002, 54 min

Rohan Fernando, a 26-year-old visual artist, leaves his home in Canada for a nine-week journey to Sri Lanka. The purpose of the trip is to take photos that will serve as inspiration for future paintings. Instead, it turns into a voyage of discovery in which he must confront the past he has all but forgotten, and in which long-buried family secrets are revealed. As Rohan (whose parents called him Cecil after they immigrated) discovers the intricate web of family relations binding him to caste, family and country, deep-seated questions about his own identity and self-image emerge.

Info: contact Jorge.vanslyke@ahsnb.org or 506 471-5679



Guest Comments

“Thank you for the film showing and the Gala. I especially enjoyed the Japanese Fisherman's Dance (So-ran bushi) and the film “What are you anyways?” by Jeff Chiba”

- **Greg Anstey** -

“What a wonderful Screening Event! I really enjoyed the film screenings each week. Very interesting films and educational as well. Great group of people in attendance.”

- **Cat LeBlanc, NB Film Coop** -

“Thanks for the invitation for the film shows.”

- **May Burrell** -

“It's been good so far! Thanks! Love it!”

- **Shaimaa and Sharihan Ghanem** -

“Thank you very much for showing such great films. They were all very good qualities. I wish more people would come and see these films.”

- **Tomo Ingalls** -

“Enjoyed this tremendously. A great diversity of films. Look forward to next year's”

-**Glen Perry**-

Asian Cultural Gala (May 31, 2008)

The biggest event of Asian Heritage Month for AHSNB is its annual Cultural Gala. The gala is an event both anticipated by the public and AHSNB organizers alike, for it provides the opportunity to showcase the diversity of Asian cultures that thrive in New Brunswick. To ensure that such an event goes off without a hitch, detailed preparation was needed. The first major hurdle that had to be overcome was to confirm the date and the venue. Since the Cultural Gala is well attended it was necessary to pick a date that would not conflict with other major events in Fredericton and to choose a venue that could hold several hundred people. After much deliberation, it was decided to hold the event at the auditorium of the Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne. Once this venue was confirmed, advertising and promotion could begin. The venue was confirmed nearly a month in advance to allow for adequate advertising.

Finalizing the program for the gala event was quite time consuming owing to the high number of different cultural groups involved. Once again, group and community leaders were extremely cooperative and after only minor hiccups the program could be completed. The objective of the Cultural Gala was to pique the interest of the community in Asian culture and heritage as well as to promote not only tolerance of our many differences but acceptance. Having a variety of performances that showcased the many talents of Asian-Canadians living in New Brunswick certainly helped achieve this goal. The many volunteers of AHSNB worked tirelessly to ensure that each performance was stellar.

To plan for the Cultural Gala, a general rehearsal with all participants and lighting and sound technicians was necessary. In addition, each cultural group spent numerous hours practicing on their own time prior to the general rehearsal. Meetings were also held with the volunteers who would assist at the gala. Drawing on the talents of AHSNB's volunteers, tasks were assigned to volunteers and responsibilities meted out. Contingency plans were developed and seemingly endless minute details were attended to. Nearly 20 volunteers participated in the Gala and gave a total of 11 hours of their time.

The Cultural Gala was held on May 31st, 2008, at the auditorium of the Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne from 7 to 9:30pm. Distinguished guests included Senator Vivienne Poy, Minister Greg Byrne, and Fredericton City Councilor Marilyn Kerton. More than 400 people attended representing the Asian-Canadian communities, multicultural organizations, government and private employees and the general public from the Greater Fredericton area. Some guests came all the way from Moncton and Saint John.

Participating Asian-Canadian communities included the Association of Indo-Canadians, the Chinese Cultural Association of New Brunswick, the Filipinos in New Brunswick, the Japanese Association of Fredericton, and the Korean Cultural Association. The Ushio Group, a musical ensemble from Halifax and a group of sword fighters from the Iaido Club complimented the participation of the Japanese Association.

Upon entering the auditorium area, guests were greeted by volunteers in traditional clothing who welcomed them. Volunteers from the Japanese Association who were dressed in beautiful kimono distributed programmes.

Once underway, the program flowed seamlessly from one performance to another, with all groups giving exemplary performances. The program was enlivened by the witty banter between Jean-Claude Arluison and Mami Osanai, the event's Masters of Ceremonies. AHSNB Chair Madhu Verma gave a beautiful speech in which she outlined the necessity of accepting our differences and becoming cultural explorers. Senator Vivienne Poy also greeted the crowd with a moving speech and was received with loud applause. Members of the provincial and municipal governments also gave greetings. A detailed list of performances will be found on the official program from the Cultural Gala that is included on following pages. A highlight towards the end of the night was the presentation of those named as Outstanding Asian-Canadians within New Brunswick by AHSNB. Those who were able to make it to the gala were given gifts as well as copies of a calendar featuring Outstanding Asian-Canadians within New Brunswick.

Since the Cultural Gala is such a well-attended event, AHSNB seized this opportunity to fundraise for those suffering from unspeakable hardships as a result of the Myanmar cyclone and China earthquake. A table was also set-up to receive donations for the victims of China Earthquake and the Myanmar Cyclone. Official receipts were given from the Canadian Red Cross as AHSNB partnered with the said organization in this worthwhile cause. While guests were being seated and waiting for the event to begin, a Power Point slide show featuring images and details of the destruction in both Myanmar and China played. AHSNB volunteer Krista Li designed this slideshow. Donations over \$10 were receipted and all monies were donated to the Canadian Red Cross.

Cultural Display

In addition to the stage show, booths set up by the various Asian cultural groups allowed guests to see cultural items from various Asian countries, and to inquire about them. This also served as a meet-and-greet, allowing everyone to chat and socialize with members of Asian-Canadian communities.

Presentation of the Distinguished Asian-Canadians Calendar Project

To celebrate the contributions of Asian-Canadians in New Brunswick, AHSNB decided to publish a calendar featuring 12 prominent Asian-Canadians who live and work in New Brunswick. This involved researching the history of Asian history to New Brunswick as well as writing biographies of the chosen 12. Since the calendar was limited to Asian-Canadians who came to New Brunswick after the 1950s, earlier immigrants were not included. Due to the overrepresentation of men in immigration statistics, finding prominent Asian-Canadian women proved difficult.

After identifying possible nominees, the biography writing process began. A brief description of the nominee along with his or her contributions was written. The finished product was then translated into French and a list of national holidays from Asian nations was included on the calendar. The calendar was officially launched at the Asian Cultural Gala.

