

## Tokyo unveils stadium

The New National Stadium for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics opens to mixed reviews

Sports P. 3



## Japanese cars rev up for the auto show

Take a look at some of Japanese automakers best at the Toronto auto show

Photos P. 7

PUBLICATION MAIL NO. 0040050488

# NIKKEI VOICE

THE JAPANESE CANADIAN NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

MARCH 2020 VOL. 34 NO. 2

## Garden of friendship



PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD MANDELKORN PHOTOGRAPHY

Itabashi Garden in Burlington is located behind the Tansley Woods Community Centre at 1996 Itabashi Way. The garden opened on Canada Day.

### Itabashi Garden in Burlington is awarded major Ontario Parks and Recreation award

Kelly Fleck  
Editor

**T**ORONTO — A garden symbolizing the 30 year friendship between the

City of Burlington and the City of Itabashi in Japan was awarded the 2020 Parks and Recreation Ontario Award of Excellence for Park Design.

Itabashi Garden, located be-

hind the Tansley Woods Community Centre, is a blend of Japanese design elements with Canadian features. The garden was opened on Canada Day by Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed Ward and Itabashi Mayor Takeshi Sakamoto, with an official delegation from Itabashi and Consul-General of Japan in To-

ronto, Takako Ito.

Designed by award-winning landscape architect Virginia Burt Designs, the garden has become a treasure in the city, where residents can take photos or reflect in a tranquil space.

“Because [the garden] is located

See ITABASHI P. 9

### The case of George Tamaki and the Bird Commission

Landscapes of Injustice explores claim No. 3: Reasoning Wrong

Kaitlin Findlay  
Contributor

Continuing in our series of short essays relating to the four claims of Landscapes of Injustice. This essay explores claim No. 3: Reasoning wrong. In the 1940s, officials found ways to justify their actions surrounding the dispossession of Japanese Canadians.

While racism was always a part of their discussions, officials appealed to other ideas, like the rule of law, the rights of citizenship, and principles of fairness. They had complex ways of reasoning wrong.

Landscapes of Injustice Research Coordinator Kaitlin Findlay portrays the different players invested in Bird Commission, the royal commission that investigated Japanese Canadians' claims for losses. This article is drawn from her master's thesis.

In the late 1940s, Japanese Canadians' activism was appropriated for state purposes. When Japanese Canadians called for fair compensation for their losses, the federal government saw an opportunity to prove their accountability.

See LANDSCAPES P. 11

## Finding meaningful connections halfway around the world

A trip to Mio in Japan helped reconnect my cultural identity

Kelly Fleck  
Editor

MIO, Japan — There is a small seaside town in Japan called Mio,

where roots connecting to the Japanese Canadian community run deep in the town's history and identity.

Mio is also my ancestral home, and thanks to a trip organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, I was able to see the place my family left over 100 years ago.

In December, I was invited to visit Japan with a delegation of

third and fourth generation Japanese Canadians to learn about Japanese culture and bring those lessons back to Canada.

It was an incredible, whirlwind week-long adventure. We explored Tokyo, Kyoto, Yokohama and Osaka, visiting temples and shrines, eating delectable foods,

See MIO P. 10



PHOTO CREDIT: YOSHIKO IMAZATO

The Canada Museum, in Mio, Wakayama prefecture, is dedicated to telling the history of Japanese emigrants in Canada.



PHOTO COURTESY: CITY OF BURLINGTON

The opening of Itabashi Garden on Canada Day, with Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed-Ward, Itabashi Mayor Takeshi Sakamoto, Consul-General of Japan in Toronto, Takako Ito and an official delegation from Itabashi.

From ITABASHI P. 1

at the community centre, as long as the weather isn't dreadful, you can go there pretty much every day and there will be people outside in the garden. It's really become quite popular attraction," Rob Lyng, chair of the Itabashi Subcommittee tells *Nikkei Voice* in an interview.

Part of the Burlington Municipalization Committee, the organization upholds the twinning agreement signed between the City of Burlington and the City of Itabashi in 1989.

Municipalization involves cities around the world connecting through twinning agreements, to foster peaceful cooperation and mutual understanding towards people of different nations and cultures. Burlington also has a twinning agreement with the City of Apeldoorn in the Netherlands.

"The idea really goes back to a better understanding of one another's cultures, which leads to better friendships and relationships with other people," explains Lyng.

Burlington and Itabashi celebrate their twinning agreement on every fifth anniversary with gifts exchanges and most re-

warding, official delegations, where citizens are visit each others' cities. These delegations have lasting impacts and create life-long friendships for each cities' citizens, says Lyng.

When Lyng was in Itabashi, a Japanese woman told him her son visited Burlington as a high school student 20 years earlier.

He had such a positive experience, he decided to improve his English and went on to study in the U.S. and now has a job that takes him around the world.

The idea to create Itabashi garden. "The idea really goes back to a better understanding of one another's cultures, which leads to better friendships," says Lyng.

Garden was inspired by another official delegation visit five years ago. Burlington delegates visited Itabashi's Tokumizuitei Garden. A couple of the delegates thought Burlington could benefit from the a similar Japanese garden and pitched the idea to city council.

Five years later, the garden was opened to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the two cities' twinning agreement.

The garden is Japanese in style and design, blended with Canadian elements, to symbolize both cities. Large granite rocks from the nearby Niagara escarpment are arranged in a Japanese rock

garden. There are 23 different types of Japanese maples, which all grow in Canada, and azaleas planted throughout the garden, Itabashi's official flower.

Located at Tansley Woods, the garden is behind a community centre and near a library, seniors residence and in a place easily accessible to the public, which lead to a lot of excitement as the garden was installed.

During construction, the project team commented that many citizens would come up to the fence and ask what was going on says Lyng.

Since opening on Canada Day, the garden has become a well loved space in the city, that represents a 30 year friendship between the two cities across the world.

"It has a lot of symbolism for me and the relationships that I have established, because I have many Japanese friends as a result of my activities with the twin city agreement," says Lyng.

"So when I see the garden, I reflect on the friendships I have and the experiences I had."

The award will be presented to Itabashi Garden in a special ceremony on March 25 in Collingwood, Ont.

\*\*\*



PHOTO COURTESY: CITY OF BURLINGTON

The opening of Itabashi Garden on Canada Day, July 1, 2019.

Let us help with your financial future

Investments | Insurance | Retirement & Estate Planning



Helping Clients with:

- Investments (RSP, TFSA, LIRA, etc)
- Retirement & Estate Planning
- Insurance: Mortgage, Life, CI & Disability\*
- Call me for a Complimentary Review

info@martykobayashi.com

**Marty Kobayashi**  
Executive Director, Private Client Group

Investment Advisor, HollisWealth®, a division of Industrial Alliance Securities Inc.

Insurance Advisor, Hollis Insurance

HollisWealth®, a division of Industrial Alliance Securities Inc.

Hollis Insurance

6 Garamond Court, Suite 260

Toronto, ON M3C 1Z5

Tel: (416) 510-1565

martykobayashi.com

HollisWealth®

MartyKobayashi.com



Insurance products provided by HollisWealth are provided through Hollis Insurance  
HollisWealth® is a division of Industrial Alliance Securities Inc., a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.

New!  
Monthly Omakase and Daily Chef Special

30 YEARS

Party room for 20-40 people  
3 hours Free parking

416-248-8445  
www.ginkgojapaneserestaurant.ca  
Delta Hotels by Marriot Airport & Conference Centre  
655 Dixon Rd Toronto ON M9W 1J4

GINKGO JAPANESE CUISINE

Provincial underground services Ltd.

3761 Campbell Road  
Severn, Ontario L3V 0V3



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

A Jodo Shinshu Temple

1011 Sheppard Ave., W. Toronto, ON M3H 2T7

P: 416-534-4302 tbc@tbc.on.ca www.tbc.on.ca

Contact: Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi

浄土真宗本願寺派トロント仏教会

WEEKLY SERVICES

10:30 am Kids' Sangha  
11:00 am English Service (Weekly)  
1st Sunday of the month: Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki) Services (except September)  
3rd Sunday of the month: Joint Service commemorating special services

COMING SERVICES

March 15<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am Ohigan & Keirokai  
March 29<sup>th</sup> \* Service **cancelled**  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am Hanamatsuri

For updates and additional info, please see our website

For more stories like the ones you've read in this issue visit:  
www.nikkeivoice.ca

Or follow us for updates at:  
www.twitter.com/TheNikkeiVoice