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QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN JAPAN



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Representing some 35 business industries, the CCCJ is a member-driven, member-focused organization and is the longest-serving Canadian chamber of commerce in Asia. With more than 400 members, the CCCJ represents a broad cross-section of businesspeople, including entrepreneurs, from Canada, Japan and other countries. The membership comprises Canadian companies and individuals with ties to Japan, and Japanese companies and individuals with ties to Canada.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan

La Chambre de commerce du Canada au Japon

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan is a private sector, not-for-profit business organization founded in 1975 to promote the development of commerce between Canada and Japan.

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Great sport

By Alec Jordan
Editor-in-Chief, *The Canadian*



To go along with summer's swelter, Japan has for weeks been in the grip of FIFA World Cup fever. As soccer fans of teams from around the world stayed up until the early hours of the morning to cheer, celebrate, and commiserate, we were all reminded of the power that sports have to bring us together.

Even though heated political rhetoric has raised tensions among Canada, the United States, and Mexico over the past months, the world of athletics has brought the countries some welcome good news: a united bid has won the three the right to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Here's hoping that the preparation for the event gives them the opportunity to work together for their mutual benefit.

CLOSE LINKS

Continuing on the topic of sports, in this issue we learn more about rugby players on both sides of the Pacific who are maintaining their dedication to the game well past their forties (page 26) and strengthening ties between Canada and Japan.

We also find out how Japanese carmakers play an important role in supporting the Canadian economy (page 12), and see how one of Japan's largest companies could have a major part in an upcoming liquefied natural gas project based in British Columbia (page 16). Meanwhile, Montréal mayor Valérie Plante's recent visit to Japan (page 23) has laid the groundwork for deeper business ties between Québec and Japan in the years to come.

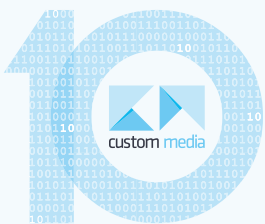
SHARED LEARNING

One of the best ways to connect nations is through education. To see such collaboration under way, we took the opportunity to catch up with students and teachers involved in a program run by the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business (page 10), which

took 25 students around Japan to learn more about Japanese business practices.

On page 31, we meet Riyo Whitney, who recently joined the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ). As the new principal of Bunka Sugunami Canadian International School, she was able to provide insight on the importance of sharing one of Canada's most important assets — its education system — with Japanese students. To learn more about the topic of accessibility, and how Japan's cities could become more open to people with disabilities we talked with Joshua Grisdale (page 29), the man behind the website *Accessible Japan*.

Finally, as I take up the role as the new editor-in-chief at *The Canadian* from Maxine Cheyney, who has returned to London, I'd like to extend my warm greetings to all of our readers and members of the CCCJ. I look forward to meeting you at social events, and hearing your opinions about how we can make this publication an even better reflection of the diverse community that it serves. 🍁
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LINKS THROUGH LEARNING

By Jim Zhang
Executive Director
Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan

Happy summer holidays to our members! I hope you have been able to take a break from your normal busy days. It is another hot one in Japan, and we hope our momentum at the Chamber will continue to rival the scorching heat of Japan's summer.

On June 5, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) welcomed the Mayor of Montréal Valérie Plante and a strong delegation from her municipality. The visit, organized in collaboration with the Montréal Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and the General Delegation of Québec to Tokyo, was arranged to celebrate the inaugural direct flight between Tokyo and Montréal by CCCJ Corporate Sustaining Member Air Canada. We are extremely excited to have an increased exchange at business, cultural, and personal levels between the two cities.

Soon after, the CCCJ hosted the annual Joint Chamber Summer Cocktail at the Roppongi Hills Club. This year we collaborated with 15 foreign chambers to welcome 380 guests. One of the largest networking events in the foreign business community, once again this event was extremely popular. You can see a picture from the event in the CCCJ Events on page 32.

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

In this summer issue of the magazine, we focus on the grassroots connections between Canada and Japan. A large part of this network is the ever-growing, strong education partnership between Canada and Japan.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's statistics, 7,950 Japanese students studied in Canada in 2017. The steady increase in numbers we have seen over the years is partially due to the fact that Japanese nationals who study in Canada for fewer than six months are exempt from having to obtain study permits.

In 2016, Japan was the top country for language studies, according to Languages Canada, contributing C\$12.8–15.5 billion to economic activities in the country. But education is not only about personal improvement or cultural exchange. It is now a significant economic industry that has collateral benefits for society and the bilateral relationship.

Canada and Japan make great natural partners for students, and they are places where people from both sides of the Pacific can gain valuable experience. In addition, increasing academic partnerships between institutions have increased R&D opportunities across the board. We are extremely happy to see this development and hope that more students study abroad and gain this valuable experience.

Whether they are in Canada or Japan, or any other country for that matter, it is younger people who will inevitably drive the economy of their respective countries. It is extremely important to create a generation of open, internationally minded youth who can contribute to the prosperity and friendly relationship between Canada and Japan, and to the businesses that operate in both countries.

JET SET

Another program that is a significant player in the field of education is the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. Currently hundreds of young Canadians are here in Japan offering their skills to teach not only the English language, but Canadian



culture to Japanese youth across the country. Through this cultural exchange, we have seen successful JET alumni become significant players in the bilateral relationship, and more Japanese students becoming interested in Canada and its culture.

This is indeed working, from a grassroots level, to bring two very different cultures closer and closer, and creating a platform of growth for younger people. Canada is now the second-largest participating country in the JET Programme.

For those wanting more information regarding Canada's education efforts in Japan, make sure to visit the EduCanada Fair at the Embassy of Canada to Japan on November 2 and 3. One of the largest educational events of the year, it attracts about 2,000 visitors each year, and more than 80 institutions from Canada. The professionals at the fair will be ready to answer questions.

With that, please enjoy your summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall and, we hope, at this year's annual Maple Leaf Gala on November 2. 🍁

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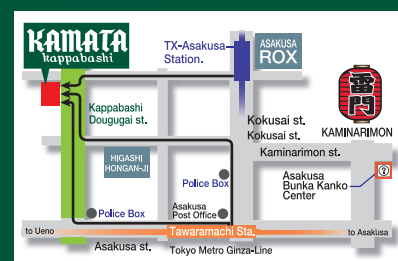
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CANADA-JAPAN NEWS



U.S., Canada, and Japan launch nuclear initiative to cut carbon use

The United States, Japan, and Canada have created a coalition that will promote nuclear power as a carbon-free energy source, *Forbes* reported on May 28.

The Nuclear Innovation: Clean Energy Future (NICE Future) partnership, in which the United Kingdom will also take part, will promote the use of nuclear technology to governments and

policy makers as a means of cutting carbon emissions. Japan's decision to join the partnership marks a notable turnaround from its move away from nuclear power in the wake of the March 11, 2011, earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters. Poland and Romania have also joined the alliance.



Report: Tokyo halts Canadian wheat sales

The Asahi Shimbun reported on June 16 that, following the discovery of genetically modified (GM) wheat in Alberta in the summer of 2017, Japan has halted all tenders and sales of Canadian wheat. Japan is Canada's second-largest purchaser of wheat.

Despite Canada's prohibition of GM wheat, such plants were found last year on the side of an access road to an oil well in a field. They appear to have been engineered by Monsanto and have been shown to be resistant to pesticide spraying due to their altered traits.

The halt in purchases of Canadian wheat by Japan, has left Canada concerned. Currently, Japan is looking into the safety of Canadian wheat and considering its best future course of action.

Knifemakers come to Canada

In July, Knifewear invited three Japanese blacksmiths to Edmonton, Calgary, and Ottawa to demonstrate how high-quality, renowned knives are crafted, the website *Eat North* reported on May 24.

Knifewear is a specialty store originally from Calgary. Now with five branches, it has the most extensive collection of Japanese knives outside of Japan. Through the live demonstrations, Knifewear hoped to connect its customers to the knives' blacksmiths, so they can cultivate a better understanding of the creation process and develop a personal appreciation for their products.



