

MESSAGE FROM CONSUL-GENERAL SASAYAMA TAKUYA

August 2022

We are now in the final stages of August. I hope everyone is keeping well.

As of Aug. 18, it has become possible for Canadian citizens considering travel to Japan to apply for visas online. We would be pleased if you are able to make use of this system. As well, starting from Sept. 7, travelers from Canada who have retained their certificate of COVID vaccinations will no longer be required to show a negative result from a test taken 72 hours before departure. The Government of Japan plans to further relax various safety measures and to announce such developments in a timely manner.

Announcement of the Foreign Minister's Commendations

On Aug. 4, this year's recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendations were announced. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the following three recipients who were named in relation to Canada and our Consulate-General:

Jagjit Singh Hans (Tiger Jeet Singh), Chairman of the Tiger Jeet Singh Foundation

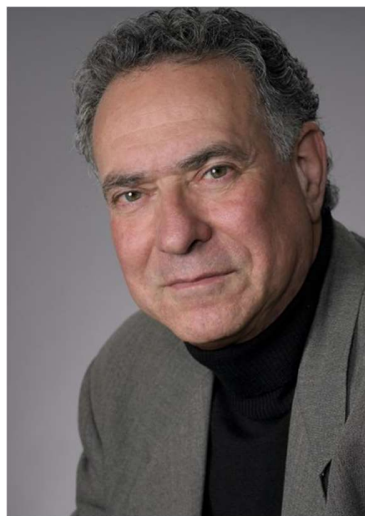
A professional wrestler who needs no introduction and someone who was once very active in Japan. Mr. Singh now calls Milton, a suburb of Toronto, his home and continues to undertake many activities, mainly through his foundation. As the Consul-General of Japan in Toronto, in appreciation of his contributions toward mutual understanding between Japan and Canada, I presented him the Consul-General's Commendation in February of last year, which marked the 10th anniversary of his fundraising initiatives following the Great East Japan Earthquake. I finally had the opportunity to meet him in person just the other day.

I hope his Foreign Minister's Commendation will give him further reason to continue with his important activities in the future.



Barry Joseph Chaim, Founder & CEO, EDO Group of Companies

Although there are many Japanese restaurants in Toronto today, there were only a handful when Mr. Chaim opened his in the 1980s. He not only used authentic Japanese ingredients, but also devoted himself to the promotion of washoku (Japanese cuisine) culture and the traditions and spirit which support it, as well as providing insightful advice to many people. He also helped establish the Japanese Government Scholarship Alumni Association (Ontario) and served as its first President. He constantly took leadership in promoting Japanese culture in Toronto with innovative ideas. We look forward to seeing him continue his invaluable activities for a long time.



MAEDA Noriko, Contemporary Japanese Calligrapher

Maeda Sensei holds tremendously popular calligraphy classes at the University of Waterloo, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) and elsewhere. Since they were moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of students participating from far away has actually increased. For the time being, therefore, this current format will continue. Shodo Canada holds a calligraphy exhibition each year, and I am always impressed by the high quality of the works on exhibit. This also certainly stems from Ms. Maeda's steady guidance over the years. The instructor's cheerful and lively personality is a large factor supporting the popularity of a classroom. I look forward to seeing further development of her courses in the future.

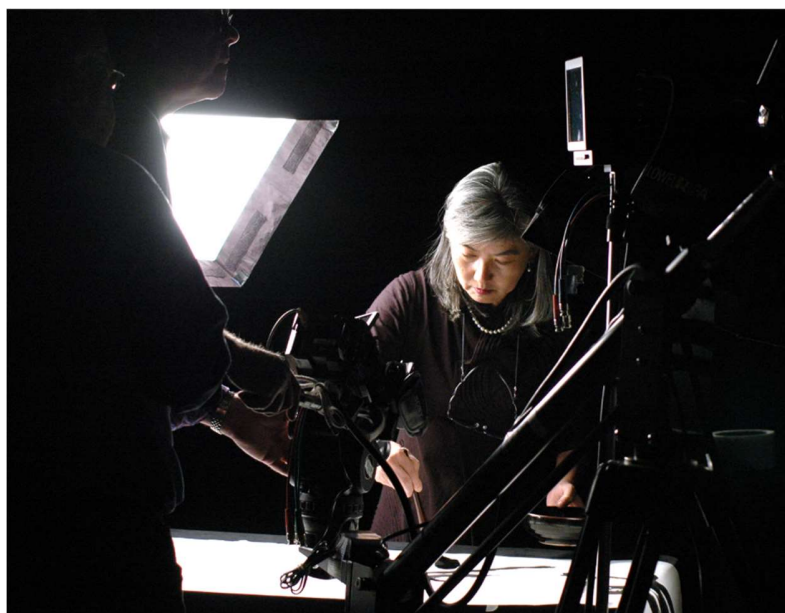


Photo Credit: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

Japan Festival CANADA in Mississauga

On Aug. 20 and 21, Japan Festival CANADA was held in-person for the first time in three years to tremendous success in Celebration Square in front of the Mississauga Civic Centre. I attended on the afternoon of the first day to give remarks during the opening ceremonies.

Stalls and exhibits were lined up under the clear summer sky, and participating in the festival were not only local Japanese nationals but residents from all walks of life.

In addition to Her Worship Bonnie Crombie, Mayor of Mississauga, the opening ceremonies were attended by: The Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Canadian Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion; The Hon. Victor Oh, Canadian Senator for Ontario (Mississauga); Ms. Rechie Valdez, Member of Parliament (Mississauga—Streetsville); and Ms. Nina Tangri, Member of Provincial Parliament (Mississauga—Streetsville). Former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, who turns 101 this year, also made an appearance and spoke eloquently on the sister-city relations between Mississauga and Kariya, as well as on the presence of Japanese businesses in Mississauga. Her formidable stamina was apparent from the fact that she was attending other events on that exceptionally hot day. She undoubtedly left a strong impression on festival attendants.

This event was organized by the Japan Festival CANADA Committee (represented by Mr. WAKASA Teruyuki). It began in 2016, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado even attended the opening of the 2019 festival to commemorate the 90th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Canada. With booths established by Japanese companies and local businesses, it was a very enjoyable two days that boosted grass-roots support of Japan-Canada and Japan-Ontario relations.

