

S. J. McKee Archives



Archibald E. Wilson fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4809>

Other Title Info: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Part Of: Archibald E. Wilson fonds

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 18-2000

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1895-1932; 1971

Physical Description: 2 cm

History /

Biographical:

Archibald E. Wilson was the son of Reverend E.F. Wilson and the husband of St. Clair Vidal Wilson. Rev. E.F. Wilson was at one time in charge of the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes at Sault Ste. Marie. Rev. E.F. Wilson moved to Elkhorn, Manitoba in 1888, to establish an educational home for Indian children. He was joined by his son, Archibald E. Wilson who was, in 1890, appointed assistant to the superintendent. A.E. Wilson became Principal of the Indian Industrial School in 1892. His wife served as Matron of the girls departments. Together they had three daughters: E.F. Metita, Winifred St. Clair and Murial Grace, as well as two sons: Edward Vidal, and St. Clair Vidal Wilson.

Archibald Wilson and his family lived in Elkhorn, Manitoba during the years 1892 to 1918 while he was principal. At the beginning of his term as Principal there were 12 students enrolled; enrollment reached as high as 95 students, representing eight different nations. In February of 1918, the government withdrew funding and the school closed. In September of 1918, Wilson left Elkhorn to take up his new position as a clerk at an Indian Reserve near Gleichen, Alberta.

During its years of operation, the Elkhorn Industrial School included an Athletic department, a curling team and a boys' football team. Students studied carpentry, shoemaking, harness making, tailoring, knitting and sewing. In 1893, the school was presented with a large Canadian flag for being the best Industrial School in Manitoba and the Territories. In November of 1893, a brass band was established, which provided music for the local Anglican Church. After a fire demolished most of the school in 1895, Wilson convinced the Federal Department of Indian Affairs to rebuild the school. In 1899, the Elkhorn Industrial School was reopened.

Custodial History:

Most of this fonds was at one time in the possession of Principal A.E. Wilson. After Wilson passed away the pieces of the fonds were kept by one of his daughters, Winifred St. Clair Wilson, now deceased. Winifred married Mr. Frank Clark, M.D. and kept the fonds when she moved to Vancouver B.C. and then to Calgary, Alberta. Winifred Clark eventually donated the fonds to the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

Fonds includes four journals, one testimonial and one newspaper article. The journals include: the '7th Annual Report of the Washakada Indian Homet 1895-1896,' written by Principal A.E. Wilson; 'The Greater Britain Messenger' September and October 1899, which includes the article 'The Elkhorn Home, Manitoba;' 'The National Monthly of Canada' September 1902, which includes the article 'Indian Children at Home;' and the Centenary Number (March-April 1932) issue of 'The Algoma Missionary News,' which includes an article giving information about Rev. E.F. Wilson and his missionary work.

Fonds also includes an article from the November 19, 1971 edition of The Vancouver Sun, entitled "Leisure's Book Reviews," which discusses Indigenous publications in Canada. The testimonial that is included in the fonds, was given to Archibald Wilson upon his departure from Elkhorn. There are 28 subscribers to the testimonial and it is dated September 19, 1918.

Notes: The Wilsons are discussed in J.R. Miller's "Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens: A History of Indian-White Relations in Canada," Miller's "Shingwauk's vision :a history of native residential schools" and John S. Milloy's "A National Crime: The Canadian Government and the Residential School System 1879-1986." Description by Christy Henry.

Storage Location: 2000 accessions



Westman Coalition on Equality Rights in the Canadian Constitution fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4878>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 9-2004
4-2011

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1987-1999

Physical Description: 1.2 m textual records
9 video tapes

History /

Biographical:

In 1988, Sheila Doig was the Rural Liaison Coordinator for the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women. That winter, she travelled to Crystal City, Manitoba, to meet with a group of women that included Verna Menzies. At the meeting, the women were concerned about the efforts of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to amend the Constitution so that Quebec would sign on. They believed that the amending document, The Meech Lake Accord, would jeopardize women's rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Thus began a chain of events that resulted in the formation of The Westman Coalition for Equality Rights under The 1987 Meech Lake Accord. The group became known simply as The Westman Coalition. During the years 1988-1990, these women—almost all grassroots rural women with no special training in things constitutional—met with and lobbied politicians, other feminists, and the public in order to change Meech Lake or defeat it.