PHOTO: MASON HASTIE

Montréal university partners with Hiroshima, Tokyo institutions

The Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) has signed partnership agreements with Keio University and Hiroshima City University, it was reported on June 18 by the website *The Pie News*. The partnership with Keio will focus on collaboration in artificial intelligence research, while the one with Hiroshima will involve exchanges with the university's Faculty of Arts, International Studies, and Peace Institute, as well as a summer school that will be formed in collaboration with the Peace Institute. The partnerships were signed during UQAM's mission to Japan, which took place between May 28 and June 9.



Keio University's East Research Building

Poll: Canadians view selves as more linked to Asia Pacific area

Canadians view themselves as more connected to the Asia Pacific region than they did a few years ago, according to a June 5 article in *Business in Vancouver*. The poll is the result of the latest national poll by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. The poll, of 3,561 Canadian adults, shows that 43 per cent of respondents see Canada as part of the Asia Pacific region, up 9 percentage points from 2016, and 25 percentage points from 2013. In addition, 81 per cent of respondents felt that relations with Japan were stable or improving.

LEARNING ON THE GO

Students from the University of Calgary explore business in Japan

By Saya Hatton

Japan's world-leading businesses have attracted global attention and set a standard that few nations can match. The quality, efficiency and precision of Japanese products and services have generated international trust and a longstanding reputation for reliability. As a result, educational institutions, including the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary, in Alberta, have established programs in which groups of students travel to Japan to learn first hand about, and experience, the local mode of business.

On May 9, 25 undergraduate students from the business school, accompanied by program leaders Teri Bryant, Leighton Wilks and his wife Christine Louie, arrived in Tokyo from Calgary. They had come for one of Haskayne's Group Study programs, which features a three-week trip to Tokyo, Nara, Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto. Their focus was mainly on Japanese business, but aspects of tourism — temple visits and a trip to a sumo match — had a place in their itinerary.

Bryant, a retired professor, launched the program after 25 years of teaching about business with Japan at Haskayne. Along with Wilks, the current instructor of the courses Experiencing Japanese Business and Business with Japan, and a former Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) participant, she enrolled 22 students in the program for the first time last year.



The students drop in at Toyota's Takaoka Plant in Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture.

The semester-long syllabus consists of two courses, providing the students with two course credits. One week before their voyage, Wilks and Bryant begin to equip the students with the knowledge and skills that will help them make the most of their excursion.

Bryant said she gives "a lecture every day to provide some background about Japan — everything from history to culture, manners and business environment." Wilks, meanwhile, coaches the students to grow as individuals and in their cross-cultural intelligence. As he explained, "It is very much about having people develop the skills for international managerial confidence so that people can have the broad skill necessary not just to go to Japan, but to go anywhere foreign and successfully manage."

"Every student needs the opportunity to travel at some point in his or her degree, because the world is only getting smaller."

THE EXPERIENCE

This year, the students visited and received presentations from various companies in Japan, including Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd., Pembroke Real Estate Japan, LLC, Nichirei Corporation, Toyota Motor Corporation, and Omron Corporation. Bryant and Wilks were able to organize these meetings not only through tours offered to the public, but through their personal ties in Japan, which they look to expand and diversify each year.

Sarah Reid, a fourth-year accounting student, said, "My highlights for the trip were all of the company tours that we went on, because you can come to Japan as a tourist and not see that side of it. Also, the different cultures within each of the companies revealed different parts of Japanese culture."

Caroline Macdonald, graduating with a human resources major, added, “The amount of preparation and care that went into delivering these presentations to us was something I didn’t really expect.” To Wilks, “each company visit reveals something new about Japan and gives a little more insight about what is going on here in the business world.”

In addition, the group had the chance to interact with Waseda University students who are involved in similar programs. This gave the students the opportunity to exchange ideas and compare their experiences at different businesses and in school systems as well as, most notably, of the job recruiting process.

A visit to the Embassy of Canada to Japan offered the students insight into relations between Japan and their home province of Alberta, as well as with Canada as a whole. Moreover, the government’s role in an embassy, and the importance of that embassy, were topics that students found educational.

NEW PERSPECTIVES

In visiting various companies and the Canadian Embassy and meeting Japanese students, the young visitors encountered traditional Japanese businesses face to face, and learned how they will be transforming in the future. Macdonald said, “I didn’t even know that full permanent immigration is so low here. But it does make sense. From just experiencing the cities and going on company visits, [you can] see how well they preserved their culture.”

With regard to the future, Reid noted some of the effects of globalization in Japan.



At the Embassy of Canada to Japan, the students learn about Alberta–Japan relations.

She commented on how businesses affect one another internationally, and said that it was apparent that young Japanese employees are no longer remaining at one company for an extended time and are likely to be more aggressive than in the past in finding new positions — as they are in Canada.

Another takeaway from the trip was the vitality of international communication. Shelly Kirkland, who is finishing her human resources degree, said, “I think that any time you go into another culture and try to understand why they are the way they are, and why and how things work, it is beneficial [for when] you work ... especially in Canada, because we have so many different types of people.”

Echoing this sentiment, Macdonald said, “If you have to meet with people from other cultures on an individual basis, you might

be more comfortable knowing that you have broadened your horizons outside of Canada.”

MORE THAN FACTS AND NUMBERS

Even after just one year, admittance into the program has become highly sought after among Haskayne students. According to Wilks, six students have already applied for a position next year. In fact, Japan has become by far the most popular and frequently offered destination for overseas courses at the University of Calgary.

Students are increasingly looking to internationalize their degrees and gain more from their university programs than just textbook knowledge. “Every student needs the opportunity to travel at some point in his or her degree, because the world is only getting smaller,” Reid said. 🍁



A visit to the Nichirei Corporation includes a photo session with the company’s official character, Itame-kun.



CANADA MAKES CARS?

Japanese brands invest billions and employ thousands

By Julian Ryall



Factory workers assemble a RAV4 at Toyota's plant in Woodstock, Ontario.

When Japanese automobile manufacturers entered the Canadian market in the mid-1960s, their initial aim was to set up distribution, sales and service facilities for local customers, with the vehicles still built in Japan and shipped across the Pacific Ocean. Fifty years later, those tentative first steps have evolved into a presence that is critical to both the overall Canadian economy and the companies with a stake in the North American market.

“In the decades since Japanese car companies arrived in Canada, there have been some dramatic changes in consumers’ needs, technology, manufacturing, supplier relations, trade policy, regulation, energy, the environment, vehicle design and vehicle safety, all of which have offered new opportunities for growth,” said David Worts, executive director of the Toronto-based Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association of Canada (JAMA Canada).

“And while the automotive market is relatively small, Canada provides a stable and supportive government that is based on the rule of law, as well as an open and highly trade-dependent auto industry that, since 1965, has been dominated by foreign ownership and investment,” he told *The Canadian*.

“Equally, Japanese-brand vehicles — whether they have been built in Japan, Canada, the United States, Europe, Mexico

or elsewhere — are appreciated by consumers in Canada for their reliability, their design, quality, fuel efficiency, safety and environment-friendly technology,” he added.

The statistics also make impressive reading, he pointed out.

In 2017, more than one million Japanese-brand vehicles were built in Canada, for the second consecutive year, while two of the top three Canadian producers were Japanese. Over the course of the year, JAMA Canada member firms sold no fewer than 719,806 light-duty vehicles, a record sales figure for a fourth straight year, and market share rose to 35.3 per cent.

Canada exported more than four times as many vehicles as were imported from Japan in 2017, and since 1993, Canada has exported 4.7 million more Japanese-brand vehicles than were imported from all other countries combined.

Japanese vehicle manufacturers are also major employers across Canada: 1,238 dealers representing Japanese brands employ an estimated 44,500 Canadians in sales, service and repair. And while direct and indirect employment in the Japanese auto industry in Canada stood at around 80,000 people in 2017, a recent study has determined that Japanese vehicle manufacturers support more than 202,000 jobs across the country.

TOYOTA

Underlining the robustness of Canada as a manufacturing hub for Japanese firms, Toyota Motor Corp. announced in May that it will carry out a C\$1.4 billion upgrade of two of its Canadian manufacturing plants. The improvement — which includes C\$220 million contributed by the federal and Ontario governments — was announced

719,806

light-duty vehicles sold by
JAMA Canada member firms

44,500

Canadians in sales, service
and repair employed by
Japanese brands

by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Toyota facility in Cambridge, Ontario.

"These measures support Canada's competitiveness and build our capacity to do the kind of advanced automotive research and production that companies like Toyota want more of," Trudeau told staff at the plant, *The Province* newspaper reported.

