

S. J. McKee Archives



A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4309>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Fonds

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1887-1996; predominantly 1910-1974

Physical Description: 7.47 m of textual records
500 photographs

History /

Biographical:

The A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. originated with the McKenzie family Flour, Grain and Seed business, started by F. B. McKenzie in the early 1880's. When F. B. McKenzie passed away in 1896, his son, Albert Edward McKenzie, assumed control of the company, and renamed it The Brandon Seed House. With its main office and plant in Brandon, Manitoba, the company specialized in the production and sale of field seeds and service exclusively to seed buyers in the prairie provinces and British Columbia. In later years, a complete line of products including garden seeds, lawn grass, and other allied lines was developed for sale across Canada.

In 1906, the company underwent a change of name when A. E. McKenzie determined that the growth of the country demanded a larger seed institute than could be managed by one man. As a result, the company was incorporated under provincial statutes and the federal Joint Stock Companies Act as A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd., and new personnel were hired.

Under the Joint Stock Companies Act, A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was required to elect a Board of Directors of not less than three, and not more than nine individuals. Only shareholders of the company were eligible for election, and election was to take place yearly with each shareholder entitled to as many votes as shares owned in the company. The Act also dictated that the directors were, from time to time, to elect from among themselves, a president of the company. They were also able to appoint and remove all other officers of the company and to create company by-laws. The directors were not obliged to pay any dividend on shares if the company should become insolvent. Under the Act, the stock of the company was deemed a personal estate and was only transferable as such. In addition, the company could acquire, hold, and transfer real estate, and was required to submit annual statements.

A. E. McKenzie was elected President of the newly constituted company. For the remainder of his natural life he remained in this position and supervised the operation of the company. S. A. Bradford, who was given responsibility for various company departments, filled the position of General Manager. H. L. Patmore became the Vice-President, overseeing the nursery business, while W. A. McCracken was put in charge of the warehouse stock, and shipping department. McCracken also supervised the mail order department.

The Company was initially comprised of three divisions: The Brandon Seed House, Brandon Nurseries, and Brandon Greenhouses. Each division was registered under Dominion Patents. Later, the company was divided into Retail Mail Order, Wholesale and Commission Packet Trade divisions. It also undertook some export business.

By registering the divisions of the company under federal legislation affecting trademarks and industrial designs, McKenzie and the Board, were able to register both the company's trademarks and to protect the company's industrial techniques. The company could thus patent the methods and processes of its operations so that no other individual or business could duplicate them.

Located at 30 9th Street, the head office and plant of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. housed all the facilities and staff of the company, with the exception of the regional sales offices and warehouses. The business of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. was conducted from a frame warehouse until the current McKenzie building was constructed on the same site after a fire destroyed the original premises. Designed by architect Thomas Sinclair, and built by the Brandon Construction Company, the new building opened in 1911. In time, The A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. came to be known as Western Canada's Greatest Seed House.

During the 1930's, before a new building was erected in 1945, the A. E. McKenzie Co. occupied space at five different locations in Brandon, including the Massey Harris Building, the International Harvester Building and the Security Building. The last of these premises was destroyed by fire in 1972. As a result of its proximity to the Security Building, the main McKenzie Building also suffered heavy fire and water damage. A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. also utilized a warehouse on the north side of Pacific Avenue alongside the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks between 5th and 6th streets. This building and its contents were destroyed by fire (1946). In May of 1949, the company purchased and erected a Quonset structure on the west side of 15th Street between Rosser and Pacific Avenues.

In 1908, the first branch of the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was established at Calgary. In the following sixteen years, additional branches were established in Edmonton and Saskatoon (1923), Moose Jaw, Toronto (1934) and Winnipeg (1935). Both the Edmonton and Saskatoon branches were seasonal, operating for a four-month period, March to June inclusive. Business in the Maritime Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick further extended the company's operations by the mid 1940's. In 1946, the company purchased property in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, 120 miles north of Brandon. This purchase enabled the company to handle larger quantities of Sweet Clover, a popular crop that was grown in the surrounding area. Additional offices were opened in Vancouver and Quebec City in rented premises by the early 1960's.

In the years 1944-1945, the McKenzie Foundation was created. Through the Foundation, arrangements were put in place to transfer shares of the company to the Manitoba Government for the benefit of higher education, specifically Brandon College. In return for this gift, which included 90% of all capital resources of the company together with all of the income earned each year, except for the amount retained annually to ensure sufficient operating capital, the A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. received exemption from paying Corporate Tax.

