



Lakehead
Japanese
Cultural
Association

Summer Newsletter

August 2026

Member Organization of the
National Association of Japanese Canadians

Volume 34
Issue 3

LAKEHEAD JAPANESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

SUMMER MATSURI

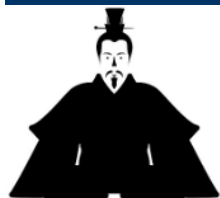
(JAPANESE FESTIVAL)

AUGUST 15
4:30 PM - 9:30 PM

WEST THUNDER
COMMUNITY CENTRE
915 EDWARD ST S



ARIGATO GOZAIMASU, TO OUR 2026 MATSURI SPONSORS!!



EMPEROR:
\$1000+



99.9 THE BAY
70's, 80's & 90's



SHOGUN:
\$500- \$999



ON TB ELECTRIC inc.
Electrical & Data

GORE
MOTORS



SAMURAI: \$250- \$499

WAYNE



SUMO: \$100- \$249

MAROSTICA



KEN
TERAMURA

INTERCITY INDUSTRIAL
FICODIS

BMO Private Wealth

Jamie Glover, PFP®
SENIOR INVESTMENT ADVISOR
BMO Nesbitt Burns

どうもありがとうございます



4th Annual Summer Matsuri



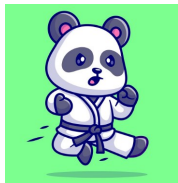
ENTERTAINMENT



VinaMiniS Dancers



Judo



Karate



Kimono Dressing Demo



Aozora Festival Song



Iaido



Karaoke



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!



e-mail us at
Ljcamatsuri@gmail.com

Amazingly, the 4th Annual Summer Matsuri is coming up again this August. To continue making this event a big success, we continue to ask for your help & support! There are so many ways that you can support this incredible event!



1. VOLUNTEER

If you can spare some time on August 15th and/or 16th, we could use your help with a variety of tasks throughout both days, from cutting paper or putting up signs, to setting up table and chairs. Have an hour to spare? Great! Have a whole day available? Awesome!



If you're able to volunteer, please contact us at ljcamatsuri@gmail.com with attention to Laura Sutton.

2. DONATE

Do you have any Japanese items, eg. rice bowls, tea sets, dolls, lacquerware, etc., that are in good condition that you would like to donate to the LJCA? We'll take them! We will be having a White Elephant sale with proceeds going to help support the LJCA. To donate items, please contact us at ljcamatsuri@gmail.com with attention to Tania Hashiguchi.



3. PROMOTE

We're hoping for another big turn out and we need your help to spread the word! Tell your friends, family, coworkers neighbours and even random people on the street about the festival. Share our Facebook and Instagram posts, put up a poster in your business (or work!), install a billboard outside your house, shout it from the rooftops or simply walk around town in a sumo suit and give out flyers! **LET'S DO THIS!**



COSPLAY CONTEST



STARTS AT 7:00 PM

- POSITIVITY PARADE
- "SPIRIT OF THE MATSURI"

AWARD

REGISTER ONLINE OR
AT THE MATSURI



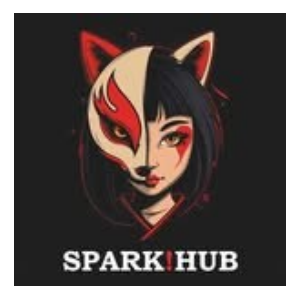
REGISTER
HERE 



**55+
CLUB**



Phantastic Plushies



SALWEEN RESTAURANT
THAI & KAREN CUISINE



STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THE THINGS!
Follow the "Lakehead Japanese Cultural Association" and
"Kaminari Wan Taiko" on Facebook and @ljca.tbay on Instagram.
Like, Share and Follow us NOW!