When the upgrades are completed, the Cambridge plant and the factory at Woodstock, also in Ontario, will become Toyota's North American manufacturing hub for the RAV4, including hybrid versions. The investment is expected to create 450 new jobs and as many as 1,000 student and intern positions, while Toyota has also committed to spending C\$200 million on research and development in Canada over the next decade. At present, the two plants employ about 8,000 people and more than half a million vehicles roll off their production lines each year.

Toyota started selling its Crown, Publica and Land Cruiser models in Canada in 1965 and the company says it is committed to building vehicles where it sells them. "The vehicle models we manufacture in Canada account for nearly half of all the vehicles we sell in the country and we are a net exporter of vehicles," said Stephen Beatty, corporate vice president of Toyota Canada Inc. "Toyota has been building cars in Canada since 1988 at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. and now with three assembly plants

in Cambridge and Woodstock, Ontario, over eight million vehicles have been made in Canada since then."

The company's truck/SUV segment is faring well and the RAV4 has proved a popular compact SUV in Canada. "We have a broad line-up of vehicles in Canada, to meet the different needs of our Canadian customers," said Beatty.

Toyota has invested some C\$11.5 billion in Canada since it first arrived and has 22,300 employees across every province. In 2017, the company set a new sales record with 224,547 Toyota and Lexus vehicles sold, while it also set a record for hybrid vehicles, with 20,287 units sold.

HONDA

Honda Motor Co. got a foot in the Canadian door in 1969, initially with motorcycles and power equipment, before the Tokyo-based company's cars began to win a following. The first Honda Canada manufacturing facility was opened in Alliston, Ontario, followed by a second plant at the same site two years later. A C\$154 million engine plant was completed in Alliston in 2008 and the company now employs 19,000 Canadians, purchases C\$2.1 billion

worth of goods from Canada-based suppliers each year and supplies vehicles to Mexico, China, South American countries and the United States.

And Canadian consumers love the country's vehicles. The Honda Civic received the 2018 Canadian Green Car Award in April, two months after the Accord had been named Canadian Car of the Year.

NISSAN

Nissan Motor Corp. was the first of Japan's automakers to incorporate in Canada. It started with only six employees in Vancouver in January 1965, but signed up 84 dealers across the country in its first year, and sold more than 1,200 Datsun brand cars and pickups, the first compact pickups available in North America.

One year later, Nissan Canada Inc. opened its Ontario office. "Although Nissan does not have any manufacturing sites in Canada, Nissan Canada and its dealers — 206 Nissan dealers and 42 Infiniti retailers — add substantially to the economy, providing more than 4,800 jobs directly related to selling and servicing Nissan products across Canada," said Didier Marsaud, director of corporate communications at Nissan Canada.



PHOTO: TOYOTA CANADA INC.

The Lexus RX F Sport is manufactured in Canada.

"Japanese-brand vehicles ... are appreciated by consumers in Canada for their reliability, their design, quality, fuel efficiency, safety and environment-friendly technology,"



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“NAFTA is a brilliant system, fashioned like a very precise and beautifully intricate watch.”

“On a corporate level, Nissan employs more than 350 people, but Nissan’s efforts to impact the Canadian community in a positive way reach beyond the walls of its offices and dealerships,” Marsaud added. “This year, the Nissan Canada Foundation is celebrating its 25th year in Canada and over the past 10 years, Nissan employees in Canada have logged over 10,000 hours of giving back to the communities with local food bank and Habitat for Humanity partnerships.”

The top-selling Nissan model in Canada in 2017 was the Rogue crossover, which sold 43,481 units, up 8.4 per cent on the previous year, followed by sales of 15,120 Murano crossovers and 13,883 units of the Sentra sedan. The company also has high hopes for the Qashqai sub-compact SUV in the coming year. It sold 8,970 units in seven months.

“This very much reflects ongoing consumer preferences in Canada: the compact crossover segment is the country’s largest volume segment,” said Marsaud. Nissan, like other manufacturers, also makes sure that its vehicles are well prepared for the local environment, with the Micra subcompact — fitted with adapted suspension, 60/40 split rear seats and rear heating ducts just for Canada — an excellent example.

MAZDA

Mazda Motor Corp. also has a long and storied history in Canada, this July having celebrated 50 years of operations in Canada. Vancouver was once again chosen for the initial headquarters and Canada was the firm’s second overseas subsidiary after Australia the previous year. The company debuted with its R-100 rotary engine coupe. “Since the Mazda3 was launched in 2004, it has perennially been the best-selling model in Mazda Canada’s line-up,” said spokeswoman Yukari Hara. “However, we’ve seen a shift in Canadian auto sales over the



PHOTO: NISSAN CANADA INC.
The 2017 Nissan Qashqai

past couple of years where light trucks are now outselling passenger cars for the first time.”

That has been accompanied by a shift towards SUV sales, and the CX-5 was Mazda’s best-selling model in the first quarter of 2018, she said.

Mazda is aiming to increase loyalty to its brand, with customer experience critical to achieving that aim. “We have great products; now we’re working on ensuring we provide a premium experience to consumers at all touch points to match the product, whether it be at a Mazda dealership, interacting with our head office, or visiting our website,” said Hara.

STICKING POINT

Each of the companies that commented for this story expressed optimism that their high-quality products, combined with technological innovation and a clear commitment to the market, mean that the outlook for their brand in Canada is very positive.

The only fly in carmakers’ ointment at the moment, it seems, is protectionist

measures being introduced in Washington, while U.S. President Donald Trump has announced plans to renegotiate at best, or scrap at worst, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

“NAFTA is a brilliant system, fashioned like a very precise and beautifully intricate watch,” said Ron Haigh, former chairman of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan and now project manager for Toyota’s Overseas External Affairs Division. “It allows each and every North American car manufacturer to flexibly use locations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico to produce a wide variety of reasonably priced vehicles by different locations working together as one team. They are supported by an extensive parts supply network that allows North American cars to compete with those made in any other place in the world.

“NAFTA is a very good deal for Canada but also for Mexico and the U.S.,” Haigh emphasized. “For example, since NAFTA started, Toyota have gone from two to soon 11 plants in the U.S. and over the last four years, employment at both parts suppliers and dealers has increased almost 20 per cent. We have invested US\$1 billion over the last three years in Canada, but we are also investing billions and billions in the United States.”

Japanese car makers with operations in Canada that feed into the United States and other markets say they are optimistic that a positive outcome can be achieved and they can continue to provide their customers with top-quality vehicles at competitive prices. 🍁



PHOTO: TOYOTA CANADA INC.
On the Toyota factory floor in Woodstock, Ontario

STEADY BURN

LNG projects in Canada may play an important role in Japan's energy supply

By Alec Jordan



The *Grand Aniva* may one day transport liquefied natural gas from Canada to Japan.

Following the March 11, 2011, earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disasters, Japan's energy policy changed drastically. A country that had depended on nuclear power for more than 30 per cent of its electricity production was forced to rapidly shift to alternatives. Given that oil and coal produce high amounts of greenhouse gases, there was a strong need for energy sources that were relatively clean.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is an option that filled the bill. LNG is natural gas that has been cooled to -162°C , causing the gas's volume to decrease 600-fold. In this form, it can easily be transported, often by ship, to places that would be unreachable by pipeline, or to locations where pipelines can't be built. It can then be used for heating or for electricity production. According to the global LNG operator Elengy, which runs three such terminals in France, the fuel produces 30 per cent less carbon dioxide than fuel oil and 45 per cent less than coal; it also produces significantly less nitrogen oxide emissions and almost no sulphur dioxide compared with fuel oil or coal.

The fuel source has come to play a strong role in Japan's energy mix. According to the latest data from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, LNG accounted for 25 per cent of Japan's primary energy and 40 per cent of the country's power in fiscal 2016. Shinya Miyazaki, senior adviser in the Canada Oil & Gas Business Department

at Mitsubishi Corporation, says that Japan imports more than 80 million tons of LNG per year, making it far and away the world's largest importer of the gas. The trend shows no signs of slowing.

