

S. J. McKee Archives



RG2SF2 Manitoba winter fair

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4364>

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| Part Of: | RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds |
| Description Level: | Sous-fonds |
| Fonds Number: | RG2SF2 |
| GMD: | multiple media |
| Date Range: | 1908-1992 |
| Physical Description: | 2.65 m textual records 780 graphics |

History /

Biographical:

The first attempts to hold a winter agricultural fair in Brandon happened in 1884, when a show was held in the buildings owned by A. Harrison and Company. However, this did not become an annual event. There were also several unsuccessful attempts to establish annual Stallion Sales in the late spring by horsemen in the area. In 1904, J.D. McGregor petitioned Brandon City Council for a winter fair. The petition was accepted by the city, and in 1906 Brandon's first winter fair was held. It was a big success, and the Board of Directors looked forward to it becoming an annual event. The summer fair, which had been in operation since 1882 welcomed this new exhibition. The Board of the summer fair felt that a winter fair would be complementary to the summer exhibition. Although the two fairs were not amalgamated, they did share a secretary-treasurer and several Board members.

In 1907, the Cattle Breeders Association decided to make the Brandon Winter Fair the site of its annual stock sale. With this support, it was felt that the winter fair would become an annual event. A joint stock company was created in 1907 entitled the Brandon Winter Fair and Livestock Association (BWFLA), to be used primarily as a land-holding company. Land was purchased at Tenth Street and McTavish Avenue in order to erect a winter fair building.

The following year, the Provincial Winter Fair and Fat Stock Association was created to manage the winter fair. The name was soon changed to the Manitoba Winter Fair and Fat Stock Association (MWFFSA). Unlike the summer fair, the winter fair was solely an agricultural event. The Board felt no need to please the citizens with carnivals and midways. The winter fair was "by and for the farmers...[and]...the primary functions of the Brandon Winter Fair were to educate the agricultural community and to honour the community's accomplishments."

Additional land was bought on Eleventh Street and Victoria Avenue to build a new winter fair building. The building opened in 1913. By this time, the Brandon Winter Fair was one of the best livestock and agricultural exhibitions in the province.

When the First World War broke out, the winter fair buildings were requisitioned by the military for troop accommodation and eventually as a detention centre for Ukrainian internees and other "enemy aliens." Unlike the summer fair, which was allowed to use their buildings during fair week, the winter fair buildings were not released for the exhibition. This led to the cancellation of both the 1915 and 1916 winter fairs.

By 1917 the winter fair was allowed to open again, but by this time both the BWFLA and the

MWFFSA were experiencing financial difficulties. It was at this time that the proposal first went out regarding an amalgamation of the summer and winter fairs. The provincial government approved of the idea of an amalgamation, and both fair Boards considered the proposal. However, in early 1920 the winter fair Board pulled out of the discussions, as it felt that the winter fair would lose out to the WAAA. The winter fair Board decided to struggle on independently.

Financial problems heightened Board concerns that the winter fair was not exciting enough to keep the public interest. To add to the financial concerns of the winter fair board, in the fall of 1920, the old winter fair pavilion caught fire and burned. Forty six horses were killed and the fair Board had to cancel the 1921 winter fair. When the new winter fair building opened in 1922, it was greeted with enthusiasm. The Directors, in an attempt to ease the increasing financial burden they were feeling, tried to keep the buildings open year round for other events.

In 1929, the Depression began in Canada. While the winter fair continued to run, its buildings were once again requisitioned by the government, this time to house men looking for work. The winter fair Directors were conscious of the problems that the citizens of Brandon were facing, and they offered free admission to those on relief. The fair received grants from the government to provide work relief programs, but these were often small or canceled. The Board members may have resorted to helping to pay for the fair out of their own pockets.

Despite financial problems, the winter fair managed to survive the Depression. Unfortunately, as Brandon recovered from the Depression of the 1930s, the Second World War broke out. For the third time in as many decades, the government requisitioned the winter fair buildings. This time, however, instead of canceling the fair as in previous years, the winter fair went on as scheduled, although it was held on the summer fair grounds.

By 1945, the directors were at a loss financially. They decided that the best course of action in order to keep the fair going was to turn over the buildings to the City of Brandon. By the fall of 1946 the BWFLA had ceased operations.

While the Manitoba Winter Fair and the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba were still not amalgamated, they continued to share the same secretary-manager and several Board members. After the cessation of the war, the Directors knew they had to become more appealing to the wider public. There were promotional events held and more entertainment was offered to attract the public. These additions led to dissension among Board members, as some wanted the fair to remain purely agricultural. The appeal for the greater good of the fair, even if it did include some non-agricultural attractions, eventually won out.

The fair was still to be plagued with difficulties though. In 1952 the fair had to be canceled because of an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease. Despite setbacks such as this, the Board persevered. The following year a 4-H seed show was created and sponsored by the provincial agronomist, P.F. Ford. A carcass class was added in 1957. Soon the fair was successful and stable and rapidly outgrew its facilities.

It was decided by 1966 that the winter fair and the summer fair should be housed in one building. In 1969, the respective Boards went one step further and decided to become one organization. The Manitoba Winter Fair and the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba amalgamated in 1969 to become the Manitoba Exhibition Association. In 1970, the year of Manitoba's Centennial, it was decided that an organization in the province would receive the designation "Royal" by Queen Elizabeth II. After much consideration by the province, the Manitoba Winter Fair was chosen, and in 1970 it became known as the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair. In 1972 the construction of a common facility was completed, and the 1973 winter fair was the occasion of the official opening of the Keystone Centre. The winter fair continues in this facility and under this designation to this day.

