

2024 Heritage Committee Report

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The Heritage Committee provided historical walking tours at the Esquimalt Gorge Park including, in April, in association with the unveiling of two new garden panels. One panel highlights the original garden architect, Isaburo Kishida and the second panel features a hand-drawn map of the gardens and archival photos of the Japanese garden and teahouse to help visitors imagine what once existed. Two panels inside the pavilion were also unveiled including a panel that details the return of Toshie Takata's piano and the other display features a returned teacup and a sumi-e painting by Michael Abe.

The Heritage Committee's major event involved the integration of the annual Obon ceremony and Ross Bay Cemetery walking tour with the Kokoro no Tabi Vancouver Island Obon and Japanese Canadian History Tour in August. A bonus to the community was the showing of the film *Seagrass* by Meredith Hama-Brown.

Heritage committee members led a gaji and mochi making workshop and follow-up gaji sessions.

We look forward to being more active in 2025, stay tuned for upcoming events.