

Landscapes of Injustice

Research News and Project Updates

Summer 2018

Message from Project Director Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross



Late this summer *Landscapes of Injustice* received an unexpected invitation that I was personally very glad to accept. The President of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (VNCS), Tsugio Kurushima, asked for help. Members of the local Japanese-Canadian community in our region have long sought the recreation, in Esquimalt-Gorge Park, of a Japanese Teahouse, which would complement the existing Japanese Garden on the site and, together, offer some measure of repair for an historical injustice perpetrated seven decades ago.

In 1907, the park opened the first traditional Japanese Garden in Canada, designed by Isaburo Kishida, who would go on to create an iconic garden for Jennie Butchart, a centerpiece of what is now one of the premier tourist sites on Vancouver Island. Alongside Esquimalt's original garden, a Japanese teahouse, run for decades by the Takata family, was a beloved attraction. As one visitor later recalled, "that was a place-something quite wonderful . . . The Japanese Tea Garden was visited by tens of thousands of people." Local historians Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer explain that the gardens and the teahouse suffered during the Depression, but both survived the decade, and in 1942 were among the Japanese-Canadian contributions to civic life in British Columbia left behind in the uprooting.

What followed on the site was part of a larger tragedy of the dispossession: looters, vandals, and rioters destroyed the garden, as they did the property of Japanese Canadians throughout coastal BC. The results in Esquimalt shocked officials, even

those accustomed to the seizure, sale, and ruin of Japanese-Canadian owned property. Inspecting the site in May 1944, a staff member of the Custodian of Enemy Property described the premises as, "just a wreck. Practically everything of value has been removed, doors broken down, electric wires cut . . . in fact the place has been ravaged and wanton destruction has taken place." The fate of Victoria's Japanese Tea Garden reminds us that the dispossession implicates people outside of Ottawa's corridors of power, it required the complicity of thousands. In recent decades, the Township of Esquimalt and Japanese Canadians have collaborated to address this legacy of injustice. Beginning in the 1990s, a new Japanese Garden was created on the site, and in 2009, an ornamental gate unveiled. Cherry trees, funded by the National Association of Japanese Canadians, bloom in the spring, and the garden's ornamental stream gurgles cascading down a slope, surrounded on all sides by lush greens, bursts of flowering colour, and pebbled paths. But the teahouse is still missing. Esquimalt's park remains one of hundreds of Pacific localities subtly pockmarked by little-known landmarks of the uprooting and dispossession.

This may soon change. The Township has received a one-time fund of \$17 million, which it is using for park improvements and amenities. Mobilization by the VNCS helped the re-creation of a Japanese Teahouse lead all options in a public poll conducted earlier in the year. As the public consultation entered its final phase, Tsugio reached out to *Landscapes of Injustice*, seeking our support. Happily, we were able to provide this. Research in the Custodian of Enemy Property case files, recently opened and digitized for our project by Library and Archives Canada, uncovered the extent of the damage inflicted by the public. As important, the connections and hard work of the Faculty of Humanities Communication Officer, Stephanie Harrington, combined with the efforts of our Research Coordinator, Kaitlin Findlay, Project Manager, Mike Abe, and members of the VNCS succeeded in getting the Japanese Teahouse a twopage spread in the Victoria Times Colonist, an interview on CBC Radio's local morning show, and other media coverage. As a result, the mayor of Esquimalt, Barb Desjardins, requested a presentation to Council, on which the VNCS and *Landscapes of Injustice* will collaborate later this fall. While nothing is yet assured, I'm proud that our project supported the initiative of local Japanese Canadians seeking a measure of redress for a harm that occurred so close to my own home.

It may be that I've never shared with the rest of project the crucial role that the VNCS played in the origins of Landscapes of Injustice. Indeed, members of the VNCS may themselves not realize the connection. In the fall of 2012, I had the opportunity to host in Victoria both Joy Kogawa and Audrey Kobayashi, as part of a lecture series marking the passage of 70 years since the uprooting. The series, which also included my first public presentation on the topic of dispossession, was funded, in part, by a grant from the VNCS. In conversations with Joy and Audrey that fall I learned how important this history was to key figures in the community and (pointedly, from Audrey) that I should avoid using the term "Japanese" alone when referring to Japanese Canadians. Support from the VNCS is at the root of our project. I'm glad we've been able, these years later, to offer support in return.



