



KARUIZAWA Town's  
**100**  
Anniversary



KARUIZAWA Town's  
**100**  
Anniversary

Building a Karuizawa  
we can be proud of,  
for **100** years  
more



Karuizawa Town 100th Anniversary  
Commemorative Magazine

Published by Karuizawa Town in October, 2023  
Produced by TOPPAN Inc.

Karuizawa Town 100th Anniversary  
Commemorative Magazine



## A Message

# 1923 ~ 2023

Higashi Nagakura Village becomes  
a town and officially changes  
its name to Karuizawa Town.



KARUIZAWA Town's  
100  
Anniversary

Mayor of Karuizawa Town **Tsuchiya Michio**



**Tsuchiya Michio**

The 30th Mayor of Karuizawa Town assuming office in February, 2023 (for his first term). As a university graduate from Karuizawa Town, he entered the business world, and later took up top executive positions in several corporations. He also served as the Vice Chairperson of the Karuizawa Culture Association.

Starting its administration on August 1, 1923, Karuizawa Town just commemorated its 100th anniversary on August 1, 2023.

Karuizawa is a highland town located in the gentle foothills stretching to the south and the east of Mt. Asama

Karuizawa flourished as a post station area until the mid-19th century, around the beginning of the Meiji era, with three post-towns located along the old Nakasendo route. In 1886, Rev. Alexander Croft Shaw, an Anglican Church missionary visited here for the first time and was deeply impressed with the beautiful, refreshing terroir of the area, praising it as “a hospital without a roof.”

Since then, Karuizawa has established itself as an international health resort and has been continually striving to build a pure, beautiful environment which we can be proud to present to the world. We also nurture and uphold good public morals, based upon the town’s regulations and ordinances: more specifically, the Act on Construction of Karuizawa as Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism announced in 1951, the Regulation about Good Maintenance of Public Manners in Karuizawa issued in 1958, and the Nature Conservation Guideline of Karuizawa issued in 1972.

Without the efforts and the diligence of our predecessors, Karuizawa Town could never have achieved these developments. I really appreciate what they’ve done for us, and have nothing but the greatest respect for them.

Furthermore, I believe that we must develop this town to be sustainable for future generations, while preserving our unique traditions and culture from the last 100 years.

Many people seem to think that the benefits of Karuizawa Town can be found in its lush natural surroundings. The more attractive the town becomes, the more people we can expect to visit or even reside here, which means we need to take some more robust measures to balance development with environmental conservation.

While this is of course a consideration, the diversity of human resources and cultures coming together is another of the unique attractions of the town, which is highly expected to bring a totally new set of values to many aspects of our community.

We continue to develop communities here in this town, working with the residents of the town, the council, and the administration so that Karuizawa Town can become “a town where anyone can live comfortably, a town where no one will ever want to leave, a town where no one will be left behind.”

Chairperson, Karuizawa Town Council **Toyama Takao**



**Toyama Takao**

The 38th chairperson of the Karuizawa Town Council. After graduating from high school, he began working for Karuizawa Town, and was promoted to director of several divisions during his service, including the Construction Division. He was elected in the general election for the first time in April 2015, and is now serving as a council member for his third consecutive term.

On this very special 100th anniversary of the township of Karuizawa, I would like to congratulate you on the anniversary publication.

Karuizawa Town became an organized municipality in August, 1923. Since then the town has continued its township to this day, with mergers of Nishinagakura Village, and Mozawa Area in Miyota Town.

The last 100 years have marked an era of drastic change. What we experienced was an age of turmoil with the Great Depression in Japan starting in 1930, the early Showa era, followed by the Second World War. With transitions from the Showa to the Heisei to the Reiwa eras, the Act on Construction of Karuizawa as Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism was enforced in 1951, which gave the town clear goals to aim for, including international friendship, cultural exchange, and tourism promotion. In addition, the Regulation about Good Maintenance of Public Manners in Karuizawa was issued in 1958, along with the Nature Conservation Guideline of Karuizawa in 1972, which allowed us to protect our way of life and culture, and conserve our wonderful natural assets here in Karuizawa.

