

THE JAPANESE- CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

Experience the serenity and peace of our natural environment, as expressed through Japanese Garden architecture and culture. This exclusive tour will be led by a local historical expert and one of our hosts, and will provide a detailed understanding of why the Garden became a tribute to the Japanese. Hear about the internment camps, pre-war Japanese settlements, and how the formation of this Canadian Japanese garden was influenced by many over the years. By discovering the history behind this signature Lethbridge attraction, one can further appreciate it's standing as the most unique Centennial Projects of Canada.

Experience Time

- 1.5 hours
- \$25.00/person - includes tour, water, souvenir program to take home.
- Min. 15 people to a max of 25

Booking Time

- 10:00am to latest 5:00pm
- 48 hours needed to book (based on availability of the guides)
- \$100 deposit fee required at booking. Cancellations will forfeit \$100 of booking cost.

Weather: Dress for the weather. Umbrellas are provided.

Additional cost for extended experiences

- Yukata Dressing or choose another cultural activity \$50.00/group for one activity.
- Bento Box lunch can be provided with notice at booking for \$12.00/person. Menu to be provided if requested.
- To book please call (403) 325-3511 or email info@nikkayuko.com
- Ask for all the options when booking.



MEET OUR TOUR GUIDES



DAVID TANAKA

David Tanaka was born in Raymond Alberta and moved to Lethbridge when he was a teen. After graduating from the University of Lethbridge with a BA in Psychology, he attended graduate school at Carleton University in Ottawa, first in Psychology and later, Journalism.

Until his retirement, David worked in the magazine industry for more than 30 years — in Vancouver and Toronto as a writer, editor, columnist and publishing executive, and since moving back to Lethbridge in 2003, as a freelance writer, editor and photographer. For eight years he also taught two writing courses in the multimedia programme at Lethbridge College.

With a keen interest in Japanese culture and Japanese-Canadian history, David has been a member of the Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area for more than a decade. He is the society's current president, and also leads the society's Taiko (Japanese drumming) group. David studied Digital Storytelling at the Story Center in Berkeley, CA, and has lead two workshops for the National Association of Japanese Canadians on the theme of celebrating the Japanese-Canadian experience through stories.



GEORGE TAKASHIMA

In the summer of 1942, George Takashima and his mother left Vancouver by CPR train and headed for Slocan City via Nelson, BC. His father greeted them at New Denver a well known Internment camp. Living in house #1 a little shack right along the highway they settled until 1946 after the war. George's story of being interned has both details of tragic loses and of

deep friendships made amongst the youth. Listen to the expectations of assimilation as people after the camps were told to go east or back to Japan. Leaving those Canadians born of Japanese ancestry little choice but to move east. George's journey took him to Fingal Ontario and then he settled in London Ontario. George was an educator in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan for 34 years prior to going into the Ministry. George Takashima moved to Lethbridge, Alberta from Manitoba in 1993. Being a Pastor with the United Church, George remains very active in our community. A member of the Nikkei Cultural Society, Lion's International member, and a member of the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association he continues his advocacy for peace. George does annual tours to the internment camps in British Columbia and supports many of our school tours here at Nikka Yuko.