

MURORAN TIMES



August 1, 2009 No.237

Muroran City Office 1-2 Saiwai-cho, Muroran,
Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

News and Topics



Introduction of Bio Diesel Fuel

Muroran City Office began using Bio Diesel Fuel (BDF) in a road maintenance vehicle as part of the environmental campaign that Muroran City Office is running. Fuji Construction Company (President: Mr. Hashizume Masaaki) in Chuo-cho, Muroran, which is recycling cooking oil from a school lunch center, will contribute the refined oil to the city. In the first three months of the experiment, starting in July, the company staff will monitor the process.

BDF is a substitute for light oil. BDF is made by first adding methanol and catalysts into the used cooking oil to eliminate impurities, and then refining it. BDF is helpful for the prevention of global warming, because no carbon dioxide is emitted when it is burned. Compared with light oil, the amount of black smoke and sulfur oxide in the exhaust gases is diminished.

More and more prefectures have introduced BDF. In Muroran, Fuji Construction Company began using the refining equipment last year, and has been using BDF as fuel for heavy machineries. The driver from the city office, who drove the vehicle with BDF, said that it seemed comparable with light oil.

むろらんしやくしょ かんきょうもんだい と く
室蘭市役所では、環境問題に取り組むため、
こうようしゃいちだい ねんりょう しけんてき
公用車1台にバイオディーゼル燃料を試験的に
つか
使うこととしました。

Relay for Life

The charity event, "Relay for Life (RFL) Hokkaido", which supports cancer patients, will be held on August 29th and 30th in the open area next to Hakucho Oh-hashii Memorial Hall in Shukuzu-cho, Muroran. The chairperson for the event is calling for people to raise funds for and participate in the relay.

Last year amidst the enthusiasm of cancer patients, many supporters, local companies, etc., RFL was held in Muroran for the first time in Hokkaido, and only the fourth time nationwide. The program received favorable reviews.

This year there were lots of requests to hold the RFL again. So in May eleven people formed a committee and began preparing for it. Walking all night in teams, lighting candles for cancer victims, medical checkup for lung cancer, a variety of stage events, and food stalls are just some of the activities planned. It is hoped that one million yen can be collected for operating expenses. The committee is calling for donations. For further information, call Ms. Sakamoto (0143-47-5965).

がん患者を支援するチャリティイベント「リレー フォ
ー ライフ北海道」が昨年引き続き8月29日と
さんじゅういち りょうじつ むろらん かいさい
30日の両日、室蘭で開催されます。

Hometown Tax



The law regarding local taxes was revised last year, allowing tax payers to get a reduction in their resident tax if they donate money to their hometown.

Muroran City began accepting such donations a year ago on July 1. During this year, 62 people from all over the country have donated a total of 5,580,002 yen. The largest donation was one million yen.

Thirty-six donors are from outside of Hokkaido, 11 donors are from other parts of Hokkaido, and 15 donors are from Muroran.

Muroran City sent a calendar of Muroran to each donor.

Muroran City will continue to publicize this program as many people as possible.

じぶん おうえん じちたい きふ
自分のふるさとや応援したい自治体に寄付をすると
ぜいきん やす せいど さくねんしちがつ いちねんかん
税金が安くなる制度ができ、昨年7月からの1年間
むろらんし ろくじゅうににん やくごひやくろくじゅうまんえん きふ
で、室蘭市に62人から約560万円の寄付がありました。

Information and Invitations

General Opening of Cape-Chikyu Lighthouse

It is possible to go inside the lighthouse.

[Date] August 8(Sat), 9(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

[Admission Fee] free

[Information] Sightseeing Section at Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-25-3320)



Summer Vacation Science Festival

[Date] August 8(Sat) – 11(Tue)
10:00a.m.~5:00p.m.(The entrance : until 4:30p.m.)

[Contents] A craft class, a food class, and an experiment class, etc. will be held each day.

[Application] on that day

[Entrance Fee] 300 yen for adult, 100 yen for high school students (under junior high school age and over 70 years old: free)

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

Muroran Mikoshi Parade (portable shrines)

[Date] August 14(Fri) 6:30p.m. ~

[Place] Muroran at Chuo-cho arcade

[Information] Mr.Funamoto (Tel: 0143-22-8211)

Muroran Hachiman jingu Shrine Festival

<Outdoor Markets>



[Date] August 14 (Thur) 12:00 noon ~, 15(Fri) 10:00a.m. ~

[Place] Chuo-cho

[Information] Mr.Funamoto (Tel: 0143-22-8211)

Muroran West Summer Festival

<Outdoor Markets>

[Date] August 22 (Sat) 11:00 a.m. ~, 23(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~

[Place] West exit plaza of Higashi Muroran JR Station

[Information] Mr.Yoshioka (Tel: 0143-45-3727)

Flea Market and Outdoor Market

[Date] August 30(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~

[Place] JRA Winds Muroran (Motowanishi-cho)

*in front of the entrance hall of JRA

[Contents] Exhibition of local products of Okinawa and Miyakojima city (Outdoor Market)

[Information] Mr.Tsuchida (Tel: 0143-55-7452)

Muroran Tour for the People of Muroran

[Date] August 25(Tue) 10:45 a.m ~4:00 p.m.

[Courses] Muroran Citizen Museum, Nippon Steel Corporation(Premises, Place where sword is forged, *Zuisenkaku*) etc.

[Limit] 35 people (if applicants exceed limit, applications will be determined by lot)

[Application] by telephone until August 14

[Information] the Public Relation Section of Muroran City Office (Tel: 0143-25-2193)

Muroran Jazz Cruise

[Date] August 22(Sat) 12:00 noon ~ 8:30 p.m.

