

Eulogy at Victor Kuwabara's funeral by Terry Yasunaka,
- Brother of Sue and brother-in-law of Victor

Your presence is a source of great comfort to both Sue, and to the whole family as they mourn the passing of their beloved Victor.

Victor was born in 1924 in Vancouver in the area known as Marpo and he lived and went to school there until his late teens.

When the war with Japan broke out in 1942 – all the people of Japanese ancestry were uprooted from the coastal area and were relocated into various camps in the interior of British Columbia. The Kuwabara family was part of a small Japanese community in a place called Slocan.

When the war ended Japanese families were not allowed to return to their former homes and businesses which had already been confiscated. They had no choice but to move east of the Rockies and to start life anew.

For reasons unknown the family chose to move to Montreal and not long after moved to their duplex on Mariette Ave. Victor was a quiet, hard-working individual with experience in book-keeping and found work as a Cost Accountant with Maple Leaf Mills and worked there for 37 years until his retirement in 1987.

Victor was also very devoted to his mother who was the head of the Takeya School of Japanese Flower arranging and was a great help to her until her passing.

He married my sister Sue in 1963 and they were blessed with two beautiful girls – Julie who is here today with her devoted friend Gaetan, and Louise who drove in from Dundas, Ontario with her husband Jay and their twins Sarah and Cameron.

Victor was more of a home-body and did not travel too far, except for a honey-moon trip to Florida and a horse-racing trip to Saratoga Springs. Apparently one of his favourite places was the Gaspé coast and the daughters seem to recall making frequent trips there.

Victor was very generous with his time and energy and both he and Sue spent countless hours helping at various events not only at their nearby Anglican church – the church of St. Columba, - but they volunteered their services at various events in the Japanese community Center helping at their Bazaars and with the community's monthly publication – The Montreal Bulletin.

Many are surprised with all the medals that Victor accumulated running marathons. Apparently, he was quite a heavy smoker at one time. Shortly after he made the decision to quit, he began to take up jogging and soon he was seen running regularly along Maisonneuve street west to Montreal West and east to Atwater street. The impressive thing is that he started to run marathons when he was 55 years of age and competed for 11 years in events in Montreal and Ottawa.

In closing, I'm certain that there are many other stories which you can share with the family either at the reception following or some other future occasion.

Victor lived a long life, a full and good life. May he rest in peace.

(Victor Kuwabara - January 23, 1924 – November 24, 2014)