

# Progress Report

## July 2005



### Welcome/Farewell



The Sakura Committee would like to welcome Mr. Hisao Yamaguchi as Chair of the Sakura Committee. Mr. Yamaguchi succeeds the previous Chair, Mr. Takashi Koezuka, who has since been installed as the Japanese Ambassador to Honduras.

The Sakura Committee would also like to take this opportunity to thank one of its founding members, Mr. Scott Rutherford, Consultant at McKinsey & Company and Past-President of the Canada-Japan Society of Toronto, for his immense contribution to the Sakura Project. Mr. Rutherford has left the Committee, due to work and personal commitments. We wish him continued success in the future, and hope he will enjoy Ontario's Sakura trees when they are in full bloom



### Spring Plantings

The spring 2005 planting season began in earnest on May 4 with the donation of seven trees to the Arboretum at the main campus of the University of Guelph. The University has been instrumental in the success of the Sakura Project, kindly storing and taking care of the trees used for donation. The planting ceremony was held in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the University's David G. Porter Memorial Japanese Garden. Among the 59 people in attendance at the dual ceremonies were University President & Vice-Chancellor Dr. Alastair Summerlee, and Bobbie Porter, wife of the late University of Guelph Professor David Porter, for whom the garden is named.



**Sakura Committee Chair Hisao Yamaguchi at the plantings at University of Guelph (left) and at George S. Henry Academy (right).**

Gorgeous weather and the appearance of Sakura blossoms marked the planting ceremony held May 26 at George S. Henry Academy in Toronto. The high school has been very active in its study of Japan, offering Japanese language courses and organizing an annual Japan Day cultural festival. Accepting the 15 trees on behalf of the school were School Principal Debbie Perrin and Teachers Bob Hall and Sandra Mah. Attending the ceremony were Toronto District School Board Superintendent Gloria and Board Trustee Michael Coteau, Sakura Committee members, and George S. Henry students.

On June 1, Consul-General Yamaguchi and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Alvin Curling celebrated the Sakura Project's donation of three trees to the Assembly with a planting in front of Queen's Park. Present among the 28 attendees at the ceremony were MPPs from all three political parties, as well as executives from Japanese organizations in Toronto and members of the Sakura Committee.



**Mr. Yamaguchi and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Alvin Curling at unveil the plaque at Queen's Park (left); the planting ceremony at Niagara Falls (right).**

Finally, a ceremony to commemorate the donation of 105 trees to The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) was held on June 24. The trees are being planted along Roberts Street (Hwy. 420) in Niagara Falls, the main gateway to the Falls themselves. Among those attending the ceremony were Commission Chairman Jim Williams, Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craiton, Regional Municipality of Niagara Councillor Anne Angelone, Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake Gary Burroughs, City of Niagara Falls Alderman Selina Volpatti, Sakura Committee members and NPC staff.

## **Other Plantings**

Since the previous Progress Report of July 2004, the following additional plantings took place during the spring in order to complete or continue with donations that have been announced in the past: Oakville's Gairloch Gardens received six trees on May 10; York University continued its planting with 15 trees on May 10; Centennial Park, in Toronto, received 40 trees on June 3.

## **Wide-Ranging Support**

The Sakura Project began its fundraising campaign in March 2000. Since the launch of the Sakura Project, Ontario and Japanese citizens and companies have generously donated more than

\$74,000 (as of June 2005). Many thanks are extended to the Sakura Project's financial contributors.



## The Project

Initiated in the spring of 2000, the Sakura Project aims to plant 3,000 Japanese flowering cherry (*Sakura*) trees in the province of Ontario over the course of a number of years. The Project is administered by the Sakura Committee, which has been chaired by Mr. Yamaguchi since October 2004. The Sakura Project is a proud sponsor of the City of Toronto's Tree Advocacy Program.

The Japanese hold tremendous affection for Sakura, its beauty being a source of a great deal of national pride. The aim of this project is to promote friendship and understanding between Japan and Ontario – and between Japan and Canada – by planting donated Sakura trees in public places around Ontario. 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

<b>Chair:</b>	Mr. Hisao YAMAGUCHI, Consul-General of Japan in Toronto
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Mr. John CRAIG, Partner, McMillan Binch Mendelsohn
<b>Members:</b>	Mr. Scott FUJITA, Landscape Architect, Salmona Tregunno, 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
<b>Advisor:</b>	Mr. Ray KACZMARSKI, Research Station Manager, University of Guelph
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