There were many high points to this campaign. Sheila conducted an extensive tour of rural and northern Manitoba, recruiting women to express their concerns in writing to Ottawa. The

Coalition presented briefs to the Manitoba hearings and to the Charest Commission. They were only permitted to appear at the latter after they picketed the hearings in Winnipeg and demanded that women be heard. They were courted by the national media for comments, and became adept at handling interviews and public appearances.

After much turmoil, in June 1990, Meech Lake was defeated in the Manitoba legislature by Elijah Harper on behalf of Aboriginal peoples, who had largely been left out of the constitutional debate. The Coalition was there to support him and to show the face of women, who also felt that they had not been heard.

This should have been the end of Canada's constitutional debate, but Prime Minister Mulroney was determined to succeed where others had failed, and so a new process (the Charlottetown Accord, as it became known) was soon under way to bring Quebec into the fold by amending the Constitution. This time there was endless consultation with the public, and the women scrambled to respond to the many commissions and hearings. There were the Spicer Commission, the Manitoba hearings, the Dobbie/Beaudoin committee and so on. Finally, there were five (and later, six) constitutional conferences to be held around the country. Ordinary Canadians would be invited to apply to attend, and they would be chosen randomly.

The women were invited to 5 of the 6 conferences. Just a coincidence of random selection? Or a consequence of their high profile in the debate? They thought the latter. In any event, Terri Deller, Kady Denton, Paula Mallea and Sheila Doig all attended at various venues and advanced the position of women on equality rights and on the other issues on the table.

A high point of this second campaign was the visit to Brandon of Marcelle Dolment from Quebec City. As one of the few vocal feminists in Quebec who opposed the new Charlottetown proposal, she was a precious ally. She came to meet with the women, forge solidarity, and show that French and English, Quebec and The Rest of Canada, were capable of meeting and coming to agreement.

Sheila conducted another rural tour in 1992, and also attended the Annual General Meeting of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, where she felt she was given short shrift.

The women were discouraged on many fronts during this campaign. They were out of pocket many thousands of dollars, and the promised funding from the Secretary of State for the Status of Women was finally denied. As well, despite herculean efforts to put their position to politicians and the media, the women felt again as though they were not being heard.

By this time, the Coalition had developed a position on all of the salient issues under the Charlottetown process: property rights, distinct society, an interpretative clause, equal representation of women in the Senate, the economic agenda and the Canada Clause. In the summer of 1992, Canadians were finally shown the text of the Charlottetown Accord and were told that they would be voting on it in a referendum, even though the text was not in its final form.

The women waged a final campaign asking people to vote "No" to the Charlottetown proposals. Politicians, business leaders, many academics and constitutional experts were saying that "No" would mean immediate Quebec separation and the breakdown of the country. The same had been said of Meech Lake. The women of the Coalition did not believe that the country was so frail, and they were proved right. On October 26, 1992, the country voted "No".

Secretary of State finally came through with funding to cover the Coalition's many expenses, thanks largely to the efforts of M.P. Lee Clark.

Sheila Doig was awarded the prestigious Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case for her work on behalf of rural women. Paula was given the Manitoba

Human Rights Award for her work on the constitution.

All of the women who were involved in the Meech and Charlottetown campaigns felt that their lives had been changed by the experience. Like ordinary Canadians everywhere, they did not believe that they could have any real influence over constitutional affairs, much less national politics. They knew nothing about constitutions or the law of the Charter, but they educated themselves on the issues, and became articulate and incisive advocates. They were fearless in front of Prime Ministers and news anchors. They entered corridors of power that they had never thought possible. They were, then and now, a force to be reckoned with.

The Westman Coalition became Women for Equality (WE) after the Charlottetown campaign. They met for many years every week to discuss the issues of the day. Then, as various members dispersed, the group waned. A new crisis threatening the equality rights of women, however, would surely revive what was once a powerful grassroots lobby.

Custodial History:

Paula Mallea was using the records in accession 9-2004 to write a book on the Westman Coalition on Equality Rights ("The Fight for Women's Rights: Meech, Charlottetown and Manitoba women" published 2005). Once she was finished with the records, her husband, former president of Brandon University John Mallea, delivered three boxes of records to the Archives in 2004. A small number of photographs were donated later.

The records in accession 4-2011 were originally in the possession of Shiela (Doig) Kingham. They were given to Terri Deller who donated them to the McKee Archives in 2011.

