



## Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14288>

Part Of:	RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Description Level:	Fonds
Accession Number:	8-2001, 13-2016
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	1965-1980, predominant 25 May 1965 - 30 September 1976
Physical Description:	12 cm textual records 6 b/w photographs (loose) 1 artefact
Physical Condition:	Some of the items in the scrapbook have come loose from their pages, some documents are stained from a liquid, likely coffee

### History /

#### Biographical:

In 1965, Chris Verhoef, member of the Overture Concert Association, Allied Arts Centre, and Brandon Citizens' Committee for the Performing Arts, called for a meeting of Western Manitoba citizens interested in the prospect of a Philharmonic Choir for the region. The meeting took place on 26 May 1965; the steering committee that gathered, led by Margaret Goodman, undertook the formation of the Choir. The Choir would have an Executive consisting of at least four members, and a committee consisting of a minimum seven members. Each executive member would be elected on an annual basis. The Choir's executive, in collaboration with the conductor, would determine the choir's repertoire for the year. The establishment of the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir (WMPC) sought to encourage amateurs to sing for enjoyment, provide the opportunity for a choir to perform choral compositions in collaboration with a symphony orchestra and promote and sponsor the musical arts in the Western Manitoba region. Membership to the choir would be open to all citizens of the region, and members would be accepted based on the discretion of the conductor. The first meeting of prospective members took place on 27 September 1965 in St. Matthews Cathedral parish Hall where more than 90 people gathered and registered to become a member of the WMPC.

Chris Verhoef led the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir into its first season as President of the choir's Executive Committee. For the organization's first season, the WMPC hired two members of the Brandon College School of Music: Lucien Needham for the position of conductor and Louise Chapman for the position of accompanist. Brandon College, as well as other donors sponsored the choir for its first season. The Choir held its debut performance in collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) on 12 March 1966, and the Choir's performance of Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Dettingen te Deum attracted an audience of more than 1400 people. The performance was well received by the public. The debut performance's success earned the Choir a recommendation for a grant from the Manitoba Centennial Corporation that would sponsor a special concert during the centennial year. Furthermore, the Canada Council supported the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, by the means of special funds, to make the Symphony's appearance with the Philharmonic Choir possible.

For the WMPC's second season, membership rose to 111 amateur singers. Verhoef

remained as President of the Executive, while the Brandon Citizens' Committee for the Performing Arts provided sponsorship. Following the Choir's performance of Schubert's Mass in Eb Major on 17 November 1966, the membership increased to 132 singers. On 20 January 1967, the WMPC's first taped broadcast was released over CBC and CKX. The broadcast's success resulted in an offer from CBC to record another broadcast for a similar release. The Kiwanis Club of Rivers invited the Choir to perform in Rivers on 25 January 1967. On 7 April 1967, the Choir performed Haydn's oratorio, *The Creation*, in the Brandon College Gymnasium.

The choir elected Murray Ames as President to lead it through its third and fourth seasons. In its third season, the WMPC, conducted by Leonard Mayoh, performed Handel's *Messiah* on 22 November 1967 in the Brandon University Gymnasium. The Choir's spring concert, named the "Chris Verhoef Memorial Concert," in honour of Chris Verhoef who had passed away December 1967, featured works by Bach, Brahms and Perry. Held on 9 March 1968, in the Brandon University Gymnasium, the concert featured Brandon University student James Stewart as soloist and was received with great praise. In addition to the memorial concert, the WMPC also established a \$500 scholarship for a Brandon University music student to honour Verhoef's substantial contribution to the community.

