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**FROM THE EDITORS**

By Gemma Villanueva and  
Maureen Barry

This August, the latest wave of Ottawa-area JET participants bid their "sayonaras" and jetted off to Japan. By now, they are settling into their new communities across Japan. The Ottawa JETs received placements all over the country - from Hokkaido down to Kyushu. They are hopefully designing unique lesson plans and cooking up delicious Japanese meals with the help of the guidebooks from the highly-coveted JETAA Ottawa USB drives.

JETAA Ottawa would also like to welcome back the newly returned JETs! Your suitcases might be bursting with omiyage for friends and family; your boxes from Japan are slowly trickling back to your front stoop in Canada; and your head is still spinning with memories from your time on JET.

Consider joining your local chapter of JETAA (Japan

Exchange and Teaching Programme Alumni Association)! It's a great way to find resources and networks relevant to former JETs. It's also an immediate way to share your Japanese experiences with the community at large.

We would like to encourage everyone to check out get-togethers such as the Terry Fox Run, our Japanese classes, the "welcome back" enka and the networking wine and sushi night. More details about these events are posted in this newsletter as well as on our [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook page](#).



Montreal's "Komachi" group delighted the crowds at the 2012 Natsu Matsuri with Japanese folk dancing

**Photo credit:** Kosuke Abe

We're hoping to continue our alumni profile series. If you've got a story to tell, we'd love to hear it. We would also like to connect with current JETs who are experiencing life in today's Japan.

Last, but definitely not least, we would like to thank all contributors who have made the JETAA Ottawa Newsletter possible.

**Membership Benefits**

[Join JETAA Ottawa today!](#)

Membership is **free** for all JET Alumni

- Free Japanese classes in the fall and winter
- Discounted or free Japanese culture classes/workshops
- Quarterly newsletters
- A wide variety of scheduled social, cultural, professional and athletic events throughout the year.
- An opportunity to interact with other JET Alumni as well as make a strong connection to the Japanese community in the Ottawa area.

Sign up for the quarterly **JETAA Ottawa newsletter** now! Click [here](#).

**JETAA Ottawa & The Terry Fox Run****JETAA Ottawa's team**

once again joined the pack to help outrun cancer. We would like to thank all participants and supporters!

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Terry Fox Run took place on Sun. Sept. 16 at Anniversary Park located beside Carleton University.

If you're interested in making a donation, show your support on their [team page](#).

Proceeds from money raised will help the Terry Fox Foundation as it works to fund innovative and progressive cancer research programs.



*The 2011 JETAA Ottawa & Friends team at the Terry Fox Run*  
**Photo credit:** Ala Ji

The 10 km route was open for those who wanted to run, jog or walk. It was also accessible to bikes, rollerblades and wheelchairs.

Please visit the [Terry Fox Foundation website](http://www.terryfoxfoundation.ca) for more information about this annual event and the cancer research foundation.

## お帰りなさい！ Welcome Back, JETs!

Welcome back to Ottawa! This is the city of Beavertails, yoga on Parliament Hill and familiar faces!

We can't offer nomihoudai, but we would love to celebrate the culmination of your time on JET with a drink or two!

Returning JETs, alumni and friends are all invited. Please RSVP by e-mailing [JETAA Ottawa](mailto:JETAA.Ottawa@jetaaottawa.ca).

**WHEN:** Fri. Oct. 19, 2012 @ 7 p.m.

**VENUE:** [Kent Street Royal Oak](http://www.kentstreetroyal.ca) (180 Kent Street)

**WHO:** Everyone (JETs and non-JETs alike)

## Ottawa's Natsu Matsuri

**By Lisa Mallin**

Blessed with perfect weather, JETAA Ottawa's 8th Annual Japanese Summer Festival attracted hundreds of participants from across the National Capital Region on Saturday, August 18, 2012, at Vincent Massey Park. The day was packed full of Japanese cultural demonstrations, intercultural experiences, and 500+ JETAA dogs!

Mr. Yasir Naqvi, MPP for Ottawa Centre, offered words of support for Japan's swift recovery from the March 2011 disasters while Japanese Ambassador Kaoru Ishikawa officially kicked off the day's events by thanking Canadians for their compassion and continued engagement.