Furthermore, the Karuizawa Citizen’s Charter was established in 1973, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the town’s establishment. With the five articles of the charter in mind, every citizen shall make efforts for building a town of international goodwill, culture and tourism.

I think that our current mission is to protect Karuizawa’s unique culture nurtured by our ancestors and natural beauty, and to establish the foundations of a modern Karuizawa for the next 100 years, which we shall pass on to future generations.

As the decentralization of power progresses, the role of the town council is becoming more significant since every member of the council is directly elected by local residents in the dual representative system. As a result, the council of Karuizawa Town continues to fulfill its paramount responsibilities as the legislative organization, so that the town will continue to shine brightly for the next 100 years.



The 16 members of the Council reflect the citizens' voices in town policies

— Karuizawa Town Council —



The Karuizawa Town Council consists of 16 elected members in total, with 11 men and five women. Every member belongs to the Council Management Committee, four Standing Committees, or two Special Committees. This allows each member to make sure town policies are thoroughly reviewed and properly reflect the expectations of the citizens.

In January, 2011, the Council introduced a year-round term to its system to manage council activities effectively and strengthen functionality. In addition, with the Council Basic Ordinance that was established in April, 2011, and in response to the mandate of the citizens who play the leading role in town policies, the Council has been taking the initiative for the town.

Going forward, the Council will continue to make every effort to accurately evaluate the changing and diversifying needs of its residents, and strive for a closer relationship and better understanding with the local people through frequent conversation and discussion.

Karuizawa Town Council Members

Chairperson: Toyama Takao

Vice Chairperson: Kawashima Sayuri

Members: Kanayama Nozomi, Kobayashi Tenma, Koyama Hirotsugu, Mashima Satoko, Fukumoto Osamu, Nakazawa Mutsuo, Oshigane Yoji, Terada Wakako, Tonegawa Taizo, Yokosuka Momoko, Tsuchiya Yoshio, Sato Mikio, Ichimura Mamoru, Sato Toshiaki

Committees

Council Management Committee (5 members)

Standing Committees

General Affairs Standing Committee (8 members)

Social Affairs Standing Committee (8 members)

Budget & Audit Standing Committee (15 members)

Public Relations Standing Committee (8 members)

Special Committees

Special Committee for Council Revitalization (7 members)

Special Committee for Research, Reconstruction and Development of Town Office and Surrounding Area. (15 members)

History of Karuizawa Town

AD	event
1923	Higashi Nagakura Village becomes a town and officially changes its name to Karuizawa Town (Population: 5,012; Households: 890).
1929	The town's water supply system is completed.
1942	Nishinagakura Village merges with Karuizawa Town (Population: 8,746).
1947	The Ohinata settler group to Manchuria returns and settles in the Kariyado area, a part of a national forest park. His Majesty the Emperor visits the Ohinata settlement during the visit to the Koshin region.
1950	Shinkaruizawa National Health Insurance Clinic is established. Kutsukake National Health Insurance Clinic is established, renting the site of the former Kiyohara Clinic.
1951	The Act on Construction of Karuizawa as Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism is proclaimed.
1952	Karuizawa Town Board of Education is established. Kyukaruizawa National Health Insurance Clinic of Karuizawa Town is established.
1955	The first Karuizawa Skating Competition is held.
1958	The Ordinance on Maintaining Good Public Manners in Karuizawa Town is established and proclaimed.
1959	The first International Karuizawa Goodwill and Friendship Party is held.
1963	Karuizawa International Shooting Range is completed. Karuizawa Town Museum opens to the west of the junior-high-school site.
1964	Karuizawa Development Corporation is established. Tokyo 1964 Olympic equestrian events are held in Karuizawa (48 athletes from 12 countries participate).
1968	The first Wakaba Matsuri is held. The new Karuizawa Town Office building is completed. Karuizawa Town and Campos do Jordao City in San Paulo State, Brazil, become sister cities. The first Momiji Matsuri is held.
1969	The first Kori Matsuri is held.
1972	The Nature Conservation Guideline of Karuizawa is established.
1973	The first Karuizawa Town Long-Term Development Plan is developed. (Hereafter updated every decade.) The Karuizawa Citizen's Charter is established to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the town.
1974	Karuizawa Hospital is rebuilt at a new location.
1975	Karuizawa Botanical Garden opens .
1976	Karuizawa Town Senior Citizens' Welfare Center and Chuo Community Center open. Karuizawa Town Library opens.
1978	Karuizawa Town Gymnasium is completed.
1980	The former Mikasa Hotel is designated as a National Important Cultural Property. Karuizawa Museum of History and Culture newly opens.



