

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPT.
RECEIVED
JUL 27 1942

"CORONERS ACT."
(Sec. 7, Subsecs. (2) and (3).)

(Coroner's Report Form of Inquiry.)

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New Denver, B. C. _____, B.C.

July, 22, 1942, 19

Report of INQUIRY as to Cause of Death of

Takeo KINOSHITA aged 9

Age 9 sex M Birthplace ? Date of death July 21, 1942

Nationality ~~Japanese~~ Canadian Race Japanese

Remarks see statements inclosed

Where found in water near shore

Found by two Japanese men engaged in grappling operations Watanabe and Ono

Post-mortem findings usual p.m. markings

ACKNOWLEDGED

ENTERED

Wounds, etc. nil

Address of deceased Slocan City

Address of next of kin Zenichi Kinoshita father Slocan City, B.C.

Opinion of Coroner See letter. This apparently was a pure accident contributed to by the boy's own daring and the fact that the local tug was pulling out from shore at the time. Definite recommendations have been made so that another such tragedy will not occur.

Municipality or district responsible none

Undertaker Thompson, Nelson, B.C. Buried at uncertain at present, possible cremation in Vancouver.

A. Francis, Coroner.

NOTE.—Depositions or statements of witnesses (if any) to be attached to this form.

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Slocan City, B.C.,
July 22, 1942.

STATEMENT OF CHIYOKO AKIYAMA

RE: INQUIRY INTO ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF TAKEO KINOSHITA.

About 4:15 P.M. on the afternoon of July 21st, I was teaching four senior girls the Australian crawl; all of a sudden the boat Rosebery, backed in towards shore, then as it started to go ahead, a wash from the propellor caught us and drew us past the boom, in which the children are to swim.

Owing to the swiftness of the wash, three girls, two average swimmers, and one small tot, were struggling, one by one I brought them as far as the boom. In bringing in the third girl, I heard my name called, saying that a boy was drowning out by the mill. I rushed out of the water and ran to the spot. Upon arriving, I saw the other life guard come to the surface, but it seems that the under current had drawn the boy away. I dived in, but to no avail, the under current is very strong and the bottom is invisible to the naked eye, owing to the depth. Coming to the surface, Mr. Grimmitt, R.C.M.P. called to me. We got into the boat and circled, but lacking knowledge of the exact spot of the drowning, we came into shore.

Signed: *Chiyoko Akiyama*

I have read the above and concurred.

Signed:

R.H. Kuwabara

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Slocan City, B.C.,
July 22, 1942.

Department of Attorney-General,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.

ENTERED

Sir:

ACKNOWLEDGED

Re: accidental death of Takeo KINOSHITA, aged 9, Slocan
City, July 21, 1942.

This young Japanese boy was swimming in Slocan Lake in the afternoon of July 21st and was accidentally drowned. An inquiry into the death has been made by me with the assistance of Cst. Dowling of New Denver. We are of the opinion that this death was an accident and no blame can be attached to any person other than the victim himself.

Since the Japanese have come to Slocan City, certain precautions have been taken at the bathing beach, 2 life-guards are on duty, 1 woman and the other a man, both holding a life saving certificate. Both were present at the drowning and a real attempt was made to save the boy.

The lad was apparently a very venturesome boy and was swimming in water which was forbidden. The local C.P.R. tug was leaving the wharf at Slocan City at the time the boy was in the water and undoubtedly the tow from the propeller contributed to the fatality.

Cst. Dowling and I have had a meeting to-day with Cst. Grimmitt of the R.C.M.P., Mr. Hartley, the camp supervisor and the two life guards. We are recommending the small children be confined to a definite safe area of the beach. This area would be bound by a boom. Both to be built immediately and placed at the disposal of the life guards only. A raft to be constructed with suitable rope handle grips and kept in this restricted area. Also that life buoys be provided as soon as possible and kept handy on the beach. We have been assured by the officials in charge of the Japanese in camp that these protective measures will be procured immediately. In the meantime, I have asked Cst. Grimmitt to prohibit the use of the beach by small children until these measures are available.

Signed:

A. Graham

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Slocan City, Temp. Det.,
July 22, 1942.

At 4:10 P.M. on the 21st of July a report was made to me at this office that a boy was drowned. I proceeded to the beach in a car and was informed that a boy had sunk close to pole X and had disappeared. I went out in a boat with the lady who was on duty as a life-saver and tried to find the body. Although the lady dived, she could find nothing, owing to the dangerous current. Drag nets were then used from then until 7:40 A.M. the morning of the 22nd when the body was seen to be rising to the surface close to the spot where he sank. The Body was brought ashore by Watanabe and Ono, and the police notified. On the coroner's instructions had the body placed in the C.P.R. shed awaiting the arrival of Cst. Dowling of New Denver.

From inquiries it would appear that there were 500 persons bathing at this spot when the tragedy occurred. And although warnings were shouted to the boys to keep away from the launch which was then pulling away from the pier, they took no notice. Had these boys taken notice of the warnings shouted to them, it is possible that the tragedy would have been avoided. One small boy grasped the deceased when sinking but owing to getting into difficulties himself, had to release his hold and come ashore. The boy disappeared so quickly that it would appear that any chance of saving this boy was impossible.

S/Cst. J. J. Hammit

The boy was TAKEO KINOSHITA aged 9 years.
Parents: ZENICHI KINOSHITA
KOHANA KINOSHITA