Oto wa Taiko attracted people from all corners of the park to listen to their powerful drumming and watch their well-choreographed moves. Tateyama Dojo introduced ancient martial arts of Japan through their lively kendo, iaido and jodo demonstrations.



*Oto wa Taiko drummed some powerful beats*

**Photo credit:** Lisa Mallin

Ottawa newcomer Ryoko Itabashi brought traditional tones to the crowd with each note by playing her shamisen (a three-stringed, Japanese musical instrument). Jordan Lincez, a JET Programme alumnus, won over the crowd with his musical collaboration featuring special guest Hitomi Iwase. For the first time, Ottawa was treated to a taste of Montreal-Japanese fusion with Japanese Folk Dance Group Komachi Montreal's beautiful performances.



*Children enjoyed donning their Japanese summer clothes and even learned some calligraphy*

**Photo credit:** Lisa Mallin

Throughout the day, community partners and volunteers provided great activities such as children's face painting, calligraphy, and bonsai to introduce different aspects of Japanese culture and tradition. To top it off, JETAA Ottawa gave out more than 500 hot dogs over the course of the festival.





Free and delicious Japanese-flavoured JETAA dogs

**Photo credit:** Kosuke Abe

Check out the [JETAA dog recipes](#), as featured on CBC's ["All in a Day!"](#))

JETAA Ottawa's Japanese Summer Festival is the largest Japanese festival in the National Capital Region. We have grown from a small alumni event to an inclusive Japanese arts and culture celebration. We are grateful to all of the participants, volunteers, performers, community partners, local Japanese communities and the Council of Local Authorities and International Relations for making the day's events possible.

## Farewell Reception for New JETs

**By Gemma Villanueva**

On the eve of their Tokyo-bound flight, Ambassador Kaoru Ishikawa hosted an outdoor farewell reception at his private residence for the

newly-minted JETs departing from Ottawa. This year, 25 JET Programme candidates were recruited as Assistant Language Teachers departing from Ottawa. In total, about 160 Canadians were selected to join the JET family. Almost 8,000 Canadians have participated in the JET Programme since its inception in 1988.

As Ambassador Ishikawa welcomed his guests to the Farewell Reception on August 3, he reiterated that he was always impressed with the eagerness amongst departing JETs to learn about Japan as well as share their Canadian culture abroad.

"The JET Programme is a prime example of grassroots diplomacy and over its history has developed a strong international reputation in the promotion of foreign," he said.



Ambassador Ishikawa graciously hosted the Farewell Reception on Aug. 3

**Photo credit:** Anna Joynt

He also expressed his sincere gratitude towards Canadians, particularly JET

participants, who have shown their solidarity in supporting the rebuilding of Japan after the devastating March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

"I hope that when you return to Canada you will continue to play the role of building bridges between our two countries," he added. "You will surely inspire other young Canadians to join the JET Programme too."

Julian Daher, one of the Ottawa-area JETs, was excited to assume his role as an Assistant Language Teacher in Minamioosumi-cho, Kagoshima-ken. He shared a few words with all of the guests at the reception, reflecting upon the honour of being a cultural ambassador with the long-standing JET Programme.

"We're all enthusiastic and open to new experiences," he said about the newest crop of JETs bound for Japan the following day. "We're all personable, intelligent, and ready to exchange our cultural distinctions with those unique to Japan."

He praised the JET Programme's extensive support networks and resources, such as the online application process and the pre-departure orientation sessions led by alumni.

The JET Programme Co-ordinator Stephanie White highly suggested that all future JETs also attend the orientation sessions.

"They provide an opportunity to build friendships with the other departing JETs that will last past their time on JET," she

explained.



*The 2012-13 JETs departing from Ottawa*

**Photo credit:** Anna Joynt

Ms. White also thanked JETAA Ottawa members who had shared their varied personal experiences with the new JETs, in an effort to help smooth the transition to working and living in Japan.

Mr. Daher said that he was especially looking forward to having new experiences and building new connections in Japan. "I feel like you can learn so much about yourself when you meet someone else, so let's go to Japan and inspire everyone," he said with a smile. "You never know how they'll inspire you!"

This fall, there is a need for volunteers to lead classroom presentations at local universities and colleges. Interested JET alumni should contact Ms. White at [jet@jetprogramme.ca](mailto:jet@jetprogramme.ca).