The first concert of the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir's fourth season was held on 10 December 1968, in the J.R.C. Evans Lecture Theatre at Brandon University and featured selections from Handel's *Messiah*. A piano trio comprised of Francis Chaplin (violin), Malcolm Tait (cello) and Gordon Macpherson (piano), as well as a brass trio, also performed at the choir's winter concert. In its fourth season, the WMPC performed two concerts in the second half of its season. On 15 February 1969, in cooperation with CKX Radio and Television, the choir performed works by Mozart, Hindemith, and Mahler in collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra conducted by George Cleve. Later in the season, the choir performed Brahms' *Requiem Mass*, once again in collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. R. Parker filled the position of President of the Executive for the duration of the Choir's fifth, sixth and seventh seasons. The fifth season saw the WMPC performing four concerts. Conducted by Leonard Mayoh, it opened its season on 11 October 1969 with a performance at the Grand Finale of the Grand Opening of the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium, performing the overture to Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. Their Christmas concert, also conducted by Mayoh, took place on 10 December 1969. The Choir's third concert of its fifth season was held on 31 January 1970, in cooperation with CKX Radio and Television, and featured works by Mendelssohn, Ravel, and Schubert, in collaboration with the WSO under the direction of conductor George Cleve. The season concluded with another concert in collaboration with the WSO on 7 March 1970, conducted by Leonard Mayoh. This concert featured works by Vaughan Williams, Handel and Poulenc.

Seasons six and seven consisted of two concerts each. The Choir held its fifth annual Christmas Concert on 5 December 1970. Led by Leonard Mayoh, it performed its spring concert on 10 April 1971 in collaboration with members from the Winnipeg Symphony, featuring selections by Bach and Mozart in the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. In its seventh season, the Choir performed Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* on 4 December 1971 in the Central United Church. For its final concert of the year, the WMPC revisited a piece that had been the main focus of its second season: Haydn's oratorio, *The Creation*. The Choir performed this Haydn masterwork on 8 April 1972 under the direction of Piero Gamba.

Helen Riesberry led the choir through its eighth and ninth seasons as President of the Executive. In its eighth season, the WMPC held its annual Christmas concert on 12 December 1972 in collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in the style of a sing-along led by Mitch Miller. The choir's spring concert featured another masterwork, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, conducted by Piero Gamba. The WMPC and members of the WSO performed the *Requiem Mass* on 28 April 1973 at the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. Despite the lack of attendance at rehearsals since the Christmas concert, the WMPC presented an overall

effective performance of the challenging Requiem Mass.

In its ninth season, Derek Morphy took over the position of conductor from Leonard Mayoh. Morphy had his debut performance as conductor with the WMPC at the annual Christmas concert on 17 December 1973. In March 1974, in collaboration with members from the WSO, Morphy led the Choir in its performance of Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Elijah*, in the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. Later in the season, the choir performed a concert entitled "Reflections," a choral programme for Lent and Easter, accompanied by organist Arthur Bower.

Nearing the end of its ninth season, the Philharmonic Choir encountered severe financial challenges. The Choir released a notice in the newspaper that the anticipated \$3000 grant from the Manitoba Arts Council had been cut to \$1000, leaving the Choir \$3100 in debt. The notice explained that the Choir needed funds in order to enable operation and continue hiring the WSO for concerts. The WMPC executive and committee held a Leonard Mayoh Night in an attempt to gain funds and donations. Although the Manitoba Arts Council raised the grant to \$2000 and the City of Brandon contributed \$500, the Choir's financial situation remained in a dire state as its ninth season came to a close.

The Choir elected Edith Hayden to lead it through its tenth and eleventh seasons as President of the Executive. The opening of the tenth season challenged the WMPC. In addition to its financial woes, the Choir's Executive struggled to overcome the lack of attendance at rehearsals and the shortage of male voices. The WMPC had experienced membership issues in earlier seasons as well. In its third season, despite a membership of 130 individuals, the choir had struggled to create a balanced sound due to a lack of male membership and therefore a lack of lower voices. In its sixth season, the Choir opened their concert year with an appeal for members. In an effort to improve the choir's financial affairs, the Choir Executive and conductor decided against hiring the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for the time being. In an attempt to improve the situation, Derek Morphy wrote a letter to the members of the Choir outlining his concern that he may not be meeting their expectations as a conductor but hoped to generate positive and hopeful prospects for the future of music-making together.

The Choir's annual Christmas concert featured a collaboration with the Brandon School Division Music Department and Brandon School Orchestra and Band Association, as well as dancers choreographed by Barbra Enhes. The WMPC performed Haydn's Mass in D minor at its spring concert on 27 April 1975, accompanied by Arthur Bower. By the end of the season, the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir's financial situation had begun to improve.