Karuizawa Town is established (1923)



Completion of the Town Office building (1968)



Wakaba Matsuri (the current half-marathon event)



Kori Matsuri (1969)



The former Mikasa Hotel (designated as a National Important Cultural Property in 1980)

AD	event
1981	Karuizawa Town Water Supply Control Center is completed.
1982	Karuizawa Workers' Sports Center is completed.
1984	Karuizawa Town's disaster prevention radio communication system is established.
1985	Oiwakejuku Museum of Local History opens The first Health Festival is held.
1986	The Karuizawa 100 ceremony is held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the health resort, attended by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess. The World Sprint Speed Skating Championships are held. A variety of Karuizawa 100 commemorative events are held.
1990	Kazakoshi Park Arena is completed.
1993	A commemorative ceremony celebrating the 70th anniversary of town establishment is held. (Primrose and Magnolia are designated as the Town Flower and Town Tree).
1994	The outdoor multipurpose sports field is completed.
1995	The Karuizawa Tourist Center renovations are completed.
1996	SCAP Karuizawa is completed.
1997	Sawayaka Hut, a Karuizawa Town facility, is completed.
1998	The Curling Event of the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics is held at Kazakoshi Park Arena.
1999	A declaration establishing sister-city relations is signed with Whistler, BC, Canada. The former residence of Muro Saisei opens to the public. Ichimura Memorial Museum opens.
2000	The memorial hall of the former Karuizawa Station building opens. The first Karuizawa Shaw Event is held.
2001	The Karuizawa Apartment Method Declaration is issued. A 400m skating rink in Kazakoshi Park is completed.
2002	The current Karuizawa Hospital is rebuilt in a new location.
2003	The first Gender Equality Forum is held. A ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of town establishment is held (Japanese Brown Thrush and Japanese Squirrel are designated as the Town Bird and the Town Animal). Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress pay a visit for the first time in 13 years. Karuizawa International Shooting Range is closed.
2005	The grand opening of the Karuizawa Ohga Hall is held. The Karuizawa Landscape Method Declaration is issued.
2006	The whole of Yukawa Furusato Park opens to the public.
2007	The health and welfare center, Komorebinosato, opens. The Karuizawa Town Basic Ordinance on Community Development is established. The former Swiss Legation, "Miyamaso" is purchased.
2008	Hanareyama Park starts to be partially used.
2009	Kazakoshi Park Ice Arena is refurbished and reopened for year-round usage.
2010	Asama Fureai Park opens to the public.



The health resort Karuizawa 100 commemorative ceremony(1986)



Nagano 1998 Winter Olympic Games



The memorial hall of the former Karuizawa Station (opened in 2000)



Karuizawa Hospital (relocated and refurbished in 2002)



Karuizawa Ohga Hall (opened in 2005)



Komorebinosato (opened in 2007)

