



## JETAA OTTAWA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009

<http://ottawa.jetaa.ca>

### EDITOR'S FOREWORD

by Richard Oslund

Amidst the year-end rush, please give yourself an early present and attend JETAA Ottawa's AGM and bōnenkai this coming Friday. Those attending this annual event can feel themselves transported back in time and space to the bōnenkai that they experienced in Japan, minus the traditional examples of alcohol-fuelled inappropriate behaviour.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Detailed articles on individual events can be found in the Events sections later on.

#### DECEMBER

##### **AGM and bōnenkai**

What: Annual general meeting of JETAA Ottawa and bōnenkai

Where: Suisha Gardens restaurant, 208 Slater, Ottawa

When: Friday, December 4. AGM for members only beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bōnenkai for members and guests beginning at around 8:30 p.m.

#### JANUARY

Keep an eye out for our cultural events that will be offered in January.

#### FEBRUARY

##### **Ottawa 67's game fundraiser**

What: An exciting 67's home game against the Guelph Storm

Where: Ottawa Urbandale Center (formerly the Civic Centre), 1015 Bank Street, Ottawa

When: 2 p.m., Sunday, February 7

February will also bring you another of our successful Speaker Series events.

## EXECUTIVE UPDATE

by Thomas Kruidenier

How time flies! We are already nearing the end of 2009. To celebrate a successful year and to elect the executive for 2010, we will be convening at Suisha Gardens for the annual general meeting and bōnenkai (see AGM article below).

JETAA Ottawa will be hosting the JETAA national conference next year, so this is a great year to join the executive! The conference will give us the opportunity to meet JET alumni from across the country and welcome them to this beautiful city. We will start organizing the conference in January, so make sure you contact us if you are interested in helping out!

In other news, some members of the executive have been invited to join the celebrities for the Emperor's birthday in December. Participating in events such as these is an honour, and we wish to thank the Embassy for this kind invitation.

We hope to see you at the AGM to wrap up the year in style!

## UPCOMING JETAA OTTAWA EVENTS

### AGM AND BŌNENKAI AT SUISHA GARDENS

by Yuko Mitrovic

Come one, come all, to our annual general meeting and bōnenkai on Friday, December 4! This year, once again, we will be celebrating the end of a great year at Suisha Gardens, at 208 Slater Street in Ottawa. The AGM will start at 7:00 p.m., and delicious appetizers will be provided compliments of JETAA Ottawa. **Please note** that the AGM portion of the evening is open only to JETAA Ottawa members; friends are more than welcome to join us after the elections, at around 8:30 p.m.

There will be a brief annual report, and you'll learn more about how JETAA Ottawa is run. Position descriptions and platform presentations will be followed by a vote to elect next year's executive. Every alumnus and alumna has a vote, so come out and be involved!

If you would like to join the executive, or are just curious, start thinking about the position or positions that would interest you. There are currently 10 positions on the JETAA Ottawa executive: president, vice-president, treasurer, events co-ordinator, membership co-ordinator, communications officer, secretary, newsletter editor, webmaster and fundraising co-ordinator (see the following list for more details). Feel free to e-mail any one of us if you have any questions. Our contact information appears at the bottom of this newsletter.

Don't miss this opportunity to have your say!

## POSITION SUMMARIES

### Duties common to all the positions include:

- attending monthly executive meetings
- managing the position's e-mail account
- helping out with JETAA Ottawa events (organization, set-up, etc.)
- promoting the JET Programme and the JETAA Ottawa Chapter

**President** [jetaaottawa\\_president@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_president@yahoo.ca)

The main responsibilities of the President are twofold:

1. To network and maintain good relations with the Embassy of Japan, CLAIR, JETAA-International and local community groups
2. To ensure that the mandate and annual goals of the council are achieved

This position requires a time commitment of 10 hours a week on average.

Duties include:

- attending quarterly meetings with the Embassy of Japan
- maintaining frequent contact with Embassy staff regarding upcoming events and funding
- liaising with other Canadian chapters and JETAA International through online meetings
- writing and submitting bi-annual reports to JETAA-International

**Vice-President** [jetaaottawa\\_vp@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_vp@yahoo.ca)

The VP's responsibilities are to assist the President and other members of the executive and to liaise with the local community and Japan-related organizations. The VP will often be called upon to temporarily fill other positions or fulfill duties related to major events.

Duties include:

- assisting the President and other executive members
- leading at least one major event during the year (e.g., Natsu Matsuri, Networking Wine and Cheese)
- developing strong network ties with the local community and relevant organizations
- meeting with outside organizations (the Embassy of Japan, CJSO, etc.)