The WMPC hired conductor Peter Allen to lead the Choir through its final season of operation. The Choir held its annual Christmas concert in the Central United Church on 7 December 1975, and featured Vivaldi's *Gloria*, accompanied by pianist Barry Anderson. The choir performed Deller's Psalm 148, Telemann's Cantata for the Fourth Sunday after the Feast of the Three Kings, and Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* at its spring concert held at the Central United Church on 25 April 1976.

Despite its best efforts, the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir's first rehearsal of its twelfth season saw just 26 members in attendance. As a result of lack of membership, the Choir Executive decided to disband the WMPC for its 1976/1977 season, with plans to reassess the situation in September of 1977 for the prospect of a 1977/1978 season. Matters were further complicated by financial considerations; by June 1977 the choir's financial situation had worsened as a result of the administrative fees that the WMPC covered for the duration of its unexpected inactive 1976/1977 season. Unlike past years, there were not any ticket sales to cover such expenses.

Following its year off, membership interest in the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir did not increase and the decision was made not to return for another season. In 1980, the WMPC revoked its registration as an organization and officially ceased to exist.

#### Custodial History:

Records in the 8-2001 accession were donated to the McKee Archives in 2001, by three representatives of the Philharmonic Choir: Dr. Bill Paton, Botany Department, Brandon University; Mrs. Edith Hayden, WMPC President; and Mary Davidson WMPC Archives Committee. Records in accession 13-2016 were given to Terry Stamper in the School of Music by Marilyn Hayden and then transferred to the McKee Archives on September 21, 2015.

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records that document the origin, activities, and ultimate disbandment of the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir. These records were created and accumulated during the eleven year existence of the WMPC.

Records include: the organization's constitution and history from 1965-1968; financial records, which include grants received from the Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council, and City of Brandon, as well as materials documenting the organization's financial struggles from 1974-1976; minutes from executive and committee meetings from 18 June 1973 to 24 June 1974; correspondence in the form of letters between the president of the executive and the choir members, and between the conductor of the choir and its members; membership lists from each season of the WMPC; and concert programmes from every major Christmas and Spring concert that the organization performed. Fonds also contains newspaper notices, advertisements and reviews of various performances, as well as posters advertising performances of the WMPC in the 1967/68, 1970/71, 1971/72 and 1973/74 seasons; the posters advertise the choir, collaborators, patrons and featured works.

Also included in the fonds is a scrapbook detailing the choir's history. Each page of the scrapbook is decorated with hand painted images of plants native to the southwestern Manitoba region. The scrapbook includes concert programs and photographs of the choir from all years of the organization's operation. The scrapbook also contains an assortment of informal photographs from various WMPC events. There are also six black and white group photos of the WMPC from various seasons.

Finally, the fonds contains one artifact, a leather bag/zippered file folder with "WMPC" printed on it.

Notes: History/Bio information was provided by representatives of the Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir. Copies of the history can be found in the fonds. Description by Jessi Gilchrist (October 2016).

Name Access: Chris Verhoef  
Margaret Goodman  
St. Matthews Cathedral  
Lucien Needham  
Louise Chapman  
Manitoba Centennial Corporation  
Canada Council  
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra  
Brandon College  
Kiwanis Club  
CKX  
Helen Reisberry  
Mary Donovan  
Tom Inglis  
Humphrey Davies  
Muriel Bain

H.V. Kidd  
Eileen Christ  
Brandon College Auditorium  
CBC Radio  
J.M. Donovan  
Murray Ames  
Dr. R. Parker  
Henry Stein  
Ernie Pearn  
Gerry Streuber  
Dorothy McLean  
Mayme Tucker  
Margaret George  
Bob Blair  
Bud Keenan  
Marilyn Johnston  
Sister Mary Rose  
Lou Brown  
Jeanine Baker  
Muriel Patmore  
Leonard Mayoh  
Jim Cory  
Eric Davies  
Phil Ricou  
Elaine Dechka  
Lester Spinaze  
Archie Miller  
High Rest  
Lorna hamilton  
Ruth Cutforth  
Ollie Timkiw  
Thelma Findogasson  
A. Bayne  
Dick Vanderveen  
Lee Donnelly  
M. Rogosin  
Ken Nichols  
Manitoba Arts Council  
Piero Gamba  
Mary Graham  
Reuben Gurevich  
Leonard Stone  
Brandon Area Foundation  
Arthur Bower  
Derek Murphy