CANADIAN LNG

A substantial volume of the natural gas that Japan imports in the future may come from Canada. The country is the world's fourth-largest producer of natural gas and its fourth-largest exporter, with particularly rich gas fields in the Northern Alberta region and the province of British Columbia. Over the years, a few Canadian LNG projects have gone into the planning phase but, owing to volatility in the energy markets — particularly a decline in oil prices in 2014 — have been postponed or cancelled.

But this doesn't mean that interest isn't there. As Masami Yukawa from Chevron, which is investing in an LNG project in Canada, pointed out, "LNG from Canada is attractive due to proximity to the Japanese

market, longstanding trade relationships with Japan, geopolitical stability, a low greenhouse gas profile, and the abundance of prolific and low-cost gas resources."

Chevron Canada Limited and Woodside Energy International are involved in a 50–50 joint venture, the Kitimat LNG project. It involves natural gas resource development, gas pipeline transmission, and LNG liquefaction. Although a number of Canadian projects have been cancelled, according to Yukawa, "Chevron and Woodside have continued to invest in the project, including step change improvements in the LNG plant design, incorporation of significant innovative technologies, and substantial reductions in unit costs, execution risk and emissions."

"We believe that this project will play a crucial role for the future energy security of Japan in terms of ... the diversification of energy supply sources."



A PROJECT TO WATCH

However, the project that is showing the strongest promise at the moment is LNG Canada. Petronas of Malaysia recently announced an interest in the project which would see equity participation shared across Royal Dutch Shell (40 per cent), Petronas (25 per cent), PetroChina (15 per cent), Mitsubishi Corporation (15 per cent), and KOGAS South Korea (5 per cent).

The project, in Kitimat, British Columbia, has the potential to be a massive operation. The first phase of development calls for the building of two trains — the LNG processing units where carbon dioxide, water, condensate, and sulphur are separated from the natural gas and the natural gas is cooled. Each train will

be able to process up to seven million tons of LNG per year. Another two trains are to be built in the second phase. The project will include a marine terminal that will be able to accommodate two LNG carriers with capacities of 140,000 to 265,000 cubic meters, a rail yard, and a water treatment facility.

The co-venturers of the project are expected to reach a final investment decision (FID) later this year, but the recent addition of Petronas as a co-venturer is a good sign, as are projections that global demand for LNG is likely to exceed supply in the years to come.

The project has already decided on a team to design and build the project: a joint venture between the US company Fluor and the Japanese firm JGC won the US\$14 billion order for engineering, procurement, and construction in April. Optimistic observers believe that an FID is very close, and that construction could begin this year.

MAJOR UPSIDE

There is significant support from the New Democratic Party of British Columbia for the project — they are offering Shell and its partners a fiscal framework to help the emerging LNG industry in Canada compete with other global players. LNG Canada also has the support of the First Nations. The project will be located on the traditional territory of the Haisla Nation, while the traditional territory and communities of seven other First Nations will be along the project's shipping route, and LNG Canada has put a high priority on getting their approval.

Mitsubishi Corporation's Miyazaki explained that the project could be pivotal for Japan and Canada: "We believe that this project will play a crucial role for the future energy security of Japan in terms of long-term stable supply of LNG and the diversification of energy supply sources. At the same time, we believe that this project will play a significant role for B.C. and Canada's economy and employment, through the construction and operation of the facilities, and production and export of its abundant natural gas resources."

He is also bullish on the general trends in the energy market and the potential for the LNG Canada project: "The major decline in oil price in 2014 not only stalled projects, but also shut many of them down. Fortunately, the dynamic has started to change and the demand for LNG is projected to exceed LNG supply around the timing of LNG Canada's LNG production."

Susannah Pierce, external affairs director for LNG Canada, believes that there are several factors that will help to make the project a success. "I think the key thing for success in the long run is being price resilient ... so what we have done over the past couple of years is really focus on how we can be a low-cost producer in any scenario." Another factor in their favour is that they plan to maintain a very low carbon intensity for the project. Pierce feels that the decision makers have been given a proposal with a good chance for a positive FID later this year, and it could be monumental. "If completed, it will be the largest single energy investment in Canadian history," she explained. 🍁



An artist's illustration gives a bird's eye view of the proposed LNG Canada project.



The proposed site, viewed from the southwest.

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CANADA'S RISING SON

Former MP from Ontario
honoured for business, politics

By Alec Jordan



The Order of the Rising Sun is an award bestowed on individuals who have played an important role in creating ties between Japan and other nations. Some are given the award because of their cultural contributions, while others, such as Mike Wallace, who received the award at a ceremony in Ottawa on July 6, are recognized for developing connections through their work in the fields of business and politics.

Wallace served as MP for the city of Burlington, Ontario, from 2006 to 2015; prior to that, he was a Burlington city councillor from 1994 to 2006. During his time as MP, he was a member of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group, an organization that he would eventually co-chair. *The Canadian* spoke to him about how he developed an interest in Japanese culture and the special relationship that Burlington has with one of Tokyo's 23 wards.

Prior to your time as a councillor and MP for Burlington did you have any experience with Japan or any interest in Japanese culture?

No. I really got immersed with our connection to Japanese culture after I got elected to the city council. I had the opportunity to represent the city of Burlington in Itabashi [Ward, Tokyo] as the deputy mayor, celebrating the 15th anniversary of our twinning in 2004. I would say it was from that trip that I had a much better

"I assisted, I believe, in creating a more productive relationship between parliamentarians who had come from Japan to visit Canada."

understanding of the culture and what the opportunity was, in terms of developing a relationship between our communities.

Once you became an MP, how did you end up joining the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group?

I wanted to help develop the relationship that Burlington had with Japan. I thought I could add value by participating based on my experience with the twin city relationship that we had in Burlington.

Did your work on the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group bring you to Japan often?

Yes, I think I have lost count! I've been to Japan eight to 10 times. I was there almost once a year over the nine years I was a member of Parliament. I don't have any favourite places in Japan. I love all parts of Japan, but I particularly love the people. The people of Japan are always so friendly. Even if we couldn't communicate linguistically, they always were very kind and very helpful to me and my colleagues.

What does it mean for you to be awarded the Order of the Rising Sun?

I was very honoured when they told me that I had been nominated. I was even more

honoured and surprised when I actually was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun. I believe I am receiving this honour for my work with the Japanese Diet officials while they visited Canada. I assisted, I believe, in creating a more productive relationship between parliamentarians who had come from Japan to visit Canada. Often on these trips, the theme was to show off Canada, or highlight our tourism opportunities with a visit to Niagara Falls. I wanted to develop more of a business relationship between our parliaments. We visited organizations that had a direct effect on the quality of life in Japan. In my view, it was important for the Japanese parliamentarians to have a better understanding of how close of a relationship we have, not just from a cultural perspective, but an actual business relationship.

If you're successful in your mayoral campaign for the city of Burlington this fall, do you think you'll have any opportunities to continue to build ties between Canada and Japan?

Yes! Next year is the 30th anniversary of the twinning with Itabashi. I want to do more than just celebrate the anniversary, and open doors to new personal, political and business relationships between our fantastic communities. 🍁

WINNING PLANS

JMEC participants put their business savvy on display

By Saya Hatton

Over a span of just seven months, 13 teams went from knowing nothing about some industries to proposing detailed business plans for major company clients in those very sectors.

The Japan Market Expansion Competition (JMEC) has been pairing teams of participants with project clients for 24 years, which has resulted in 214 business plans and countless new opportunities for highly motivated businesspeople.

Wednesday, June 6 saw the presentation of the annual JMEC awards before a packed audience at Tokyo American Club. The top three prize winners were Team 5, which took first place for a business plan tailored for Cortus, a French semiconductor and IP design company; Team 2, in second place, for a business plan created for CGI K.K. a clinical laboratory quality management company; and Team 13, which came third, for the plan it had devised for DSM, a global science-based company.



Philip O'Neill



PHOTO: ANTHONY TRAN

Team Five takes first place at JMEC 24.

“Overall, it was an amazing learning experience throughout the project. We were working so hard.”

Other teams that won awards were Team 10 (Skidata) for best marketing plan, Team 8 (Infinity Diamonds) for best presentation, and Teams 6 (Areti) and 7 (Entry Japan K.K.) for best market research.

Although his team did not win a prize, Philip O'Neill, director of McGill's MBA program and the project client for Team 4, appreciated the team's fresh view of his niche business. He added that the high calibre of the marketing competition graduates can be seen from those who, as JMEC alumni, apply for McGill University's MBA scholarships.