## Cooking with new JETs

**By Lisa Mallin**

Cook, eat and get ready to JET! On July 22, 2012, JETAA Ottawa hosted our annual

cooking class for departing JET Programme participants.

During the course of the afternoon, JET alumni brought their enthusiasm and knowledge of Japanese cuisine to share tips on how to survive in a Japanese kitchen and grocery store.

Stories were shared over Japanese beverages (think Pocari Sweat), snacks (popular okashi included Koara no Machi, gummies covered in chocolate, and dorayaki), soba noodles, onigiri and salad.

We were pleasantly surprised to see the new JETs actively try different flavours such as umeboshi and "sea chicken" (otherwise known as tuna) in their onigiri. They were also busy taking notes on what they liked best.

JETAA Ottawa looks forward to holding the cooking class again next year to assist the outgoing 2013 JETs.

## Fukushima's slopes

**By Tyler Andrews  
(Fukushima, 2007-08)**

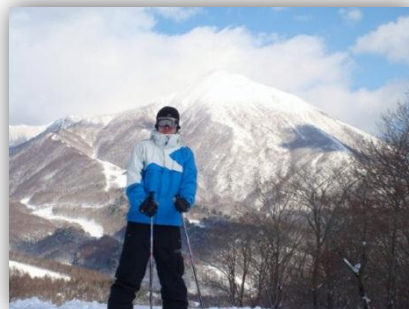
Japan has long been known as one of the world-class ski destinations. Having hosted two Winter Olympic Games, Sapporo (1972) and Nagano (1998 - and who didn't love that N64 game?), the quality of the snow and the size of the slopes is unsurpassed in Asia.

I spent a year living next to the third largest ski resort

north of Tokyo, Alts Bandai in Bandai-Machi, near Aizu-Wakamatsu City. When I say next to it, I literally mean next to the slopes. For me, the commute was a mere 20 minutes. I could enjoy hours of night skiing until 10 p.m.!

The Alts Bandai resort is a great medium-sized ski area - smaller than Mont Tremblant, but about 2-2.5 times the size of Camp Fortune. With 29 trails and 13 lifts, this should definitely be your ski destination! There is also an awesome snow park where you'll be able to practice jumps and half-pipes on some of the best maintained trails around. This is also a popular resort for JETs to buy a season's pass as it often turns into the ideal winter meeting spot.

Hit up the "Riders" lodge for awesome burgers at a reasonable price. This is also the place to chill out with tons of cool Japanese and foreign skiers and boarders. If you're interested in more local food, the main lodge has awesome curry rice, filled with veggies and in the shape of Mount Bandai!



*Tyler Andrews (Fukushima ALT 2007-08) regularly enjoyed the hills in his neighbourhood*

**Photo submission:** Tyler Andrews

Getting to Alts will definitely be a challenge for those who

do not have access to a vehicle. Alternatively, take the shinkansen to Koriyama and rent a car. This option will take you about 3.5 hours from Tokyo (2.5 hours on the train and about 1 hour driving). If you are lucky enough to meet the local JET, their house will be located right next to the train station!

On your way home from the resort, be sure to make a pit stop at the onsen. You will have an unsurpassed and relaxing view of the Aizu valley from their outside bath, as well as the opportunity to stay at the nearby hostel or hotel.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [me](#) or visit the Alts [website](#).

## Japanese Classes

Are you interested in continuing your Japanese studies? JETAA Ottawa is thrilled to offer free weekly Japanese lessons for JET alumni this fall.

Classes are split into two levels - "beginner" and "intermediate/advanced." The curriculum is flexible, which might be especially useful for those who will be writing the JLPT later this winter. Please e-mail the [organizers](#) to express your interest. Limited spots are available.

Further details about scheduling and venue will be released next month.

## Learning Japanese

By André Bouffard

自己紹介をお願い(ねが)いします - words that every JET knows all too well. You spent three months introducing yourself in each of your classes or if you're me 9 months... Some of you might have forgotten, or you're still in Japan and moved on to 自己PRをしてください. Congratulations on the interview! Needless to say, you will be introducing yourself all your life.. unless you're an Inaka person, then everyone already knows everything there is to know about you and will gladly pass it on to the next person. Nonetheless, look up the following sample sentences to see if you can add them to your self-introduction!