2026 LJCA Elected & Appointed Positions

Executive Members:

President: Kristi Judge
Past President: Jim Squier
Vice President: ★★ VACANT ★★
Treasurer: Angela Foreman
Secretary: Gabriel Seller

Executive Directors:

Vincent Airey
Earl McIvor
Sarah Umakoshi
★★ VACANT ★★

Committee Chairs:

Education & Cultural: Vacant
Fundraising: Kristi Judge
Membership: Kristi Judge
★ Social: ★★ VACANT ★★
Phoning: Jo-Anne Iwasa
★ Youth: ★★ VACANT ★★
By-Law Review: Steven Seller
Summer Matsuri: Angela Foreman

Representatives:

WTCC Board Rep.: Kristi Judge
TB Multicultural Assoc.: Jim Squier
★ NAJC Human Rights: ★ VACANT ★
55 Plus Club: Sharon Young
Newsletter: Kristi Judge
NAJC: Kristi Judge
Fuji Dancers: Geraldine Vignuda
Social Media: Tania Hashiguchi
Kaminari Wan Taiko: Kristi Judge



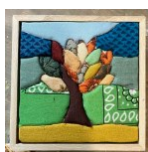
UPCOMING EVENTS



2026 SUMMER MATSURI
Saturday, August 15th
4:30-9:30pm, WTCC

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, November 21st
@ noon, West Thunder C. C.



KINUSAIGA WORKSHOP
Coming this Fall....
.....Details to Follow

2027 AGM & POT-LUCK

Saturday, January 23rd, 5pm
West Thunder C. C.



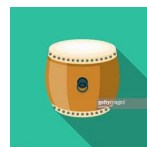
Clubs & Groups



55+ CLUB
1st Saturday of the month @
WTCC, at 2:00pm
Call Sharon @ 807-623-8318

KAMINARI WAN TAIKO

Sundays 5:30-8:30 @ WTCC
Call Kristi @ 807-632-7896



FUJI DANCERS

Mondays, 6:30-8pm, WTCC
Call Geri @ 807-577-1633

KIDS ODORI DANCING

Sundays 2:30-3:30pm, WTCC
Call Geri @ 807-577-1633



WEST THUNDER 10TH ANNUAL CORN ROAST & VENDORS MARKET



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026 11AM TO 3PM
915 EDWARD STREET SOUTH



At this years' WTCC Corn Roast, be sure to check out performances by our very own Fuji Dancer and the childrens odori group, along with Kaminari Wan Taiko, as well as the LJCA 55+ Club's table of goodies!





2026 LJCA MEMBERSHIP

AS AT JULY 31, 2026



Airey, Vincent	Single	Howardson, John & Norine	Snr Family	Sameshima, Michael & Pauline	Family
Arinobu, Janet	Snr Single	Inaba, Ken & Dorothy	Snr Family	Seller, Wayne & Amy	Snr Family
Axent, Sandy	Snr Single	Iwasa, Jo-Anne	Snr Single	Seller, Steven & Nicole	Family
Ball, Michelle	Snr Single	Judge, Mike & Kristi	Family	Shozawa, Lynne	Snr Single
Boyko, Emily	Single	Klein, Lynn & Manfred	Snr Family	Sorlie, Rick & Donna	Snr Family
Boyko, Grant	Single	Klein, Daniel & Stacey Cham-Klein	Family	Sugawara, Caroline & Steven Marko	Family
Costanzo, Alicia & Louisa	Family	Kotyk, Eugene	Snr Single	Sugawara, Margaret	Snr Single
Coward, Jason & Leanne	Family	Lafleche, Valerie	Snr Single	Sugawara, Sumiye	Single
Crichton, Jim & Faith Sakamoto	Snr Family	Laskowski, Ramona	Family	Sutton, Paul & Laura	Family
Delzotto, David & Daryle Martin	Snr Family	Laudone, Mathew & Amber	Single	Tsubouchi, Terry & Ivana	Snr Family
Donaldson, Sharon	Snr Single	Malley, Shaun	Single	Umakoshi, Bruce & Nancy	Snr Family
Dunstan, Jim & Karen	Snr Family	Martin, Doreen	Single	Umakoshi, Courtney	Single
Eddington, Jane	Snr Single	McIvor, Earl	Family	Umakoshi, Sarah	Single
Foreman, Jamie & Angela	Family	Medicine, Suzanne	Snr Family	Vignuda, Geraldine	Single
Freitag, Randy & Susan Takahashi	Snr Family	Mitsunaga, Wayne	Family	Vignuda, John & Mahogany McGuire	Family
Fuchihara, Robert & Jerron	Snr Family	Murakami, Farrell & Helen	Snr Family	Young, David & Sharon	Snr Family
Fukushima, Gordon & Catherine	Snr Family	Murakami, Hayden & Linzie	Family	Zgolak, Rafal & Susan	Family
Green, Kevin & Tara	Family	Oda, Jay & Cindy	Snr Single		
Griffith, Martin	Single	Oda, Sets	Snr Family		
Gummeson, Mariko	Snr Single	Oshimo, Doug & Pam	Family		
Gummeson, Gary & Janis	Family	Oshimo, Wesley & Allison Kaastan	Family		
Gummeson, Guy	Single	Preston, Andrew & Michelle	Snr Family		
Hashiguchi, Edie	Snr Single	Sakamoto, Mary & Lawrie	Snr Single		
Hashiguchi, Tania	Single	Sakiyama, Cindy	Snr Single		
Hoshizaki, Edith	Snr Single	Sakiyama, Gord	Snr Single		