Official Program from Asian Cultural Gala Night

Asian Cultural Gala Night – Program

7:00 – 7:30 Meet and Greet
7:30 – 9:30 Program

- Canadian National Anthem by *Koshih Ansheta*
- Welcome Remarks by AHSNB Chair-*Madhu Verma*
- Introduction of Hon. Sen. Poy by *Tony Mina*
- Greetings from Honourable Senator Vivienne Poy
- Performance from the Ushio Group from Halifax
Marcin Sawicki (Drum)
Keiko Fujise (Drum and Violin)
Ryuichi Nakajima (Flute)
- Introduction of Honourable Minister by *David Lee*
- Greetings from Honourable Minister Greg Byrne – Immigration & Population Growth
- Ribbon Dance - Chinese Cultural Association of NB:
Serena Eng *Madissa Lalra*
Amanda Eng *Jasmine Eng*
Cindy Tang *Annika Boelter*
- Greetings from City Councillor Marilyn Kerton
- "Tinikling" - Filipino Community of Fredericton
Earl & Cherry Cuanan *Roland Moreno*
Ronnie & Edlyn Laxawana *Neo Salendra*
Choi Dimayacayac *Michelle Garipey*
Grace Moreno *Faith Moreno*
Josie Moores *Irene Saliendra*
Marjory Enrile *Adriane Saliendra*
Gina Moreno *Luning Cusi*
Doris Gonzales *Nita Lee*
Nancy Garipey *Fidy Chan*
- "GARBA" Indian Folk dance
Manisha Varma *Manju Shanbhag*
Anuja Chauri *Nita Hathi*
Sarita Desai *Deepa Jayachandran*
Endu Khaitan *Renu Dhayagude*

Our sincerest gratitude to our partners, supporters, and volunteers:

Association of Indo-Canadians of Fredericton
Chinese Cultural Association of NB
Filipino Association of New Brunswick, Inc.
Filipino Community of Fredericton
Japanese Association of Fredericton
Korean Cultural Association New Brunswick
Multi-Cultural Association of Fredericton
New Brunswick Multi-Cultural Council

Brunswick Street Baptist Church
Communautaire Sainte-Anne
Consulate General of Japan at Montreal
Department of Education
Fredericton Public Library
FredKid
Individual Volunteers
National Film Board
National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre
NB Film Co-op
School District 17 and 18
UNB Conference Services

Distinguished Guests:

Mr. Takashi Futagi, Deputy Consul-General of Japan at Montreal
Honorable Senator Vivienne Poy
Honorable Minister Greg Byrne-Population Growth
City Councillor Marilyn Kerton

Funders:

Canadian Heritage Department
NB Department of Population Growth Secretariat
NB Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training, & Labour
City of Fredericton: Heritage & Cultural Affairs Division

Sponsors:

Atlantic Language College
Fredericton Korean Church New Brunswick
Clark Toyota, Crown Suzuki, Fredericton Mazda, Sutherland Honda

Manju Kishore

- Welcome to Korea video / Do-re-mi - Korean

<i>Jannis Alan</i>	<i>Seokwon Cho</i>	<i>Sungmin Sim</i>
<i>Debbie Lee</i>	<i>Hyunwoo Ah</i>	<i>Eunjin Sim</i>
<i>Nahyun Lee</i>	<i>Heeyun Shon</i>	<i>Geonho Lee</i>
<i>Minkyoung Cho</i>	<i>Youngwan Kim</i>	<i>Joonho Lee</i>
<i>Jungyeon An</i>	<i>Yeonsoo Jeong</i>	<i>Junyeop Kim</i>
<i>Mingoon Park</i>	<i>Hyunseo Yang</i>	<i>Hayeon Park</i>
Director: <i>Robert Park</i>		<i>Angie Lee</i>
Presentors: <i>Sunny Yeon</i>		<i>Seonah Jeon</i>

- Iaido from the Higashikaze Iai Club (sword-fight)

<i>Bill Anderson</i>	<i>Colin Ingalls</i>
<i>André Gionet</i>	<i>Stephen Clarke</i>

- So-ran Bushi (Fisherman's Dance)

Japanese Association of Fredericton

<i>Michiko Nishijima</i>	<i>Claire McManus</i>	<i>Kaori Inui</i>
<i>Tomo Ingalls</i>	<i>Mami Osanai</i>	<i>Eriko Imada</i>
<i>Haruka Kudo</i>	<i>Kana Takahashi</i>	<i>Hugh King</i>
<i>Mana Sasaki</i>	<i>Rie Hayashi</i>	

- "Singkil" from the Filipino Association of NB

<i>Emilio Ansheta Jr.</i>	<i>Julie Lambria-McDonald</i>
<i>Laarni Benigno</i>	<i>Luisa Misa Toyer</i>
<i>Maiath Benigno</i>	<i>Earl Denver Montanez</i>
<i>Samuel Benigno</i>	<i>Ron Montanez</i>
<i>Gemma Boulianne</i>	<i>Jerome Ong</i>
<i>Victoria Farkas (intro)</i>	<i>Valrid Justin Samimi</i>
<i>Aaron Farkas (intro)</i>	<i>Vanesa Jjessanyne Samimi</i>
<i>Marissa Gesmundo</i>	<i>Veronika Jalil Samimi</i>
<i>Mae Qnanon</i>	<i>Andy VanStyke</i>

- "Baby Goats" - Korean Cultural Association (same performers and directors)

- "ODISSI" Indian Classical Dance by *Sahil Chauri*

Choreographed by *Gangadhar Pradhan*
Orissa Dance Academy

- Dragon Dance-Chinese Cultural Association of NB
Jonathan Quak *Bushi Zhang* *Kimi Lee*
Boshan Gao *Richard Zhang* *Jesse Liu*
Patricia Quak *Glen Gong* *Amanda Lee*
Connie Lee *Nancy Kang* *Tom Ng*
- Acknowledgement and Closing Remarks by *Tono Ingalls*, AHSNB Committee member

Mami Osanai
Jean-Claude Arluison
Emcees

HONOURABLE SENATOR VIVIENNE POY A Brief Glimpse



Senator Vivienne Poy is the first Canadian of Asian descent to be appointed to the Senate of Canada. Appointed in 1998, Senator Poy was instrumental in having May officially recognized as Asian Heritage Month in Canada. In December 2001, the Senate of Canada officially recognized May as Asian Heritage Month, following the passage of a motion introduced by Senator Poy. She now serves as a Patron to Asian Heritage Month Societies across Canada. In addition to promoting intercultural dialogue, Senator Poy focuses on human rights, immigration, and gender issues in her work in the Senate of Canada. A noted historian, author, entrepreneur, and fashion designer, Senator Poy is Chancellor Emerita of the University of Toronto, and has a PhD from the University of Toronto. Senator Poy is committed to encouraging Canadians to learn more about each other, and to pursue leadership in their communities.