AD	event
2011	Karuizawa Town introduces the year-round assembly system for the Karuizawa Town Council.
2012	Members of the Federation for Construction and Improvement of Special Cities of International Tourism and Culture sign the agreement to cooperate in the event of earthquakes or other disasters. A pilot program introducing a roundabout begins at the Roppontsuji intersection.
2013	Karuizawa Kazakoshi Park Curling Hall, Karuizawa Ice Park, opens. The civic center, Kutsukake Terrace, opens. Nakakaruizawa Public Library opens. A ceremony commemorating the 90th anniversary of town establishment is held, along with the unveiling of the official symbol of the town. The town population reaches 20,000.
2014	The renovated SCAP Karuizawa reopens. Karuizawa Kazakoshi Park Multi-purpose Gymnasium opens. The Karuizawa grand design is released.
2015	The former Swiss Legation, Miyamaso, is designated as a Town Tangible Cultural Property.
2016	Construction of the new Karuizawa Junior High School building is completed. The community farmers' market, Karuizawa Hotchi Ichiba, opens. The secretariat of Karuizawa 22nd Century Fu-Do Forum is set up. The former Konoe Fumimaro villa, Ichimura Memorial Museum, is designated as a Town Tangible Cultural Property. The G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano, is held.
2017	The Hatta villa, the first Japanese Second House in Karuizawa, is designated as a Town Tangible Cultural Property.
2018	Kazakoshi Washiana Semi-natural Grassland (Nature Garden in Karuizawa Botanical Garden) is designated as a Town Natural Monument. Three-face Horse-headed Kannon Bosatsu is designated as a town Tangible Folk Cultural Property. St. Paul Catholic Church is designated as a Town Tangible Cultural Property. The town-owned Kariyado Bypass opens.
2019	The Friendship monument to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Karuizawa- Whistler Sister City Relationship is constructed. The G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth is held.
2020	Karuizawa Town declares a target of "Net zero emission of CO2." The Kikabenunoya townhouse, the Tsutaya lodge, the Shiozawa-no-gokura grain warehouse, the Nagakura Shrine main hall, the Mozawa Yakushido enshrinement hall, and the Sugiuri Kannondo enshrinement hall are designated as Town Tangible Cultural Properties.
2021	The Tokyo 2020 Olympic torch relay is held. Karuizawa Town Basic Environmental Ordinance is established.
2022	Hotch Koryukan, a complex building consisting of a community center and a children's center, opens.
2023	The G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano, is held. The 100th anniversary of town establishment is marked. Oiwake-bushi folk songs and the grand Kagura performance at Kumano Taisha Shrine are designated as Town Intangible Cultural Properties. Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and the Empress Emerita pay a visit for the first time in four years. Karuizawa Summer House (former Antonin Raymond's Karuizawa villa) is designated as a National Important Cultural Property.



Karuizawa Junior High School (completed in 2016)



Hotchi Ichiba (opened in 2016)



The G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano (2016)



Kariyado Bypass (opened in 2018)



The G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth (2019)



The G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa (2023)

# Commemorative Ceremony Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Town Establishment



The commemorative ceremony of the establishment of Karuizawa was held to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the town on Saturday, August 5, 2023.

Many of the community leaders and key community members gathered, with a total of 223 people in attendance, including invited guests such as Japanese Diet members, the governor of Nagano Prefecture, members of the Nagano Prefectural Assembly, and mayors of neighboring cities, towns, and villages, as well as those who have been commended by the town. During the ceremony, all

the attendees read aloud the Karuizawa Citizen's Charter together, which was established 50 years ago. The program included a chorus of sixth graders from three public elementary schools, in whose hands the future of Karuizawa lies, and a video to show the 100-year history of the town narrated by actor Mr. Watanabe Ken.

As the keynote address, Mr. Dan Norihiko, an architect, delivered a speech about how to further develop and improve the town going forward.

## Mayor's address



Mr. Tsuchiya Michio, Mayor of Karuizawa Town

## Chairperson's address



Mr. Toyama Takao, Chairperson of the Karuizawa Town Council

## Speeches by Invited Guests

Mr. Ide Yosei

Member of House of Representatives, State Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Mr. Hara Hiroaki

Acting Nagano Prefectural Governor, Director-General of Saku Regional Development Bureau

Mr. Koyama Hitoshi

Member of Nagano Prefectural Assembly

Mr. Jeff Murl

Acting Mayor of the Resort Municipality of Whistler in Canada, the sister city of Karuizawa Town, Councillor of Whistler



Mr. Ide Yosei



Mr. Hara Hiroaki



Mr. Koyama Hitoshi



Mr. Jeff Murl

## Chorus of Children from Elementary Schools in Karuizawa Town



Sixth graders from three local public schools, who practiced a lot for this day, gave an excellent chorus performance by singing, "Hajimari-no-uta," or the song of the beginning.