Scope and Content:

Accession 9-2004 (96 cm textual records, 9 video tapes - 1987-1993) contains the records of the Westman Coalition on Equality Rights in the Canadian Constitution including newspaper clippings 1988-1991, dealing with the Meech Lake Accord and the Charlottetown Accord and the failed ratification of both; meeting notes and agendas of the Coalition 1987-1993; miscellaneous documents dealing with Canadian constitutional reform circa 1988-1993; documents related to the Manitoba Task Force on Meech Lake; correspondence 1987-1993; budget matters; rural tour by Coalition members; constitutional proposals development and submitted by the Coalition; miscellaneous files relating to Meech Lake and Charlottetown; a file dealing with Manitoba first-wave feminist Nellie McClung; and published commentary on the Charlottetown Accord.

Accession 9-2004 also contains 2 video tapes of an interview conducted with Elsie McLaughlin, niece of Nellie McClung, as well as 7 additional video tapes consisting of panels with Coalition members, information sessions, Meech Lake workshops, the Westman Coalition meeting with Jean Chretien and Sheila Doig receiving the Governor General's Award.

Accession 4-2011 (6.5 cm textual records - 1989-1999) consists of the records of the Westman Coalition on Equality Rights in the Canadian Constitution including notes on the origin and activities of the Coalition; a grant application - 1992 - by the Coalition; Coalition proposals and lobbying strategies concerning the Meech Lake Accord; a brief to the Special Committee on the Companion Resolution to Meech April 1990; a brief to the Manitoba All-Party Task Force on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord, April 1990; a brief to the Dobbie Commission, November 1991; correspondence, clippings and e-mails concerning Coalition activities; book drafts - history of the Coalition - Paula Mallea, February 1996 and spring 1996; a brief to the Manitoba Legislative Task Force on Canadian Unity [nd]; copies of letters "Rural Tour" 1992; and several published sources on constitutional matters.

Notes: History/Bio information provided by Paula Mallea. See Paula Mallea, *The Fight for Women's Rights: Meech, Charlottetown and Manitoba Women* (Kagawong, Ont.: Paula Mallea, 2005).

Name Access: Paula Mallea
Shiela Doig
Shiela Kingham
Mary Annis
Terri Deller
Kady Denton
Subject Access: women's rights
Storage Location: 2004 accessions
2011 accessions
Related Material: Brandon Chapter - Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women
Arrangement:

For accession 9-2004

Box 1

File 1 Meech Westman Coalition
File 2 Correspondence 87-91
File 3 Clippings 87-88
File 4 Budget meech
File 5 Rural Tour Meech
File 6 Final Document 1990
File 7 Minutes and Correspondence Meech
File 8 Meech lake Correspondence
File 9 Correspondence
File 10 Meech – Our Own Stories

Box 2

File 1 Meech cartoons
File 2 Meech Effects on Economy
File 3 Meech proposed legislation and early Responses
File 4 Meech Charest Committee
File 5 Analysis and Clippings 1989
File 6 Clippings January - February 1990
File 7 Clippings March - April 1990
File 8 Clippings May 1990
File 9 Clippings June 1990

Box 3

File 1 Meech – General Information – members, terms of reference
File 2 Nellie McClung
File 3 Coalition Financial
File 4 Coalition Financial
File 5 Manitoba Task Force on Meech
File 6 Books on Meech
File 7 Miscellaneous Meech
File 8 Miscellaneous c. 1990
File 9 Meech miscellaneous

Box 4

File 1 Shiela's (Doig) Rural Tour fall 87'
File 2 Actions for Change - women
File 3 Charter of Rights

File 4 WE Meetings 1993
File 5 WE & WC correspondence
File 6 Meech WE analysis
File 7 Addresses
File 8 Petition

Box 5

File 1 Meech miscellaneous
File 2 Westman Coalition 1987
File 3 Women for Equality 1993
File 4 Womens' Centre

Tapes and recordings

Box 6

File 1 Meetings 1992
File 2 Correspondence 92-93
File 3 Fundraising general
File 4 Minutes 1992
File 5 Miscellaneous
File 6 Charlottetown documents for book
File 7 CBC Commentary 1992
File 8 Charlottetown Bulletins
File 9 Referendum

Box 7

File 1 Charlottetown & referendum clippings
File 2 Charlottetown – Manitoba task Force
File 3 Charlottetown Conferences
File 4 First Peoples and the Constitution 1992 – Report
File 5 Report of the special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada 1992
File 6 Charlottetown – Lobbying
File 7 Charlottetown – Rural letters
File 8 Charlottetown – correspondence
File 9 Press Releases 1992