Putting Theory into Practice with the Archival Website Cluster

Kara Isozaki

I learned about the NAJC/Landscapes of Injustice Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship this past winter. The timing was perfect. Landscapes of Injustice (LOI) was moving into its knowledge mobilization phase and the new clusters included an archival website and a museum exhibition. I was in my final semester of the Archives and Records Management and Museum Studies masters' programs at the University of Toronto. I put together my application package during midterms with the support of the Toronto NAJC Chapter, interviewed over the phone from a library study room, and moved to Vancouver the day after my capstone project concluded.

I was assigned to the Digital Archives Cluster to work with Lisa Uyeda, who is an archivist and the Collections Manager of the Nikkei National Museum (NNM). She co-chairs the cluster with Stewart Arneil, a programmer consultant with the University of Victoria's Humanities Computing and Media Centre (HCMC). In 2021, the cluster will launch an archival database that will provide public access to research resources that LOI has collected since 2014. The goal is to foster future scholarly and community research.

Eventually, the database will include resources like oral histories and geographic information system (GIS) materials. However, the cluster first is focusing its efforts on processing the thousands of archival records digitized by LOI that relate to the dispossession of Japanese Canadians. The cluster is preparing these records for batch migration from LOI's internal database into Access to Memory (AtoM, the new database's public-facing interface). The records originate from over 20 archives and some libraries across Canada and internationally. Many were previously unavailable online. When the database launches, they will be all accessible through one website. I was hired mainly to ensure that the contextual information about the records collected by *LOI* researchers follows archival standards, where appropriate, before the information is migrated. Contextual information, such as the dates of creation and the people who produced the records, can help database users understand the processes that led to the creation of the records and the connections between records.

Since the Digital Archives Cluster is a mix of archivists and programmers, I learned to work collaboratively between two disciplines that approach database building in different ways. My cluster members pushed me to think critically about the application of archival theory and standards in real life situations. In the end, the cluster's goal is to facilitate research by creating an easy to use database that includes all the necessary contextual information. While theory can guide decisions, it does not always apply perfectly. I am grateful that I could puzzle through these challenges with Lisa's support. She helped me find a balance between theory and practice and encouraged me to reach out to others in LOI's network for additional help.

I gained a greater understanding of the dispossession of Japanese Canadians and the lasting impacts by reading through LOI's research resources that will be included in the database. I applied to the scholarship with this learning goal in mind. In addition, since I was based at the NNM. I was immersed in Vancouver community culture and connected with other Japanese Canadians. The Powell Street Festival was one of the highlights of my contract. At the LOI and NAJC booths, I discussed the work LOI is doing in the community with festival goers. It was wonderful talking about my community history in the neighbourhood where my grandparents lived and worked. When I travelled home, I asked my grandfather where his uncle's store was located, and we spoke about what the

area looks like today. I hope to work in Vancouver again so that I can meet more Japanese Canadians from out West and continue to explore the local history and culture.

Thank you to *LOI*, the NAJC, and the Shimizu family for offering this opportunity to students who wish to learn about Japanese Canadian heritage and expose the injustices faced by the community. I look forward to participating in the NAJC annual general meeting and conference in Winnipeg. I am eager to learn about the history and culture of the Japanese Canadian community in yet another city and province. A warm thank you to the Toronto NAJC chapter for its endorsement and to the NAJC Powell Street Festival team for including me in their activities. Finally, I am grateful to have been part of the NNM family of staff, interns, and volunteers. This summer has been an incredible experience. I am excited to see what next year's scholarship recipient will learn and contribute.

Congratulations to Mary Kitagawa on receiving the Order of BC

Fourteen exceptional civic leaders were appointed to the Order of British Columbia, the Province's highest form of recognition.

"I am so pleased to share congratulations with the inspiring individuals joining the Order of British Columbia this year," announced Lt. Gov. Janet Austin, chancellor of the order. "These exceptional recipients are pillars of our communities who have demonstrated excellence and distinction in their fields."

Landscapes of Injustice join the Japanese-Canadian community in congratulating Mary Kitagawa, a valuable member of the *LOI* Community Council for being honoured as one of this distinguished group.

Mary Kitagawa is an educator and human rights crusader who facilitated a shift in public consciousness by bringing the realities of the Japanese-Canadian internment experience to the public through her media interviews and tireless educating, speaking and lobbying of government organizations.