Before their performance, the leader of the chorus group explained to the audience: "At the beginning, we were too nervous to sing, but we found that the more we had singing practices together, the less nervous we became, which allowed us to build a stronger bond and unite our minds. One of the lyrics of this song, "100 years ago, children had

a dream here at this place, too," tells us that 100 years ago, there were small children just like us at this same place, and that we are now here beyond their dreams and future they had then, walking to our own future. This idea reminds us that we need to take every action with our mind on what we can do for the future Karuizawa Town so that we can leave our coming dreams and future to the next generation, like a relay baton." Along with this strong message, their remarkable chorus overwhelmed the entire audience, and got them to imagine a bright future of Karuizawa Town.

## Commendation Ceremony



Commendation ceremony



Mr. Fujimaki, the former town mayor, with an expression of gratitude.

According to the Karuizawa Town Commendation Ordinance, the town presented 18 people with both commendation and gratitude certificates to commend them for their great achievements promoting the township. Mr. Fujimaki Susumu, the previous mayor, expressed gratitude to the town on behalf of all the recipients.

## Commemorative Lecture



Mr. Dan Norihiko



In the second half of the ceremony, Mr. Dan Norihiko who is designated as Master Architect and an urban design advisor of Karuizawa Town, delivered a lecture. Under the title of "Landscape and Urban Design of Karuizawa for the Future," he spoke about the culture developed by the local people, the nature, the townscape, and the urban design, by tracing back through the history of Karuizawa.

# Township 100th Anniversary Project

## Documentary Videos

Please scan the QR code to see the video.



### The first 100 years as foundation to the next 100 years

#### Nature Episode: Blessed Nature

“Rich nature” is said to be the symbol of Karuizawa, but that nature is quite different from what it used to be at the beginning. In fact, it has been nurtured by the local residents for a long period of time.

According to an old book published in the Edo period, this area was a barren wetland. It explained what really happened those days, which later led to making that wilderness-like field change to the current Karuizawa, which is a town rich in greenery.

A businessman in the Meiji era, Amemiya Keijiro (1846-1911) had seven-million Japanese larch trees planted in this area, which resulted in creating the landscape of the current Karuizawa. His tree planting project was passed down to the local residents after his death, and the long time along with their great labor made it possible that Karuizawa became a green town.

Approximately 50 years ago, the town established the Nature Conservation Guideline of Karuizawa in 1972 to conserve the natural environment and develop the town as an international health resort. This guideline is a unique culture of Karuizawa, and it is a reminder that the

natural environment is the common property of all people involved in the town.

Growing interest in SDGs and the global environment has led to a movement to rethink the relationship between people and the natural environment. In order to strike a balance between conservation of the natural environment and development which has been an issue for Karuizawa in recent years, we aim to create a community that makes the most of the natural environment by considering how to interact with nature from three perspectives: individual experience with nature, scientific and historical angles, and dialogue within the community.



#### Internationality Episode: Natural Permeation of Global Cultures

The recent three major international meetings made Karuizawa more globally recognized. In addition, hosting both Summer and Winter Olympics like Karuizawa is a quite rare case in the world. That is why the town has long been the focus of attention as an international town.

Karuizawa has a root of international culture for a long time. It is Rev. Alexander Croft Shaw that made a chance for the root, who visited here for the first time in 1886. He loved its cool climate and the beauty of its natural scenery so deeply that he let the charms known to his friends, which brought many foreign people to visit Karuizawa later. This movement later made a poor hamlet of Karuizawa develop as one of leading holiday home areas in Japan. Foreign people who visited Karuizawa shared with the local residents their own cultures, such as tennis, golf, western-style furniture, and bread-making, through social networking, which naturally left a culture of hospitality deeply rooted here. In addition, it is those foreign people that brought new

dietary cultures, including western cuisines and vegetable farming. There are now many people who visit Karuizawa for the local cuisines, with increasing opportunities to introduce our dietary culture to the world.

We will strive to create a new value of staycation while always keeping our starting point as a health resort in mind so that visitors can stay long, relaxing in nature or strolling about cultural facilities, and experience the hospitality culture our predecessors had established.



Karuizawa Town has developed with the efforts of the people who deeply love the town and think about its future as well. Karuizawa Town has produced three video episodes as a message to the future in order to carry on the cultural heritage that has been built up over the years while also creating new values for sustainable development.