AHSNB'S BRIEF HISTORY

In 2002, May was officially declared Asian Heritage Month by the Government of Canada. The Asian Heritage Month Committee (AHMC) was established in the same year to promote the Federal objectives of Asian Heritage Month, and to organize educational and cultural events that commemorate the legacy of Asian Canadians, past and present. AHSNB also works to support the understanding of Asian heritage in New Brunswick as well as foster an environment where diversity is celebrated and accepted.

In 2007, AHMC was incorporated and is now known as Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick, Inc. (AHSNB). The Society's main objective is to fight against racial discrimination through public education.

Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick

2008 Activities:

Explor/asians Exhibit – May 14
Asian Film Festival – May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Asian Story Hour – May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Asian Cultural Gala Night – May 31

AHSNB Executive Committee

Madhu Verma – Founding Chair
David Lee – Vice-President

Tony Mina – Secretary

Members-at-large

<i>Tomo Ingalls</i>	<i>Tom Ng</i>	<i>Anuja Chauri</i>
<i>Manju Kishore</i>	<i>Hasnain Mirza</i>	<i>Roland Moreno</i>
<i>Bina Sharma</i>	<i>Mohammad Arif</i>	<i>Wahnee Lahli</i>

Asian Cultural Gala Night



Date: May 31, 2008

Time: 7:00 to 9:30pm

Place: Centre
Communautaire
Sainte-Anne

"Kindly support AHSNB's fund-raising for the victims of Myanmar Cyclone and China Earthquake. Official receipts will be given through partnership with Red Cross."



Photos From Asian Cultural Gala Night







Calendar Project (Front Page)

DISTINGUISHED
NEW BRUNSWICKERS OF ASIAN
ORIGIN

NÉO-BRUNSWICKOIS ÉMINENTS
D'ORIGINE ASIATIQUE



ASIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF NB

Asian Canadians honored in AHSNB's calendar project are:

Betty Lee
 Dr. Moises D. Cabatu
 Dr. Jeyaratnam Wilson
 Gulshan Saini
 Indu Varma
 Dr. Prakash Joshi
 Dr. Verinder N. Khanna
 Dr. Abdul Qaiyum Lodhi
 Rev. Soo Han Yoon
 Dr. Dilip Senn
 Dr. Larry N. Shyu
 Dr. Stephen Siau

AHSNB's Participation in Asian Heritage Month Celebrations in Charlottetown, PEI

On June 1, 2008, AHSNB Chair Madhu Verma traveled to Prince Edward Island to meet with counterparts from other Maritime Provinces. The main event featured a dinner cultural programme, wherein Senator Vivienne Poy delivered a public lecture and to discuss plans for Asian Heritage Month 2009. The meeting proved extremely useful in networking between the provinces and establishing a more regional feel to Asian Heritage Month committees. Present at this meeting was Senator Vivienne Poy, Madhu Verma, Leti Larosa, and Carol Reichert.

Highlights from the meeting include:

- Call for an Asian Heritage Month Maritimes website since the region shares similar concerns – this could be an avenue to showcase Asian Canadians in the Maritimes.
- A joint calendar project next year was recommended.
- The idea of an Artists' tour that would travel through the Maritimes with representation from all 3 provinces.
- Madhu and Leti to seek out contacts in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador (Association of Newcomers to Newfoundland) to let people know what's happening and ask if they want to be involved next year. It was suggested that a background piece on Asian Heritage Month be sent out to groups explaining the history and developments over past few years in the Maritimes and rest of Canada as well as a history of Asian heritage month <http://www.asianheritagemonth.net/History.htm>
- Madhu to involve Moncton next year as well – Philippines will be the focus next year.
- Seek out money for materials for education – what is the Toronto District School Board doing? Toronto District School Board received \$30,000 from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat of the Ministry of Education of Ontario, and the Board chipped in 13,000 as well.
- Resource guide for Asian Heritage Month for schools – how can they access it? Can contact the head librarian at the TDSB about what resources are available for AHM that might be relevant - rowan.amott@tdsb.on.ca.
- Need to access data from Community Profiles (Census 2006; New Brunswick Finance 2006 – Carol to send links) -

Census 2006 – Community Profiles Search Page

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Index.cfm?ang=E>

New Brunswick – Department of Finance -

http://www.gnb.ca/0160/Economics/Immig_E.pdf

- Atlantic Canada Portal – need to create resources for it - <http://atlanticportal.hil.unb.ca/home>
- Need to talk about religious faiths – address stereotypes/ignorance (Possibility of interfaith lecture series)
- Helping for a United Good website – with textbook on religious faiths and cultures <http://www.hugworldwide.org/about/about.php>
- United Nations Association – Sense of Belonging project – <http://www.unac.org/sb/en/information/home.asp>
- Rick Always – St. Michael’s College Centre for Interfaith Studies, U of T may have resources for this as well
- Metropolis – potential source of speakers for series of multifaith lectures - http://canada.metropolis.net/index_e.html
- Carol will ask other organizations for best events to be compiled so cities will know what works/what doesn’t. This is also to learn from other organizations. A compilation of potential programs, potential resources, and potential partners will be put together. There is also a need to set up a teleconference call for the Fall with all the groups to share ideas.
- Library and Archives seeks outreach to the communities of Canada
- Asian Idol singing contest – done in Winnipeg and Toronto – get young people involved (need to involve CBC in the Maritimes).

General Feedback / Comments from Volunteers and Guests

Observations during the ExplorASIANS Exhibit on May 14, 2008

By Parth Thakkar

Although the number of attendees at the opening time (12:00pm) of the exhibit was small, as time went on, that number began to swell. So we can conclude that the exhibit was indeed a success. As I walked amongst the crowd of people, it was clear that most everybody was enjoying himself or herself. And what was not to enjoy? The people who attended had the opportunity to sample the rich culture of Japan through participating in the various activities that were offered. Not only that, through participation in the activities, individuals likely gained a rudimentary education in Japanese culture; an education that likely encouraged many to increase their understanding of the many facets of this vibrant culture.

