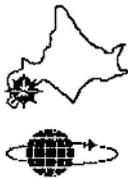


MURORAN TIMES



November 1, 2010 No.252
Muroran City Office 1-2 Saiwai-cho, Muroran,
Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

News and Topics

Former Muroran Station Building Becomes Quasi-memorial

Hokkaido Railway Company (JR Hokkaido) designated three facilities to be railway memorials and ten others to be railway quasi-memorials, as historical and culturally valuable facilities related to the railway, in commemoration of the 130th anniversary of JR Hokkaido. In Iburi District, the former Muroran Station Building was specified as railway quasi-memorial. Designation of railway memorials started in 1958 in order to reduce railway-related assets. From then until 1986, 35 railway memorials and 48 railway quasi-memorials were designated nationwide. Since 1986, no memorials have been specified. In the future, JR Hokkaido plans to designate railway memorials every year.

The former Muroran Station Building, which is the oldest existing wooden structure in Hokkaido, was built in 1912. It is also listed as a national tangible cultural asset, which is one of the reasons for its designation as a railway quasi-memorial at this time.

The ceremony for the designation was held on October 18th at former Muroran Station. A director of JR Hokkaido, Mr. Shimada Osamu, presented the designation papers and a memorial plate to Muroran Mayor, Mr. Shingu Masashi. The mayor commented, "I am honored that this building, which is a reminder of the Meiji Period, has been so highly evaluated. I plan to make a big effort to promote, exploit and preserve it."



Mr. Shimada

Mayor Shingu

ほっかいどう もっと ふる もくぞうけんちくぶつ きゅうむろらん えきしゃ
北海道で最も古い木造建築物である旧室蘭駅舎
が、ほっかいどう てつどう しゅうねん きねん
北海道の鉄道130周年を記念した
じゆんてつどうきねんぶつ してい
準鉄道記念物に指定されました。

The Population Falls Below 95,000

The population of Muroran City became 94,917 at the end of this September. The number shows a total decrease of 5,000 people since 2005 when the population first dropped below 100,000. In other words, the population has been decreasing by 1000 people every year. One reason for this is that the number of deaths in Muroran exceeds the number of births, and the number of people leaving Muroran exceeds the number of people moving into Muroran every month.

The rate of decrease has not let up since the population broke the 100,000 mark. The population of Muroran reached its peak, 183,605 people, at the end of July in 1969. The present population is about half of that peak year. However, the number of households has increased from 47,257 to 48,007 during this period, showing that the number of people per household has greatly changed.

むろらんし じんこう くがつまつ きゅうまんごせん にん したまわ
室蘭市の人口が9月末で9万5千人を下回りました。
ねんまえ まんにん わって まいとしやく
5年前に10万人を割ってから毎年約1,000
にん げんしょう
人ずつ減少しています。

Information and Invitations

Science Museum Festival

[Contents] Riding on a hydrogen bus, craft classes and science experiment classes. Tickets for each class are distributed at ten o'clock on that day. Some classes require a fee for teaching materials.

[Date] November 3 (Wed) 10:00a.m.~ 4:00p.m.

*Entrance: until 4:30.

[Place] Muroran Science Museum

[Entrance Fee] 300 yen for adults, 100 yen for high school students

(under junior high school age and over 70 years old: free)

[More Information] Muroran Science Museum
(Tel: 0143-22-1058)

Lecture of Japanese Sword

[Date] November 5(Fri) 6:00p.m. ~

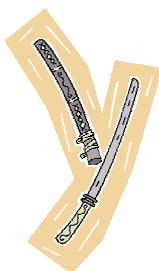
[Place] *Noboribetsu* Citizen's Hall

[Lecturer] Mr. Korehira Watanabe

[Application] on that day

[More Information] Mr. Sasaki

(Tel: 0143-55-5213)



Joetsu Sightseeing and Local Product Festival

[Date] November 6(Sat),7(Sun) 10:00 a.m. ~

[Place] Historical Muroran JR Station

[More Information] Tourist Association

(Tel:0143-25-3320)

Emergency Allowance Course

Course of cardiopulmonary resuscitation necessary to save the life of a person whose heart has stopped suddenly, and electroshock included in the AED

[Date] November 13(Sat) 1:30 p.m ~4:30 p.m.

[Place] Fire fighting general public office building (Higashi-machi)

[Admission Fee] free

[Limit] first 30 people

[Application] by telephone until November 11



[More Information] Fire station emergency desk
(Tel: 0143-43-0119)

Flower Arrangement Exhibition



[Date] November 27(Sat), 28(Sun) 10:00 a.m. ~

[Place] Muroran Citizens Museum

(Tel: 0143-22-1124)

Citizens Gallery (Painting, Calligraphy, Photography, and Sculpture, etc.)

[Date] November 30(Tue) ~ December 5(Sun)
10:00 a.m. ~

[Place] Muroran Citizens Museum

(Tel: 0143-22-1124)

Terrestrial Digital Broadcasting Reception



Consultation Association and Briefing

The analog broadcasting of the present television ends on July 24, 2011

and will shift to the terrestrial digital broadcasting completely.

Questions such as, "What should I do to see the terrestrial digital broadcasting?" and "Is the antenna good as it is?" will be answered.