#### Literature Episode: Literary Walks



There have been many writers here in Karuizawa who got together and cultivated a literary climate unique to Karuizawa. Now, we have explored why it happened.

One reason is that it is said that you can have a true human relationship in Karuizawa, where not only writers but all celebrities are not treated as special. This exquisite distance of people, having no troublesome relationships and not saying any job titles, is sometimes called Karuizawa Magic, and this environment is quite suitable for creative activities.

A Naoki-Award winning writer who lives in Karuizawa, Ms. Koike Mariko creates a special world of her books

using her own words and phrases. She said that living in Karuizawa gave birth to some expressions she could not have written if she had lived in an urban city. For example, the expression of “when a sense of tranquility filling the air made me open the window, I found it snowing outside” came from her experiences in Karuizawa.

Ms. Koike also talked about nature conservation from the literary point of view, saying that this kind of creative environment would be easily lost when nature is gone, so she expects that the town should preserve the precious place for creative activities even if the town development goes on.

#### Literary Walks

Book Title: Shimpen, Karuizawa Bungaku Sampo (Newly Revised Edition of Literary Walks in Karuizawa)

Edited and published by the Karuizawa Town Board of Education (Issued; August 1, 2023)

The town revised the 1968 first edition of Karuizawa Bungaku Sampo to make it easier, reader-friendlier, and then published this second edition on August 1, 2023.

Since the seventh century, Karuizawa has been a place where myriad literary works have been produced, and are still being produced to this day.

With this book as your guide, you can stroll through Karuizawa taking in the pristine views and intriguing texts of the area.



# Whistler, the Sister City



The signing ceremony in March 1999 (Whistler, British Columbia Province, Canada)



Skiing at Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort as part of a sister-city homestay exchange program (March, 2019)

On March 3, 1999, a ceremony was held to officially sign the sister city agreement between Karuizawa Town in Japan and the Resort of Municipality of Whistler in Canada at Roundhouse Lodge located on a plateau of Whistler Mountain in British Columbia, the westernmost province of Canada.