Box 8

File 1 WC Brief 1991
File 2 Charlottetown – clippings March 92-November 92
File 3 Published Analysis and Commentary on Charlottetown
File 4 Published Analysis and Commentary on Charlottetown
File 5 Published Analysis and Commentary on Charlottetown
File 6 Photographs and Press clippings related to the activities of the organization



Edward Walker fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4888>

Part Of:

RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds
Accession Number: 24-2006
GMD: graphic
Date Range: 1896-1920; predominant 1896-1910
Physical Description: 55 glass plate negatives
(52 at 5x7; 3 at 3X5)

History /

Biographical:

Edward Walker was born in Lymm, Cheshire, England in 1836. He emigrated to Canada at age 59 in 1895, from Stockport, England. Walker came to Canada with three of his children - Dora, Daisy and Theo - and settled in Millwood, Manitoba. In childhood, Walker was a victim of polio and walked with the aid of two canes throughout his adult life. Walker was a professional photographer. Once in Canada, he also took out a homestead at N.W. 18-19-229, though it appears that his son Theo did most of the work required to gain title to the property. In addition to his work as a photographer, Walker was appointed post-master for Millwood in 1901, and operated a small store. Edward Walker retired as postmaster in 1920. He died in 1923.

Custodial History:

The Walker fonds arrived at the S.J. McKee Archives as part of the Lawrence Stuckey Collection in 2001. While the circumstances are not known, it seems evident that Stuckey acquired the Walker negatives in the course of his professional career as a photographer and collector.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains a variety of images of Millwood, Manitoba and the surrounding agricultural community, its people, and life produced by Edward Walker in the course of his work as a professional photographer. These images were produced from gelatin dry plate negatives, a process introduced around 1880, to replace the wet collodion process in which a photographic solution was applied to a glass plate just prior to exposure. Edward Walker's pictorial account of life in and around Millwood Manitoba circa 1900, is an important photographic legacy of pioneer life on the upper reaches of the Assiniboine Valley.

The village of Millwood was located in the Assiniboine River valley close to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border just a few miles northwest of Binscarth and a similar distance southwest of Russell. It came into existence in 1887, with the construction of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, a road that ran diagonally through the new West from Prince Albert, North West Territories to Portage la Prairie Manitoba.

Notes: Description by Tom Mitchell.
Storage Location: 2006 accessions
Storage Range: 2006 accessions
Related Material: Several prints were located with the Walker Negatives. These were created by Lawrence Stuckey and have been located with the Lawrence Stuckey collection and identified as "Edward Walker" prints.

RG 6, 8.2.4 (Library - S.J. McKee Archives - Archival displays).

Arrangement:

Edward Walker – Millwood negatives

1. Manitoba and Northwestern railway steam shovel loading flat cars for the "fill" c. 1900
2. Completed "fill" near Millwood c. 1900
3. Steam shovel filling flat cars for the "fill"
4. Boy and pony
5. Farmer in field
6. Portrait – man
7. Portrait – man and woman
8. Portrait – man and women
9. Portrait – man
10. Portrait – little girl
11. Baseball game in progress
12. Cottage home
13. Portrait – man
14. Portrait – little girl
15. Gentlemen, horse and dog.
16. Portrait – two men
17. Portrait – mother and daughter
18. Mill and new Mill elevators c. 1896
19. Horse power in harness
20. Construction of railway bridge
21. Construction railway bridge
22. First automobile Millwood
23. Man, horse, carriage
24. Horse, sled filled with dead moose
25. Harvest scene reaper in action
26. Aboriginal people, tee pee
27. North Western railway bridge over the Assiniboine c. 1900
28. Railway trestle near the "Clay Dump", on west hill near Harrowby
29. Team of horse in harness drawing a sled
30. Boy, horse with steer tethered to horse's tail
31. Horse drawn wagon with children, woman and dog



Brandon University fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions16>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Creator: Brandon University

Description Level: Fonds

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1967 - present

History /

Biographical:

Brandon University received its charter on June 5, 1967, on the occasion of the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra and the Honourable Angus Ogilvie. The institution has its roots in Brandon College, which was established in 1899, by the Baptist Convention of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories and was administered by that authority until 1938. During these years it was an affiliate, first of the University of Manitoba and, from 1911 to 1938, of McMaster University. In 1938, it became a non-denominational affiliate of the

University of Manitoba, under a board of directors elected by the Brandon College Corporation, and it continued as such until it was made a provincial university in 1967.