LONG HOURS

The JMEC program began with an eight-week section during which participants would attend lectures and hone the skills they would need to write successful business plans. At the end of the training, the participants were assembled into teams and finally met their clients. In the months that followed, according to Rike Wootten, one of three JMEC judges, teams “spent an average of 800 hours on their business plan. The average time per person was probably over 200 hours. Team mentors spent up to 125 hours on the plan.”

Matthew Kish, a member of the winning team, said: “Overall, it was an amazing learning experience throughout the project. We were working so hard. The thing about this project is we had no idea what the other teams were doing so ... we couldn't benchmark ourselves against any other team. We worked as hard as we could and then just had to wait and see what happened tonight.”

NEWLY MINTED EXPERTS

But the final results proved that the participants' hustle had been worthwhile. Mark Colby, chairman of CGI K.K. said: “Over the several meetings that we had, it was amazing the way that the team developed. None of them knew anything about our business and the sector that we are in. It was incredible to me to see them become subject matter experts in the diagnostic area.”

Sean Crownover, a system engineer with CGI K.K., and the person responsible for implementing Team 2's plan, said that the group went above and beyond what had been expected of them. “In the final presentation, what struck me is that they were able to weave in what the product really means in the endgame. They kept in mind what the ultimate goal of the product itself is, which is saving lives.”

The teams are not the only beneficiaries of the program, however; project clients gained from the input of young, modern minds. According to Alok Rakyen, president of Infinity Diamonds, “The young people over here, they have exposure, they are creative and they have an ability to see out of the box.” 🍁

CCCJ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Positive news from
last year and good tidings
for the year to come

By Alec Jordan



CCCJ Chairman Neil van Wouw delivers his annual report at the Annual General Meeting.

On June 28, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) held its 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Embassy of Canada to Japan. It was an opportunity for members to meet, vote on official proceedings, and get updates on what has been happening with the CCCJ over the past year.

One of the first orders of business was announcing the newly elected members of the Board of Governors, who are Kiyo Weiss, Luci Tremblay, Gordon Hatton, and Warren Arbuckle. This was followed by the approval of audited financial statements for the 2017–18 fiscal year and the appointment of an independent auditor.

Following this, CCCJ Chair Neil van Wouw delivered his annual report. One of the first points that he addressed was that the CCCJ has made significant progress in stabilizing

its finances. One major step was moving the CCCJ's office from Nishi Azabu to Shimbashi, which will generate cost savings of ¥2 million a year, starting next fiscal year.

MAKING STRIDES

Another notable improvement is that all membership information has been put into a database, which has enabled CCCJ staff to reach out, often successfully, to recently lapsed members and bring them back into the membership fold.

One more positive development during the past year has been the institution of “hackathons” — informal sessions where individual members can drop in on committee meetings and suggest solutions to problems — which have been boosting the efficiency of committee meetings. The hackathons are open to all, and members are welcome to sit in and get involved with any committee that is meeting on a given night. It's also a great way for new members to get a deeper understanding of the committees and meet old CCCJ hands.

At last year's AGM, the formation of two new committees was announced: the Global Diversity Management (GDM) Committee and the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee.

This year, the GDM Committee has already held two popular events and, in the months to come, will be hosting more lunchtime events, which members are encouraged to attend. Van Wouw pointed out that the CCCJ has always been involved

in CSR projects, but that, over the past year, the organization had earned more CSR-related money than they had in several years. Notable CSR activities during the past year include the Walk for Water, Place to Grow, and Tohoku Youth Project.

LOOKING AHEAD

Interaction with the Canadian Olympics Council and the Paralympics Council has been ramping up, so members can expect to see more activities — such as meet-and-greets and CSR opportunities — involving these organizations in the months to come. Among other events, to which van Wouw said CCCJ members can look forward, include the Maple Leaf Gala on November 2, and more business-focused events for CCCJ members.

At the end of the meeting, a motion was passed that changed the number of two-year terms that a governor of the CCCJ can serve. Previously, individuals were limited to serving no more than three consecutive terms as a governor. In the interests of allowing those members who can commit the time and energy to the post of governor to fully contribute their services, the CCCJ Constitution was amended to allow governors to serve the consecutive two-year terms to which they are elected.

During his remarks, van Wouw commented that the goal of the CCCJ is to be the most inclusive chamber. The diversity on hand at the AGM, and the many plans that the organization has to get members more involved in the group's activities, are positive signs that the CCCJ will achieve its goal. 🍁

During his remarks, Neil van Wouw commented that the goal of the CCCJ is to be the most inclusive chamber.

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MAYOR ON A MISSION

Montréal's Valérie Plante talks economic ties with Japan

By Alec Jordan



Valérie Plante made history on November 5, 2017, when she was elected the first female mayor of Montréal. Since then, the relative newcomer — her political career only began in 2013, when she was elected city councillor — has drawn attention for her bold plans to transform the city with an ambitious rail project and more affordable housing.

Plante isn't just satisfied with making changes on the local front, though. At the beginning of June, she left Montréal for Japan on her first international economic mission. She began her trip on June 1, flying on Air Canada's inaugural direct flight from Montréal to Tokyo, and visited Tokyo, Hiroshima, Osaka, and Kyoto, along with a delegation of businesspeople from Montréal.

In Hiroshima, Montréal's sister city, the delegation celebrated the 20th anniversary of the twinning of the two cities.

On June 5, at the New Otani Hotel, Plante joined the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montréal and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan at a conference luncheon, under the theme of "Montréal: Creative Metropolis, City in Motion."

CREATIVE BUSINESS HUB

Plante reminded her audience that the city she represents is not only a cultural powerhouse, but also an excellent location for doing business: "Our metropolis is recognized internationally for its creativity, its culture, festival, gastronomy, and its welcoming character. But, we are also a city with an outstanding business environment, a strategic hub for trade and investment."

In fact, Montréal is notable in that it blends its creativity with business strength, a point that Plante emphasized: "A significant part of Montréal's economy is defined by its creative and cultural industries, which are a combination of creativity, culture, technology and innovation. These include, in particular, architecture and design, fashion, multimedia, video games, and performing and digital arts. Montréal's creative industry generates nearly 92,000 jobs and C\$8.6 billion in economic spinoff in the greater Montréal area." Plante said that the province of Québec ranks third, after Japan and California, in the development of video games and 3D animation techniques.

ECONOMIC TIES

The shared economic ground between Montréal and Japan was a central point in

the mayor's remarks: "Montréal shares many common points of interest with Japan, in terms of economic development. One can think of clean technologies, artificial intelligence and life science just to name a few. As a global economic powerhouse, you present for Montréal a very high quality market in these sectors, and the potential for exchanges with our Montréal companies is remarkable in terms of business, higher education, innovation and tourism."

Plante alluded to the many Japanese companies that have opened branches in Montréal, such as Fujitsu Ltd., Hitachi, Ltd., Square Enix Holdings Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Corporation, and she welcomed more: "To future Japanese investors, I want to send you a message of openness. I invite you to visit us, to make contact with Montréal International, which has a method of attracting foreign direct investment in our metropolitan area."

As Plante pointed out, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership offers an unparalleled opportunity for Montréal to develop strong ties with Japan, and one that should be used to good advantage: "This agreement brings together 11 countries, 500 million people and a combined GDP of C\$13.5 trillion. The partnership is one of the most important economic agreements in the world. It will allow our respective countries and cities to trade more freely. This economic mission is the first of its kind to Japan; following this agreement I am very proud of leading that first mission. The partnership offers an historic opportunity: let's all seize it." 🍁

"We are also a city with an outstanding business environment, a strategic hub for trade and investment."

