



## *Season's Greetings*

We are pleased that we have had an excellent beginning to our twenty-first year and we hope that you have been able to attend one or more of our events during the Autumn Programme.

We started in September with a presentation by **Gary Fedchun**, President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, during which he reported on the status of the North American automotive industry - where it has been, where it is now and where it is likely to evolve over the next few years. That was followed in October by an informative and thought-provoking presentation on Canada/Japan relations by His Excellency, **Tsuneo Nishida**, the Ambassador of Japan to Canada, followed by a fascinating and forthright question and answer session. Then in November, **William Farrell**, Chair of the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS) spoke eloquently on the history of relations between Japan and the United States, beginning with the arrival of the Black Ships in Uraga Harbour in July 1853 and ending with the administration of President Barack Obama (illustrated with historical woodblock prints, postcards and cartoons).

Currently, we are assembling an exciting line-up for the Winter and Spring Programmes in 2010, so please keep a look out for internet commentaries about upcoming events.

The first of our Winter events will be a visit by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Canada to Japan, **Jonathan Fried**. Our luncheon with the Ambassador will be held on **Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup>** from noon to 2:00 p.m. . His presentation will be entitled "*Canada and Japan as Pacific Partners - a Call for Renewed Engagement.*" The venue will be confirmed on the internet invitation delivered to you at the beginning of next month. In the meantime, please note this date on your calendars so that you can ensure that you are able to attend what we expect will be an interesting and challenging presentation.

We always welcome your comments about how we are doing and any ideas you have for upcoming speakers. Please email Ben ([ben@japansocietycanada.com](mailto:ben@japansocietycanada.com)) or John at ([john.craig@mcmillan.ca](mailto:john.craig@mcmillan.ca)) with ideas for speakers or topics. We would very much appreciate hearing from you.

In the meantime, we wish you, your family and friends all the best for this upcoming holiday season and look forward to seeing you early in the Year of the Tiger, which we trust will be a happy, healthy and fulfilling year for each of you.

*Ben Ciprietti and John Craig*