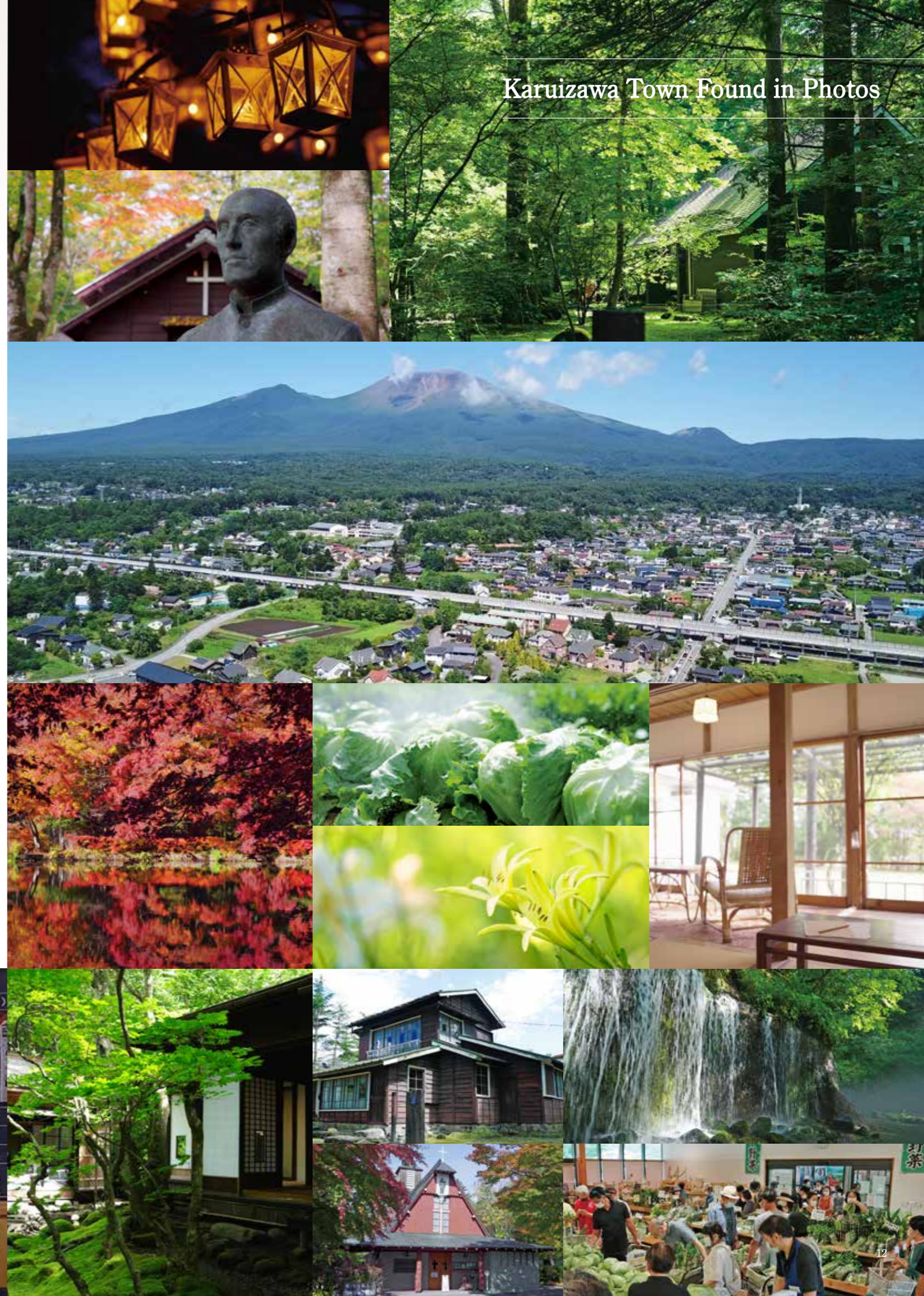
The relationship between Canada and Karuizawa was brought by Rev. Alexander Croft Shaw, an Anglican missionary born in Canada, who was deeply impressed by the refreshing climate and beautiful nature of Karuizawa when visiting here on the way to mission and formed a foundation of the current Karuizawa as a resort area by introducing the town as a summer resort both nationally and internationally in 1886.

More recently, the curling competitions took place in Karuizawa at the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics for the first time as an official sport, which strengthened the relationship with Canada, where curling is very popular. At the Olympics, the Canadian curling teams achieved great success by winning two medals, gold for the women's team and silver for the men's team, which made Karuizawa an unforgettable place for the people of Canada.

To commemorate this great achievement, Ambassador Leonard J. Edwards, then Canadian ambassador to Japan, donated saplings of the sugar maple tree, the symbol of Canada, to the town, and a tree-planting ceremony was held in the presence of the Ambassador and his wife. In this way, curling made the relationship between Canada and Karuizawa more secure and robust.

These two main events led Karuizawa to establish a sister city partnership with Whistler, which is also a renowned resort city.

## Karuizawa Town Found in Photos



Sister-city student exchange program in October 2017



# Karuizawa Citizen's Charter

Established on the 50th anniversary of the town's establishment on 1 August 1973

We are the people of Karuizawa, a highland town embracing magnificent Mt. Asama. We hereby establish this charter on the basis of a global perspective and a foresight suitable to the residents in a Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism.

- Let's maintain a clean environment and good manner that allows us to be proud in the world.
- Let's welcome all visitors warmly.
- Let's develop our rich traditions and culture.
- Let's love and preserve the rich nature of the highland.
- Let's raise healthy families and develop a vibrant town.



### Town Crest

This logo was designed in 1960 and is in the shape of the letter 'か' from Karuizawa. It also represents a bird – the symbol of peace – taking wing.



### Town Flag

The colors of Karuizawa's natural surroundings are used. The main orange color – yellow red – comes from the autumn leaves and the Mt. Asama volcano. The light blue color represents the air and the dark blue color stands for water. The white trim between each color comes from the original material of the flag.



### Town Flower: Primrose / Town tree: Magnolia

Designated on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the town in 1993.



