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- The club started after the Second World War.
- The club was started by a few interested parents who were interested in reviving Judo again...most of whom were fishermen.
- Two men who were deeply involved in starting the club were Mr. Doi and Mr. Sakai.
- The club started out in a back room of the old Steva Theater...the room was small.
- The club was there for one year.
- There were about 100 members.
- The following year, the club moved to a place next to the old Steveston Post Office...this room was a little larger.
- The club moved to other buildings like the one beside the Steveston Hotel and the old Buddhist Church in Steveston.
- When they decided to build the Community Center complex, the Japanese people from pre-war days had a fund, the Japanese-Canadian Citizenship Association Fund, which was about \$20,000.
- Because they were interested in building a Community Center complex, the Japanese people put the money into it.
- They gave the Community Center \$20,000 with the understanding that the Judo Club would have a room to practise in and the Kendo Club would be able to use the gymnasium.
- So that was their first real home that they could call "home".
- They were there from 1957-72 when the Martial Arts Center was built.
- The concept for the Martial Arts Center was involved during the 1967 Centennial.
- As there was no money available for it to be a Canadian Centennial project, they decided to try it out for the B. C. Centennial.
- They received \$55,000 from a Centennial Grant.
- The Steveston Community Center took on the task of raising the balance of \$90,000.
- Many people worked hard at raising this money.
- The Community Center naturally had some funds from putting on the Annual Salmon Derby so within a year the whole \$90,000 was paid up

and we were quite proud of the building.

- The Judo Club attained a national level in 1959 when a member of the Steveston Judo Club participated in a National Tournament.
- The first prominent member of the club was Henry Mukai who in 1964 won the Canadian Championship in the light-weight division.
- Because of funds at that time, Henry Mukai was unable to represent Canada in the Olympics.
- Henry Mukai was probably other than next to Doug Rogers who was one of the most decorated black belts.
- He represented Canada in many international meets like Pan American, World Championship, etc.
- In the late 60's, Ricky Yodogawa was a light-weight champion...he won two National Championship and one Silver.
- "The Koenkai" (parent organization) in Steveston raised the money in the earlier stages of the club to pay for the mats and rent.
- Instead of paying dues to attend a tournament or other social events, the Japanese people give an "envelope" which may contain \$5 - \$10; this is the Japanese custom which helps out the club.
- Just about every other year, the club gets an instructor from Japan to teach at the club which keeps the Steveston Judo Club ahead of the other clubs.
- The Steveston Judo Club has 25 black belts.
- Elma Yodogawa, a member of the Steveston Judo Club was the second women in B. C. to receive a black belt.
- In the earlier years, the boys and girls under the age of 16 can compete with one another, however, after they are 16 they do not compete against one another.
- In 1939, Dr. Kano (founder of Judo) was in Paris for the First World Judo Championships...he finally arrived in Vancouver, at that time he was asked to write an inscription which in English translation reads: "Whatever you are striving for, whether it be in Judo or in life, if you work at it hard enough, you will attain that goal".
- On his way back to Japan, Professor Kano died, so the inscription is the last one he wrote so when any Judo Sensei (teacher) comes here, they want to get their picture taken beside it.
- During the war, someone put it away then when the club started again, they brought it out.
- The instructors in the Steveston Judo Club are not paid.
- Names co-founders of the club.