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**Michael Murakami fonds
Accession 2023.01**

Elizabeth Carroll, 2024

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Biographical note

Michael Murakami was born July 7, 1943 in Kaslo, B.C. His mother, Aiko Murakami (nee. Kondo) was born in Steveston, B.C. in 1917, and grew up in Victoria, B.C. after the Kondo family moved to the area in 1918. Michael's father, David Masawo Murakami, was born in Vancouver, B.C. in 1917.

The Kondo family began their life in Canada when Shinjiro Kondo, a fish broker, traveled to Victoria in 1900 from Wakayama, Japan. He began work as a fisherman in Steveston, and in 1908 he sponsored Kinu to come to Canada to join him as his wife. Together they had five children, Tohachiro also known as Toki (b. 1909), Matsuye (b. 1910), Fusako (b. 1912), Eichi (b. 1914), Aiko (1917 - 2020), and a sixth after moving to Victoria, Fumiko also known as Finks (b. 1921).

In Victoria, Shinjiro began again as a fish broker, selling to Chinese restaurants in the area. He also spent his time volunteering for the Japanese Language school and became a Buddhist lay minister. Kinu who was trained as a dressmaker made children's clothes, adding to the family's income. The family was close to the Shimizus who owned a rice mill and Aiko became close to their daughter. Aiko was encouraged to finish highschool and eventually went into bookkeeping. She was an active member of the Japanese Canadian Citizen League and participated in their conventions with her brother Eichi. Like many women at the time, Aiko worked as a domestic and eventually took up dressmaking. Through these career choices she was able to move to Vancouver and attend Marietta's School of Costume Design.

David Murakami was the youngest of three siblings. His parents had emigrated from the Yamaguchi prefecture, Japan and had settled in Vancouver across the street from Hastings Park. David worked as a fisherman, along the Skeena River. He held Captain's papers and also worked as a skipper.

Aiko and David met at a New Years Eve party in 1941, and on May 7, 1942, they married at the Powell Street Japanese United Church. Eiko Henmi was the maid of honour, with Thomas Shoyama as the best man. Their courtship was in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and so the couple were quickly sent to Kaslo, B.C. only 10 days after getting married.

The newlyweds joined many other Japanese Canadians who were also forcibly uprooted and moved to the interior of B.C. David worked as a truck driver for the B.C. Securities Commission and Aiko worked in the local Commission office. David was also named the official photographer in the Kalso internment camp by the B.C. Securities Commission, an important title as cameras had been forbidden to Japanese Canadians. In 1943, their son Michael was born. By 1944 the family moved to New Denver for David's health. New Denver, B.C. had a recent sanitorium built for interned Japanese Canadians. It was often called "The San". In New Denver, Aiko began teaching at the New Denver Orchard internment camp school, the elementary school for Japanese Canadians, and when they left in February 1947, she had been appointed principal.

The family eventually moved to Hamilton, then Toronto, ON. Aiko began to work as a secretary for Mitsui's Canadian office and David became a watchmaker. David served on the board for the Watchmakers Association of Ontario for many years. During her free time, Aiko volunteered for the Toronto Nisei Women's Club, and also served as president.

During the 1980s both Aiko and David were active in the Redress movement. Both marched on Parliament Hill in April 1988. On September 22, 1988, it was Aiko who ensured the Japanese flag was removed at Westbury Hotel after someone wrongfully included it along with the Canadian flag. In 1988 Aiko and David moved to Edmonton to be with their son Michael and his family. They both continued their work with the Redress movement, helping to organize Edmonton's celebrations for the monumental victory. Aiko also served as the regional Redress Coordinator in the area.

David Murakami passed away in Edmonton, A.B. in 1992. Aiko Murakami passed away in Toronto, O.N. in 2020.

References:

Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Commemoration and Education Project. "New Denver Sanatorium." Accessed March 6, 2023. <http://hastingspark1942.ca/history/new-denver-sanatorium/>

Kondo, Christine. "Family History Series No. 9: Nikkei Fisherman Tohachiro 'Toki' Kondo." *National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Centre Newsletter* 13, no. 2 (Summer 2008): 14-19. <https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2008-Volume-13-No.-2.pdf>

Moritsugu, Frank. "Celebrating David Murakami's Life." Letter shared with the Archivist from the donor.

Murakami, Aiko. "Interview with Aiko Murakami (nee Kondo)." Interviewed by Peter Wakayama. *Sedai: The Japanese Canadian Legacy Project Collection*, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, March 31, 2009. <https://jccc.on.ca/sedai-catalogue/2010014/interview-aiko-murakami-nee-kondo>

Switzer, Ann-Lee and Gordon. *Gateway to Promise: Canada's First Japanese Community*. Victoria: Ti-Jean Press, 2012.