Prior to the establishment of the McKenzie Foundation, in 1945, the National Trust for the benefit of the College held the shares of McKenzie Seeds. On April 7, 1945 the Manitoba Legislature passed legislation whereby A. E. McKenzie retained effective management control of his company, but 1031 shares out of 1145 issued shares were gifted to the Provincial Government. In return, the government agreed that all financial benefits from the shares would go to Brandon College through the A. E. McKenzie Foundation. When Mr. McKenzie passed away in 1964, the primary responsibility of appointing the Board of Directors for McKenzie Seeds passed to the Provincial government.

The remaining 114 shares of the Company were turned over to the Crown on July 16, 1975 in accordance with an agreement between Brandon University, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. and the Manitoba government. The same agreement also turned the McKenzie Foundation over to Brandon University. Therefore, since 1975 the crown has held all shares of the McKenzie Co. through the Province of Manitoba.

A.E. McKenzie died on September 25, 1964 at the age of 94 and was succeeded as President of the company by J. Lasby Lowes. When Mr. Lowes retired in 1968, A. R. Swanson was appointed by the government to fill the position and was responsible for all operations of the company under a Board of Directors comprised mainly of appointees of the government. It has proven impossible to establish a complete list of those individuals who held the positions of President/General Manager of McKenzie Seeds after 1964. A partial account is as follows: Anthony J. Maruca became President of A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. in 1972. In 1975, the Board of Directors appointed William Moore General Manager, creating a new position to relieve the President of the company from management of plant operations. At the same time, Pat Kelleher was named new interim President. Following the resignation of Kelleher, William Moore assumed the role of President as well. Moore left the company in the early 1980s. He was later convicted of criminal misconduct as President of the company. Keith Guelpa became President/General Manager in the mid 1980's; Raymond West was his successor.

Beginning in 1969, the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. began phasing out the Field Seed division of their company, including business related to forage crops and cereals. Seed cleaning equipment located in Brandon and the company's Calgary and Toronto cleaning plants was sold. The Company concentrated its resources on the production and sale of vegetable and flower seeds, and lawn and turf grasses. It acted as a wholesaler and conducted business through chain stores, grocery, hardware and general stores.

Late in 1971, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. purchased its largest competition in packaged seeds - Steele Briggs Seed Co. from Maple Leaf Mills Inc. for two million dollars. At the time of the acquisition the company changed its name to A. E. McKenzie Co. - Steele Briggs Seeds, in order to benefit from the favorable reputation held by Steele Briggs Seeds across Canada. In the early 1970s, the acquisition of Brett-Young Seeds Ltd., a Winnipeg company that dealt exclusively in the production and sale of field seed, brought the A. E. McKenzie Co. back into the field seed market.

In 1994 the Manitoba Government sold the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, Canada's largest non-retail mail-order catalogue company, which is owned by MDC Corporation of Toronto.

In 2001, McKenzie Seeds is Canada's leading supplier of packaged seeds and related gardening products. It is divided into a Retail Consumer Products division which features well known seed brands including McKenzie Seeds, Pike Seeds and Thompson & Morgan Seeds from England. As well, this division also carries a complete range of lawn seeds and perishables. It also continues to ship the seed racks invented by A.E. McKenzie to numerous retail stores. The second division, Direct Mail, consists of the McFayden and McConnell catalogues which reach over 500,000 Canadian homes each year.

Custodial History:

Following the sale of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, the records of McKenzie Seeds and its subsidiaries were retained in the McKenzie Plant on 9th Street. In April of 1997, the records were transferred to the McKee Archives at Brandon University. Because the company was a crown corporation, the records of McKenzie Seeds belonged to the Province of Manitoba and might have been placed in the Provincial Archives. However, Provincial Archivist Gordon Dodds permitted the retention of the records in Brandon at the S. J. McKee Archives. The minutes of the Board of Directors, previously transferred to the Provincial Archives, remain in Winnipeg. Until 1960 these minutes, by-laws of the Company, and the letters patent of incorporation (April 7, 1906) were in the possession of the Company's lawyers, Johnson, Garson, Forrester, Davidson, & Steen.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of textual records, photographs and artifacts from A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. The textual records include minutes, documents, financial records, administrative records, by-laws, legal records, catalogues, sales literature, seed packets, newspaper clippings, appraisals, publications, scrapbooks and miscellaneous sections.

In addition, some of the records within the fonds relate to the operations of McKenzie subsidiaries -- Brett-Young Seeds, Steele-Briggs Seeds, Pike & Co. and McFayden Seeds -- and various properties owned by McKenzie Seeds.

Fonds contains approximately 500 photographs. These depict the operations and employees of McKenzie Seeds and the seed industry in general. Artifacts contained in the fonds include blueprints, newspaper clippings, copper printing plates, seed bags and plaques.