### Town bird: Japanese Brown Thrush /

### Town animal: Japanese Squirrel

Designated on the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the town in 2003.



karuizawa

Karuizawa Town's Symbol designated on the 90th anniversary of its establishment in 2013.



Karuizawa Town's Mascot: RUIZA-chan The cheerful and lively Karuizawa mascot is based on the mountains surrounding the town. Its head represents Mt. Asama and the town flower, primrose, while the body symbolizes the clear streams and wind in Karuizawa.

# Honorary Citizens

Karuizawa Town Ordinance on Honorary Citizens was established in December, 1957, to bestow a title of honorary citizen on those who have had a close connection with Karuizawa and have gained respect from the local people due to their contributions to the social development at large. As of 2023, eight people have received the honorable title so far.



An inventor leading the industrial world

### The Late Mr. Kato Yogoro

(Nominated in December 1957)

Doctor of Science. Obtained more than 300 patents. His great three inventions of ferrite core, ferrite magnet, and alumina in 1933 brought ground-breaking developments to our industrial world in Japan. He established a private seminar house in Karuizawa at 85 in 1957 to educate young scientists. Passed away on August 13, 1967.



Supporting Karuizawa Summer College

### The Late Ms. Ichimura Kiyoji

(Nominated in September, 1989)

Along with her husband, Kesazo, she worked hard to reopen Karuizawa Summer College in 1949 after the interruption caused by WWII. She also made every effort to improve local facilities for education and culture, including donating significant amounts of private money to construct new junior high school buildings and libraries. Passed away on November 28, 1994.



Founder of Mampei Hotel

### The Late Mr. Sato Mampei

(Nominated in March, 1958)

Established the first western-style hotel in Karuizawa Town, Mampei Hotel, in 1894. Having learned the hotel business while studying abroad, he contributed to the development of both Japan's hotel industry and Karuizawa as a health resort. Passed away on January 25, 1958.



Contributing to preservation of historical and cultural heritage

### The Late Mr. Mizusawa Kunitaka

(Nominated in September, 1989)

He became one of the first officially elected members of the Board of Education in 1952 when the Board was established, and contributed to the development of the educational administration. Since 1966 when he was appointed as the duty mayor of Karuizawa Town, he had taken positions of various administrative committees, including the Cultural Properties Promotion Council, to promote local, traditional history and culture at home and abroad. Passed away on May 6, 2001.



Inventor of Rice Nursery by Warmly Protected Eclectic Techniques

### The Late Mr. Ogiwara Toyoji

(Nominated in June, 1961)

As a result of his hard and long work in researching agricultural improvements, he invented a rice nursery by warmly protected eclectic techniques, which resulted in a drastic advancement of rice farming in cooler, highland areas.

He received many awards thanks to his various achievements in the improvement of agricultural technologies. Passed away on February 10, 1978.



Contributing to the evolution of the town administration

### The Late Mr. Sato Masato

(Nominated in March, 1991)

After being elected as Mayor of Karuizawa Town in 1972, he had contributed to the growth of the local administration for 18 years. Taking on various important roles on committees and councils, such as the Association of Mayors of Nagano Prefecture, he devoted himself to the promotion of local administrations over a wide area. Passed away on December 23, 1990.



Contributing to nature conservation along with tourism development and promotion

### The Late Mr. Hoshino Kasuke

(Nominated in September, 1989)

While running Hoshino Onsen Ryokan, he joined the Wild Bird Society of Japan to promote the philosophy of wild-bird protection and conservation efforts. Appointed as the first chairman of the Karuizawa Tourism Association after it was established, he contributed to the promotion of tourism businesses and the development of the local economy. Passed away on December 1, 1982.



Contributing to the promotion of musical culture

### The Late Mr. Ohga Norio

(Nominated in June, 2006)

Mr. Ohga Norio had a long and distinguished career, holding various posts such as Honorary Chairman of Sony and Chairman of the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. Investing his own money, he had the Karuizawa Ohga Hall constructed, and donated it to the town in 2004. In addition, he established musical organizations, including the Karuizawa Junior Choir and the Karuizawa Junior Orchestra (the current Karuizawa Family Orchestra), to contribute to the promotion of musical culture in Karuizawa Town. He passed away on April 23, 2011.