



H.I.H. Princess Takamado expresses delight at the blossom on the Sakura sapling as Consul General Takashi Koezuka looks on.

## Princess Takamado Plants Sakura Tree at Queen's University

The Sakura Project's spring 2004 was marked with a planting ceremony at Queen's University in Kingston on June 14, and the participation of a very special guest: Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan.

The donation of 26 Japanese flowering cherry trees to Queen's has special significance, as the University is where Her Highness's late husband, His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado of Japan, studied as a student from 1978 to 1981. Known affectionately as "Japan's Canadian Prince", after returning to Japan, he devoted much of his time and efforts to promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and Canada.

The Sakura Project is an initiative to plant 3,000 Sakura trees around Ontario as a symbol of friendship between Canada and Japan. The purchase, shipping and planting of the Sakura saplings are funded by donations from local Canadians, Japanese Canadians and Japanese nationals. The Sakura Committee, which oversees the project, is chaired by the Consul General of Japan in Toronto, Takashi Koezuka.

"The Princess and her late husband also symbolize the invaluable friendship enjoyed by the people of Japan and of Canada," said Mr. Koezuka in his remarks. "Your Highness, I hope His Highness would be pleased that, through the goodwill and enthusiasm of local donors, we are able to provide this renowned university in this beautiful city with a long-lasting tribute to His Highness himself and to the international friendship which he symbolized in his person."

The planting ceremony was emceed by Dr. William C. Leggett, Queen's University Principal. In attendance also were Federal MP for Kingston Peter Milliken and Kingston Mayor Harvey Rosen. The Princess was in Canada at the invitation of Canadian Foreign Minister, The Honourable Bill Graham, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Canada.

## Farewell to Sakura Committee Chair, Consul General Koezuka

The Sakura Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair, Mr. Takashi Koezuka. Mr. Koezuka has been at the helm of the Project since taking his position as Consul General of Japan in Toronto in August 2001. Out of the 1,283 trees already planted through the Sakura Project, 1,219 were planted for 15 new sites during his tenure as Chair of the Sakura Committee. Mr. Koezuka's dedication and hard work toward the Project and its goals were greatly appreciated. As his time in Toronto comes to an end, we wish him all the best in his future endeavours, and hope he will visit Ontario again sometime when the Sakura trees are in full bloom. The succeeding Sakura Committee Chair will be announced shortly.

## Other Plantings

Since the previous Progress Report of November 2003, the following additional plantings took place during the spring in order to complete or continue with donations which have been announced in the past: Brock University received 197 trees on April 6; Liberty Grand at Exhibition Place received two trees on April 20; Brampton received 58 trees on May 19; York University continued its planting with 35 trees on June 2; the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre received 57 trees on June 10. In addition, supplementing the donation made to Oakville in the spring of last year, 19 of the Project's trees were planted at Gairloch Gardens while an additional nine were planted at Bronte Beach Park.

## Financial Review Complete

The Sakura Project is pleased to announce that the accounting firm of Ernst and Young has conducted its annual review of the Project's financial records, and that, as a result, no exceptions were found.

## The Project

Initiated in the spring of 2000, The Sakura Project aims to plant 3,000 Japanese flowering cherry (Sakura) trees in Ontario over the course of a decade. The Project is administered by the Sakura Committee, comprised of distinguished individuals dedicated to promoting Japan-Canada relations. The Sakura Project is a proud sponsor of the City of Toronto's Tree Advocacy Program

The Japanese hold tremendous affection for the Sakura, its beauty being a source of a great deal of national pride. The objective of this project is to promote friendship and understanding between Japan and Ontario – and between Japan and Canada – through the love of Sakura shared by Japanese and Canadians. For further information and updates on the Sakura Project, please visit: [www.toronto.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/english/sakura/main.html](http://www.toronto.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/english/sakura/main.html).

### The Sakura Committee

**Chair:** Mr. Takashi KOEZUKA, Consul General of Japan in Toronto  
**Vice-Chair:** Mr. John CRAIG, Partner, McMillan Binch  
**Members:** Mr. Scott FUJITA, Landscape Architect, Oakville  
Mr. Sid IKEDA, Special Ambassador, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre  
Mr. James MATSUMOTO, President, The Association of Japanese Canadian Businesses and Professionals  
Mr. Tamotsu (Ted) NAKAMURA, President and CEO, Canon Canada  
Mr. Scott RUTHERFORD, Former President, Canada-Japan Society of Toronto  
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