Scope and Content

Dates range: [192-?] - 1982

Extent: 3 boxes (0.39 linear meters), consisting of

92 photographs, b&w
7 photographs, colour
1078 negatives, b&w
6 negatives, colour
2 postcards
3 netting shuttles

Accrual consists of photographs and negatives collected and taken by the donor's parents, Aiko and David Murakami. Photographs are primarily from Aiko (nee. Kondo) Murakami and her family in Victoria, B.C. The photographic negatives are primarily taken by David Murakami. They include scenes of the Steveston fishing industry, and those who worked in it. The negatives also include images from the Japanese Canadian internment camps in Kaslo and New Denver, where the family was living. There are also some family photographs and accompanying negatives of the Murakami's and their friends in Toronto, O.N.

Note:

Arrangement: Series are arranged by asset format and described at the file level.

Many of the negatives were found stored in their original envelopes, and thus have been arranged to reflect this. Photographs have been described so that a file consists of one item unless a group of photographs were found to have been grouped by the creator.

Please see full file level descriptions on Discover Archives.

Access: No restrictions on access, except when handling material where there are preservation concerns.

Series 1: Photographs

Dates range: [192-?] - 1982

Family photographs collected by Aiko Murakami of her family, the Kondos. Some photographs are also of the Murakami family during internment at Kaslo and New Denver, and their lives in Toronto after the war. Titles were given by the Archivist based on the subject of the image.

Note:

Access: No restrictions on access, except when handling material where there are preservation concerns.

Boxes: 1

Series 2: Negatives

Dates range: 1930 - [195-]

Series consists of photographic negatives, primarily taken by David Murakami during his internment in Kaslo and New Denver. The negatives capture images of the Murakami family and their friends. Some negatives are from before, can depict the many fishing boats along the shore of Steveston, B.C. Other negatives are of the family after they moved to Toronto. Titles, unless given in square brackets, have been taken from the original material / containers.

Note:

Access: Some material is restricted due to preservation concerns. Please contact the Archivist to learn more.

Boxes: 1, 2, 3

Series 3: Ephemera

Dates range: [193-?] – [194-?]

2 postcards and 3 netting shuttles.

Note:

Access: Unrestricted.

Boxes: 2, 3

Appendix

Series 1: Series title

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.01.001	Fusako Kondo	[before 1931]	Box 1, File 1
2023.01.002	Fink and Aiko	[192-?]	Box 1, File 2
2023.01.003	Beach	[194-?]	Box 1, File 3
2023.01.004	60th Birthday party	January 1940	Box 1, File 4
2023.01.005	Christening gown	1943	Box 1, File 5
2023.01.006	Wakayama, Japan	[197-?]	Box 1, File 6
2023.01.007	Fichi	[195-?]	Box 1, File 7
2023.01.008	Tofino, B.C.	[193-?]	Box 1, File 8
2023.01.009	New Denver school	[194-]	Box 1, File 9
2023.01.010	Straith family	[195-?]	Box 1, File 10
2023.01.011	Michael in a basket	[195-?]	Box 1, File 11
2023.01.012	Leaving New Denver	1947	Box 1, File 12
2023.01.013	Bead party	[194-]	Box 1, File 13
2023.01.014	Fishing boat	[19--?]	Box 1, File 14
2023.01.015	Fishing	[19--?]	Box 1, File 15