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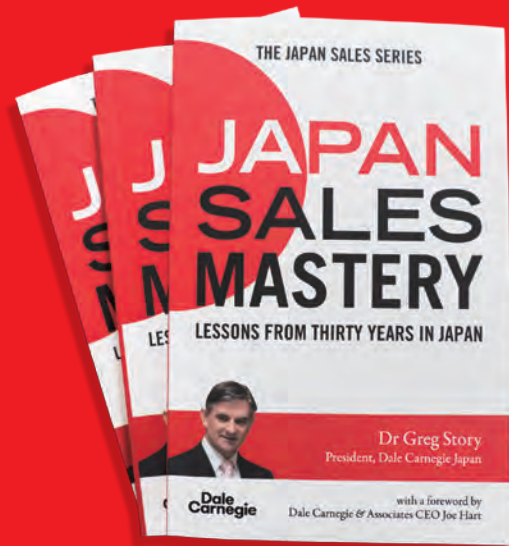
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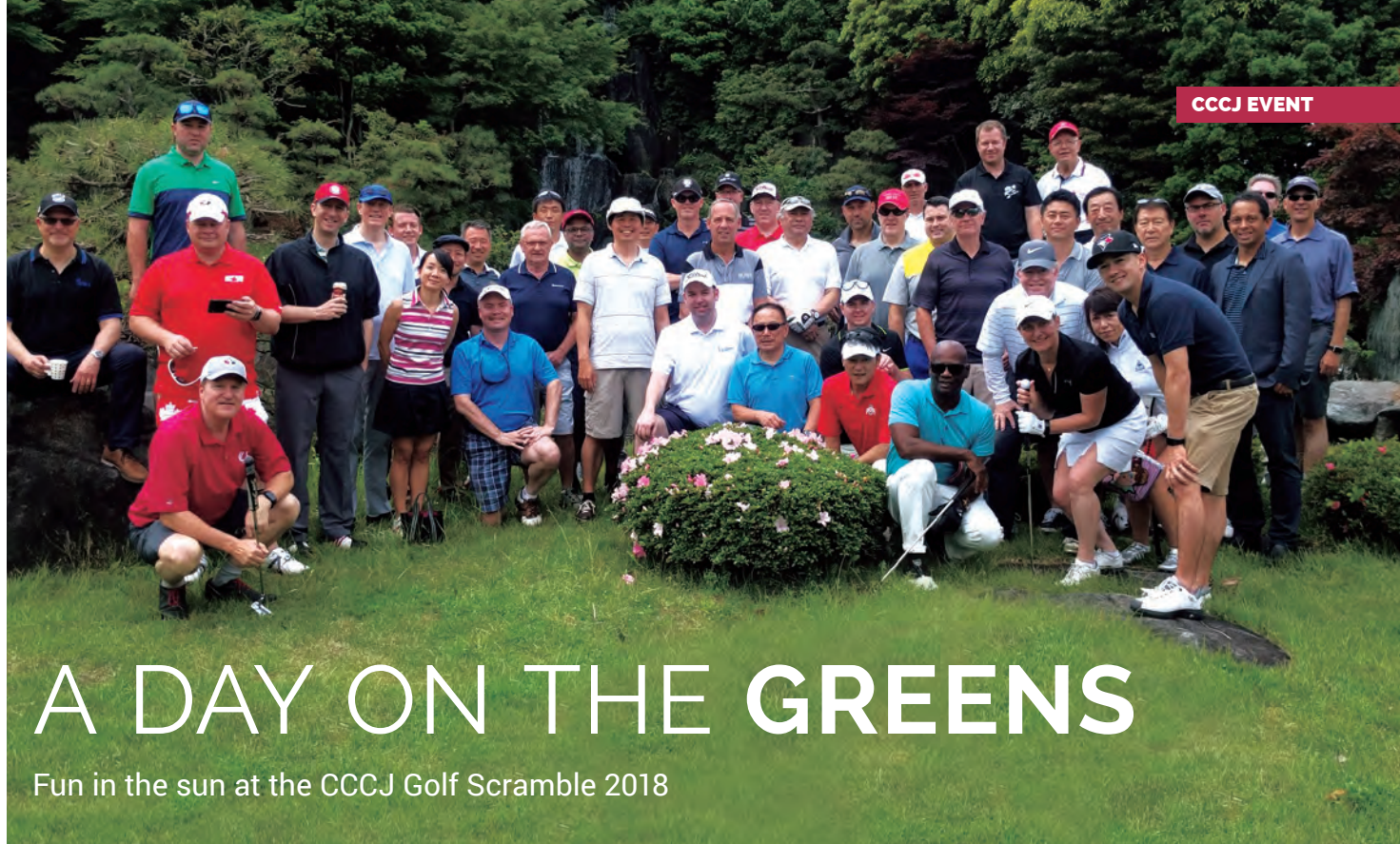
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A DAY ON THE GREENS

Fun in the sun at the CCCJ Golf Scramble 2018



May 22 was a beautiful late spring day, and you couldn't have asked for nicer weather for the 17th annual Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) golf tournament.

Forty-eight golfers came together for a day out on the links — and a fair amount of beer — at Tsutsujigaoka Country Club. As is usual for the tournament, it followed a team scramble format. Following the time on the course, there was a splendidly lavish buffet meal and an awards ceremony, where a number of prizes were given out. The top prize was The Golden Toque, going to the best foursome team: Paul Braganza, Kieron Cashell, Tom Kriegshauser, and Jonathan Allen.

As you can see from the photos, a great time was had by all.

Special thanks for organizing the event go to David Anderson, Warren Arbuckle, Tad Furuta, and Kieron Cashell.

Sponsors who provided prizes were: Maple Leaf Foods, Arcteryx, Air Canada, Alberta Japan Office, BC Japan Office, Escentis, General Delegation of Québec, Golden Bonbon, Tokyo Investment Research Services, Grand Hyatt Tokyo, Ontario Japan Office, and Tokyo American Club. 🍁



UNITED ON THE PITCH

Over-40s rugby clubs bring together players from Canada and Japan

By Alec Jordan

The Victoria Ebb Tide's Aaron Cook throws the ball out from the scrum.

In November, the Canadian national rugby team will compete for the final spot in the 2019 Rugby World Cup. As this moment approaches, it reminds us that sports has the power to bring people together across national boundaries and the inspiring force to keep athletes competing well into their later years. Nothing makes that clearer than a pair of matches that were played on April 29 at Macdonald Park in Victoria, British Columbia, between the Ebb Tide, a British Columbia-based over-40s rugby club, and the Osaka Gentlemen. Both teams have members who are in their seventies and eighties, and have been playing each other for decades.

There has always been a connection between the Ebb Tide and Japan, as we discovered through our conversation with Glen Okrainetz and Dave Knox, president and secretary, respectively, of the Ebb Tide Rugby Football Club.

It all started in 1971, when Bill Dunbar, then president of BC Rugby Union, was in Japan on business. He happened to meet the president of the Wak Wak Club of Osaka and found out that the club was interested in touring British Columbia.

A year later, BC Rugby Union reached out to senior rugby players in British Columbia, asking them to form teams in Vancouver and Victoria. The team that was started in Vancouver was called the Oldstylers (the team's name has changed several times since then, and they are now known as the Evergreens). The Victoria team included many former members of the Vancouver Island Crimson Tide, so they dubbed themselves the Ebb Tide — it's the longest

continuously used club name for an over-40s club in British Columbia.

ON THE ROAD

The first match with the Wak Wak Club in 1972 fired the Ebb Tide's interest in coming to Japan, and the club made several journeys to the country to compete with clubs here. They made their first trip in 1974, when they played the Old Bears in Tenri (Nara Prefecture), Wakusan in Hiroshima, Meiwaku in Kyushu, Fuwaku in Tokyo, Wak Wak in Osaka, and Kintetsu in Higashi-osaka.

It was the first of many trips — they would come again in 1979, 1983, 1987, 1992, and 2006. They've played teams from as far south as Fukuoka Prefecture and as far north as Morioka, in Iwate Prefecture. Okrainetz, who has travelled to many countries with the Ebb Tide, says one thing that stands out when it comes to playing in Japan is the hospitality:

"The Japanese hosting is superior to any other club hosting that the Ebb Tide has experienced on tours."

And when it comes to rugby itself, the Ebb Tide has fared extremely well in Japan. They lost just one over-40s match to the Wak Wak team in Osaka in 2006, but have won all of their other games.

They've expanded their rugby horizons through trips to the United States, Scotland, England, Wales, Hong Kong, Chile, and New Zealand, while hosting teams from England, Japan, Wales, Ireland, and the United States.

On the domestic front, the Ebb Tide have played for many years in British Columbia's Third Division, and then against other over-40s teams in the Pacific Northwest Over-40s league, which was formed in the 1980s.

"Getting together with the lads on a weekly basis to toss the ball around and share a pint afterwards is what keeps many of us going."