Among the activities that were offered, my observations indicated that the traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony was the most popular. A significant number of individuals were lining up in order to experience a ceremony that is accorded a high degree of respect in Japan, and is surrounded by a certain mystique. When individuals were participating in the ceremony, they were attentively following the directions that were laid out by the ceremony's leader – an indicator that they were genuinely interested in learning about this aspect of Japanese culture, not to mention the fact that they were also likely wanting to get a taste of world-renowned Japanese green tea.

The other activities also drew an appreciable amount of people. The beauty of Japanese lettering stands out to anyone, regardless of whether or not they understand it. So it was no surprise that people wanted to try their hand at traditional Japanese calligraphy. There is a certain appeal to committing esthetically pleasing characters to paper in jet-black ink. And of course, the children – as well as many adults – who attended the exhibit were fascinated by the seemingly infinite objects one could create with paper through the traditional Japanese art of origami. In addition to the activities that were offered, the various posters that detailed Japanese-Canadian history were also attracting many readers, educating them with respect to the contributions that Japanese-Canadians have made in order to better this country. It is even likely that the information contained on the posters sparked an interest in Japanese-Canadian history amongst some of the readers; an interest that they may follow through obtaining more information on the history of Japanese-Canadians.

So, as I pointed out above, the event could rightfully be deemed a success in that it provided individuals the chance to experience a culture outside of their own, and an opportunity to educate themselves on the role that Japanese-Canadians have had in shaping the Canada that we are familiar with today. In other words, it was a mind-opening experience and I am certain that those who attended are the richer for having been a part of it.

Observations during the Asian Cultural Gala on May 31st, 2008

By Parth Thakkar

As I surveyed the performers in the green room at Ecole Saint-Anne just moments before the show started, I knew that the night would be a success. The place exuded energy, and I was certain that those that were going to go on stage were going to give the audience nothing less than a performance that revealed the highest expression of their talents. Looking out into the audience, after making my way to the stage from the green room, literally seconds before the start of the evening, I realized that the theatre was almost full. It was very clear that there are many individuals in this city who are interested in learning about what different cultures of the world have to offer.

The first group that took to the stage – and therefore by default had the honor of warming up the audience for what was to come – was a trio who specialized in performing Japanese music, the Ushio Group. Their performance certainly did get the audience in the mood for what was to follow. How could it not? The expressive drum work, the delicate violin playing and the sweet sound of the flute was enough to awaken anyone's senses.

The Ushio Group was followed by a traditional Chinese ribbon dance, which was an entertaining voyage through an aspect of traditional Chinese culture. Performers from the Filipinos in New Brunswick were the next ones to grace the stage, and they certainly provided a treat for the eyes. Their performance consisted of various enticing elements that one does not frequently experience in Fredericton, or Canada for that matter. The acrobatic prowess of the dancers whilst they negotiated their way through clashing bamboo poles – in addition to not getting one scratch during the feat – was truly something worth of acclaim. It must have taken an innumerable amount of hours on the part of the dancers to reach such acrobatic proficiency. The following act showcased a traditional Indian dance called *Garba*. Although I myself have seen this dance performed many times, it is always a treat to be reminded of a particular aspect of one's culture. High-spirited children from the Korean association followed the *Garba*, singing a Korean rendition of the popular "Do-re-mi". This was definitely one of the cutest things that I've ever witnessed. Next up was the sword-swinging fury of the Iaido group. Their demonstration of traditional Japanese sword-based martial arts both wowed the audience and also likely let them know that they are not individuals that one should attempt to pick a fight with. Members from the Japanese association were the next ones to take the place on stage. Their performance of a dance set to a traditional Japanese fishing song was so full of spirit, that by the time they were halfway into it, I found myself singing along – as I'm sure much of the audience was as well – regardless of the fact that I did not understand the meaning of the song's lyrics. Members of the Filipinos in New Brunswick graced the stage once again following the Japanese association. They performed a traditional Filipino dance called *Singkil*. Aside from the sheer mastery of their craft that the dancers displayed, perhaps the most stunning aspect of the dance was the Filipino costumes that it was performed in. I don't believe that I've ever seen so many vibrant colors concentrated in such a small area. The exuberant children from the Korean association were up again after the *Singkil* was finished, and the extent to which this performance was adorable – in other words, very – rivaled their first performance. Next up was a very talented fifteen-year-old who performed a very technically challenging Indian dance entitled *Odissi*. The sheer command that she displayed over her passion was enough to make one's

jaw drop. And last but not least, members of the Chinese association presented a stunning rendition of the traditional Chinese dragon dance: a magnificent ending to a set of magnificent performances.

All in all, it truly can be said that the night was a success and we are indebted to all those who made it possible. From the performers, to the emcees, to our funding partners, to the volunteers, to the audience and the special guests in it, this night would not have been possible were it not for the time and resources that they set aside in order to bring the gala to fruition. One can hope that next year's gala will be as marvelous as this year's because it will certainly be very difficult to surpass it.

Movie Screening at Marshall d'Avray Hall on May 2nd

My name is Kana Takahashi, and I am a recent graduate from St. Thomas University. I am originally from Japan and came to Canada four years ago. My personal Asian Heritage Month began on Friday, May 2nd, the very first day of the movie screenings about Asian Canadians. The movie was called "Obachan's Garden" and it was about Japanese Canadians who experienced the forced relocation during World War II. The movie showed Japanese Canadians who were trying to strongly face their difficulties while in such an awful situation, and I was really moved by their attitude as a Japanese living in Canada.

