



JETAA OTTAWA JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

<http://ottawa.jetaa.ca>

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

By Yuko Mitrovic

Our trusty JP is away this month, so we have stepped in for the July edition of the newsletter. Now that it is officially summer, it's time to get out and make the most of this too-short season! As always, we have tons of fun events planned for you, so don't miss your chance to go boating, celebrate the JETAA 20th anniversary, go to a BBQ, volunteer, and even do a little Japanese dancing! As we mentioned last month, if you know of any former JETs in the area who do not get this newsletter or are not aware of our alumni community here in the capital, please mention us to them and have them contact us! As always, we can be reached at jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

See the events section for more information

June

Pre-Departure Orientation—Call for volunteers

When: Saturday, June 21

Where: Embassy of Japan

What: Come share your insights about life in Japan

Notes: Contact Chris Browne at jet.b@embjapan.ca or 613-241-8541 x134

Sempai-kohai Pub Night

When: Saturday, June 21 (4:30 pm and on)

Where: Earl of Sussex Pub, 431 Sussex Drive

What: Come share drinks and stories with the new JETs!

Notes: All are welcome!

Cooking Class for Departing JETs—Call for volunteers

When: Saturday, June 28 (1:00–5:00 pm)

Where: Sandy Hill Community Centre

What: A cooking class for the new JETs. Come share your experience!

Notes: **RSVP to jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca by Monday, June 23**

July

Boating & Dining at Dow's Lake

Who: You! (Please feel free to bring anyone who you think will enjoy this event!)

What: A splashing good time at Dow's Lake (a.k.a. Boating & Dining)

When: Friday, July 18th

6:00 pm - Boating - Meet at Dow's Lake Marina (by boat rentals)

8:30 pm - Dinner - Mexicali Rosa's

Where: Dow's Lake Pavilion, <http://www.dowslake.com>, 1001 Queen Elizabeth Drive (near major intersection Preston St. & Prince of Wales Dr.)

Rental Cost: Boat rental rates vary depending on your choice of boat. Ranges from approximately \$10.00 to \$17.00 per hour. (Please see website for specific details).

August

4th Annual Natsu-matsuri and JETAA 20th Anniversary Reunion

When: Saturday, August 23 (1:00–5:00 pm)

Where: Britannia Park

What: A natsu-matsuri with the entire Japanese community in Ottawa. Come celebrate Japan and JETAA's 20th anniversary!

Notes: Come one, come all!

If you have any questions regarding JETAA events contact Eileen at jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca

For more Japan-related events in the Ottawa region, see the Japanese Embassy's Web site at www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp

EXECUTIVE UPDATE

By Yuko Mitrovic

The JETAA Ottawa executive meets on a monthly basis and we'd like to use this space in our newsletter to bring you updates on what we're doing.

Jessica Sellars and Yuko Mitrovic attended the JETAA National Conference in Winnipeg from May 23 to May 25. The conference was a great success! The main focus of the discussions this year was on sub-chapters, attracting and retaining members, and the 20th anniversary of JETAA. We are happy to announce that this year's national action plan is to celebrate this anniversary and to continue with our charitable work, both of which will be fulfilled by our 4th Annual Natsu-matsuri and JETAA 20th Anniversary Reunion. Please contact jetaaottawa_president@yahoo.ca if you would like more information about the national conference.

We are now gearing up for the new JETs' departure, with our participation in the One-day Orientation at the Embassy, the Sempai-Kohai Pub Night and the Cooking Class. We are looking forward to helping the new JETs set off on their adventure! In the fall we will be welcoming the returning JETs. We are looking forward to seeing new faces at our events!

If you have any questions about what the executive is up to, or you'd like to view a copy of the meeting minutes, don't hesitate to contact us anytime. Meetings are usually on the first Sunday of each month and all members are welcome to attend.

UPCOMING JETAA EVENTS

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION

By Yuko Mitrovic

The orientation season is now upon us and we have a fantastic group of eager new candidates excited to learn about what's in store for them. We are delighted to have JET alumni once again taking part in the orientation. Thank you to those of you who volunteered to give presentations and share your wisdom intensive one-day orientation session on Saturday, June 21. Good luck!

SEMPAI-KOHAI PUB NIGHT

By Yuko Mitrovic

Ah, those good old JET days. Want to reminisce over a pint and share a story or two with this year's new JETs? Come join us at the Earl of Sussex pub at 4:30 pm on June 21. We will be leading the new participants straight there from their gruelling day-long orientation at the Embassy. We all know how many questions can run through your head during that exciting pre-departure time, so come out and share your words of wisdom and hilarious stories! **Please RSVP to jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca**. Hope to see you there!

COOKING CLASS FOR DEPARTING JETs—CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

By Yuko Mitrovic

That time of year is upon us again: the last few months before new JET participants take off for their adventure in Japan! This year's new JETs have been notified of their imminent departures, and JETAA Ottawa is going to help them get in gear for the Land of the Rising Sun. Join us between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 28, when we'll be cooking up a storm with them at the Sandy Hill Community Centre. **Contact jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca by Monday, June 23**, if you'd like to volunteer for this fun and tasty event!