Stay tuned for our next issue for an update from her recognition ceremony.

Anticipating outputs at summer festivals

Kaitlin Findlay

Each summer, members of the *Landscapes of Injustice* collective slap on their sunhats, slop on some sunscreen, and head outside for summer festivals around the lower mainland. This year, we set up our poster boards at the Powell Street Festival and the Nikkei Matsuri. The festivals are a great way see familiar faces, make new connections, and talk about what we have been up to for the past year. When I attended the festivals in previous years, I always came away with a new appreciation of the dispossession and its legacies.

Our booths reflected the beginnings of our Knowledge Mobilization phase. In the spirit of interactive museum exhibits, we hauled out a vintage typewriter so that visitors could imagine writing letters of protest like those Japanese Canadians wrote in the 1940s. With careful diagrams, we explained the foundations of our research database, wherein thousands of archival records will soon be publicly accessible. With the help of our teacher resource team, we sketched out the plans for how students will learn about discrimination, Human Rights, and resilience through the history of Japanese Canadians.

I found it exciting to talk about these concrete outputs. In addition to discussing stories of the past, we could now discuss implementation in the present. When would the resources be available? On what platform? Having spent many months digitizing archival records, I was pleased to say that visitors would soon be able to research how the government managed and sold their family's belongings.

Standing by our poster about teacher resources, I was surprised at how many teachers suddenly appeared from the crowd. *In past years*, I thought, *they must have stayed under cover, reluctant to give away their professional identity over summer break*. But at the prospect of newly updated teacher resources that fit the new curriculum, we were quickly in detailed conversation. Many teachers shared the experience of never learning the history when they grew up and could already envision the resources in their own classroom.

If the summer festivals feed energy back into the Lol collective, they also invite unexpected encounters and important reminders. As I was standing at our booth at the Powell Street Festival, a gentleman started chatting with me about his family's experiences of internment and dispossession. As he was speaking, a non-Nikkei lady walked by and said, "Oh, what a horrible history. What a great project. Yes, this is something we should all be talking about." Quietly, the man said, "Unless it's too hard to talk about it."

Both visitors seemed to support our project, but they related to the history—and felt comfortable addressing the history—in vastly different ways. As we move forward in the Knowledge Mobilization phase, the exchange is a helpful reminder that people will interact with the museum exhibit, database, and lesson plans individually. Conveying the material in respectful, responsible ways will remain of paramount importance. Meanwhile, the enthusiasm we receive in different venues is encouraging the next step is to make the most of these connections so that those who are interested in learning about this history can.



Museum Exhibit Cluster: Interpretative Planning to Content Development

Yasmin Railton Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow

Interpretative Planning, June- July 2018

Following the Spring Institute, the Museum Exhibit Cluster invited museum professionals, researchers, and community council representatives to develop an Interpretive Plan for the forthcoming *LOI* exhibition.

Interpretive Plans are a strategic management tool used by museum professionals and cultural institutions, and are the first step in the exhibition planning and design process. Grounded in education and communication, its objective is to identify the key messages for an exhibition, and to develop an effective strategy to communicate these messages in a relatable way to a target audience.

Our interpretative process consolidates the significant research that the *LOI* collective has undertaken over the past 4 years, and was informed by the combination of several *LOI* publications, key claims from research integration summaries, and community consultation at several design jam workshop and the Spring Institute. Recommendations were made for tone and emotions that we wish to elicit in a multi-generational audience.

Through this process, we identified the key message for our exhibit: 'The history of dispossession of Japanese Canadians is a resource for building a better, more just Canadian society today'. We agreed to deliver this through four major themes: 'What was taken/what was lost?', 'How did this happen?', 'Where did this happen?', and 'What are the legacies?'.

The final Interpretative Plan was presented to the steering committee and community council in July and feedback was solicited to ensure our Interpretative Plan accurately reflects the research and priorities of the project.

Content Development, August 2018

Having identified which themes we wish to communicate, we began considering how to relate content in a meaningful way to a museum visitor, provoking emotion and prompting further inquiry.

Using the Interpretative Plan as a guide, curators and researchers began to select the textual, graphic, and design elements that align with the major themes. Over the course of several months, we have been mining the project's primary research for stories and considered which photographs, letters, oral histories, and artefacts best convey personal and collective experiences.

