

RECONCILIATION

RESPECT & RECONCILIATION
CANADIANS
LIVING IN
BRITISH
COLUMBIA
WERE FORCED
FROM THEIR
HOMES AND
LIVELIHOODS
DURING WORLD
WAR 2.



Reconciliation

The University of Victoria's Japanese Canadian community is celebrating the grand opening of the new Gorge Park Pavilion, a landmark recognition of the local impacts of discrimination that shattered a community 80 years ago.

B A H A D

When the doors opened to the newly constructed Gorge Park Pavilion this past June, it offered landmark recognition of the local impacts of discrimination that shattered a community 80 years ago.

In 1942, the Japanese Canadian community on the West Coast was torn apart by the federal government. Over 22,000 Japanese Canadians—the majority Canadian citizens by birth—were deported from a federally defined “protected zone” along BC’s coast and sent to internment camps in the interior of the province and beyond

as a purported national security measure. Among the uprooted were brothers Kensuke and Hayato Takata, owner-operators of a popular Japanese-style tea house and garden—Canada’s first—in what is now Esquimalt’s Gorge Park. The government seized the Takatas’ estate, as with all Japanese Canadians’ property aside from the one or two suitcases they were allowed to take with them on their person to the internment camps. However, under the government’s neglectful custodianship, the property quickly fell victim to looters and vandals, and was left to waste. It wasn’t until 1949, four years after the end of the

war, that Japanese Canadians were allowed back to the coast. The Takatas, their livelihood in Victoria ruined, relocated to Toronto to start over.

Speaking at the grand opening of the new pavilion, Dillon Takata, great-grandson of former tea-house owner Kensuke, related his personal experience as an example of the disruption and trauma that internment and dispossession had on the Japanese Canadian community.

“I grew up, like many Japanese Canadians of my generation, disconnected from the past, cut off from my roots,” Takata recalled. “I carried a Japanese name, but had

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THE FUTURE IS NOW

A new front-door to UVic opens this month to advance health and life sciences innovation, in partnership with Vancouver Island Life Sciences.

The UVic BioInnovation Hub is a collaborative workspace in Saanich where entrepreneurs and life sciences organizations can connect with UVic researchers, access equipment and tools, share resources, showcase new technologies, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Located in the Saanich Plaza retail mall (across from Uptown, above Soccerworld and adjacent to Save-on-Foods) the Hub provides short-term incubator space for early-stage start-ups and hot-desk capacity during its operating hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Other occupants and users of the 1,188-square-foot space include private firms and professional-services companies in the life science co-



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