Judy Pringle  
Irma Peters  
John Martens  
Robert Publow  
Brandon Citizens' Committee for the Performing Arts  
Brandon Musical Supply  
P.A. Kennedy  
Bond Books  
Brandon Public Library  
Phylis Thomson  
Hilda Miller  
Arthur Janzen  
Walter Deller  
Nora Needham  
Jean Dorian  
Margaret hammond  
Eileen Blain  
Brian Bailey  
Brandon College Gymnasium  
Brandon University School of Music  
G.R. Rowe  
Sylvia Richardson  
Peter Koslowsky  
Nelson Lohnes  
James Stewart  
Francis Chaplin  
Malcolm Tait  
Gordon Macpherson  
J.R.C. Evans Lecture Theatre  
Lorne Watson  
Donald Henry  
Lawrence Jones  
Alice Hekster  
Walter Hekster  
Hilda Dridger  
Elizabeth Grant  
Dorothy Froese  
Robert Ford  
James Mendenhall  
Colin Cooper  
Allison Ryles  
Joy Crawford  
Audrey Farnell  
Maxine Miller  
Smith Miller

	Brandon Sun
	Barbra Ehnes
	Brandon School Division Music Department
	Brandon School Orchestra and Band Association
	Barbra Landry
Subject Access:	Kinman's Club of Rivers Philharmonic choirs amateur choirs amateur musicians symphony orchestra philharmonic classical music performance ensemble cultural organizations music community organizations
Storage Location:	2001 accessions
Related Material:	School of Music records Lorne Watson collection Lawrence Jones collection Brandon Women's Musical Club fonds Francis Chaplin collection Brandon Festival of the Arts fonds Fred McGuinness collection CKX fonds Music and the Brandon Community collection



## Western Manitoba Home Econocmic Association fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14324>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 13-2010

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1971-2010

History /

Biographical:

The inaugural meeting of the Western Manitoba Home Economics Association (WMHEA) was held in September 1971, with 48 members. In 1973, the WMHEA members voted to affiliate with the Canadian Home Economics Association (CHEA).

Custodial History:

Records were in the possession of Margarite Hughes and other officers of the Western Manitoba Home Economic Association prior to their donation to the SJ McKee Archives on July 17, 2010.

Scope and Content:

Fonds includes: minutes (September 1971 - May 2010); lists of executive members; membership lists; financial records; newsletters; scrapbooks; correspondence; records of special events; miscellaneous publications; and organizational banners.

Notes: Description by Tom Mitchell

Storage Location: 2010 accessions



## 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



## 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



## Valleyview Leisure Club fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14292>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 4-2015

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1980-2014

Physical Description: 30 cm textual records

Physical Condition: Most of the photos are in peel and stick albums and the albums have a number of condition issues

#### History /

##### Biographical:

Valleyview Leisure Club (VLC) began in April 1978 as a senior's activity group in conjunction with Valleyview Community Centre. The impetus for the creation of the group was a meeting between John Svenson, Regional Director for Westman Seniors, and seniors in the Valleyview area who met to discuss the organization of a seniors club. At the time the club was established, space was limited at the Community Centre because some school classes were held there during the construction of Riverheights School. However, a New Horizons grant enabled the VLC to remodel and furnish the basement area of the Valleyview Community Centre for the Leisure Club. A Grand Opening of the space was held in May of 1980; there was a special luncheon and the official ribbon was cut by Hon. Ed McGill.