Preliminary Design, September 2018

This is a particularly exciting moment in the development of the exhibition, where the exhibit begins to 'come to life'. Equipped with a comprehensive Interpretive Plan and a multitude of resources, we are now in the early stages of sketching the physical layout of the exhibit, and articulating the supporting material that will enrich the telling of this history.

Approached from a visitor-centred perspective, the Interpretive Plan can be seen as a road map, and indicates how audiences will interact with the exhibit. In our case, the themes do not translate into separate rooms, but can be seen as interrelated spaces.

Expressing research in an exhibition context is nuanced work, and we will continue to work closely with researchers, community council, and steering committee members as we move forward into design.

Partner museums include the Nikkei National Museum (NNM), the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (Halifax), the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (Toronto), and the Royal BC Museum (RBCM).

LOI Exhibition Interpretative Plan

Why this Exhibition: 'The history of dispossession of JC is a resource for building a better, more just Canadian society today'

INTRO: (5%)	THEME 1: What was taken? What was lost? (20%)	THEME 2: How did this happen? (30%)	THEME 3: Where did this happen? (10%)	THEME 4: What are the Legacies? (30%)	OUTRO: Reflecting on History (5%)
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Elementary School Teacher Resource Development

How do you teach 10 year olds about dispossession?

Why teach 10-year-olds about dispossession?

- to build a strong sense of what is FAIR
- to develop conceptual understanding
- to give students a sense of the issues behind dispossession
- to build critical thinking skills
- to learn to apply to today's issues.

Students are given a property card with an information card from *Landscapes of Injustice* research. They are assigned a family with a residence above and a business below.



Use 3 kinds of engagement Hands-on:

By making and doing, concepts are more fun and easier to understand. Learning is made real through simulations

Minds-on:

Helps develop critical thinking and stimulates curiosity

Hearts-on:





Everything is filtered through an emotional lens and students develop a deeper understanding and a greater level of engagement leading to a better chance of action





They populate their properties with people and possessions and become very attached to their work.

After some time and having built up sufficient possessions, Pearl Harbor and the Evacuation Order happen and they go from this....

Letters of Protest

Students read and analysed actual letters written by Japanese Canadians to see how some of them reacted to the losses they suffered.

They wrote letters of their own expressing their situation, losses and reactions.

Students brought their understanding to bring historical context to their writing, and as they were making their case in their letters, they put in realistic aspects:

"My husband fought for Canada in World War I..."

"We owned a candy store where all the children from the neighbourhood would come..."



Dear Government,

Greetings. My nome is Hisa, Ikada, I.am. a 3, year old momet and preprint Japanese Canadan woman. My histoard and I. are vey upset about some of things that are aprice on

I am writing to you because my husband and I be very anny and cheerned labor what you have be dat to at to Japanese Unadians. I think for interment is very unit because us are all Canadians and we all deserve to be trated equally no matter what care we are some of us do not ever greach, Japanese and have never been to the country I do not even thank any of have even fore anything to help the Japanese and have never

Now I would like to describe my property and possessions. I owned a small home on set Powell street with my husbard todesin and puppe with Mith is a landor my husbard todesin and puppe with data how he is a company. We had usi gotten hum and now he is gone. Thus very under a state heught cur home are years and fing at and sampling up enable more use years and this very under an above and to the other than the house all of our income and buisness. Wy tubonat and I the state of the state of the state of the state and and the income and buisness. Wy tubonat and I have all of our income and buisness, wy sisters ond my hair. Ba gui I would house style moltand and har registers hare when we had special cases one you to be and har Adding to that we had roug beautiful headband bank har cozy even though we had very little and had to work extra-



to this...



The students were so upset to have their people moved and their possessions removed, without their permission.

Students will act on their thinking if they are emotionally invested.

This is Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on learning.

Epilogue on Hearts-on Learning:

Student from outside Vancouver talked her parents into taking a picture of her, in front of "her" building.



