

S. J. McKee Archives



Old steam plant construction

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14347>

Part Of: Brandon University Photograph Collection
Creator: Photographer: Tom Donkersloot
Description Level: Item
Series Number: 2.12
Item Number: BUPC 2.12.17
GMD: graphic
Date Range: September 16, 1970
Physical Description: 4.25" x 3.25" (b/w)

History /

Biographical:

Donkersloot began working at Brandon University in 1970/1971 as the Clerk of Works. From 1973 until his retirement, he was the Director of Physical Plant.

The 1960s campus expansion necessitated a large, updated heat source so a central steam plant fueled by coal was built north of the campus adjacent to the CPR rail lines on Pacific Avenue. A 25-year agreement was made between the University and John R. Brodie of the Great West Coal Company, which guaranteed BU lower coal prices tendered by the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways on an annual basis. Brandon College Engineer John Kasiurak officially opened the Heating Plant on 24 January 1962. An extension and/or upgrade of the steam plant appears to have occurred in 1970.

Until the 1990s, heat was piped underground to the campus from the Pacific Avenue Heating Plant but inspection standards were outpacing the maintenance and repairs required to keep the plant operating smoothly. Consequently, a new steam plant was built immediately adjacent to the University to the west of Darrach Hall on 20th Street. This building was essential to handling additional loads from the proposed library expansion. The original steam plant was subsequently sold.

Custodial History:

Photograph was taken by Tom Donkersloot during construction and stored in albums in the Physical Plant H-Hut until they were transferred to the McKee Archives by Doug Duncalf in May 2008.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows the construction of Brandon University's old coal steam plant at 20th Street and Pacific Avenue. Photograph is looking southeast and shows the construction of the the roof and the west wall. The top two floors of The Towers apartment building on Rosser Avenue is visible in the background. Workers, machines and construction materials are visible in the foreground.

Notes: Donkersloot recorded the date and time each photograph was taken on the back of the photos.

Images