The Ebb Tide's Don Swainson goes high on a lineout.



The Osaka Gentlemen's Shiro Noiri (left) and Takaaki Oka (right) flank the Ebb Tide's Paul Dancey at the post-match banquet.

SIZING UP

The games at Macdonald Park mark the third time that the Osaka Gentlemen had gone to Victoria in six years. They had visited Victoria in 2015, and they were also there for the Ebb Tide's 40th anniversary celebration in 2012, along with the Tenri Old Bears.

The Ebb Tide, meanwhile, has plans to visit Japan in the years to come. Right now, they're looking ahead to 2020 or 2021, when the Osaka Gentlemen will celebrate their 40th anniversary.

As far as the matches themselves go, the Ebb Tide won both the under-60s and over-60s contests but, as Okrainetz reminds us: "The score was not important." In general, Okrainetz says that the Canadian sides definitely have size on their side, but that "the younger Japanese players are getting a bit bigger."

Mikio Oku, who has been a member of the Osaka Gentlemen since 1985, agreed with Okrainetz's assessment, but said that the Japanese do manage to keep up off the pitch. "There is a big difference physically between us Japanese and the Canadian team. When

we play with the Canadians, who are bigger and more powerful, we have to be more tactical and much more speedy and flexible. But even though we have a hard time keeping up with them on the field, we can catch up with them in the after-game functions."

And in true rugby fashion, there is plenty of celebrating that goes on after the matches are over, although Okrainetz keeps mum about the specifics, saying only, "There are occasionally interesting situations but the rugby tradition is that what goes on tour stays on tour."

FRIENDSHIPS, ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Language can be a challenge for the teams — the Ebb Tide relied on a translator for their official speeches and gift exchanges after the matches — but their communication through sport is remarkably strong, and the friendships that have developed over the years go far beyond the field of play, as Oku explains. "I have a close friend who is like a brother in Ebb Tide. We first met in Kyoto in 1987, and ever since we've had a good friendship visiting each other

and traveling together in Asian countries. In fact, my wife and I spent a month traveling across Canada with my friend and his wife last autumn."

This was a sentiment that was echoed by Toshiyuki Nakai, who is also a member of the Osaka Gentlemen: "When I played rugby when I was younger, I was always focused on victory or defeat. Of course, winning and losing is also important in senior rugby, but we put a high value on making friends after the game. After finishing the battle, I can make many friends while maintaining a 'no side spirit' in which we praise and respect our opponents and we can make new family ties that span countries and cultures."

And what is it that gets players in their seventies and eighties out on the field, week after week? Okrainetz says that it all comes down to a sense of togetherness: "The camaraderie is an important part of the club function. Rugby is a very social game and getting together with the lads on a weekly basis to toss the ball around and share a pint afterwards is what keeps many of us going." 🍁



The Victoria Ebb Tide and the Osaka Gentlemen gather for a group photo.



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Josh Grisdale tests the wheelchair ramp at Meiji Shrine.

A WAY IN

Josh Grisdale explores Japan's accessibility options

By Saya Hatton

Squeezing into a store in Harajuku or making your way along a gravel path towards a shrine can be pleasant until your wheelchair doesn't fit or gets stuck. To avoid this, Josh Grisdale is helping make Japan a more accessible nation to all people, whether they travel on two legs, on wheels or with companion animals.

Grisdale is the web presence manager for Azalee Group, a service for elderly care, education and medicine. In his free time he manages *Accessible Japan*, a website he created to make getting around Japan easier for English speakers with physical disabilities.

He has been in a wheelchair since the age of four, is quadriplegic, and has cerebral palsy. Having grown up in Uxbridge, a small town just outside Toronto where driving is the main mode of transportation, Grisdale faced accessibility challenges from a young age.

Regardless, his personal interest in Japanese culture and travelling led him on numerous trips to Japan. He moved here about 10 years ago, and became a Japanese citizen in 2016.

Grisdale recognized that there was a lack of English information about tourism in, or moving to, Japan for disabled people, so

he created his website and wrote a guidebook, *Accessible Japan's Tokyo: All you need to know about traveling to Tokyo with a disability*. The website documents details such as the presence or lack of elevators, terrain conditions, and bathrooms at popular tourist locations.

The book also features lifestyle information, such as guide dog policy, transportation and accessible restaurants, to help make settling down easier for disabled non-Japanese.

Since his first visit to Japan, Grisdale says accessibility in Japan has greatly improved in a short time, thanks to two new laws: the Heartful Building Law (1994) and the Barrier Free Law (2006). They have resulted in greater accessibility having been enforced for disabled people. However, he still sees plenty of room for improvement.

Many signature Japanese tourist destinations, such as *onsen* and small ramen restaurants, are rarely wheelchair accessible. Traditional designs, including raised entrances and stone steps to fancy restaurants, also prevent many disabled people from fully enjoying Japanese culture.

"I think the most important part of accessibility is for disabled people to have the same experience as everybody else," Grisdale said, adding that architecture which provides accessibility while preserving culture is what Japan needs to

"The most important part of accessibility is for disabled people to have the same experience as everybody else."

concentrate on. He said, "The majority of my accessibility problems are usually just by one step; if I could just get over that one step then I can go into that restaurant or I can go into that store."

Grisdale explained how the entrance of his apartment is a good example of overcoming that one step. He said, "I call it a *genkan* [traditional entrance] in spirit because they've just changed the colour and the flooring so you come in and the first part is linoleum and then there is a very small bump when it changes over to wood panels. But everybody knows when they come, to take off shoes here, and not walk there, so it still keeps the main cultural aspect of it but removes the barrier."

Grisdale emphasized that investment in accessible design and even artificial intelligence is not just for the disabled. As he explains, "It is an investment for the future and your children's future" that provides a range of benefits for elderly people, parents with baby strollers, and the millions of tourists who will come to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. 🍁



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BILATERAL UPBRINGING

Riyo Whitney discusses international education

By Alec Jordan



Riyo Whitney joined Bunka Suginami Canadian International School (BCS) as principal in April, but she's already making her presence felt. The bicultural educator was born in Japan but raised in Canada, and she brings her distinctive background to running this academic institution that offers a dual Japanese–British Columbian high school diploma.

Prior to coming to Japan, Whitney spent 25 years as a teacher and five years as an administrator at several school districts in British Columbia and Alberta, as well as San Mateo County, Northern California. During our conversation, we touched on her history as a teacher and an administrator, the importance of an international education, and how to get Japanese students interested in studying abroad.

Innovation doesn't happen without going outside of the box.

What inspired you, in the beginning, to go into education?

Growing up in Canada, I “represented” Japan in my circles, and I enjoyed sharing my knowledge (albeit a bit limited when I was young) about the culture as well as the language. I was motivated to learn as much as I could about Japan, particularly its sociology and the language, to share with anyone remotely interested. Being bicultural, I’ve always had the sense that knowing another culture and another language helped me better understand and appreciate different perspectives. So I felt, through teaching, I could cultivate a better world — a naive thought that planted the seed for a career in education.

And what led you to take your position at BCS?

I had a good position in a good school district in British Columbia — until I heard about this truly unique opportunity. I felt as if I’d been training all my life for this position! I am able to bring all of my skills and experiences together: administrative

leadership; teaching multiple subjects at all levels, including the university level; international education; curriculum design for the Ministry of Education; and working alongside External Affairs at significant events, such as at a G7 Summit.

Why do you think it is important for students in Japan to have access to a Canadian or an international education?

I think the students here at this school are very lucky to be able to access the British Columbia curriculum here in Japan. This top-rated curriculum opens up doors to the international world, which is important for building global relationships. Traditional teaching has seen the teacher as more active than the students, and students get fed information to memorize. At BCS, we have the students figuratively obtain the “ingredients” and cook them themselves with guidance from the teacher. At our school, graduates obtain both Japanese and British Columbia diplomas, providing more options and access to international universities abroad as well as to high-ranking universities in Japan. Innovation doesn't happen without going outside of the box.

What can be done to encourage more Japanese students to take an interest in studying overseas?