### 初級 (Beginner)

- My name is Peter.

ピーターと申(もう)します。

Pitā to mōshimas.

- I'm from Ottawa.

オタワの出身(しゅっしん)です。

Otawa no shūshin des.

- My hobby is surfing.

(私(わたし)の) 趣味はサーフィンです。

Shumi wa sāfin des.

- Please call me Alex.

アレックスと呼んでください

- Arekusu to yonde kudasai.

Macrons (ˉ) indicate vowels that are pronounced longer.

### 中級(Intermediate)

- I was born and brought up in Ottawa.

オタワで生(う)まれ育(そだち)ちました。

- When it comes to speaking Japanese, I get nervous.

日本語を話(はな)すとなると、ドキドキしてしまいます。

- I'm often told that I look like my father.

父親似(ちちおやに)だとよく言(い)われます。

- If only I could speak Japanese a little better! せめてもう少し(すこ)ううまく日本語が話(はな)せたらなあ。

自己 PR!!

I am a person who spares no effort or smile to reach the goal. 私は目標(もくひょう)のためには努力(どりょく)と笑顔(えがお)を惜(お)しまない人間(にんげん)です。

I have learned many things such as how to propose new ideas and the importance of communication.

提案(ていあん)することやコミュニケーション(たいせつ)の大切(さ)さなど様々(さまざま)なことを学びました。

I have acquired skills as an Interpreter/Programmer/Instructor.

通訳者(つうやくしゃ)、プログラマー、教師(きょうし)として



のスキルを身(み)につけました。  
。I have cultivated management skills and an ability to communicate with staff and trading partners that I believe will be of great use to your company.

私の今までに培(つちか)った管理能力、スタッフや取引先(とりひきさき)とのコミュニケーション能力(のうりよく)は、きっと貴社(きしゃ)のお役(やく)に立(た)てるものと信(しん)じております。

## Get Connected

JETAA Ottawa will be hosting its annual **Networking Wine and Sushi** evening on **Friday, November 16** from **7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** at the **Gordon Harrison Gallery**.

JET alumni, community partners, interested employers and industry professionals are all invited to this event to build new networks.

This is a great opportunity, especially for newly returned JET alumni, to make connections with professionals from a wide range of industries within Ottawa. A keynote address from a special guest will also be included in the evening's programming.

A fine selection of wine, sushi, breads and cheeses will be served throughout the reception.

Further event and RSVP/ticket details will be released on our [Facebook](#) page, [Twitter](#) and [website](#). If

you are an employer or a JET alumnus interested in sharing advice about your career and industry with newly returned JETs and other professionals by participating in this evening, please contact us via [e-mail](#).

The [Gordon Harrison Gallery](#) is located at 495 Sussex Drive (across from the American Embassy).

## Call for Submissions

The **JETAA Ottawa Newsletter** is a quarterly online publication.

We are always looking for articles, essays, photos, arts and comics.

We welcome contributions (regular or one-shot) from current JETs, alumni and non-JETs.

Please contact us via [e-mail](#) at any time.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*(JETAA Ottawa events are in **bolded red**. Check out the [JETAA Ottawa](#) website for further updates.)*

**09/16: "JETAA Ottawa and Friends" team at the Terry Fox Run @ Carleton University**

09/17: Japanese Drumming Workshops [with Oto-Wa Taiko](#)

09/19: [Rakugo \(storytelling\) performance](#) (Free admission at the National Arts Centre)

10/05: Deadline for JLPT sign-ups

**10/19 – Tadaima Okaeri Pub Night** (Kent Street Oak)

## Great Eats for JETAA Ottawa

If you love sushi, check out Sawa Sushi in Orleans!

This brand-new east-end sushi restaurant is offering 10% off your order when you mention the code word "[JETAA!](#)"

Tuck into delicious sushi, sashimi, tempura and much more. Sawa Sushi has elivery, take-out orders and all-you-can-eat buffet.

[Sawa Sushi](#) is located at 250 Centrum Blvd.

## JETAA Across Canada

[JETAA BC](#), the British Columbia / Yukon alumni chapter, has prepared its [report](#) on the recent **Canada Conference**. Alumni chapters from across Canada gathered in Calgary earlier this summer to discuss and exchange ideas.