If your name is missing,
please contact Kristi Judge at
807-632-7896 or email to
kristi.oshimo@gmail.com



LJCA SCHOLARSHIP

It is with great pleasure that the Board announce Sammy Mitsunaga as the winner of the 2026 LJCA Scholarship. Sammy

more than deserves the award and has added it to the many others he received for his incredible efforts in high school, including;

- Lakehead University Academic Scholarship of Free Tuition
- Bay Credit Union Bursary
- Terry and Janice Redden Family Bursary
- Danny Clara Legacy Fund Bursary
- SCVI Science Department Award, specifically in University Preparation Biology

- SCVI Art Department Award
- SCVI School Council Character Award

Choosing to stay in Thunder Bay also meant turning down Trent University's Prestigious Special Admissions Scholarship and Full Tuition Entrance Scholarship. Wow! This fall, Sammy will be entering Lakehead University's Honours Bachelor of Science in Chemistry program, with hopes to also pursue a minor in visual arts. At LU, he hopes to excel in his chemistry undergraduate degree while also working towards a future as a Ph.D. academic research chemist. (Anyone else feel like an underachiever?) As the designer behind the LJCA's new logo, Sammy will have a lasting impression on our community.



Sammy also wrote a sincere letter of thanks to the LJCA, ending with "I am thankful to be a part of a community that invests in its members and future. The LJCA's recognition and celebration of my accomplishments have made a lasting impact on both my personal and academic journey, and I hope to continue working with our community in the future."

55+ CLUB

Contact
Information
Sharon: 623-8318
Gerri: 577-1633

The Club's wind-up luncheon was held at the beginning of June. The meal was again catered by WTCC and enjoyed by all. We had 20 attendees and small pots of flowers were won by many. A cheque was written to the LJCA in June to cover our portion of the rent for the year. Eleven members of the 55+ club volunteered to work at

West Thunder's Volunteer Appreciation dinner at the end of May. 30 dozen Yaki Manju were baked by volunteers in July in preparation for the Matsuri Festival on August 15. The 55+ club will have a table inside the gym to sell Manju and other baked items. We will also be at WTCC Corn Roast on Sunday, August 30. We will be selling

baking at the LJCA tent. I would like to thank all of our members and friends that volunteer and participate in all of our activities. It would not be possible without you. We will resume regular meetings in September.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Young



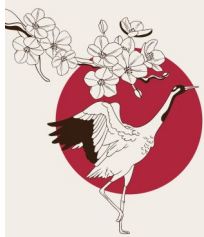
FOLKLORE IS BACK!!!