1967-1968 was the first year of operation as Brandon University.

The University is a co-educational, non-denominational, government-supported institution within the Province of Manitoba. It is a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).

As stated in The Brandon University Act (1998), the purposes and objects of the university are: (a) the advancement of learning and the creation, preservation and dissemination of knowledge; and (b) the intellectual, social, ethical and physical development and improvement of its students and employees and of society. To further its purposes and objects the university may: (a) establish and maintain such colleges, faculties, schools, institutes, departments, chairs and courses of instruction as the board considers appropriate; (b) give instruction and training in all branches of learning; (c) grant degrees, including honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates of proficiency; (d) provide facilities for original research in every branch of learning, and conduct or facilitate the conducting of such research; and (e) generally promote and carry on the work of a university.

The mission statement of the University is to shape the whole person and enable students to make a positive difference as citizens and leaders. In a welcoming and supportive setting, the University emphasizes research, scholarship, critical thinking, performance, artistic creation, communication and participation, as a means of imparting value and meaning to society and contributing to the public good. The University nurtures and develops excellence in its programs, attracts an outstanding faculty, defends academic freedom, preserves knowledge and sustains a scholarly community where cultural differences are valued. The University strives to complement its primary mission of teaching and research by sharing the expertise of its staff, its information resources and its facilities with the greater community.

PROGRAM EVOLUTION:

1967 Brandon College became Brandon University with authority to grant degrees
1998 The Brandon University Act was passed by the Manitoba Legislature, replacing the Brandon University Regulations

Arts:

1902 First Arts graduates
1975 B.A. (4 year Specialist) degree
1983 B.A. (4 year General) degree
1990 Major in Business Administration
1991 Minor in Women's Studies
1992 Minor in Aboriginal Art
1996 Major in Business Administration (4 year)
1997 4 year Bachelor of Business Admin

Science:

1975 B.Sc. (4 year Spec)
1983 B.Sc. (4 year General)
1986 Post-Diploma degree for Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses
1995 4 year degree in Psychiatric Nursing

Education:

1952 Ed courses offered for the first time
1967 B.Ed. (5 year)
1969 B.Teaching (3 year)
1972 Project for the Education of Native Teachers (PENT) initiated

1974 Brandon University Northern Teacher Education Program (BUNTEP) initiated
1978 B.Ed (4 year)
1981 B.Teaching (3 year) discontinued as at October 17, 1981
1988 Concurrent B.Music/B.Ed (AD) degree program
1990 M.Ed.
1994 Brandon University Hutterian Education Programme (BUHEP) initiated

Music:

1906 Dept of Music (Conservatory) established
1973 B.Mus. (4 year General)
1977 B.Mus. (5 year Music Education)
1980 Master of Music Degree offered for the first time in Manitoba
1988 Concurrent B.Music/B.Ed (AD) degree program

Health Studies:

1998 School of Health Studies created and assumes responsibility for Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Mental Health and Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing

Interdisciplinary degree programs:

1972 B.G.S.
1998 Masters degree in Rural Development
1998 Bachelor of First Nations and Aboriginal Counselling degree program

On December 19, 1985, the Board of Governors approved a set of recommendations regarding the administrative structure of the university. The recommendations renamed, abolished and instituted a number of positions at Brandon University.

Custodial History:

Records in the fonds were in the possession of the President's Office until 1980, at which point they were transferred to the McKee Archives upon its creation. Subsequently, additional records have been transferred from the President's Office, the Senate Office and some faculties. Most records transferred after 1980 have separate accession numbers.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of sixteen series, including: (1) Office of the Chancellor; (2) Board of Governors; (3) Office of the President; (4) Office of the Vice-President; (5) Office of the Registrar; (6) Brandon University Senate; (7) Faculties and Schools; (8) Library Services; (9) Department of Extension; (10) Office of Development; (11) Brandon University Foundation; (12) Student Services; (13) Miscellaneous Publications; (14) Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU); (15) Brandon University Faculty Association (BUFA); and (16) Brandon University/College Artifacts.

Notes:

Information for the History/Bio field was taken from Brandon University calendars 1967-2006, the Brandon University website (December 2005) and an article in "The Quill" (January 9, 1986). Description by Christy Henry, unless otherwise noted.