Custodial History:

The records were housed at the MWFFSA, the MWF and the MEA until c1986 when they were transferred to the S.J. McKee Archives at Brandon University.

Scope and Content:

The sous-fonds consists of textual records and photographs pertaining to the Winter Fair. The textual records include prize lists, programs, minutes, financial, administrative files, original results, news releases, scrapbooks, and tickets. The photographs include animal shows and events, dignitaries, entertainment, ceremonies, buildings, and other events.

The sous-fonds has been divided into eleven series, including: (1) Documents; (2) Minutes; (3) Financial records; (4) Administrative files; (5) Prize lists and programs; (6) News releases; (7) Original results; (8) Tickets; (9) Photographs; (10) Scrapbooks; and (11) Miscellaneous

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds



Shilo Fall/Winter

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions6047>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1

File Number: 1101

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1986

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of correspondence

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 45



Canada Winter Games (1979)

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3533>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 2.4

File Number: 137

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1976-1979

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of lists, correspondence, budget and other financial information, by-laws, architects' proposals and a program.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Series 2: Board of Governors
2.4 Correspondence and subject files
Box 7



Women's auxillary, university

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3975>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 387

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1970-1971

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of correspondence, pamphlets and notices for various Brandon University departments/services/events, a membership list of the Brandon University Women's Auxillary, news releases, a Department of Extension report, a draft questionnaire, a detailed account of building structures past/present/future on Brandon University campus, and the listing of artists in the "150 years of Art in Manitoba" exhibit.

Name Access: Clark Hall

Brodie Building

Music Building

A.E. McKenzie Building

Evans Theatre

Robbins Library

Subject Access: historical

campus buildings

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 9



Agriculture: Fairs & Exhibition Program

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions6244>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 1297
GMD: textual records
Date Range: July 1992
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 51



Music Building

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3643>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: 4.2
File Number: 65
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1964-1966
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence and a report of defects in music and art building (1964).
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Series 4: Office of the Vice-President
4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)
Box 2



Building grounds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3654>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 76

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1967

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of a summary of volume of buildings for Brandon College and an organizational chart of the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 2



Education building

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3664>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 85

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1965-1967

Physical Description: 2 files

Scope and Content:

Files consist of blueprints, building specifications, proposed plans for the new Education building, timelines, General Faculty Council meeting minutes, building notices, correspondence, samples, memos, and tenders.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 3



CEIC BUSU- Building

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5038>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1

File Number: 126

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1984-1985

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of correspondence re: BUSU Building at Brandon University

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration

1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career

Box 4



Convocations and building openings

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3195>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 2.1

File Number: 1

Accession Number: 6-2005

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1957-1986

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of invitations and reply cards for various convocations and building openings at Brandon College and Brandon University.

Notes: The file contains some materials that relate to Brandon College.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 2: Board of Governors

2.1 Documents

Box 1



Project XV: Library building

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3341>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 2.6

File Number: 32

Accession Number: 8-2005

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1971

Physical Description: 2 files

Scope and Content:

Files consist of correspondence, reports, recommendations, proposals, financial information, minutes, memos, information on Erickson/Massey Architects and Planners, action outline, library statistics, drawings and reference materials.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 2: Board of Governors

2.6 Board Projects

Box 1



BUSU (re: building fund)

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3377>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 2.4

File Number: 32

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1965, 1969, 1977-1978

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of correspondence, Board minutes, a copy of Bill 9, and suggested amendments to the Brandon College Student Association constitution.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 2: Board of Governors

2.4 Correspondence and subject files

Box 1



Library building planning bibliography

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3574>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1971-1976

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of references for building library facilities.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 1



Building grounds superintendent - correspondence

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3781>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 159

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1966

Physical Description: 1 file

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 5



New residence building - G.B.R.

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3912>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 324

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1967-1969

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of a summary statement of basic aims of study (Housing the Canadian Student), correspondence, financial information, a newsclipping and the proposed student residence building for Brandon University.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 8



UGC special project: Original building

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3554>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 2.6

File Number: 7

Accession Number: 8-2005

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1975

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of a correspondence, notes, a complete set of UGC capital forms and additional financial information.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 2: Board of Governors

2.6 Board Projects

Box 1



Library building planning - Canada - Alberta

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3576>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1968-1970

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of reference materials regarding university libraries in Alberta gathered for the purpose of planning the use and/or expansion of the John E. Robbins Library at Brandon University.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 1



Library building planning - Canada - Ontario

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3579>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 6

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1959-1976

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of reference materials regarding university libraries in Ontario gathered for the purpose of planning the use and/or expansion of the John E. Robbins Library at Brandon University. It includes two photographs of Carleton University Library.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 1



Library building planning - Canada - Manitoba

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3580>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 7

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1969

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content:

File consists of reference materials regarding university libraries in Manitoba gathered for the purpose of planning the use and/or expansion of the John E. Robbins Library at Brandon University.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 1



Education building correspondence and furnishing correspondence

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions3665>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: File

Series Number: 4.2

File Number: 86

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1966-1967

Physical Description: 1 file

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Series 4: Office of the Vice-President

4.2 Office of the Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Box 3