

# Legacies of Loss Interview

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## Loss of Community

**Harold (b. 1937) reflects on what Steveston would have been like if Japanese Canadians had not been uprooted. He says that the life of a community was disrupted with the uprooting and dispossession.**

**Excerpt from Landscapes of Injustice oral history interview with Harold Steves**

KYLA FITZGERALD

Yeah. Can we talk a little bit about your house here and your property because you were talking about how a lot of the Japanese Canadian homes were demolished, but your house is still here and you had just mentioned that it's going to be the 100th anniversary next year.

HAROLD STEVES

Yeah, had the Japanese Canadians not been evacuated I'm sure there would be a lot of the original houses still standing and the reason ours is still here is our family has continued to live in it for one hundred years, different generations, and while the generations of Japanese Canadians have been in this community for a hundred years that connection was broken so the housing that they had before the war went into somebody else's hands. Like I said, the house kitty-corner to this one, the Kojiro's had, was a beautiful two-story house. Significant of a well-esteemed individual in the community, one of the community leaders, one of the finest houses in the area. Well it was just vandalized and eventually demolished. And there were a number of other fine houses that the Japanese community had, but when they came back from the war they had to start all over again; they didn't get any of their original houses back. And so that's ... it disrupts the normal progression of life in a community when things like this happened.