CKX

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions10950>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Description Level: Fonds
Accession Number: 11-2010
GMD: graphic
Date Range: 1954-1973
Storage Location: 2010 accessions



George E. Thorman School Textbook Collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/specialcollections1406>

Part Of: MG 2 2.15 George E Thorman Collection
Collection: George E Thorman School Textbook Collection
Description Level: Fonds



Robert Dudley Howland Fabian Society Collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/specialcollections1408>

Part Of: MG 2 2.16 Robert Dudley Howland Collection
Collection: Robert Dudley Howland Fabian Society Collection
Description Level: Fonds



Delta Chapter (Brandon) - Delta Kappa Gamma Society International fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12707>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 11-2011

GMD: textual records

Date Range: April 7, 1979

Physical Description: one document 10"x14"

Physical Condition: Good

History /

Biographical:

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, which was established in 1929, is a professional honorary Society of women educators. The Society promotes professional and personal growth of its members and excellence in education. Membership is by invitation only and considered a prestigious honor with a variety of benefits and privileges.

Custodial History:

The document was in the possession of Merle Orth, Chair of the Archives Committee for the chapter prior to its donation to the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of the organizational charter of the Brandon chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Notes: History/Bio information taken from the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International webpage:
http://www.dkg.org/site/c.meJMIOwErH/b.5815955/k.E082/About_DKG.htm
[October 5, 2012]. Description by Tom Mitchell.

Storage Location: 2011 accessions



Westman Recycling Council fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12346>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 14-2011

GMD: textual records

Date Range: November 15, 1989 - March 26, 2009

Physical Description: 90 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Westman Recycling Council was started by a small group of avid recyclers with financial and volunteer help from the Kiwanis Club of Brandon, among others. Volunteers organized the first outdoor recycling depots in June and October 1989. The first event with recorded minutes was the first annual meeting, November 15, 1989.

The organization was incorporated in February 1990, and became a registered charity in 1995. The Mission Statement was: "to support and promote the reduction, re-use, and recycling of material resources for the benefit of Westman's environment and future generations."

The major partner in the work of the organization was the City of Brandon. In 2003, Westman Recycling, in partnership with the City, built a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Brandon Landfill; Westman Recycling owned the building on the City-owned land. It was a \$4 million structure - financed by federal and provincial grants (about one-quarter of the total) and a mortgage (about three-quarters). Details are in the Board and other Committee minutes and agreements.

In late 2005, Westman Recycling faced a severe cash crunch - as a result of poor markets for recyclables, changes in support funding from the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC), and a drop in public recycling levels. In February 2006, the City decided to sign a contract with another organization to operate the MRF; after that there appeared to be no role for Westman Recycling.

A general meeting on September 22, 2008 voted to dissolve the organization. At that meeting, the suggestion was made (agreed to by consensus) that the files of the organization be donated to Brandon University to be made available for researchers. A Board of Directors meeting on the same date voted to donate all remaining funds to a perpetual "Westman Recycling" fund with the Brandon Area Community Foundation.

A final wind-up meeting was held on March 26, 2009

Custodial History:

The organization was overseen by volunteers / volunteer Board of Directors. The files were first held by volunteers / Board members in their homes. In May 1991, the organization hired David McConkey as Coordinator / General Manager, who was directed by the Board to manage the files on a daily basis from that date forward.

The files were kept in the organization's rented office space in the 1300 block of Pacific Avenue from May 1991 to September 1992, and then in the rented space in the Massey building at 6th Street and Pacific Avenue. The files were kept at the new facility at the landfill from April 2003 to February 2006. They were then stored in the basement of the Marquis Project, 912 Rosser Avenue, until August 2011 when they were donated to the S.J. McKee Archives, Brandon University.

Some files (e.g. minutes from 1995-96) were found to be missing entirely. Other files were disposed of by recycling and/or shredding as they were judged to be confidential (e.g. personnel), of an ordinary business nature only (e.g. invoices), or not useful for future research (e.g. extra copies, routine correspondence, building and equipment plans and other arrangements).

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records that document the origin, activities, demise, and legacy of the Westman Recycling Council. Records include minutes, financial summaries, scrapbooks, newsletters, brochures, media clippings, photographs and miscellaneous documents related to the construction in collaboration with the City of Brandon of Brandon's principal recycling facility.

Notes: Administrative history courtesy David McConkey. See additional notes on the organization in the curatorial file. Description by Tom Mitchell.

Storage Location: 2011 accessions