

# N<sup>OS</sup> D<sup>ISPARUS</sup>



Joseph Takayuki Hattori

Joe was the youngest of four children born to Motoharu and Sayoko (Tanaka) Hattori. His parents married in 1938 in Vancouver. Interestingly, Joe's grandparents were among the earliest Japanese immigrants to arrive in Canada. Sayoko's father, Ichijiro Tanaka (1886–1982), came to Canada in 1903. He married Miki (Tsuji) Tanaka (1891–

1981) in 1911 in Victoria, B.C. They had eight children, Sayoko being the eldest. The Tanaka family ran a very successful tofu business in the Powell Street area of the Japanese community in Vancouver until the uprooting of 1942. Motoharu Hattori's parents, Chozo Hattori (1875–1920) and Sei (Suzuki) Hattori (1883–1963), were married at the Vancouver Buddhist Church in about 1905, probably two of the earliest Japanese Canadian marriages in Canada.

Joe's family operated a dry cleaning and laundry business in Vancouver until 1942, when, like many other coastal Japanese Canadians, they were relocated to the interior of B.C. as part of the wartime internment program. A requisite to evacuation to East Lillooet was that the family had to be able to pay for their own transportation and housing materials. The family planted a garden, irrigated it with water from the Fraser River and raised chickens for the eggs. Joe was born during a snowstorm in East Lillooet on February 2, 1947. He was a third-generation Japanese Canadian. In 1949, the family moved into the town of Lillooet, where Sayoko, an accomplished seamstress, took in sewing and Motoharu did dry cleaning in their garage. The family moved back to Vancouver in 1953 and opened a dry cleaning establishment called Sea Breeze Cleaners on Kingsway. Motoharu and Sayoko ran this business until they retired in the mid 1980s.

Joe began attending John Norquay Elementary School in East Vancouver in 1953. He graduated from Gladstone Senior Secondary in 1965. He

hitchhiked across Canada to attend Expo 67 in Montreal. Joe attended UBC after high school and obtained a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry in 1969. After a year of travel in Europe, he returned to UBC to study law. During the summer months of his second year of law school, Joe travelled to Kelowna to take part in a pilot project legal aid clinic staffed by law students. It was in Kelowna that he met his future wife, Diana, on a blind date. After law school and before beginning his articling in Vancouver, Joe went to Japan for several months and taught English as a second language. He was called to the bar on May 20, 1975. For the next 34 years he practised as a civil and family litigator in Kelowna.

Joe and Diana moved to Kelowna in the summer of 1975, when Joe began practising with the firm of Mollard & Company. A year later he joined the firm of Weddell, Horn and Company. Jim Horn, as senior partner, became a good friend and mentor to Joe over the years. Jim Gordon, a partner of the firm at the time, officiated at Joe and Diana's marriage in 1977. Joe and Diana have two daughters: Megan, born in 1980, and Meredith, born in 1982.

Joe showed an aptitude for athletics and began playing team sports at a very young age. He excelled at baseball, basketball, tennis, skiing and, later at UBC, began playing squash, a sport that became a lifetime love for him. On moving to Kelowna, Joe joined the Four Seasons Racquet Club, where he and Diana played tennis and squash. Joe was a keen recreational squash player. He and his long-time friend, Jim Innes, organized and ran the first squash ladder at the club. Under Joe and Tod Alstad's direction, this ladder was later expanded to an interclub squash league (Okanagan Squash League) with teams from Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna, and Penticton participating. Joe was a proud Squash Dad. He oversaw his daughters' involvement in Junior Squash locally, provincially and at the national level. His years as a "squash" volunteer included over 15 years provincially, first as a zone rep. for the Okanagan, then as the Junior Development Committee chair for Squash BC, then as president of Squash BC before joining the board of Squash Canada as VP Operations from 1999 to 2004. From 2004 to 2006, he was appeals/privacy officer; then from 2006 to 2009, president of Squash Canada. In June of 2009, he became past president of Squash Canada.

In addition to undertaking his volunteer work with Squash, Joe also volunteered his time to the Kelowna and District Association of Japanese Canadians ("KDAJC"). He was president of this association from 1992 to 2009. The KDAJC was involved in several community projects during these years, including establishing educational bursaries to School District #23 and to Okanagan University College. Joe was involved in all aspects

of these awards, from funding to the selection of award winners and the presentation of the awards. In addition, they undertook Hinode Home renovations; the publication of *The Vision Fulfilled 1894–1994* (a local Japanese Canadian history); Kelowna cemetery renovations and periodic fundraiser cultural banquets.

As a youngster, Joe often went fishing with his uncles. He loved to fish! Upon moving to Kelowna, he joined the Lonely Loons Fly Fishing Club. He learned to build a rod, tie flies, match the hatch and read the water. Fishing became a favourite family activity. Growing up, the girls enjoyed spending weekends camping and going fishing with Dad, while Mom did her needlepoint or read a book on shore. Joe took quiet pleasure in building a campfire and brewing the morning pot of “tugboat” coffee. Joe also lent his support to the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, sponsoring their fund raising efforts for many years.

Joe practised law in Kelowna for over 34 years, and a transition of the firms Joe was with included Tymchuck, Brown, Kendall & Hattori; McAfee, Peyton, McDade & Hattori; McAfee, Harder, Hattori & Shaw; McAfee, Hattori & Shaw; Hattori & Shaw; and Hattori, Shaw & Clarke. In 2008, the Hattori, Shaw & Clarke group began practising as Courtyard Law Offices.

Joe, John McAfee and Meg Shaw, Q.C., not only practised law together over a period of many years but also formed a lasting bond based on mutual friendship and respect.

There was a memorial service for Joe on September 21, 2009, at the Kelowna Buddhist Temple, which was attended by over 400 family, friends and colleagues. Joe was a long-standing and respected member of the Kelowna bar, and he will be sorely missed.

Meg Shaw, Q.C.



**mea  
forensic**  
Let the evidence speak®

Engineers and Scientists specializing in  
Transportation  
Injury Biomechanics  
Product  
Property  
Aviation

[www.meaforensic.com](http://www.meaforensic.com)