BOATING & DINING AT DOW'S LAKE

By Eileen d'Eon

Looking for some mid-summer fun? Well, JETAA has just the thing to cool you off on those hot July days! Join us for an evening of recreational boating and dining at Dow's Lake.

Dow's Lake Pavilion offers a range of rental boats, providing a fun way to explore the wonders of Dow's Lake and the Rideau Canal. From kayaks to canoes and even pedal boats, there is something for everyone. We'll start out the evening having fun on the water. After exploring the area by boat, we can continue the evening festivities by enjoying the scenic lake view from the Mexi's patio located in the Dow's Lake Pavilion (conveniently above the boat rental shop). Please feel free to join us for one or both activities.

The boat rental rates vary depending on your choice of boats, but generally range from about \$10 to \$17. Please see <http://www.dowlake.com> for details.

Please RSVP by Friday, July 11th to jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca and be sure to mention if you will be attending part or all of the evening's activities.

THE 4TH ANNUAL NATSU-MATSURI AND JETAA 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION ARE HERE!

By Yuko Mitrovic

It's time again for the ever-popular annual Natsu-matsuri (summer festival). This year the event will feature a special reunion theme to celebrate JETAA's 20th anniversary! Organized with the continued support and involvement of local Japan-related groups, this event is always a huge hit, with children's games, dancing, great free food, music and lots more! In honour of our 20th anniversary, we are looking to reconnect with JET alumni who have been back from the Land of the Rising Sun for a number of years, and we need your help to get the word out. If you know any former JETs in the area (and even beyond!), please invite them to come celebrate with us as well. This event is open to the public and we invite everyone—friends, family and especially recent returnees and JET alumni—to come out!

Please bring a small dish to share, potluck style. Hot dogs, burgers and drinks will be provided free of charge (there will be a collection in support of a Japan-related charity).

As with other years, we need your help to make sure the event runs smoothly: we are looking for a few volunteers to flip burgers, co-ordinate children's games and work at the welcome table. Please contact Eileen d'Eon at jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca to volunteer!

OTHER NEWS

2008 TULIP FESTIVAL—KITE-SOARING SUCCESS!

By Emma Bedlington

It was yet again another successful year of JETAA participation at the Canadian Tulip Festival. This year's festival saw more visitors than ever, with over 41,000 to the Japan Pavilion alone! The JETAA table was set up for the first weekend, May 10 and 11, and we were lucky to have beautiful weather that brought 12,000 visitors over the two days. The kite making itself was a great deal of fun and the 300+ children who participated thoroughly enjoyed themselves. JETAA was also able to make connections with a few long-lost alumni, as well as meet with some of the 2008 departing JETs and prospective participants.

As always, these events depend on the time and effort of our volunteers. We were fortunate to have a wonderful volunteer turnout, with 10 JETAA Alumni helping out over the weekend. I would like to thank Jill Swan, Jessica Sellars, Yuko Mitrovic, Steve Tennant, Tom Kruidenier, Aileen Mani, Riho and Xander Miller, Ala Ji and Alina Stubbs. The event wouldn't have been such a success without all your help! I would also like to thank the Japanese Pavilion Planning Committee and the Embassy of Japan once again for the opportunity to participate in such a well-organized event.

Otsukaresama-deshita minasan! Mata rainen!

OTTAWA JAPANESE COMMUNITY YARD SALE

By Thomas Kruidenier

The JETAA Executive joined the JOttawa and Church of Perfect Liberty communities at the Japanese Community Yard-Sale. JETAA hosted a table where we sold Japanese tidbits and treats. Overall, the event was a great success and was well attended by both the Japanese community and the locals even though the morning was threatened by some intermittent rain. JETAA would like to take this opportunity to

thank Kosuke Abe, the JOttawa community and the Church of Perfect Liberty for inviting JETAA to join them in this fundraising event.

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

By Jean-Philippe Davignon

JETAA Ottawa is putting together a collection of photographs taken by JET alumni to promote Japan and the JET Programme. This travelling photo exhibit will be shown at JETAA events and in venues across the city. We need your help to build this collection. If you would like to share a picture or three, please send submissions to jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca.

Please note that, due to numbers, not all submissions may be used. Also note that, due to legal issues, all pictures submitted become the property of JETAA Ottawa and, although the intent is to use the pictures for the purpose described above, JETAA Ottawa reserves the right to modify, use and publish any of the pictures as it sees fit.

We look forward to all of your wonderful contributions! If you have any questions, please feel free to send us an email at the address above.

ABOUT JETAA OTTAWA

The Ottawa Chapter of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme Alumni Association, or JETAA Ottawa for short, is a small group of enthusiastic JET Alumni keen to share their Japanese experience with each other and the community at large. JETAA Ottawa is part of a dynamic, international alumni organization.

Your 2008 JETAA Ottawa executive:

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