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.01.016	Baseball in the camp	[194-]	Box 1, File 16
2023.01.017	Shinjiro and Kinu Kondo	1940	Box 1, File 17
2023.01.018	Road sign	July 7, 1943	Box 1, File 18
2023.01.019	David and Michael Murakami	[194-?]	Box 1, File 19
2023.01.020	Chan Chan's	[195-?]	Box 1, File 20
2023.01.021	Michael's birthday	[194-?]	Box 1, File 21
2023.01.022	Playing outside	[194-?]	Box 1, File 22
2023.01.023	Two kids	1947	Box 1, File 23
2023.01.024	Family portrait	[194-?]	Box 1, File 24
2023.01.025	1948 Christmas card	December 1948	Box 1, File 25
2023.01.026	1949 Christmas card	1949	Box 1, File 26
2023.01.027	Princess Elizabeth	1951	Box 1, File 27
2023.01.028	Picnic	August 1947	Box 1, File 28
2023.01.029	Waiting room	[196-?]	Box 1, File 29
2023.01.030	Cross-country album	[195-?]	Box 1, File 30
2023.01.031	Dinner party	1967	Box 1, File 31
2023.01.032	House	[195-?]	Box 1, File 32
2023.01.033	Three person portrait	1975	Box 1, File 33
2023.01.034	Church gathering	[196-?]	Box 1, File 34
2023.01.035	Nana and Louis	[197-?]	Box 1, File 35
2023.01.036	Hardinge Bros	1970	Box 1, File 36
2023.01.037	O.W.A.	March 1982	Box 1, File 37
2023.01.038	Internment Camp	[194-]	Box 1, File 38
2023.01.039	Three women	[194-]	Box 1, File 39
2023.01.040	New baby	1943	Box 1, File 40
2023.01.041	Holiday party	1959	Box 1, File 41
2023.01.042	Michael's birthday	[194-]	Box 1, File 42
2023.01.043	Friends visit	December 20, 1963	Box 1, File 43
2023.01.044	Family portrait	1949	Box 1, File 44
2023.01.045	Unknown family	[192-?]	Box 1, File 45
2023.01.046	Mother and son	1943	Box 1, File 46
2023.01.047	Binoculars	[194-]	Box 1, File 47
2023.01.048	Playing outside	[194-]	Box 1, File 48
2023.01.049	Fur coat	[194-]	Box 1, File 49
2023.01.050	Winter	[194-]	Box 1, File 50
2023.01.051	War Memorial	[194-]	Box 1, File 51
2023.01.052	Trailer	[194-]	Box 1, File 52
2023.01.053	Friend	November 1957	Box 1, File 53
2023.01.054	Working at a desk	July 1963	Box 1, File 54
2023.01.055	Miyazaki		Box 1, File 55
2023.01.056	Women in a garden	[195-?]	Box 1, File 56

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.01.057	Saburo and Yumi	1966	Box 1, File 57
2023.01.058	Lake Yamanaka	August 1964	Box 1, File 58
2023.01.059	House		Box 1, File 59
2023.01.060	Saburo and Aiko		Box 1, File 60
2023.01.061	Staff	[197-?]	Box 1, File 61
2023.01.062	Season's Greetings	1966	Box 1, File 62
2023.01.063	Unknown family		Box 1, File 63

Series 2: Negatives

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.01.064	Ontario	[194-] – [195-]	Box 1, File 64
2023.01.065	Christmas	[195-?]	Box 1, File 65
2023.01.066	North shots	[194-]	Box 1, File 66
2023.01.067	Bella Coola	1939	Box 1, File 67
2023.01.068	Tallheo Cannery	1933	Box 1, File 68
2023.01.069	Okanagan centre	1945	Box 1, File 69
2023.01.070	New Denver Sanatorium	1944-1945	Box 1, File 70
2023.01.071	Kaslo Woodlot	1942	Box 1, File 71
2023.01.072	Kooticraft Display	July 23, 1943 – July 25, 1943	Box 1, File 72
2023.01.073	Corporal Farrar on horse	1943	Box 1, File 73
2023.01.074	Statue of Liberty		Box 1, File 74
2023.01.075	Trip through Nelson	1943	Box 1, File 75
2023.01.076	Kaslo general shots	[194-]	Box 1, File 76
2023.01.077	Scenic shots	[193-?]	Box 1, File 77
2023.01.078	Dave and Aiko's shot	1945	Box 1, File 78
2023.01.079	Coast of B.C.	[193-?]	Box 1, File 79
2023.01.080	Dave Masawo Murakami	[193-?]	Box 1, File 80
2023.01.081	Rev. Carl Hansen	1945	Box 1, File 81
2023.01.082	Vimy Park house	1943	Box 1, File 82
2023.01.083	Bert Murakami	1943	Box 1, File 83
2023.01.084	Prince Rupert Japanese Picnic	1939	Box 1, File 84
2023.01.085	Kaslo Winter	1942 - 1943	Box 1, File 85
2023.01.086	Personal	[194-]	Box 1, File 86
2023.01.087	Vimy Park	[194-?]	Box 1, File 87
2023.01.088	Eichi's visit to New Denver	May 1945	Box 1, File 88
2023.01.089	Second Narrows bridge	[193-?]	Box 1, File 89
2023.01.090	Herring fleet and fishing	1941	Box 2, File 1
2023.01.091	Fishing shots of West coast	1941	Box 2, File 2
2023.01.092	Klemtu Cannery	[193-?]	Box 2, File 3
2023.01.093	North Galino Isl.	[1941]	Box 2, File 4