The Japanese government is putting effort towards increasing the proficiency of English skills by Japanese students, but as long as English is taught in a dry and boring manner, students are not going to be interested in English, never mind studying overseas. All stakeholders have to collaborate to make learning of English more meaningful, authentic, and fun. Teachers need on-going professional development and Japanese universities have to reconsider the dreaded grammar-based exams. Also, every globally minded organization and growth-minded association — particularly English-speaking ones such as the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) — has to play a role. That is why I am a CCCJ member: because I think education is one of Canada's most important commodities that need to be promoted. So, people like us need to get out and seize every opportunity to promote Canada and its assets, such as education. When we just talk about it vaguely, it doesn't go anywhere. But if we have something specific that we can promote, such as BCS, then I think it's a start. 🍁

CCCJ EVENTS

Hackathon at White & Case

Meet Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) members, get oriented (if you're a new member), find out more about the work CCCJ committees do, and help come up with solutions to the organization's challenges at this problem-solving event. Drop by and get involved!

Date: August 28

Time: 18:30–20:00

Joint Chamber Rugby World Cup — One Year to Go

While Rugby World Cup 2019 officially starts on September 20, seven foreign chambers of commerce in Japan will be celebrating a year and a night before — September 19 — at Happa-en. Get ready for a *nomihodai* and buffet event with a twist. The event will also be co-hosted by the American, British, French, Italian, Irish, and South African chambers of commerce in Japan.

Date: September 19

Venue: Happa-en

Time: 19:00–21:00

Canadian University Alumni Mixer

Drop by Brew La La, a North American-style craft beer bar in Shimbashi that's just a four-minute walk from the station. Come for the wide selection of craft beers, including Canadian beers, and make sure that you don't miss their famous grilled cheese sandwiches! This is a great chance to meet fellow alumni from universities all across Canada and the perfect opportunity to network.

Date: September 20

Venue: Brew La La, Shimbashi, Tokyo

Time: 20:00–22:00

For more details or to book events: cccj.or.jp

Mercedes-Benz Cole Haan Cup

Tee up at the Atsugi Kokusai Country Club as 72 golfers from North America play against 72 golfers from Europe. This is an event that is organized jointly by the CCCJ, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, and the European Business Council of Japan. Last year, the European team edged out the North American team by eight tenths of a point. Which team will win this year? All proceeds will go to charity. There will be an after party at Mercedes-Benz Connection, close to Tokyo Midtown and Nogizaka Station.

Date: October 5

Venue: Atsugi Kokusai Country Club

Time: Starts at 8:30

Maple Leaf Gala

The premier event of the year for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan, the Maple Leaf Gala will feature a superb five-course meal provided by Tokyo American Club; award-winning, world-class Canadian wines; a surprise duo performance; interactive games; and much, much more. Guests should expect an amazing night of luxury and fun.

Date: November 2

Venue: Tokyo American Club

Time: 18:30–23:00



The Joint Chamber Summer Cocktail event, held on June 7.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan welcomes our newest members!

INDIVIDUALS



Alexander Dmitrenko

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

I am a Canadian with Ukrainian roots. After completing my studies at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, I worked in Toronto and Montréal from 2002 to 2006. I then moved to New York City, from where my career (luckily) brought me to Tokyo in late 2009. As a lawyer at an international law firm that focuses on compliance and disputes, I devote as much of my time as possible to pro bono and CSR-related initiatives in such areas as human rights and supporting orphanages, which is partly why I wanted to join the CCCJ.



Simon Mok

GLP

I currently work as a real estate fund manager at global provider of logistics solutions GLP. Born in Toronto in 1989, I lived in China and France as a child. I was awarded a scholarship in 2012 by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, and went on to study architecture at The University of Tokyo. After graduating, I joined one of the country's top construction companies — Taisei Corporation — and later on started a career in consulting at EY Japan when I discovered my strong interest in finance and investments.



Patrick Boocock

Brookfield Asset Management

Brookfield has been working with Japanese institutions for decades and opened a Tokyo office in 2016. As a long-term owner and operator of real assets, Brookfield has a number of interests in common with corporate Japan. As both Brookfield and I are Canadian, I wanted to join the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan to continue to build on the deep relationships held between Japan and Canada and play a vital role in helping Japanese companies carry out corporate governance reforms and resolve succession planning issues.

SMALL BUSINESS



Duncan Macintyre

SAI Inc.

Originally from Vancouver, I've been running SAI Inc. (saico.com) in Tokyo since 1991. SAI produces videos and writes ad copy in English and Japanese, mainly for corporate communications. We record voiceovers in our broadcast-ready recording studio in Shirokanedai, Tokyo, and field shoot teams in Japan and abroad. We're very much focused on developing stories with our clients. My favourite work is interviewing clients, usually in Japanese, as the starting point of video creation.

THE MATCHMAKER

How a Canadian missionary set the stage for an imperial wedding

By Tim Hornyak

Karuizawa Shaw Memorial Church

Next spring will see a historic change in Japan, home to the world's oldest hereditary monarchy. The current emperor, Akihito, is scheduled to abdicate on April 30, 2019, and his son, Crown Prince Naruhito, will be enthroned as the new emperor on May 1.

Japan hasn't seen an abdication in two centuries. It was in 1817 that Emperor Kokaku stepped aside for the ascension of his son Emperor Ninko, who reigned until 1846. That year, a boy was born in Toronto who later helped pave the way for the first imperial succession of the 21st century.

Alexander Croft Shaw was born into a military family of Scottish heritage, but he took a degree in theology and was ordained by the Anglican Church of Canada. He served as a parish priest in Canada and England.

In London, England, he attended a memorial service that changed his life. Listening to a eulogy by the great orator Samuel Wilberforce that commemorated a missionary slain in the Solomon Islands, Shaw was inspired to spread the Gospel in East Asia. In 1873, he landed in Yokohama with Rev. William Ball Wright as part of an Anglican Church mission.

A CONNECTOR AND AN INFLUENCER

Shaw proved adept at making key connections. Yukichi Fukuzawa, a prominent author and entrepreneur remembered as the founder of Keio University and featured on the current ¥10,000 note, took him on as a tutor for his children.

Shaw began instructing students in ethics and, with Wright's help, converted some 150 young Japanese, including the first native deacon of the Anglican Church in Japan.

Part of his legacy was the flourishing of Karuizawa, now a major tourist destination.

In 1879, he founded St. Andrew's Cathedral in Shiba. It attracted luminaries of the day, including politician Yukio Ozaki, later celebrated as the father of the Japanese constitution.

Seven years later, Shaw brought his wife and children to the little-known town of Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture to escape Tokyo's hot summers. Tucked into the foothills of Mt. Asama at an elevation of about 1,000 meters, Karuizawa is about five degrees cooler than Tokyo in summer.

Shaw built a summer cottage there in 1888 and a chapel in 1895. He encouraged fellow missionaries and other foreigners to join him; upper-crust Japanese followed over the next few decades. In 1894, an old inn called the Kameya, close to Shaw's chapel, was converted into the Western-style Manpei Hotel. It served as a venue for hundreds of missionaries from Japan and China who would gather every summer to plot strategy.

LONG LEGACY

Shaw died of heart failure at age 56 in 1902, after nearly 30 years as a missionary priest in Japan. In recognition for his services to the nation, including lobbying to revise unequal treaties that favoured foreigners, Emperor Meiji presented ¥1,000 to his widow, Mary Ann Cattell. Part of his legacy was the flourishing of Karuizawa, now a town of some 19,000 people and a major tourist destination. It's been a summer retreat for Tokyoites as well as a venue for international events, both religious and athletic — Karuizawa hosted the equestrian portion of the 1964 Summer Olympics and the curling matches in the 1998 Winter Olympics.

A MATCH ON THE COURT

But it was on a Karuizawa tennis court in 1957 that Emperor Meiji's great-grandson, then Crown Prince Akihito, first met Michiko Shoda. The fact that she was a commoner sparked rapturous headlines about the "tennis court fairytale" of Karuizawa. The couple married in 1959 and announced the birth of their first child, Naruhito, the following year.

Shaw was buried in Tokyo's Aoyama Cemetery alongside his wife under a simple cross and a Bible inscription. His chapel was enlarged and renovated in 1922 and is now called the Karuizawa Shaw Memorial Church. It still stands in Karuizawa amid a pastoral grove of larch trees — and has long been a popular spot for Western-style weddings.

Every August at the Shaw Festival, locals place flowers at his bust, which looks out over visitors walking the path to the church door. 🍁

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