

Information Package

Your story is important; every memory helps build our history, even if they are just bits and pieces.

At the Conference, we hope you will feel comfortable enough to share your memories of the war years, with us. A list of questions is provided to help you remember your war year memories. Each story telling participant will be asked to speak for 20 minutes in a comfortable, small group setting, and share their stories with others who experienced the war. Those who did not experience the war or who prefer not to share their stories will be given the opportunity to listen to the roundtable discussion. If the story tellers agree, the session will be videotaped in order to preserve this part of the Japanese Canadian history for future generations.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to ask Lisa Uyeda at 416-441-2345 ext 303, lisa.uyeda@jccc.on.ca

What is your greatest memory of the time between 1941 – 1945?

Where were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941?

What was your reaction to the news, how did you feel? What age were you at the beginning of the war years?

Were you in Canada?

- Were you/your family relocated across Canada?
- What were you able to pack and take with you?
- What did you leave behind?
- Where were you located during the war in Canada?
- Was your family able to stay together?
- Describe what your living conditions were like
- Where did you sleep, eat, wash, etc
- Were you working at this time?
- Where were you working, what did your job entail, how long did you work for?
- What were your interactions like with non-Japanese individuals? RCMP?
- How did others treat you during the war years?
- Describe your school days
- Where did you go to school, what was the class size, what grades did you study, did you study English and Japanese, what games did you play in school, who was your teacher(s)?
- What did you do to stay in touch with friends and family?
- What was your daily life like? What did you do during the week and on weekends?
- What was the weather like, what do you remember about the summer and winter times?
- How did you or your family help contribute to building the Japanese Canadian community during the war years?
- How did you learn about any news during the war years; where did you gather updated information on the war?
- How did you cope with the racial prejudice, did you experience this first hand during the war years?

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Were you in Japan?

- Where were you located during the war in Japan?
- What was your reaction when you first heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor?
- What did you do for shelter, food, staying together as a family, school, friends, work/income, and correspondence with other family members?
- What was your daily life like? What did you do during the week and on weekends?
- What was the weather like, what do you remember about the summer and winter times?
- What did your city/town/prefecture look like during the war years?
- What were the reactions of those around you during the war years?
- How did you cope with the racial prejudice, did you experience this first hand during the war years?
- What difficulties did you encounter during this time in Japan?
- How did others treat you during the war years?
- How did you learn about any news during the war years; where did you gather updated information on the war?
- How did you get back to Canada?

Were you in the Army?

- Why did you decide to join the army?
- What was your 'job description' in the army?
- What position(s) were you in the army?
- What training did you receive to help you prepare?
- Where were you located?
- How many other Japanese Canadians were with you?
- Was your life ever at risk?
- What did you do to ensure your survival?
- How did others treat you during the war years?
- What was your daily life like? What did you do during the week and on weekends?
- What was the weather like, what do you remember about the summer and winter times?
- How did you cope with the racial prejudice, did you experience this first hand during the war years?