

Lost rights because of security fears

Family moved into park horse stalls after father's fishing boat taken away

Terry Nakagawa was born and brought up in a little village close to Port Rupert, British Columbia, and she remembers being among the first Japanese-Canadians to be moved south to Vancouver.

"When the war started, we were among the first to be evicted, because they started from the north," Mrs. Yahiro (nee Nakagawa) of Georgetown's Chelvin Drive recalled.

Her father Sasuke Nakagawa, was a fisherman with his own boat. However, the boat was taken away from him in 1942, and Mrs. Yahiro, now 58, doesn't remember if her father was reimbursed for the loss of his boat.

A young teenager at the time, Terry and her brother and two sisters were put on the train to Vancouver. Her father, mother and baby sister made the trip by boat because Mrs. Sute Nakagawa was in ill-health. It was February.

The train seats slid into beds, Terry remembers, and best of all, she remembers being served toast and boiled eggs in the morning.

From tiny port Essington, the Nakagawa family moved into the horse stalls at Vancouver's Hastings Park. They were among the first Japanese families moved into the race track built for horse racing.

"My father was a veteran from the First World War, and, I think it was because of that, he didn't have to go to road camp like the other Japanese men," Mrs. Yahiro said.

At Hastings Park, the men and women were segregated in the buildings. The floor was concrete and there was lots of noise.



"I remember sleeping on the top bunk, from where I could see everybody from above the stalls and wave to people," Mrs. Yahiro smiled. "We put curtains across the stalls to have privacy."

The ailing Mrs. Nakagawa didn't have to line up for meals in the mess hall like the rest of her family. Instead, she ate her meals inside the same building, at a special dining hall for invalids.

Eventually the family was able to arrange for Mrs. Nakagawa to stay with relatives who lived in Vancouver, so she could be a little more comfort-



Terry Yahiro and her daughter, Diane, with their dogs Whiskey and Samantha. Born in Canada, Mrs. Yahiro says she's not much involved with the Japanese Canadian community.

able, at least until the family moved from Hastings Park to the B.C. interior August end.

"We moved to a place called Sandon. It used to be a mining town at one time, and was a ghost town," Mrs. Yahiro said. "My mother died there in November. She was 44."

An aunt was with them and the Nakagawa family relied on her after the death of Mrs. Nakagawa.

Mrs. Yahiro remembers a long kitchen table and benches being shared with several other families at Sandon. Again there were bunkbeds, and Mrs. Yahiro would clamber up every night to sleep.

"There was a building there that was used as a church, and a makeshift hospital," she said. Mrs. Yahiro joined the other children at the classes begun by the Sisters of Sacred Heart, nuns in white gowns.

The family was moved to Bayfarm and Mrs. Yahiro continued her studies under the Sisters of Assumption nuns,

Although acknowledging they have a point in seeking compensation for Japanese losses in World War 2, Mrs. Yahiro says her attitude is to let bygones be bygones. (Herald photo)

eventually earning her high school diploma.

It was there that the repatriation question was circulated amongst the Japanese-Canadians; they were given the choice of either returning to Japan or going east of the Rockies.

"What do you think?"

Should liquor and wine be sold in the corner stores?

The Halton Hills anti-drinking and driving committee wants to air its views before the provincial task force looking into this proposal.

A town committee, the drinking and driving group were told to make a report on what their views are and bring it to council for approval before heading out to the task force.

Monday night, councillors said they wanted to know where the committee stood before it went off representing the town on this controversial issue.

A suggestion was made that committee members appear before the task force as individuals, but Coun. Dave Whiting felt that their views would still reflect on the town.

The new council, which sits in December, will have to deal with this matter, when the committee report comes back.

Former waterbed store to be converted into home hardware outlet on Guelph

Written comments are being received by the town until Nov. 28 on the application to rezone the former Irwin Dorsey property from industrial to commercial.

Dec. 9, the newly elected councillors will be debating this application, and a staff report with comments and additional data as to the merits of the change will be available.

The 2.49 acre property at the northeast corner of Guelph Street and Sinclair Avenue in Georgetown has 23,000 square feet and a numbered company wants to develop it so it houses restaurant, financial institution, office uses and a home-hardware wholesale operation and retail outlet of 10,000 feet.

At Monday night's council meeting, the solicitor for the numbered company said his client is someone currently in the hardware business in town, operating in a two floor facility which is proving to be restrictive and a handicap for future development.

Noting the Irwin Dorsey building has been empty for the last two years

since Halsey's Waterbeds moved out and most recently Mike Armstrong's campaign supporters, lawyer Bert Arnold said it's been a difficult building to get any industry to take on because of its size.

Mr. Arnold said he is applying for an Official Plan amendment to permit the commercial and retail uses intended for the site.

He noted the nature of the building, much like a warehouse is ideal for his client who currently has problems storing 12 foot planks and heavy hardware. As well, the larger building will allow his client to get into building, electrical and plumbing supplies, for the industrial park just behind.

"The applicant feels there's a market for these supplies in town. We're just trying to keep the dollars in Halton Hills rather than going to Toronto, Brampton or Hamilton," Mr. Arnold said.

Nobody spoke either in favor or in opposition to the application to make these amendments to the Official Plan and to the property zoning.

"SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO"

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'You did this to my people?'

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and read the history of the Japanese-Canadians and I thought, "Damn you, God damn you, you did this to my people when they came over?" Mrs. Ibuki said, her voice shaking - still after so many years. "And I was so proud just a few days before..."

"My eldest son, when he read and learned about the evacuation, he said

"Mom, did that really happen?" When I said yes, he said "God damn them," Mrs. Ibuki said. "He's a journalist now and he's proud."

"I don't want to talk about it too much now, because the years have gone by," she said. "That's water under the bridge as far as I'm concerned."

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