Date	Place
November 29 (Mon)	Muroran <i>Bunka</i> Center Muroran <i>Shimin Kaikan</i>
November 30 (Tue)	Muroran <i>Shimin Kaikan</i> <i>Chusho Kigyo</i> center
December 1 (Wed)	<i>Chusho Kigyo</i> center <i>Bokoi Kaikan</i>
December 2 (Thu)	Muroran <i>Bunka</i> Center <i>Nakajima Kaikan</i>
December 3 (Fri)	Muroran <i>Bunka</i> Center <i>Chusho Kigyo</i> center

[Time] Consultation Association ... 10:00 a.m.
~12:00noon

2:00p.m. ~ 4:00p.m.

Briefing ... 1:00p.m. ~ 2:00p.m.

[More Information] The Ministry of Public
Management,

Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications
television addressee support center

(Tel: 011-271-3825)

Japanese Lesson

“Nihongo de hanasou”

<Topic of the month>

Culture Day : 文化の日 [bunka-no-hi]

Vocabulary

Award of Cultural Merit : 文化勲章

[bunka-kunshyou]

art : 芸術、美術 [gei-kyutsu / bi-kyutsu]

artist : 芸術家 [gei-kyutsu-ka]

performing art : 舞台芸術 [butai-gei-kyutsu]

art museum : 美術館 [bi-kyutsu-kan]

modern art : 現代美術 [gendai-bijyutsu]

paintings : 絵画 [kaiga]

exhibition : 展覧会 [tenran-kai]

music : 音楽 [ongaku]

musician : 音楽家 [ongaku-ka]

enjoy (art, music, film) : 鑑賞 (-する)

[kansyou(-suru)] *

traditional performing arts : 伝統芸能

[dentou-geinou] *

foreign culture : 外国文化、異文化

[gaikoku/i-bunka]

Japanese culture : 日本文化 [nihon-bunka] *

Phrases

(1) 「何か体験してみたい日本の文化はあり

ますか。」

[nanika taiken shitemitai nihon no bunka wa arimasuka]

Would you like to experience specific Japanese culture? *

(2) 「日本の伝統芸能を鑑賞してみたいです。」

[nihon no dentou geinou wo kansyou shite mitai desu]

I would like to enjoy watching Japanese traditional performing arts.*

Explanation

Autumn is a time of harvest in several meanings. In Japan, November 3rd is a national holiday called “Culture Day”. You will see many small exhibitions taking place in your neighborhood. In addition, there will be many awards for outstanding artists nationally.

Interview

Konnichiwa “Muroranese” Vol.14]

Mark Hochstetler



Mark Hochstetler is from Mackinaw, Illinois, in the U.S. He's been living in Muroran since March 2009. He teaches English as an ALT for the Muroran Board of Education. He also gives private eikaiwa lessons. We talked about his experiences in the serene lobby of the Shiminkaikan in Wanishi. (Second of three parts)

How would you compare living in Muroran to living in other parts of Hokkaido?

I'm actually getting more and more used to living in Muroran, but when I first came here I didn't like it, because it seemed very separated from the rest of Hokkaido. It's difficult to get anywhere else, especially to the mountains,

which I like. But having the ocean so nearby is something that I really like, and I've taken up surfing and enjoy that a lot. Muroran is a city but still comes off as having kind of a small town atmosphere, which is very nice. I like the Furano area and Shiretoko the best out of Hokkaido, but I think the longer you're in Muroran, it can grow on you.

What are your favorite places to hang out in Muroran and why?

To hang out? I don't really do a whole lot of hanging out these days. But to go to and see? I like, obviously, the beach, and when I go surfing at Itanki Beach or in Horobetsu, those are probably my favorite spots, just because I'm surfing and in the ocean, and it's nice and peaceful. Other places.... There's a road that goes to Chikyuumisaki but follows the whole mountaintop. I like to drive on that road and sometimes sit and watch the sun set or relax. It's very peaceful there.

What do you think of internationalization in Japan?

Japan is still very separated from the rest of the world. I think that with the shrinking population, internationalization is going to be very important. Actually, it's been getting better through the years, and foreigners are more comfortable and treated normally in Japan. It's been slowly getting better. The government, obviously, is behind. For example, a Japanese person cannot have dual citizenship. I have a Japanese wife. If we were to have children, when they turned eighteen, they would have to decide to be either Japanese or American for the rest of their lives. If they choose to be American, then if they want to visit their grandparents, they would have to use a visitor visa to visit their own family. And vice versa, if they wanted to go to America. That's just something that ought to have already been changed long ago.

What are some areas where progress is happening? For me, when watching Japanese TV, I think that TV is progressing. When

they watch TV, people are actually learning about the rest of the world in ways that I think have improved from ten, fifteen years ago. There's more interest in the rest of the world, and so people know a lot more.

This last month, I've been watching a TV show every week, "Manaberu News." It's done by this guy who used to be a lawyer and is very smart, and he tackles these big topics and compares them, and explains why Japan and America had issues with Okinawa, and why the base was there originally. And the relationship between North Korea and Japan. And it's very interesting most of the time. The other show I've been watching recently is "Itte Q." It has good information about the rest of the world, and it makes it fun, and Japanese people watch the most TV in the world, on average, so they need more of those kind of things. I think it's easier to be recognized as normal in Japan these days than it was before, if you're a foreigner. Less stares and not really looked down upon as much. Seen more as just another person.

<by Mike Nima>

Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. Avatar: Special Edition (3D)
2. 海猿(3D) (Japanese)
3. SP 野望編 (Japanese)
4. 雷桜(らいおう)(Japanese)



About the Muroran Times

The Muroran Times is designed to bring information about local events to the international community of Muroran. Staff: Mitani Yoichi, Ishizawa Yuko, Yamashita Mayumi, Tagashira Kazui, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, Naito Naoko, Mike Nima, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.