The Valleyview Leisure Club was run by a board and its associated committees and governed by a constitution. Members were charged an annual membership fee, as well as user fees for the various activities. In the early years, the Club had monthly membership business meetings in conjunction with an evening meal and entertainment. The use of the basement area was varied and included: cards; shuffleboard and other games; craft activities; fundraisers; raffles; dances; and luncheons, dinners and potlucks. The space was also rented out for private functions, particularly special birthdays and anniversary's of community members. The Club made annual contributions to the parent Community Centre, as well as helping the Community Centre functions (winter carnival etc.)

In the course of time, the activities of the VLC became more focused on cribbage and bridge, with several regular groups scheduled at regular weekly time slots. At the time of the organization's disbanding, the following groups were active: Friday afternoon contract bridge - the "original" bridge group at the Centre; Tuesday afternoon cribbage; Thursday afternoon "Retired Educators" contract bridge - this group had played in vacant space at Neelin School up until around 1989. Its membership was eventually opened up to anyone who wanted to play in that time slot; Wheat City Duplicate Bridge Club - formed in the City as a sanctioned club

and had a number of locations around town. When it moved to the Leisure Club, it came as a renter only, but chose in 2012 to join as VLC members; and Monday afternoon duplicate bridge - in an effort to increase the number of duplicate bridge plays, a "beginners" duplicate group was established with lessons, which proved to be a popular decision. The group thrived and most of the Thursday evening playser began to paly at this time also/or instead.

The VLC hosted a Spring and a Fall Bridge Tournament each year, open to anyone, with invitations going to surrounding areas. As well as cash prizes, a cash donation was given to a local charity. In latter years these donations were \$500 per tournament. An annual Christmas Dinner was another popular event. It was a catered event, at least in the later years, and was offered at a subsidized price to members. The club also made a donation to Christmas Cheer at this time.

At some point in the organization's history the VLC came to be seen as a tenant of the Valleyview Community Centre, paying a rent of \$3000 per year for its use of the basement space, as well as some maintenance expenses. When the Valleyview Community Centre voted to raise the rent to \$12,000 per year within two years, the VLC sought other options.

The VLC settled on Prairie Oasis Senior Centre for a nubmer of reasons. First, it offered to provide space for each of the club's existing card groups at the same time slots with no membership fees. Second, the move would also eliminate the increasingly difficult task of fielding a board of directors to run the club. Finally, the Prairie Oasis location offered the advantage of level access; the basement location of the VLC had excluded several of the club's former members with mobility issues.

Effective September 1, 2014, the Valleyview Leisure Club was dissolved. The club disposed of equipment either by donating it to Prairie Oasis or to Valleyview Community Centre. Once all debts were cleared the Board voted to distribute the cash assets to the following local charities: Big Brothers and Sisters; Food For Thought; Humane Society; Prairie Oasis Senior Centre/Meals on Wheels; Salvation Army; Samaritan House; Seniors For Seniors Co-op Inc.; The Soup Kitchen; Westman Regional Hospital; Westman Hospice; and Y Kids.

#### Custodial History:

Records were created and collected by Valleyview Leisure Club and donated to the S.J. McKee Archives by Barry Reilly following the disbandment of the club in 2015.

#### Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records created and maintained by the Valleyview Leisure Club to document their activities and membership. The records detail club events, finances, insurance and meetings.

Records include meeting minutes, agendas, posters, correspondence, budget plans, grants, constitutions, newspaper clippings, membership lists, phone directories, membership rosters, financial statements, secretarial records, photo albums and other miscellaneous records.

Notes: History/Bio information was provided by the Valleyview Leisure Club.  
Description by Amanda Gramchuk (October 2016) and Christy Henry.

Storage Location: 2015 accessions

#### Arrangement:

Records are arranged in chronological order



## 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



## 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.meJMIOOwErH/b.5815955/k.E082/About\\_DKG.htm](http://www.dkg.org/site/c.meJMIOOwErH/b.5815955/k.E082/About_DKG.htm)  
[October 5, 2012]. Description by Tom Mitchell.

