

## **Disaster Relief for Japan Actions in Japanese Communities in Canada April 15, 2011 Update**

Japanese communities across Canada have been busy organizing events to raise money for the victim of the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster in Japan. As of March 25, 2011, I found out the following events.

In **Whitehorse**, B.C., the Whitehorse Japanese Canadian Association arranged two film showings and raised \$1,100 from the first showing alone. The association is planning to do some fundraising too.

The Japanese Canadian Association of Yukon also held on April 3 a fundraising event , "Japanese Village Festival" and introduced Yukoners to cultural activities and demonstrations geared for the whole family.

In **Vancouver**, more than twenty groups got together and established the "British Columbia Japan Earthquake Relief Fund." This fund has started coordinating fundraising activities of many groups which offered their assistance to set up donations boxes at their places of activities. The fund is also planning a major fundraising concert at Queen Elizabeth Theatre on April 16 featuring Canadian and Japanese musicians.

In **Kamloops**, a fundraising dinner was held at Duffy's Pub on March 20. The regular Monthly Udon Lunch on March 25 raised money and net proceeds was donated to the Japan Disaster Fund. The Annual NAJC Fun Casino is scheduled for April 16, and the proceeds from this fundraiser will also go to the Japan Disaster Fund. A fund raising Roast Beef Dinner catered by the JC Cultural Centre crew was held at the Cultural Centre on April 9. A silent auction was held in conjunction with the dinner. A Family Pancake breakfast will be held at the Cultural Centre on May 1 with admission by donation.

In **Calgary**, the New Japanese Canadian Association had a fundraising open house on March 19. The Calgary Japanese Canadian Association (CJCA) is also engaged in fundraising. CJCA will hold a Gala Dinner on the Evening of April 17, 2011 and hopes to have between 500 to 700 people in attendance. The dinner will feature a silent and a live auction, as well as a 50/50 draw with all net proceeds being donated to the cause.

In **Lethbridge**, the Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area is passing information to local residents on how to donate money to help the victims of the earthquake/tsunami.

In **Winnipeg**, the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association and the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre jointly held a fundraising event on March 20. The event included an silent auction, entertainment, refreshments, speeches from government dignitaries and taking donations.

In **Lakehead**, Ontario, the Lakehead Japanese Cultural Association and the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association jointly held a donation drive on March 20 and gave a sushi bento to 175 people who donated more than \$15. The sushi bento had miso soup, one rice ball, one teriyaki chicken drumstick, three pieces of makizushi, one inarizushi, and one-quarter of an orange.

In **Toronto**, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre has created a special, dedicated disaster relief fund to aid the victims of the Tohoku Kanto earthquake in Japan. In the first phase, the centre directs donations to the Japanese Red Cross through the Canadian Red Cross. Over the next months, the centre will organize a number of special concerts and film showings.

In the next phase of recovery and rebuilding, the centre will consult with the Japanese and Canadian government to allocate donations to effectively rebuild communities in the Tohoku region of Japan.

**Toronto National Association of Japanese Canadians (National)**

A major fund raising concert is now being planned in Toronto by the National office of the National Association of Japanese Canadians and the Sociology and Equity Studies in Education, OISE, University of Toronto. The concert will be held at the end of April and local and international artists will be performing to raise funds for the Canadian Red Cross relief efforts in Japan.

In **Hamilton**, the Canadian Japanese Cultural Centre is encouraging its members and local residents to donate money to the Canadian Red Cross.

In **Ottawa**, the Ottawa Japanese Community Association and the Ottawa Japanese Cultural Centre is posing on its web site a schedule of fundraising events by various groups including the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Culinary Federation and the Ottawa Chapter of the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association,