

S. J. McKee Archives



Neighorly News columns

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13663>

Other Title Info:	Title based on the contents of the subseries
Part Of:	Fred McGuinness collection
Description Level:	Sub-series
Series Number:	McG 2.3
Accession Number:	1-2015
GMD:	textual records
Date Range:	c. 1979 - 2002
Physical Description:	Approximately 18 cm of textual records

History /

Biographical:

Fred McGuinness wrote the syndicated weekly news column "Neighorly News" for 22 years, beginning in 1979. According to McGuinness, the Neighorly News column evolved out of the interest in and the impending cancellation of the CBC Radio broadcast "Neighorly News from the Prairies." McGuinness credits Eugene Derksen (Steinbach Carillon), Miles Phillips (Boissevain Recorder), and Ian MacKenzie (Portage Graphic) for approaching him about printing/publishing a Neighorly News column. The column initially began with a dozen subscriptions from weeklies and grew to publication in 55 weeklies.

McGuinness described his creative process as follows. McGuinness received weeklies from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, from which he would read the first page and the editorial page. He created thematic files from clippings he accumulated over a period of time. He would then write four columns at a time based on the materials he assembled and had the columns printed at the Brandon Sun plant for camera-ready copy. Other weeklies had to re-type the columns if they did not have the facilities. The weekly columns were written for publication periods beginning every Monday.

McGuinness wrote his last Neighorly News column during the publication week of April 1, 2002. In his final column he confessed that his age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diagnosed in 2001, had become an impediment to his research, writing, and editing abilities. A month later, a Neighorly News retrospective written by McGuinness was published. In that column McGuinness reviewed the history of the Neighorly News broadcast and column and described his writing process.

The successor to McGuinness' Neighorly News column was Margaret "Peggy" HASEIN, the editor and co-publisher of the Biggar Independent. Hasein was the successful bidder for the column after McGuinness put his column up for sale upon receiving his AMD diagnosis. The Neighorly News column is still in print today (2015).

Custodial History:

Records were collected and created by McGuinness during the publication of the syndicated column Neighorly News from 1980 to 2002. The materials were donated to the SJ McKee Archives by the Estate of Fred McGuinness circa 2011. The Archives accessioned the records in 2015.

Scope and Content:

The subseries consists of textual records (i.e., typed drafts, camera ready copy, and correspondence) created during the publication period (1980 to 2002) of Fred McGuinness' syndicated Neighborly News column. The Archives does not have copies of McGuinness' Neighborly News columns from 1999 to 2002. There is one file folder containing letters of thanks and congratulations upon McGuinness' retirement in April 2002.

Notes:

Information in the history/biography was taken from Neighborly News columns published in the Roblin Review (April 2, 2002, 4), and The Glenboro Gazette (May 7, 2002, 11). In the Glenboro Gazette column, "Looking Back," McGuinness recalled the history of history Neighborly News radiobroadcast and column. The timeline provided in the article, appears to conflict with the actual dates the radio broadcast was cancelled by CBC and the beginning of the publication of the Neighborly News column. The Archives have used McGuinness' date in the looking back column but researchers should be aware of the discrepancies in the timeline

The original location of the file (when the Fred McGuinness collection was unprocessed) is noted on the front of each file folder. The first sentence of each column was provided in the file level inventory because weeklies published alternative titles for the same column. The square bracket at the end of each item contains a few keywords for the respective column

Camera-ready proofs are numbered and dated for the weekly publication period beginning on Mondays. Certain columns in this series were mis-numbered and/or mis-dated by McGuinness. McGuinness' numbers and dates have been retained and the discrepancies noted by the editorial marking [sic]

Accruals:

Closed

Finding Aid:

A file level inventory is available

Storage Location:

2015 accessions

Related Material:

Fred McGuinness would write/publish about a topic in a number of forums. For example, when researching and writing the Bootstrap profiles for the provincial government, McGuinness also mentioned these individuals in his Neighborly News or Brandon Sun Diary columns. Therefore, it is possible research materials pertaining to his Neighborly News columns may be found in the subseries: Correspondence (McG 1.2), Clippings (McG 4.2), Local history (McG 4.1), Miscellaneous freelance (McG 3.2) and Reader's Digest (McG 3.1)

McGuinness details his vision problems and sale of the Neighborly News column in his memoir "Lost in Hotel Beesborough" (see McG 2.2 File 16, and McG 3.2, Misc. Freelance File 53)

Arrangement:

Arrangement was artificially created by the Archives. Subseries has been arranged according to column number/publication period

Documents

Document Not
Available
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McG 2_3 Neighborly
News inventory.pdf

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