I read lots of books about Japanese Canadians and the history of their relocation during World War II, and I felt as if I knew everything about their sad history. However, the movie gave me much deeper understanding of the history because it was actually a personal reflection of Japanese Canadian history, and full of vivid feelings and images about the war. It touched me more deeply than any of the books I had read, and I learned a lot from the voice of experience in the movie. People tend to forget the past as time goes by. Therefore, we, the next generation, need to tell the story to the future generation. The movie "Obachan's Garden" is very educational. If you have not seen the movie, you should definitely see it, feel the hardship those Japanese Canadians experienced during the war, and learn the whole history about the forced relocation. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Japanese Canadian History & Culture Exhibition at Centennial Building on May 14th

On May 14th, the Japanese Association of Fredericton hosted the Japanese Canadian History and Culture exhibition at Centennial Building. I was glad that lots of people came to see our event. We had a special guest from the Consulate General of Japan at Montreal, deputy Consul Futagi, and he made a wonderful speech at the event. We, Japanese, were wearing a Japanese traditional costumes called Kimono, and demonstrating calligraphy, Origami, and tea ceremony. I was an assistant for the tea ceremony, which was really interesting. Tea ceremony is well-known part of Japanese culture, but I had never done tea ceremony before the event. In order to be an assistant, I started to learn everything about tea ceremony. Tea ceremony has lots of rules to follow and each of them has a unique meaning. I did not know these things at all, so I was so surprised when I got to know them. I, a girl who grew up in Japan, was amazed by all the details about tea ceremony, and I am quite sure that those who participated in the tea

ceremony at this event must have been more surprised than I.

Cultural Gala at Ecole Sainte Anne on May 31st

There was a cultural gala at Ecole Sainte Anne on May 31st as an ending ceremony for Asian Heritage Month. I really enjoyed all of the performances at the event. The performers were all skilled. I myself performed a Japanese traditional dance called “Soran bushi” with ten of my friends at this event, and I was proud of myself, being a part of the performance and introducing Japanese culture to the audience.

The thing that impressed me the most was that much of the audience expressed their interest in our performance with positive comments, such as “Your performance was amazing. I would like to learn that dance myself” or “Could you teach my children that Japanese dance? They will like it for sure.” I believe that the audience also got interested in the other Asian cultural performances, as did I, because they were unique and very beautiful. This event gave the audience and the performers a great opportunity to appreciate the diverse culture we have in our community.

Coming to Canada gave me a chance to appreciate not only other cultures but also my own ethnic background and culture. Canada is known as a mosaic of cultures, contrasted to the “melting pot” in the U.S.A. I really like Canada and the people here because they allow me to be Japanese, and to bring the positive aspects of Japan with me. We should definitely have more opportunities to celebrate and promote multiculturalism in our community in the future.

2009 Plan of Action Outline

RESEARCH THEME FOR 2009

Filipino-Canadians

Philippines Background Information

History

Country Profile

Culture

National Symbols

Tourist Attractions

Filipinos' view of Canada

History of Filipino-Canadian Immigrants in Canada

History of Filipino-Canadian Immigrants in New Brunswick

Demographic Profile of past and present Filipino-Canadian Immigrants

Reasons for Migrating

Effects of Migration Philippines and Canada Perspective

Prominent Filipino-Canadians

Evolution of Filipino-Canadian Culture

Challenges for Filipino-Canadian Immigrants

Filipino Artists – arts exhibit

Cultural Display

Possible Events / Activities:

Explor/Asians Exhibit

Asian Cultural Gala or theatre production (play) / concert

Filipino Film Festival

Asian School Tour

June Parade and Barrio Fiesta (Town Feast) – Interactive one day fair outdoors

2009 Asian Calendar Project or 2009 Planner

Calling Canada Home: Creating a sense of belonging through community activism

Public Lecture
Hon. Senator V. Poy
New Brunswick Museum Theatre
May 30, 2008



Good evening ladies & gentlemen:

Calling Canada Home is the title of my speech tonight, and it is also the title of my PhD thesis a number of years ago. My research was on immigrant Chinese women to Canada from the very beginning, from 1860 to 1990. What I discovered is that for immigrants home is where we choose to be. Home is more than just a place to live - it is also where we feel comfortable. That is what I would like to speak on this evening in reference to New Brunswick.

Many of you are aware that New Brunswick and Canada are facing a declining population due to a low birth rate, out-migration and an aging population. On a global scale, we see similar situations in many developed countries. Consider that between 2001 and 2006, only 400,000 babies were born in Canada, but 1.2 million immigrants arrived here. So, our population as well as our labour force are boosted by immigration.

As a province, New Brunswick's birth rate is lower than the national average, while the median age of its population is also older. What does this mean for the province? It means that it needs to have specific policies to attract productive immigrants and skilled professionals –

entrepreneurial individuals who will meet the labour and market demands, and spur population and economic growth in the province. Due to the fact that labour is increasingly mobile, both in Canada and around the world, the competition for the best and the brightest is fierce.

The good news, from the 2006 Census is , that New Brunswick's population edged up very slightly from the 2001 count, although the province had a net loss of close to 11,000 people over the same five year period. Without a doubt, the population increase was due to the 4000 immigrants who arrived in the province since 2001.

The foreign born population of New Brunswick now accounts for almost 4 % of the total population. In the entire country, the foreign born population is now at its highest in 75 years, at almost 20% of the total population.

Unlike in the rest of Canada, most of the new immigrants to New Brunswick are from the U.S., with China and South Korea being the other two major source countries. However, the major challenge remains in retention. How can New Brunswick keep immigrants from leaving the province for opportunities elsewhere in the country or abroad?

Clearly a strategy is needed to attract immigrants to the province and retain them, and the government of New Brunswick is moving in this direction. New Brunswick has established a Provincial Nominee Program to attract skilled workers, entrepreneurs and investors. It has also developed a Population Growth Strategy release just this year to increase immigration by 5,000 by 2015. However, much more needs to be done.

One of the major obstacles to attracting, and retaining immigrants in the province, is the lack of a sense of belonging to the province by recent immigrants. Since most immigrants settle in large cities such as Toronto, where there is a significant existing population of immigrants, New Brunswick needs to foster an environment where immigrants recognize themselves. A good recent example from another province is Manitoba's successful programme to attracting Filipino immigration to Winnipeg, where there is already a very active Filipino community, and I will come back to this later.

Every province needs to follow its own path, and New Brunswick can celebrate the unique features of the region, and support the immigrant communities that are already established here, and help them to grow.

Pluralistic communities are an important part of helping immigrants to feel at home. Considering that our major immigration source countries are in Asia, one of the ways New Brunswick can welcome newcomers is to support the newly formed Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick.

For a number of years, my friend Madhu Verma of Fredericton has been organizing celebrations in this province, and this year the Society has incorporated, attracting new members, and expanding its reach here in Saint John. Through the Society's exhibit, which this year focuses on the Japanese Canadian community, cultural gala evening, and film showings, New Brunswick residents, from every background, have a chance to get to know more about the communities within their communities.