**Treasurer** [jetaaottawa\\_treasurer@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_treasurer@yahoo.ca)

The treasurer is responsible for most of the financial aspects of the organization, from issuing cheques to paying for activities and reporting on expenditures to the Embassy or CLAIR, including submitting yearly and quarterly budgets proposals.

Duties include:

- producing financial reports for the Embassy or Clair
- submitting yearly and quarterly budget proposals
- issuing cheques to pay for the events (or pay back members)
- keeping copies of all the receipts
- keeping track of money in the bank

**Events Co-ordinator** [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca)

The Events Co-ordinator organizes and coordinates events for JETAA Ottawa while working closely with the executive, the Embassy of Japan and Japanese community groups. This position requires a time commitment of one to five hours per week on average.

Duties include:

- organizing, planning and booking monthly and special events
- co-ordinating volunteers for and at events
- writing event newsletter submissions monthly
- working closely with the President and Treasurer regarding the budget
- with the Communications Officer, managing the JETAA Ottawa Facebook page

**Membership Co-ordinator** [jetaaottawa\\_membership@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_membership@yahoo.ca)

The Membership Co-ordinator ensures that the membership and newsletter lists are up to date and adds new members, including recent returnees, to the list.

Duties include:

- updating the JETAA Ottawa membership list and spreadsheets

**Communications Officer** [jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca)

The Communications Officer is responsible for general communications with the alumni members and the public, and acts as a triage for the JETAA Ottawa executive.

Duties include:

- checking and managing the Communications e-mail account daily, including forwarding e-mail inquiries to other executive members and answering chapter-related questions
- with the Events Co-ordinator, managing the JETAA Ottawa Facebook page

**Secretary** [jetaaottawa\\_secretary@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_secretary@yahoo.ca)

The Secretary is in charge of taking the minutes and distributing by e-mail the minutes of the monthly executive meetings. The minutes are stored in the Secretary e-mail account. This position requires a time commitment of one to two hours per week.

Duties include:

- recording, preparing and distributing meeting minutes

**Newsletter Editor** [jetaaottawa\\_newsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_newsletter@yahoo.ca)

The Newsletter Editor is in charge of putting together the JETAA Ottawa newsletter every month and editing other JETAA documents when needed.

Duties include:

- writing and editing articles and compiling them into the monthly newsletter
- distributing the newsletter to JETAA Ottawa members

**Webmaster** [jetaaottawa\\_wm@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_wm@yahoo.ca)

The Webmaster manages and updates the JETAA Ottawa website.

Duties include:

- uploading the monthly newsletter to the website
- making sure the website is up to date

**Fundraising Co-ordinator** [jetaaottawa\\_fundraising@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_fundraising@yahoo.ca)

The Fundraising Coordinator organizes and coordinates activities to raise money for JETAA Ottawa and works closely with the Events Co-ordinator to plan any fundraising at events.

Duties include:

- organizing and coordinating fundraising activities, including raffles and sporting events
- liaising with external groups to secure sponsorship

## **OTTAWA 67'S GAME FUNDRAISER**

**by Richard Oslund**

Hockey fans who want to watch a great local team are invited to attend the February 7 match between the Ottawa 67's and the visiting Guelph Storm at the Urbandale Centre (formerly the Civic Centre) in Lansdowne Park. The puck drops at 2 p.m. that Sunday afternoon.

Tickets normally sell for \$15, but you can get yours from any member of the JETAA Ottawa executive at the special JETAA Ottawa member's price of \$12. The difference between our selling price and cost will be used to fund stimulating and rewarding JETAA Ottawa events later in the year. The e-mail addresses of executive members can be found near the end of this newsletter. For those attending the AGM, tickets will be available for purchase that night.

Hurry, because quantities are limited.

## **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **YAMATO: THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN**

**by Thomas Kruidenier**

On December 7, 2009, at 8:00 p.m., *Yamato: The Drummers of Japan* will take to the stage at the National Arts Centre. The Yamato ensemble comes from Nara Prefecture in Japan, and this will be a great show for those who miss the enthralling sound of powerful Japanese drums. Check out the NAC website for more details: <http://www.nac-cna.ca/en/whatson/results.cfm?EventID=6096>.

## **RECAP OF LAST MONTH'S EVENTS**

### **MOMIJIGARI**

**by Tom Kruidenier**

On a beautifully sunny Sunday afternoon, JETAA members gathered in Gatineau Park for a most enjoyable hike. A group of 18 adventurers set out to admire the fall colours and enjoy a bit of fresh air. All

18 made it back to home base after walking more than 4 km (7 km for a few who chose to do an extra loop). Although no one ventured to the onsen after the walk, a good time was had by all.

