

MURORAN TIMES

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

News and Topics



Twitter

Muroran city office has begun to provide information by the social network, Twitter since October 3. Although telephones and cellular phones were cut off during the East Japan Earthquake, people were able to send messages using Twitter. Muroran city office intends to provide information about the prevention of disasters, information in case of emergency, and information about events as needed. Twitter has already been used to send out information about the space set up on the Muroran city website regarding the 140th anniversary of Muroran Port and the 90th anniversary of Muroran as a municipality, which will take place in 2012., and also the news about Muroran Sharks, the baseball team which participated in the National Intercity Amateur Baseball Championship Series. In the future it will provide pertinent information swiftly to the citizens of Muroran.
http://Twitter.com/Muroran_City

むろらんしやくしょ じょうほうていきょう はじ
室蘭市役所でツイッターによる情報提供を始めま
こんご ぼうさい じょうほう ずいじ
した。今後、イベントや防災などの情報を随時
はっしん よてい
発信していく予定です。

Muroran comes in first in Hokkaido forwarding production

According to the industrial statistics for 2010 announced by the Hokkaido government, Muroran ranked first among the municipalities for having the highest total of manufactured goods sent, which came to ¥1.11295 trillion. This figure is 19% of the total

amount for manufactured goods sent out from Hokkaido, which came to ¥5.8529 trillion. This is the first time in three years that Muroran has held this rank. The last time was in 2007. The main reasons for this increase were the inclusion of gasoline products from JX Nippon Oil & Energy, Muroran Refinery, and an increase in the total of manufactured steel products sent out. Tomakomai ranked second at ¥952.362 billion, and Sapporo came in third for a total of ¥455.829 billion.

さくねん いちねんかん ほっかいどう せいぞうひん しゅつか がく
昨年1年間の北海道における製造品出荷額の
しちようそん べつじゆんい むろらんし だいいちい
市町村別順位で、室蘭市が第1位となりました。
だいにい とまこまいし だいさんい さつぼろし じゆん
第2位は苫小牧市、第3位は札幌市の順となってい
ます。

Information and Invitations

Nakajima Sports Center Skate Rink Opens

[Opening Date] November 1 (Tue)
[Hours open] Weekdays:
12:00noon ~ 6:00p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays, holidays: 10:00a.m.
~6:00p.m.



[Day closed] Mondays *But when Monday is a holiday, the next day is closed.

[Admission Fee] under school aged children are free

	One time/ person	Coupon ticket: 6 times
adult	400 yen	2,000 yen
over 65 years	300 yen	1,500 yen
high school student	200 yen	1,000 yen
Elementary/Junior High school children	100 yen	500 yen

[More Information] Nakajima Sports Center
(Tel: 0143-45-0800)



Emergency Training Course

Course to train how to give cardiopulmonary resuscitation necessary to save the life of a person whose heart has stopped suddenly, and

electroshock included in the AED
[Conditions] Those who reside or work in Murooran older than junior high school student
[Date] November 12(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 charge
(Tel: 0143-43-0119)

Yoga Lecture for Sportsmen



Practical skills of yoga, such as self-care of muscle fatigue, will be introduced.
[Date] November 13(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~12:00noon
[Place] Sun Life Murooran
[Limit] 15 people * by lottery if number of applicants exceeds 15
[Admission Fee] 800 yen
[Application] by telephone until November 6
[More Information] Sun Life Murooran
(Tel: 0143-55-3040)

Experience Swimming in Clothes

[Date] November 14 (Mon) 6:30p.m. ~ 8:00p.m.
[Place] Irie Swimming Pool
[Limit] first 50 people
[Fee] Free
[Application] by telephone from November 2

***Swimming Pool will be closed...**

Irie Swimming Pool will be closed from November 16 to March 31 2012 for equipment repair work
[More Information] Irie Swimming Pool
(Tel: 0143-22-2466)

Autumn Gardening Class



[Date] November 19(Sat) 10:00a.m. ~ 12:00noon.
[Place] Murooran Culture Center
[Description] The flower master will teach how to

make a personal Christmas garden
[Fee] 1,000 yen
[Limit] first 40 people.
[Application] By telephone or FAX or E-mail
Please include your address, name and telephone number
from November 7
[More Information] City planning division, Park section at Murooran City Office
(Tel: 0143-25-2603, Fax: 0143-24-2091
Email:hanamidori@city.murooran.lg.jp)

Ship Recycling International Symposium in Murooran

[Date] November 22(Tue) 1:30p.m. ~
[Place] Murooran Citizen's Hall (Shimin-Kaikan)
[More Information] Shimizu Laboratory, Murooran Institute of Technology
(Tel: 0143-46-5971)

Interview

Jane Takizawa



*Interviewed
by Mike Nima*

Jane Takizawa is from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She runs the Seikosha English Conversation School, teaches at Murooran Institute of Technology, and also works as an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) for some Murooran elementary schools. I spoke with her on a hot and sunny day at Chiribetsu Elementary School.
(First of three parts)

When did you come to Murooran and what brought you here?

