

and sold the other half for expenses. A year later the Buddhist church bought the United Church building on the corner of Jackson Avenue and Powell Street; both organizations exist today as stalwarts of Japanese culture. Tonari Gumi, a volunteer organization that in the early days provided assistance for seniors and new immigrants, was established in the 1970s. Eventually the volunteers set up Sakura So, a seniors' residence on Powell Street. The group supported a long-term-care facility nearby with culture and lunch programs that served as a drop-in centre for those in need.

Nineteen seventy-seven was a big revival year for the area: youthful activists masterminded a centennial celebration that acknowledged the immigrant experience

and the history of Nihonmachi with a book and touring exhibition entitled "A Dream of Riches." Currently the exhibition and Nihonmachi history are housed in the Japanese Canadian National Museum in Burnaby. The annual Powell Street festival is held at Oppenheimer Park each August. This popular event presents Japanese cultural events, food, arts and crafts, a sumo tournament, Powell Street walking tours, and other displays from supporting organizations. In honour of the legendary Hall of Famers, the Asahi baseball team plays a memorial game at Oppenheimer Park each year.

HASTINGS PARK CLEARING STATION 1942. Building K, formerly the Forum, was turned into the Japanese men's dormitory. The Park was taken over by the BC Security Commission to temporarily house and disperse the Japanese Canadians in the early months of 1942. This photo was taken by Leonard Frank, a well-known Vancouver commercial photographer who was hired by the BC Security Commission to document the clearing station and the camps.



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