Another avenue for creating a sense of belonging is through multicultural education in the schools. I believe the poorest people in the world are those without imagination. Our students need to learn to think creatively in terms of their future, and to imagine that anything is possible. They need to know that in a country like Canada, their heritage is an asset. It is only when they learn to be proud of their heritage, and comfortable in their own skins, that they can make the most of the endless possibilities available to them as part of the Canadian experience.

For immigrants to feel welcome, they need to have their unique stories recognized in the

school curriculum. Last year, I attended the first Asian Heritage Month Education Roundtable at St. Thomas University, in Fredericton, to discuss how multicultural education could be integrated into the curriculum in New Brunswick. Representatives from the Department of Education of New Brunswick were there, and the feeling was that community involvement in education was welcome.

We have had four of these Education Roundtables at the University of Toronto, one of which involved the current Minister of Education for Ontario, Kathleen Wynne. The Toronto District School Board has also embraced programming for Asian Heritage Month, offering its students the opportunity to engage in seminars, and celebrations throughout the month of May.

As members of our communities, we must continue to advocate for education in our schools because it is the younger generation who will decide our future. Students need to be encouraged to view their background as an asset and not a burden. And the way they think about themselves will largely depend on the message they get in their schools. It's very important that all students feel included, and know that their heritage and their celebrations are part of being Canadian. It has been proven that when students' cultures are validated, they feel accepted, and they do better in school and in life.

For this kind of education to work in practice, we need teachers with proper training to bring the community into the classroom. I was very excited to read about the Urban Diversity program being offered by York University in Toronto for teachers in training. Half the class of 70 is comprised of those underrepresented in the teaching profession – visible minorities, foreign trained teachers, the disabled and aboriginals, so students may have a chance to learn from someone who reflects them, and in this way, teachers can serve as mentors to their students.

These student teachers are asked to look at their own biases, and examine their own heritage so they know the prejudices they carry with them as they enter the classroom. Finally, part of their job is to involve parents and the community in the schools. While this approach requires extensive training, it has the potential to transform the way in which community groups interact with the education system.

For groups like the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick, this kind of community-oriented education offers them a central role in educating both schoolchildren, and adults, about the diversity of cultures in this province. They can help to enhance communication between newcomers and the host population, and help to educate the community about our source countries for immigration, dispelling myths, and creating understanding. I would hope that the Society can also contribute to the development of educational materials for the Atlantic Canada Portal, a unique website devoted to research related to the Atlantic Provinces and maintained by the University of New Brunswick.

Beyond education in the schools, there is education in the media. The media has a very real role to play in shaping people's perceptions about the world we live in. This is why I am very happy to highlight the CBC, which now has a website dedicated to Asian Heritage Month, with links to Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. I do hope Fredericton and Saint John will develop a partnership with the CBC next year, since it has made Asian Heritage Month a part of its strategy for promoting diversity.

In Calgary, the Calgary Herald supports Asian Heritage Month by providing a complete insert devoted to the activities being held during May. I understand Fredericton's Daily Gleaner has been very supportive as well. Making these links with the media is crucial for raising awareness about the diversity of our communities, as well as issues of concern.

Aside from exposing people to different cultures, in order to expand individuals' knowledge of the world, there is sometimes a need for a more direct approach to community activism and engagement. A number of years ago, the PanAsian Canadian Network Against Racism was formed, and they have held two Conferences, in 2002 and in 2005, as well as a number of events to tackle racism, particularly as it affects Asian Canadians.

Currently, this may not seem very significant in Saint John, despite the disturbing racial incidents last summer. After all, the total visible minority population is only just over 3,000, and in New Brunswick, it is just over 13,000. The largest visible minority community here in Saint John is Black, followed by Chinese then South Asian. But, I think the incidents last summer involving the students and the City Councillor should be recognized for what they are. They suggest that conflicts can increase as New Brunswick responds to the demographic crunch.

In reference to the same topic, I want to touch briefly on the report from the Quebec Commission on the issue of "reasonable accommodation," which came out last week amid much controversy. It seems relevant to our discussion today. Some in the media have suggested that the reasonable accommodation debate in Quebec affects all communities in Canada by influencing the way we view multiculturalism.

I don't know if you remember how it all started. In January, 2007, the town of Herouville, Quebec, a little village of 1,300 only 100 miles north-east of Montreal, with only one immigrant family, passed a number of laws, banning, among other things, the stoning of women! They said women should be allowed to drive, vote, dance, and Sikh children were banned from carrying ceremonial daggers to school, even though the Supreme Court has ruled that they can. There seemed to be no catalyst for the passage of the laws in this little town.

Shortly after this controversy, there were a number of incidents, some of which focused on the wearing of the hijab in sports in Quebec - an eleven year girl was ejected from an indoor game of soccer in a tournament in Quebec, and five young girls were kicked out of a tae kwan do tournament.

The Premier of Quebec felt there was a need to consult with the public, and have a more informed discussion about what constituted "reasonable accommodation." So, he set up the Taylor-Bouchard Commission to hold hearings around the province, and prepare a report. Over the course of provincial hearings last fall, many of the most strident and racist comments were reported in the media. Some suggested the debate was a useful one for all provinces in Canada to engage in.

The problem for me was that there was no clear explanation in the media of what was meant by the term "reasonable accommodation."

For one thing, who determines the norm? After all, as a woman, I am aware that less than 100 years ago I couldn't vote in this country. That was the norm then, but countries' norms do evolve. After all, what's "reasonable"? I am sure women were considered "unreasonable" when they demanded the vote.

Nevertheless, having read the final report of the Commission, I think its recommendations do offer guidance to other provinces without the need for divisive debate. The report concludes that the Canadian multicultural model does not appear to be well suited to conditions in Quebec. It recommends that interculturalism be considered as an alternative, strongly recommending greater intercommunity interaction, and an acceptance by the Quebecois of the fact that, communities in Quebec will eventually be transformed through this dialogue.

The Report also accepts the notion of multiple identities, and encourages multilingualism.

It goes on to say that: “Constant interaction between citizens of different origins leads to the development of a new identity and a new culture.”

Interestingly, the final report recommends the negotiation of identities and intercultural dialogue which I have been recommending for many years. Encouraging communication between different groups of Asian Canadians and mainstream society is the underlying reason for Asian Heritage Month. Interculturalism is necessary, not only for Quebec, but for all of Canada, particularly when Statistics Canada has predicted that labour force growth may be entirely dependent on immigration by 2011, and that is just 3 years away. I also echo the Report’s optimistic conclusion that the younger generation of Canadians is ready to embrace interculturalism.