I came to Murooran almost thirty-two years ago. I married my husband, and this is his hometown—that's what brought me here. I lived in Osaka for one year while I was a university student, and I taught English there, and I met my husband after summer camp.

We had a vacation in the mountains, and he was invited by the secretary of his English school, and I thought he was an interesting man.

What made you interested in studying in Japan and going to Osaka?

I first became interested in Japan when I was in high school. My history teacher liked Japan, and he actually held a special class in Japanese literature. It was very simple, mostly haiku, and we read parts of *Genji Monogatari* (The Tale of Genji). There was a guy I liked in my school, and he was third-generation Japanese. My university had a program, a student missionary program, where we could take a year off school and go to some country and be a variety of teachers. And he came to me one day when I was a freshman, and he said, "Jane, they need people to go to Japan!" So I said, "Why not? Sounds like an adventure!" And that's what brought me here in the first place.

Could you talk about the changes you've seen in Muroran since you came here?

Well, when I first came to Muroran, there were 150,000 people. About ten years after I was here, there was a severe worldwide recession, especially in the steel industry, and Muroran lost a third of its population within about five years. Up until then, Muroran had strongly depended on the steel companies for the livelihood of the town. So when a third of the workers left, of course that affected the local merchants. That was a big eye-opener for them, and they said, "Well, what are we going to do for our town?" And a group of merchants started the "Renaissance undou," and they started to look at Muroran more closely. They built toilets with interesting designs around the city. They put lights on the towers of Sokuryozan. And so one of the biggest changes was that from Muroran being just a steel town, it became a steel town plus some sightseeing attractions.

What kind of changes do you see happening in Muroran, and how would describe its identity today?

I think that the local people are taking more of

an interest in their city. Instead of just living here, they're actually participating in the livelihood of the city, making their own events, starting their own festivals, and making an effort to make their town a fun place to live in. For example, for ten years there was a jazz cruise, and I just noticed in the newspaper the other day that another kind of concert with jazz bands from the local area has started up. In recent years, the cruise ships have been coming in, and I'd like to see more of that, because it gives the people of Muroran not only an opportunity to use English but also the chance to interact with people from other countries and that in itself will give them broader minds.

Japanese Lesson

“Nihongo de hanasou”



<Topic of the month>

Driving in Japan : 車の運転 [kuruma no unten]

Vocabulary

car : 車 [kuruma]

drive : 運転 [unten]

driver's license : 運転免許証 [unten menkyo syou]

road : 道路 [douro]

traffic light : 信号 [shingou]

pedestrian crossing : 横断歩道 [oudan hodou]

one-way traffic : 一方通行 [ippou tuukou]

highway : 高速道路 [kousoku douro]

toll gate : 料金所 [ryoukin jyo]

exit : 出口 [deguchi]

parking lot : 駐車場 [tyuusya jyou]



traffic accident : 交通事故 [koutsuu jiko]

Phrases

(1) 「日本は左側通行で、車は右ハンドルです。」

[Nihon wa hidarigawa tsuukou de, kuruma wa migi handoru desu]

We drive on the left side of the road in Japan and the steering wheel is on the right side of the car.

(2) 「高速道路は有料です。」

[kousoku douro wa yuuryou desu]

You have to pay tolls when you take expressway.

Explanation

Statistics show that Hokkaido has the worst record of car accidents for all time. It is mainly due to the fact that the island is bigger than any other prefectures in Japan. In the eyes of foreigners, what do you think of the manners of drivers in the Muroran Area?

- (1) Pour hot water on the aburage.
Slice open one short side of the aburage pouch.
- (2) Put tofu, minced pork, salt and pepper in a bowl and mix .
Stuff the mixed ingredients in the aburage .
Flatten the aburage and close with toothpick.
Put salad oil and aburage in a pan and cook until brown.
Cut aburage into about 5pieces.
- (3) Put broth and onion in a pan and cook until boiling.
Add sugar, mirin, and soy sauce and mix.
Add aburage and cook until soup is reduced some.
Beat an egg and add Japanese leek and cook until egg is half done .
Place a portion of hot rice in a bowl, and slide aburage on top.

Japanese Cooking 231

Stuffed Aburage Pouches

にせかつ丼



- Ingredients (serve four) -

sliced deep fried tofu (aburage 油揚げ)	4 sheets
minced pork	80 g
tofu	400 g
egg	4
Japanese leek	10 g
onion slices	120 g
sugar	8 tablespoons
mirin	4 teaspoons
broth	480 cc
salad oil	1 tablespoon
salt	a little
pepper	a little

Cinema Guide

Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)

1. The Three Musketeers
2. Rise of the Planet of the Apes
3. ステキな金縛り (Japanese)
4. アンフェア2 (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, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, Naito Naoko, Sato Akiko, Mike Nima, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.