Photos and student work kindly provided by teachers Lindsay Hill and Ilana Ross and their amazing Grade 5 students in Coquitlam and Toronto. Lesson plans developed by *Landscapes of Injustice* Teacher Resource cluster under the direction of Greg Miyanaga and Mike Perry-Whittingham with Lindsay Hill, Patrick Anderson, Ilana Ross, Jonathan Ballin and others.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Landscapes of Injustice JC Community presentation series Hamilton and Toronto Ontario

Saturday, November 10, 2018	Sunday, November 11, 2018
11:00 – 1:30 pm	1:00-3:30 pm
Hamilton Canadian Japanese Cultural Centre	Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
45 Hampstead Dr.	6 Garamond Court
Hamilton ON	Toronto ON

Landscapes of Injustice has passed the midway point and is transitioning from the Research phase to the Knowledge Mobilization phase. Project Manager, Michael Abe will be in Ontario to give an overview of the project, outlining the research that has been undertaken and informing the audience of the plans to disseminate the results of the primary research to the Nikkei community and general public. This will also include a demonstration of how the community can use the information to research their own history.

After a short refreshment break, Michael will be joined by Ilana Ross, an elementary school teacher in Toronto who has been testing our pilot lesson module in her Grade 5 class. She will share firsthand her experience with this interactive classroom activity and talk about some of the extraordinary results. We will also give an update by our curatorial post doc, Yasmin Railton, on the progress of the travelling museum exhibit that is currently being created from the *Landscapes* research by curators at the Royal BC Museum and the Nikkei National Museum. This museum exhibit will have a stop at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, one of the founding partners of the *Landscapes* project.

Question and answer period to follow. Free and open to the public.

National Association of Japanese Canadians AGM and Conference

Sunday, September 23, 2018 Humphry Inn & Suites Winnipeg MB Presentation by Jordan Stanger-Ross, Kara Isozaki and Eric Adams

Japan Studies Association of Canada Conference

October 11-14, 2018 University of Alberta Telus Centre Edmonton AB Presentation by Kaitlin Findlay

Emerging Heritage Fair

Saturday. October 27, 2018 Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall Vancouver BC Presentation by Jordan Stanger-Ross and Research Assistants

Visual Storytelling Colloquium and Workshop

November 10-16, 2018 Technical University of Berlin Berlin Germany Presentation by Kaitlin Findlay

The Lost Fleet exhibit- *Landscapes of Injustice* **presentation** Maritime Museum of British Columbia Thursday, January 24, 2019 Victoria BC Presentations by Jordan Stanger-Ross, Michael Abe and David Suzuki Public Panel - Constitutional Stories: Legal Histories of Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Sunday, December 2, 2018 Free and open to the public Nikkei National Museum, main hall 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC

Constitutions are stories the nation tells about itself. The histories of Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians reveal that many chapters of those stories involve oppression, racism, and injustice. And yet, constitutions are also built, maintained, and transformed in moments of constitutional failure, resistance, and faith in constitutional ideals. Our panel will explore a diverse array of constitutional stories involving Japanese Canadians and Japanese Americans and explore the important role of communities of Japanese descent in the constitutional history of Canada and the United States.

Chair: Masako lino

Professor lino of Tsuda College in Tokyo has the distinction of being the first woman and the first scholar from outside North American to win the Governor General's International Award in Canadian Studies. A founding member of the Japanese Association for Canadian Studies, she developed her interest in Canada in the late 1970s when she expanded her study of the United States to include its northerly neighbor.

Panelists:

Eric Muller

Professor Muller is the Dan K. Moore Distinguished Professor in Jurisprudence and Ethics at the University of North Carolina School of Law. He edited Colors of Confinement: Rare Kodachrome Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration in WWII as well as authoring American Inquisition: The Hunt for Japanese American Disloyalty in World War II and Free to Die for their Country: The Story of Japanese American Draft Resisters in World War II.

Amanda Tyler

Amanda Tyler is a Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Professor Tyler's research and teaching interests include the Supreme Court, federal courts, constitutional law, civil procedure, and statutory interpretation. Her book, Habeas Corpus in Wartime: From the Tower of London to Guantanamo Bay, was published in 2017.

Brian Hayashi

Professor Hayashi teaches US History and Japan at Kent State University and is interested in race and ethnicity, as it applies to Asian Americans, from their initial arrival in the late 19th century to the present, with most of his focus centering around World War II. Religion, diasporic politics, intelligence/espionage, racial ideology are the subjects of his research. His award winning books include American Internment in 2004 and, in 1995, Assimilation, Nationalism, and Protestantism among the Japanese in Los Angeles, 1895-1942.