Storage Location: 2011 accessions



## RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4722>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Fonds Number: RG 5

GMD: multiple media

History /

Biographical:

This record group was artificially created in January 2007 by Tom Mitchell and Christy Henry of the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

The record group consists of various fonds and collections concerned with the political, cultural, social, and educational life of western Manitoba. See the Subject Access field for a list of titles.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2007).

Subject Access: Joseph H. Hughes

Canadian Federation of University Women  
Verna Gamey  
Brandon Cinema Club  
Birtle Indian Residential School  
Brandon Assisted Passage Association  
Binscarth Women's Institute  
Griswold School District  
Manitoba School Trustees Regional Association  
Riverbank/Berbank Red Cross  
A.C. Miller  
C.J. Barnes  
David Sommerville Charleson  
Southwest A Region Manitoba Women's Institute  
Berbank Ladies Aid  
Berbank Church  
Blyth Protestant School District #471  
Crown Protestant School District #184  
Ward Watson  
Laurie V. Smith  
Marion Doig  
Elm Creek/Wingham Branch United Farmers of Manitoba  
Roseland Church  
Fairfax United Church  
Humesville & Forrest Women's Missionary Society  
Chater Protestant School District  
William Wallace  
United Grain Growers  
G.R. Rowe  
Cecil Herbert Edward Johnston  
Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium  
Brandon Art Club  
James Duncan McGregor  
Stephan Adolph Magnacca  
Harry "Hap" Fraser  
Leslie Victor Robson  
Bertha School District #861  
Manitoba Genealogical Society  
Brandon Golf & Country Club  
Keystone Centre Development and Construction  
Manitoba Elevator Company  
B.J. Hales  
Brandon Council of Women  
Westman Oral History  
Mildred (Mollie) Kellet  
Gerald McKinney

Janet Donnelly  
Minnedosa OddFellows  
Basswood OddFellows  
Archibald E. Wilson  
Audrey Silvius  
Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir  
Lawrence Stuckey  
Minnedosa Women's Institute  
Clanwilliam Women's Institute  
Cordova Women's Institute  
Crocus Women's Institute  
Rathwell Women's Institute  
Strathclair Women's Institute  
Manitoba Women's Institute  
Brandon Business & Professional Women's Club  
Minnedosa Business & Professional Women's Club  
Neepawa Business & Professional Women's Club  
Brandon Women's Musical Club  
International Toastmistress Club - Land O'Lakes Region  
Fred McGuinness  
Reg Forbes  
Jack Stothard  
Janet Louisa May More  
William J. Birtles  
Ruby Miles  
Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women  
Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Brandon & District Labour Council (CLC)  
Westman Multi-Cultural Council  
Westman Coalition on Equality Rights  
Martin Kavanagh  
James Buckley  
James Douglas Wall  
Brandon Women's Institute  
Trilliam Business & Professional Women's Club  
Westridge Senior Citizens  
Kodaly in Manitoba  
WARUCC - Western Association of Registrars of the Universities and  
Colleges of Canada  
Margaret Laurence Endowment  
Douglas Women's Institute  
Albert Angus Murray McPherson  
Edward Walker  
Alexander MacPhail  
Inventory of Archival Material in Western Manitoba Project

Greenway Fair  
Brandon Hills Busy Bees  
Prairie Horizons Toastmistress Club  
Grand Valley School District #206  
Douglas Brolund  
Norma Laird  
Brandon Square Dancing Club  
Tully McKenzie  
Basswood School District  
Anna Enns  
Frank Robb  
Bankburn School District  
John Crawford  
J.C. Cousins  
William Ridley Sheridan Wade  
Mary Schwalm  
Robert (Bert) Lane  
Ross Hume  
Quincy H. Martinson  
Helen Dutka  
Dorothy Frances Davidson  
Brandon Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club  
Brandon Folk, Music & Art Society, Inc.  
Baker family  
Brandon Daily Sun microfilm  
Western Manitoba Home Economic Association  
Hubert Weidenhamer  
Len Evans  
Henry Hlady  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Westman Recycling Council  
Herbert Goodland

Storage Location: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Storage Range: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Arrangement:

The fonds and collections in RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript collection have been arranged primarily by accession number.