## **NETWORKING WINE AND CHEESE ONCE AGAIN A SUCCESS!**

**by Yuko Mitrovic**

The 5th Annual Networking Wine and Cheese was a great JETAA success! More than 50 people attended the evening at Les Suites Hotel to make new connections, mingle and enjoy some delicious treats. Two seminars were also held for returning JETs. Many thanks to our two speakers, Christa Amyot and Jessica Scallen, who shared their knowledge and advice during the seminars. We would also like to thank everyone who helped organize the event, the volunteers and the wonderful guests.

## **FALL SEMESTER OF JAPANESE LESSONS: GAMBARIMASHITA!**

**by Eileen d'Eon**

The fall Japanese classes unfolded smoothly under Kubota Sensei's kind hand. This year, JETAA Ottawa offered both advanced and beginner/intermediate lessons. This gave Kubota Sensei the chance to provide us with targeted lessons that were very informative and thoroughly enjoyable. If you missed this semester's lessons, make sure to catch the ones in the winter semester. *Irashatte kudasai, ne!*

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **What are some of the perks of being on the Executive?**

There are, of course, time commitments, but being on the Executive definitely has many perks! You'll get to work closely with a dedicated group of fun people and gain all kinds of skills that you can add to your resume. You can also make sure we put on some of the events you really want to see happen, such as karaoke nights, haunted walks, picnics, sushi nights, pub nights and more.

We work closely with the Embassy of Japan and the Japanese community in Ottawa, so joining the Executive will give you the chance to meet new people and make new contacts. And you'll get invites to all kinds of events that are not open to the public, such as receptions at the Ambassador's residence, invite-only gala openings and events in the community, and opportunities to meet delegations from Japan. You may also get first dibs on limited spots to this kind of event.

But most of all, you'll get to be surrounded by a fun and enthusiastic group of people who are always willing and happy to share their Japanese experience, and you can be part of the continued success of this active and dynamic chapter. Priceless!

#### **How do I make sure I'm not missing out on Japan-related events in the area?**

We send out a list of upcoming events in the newsletter every month, but sometimes events come up after the newsletter has gone out. In those cases, we post the events on our website, on the Events page (<http://ottawa.jetaa.ca/events.html>) or the Community page (<http://ottawa.jetaa.ca/communitynews.html>). Be sure to check out our website regularly for the latest on events and happenings!

#### **I'm going back to school next September so won't be here for the whole year, but I'd love to get involved with JETAA Ottawa. What are my options?**

Come to our monthly general meetings and share your ideas. While you don't need to be an Executive member to be involved, we do have elections every December, so cast your vote to have your say! There are also many volunteer opportunities throughout the year—check out our monthly newsletters for calls for volunteers and other chances to be involved in a wide variety of events.

## ABOUT JETAA OTTAWA

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

## YOUR 2009 JETAA EXECUTIVE

### President

Thomas Kruidenier, Osaka 2004-2006, [jetaaottawa\\_president@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_president@yahoo.ca)

### Co-VPs

Yuko Mitrovic, Osaka 2004-2006, and Eileen d'Eon, Hiroshima 2002-2005, [jetaaottawa\\_vp@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_vp@yahoo.ca)

### Treasurer

Lisa Mallin, Chiba 2006-2008, [jetaaottawa\\_treasurer@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_treasurer@yahoo.ca)

### Events co-ordinators

Alina Stubbs, Iwate 2003-2006, and Tiffany Moreside, Nagano 2005-2008, [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca)

### Membership co-ordinator

Jean-Philippe Davignon, Aomori 2005-2007, [jetaaottawa\\_membership@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_membership@yahoo.ca)

### Communications officer

Ala Ji, Kyoto 2001-2002, [jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca)

### Secretary

Tanya Scobie, Kumamoto 2007-2008, [jetaaottawa\\_secretary@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_secretary@yahoo.ca)

### Fundraising coordinator

Sandra Stewart, Osaka 2006-2008, [jetaaottawa\\_fundraising@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_fundraising@yahoo.ca)

### Newsletter editor

Richard Oslund, Saga 1989-1991, [jetaaottawa\\_newsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_newsletter@yahoo.ca)

### Webmaster

Cheryan Glasgow, Nara 2002-2005, [jetaaottawa\\_wm@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_wm@yahoo.ca)

## SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your suggestions for future JETAA events. Please forward your ideas to our Events Coordinators at [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca). If you would like to submit an announcement, an essay on travel in Japan or some other article for the next newsletter, please contact our Newsletter Editor at [jetaaottawa\\_newsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_newsletter@yahoo.ca).

Our coordinates:

Paper mail: JETAA Ottawa  
337-99 Fifth Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 5P5 CANADA

Website: <http://ottawa.jetaa.ca>  
E-mail: [jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca)