



KOKUBAN • 黒板

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KOKUBAN

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The JCCC Heritage Department is pleased to bring you Kokuban - our monthly e-bulletin that covers topics from heritage treasures to stories about this unique community.

Sedai Features: Elsie Toguri - Remembering Midori Iwasaki, manager of *Tairiku Nippon*



This month, in belated honour of International Women's Day, which passed on March 8th, Sedai features Elsie Toguri, who remembers her mother, Midori Iwasaki. Midori Iwasaki was the manager of *Tairiku Nippon*, a Japanese-language newspaper published in Vancouver between 1902 and December 1941; she was a woman "before her time", who, in addition to running *Tairiku Nippon*, helped Japanese women in the community.

[Click here to listen to the interview](#)

Women's stories are often overlooked in dominant historical narratives, but oral histories are a powerful tool to help us understand the lives and contributions of women throughout history. If you are interested in more Japanese Canadian women's stories, check out our [Women of Change online exhibit!](#)

**Japanese Canadian Architect Spotlight:
Raymond Moriyama & The Pavilion at
Edwards Gardens
by Daria Murphy**

Welcome to our new Heritage series about Japanese Canadian architects. On a bi-monthly basis we will deep dive into one architectural project led by a Japanese Canadian architect or firm. Japanese Canadian architects are trailblazers in Canadian architecture and have designed some of Canada's most acclaimed buildings, unique homes, and more. Join us as we celebrate their work.

As we move into spring, let us take a walk to Edwards Gardens to explore the Moriyama Pavilion, designed by Raymond Moriyama (1929-2023). Moriyama is an acclaimed Japanese Canadian architect who was born in Vancouver and received his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Toronto and his Master of Architecture from McGill University. Moriyama is beloved in the JCCC community, as he is best known as the architect of the original JCCC at 123 Wynford Drive. Moriyama's architectural projects are diverse, spanning Canada and Japan. He has designed several Toronto landmarks, such as the Ontario Science Center (1969), the Toronto Reference Library (1977), and the Bata Shoe Museum (1995). Moriyama's Pavilion at Edwards Gardens in North York is one of his lesser-known projects. It is the perfect spot to visit as the weather continues to warm up.



Top: Photo credit to Toronto Botanical Garden. Bottom: Photo by author, May 2023

Upon entering the Toronto Botanical Garden, visitors are greeted by the Civic Garden Centre designed by Moriyama and built in 1964. Prior to 1970, Moriyama's architectural projects were solo endeavors. These buildings mark his early architectural work before he partnered with fellow Japanese Canadian architect Ted Teshima (1938-2016) to form the architectural firm Moriyama & Teshima.



Photo: Postcard c. 1965 by Williams, Toronto.

Source: Moffatt, Robert. "Edwards Gardens' Exquisite Pavilion." Toronto Modern (blog), June 9, 2010.

Adjacent to the Toronto Botanical Garden, along the Edwards Gardens trails, and past the café is the Moriyama Pavilion. Completed in 1964, the Pavilion is an open-air structure and has been a registered heritage property since 1997. The building is characterized by a large, hipped roof that is partly clad in cedar shingles and topped with translucent skylight panels. The roof is supported by tapered limestone columns. The stone base is not an addition by Moriyama but rather original to the Milne House, the structure which previously occupied the site until 1962 when it was destroyed by a fire. Milne refers to Alexander Milne, a Scottish settler, and his family, who owned the land between 1830 and 1919. The original stone patio is one of the few remnants from the fire and so forms the base of the Moriyama Pavilion.



Photos by author. September 2022.

From afar, the Pavilion has a low profile in part due to the short and squat limestone columns. Yet upon entering the Pavilion, visitors are met with a dramatic surprise. The inner volume of the hipped roof is left uncovered, thus, heightening the interior vertical space. The roof interior is comprised of rows of beams that are crafted from Douglas Fir. The beams connect to the roof structure with a joinery technique characteristic of Japanese architecture (pictured top right). Japanese joinery does not traditionally use nails; rather, intricately carved mortise and tenon joints slide and lock into place with the occasional help of carved pins and keys. This type of joinery is both practical and decorative. At the top of the roof are skylight panels that are reminiscent of Japanese shoji screens. The translucent paper-like material diffuses the sunlight from above.



Photos by author. September 2022.

Cladding the underside of the roof are planks of cedar or redwood. The dozens of rows of wooden planks meet in a herringbone pattern at each corner of the pavilion. The herringbone pattern directs the visitor's gaze towards the garden and ravine. Benches built from cedar and redwood line the lengths of the Pavilion. Visitors can sit, enjoy the protection from the sun or rain, and admire the view of Edwards Gardens. Moriyama's Pavilion is a display of the architect's attention to detail, expert use of natural materials, and a blend of Japanese and Western design aesthetics. It received a 25-Year Award from the Ontario Association of Architects in 1991 for its architectural achievements.

The Moriyama Pavilion is free to the public and open every day from 10 am to 8:30 pm. We hope you can take a moment to enjoy Moriyama's Pavilion and savor the beginning of spring.

On view now: Three Japanese Canadian exhibits in the GTA

Serendipitously, there are three exhibits in the GTA outside of the JCCC pertaining to Japanese Canadian history on view currently. Make sure to check them out! See the poster below for more information.



Jordan Station, ON
February to July



Exiles in Our Own Country

Family separation. Forced labour camps. Stolen property. Explore the experiences, hardships, and trauma of Japanese Canadians who were forcibly displaced to Ontario in the 1940s and 1950s.

This is a Canadian story of hardship but also of great resilience. This is the story of Japanese Canadians in Ontario.

Generations of an Archive

Generations of an Archive brings together connected bodies of work by Toronto-based artist Emma Nishimura. These works examine the legacy of multigenerational memory about the Japanese Canadian Internment and forced dispersal (1942-1949) through the family archive.



Brampton, ON
January to September



The Suitcase Project

In 1942, over 23,000 Japanese Canadians living on the west coast were uprooted from their homes and placed in internment camps. In this impactful exhibition, over 80 fourth- and fifth-generation Japanese Canadians and Americans share what they would pack if forcibly removed from their homes today. They were given one day to assemble their things, similar to what many Japanese Canadians faced in 1942. "The idea wasn't just about what people would pack, but also what they are forced to leave behind."

JCCC Heritage will be onsite on March 15, 2024.



MISSISSAUGA

Bradley Museum
Mississauga, ON
January to April



Broken Promises - the travelling exhibit from Landscapes of Injustice

Broken Promises is dedicated to revealing the history of the Japanese Canadian dispossession and the impact that period of injustice continues to have. An exhibition of the Landscapes of Injustice project, in partnership with the Nikkei National Museum and the Royal BC Museum, Broken Promises is a story of the violation of human and civil rights, the generational trauma caused by mass displacement, and the strength and resilience of the Japanese Canadian community.



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