

Purpose of a family-oriented Cherry Blossom Festival at Garry Point Park

- 1) to pave the way to be the highlight of tradition to welcome the spring and bring the diversified community together
- 2) to share the beauty and bring joy to the citizens of Richmond and visitors
- 3) to transform the park to allow the community to experience an authentic Japanese culture/tradition and cherry blossom experience
- 4) to reconnect with old friends, to meet new ones and rekindle that sense of community
- 5) to give gratitude and appreciation to remember those who came before us and opened or lead a way for us to enjoy the life we have today
- 6) to celebrate Canada's and Richmond's diversity and unique multiculturalism
- 7) to gather a great deal of positive attention over the years
- 8) to introduce and express one of the many forms of Japanese culture
- 9) no unique event to celebrate the achievement and contributions the pioneering Japanese immigrants from Wakayama prefecture in Japan and the generations that followed.

CHERRY TREES AT GARRY POINT PARK

The "CHERRY TREE GARDEN" in Garry Point Park has a grove of 255 Akebono cherry trees.

On November 2, 2000, to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the B.C. Wakayama Kenjin Kai (Wakayama Prefectural Association) which was founded by a handful of visionaries in 1965, and to celebrate the New Millennium, 15 mature Akebono cherry trees were planted in Garry Point Park.

On March 26, 2010, on the 45th anniversary of the Kenjin Kai, the Unveiling Ceremony of the monument to commemorate the "CHERRY TREE GARDEN" and the presentation of 205 cherry trees to the City of Richmond took place.

On February 10, 2011, an additional 50 Akebono cherry trees were planted and donated to the City and successfully brought the "Cherry tree planting project" to a mutually benefitting conclusion.

On April 13, 2012 with a grove of 255 Akebono cherry trees in full bloom, the City hosted an Award Ceremony and a Commendation Certificate was presented to the Kenjin Kai in recognition for its Cherry Tree Planting Project which contributed to the City's Beautification Program.

These 255 cherry trees are the legacy of the great achievements and contributions made to the community by the pioneering immigrants and ancestors who emigrated from Wakayama prefecture in Japan, as well as the generations that followed.

For the past several years, the cherry blossoms at Garry Point Park not only brought enjoyment but also became a part of the essence of quality of life for the citizens of Richmond and visitors.

桜庭園

CHERRY TREE GARDEN

THESE CHERRY TREES IN GARRY POINT PARK ARE DEDICATED TO THE PIONEERING IMMIGRANTS AND ANCESTORS WHO EMIGRATED FROM WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE IN JAPAN AND IN RECOGNITION AND MEMORY OF THE GENERATIONS THAT FOLLOWED.

THESE CHERRY TREES COMMEMORATE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITIES AND THE LEGACY OF THEIR PIONEERING SPIRIT, COURAGE, PERSEVERANCE, AND LEADERSHIP.

THIS PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE B.C. WAKAYAMA KENJIN KAI IN 2000, TO HONOUR THEM, WITH THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND. ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY THESE CHERRY TREES ARE DONATED TO THE CITY OF RICHMOND FOR THE CITIZENS AND VISITORS TO ENJOY THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS

FOR YEARS TO COME.

SPRING 2010

B.C.州和歌山県人会

B.C. WAKAYAMA KENJIN KAI