As many of you no doubt remember, last summer, two Chinese foreign students who attended the University of New Brunswick’s Saint John campus, were beaten. Following the event, a Korean Canadian, who is a Saint John City Councillor, had death threats levelled at him. There was also racist graffiti scrawled across a bus shelter.

While the series of incidents last summer are rare, they highlight the need for communities and government to counteract racism wherever possible. The vast majority of people are welcoming, and the few racists who would perpetuate such terrible acts must be targeted and isolated.

These incidents were particularly unfortunate as they targeted foreign students. The University has had a major drive to attract foreign students since 1999, and now 20% of the students at the Saint John campus of the UNB are Chinese. These incidents may have been very damaging to their marketing efforts.

To the universities, these foreign students also represent an important source of revenue. Since the Deputy Minister of Education of New Brunswick, John Kershaw, stated in 2005, that international education is “a pillar and an important link to pursuing prosperity in New Brunswick”, more effort must be made to attract foreign students and retain graduates in the province.

Foreign students are important to any province because they offer a ready source of labour, particularly if they elect to stay in the province once they have completed their studies. Since they are acculturated and established in the province, with friends, and sometimes, family, they make perfect residents.

As is often the case, in the racial incidents I mentioned earlier, something positive came out of the negative events last year. Saint John endorsed the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination’s 10 common commitments (CMARD), and has agreed to develop and implement a plan of action to counter racism and discrimination. The city will also establish a welcoming centre to help immigrants find the resources they need to settle here. The Saint John Police Department has agreed to establish a closer relationship with the University, and I hope that it will also work closely with community groups, and engage in dialogue with the Asian Canadian community here.

The next important item to help immigrants feel at home is jobs – good jobs for both foreign graduates, and for immigrants arriving from overseas. As you know, every province in Canada has a problem with the underemployment of immigrants. New Brunswick’s Provincial Nominee Program, which mandates that recruits must have a permanent job lined up in the province, and that they intend to settle here is a good way of attracting immigrants.

Again, I want to refer to Manitoba, which in recent years, has become the 3rd largest Filipino community in the country, accounting for over 5% of the total population of Winnipeg

in the last Census. In February, Manitoba's Premier signed an agreement with the Government of the Philippines that will help streamline immigration from that country with immigrants being pre-screened by agencies in the Philippines prior to their arrival in Manitoba. Because of Manitoba's existing Filipino community, immigrants feel welcome in the province and quickly become acculturated.

According to the latest Census figures from 2006, more immigrants are electing to come to New Brunswick. Even more importantly, more of these immigrants are staying in the province, with 75% of them electing to stay after their arrival.

In order to continue moving forward though, immigrants will need more opportunities. With the global movement of people becoming commonplace, immigrants will not stay unless they are living in an environment where they can work at a level commensurate with their education and training, feel comfortable being surrounded by that which is familiar, and welcomed into the community.

For people to feel welcome, they also need to know that they have a chance to share in the institutional decision making that affects them. Important institutions that have the power to bring about change, such as boards of education, city councils, boards of corporations, and the provincial and federal legislatures must eventually become more reflective of Canada's population.

The significance of such changes was brought home to me when I was appointed to the Senate of Canada 10 years ago. People wrote me from across the country saying how happy they were about my appointment because it made them feel that anything is possible for them in Canada. Even though I was a Senator representing Ontario, I was immediately adopted across the country.

On another level, in Toronto, my friend Mari Rutka's involvement on the Toronto District School Board has meant that Asian Heritage Month educational materials are now integrated into the Board's mandate. As Asian Canadians, and as visible minorities, we can represent our communities' concerns, and make sure that our voices are heard.

Ultimately, this is a question of our identity, and the recognition that it is has evolved over the last few decades, and that it is continuously evolving at a rapid rate. Unlike Europeans, who can speak to age old traditions, being Canadian means negotiating our identity on a continual basis.

What are our guidelines? I believe the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms offers us a roadmap. It serves to protect minorities from being oppressed by the majority, protects religious and cultural rights, while ensuring equality under the law for all groups. The negotiation of identity implicitly required by the Charter isn't always easy or straightforward.

To complicate the situation facing minorities in New Brunswick, the issues of identity have often centred on the Acadian history of the province. As a minority population in the province, Acadians have felt the need to struggle for the recognition of their rights. With their unique and troubling story of expulsion and return to the Maritimes, their need for recognition of their history and status in the province is understandable.

Francophones in New Brunswick are the largest minority population, making up about a third of the population in the 2006 Census, and their numbers sometimes dominate the societal discourse, muting the voices of other minorities. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada, so the term biculturalism may surpass multiculturalism in discussions of identity.

Nevertheless, there are a number of other minority groups which have played a significant

role in the development of the Maritimes. The Scots and the Irish make up a large part of the original Anglophone population. Among the other groups, the Italians, the Dutch, the Blacks, the Micmac, the South Asians, the Chinese and the Greeks have long ago established their presence in the Maritimes.

Ultimately, I do believe that citizens of Canada need to accept equality for all as contained in the equality provision of Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Beyond this, all Canadians should participate as citizens in their communities, in an ongoing and productive dialogue that respects differences, while recognizing our common values.

Do continue to support education, outreach, community grassroots initiatives, settlement services, and employer education. New Brunswick is noted for its friendly culture, so do open your doors to the world, and embrace all the best it has to offer. During Asian Heritage Month, let us celebrate the heritage that is part of your history, and an increasingly important part of your future.

Photos from Asian Heritage Celebrations in St. John NB



Left to Right:
Dr. Neville Poy
Hon. Sen. Dr. Vivienne Poy
Bernard Cormier
Li-Hong Xu
Madhu Verma



Left to Right:
Madhu Verma
Dr. Stephen Siau
Hon. Sen. Dr. Vivienne Poy



Left to Right:
Dr. Neville Poy
Dr. Verinder N. Khanna
Hon. Sen. Dr. Vivienne Poy
Dr. Prakash Joshi
Dr. Stephen Siau

Media Coverage

April 25, 2008

The Government of Canada Supports Fredericton Asian Heritage Month Committee

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK-- (Marketwire - April 25, 2008) - Residents of Fredericton will be able to celebrate Asian Heritage Month thanks to an investment from the Government of Canada.