Eric Adams

Eric Adams is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Alberta and has been leading the legal history research team for *Landscapes of Injustice* since 2014. A Canadian constitutional historian specializing in the history of rights, Adams has published in Canada's leading law journals including "Promises of Law: The Unlawful Dispossession of Japanese Canadians," Osgoode Hall Law Journal 54, 3 (2017) with Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross that won two separate awards from the Canadian Historical Association, as the Best Article in Political History and the Best Article in the History of Migration, Ethnicity, and Transnationalism.

Constitutional Stories A story of constitutional failure and of meaningful change

This is a glimpse of forthcoming scholarship from the Legal History cluster, led by cluster chair Dr. Eric Adams from the University of Alberta.

UPROOTING AND INTERNMENT

In the 1940s, the Canadian government forcibly uprooted, interned, and dispossessed Japanese Canadians. It attempted to deport nearly half of the pre-war Japanese-Canadian population and enacted a policy of forced dispersal upon those who remained in Canada.

DECADES OF DISREGARD

In the 1940s Canadian courts declared these actions legal. In 1950, the Senate Committee on Human Rights continued to regard treatment of Japanese Canadians as justified.

A CONSTITUTIONAL STORY

As Canadians debated a Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Japanese Canadians told their stories. In 1980, Gordon Kadota, President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians, Roger Obata (Past President), and Dr. Art Shimizu (Chair of the Constitution Committee) gave their evidence of constitutional failure. Japanese Canadians insisted that Canadians hear their story of injustice. Too weak a guarantee of civil rights, they argued, would obscure the injustice they suffered and leave open the possibility of future similar abuses.

They demanded <u>an unconditional Charter of Human</u> <u>Rights.</u>

This time, the stories of Japanese Canadians moved members of parliament, some nearly to tears. One MP said that he was disturbed and embarrassed "that the government would place before Parliament a Charter of Rights which would permit exactly the same kind of shameful history of internment and confiscation of property which happened to your people."

By telling their stories of constitutional failure, Japanese Canadians convinced politicians that equality rights deserved protection: citizenship should not be disregarded in the name of national security.

Doing so helped to change Canadian constitutional law.



HEARINGS OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

Gordon Kadota: "We requested this appearance because the Japanese Canadians have had a unique experience in Canada, an experience which more than ever must be told to contribute to the making of our future nation . . . [we urge you] to include in the constitution a just and unconditional Charter of Human <u>Rights</u> which will ensure that the fundamental rights of a free society by the birthright of all Canadians." Esquimalt Gorge Park Site of Canada's first Japanese Garden

Why does the original site no longer exist and how can you help commemorate it?



Esquimalt Japanese Tea Garden 1907-1942

For thirty-five years, the Esquimalt Japanese Tea Garden was a vibrant hub of recreation for Victorians of all backgrounds. The gardens were housed on the property of the B.C. Electric Railway Company on the Gorge, with a Tea House at its centre. The Tea House featured an open dining room with a 'splendid view', serving traditional English tea fare. There were three summer houses, a ball game house, a second dining room, and a dance hall. Through the vibrant gardens hung hundreds of Japanese lanterns, and wisteria trellises, cherry trees. and numerous valuable shrubs surrounded the structures, testament to Isaburo Kishida's horticultural skill. The Japanese Garden and Tea House was a retreat for all types from the city of Victoria. Victoria locals, in interviews collected by Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer, remember the garden as the "greatest attraction of the Gorge Park", a site so popular that it was "visited by tens of thousands of people."





Investigating the dispossession of Japanese Canadians during the 1940s, the *Landscapes of Injustice* research project uncovered records revealing the extent to which the Japanese Tea House and Gardens were looted, vandalized, and destroyed. Visiting the property in 1944, an agent from the Office of the Custodian wrote that "the place is just a wreck. Practically everything of value has been removed... The place has been ravaged and wanton destruction has taken place all over the premises." This ruin of the Japanese Tea Garden was not simply the result of misguided federal policy dispossessing Japanese Canadians. Responsibility for the destruction lay with local residents, who stole and pillaged, and the local officials who turned a blind-eye.



Library and Archives Canada (LAC), RG-117-C-3 (Office of the Custodian, Vancouver) Case File #1422

A Family Legacy Lost

The Esquimalt Japanese Tea Garden was opened in 1907 by Hayato "Harry" Takata and Yoshitaro "Joe" Kishida; by 1942, Hayato and his brother, Kensuke, ran the business. Joe Kishida brought his father, Isaburo Kishida, from Japan in April 1907 to design what would become the first Japanese garden in Canada. Isaburo would then go on to design the Japanese Garden at the world famous Butchart Gardens for Jennie Butchart and the Japanese Garden at Hatley Castle for Laura Dunsmuir.

