



Sunshine Coast
Museum
& Archives

P R E S S
R E L E A S E

Celebrate Japanese Canadian Heritage & Tanabata with the Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives

Canada Day Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Winegarden Park, 5pm-8pm

————— **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** —————

The Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives (SCMA) in Gibsons is proud to present ***Spirit Rising – Japanese Canadian Voices of the Coast***, an exhibition that explores the rich and enduring contributions of Japanese Canadians who helped shape the Sunshine Coast as we know it today.

Through stories of logging, fishing, community building, internment/dispossession, resettlement, and resilience, the exhibition offers a comprehensive look at the history and legacy of Japanese Canadians on the Coast. Spirit Rising will remain on display through Summer 2027.

As part of the **Canada Day Multicultural Celebration** in Gibsons, community members are invited to participate in a free Origami and Tanabata Wish-Making Activity at Winegarden Park in Lower Gibsons from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Visitors of all ages can create their own origami decorations and write wishes on traditional Tanabata papers. Participants will then be invited to visit the Museum to add their creations to a community Tanabata display.

Tanabata, often called the Star Festival, is a beloved Japanese summer tradition based on the legendary story of two celestial lovers who meet once a year across the Milky Way. People celebrate by hanging colourful decorations and written wishes on bamboo branches in hopes that their dreams will come true. The festival is a joyful expression of community, creativity, and hope.

We invite everyone to join us in celebrating cultural diversity, community connections, and the stories that have shaped the Sunshine Coast. We look forward to seeing you there!

Miyuki Shinkai

Artist and Member of the Co-Curator Team

Spirit Rising – Japanese Canadian Voices of the Coast

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