Mike Allen, Member of Parliament (Tobique-Mactaquac), on behalf of the Honourable Josee Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages, today announced funding for an Asian Heritage Month celebration in Fredericton.

Funding of \$14,031 will help the Fredericton Asian Heritage Month Committee host a number of events in celebration of Asian Heritage Month. The activities, which will take place from May 5 to 31, 2008, include an Asian cultural gala, a film festival, and a cultural exhibition.

"Asian Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity for Canadians to learn about the contributions of Asian communities and reflect upon the significant ways in which Asian Canadians have helped shape our nation," said Minister Verner. "During the month of May, we invite all Canadians to celebrate the rich heritage of citizens of Asian origin and their contributions to Canada."

"Local celebrations such as this one bring people of all ages and all walks of life together and contribute to our communities' quality of life," said Mr. Allen. "I am proud that our Government is partnering with the Fredericton Asian Heritage Month Committee to support such an important event for our community."

"The Asian Heritage Month Committee offers citizens an opportunity to learn more about the rich history and cultures of Asian Canadians and celebrate their contributions to the community," said Madhu Verma, Chair of the committee. "Without the support we receive from Canadian Heritage, it wouldn't be possible to carry on our commitment to multiculturalism."

Established in 2002, the Fredericton Asian Heritage Month Committee organizes activities to promote Asian-Canadian history, culture, and art during Asian Heritage Month. This year's activities will focus on Japanese-Canadian history and culture. The month of May was officially declared Asian Heritage Month in 2001.

The Government of Canada has provided support through the Department of Canadian Heritage's Multiculturalism Program and the new Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage (BCAH) Program. The Multiculturalism Program aims to promote full participation of all Canadians into all spheres of society. The BCAH Program, announced in September 2007, provides Canadians with more opportunities to take part in local activities that present arts and culture and celebrate local history and heritage. This program will benefit many community events and celebrations in Canada throughout the coming year.

This release can also be found on the Internet at www.canadianheritage.gc.ca under Media Room.

The Daily Gleaner
 Celebrating Asian Culture
 Published Monday May 12th, 2008

By Laverne Stewart
 stewart.laverne@dailygleaner.com

Photos by: The Daily Gleaner/Ray Bourgeois



If you want to celebrate Asian history and culture, you may want to take part in events and activities happening in Fredericton this month and next.

With 45 countries and literally thousands of languages, Asia is rich and diverse in history and culture.

The Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick is celebrating this during Asian Heritage Month in May and June with exhibits, a gala, Asian films and stories.

The society's founder, Madhu Verma, says it is important to recognize the rich culture and history of Asia and the significant contribution Asians have made to help build Canada.

"We are contributing to the economy of New Brunswick. The mill in Nackawic, for instance, is now owned by East Indian industrialists and they have another one in New Brunswick. They have helped to save hundreds of jobs here.

"There is another Indian-owned yarn industry that has created hundreds of jobs and there are other groups and small businesses owned by Asian people who are providing jobs for New Brunswickers. We feel this is a great contribution made by Asian immigrants."

Verma says she and the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick hope the province's education department will recognize the importance of teaching Asian history and culture in school because of the diversity of cultures that now call this country and this province home.

Much has changed since Verma first arrived in Canada from India in 1964 with a three month old baby. Along with the cold January temperatures in Ottawa, she also faced culture shock on many levels.

Making it easier were others who'd emigrated from India to Canada who helped make her transition to this country easier.

When Tony Mina and his family arrived in Toronto on Dec. 24, 1974 from Manila in the Philippines, the size of the city wasn't a concern but the huge temperature change from tropical weather to ice and snow was.

Mina also says he's noticed people have warmed over the years to diverse ethnicities as they've come to understand more about Asian culture.

Even though he is Asian, he says because there are so many countries, cultures and languages, he is still learning about other Asian people who come from many countries within the continent.

"I am also learning about those cultures and that's the beauty of being here in Canada. You have your own culture but you can also be aware and honour other people's cultures."

Verma says she believes people who immigrate to Canada from Asia and elsewhere have an easier time making the adjustment to life in Canada now than they did 40 years ago because people are more culturally aware and open than they were years ago.

"I think it's easier now because we have a multicultural association and people can network within their own communities. We are needed here and we are going to stay but back then we were considered to be temporary students."

Part of what the Asian Heritage Society does is to help newcomers connect with others and to provide support to help them settle within their new province.

Asian Heritage Month, she says, is an opportunity for people of all ethnicities to come together to learn more about Asian culture and history and to make new friendships.

The focus of this year's Asian Heritage Month is Japan.

Tomo Ingalls is Japanese and lives permanently in Fredericton. She moved here in 2001 with her husband and oldest child. While she and her family enjoy living here it is important to her and her husband that their children understand both their Canadian and Japanese history, culture and languages.

Being involved with the Asian Heritage Society's events is important to share with others, she says, so people can better understand one another and their cultures.

"My children do traditional Japanese dancing, it's called Soran Bushi, and they will be involved in the Asian Cultural Gala on May 31."

This year Japanese-Canadian culture will be celebrated in a display at the Centennial building's lobby which will feature a traditional Japanese tea ceremony on Wednesday, May 14.

Events and activities will continue throughout May and June.

Acknowledgements

AHSNB would like to kindly thank the following individuals and groups for their assistance in planning and executing the various events of Asian Heritage Month 2008:

Cultural Associations

Association of Indo-Canadians of Fredericton
 Chinese Cultural Association of NB
 Filipinos in New Brunswick
 Japanese Association of Fredericton
 Korean Cultural Association New Brunswick
 Multi-Cultural Association of Fredericton
 New Brunswick Multi-Cultural Council

Community Groups

Brunswick Street Baptist Church
 Consulate General of Japan at Montreal
 Department of Education
 Fredericton Public Library
 FredKid
 National Film Board
 National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre
 NB Film Co-op
 School District 17 and 18
 UNB Conference Services

Distinguished Guests

Mr. Takashi Futagi, Deputy Consul-General of Japan at Montreal
 Honorable Senator Vivienne Poy
 Honorable Minister Greg Byrne-Population Growth
 City Councilor Marilyn Kerton
 MLAs who attended the Asian Cultural Gala Night
 Honourable Senator Noel Kinsella for the message included in this report

Funders

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 NB Department of Population Growth Secretariat
 NB Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training, & Labour
 City of Fredericton: Heritage & Cultural Affairs Division

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