Fonds also includes an artificially created series of records dealing with Brandon College Inc., the A.E. McKenzie Foundation, the Brandon Allied Arts Council and the Brandon Board of Trade. These records stand outside the provenance of the McKenzie Seed Co.

Of particular interest within the textual records are the transcripts of various features of the company's history as dictated, researched and recalled by its second President/General Manager, J. Lasby Lowes. The fonds also contains a collection of company catalogue which is almost complete. Outside of the seed industry, the records dealing with both Brandon College Inc. and the McKenzie Foundation are significant records relating to the history of Brandon College/University and the City of Brandon.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2001).

Name Access: A.E. McKenzie
J. Lasby Lowes
Irene Cullen
Joseph Airey
Alan R. Mundie
Sandy Black
Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha
McFayden Seeds
Steele-Briggs Seed Co
Pike & Co
Davidson & Gowen
Davidson Studio
Frank Gowen
Dean Photo Service
Jerrett's Photo-Art Studio/Jerrett's Photo Service
Crawford Drug Store
Leech Printing Ltd
Eastman Photographic Materials Ltd

Subject Access:	Seed Industry Seed Catalogues Brandon Business Seed Photographs Brandon Photographs Seed Packets Agriculture Women Workers Labour Relations A.E. McKenzie J. Lasby Lowes A.R. Swanson William Moore Anthony J. Maruca Pat Kelleher Keith Guelpa Raymond West Brett-Young Seeds Sabetha Steele Briggs Seed Co Pike & Co McFayden Seeds Seed Marketing Co Brandon Board of Trade Brandon Allied Arts Council McKenzie Foundation Regal Greetings and Gifts
Repro Restriction:	Because the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was a crown corporation, the records in the fonds are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).
Storage Location:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Related Material:	Additional records regarding A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. are housed at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. In order to gain access to these records it is necessary to contact the Archives of Manitoba.
Arrangement:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds McS 1 Board of Directors 1.1 Documents 1.2 Minutes/Meetings 1.3 Management Consultant Reports 1.4 Miscellaneous 1.5 Financial Records McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager 2.1 A.E. McKenzie 2.2 J. Lasby Lowes 2.3 Comptroller 2.4 Properties

- 2.5 Marketing
- 2.6 Reference Library
- 2.7 Miscellaneous Publications/Correspondence

McS 3 Acquisitions

- 3.1 Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha
- 3.2 Steele-Briggs Seed Co.
- 3.3 Pike & Co.
- 3.4 McFayden Seeds

McS 4 Seed Marketing Co.

McS 5 Photographs

- 5.1 McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Executives
- 5.2 Construction at McKenzie Seed Co. Brandon (two files)
- 5.3 Exterior Photographs of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Building
- 5.4 McKenzie Seed Co. Plant Operations and Workers (2 files)
- 5.5 McKenzie Seed Co. Equipment and Plant - Head Office 1983
- 5.6 McKenzie Seed Co. Field Operations and Workers
- 5.7 McKenzie Seed Co. Strike 1944
- 5.8 Fires at McKenzie Seed Co. 1910, 1945, 1972
- 5.9 McKenzie Seed Co. Centennial Exhibition 1996
- 5.10 Miscellaneous McKenzie Seed Co. Photographs
- 5.11 People Connected to McKenzie Seed Co.
- 5.12 Princess Anne's Visit to McKenzie Seed Co. 1982
- 5.13 Onion Set Production Book
- 5.14 Irene Cullen Photographs - McKenzie Seeds Employee Photos
- 5.15 Josiph Airey Photographs - McKenzie Product Photos
- 5.16 Alan R. Mundie Seed Production Photographs
- 5.17 Steele Robertson/Steele Briggs Seeds Photographs
- 5.18 Seed Packet Display Units Photographs
- 5.19 Product Photographs
- 5.20 Parade Photographs
- 5.21 Oversized Photographs
 - 5.21.1 Drawer #1: Executive Photographs
 - 5.21.2 Drawer #2: Office and Equipment/Plant Photographs
 - 5.21.3 Drawer #3: Miscellaneous Oversized Photographs
 - 5.21.4 Drawer #4: Artifacts

McS 6 Miscellaneous

- 6.1 Centennial Exhibition
- 6.2 Miscellaneous Publications
- 6.3 Scrapbooks

MG 1 A.E. McKenzie Fonds

- 1.1 Brandon College Inc.
- 1.2 McKenzie Foundation
- 1.3 Brandon Allied Arts Council
- 1.4 Brandon Board of Trade
- 1.5 Miscellaneous

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 Symphny 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 asuccess 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 Vaughn 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:	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