



NIKKA YUKO
Japanese
Garden

LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA
CANADA

Welcome to the Nikka Yuko Centennial Japanese Garden

*Nikka-Yuko means
Japan-Canada Friendship*

From a country endowed with some of the most beautiful natural scenery in the world, the Japanese people have developed an innate sense of appreciation for nature in all its forms. One expression of this is exemplified in the Japanese Garden. The skills of Japan's designers and builders have captured the unique form of the gardening art in designing the Nikka Yuko Centennial Japanese Garden.

A serene Japanese Garden is ancient in purpose, pattern and symbolism, and brings peace to both eye and spirit. Our garden is an artistic interpretation of nature. It is not showy, but provides a place of quiet serenity for appreciation of the beauty of nature. It is a haven for those who wish to relax and to find inner peace. In this way, the viewer is imperceptibly transformed by the gentle message of the garden.

The Nikka Yuko Garden was designed by Dr. Tadashi Kubo of Osaka Prefecture University. It encompasses designs developed over a thousand years, with special 20th century adaptations to blend into the Canadian setting. Care was taken in selecting rocks, trees and shrubs and supervising the placement of

each to create the special effect that the architect envisioned. The garden was officially opened on July 14, 1967 by their Imperial Highnesses', Prince and Princess Takamatsu of Japan.

The garden covers about 4 acres. The original flat prairie land was contoured and shaped with meticulous care. The Garden includes five basic areas joined together by a meandering path; dry garden, mountain and waterfall, stream, ponds and islands, and flat or prairie garden. The focal point of the garden is the pavilion built primarily of rare cypress wood. The pavilion, shelter, bridges and gates were designed and built by artisans in Japan who reassembled the structures in the Nikka Yuko Garden.

Over the years, the garden has gradually matured and acquired the characteristic mellowness and serenity so much admired in the gardens of Japan. We appreciate your visit and invite you to return from time to time to enjoy its changing nature.

The Nikka Yuko Garden was built by the City of Lethbridge and the Lethbridge and District Japanese Garden Society as a Canadian Centennial project. The \$300,000.00 construction cost was financed by the City of Lethbridge, grants from the senior governments and by private contributions.

*Lethbridge and District
Japanese Garden Society
Box 751, Lethbridge, Alberta. T1J 3Z6*

View Points

PAVILION: This traditional building houses the tea ceremony room with its "tokonoma" or alcove containing a scroll and an informal Japanese flower arrangement. The pavilion gives access to the dry garden and observation deck overlooking the waterfall and ponds.

DRY GARDEN: It is a garden within a garden. The white walls around it close off outside distractions. This allows the viewer to kneel on the wooden deck and concentrate on the beauty of the arrangements and form of the rocks and white rock chips.

AZUMAYA: A delightful shelter invites one to rest and enjoy the rushing stream which has its source here. The "ariso" or pebble beach and the bridges enhance this area. This vantage point gives a panoramic view of the stream, small islands, bell tower, arched bridges and Henderson Lake beyond.

PONDS AND ISLANDS: The small island is shaped like a turtle, which is a Japanese symbol of longevity. The graceful five-tiered pagoda, a purely decorative structure, can be viewed to good advantage from this area.

BELL TOWER: This ceremonial Friendship Bell was cast in Japan and inscriptions testify to Japan-Canada friendship. Its gentle "gong" sends out its message of friendship. From this elevated point one gets an overall view of the garden from a different perspective.

FLAT GARDEN: This is an artist's interpretation of the prairies. It is a vantage point for many views of the garden, and of beautiful Henderson Lake with its park areas and golf course.