Because of the destruction of the garden and Tea House by Victoria and Esquimalt residents, the Takatas lost all remaining value of their property. Due to the pillaging, the Tea Garden structures were deemed fire hazards and ultimately destroyed. After their forced uprooting and dispossession, the Takatas had no home or life to return to in Victoria.

(Photos courtesy of Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer, Gateway to Promise)

Help commemorate this important landmark by supporting this initiative

The CRD and the Township of Esquimalt have allocated \$7 million of the McLoughlin Amenity Funds for capital projects in Waterfront Park Improvements.

Cast your vote today in support of creating a Japanese Tea House in the Esquimalt Gorge Park. Search McLoughlin Round 2 or go to https://www.esquimalt.ca/municipal-hall/mcloughlinamenity-funds and be sure to select Japanese Teahouse under Esquimalt Gorge Park.

Please help spread the word, the survey is open until late September 2018

Landscapes of Injustice, a SSHRC Partnership Project and the Frank H. Hori Charitable Foundation are pleased to announce

The Frank Hori Research Fellowship

Dates: October 2018- August 31 2019 Pay Rate: \$20/hr Total Hours: 700 Job location: Victoria, BC

The *Landscapes of Injustice* research collective is pleased to announce an opportunity for an outstanding undergraduate student at a British Columbia university. The fellowship holder will perform tasks necessary to make publicly available over 100 new oral history interviews related to the dispossession of Japanese Canadians in the 1940s (mostly of Japanese Canadians but also including "bystanders" and "witnesses" to the dispossession). In addition, the fellowship holder will perform a variety of other tasks in the development of the larger *Landscapes of Injustice Digital Archive*, of which the oral histories will be a part.

Landscapes of Injustice is a 7-year (2014-2021) multi-sector and interdisciplinary project to uncover and tell the history of the dispossession of Japanese Canadians during the 1940s. The first years of the project included award-winning research and publications in a range of areas necessary to telling this history. In the summer of 2018, our project began the production of a traveling museum exhibit, teaching materials for elementary and secondary schools, digital archives, and a narrative website. Our collective includes 15 institutions and over 30 specialists from universities, community organizations, and museums across Canada. The project is funded by a major grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and by participating institutions. This position is funded by the Frank Hori Foundation.

Most Canadians know that people of Japanese ancestry, the large majority of them Canadian citizens, were uprooted from the British Columbia coast during the 1940s. Fewer know that the policies included their dispossession of all of their property, which made their uprooting permanent. The dispossession is a story about the violation of human and civil rights at a time of perceived insecurity, about measures taken in the name of national defense that made no one safer, about the enduring harms of mass displacement and the loss of home, and about the resilience people confronting injustice. It is a story for our times. Join us to help tell this story to a large public audience.

Applications will be accepted from today and opened starting on **October 1, 2018**. See details on next page.

Frank Hori Research Fellowship

Position Details

The Research Assistant will work under the joint supervision of Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross, Stewart Arneil (UVic Humanities Computing and Media Centre), and Lisa Uyeda (Collections Manager, Nikkei National Museum).

Tasks include:

- Transcription of oral histories
- Editing transcripts
- Extracting metadata from archival files
- Transferring archival files from provisional formats to the digital archives

It is anticipated that the fellowship holder will complete approximately 200 hours in the course of the academic school year (October 2018 to April 2019) and then work full time in the summer of 2019 (approx. 500 hours).

In addition to participating in the development of the digital archive, the fellowship student will participate in the *Landscapes of Injustice* Spring Institute in 2019, an <u>annual educational</u> <u>seminar and team meeting</u> for members of the national research collective. As a member of our collective, the Frank Hori Research Fellow will become part of community dedicated to learning this history deeply and communicating it with passion to audiences across Canada.

The successful candidate should demonstrate:

- Outstanding research skills
- Outstanding attention to detail and professionalism
- Experience in primary source research a plus
- Experience with oral histories a plus
- Japanese language skills a plus

Application Details

Applicants should submit a cover letter, all official transcripts, a CV, and contact information for three referees to the Project Director, Jordan Stanger-Ross, Associate Professor of History, University of Victoria.

Applications will be accepted by email at jstross@uvic.ca.