After the event was cancelled last year, the Folklore Festival returned this year and the Fuji Dancers and Kaminari Wan Taiko were so excited to take the stage again at their biggest performances of the year. The beautiful dancers performed

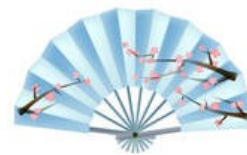
three dances on Saturday and this year was especially fun as the new children's odori group also got to perform a dance for the crowd (minus a sick Bailey). Ayla, Tegwyn, Ava, Juliet and Eiko did a great job, making Gerri a very proud sensei and bachan!

Folklore is such a great event, we're so happy it's back, especially as an excuse to wear kimono!





Keiro Kai 2026



The 2026 Keiro Kai had the pleasure to honour Jay & Cindy Oda and Gord Sakiyama. As always, the luncheon featured way too much food and punch and even more fun. It's so great to get together and catch up with friends and family. For the second year in a row, the annual hot potato game ended with

age prevailing over youth, with Farrell (below) walking away with the prize (of a bag of potatoes, obviously!!)

Huge thanks to the many volunteers who helped put the event together. This event in particular, cannot be done without you!

– Respectfully submitted, Kristi Judge





FROM THE OFFICE

Where has the first half of 2026 gone? Seriously. I can't fit everything into these 10 pages....so we're going to have to save some things for the next issue!

★★2026 SUMMER MATSURI★★

The 4th Annual Matsuri is around the corner. Hopefully you've already read about it and planning to attend. I'll see you there!

★CREEKSIDE FUNDRAISER SUCCESS★

This spring, we participated in a fundraiser offered by Creekside and Trevisanutto's Greenhouses, Just in time for Mother's Day. Our efforts were a big success - a big thank you to everyone who purchased gift cards in support of the LJCA.

★MIDWEST NIKKEI CONFERENCE★

In May, Vincent Airey, Tara Green and I travelled to Regina for the 3rd annual

conference, hosted by the Regina Japanese Cultural Club. There is too much to share so I will hold off and include a full article in the fall newsletter.

★CBI UPDATE & OFFICE REORG★★

The office is slowly transforming and by the end of summer should have a new look. The hope is to encourage more people to visit the library and learn more about the treasures held inside. We have purchased a new, large screen projector to be able to hold movie nights, showcasing Japanese entertainment and educational/historical films for our members and community to enjoy. We are also continuing with our efforts of rebranding. The City will be installing our exterior signage which will better permanently advertise our home and existence! I'm excited and hopeful that our efforts will result in the growth of

our organization.

★★KINUSAIGA WORKSHOP★★



Kinusaiga is a traditional Japanese artform that uses small scraps of fabric to *paint with cloth*; there is no sewing involved. I urge

you to google it and get as excited as we are about it! We aim to hold this workshop in the fall. Once details are finalized, we will share the details. If anyone knows any quilters or tailors that may have scraps we can have, please let me know!



Thank you,
Kristi Judge, President
807-632-7896
kristi.oshimo@gmail.com



BORDERCATS NIGHT

Our last spring fundraiser was a follow-up to last years' successful Bordercats baseball night, held during the Midwest Nikkei Conference. 35 members and friends cheered on the Cats from the great vantage point atop the 3rd base tiki hut (a last minute location change). It was a fun night of cheers, giggles and socializing. The weather provided a beautiful night that ended in a Bordercats win to close out their home opener weekend 2 and 0.



TOMOSHIBI BUS TOUR

Last summer my sister, Sheri Robertson, and I traveled to BC and joined the Internment Camp bus tour. This tour is facilitated by the Nikkei Museum and Cultural Centre in Burnaby. We started off thinking we wanted to know more information about our paternal family's experiences. Like many other Yonsei (fourth generation Japanese Canadian), we knew very little about what happened during the war and internment.

I will summarize some of the highlights from our trip.

We met so many wonderful people. The travelers who were with us on this journey all had their own stories to tell. The guides who educated us at the different sites or on our bus, have impacted us deeply. Their compassion and ability to explain the unimaginable taught us the details of what happened. The emotional support team on the bus helped us navigate the feelings we didn't know would affect us and bonded us together as a community on a journey.