[Place] Central wharf warehouse

[Tickets] 5,000 yen (4,500 yen in advance) for

adults and 1,500 yen (1,000 yen in advance) for high school students and younger. You can get a ticket at Muroran Sightseeing Association, Muroran Hakucho Bridge Memorial Hall and puratto Tetsuichi in Wanishi, etc



[Information] Muroran Jazz Cruise
Executive Committee (Tel: 0143-44-9922)

Noboribetsu Hot Spring Festival

[Date] August 29(Sat) 0:05 p.m.~9:45p.m.
30(Sun) 0:05p.m.~10:00p.m.

[Place] Noboribetsu Hot Spring Street
(Gokuraku Street)

[Event] Oni (Demon) Dance, Oni Mikoshi Parade
(portable shrines)

Fireworks (August 30)

*Some of the events and times might change due
to the weather
and convenience

[Information] Noboribetsu Sightseeing
Association (Tel: 0143-84-3311)

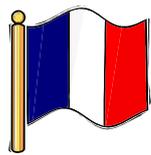
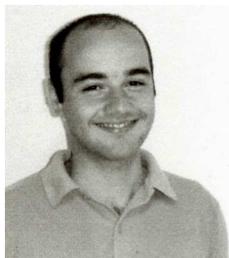
Interview

Konnichiwa “Muroranese” [Vol. 2]

Name: Raphael Brunet-Ghintran

Country: Nice, France

Profession: Exchange Student



Q: When did you come to Muroran?

A: I came to Muroran in September 2008. I will stay here for a year, until the end of this August.

Q: What do you do in Muroran?

A: I am an exchange student at Hokuto Bunka Academy's International School of Culinary Art. I take Japanese and Chinese cuisine classes and learn Japanese language.

Q: Why did you choose to come to Japan?

A: I finished school with restaurant and hotel service in France. I wanted to learn more about Japanese cuisine for my career. In addition, Japanese culture including food, fashion etc...is highly regarded in France and Europe. So I thought that studying in Japan

would help me to have my own opinion about Japan and Japanese culture as well.

Q: Any comments for the citizens as a foreign resident?

A: It has been a whole new experience for me to live in Muroran. For new-comers, especially those who do not have good knowledge of Japanese language, meeting people is not easy. I wish there were some opportunities to meet people, something like a casual party, among foreign residents and local people in Muroran.

Japanese Cooking 212

Beef Salad ぎゅうにく 牛肉サラダ



- **Ingredients (serve four)** -

-

beef sirloin, thinly sliced	400g
dried wakame seaweed	5 g
cucumber	1/2
carrot	60g
daikon radish	100g
Japanese leek	3cm
cherry tomatoes	4

<Sesame dressing>

- toasted white sesame seeds
6 tablespoons
- sugar
1 tablespoon
- mirin
1 tablespoon
- soy sauce
5 tablespoons
- rice vinegar
7 tablespoons
- broth
100 cc

Directions

- (1) Cut beef into 2-3 pieces.
Branch the beef very briefly in boiling water, transfer to a bowl of cold water immediately, drain, and pat dry.
- (2) Soak wakame seaweed in water, wring and cut into 3cm strips.

- (3) Julienne cucumber, daikon radish, carrot, and Japanese leek into 3cm pieces, and combine.
Soak in ice water to crisp, and drain.
- (4) Cut tomatoes into quarters. .
- (5) To make sesame dressing, grind toasted white sesame seeds in a mortar, add seasonings, and mix well.
- (6) Spread sliced vegetables on plates, arrange wakame and beef on top, and garnish with tomatoes,.
Serve with sesame dressing on the side.

About Japan

Japanese Way of Life and Society

<What is Zen?>

The aim of the Zen sect, one of the denominations of Buddhism, is to meditate in order to eliminate hesitation or delusion and awaken to the truth. One of the practices used to acquire serenity of mind is *zazen*, which means to sit in silent meditation.

Zen existed in India before Christ, and it was later spread by priests including Bodhidharma, who is believed to have continued meditating in a sitting posture for nine years. After studying in China, Japanese priests introduced Zen to Japan in the 12th and 13th centuries. The Zen sects in Japan today are the *Rinzai* sect, *Soto* sect, and *obaku* sect.

<On what occasions do people go to temples?>

Most funerals in Japan are conducted in the Buddhist tradition and the dead are buried according to Buddhist rites. Remains of the dead after cremation are placed in a grave at a temple. Therefore, the family of someone who is buried at a temple becomes a supporting member called *danka*.

Originally a temple was deeply rooted in the community, and it was like a church in Christianity in the sense that regular lecture meetings for believers were held.

But very few young people now go to such events. Most people seldom go to temples except for funerals. However, temples in Kyoto

and Nara, two representative ancient cities, are always filled with tourists.

<On what occasions do people go to Shinto shrines?>

Just as temples have *danka* as supporters, shrines have *ujiko*, which are not necessarily united by faith, but by a sense of community solidarity.

Most Japanese go to shrines to offer their first prayer of the year on New Year's Day. They pray for happiness, peace and good health in the coming year.

For wedding ceremonies, Shintoism is among the first choices for couples. Many hotels and wedding ceremonial halls have Shinto altars, so couples do not have to go to a shrine to take their marriage vows.

When a couple has a baby, the baby is taken to a shrine around 30 days after his or her birth.

In November, on the occasion for celebrating *shichi-go-san* for girls at the ages of three and seven, and boys at three and five, children in their finest clothes are taken to a shrine.

Festivals, which play an important role in the lives of the Japanese as popular annual events, are also held at shrines. The Japanese consider shrines as places of celebration.

Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
2. Bolt (Disney animation)
3. NARUTO (Japanese animation)
4. ポケットモンスター (Japanese animation)



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, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.