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.01.094	Northern B.C. candid shots	[193-?]	Box 2, File 5
2023.01.095	Fishing Vessel shots	1930 - 1942	Box 2, File 6
2023.01.096	Dave, Norio, Aiko	May 1945 – June 1945	Box 2, File 7
2023.01.097	Baseball	[194-?]	Box 2, File 8
2023.01.098	New Denver	[194-?]	Box 2, File 9
2023.01.099	Butedale cannery shots	1941	Box 2, File 10
2023.01.100	Skeena 'M	[193-?]	Box 2, File 11
2023.01.101	Michael & Dad and Mom shots	[194-?]	Box 2, File 12
2023.01.102	Kaslo	[194-?]	Box 2, File 13
2023.01.103	Mark Toyama	1943	Box 2, File 14
2023.01.104	Collected negatives	February 16, 1946	Box 2, File 15
2023.01.105	Swimming	[194-?]	Box 2, File 16
2023.01.106	King & Queen of England	1939	Box 2, File 17
2023.01.107	Fishing	[193-?]	Box 2, File 18
2023.01.108	Norio & Mom Kondo	1943	Box 2, File 19
2023.01.109	Mom Kondo and Mrs. Naruse	1943	Box 2, File 20
2023.01.110	Mr. Hidaka & Friend	1943	Box 2, File 21
2023.01.111	Hanako & Kazuko Murakami	1943	Box 2, File 22
2023.01.112	Ocean Falls B.C.	[193-?]	Box 2, File 23
2023.01.113	Clock making	[195-?]	Box 2, File 24
2023.01.114	Family Shots	[195-?]	Box 2, File 25
2023.01.115	Murakami's	[195-?]	Box 2, File 26
2023.01.116	Humming Bird Shot	[194-?]	Box 2, File 27
2023.01.117	Coast-Vancouver, Cannery, Boat	[194-?]	Box 2, File 28
2023.01.118	Toronto-Skyline, Harbor	[195-?]	Box 2, File 29
2023.01.119	Straith's in Toronto	[195-?]	Box 2, File 30
2023.01.120	Victoria-Stage shots Eiko	[194-?]	Box 2, File 31
2023.01.121	Victoria-Stage shots	[194-?]	Box 2, File 32
2023.01.122	[Untitled envelope 1]	[195-?]	Box 2, File 33
2023.01.123	[Untitled envelope 2]	[193-?]	Box 2, File 34
2023.01.124	Yps. Farewell Beach Party	[194-?]	Box 2, File 35
2023.01.125	[Untitled envelope 3]	[193-?]	Box 2, File 36
2023.01.126	Dave M	[195-]	Box 2, File 37
2023.01.127	[Christmas family photograph]	[195-]	Box 2, File 38
2023.01.128	Summit Lake	[194-?]	Box 2, File 39
2023.01.129	Scenic shots: Vancouver, B.C.	[193-?]	Box 2, File 40
2023.01.130	[Untitled envelope 4]	[194-?]	Box 2, File 41
2023.01.131	[Untitled envelope 5]	[194-?]	Box 2, File 42
2023.01.132	Kodacolor	[195-?]	Box 2, File 43
2023.01.133	[Untitled envelope 6]	[195-?]	Box 2, File 44
2023.01.134	Mom + Kiyo + Ourselves	[194-?]	Box 2, File 45

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.01.135	[Untitled envelope 7]	[194-?]	Box 2, File 46
2023.01.136	[Untitled envelope 8]	[195-?]	Box 2, File 47
2023.01.137	[Untitled envelope 9]	[195-?]	Box 2, File 48
2023.01.138	[Album]	[194-?]	Box 2, File 49
2023.01.139	Alexander's monument	1933	Box 2, File 50
2023.01.140	Family Shot	1941	Box 2, File 51
2023.01.141	Sandon	1943	Box 2, File 52
2023.01.142	Dave and Aiko in Kaslo	1943-1944	Box 2, File 53
2023.01.143	Our House	1943-1944	Box 2, File 54
2023.01.144	Kondo chief	[194-?]	Box 2, File 55
2023.01.145	Aiko Murakami family negatives	[193-]	Box 2, File 56
2023.01.146	[Kondo family]	[193-]	Box 2, File 57
2023.01.147	[Unknown roll 1]	[193-?]	Box 3
2023.01.148	[Unknown roll 2]	[193-?]	Box 3
2023.01.149	[Unknown roll 3]	[193?] – [194-?]	Box 3
2023.01.150	[Unknown roll 4]	[194-?]	Box 3
2023.01.151	[Unknown roll 5]	[193-?]	Box 3
2023.01.152	[Unknown roll 6]	[194-?]	Box 3
2023.01.153	[Unknown roll 7]	[193-?]	Box 3
2023.01.154	[Unknown roll 8]	[193-?]	Box 3

Series 3: Ephemera

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.01.155	Postcards	[194-?]	Box 2, File 58
2023.01.156	Netting shuttles	[193-?]	Box 3