As we traveled on a tour bus through the interior of BC we made new friends and learned the stories about Hastings Park, Tashme, Greenwood, Slocan, Popoff, Bay Farm, Lemon Creek, Sandon, New Denver, East Lillooet. We learned that even though the story is sad and has some really devastating events, the Japanese Canadians are a proud community. They turned lemons in the lemonade like we have never heard of before.



In these ghost towns and farmers fields, little tents or shacks were put up for our ancestors to live in. From nothing, they made a community of people, fixed their shacks up so they were more liveable, they planted gardens to



provide more food, they danced and played baseball. When it was all over, the fields went back to fields and our ancestors, once again were uprooted and sent further east. This is why Sheri and I are here, in Thunder Bay. Our grandparents, Ruby and Masao Hashiguchi settled in Fort William. They brought with them, our father, Gerry Hashiguchi, who was born in New Denver, in his internment camp.

What we learned is far more than I can ever write in this newsletter, but I encourage you to follow some of the links posted here to explore further writing that I've done since the bus tour.

You can read the report from JC Legacies Family Sharing and Healing, written by Lucy Komori At <https://jclebrities.com/intergenerational-wellness-report/> You can download and read the report a few paragraphs down on that website under the heading "2026 Study. Intergenerational Wellness: thoughts and Reflections from Family Sharing and Healing Grant Recipients."

Also, you can read a journal that I wrote for part of my University of Victoria's Internment Camp Field School. This can be found in this year's publication of Nikkei Images. I will submit a written report about this experience in the next newsletter. You can download the publication at <https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/research/nikkei-images/>



**COME VISIT US AT
THE MATSURI AND
CHECK OUT THE
INTERMENT CAMP
PHOTO DISPLAY IN
MP2.**





KWT performed at the Folklore Festival with an ensemble showcasing the thundering sound of the drums to the full house.

Speaking of thunder, the Bay & Algoma Buskers Festival is one of our faves and

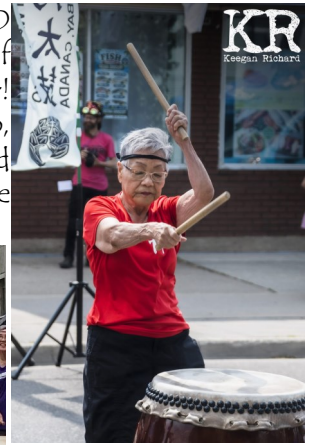
this year, we brought the thunder AND the rain, playing the last 2 minutes of our last song in an absolute downpour! It made for a SUPER fun ending but also, do not recommend, LOL. The crowd sought cover but stayed to the end - the best audience!! See you at Matsuri!



Chondon Photography



Chondon Photography



Chondon Photography



REGISTER NOW FOR 2026 ! ! ! ! !

The LJCA would like to thank everyone for their continued support by purchasing a membership.

Please forward membership fees to:

LJCA Membership
c/o 915 Edward Street S.
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6R2

Family	\$55.00
Single	\$30.00
Senior Family	\$25.00 (1 person must 60+)
Senior Single	\$15.00 (60 & over)
Youth	\$15.00 (under 21)



2026 LJCA MEMBER INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

In our ongoing effort to update and correct our membership information, please complete this form and submit it along with your membership fees, to the address above. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

PAYMENT BY: ☐ Cash or ☐ Cheque MEMBERSHIP: ☐ Family \$55 ☐ Single \$30 ☐ Sr. Family \$25 ☐ Sr Single \$15 ☐ Youth \$15

FAMILY NAME: _____ PHONE No.: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

Please let us know a complete list of (household) family members, including birthdate and email address. By submitting your email address, the LJCA assumes that you would prefer to receive communications via email.

NAME:	BIRTHDAY (mm/dd/year)	email	Interested in Volunteering?
1 _____	_____	_____	☐
2 _____	_____	_____	☐
3 _____	_____	_____	☐
4 _____	_____	_____	☐
5 _____	_____	_____	☐