

S. J. McKee Archives



Aboriginals at the Brandon Summer Fair

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13837>

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 20-2009.148

Accession Number: 20-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1923

Physical Description: 5" x 7" (b/w)

Material Details: reproduction

Custodial History:

Donated to Fred McGuinness by G. Baldock in 1971

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows a group of Aboriginal peoples standing in a circle surrounding a group in traditional regalia. An American flag is visible in the foreground.

Notes: Writing on back of photograph reads: 6 prints [20-2009.145 to 20-2009.150]. Indians at the Brandon Fair. Camping off 18th St. back of fair grounds. 1923

Name Access: Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba

Brandon Summer Fair

Subject Access:

fairs

summer fair

tipis

wagons

children

First Nations

Aboriginals

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Arrangement:

From 2009 loose photos, from File 13

Images





Aboriginals at the Brandon Summer Fair

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13838>

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 20-2009.149

Accession Number: 20-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1923

Physical Description: 5" x 7" (b/w)

Material Details: reproduction

Custodial History:

Donated to Fred McGuinness by G. Baldock in 1971

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows the backside of a group Aboriginal peoples dressed in traditional regalia.
An American flag is visible in the background

Notes: Writing on back of photograph reads: 6 prints [20-2009.145 to 20-2009.150]. Indians at the Brandon Fair. Camping off 18th St. back of fair grounds. 1923

Name Access: Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba

Brandon Summer Fair

Subject Access:

fairs

summer fair

tipis

wagons

children

First Nations

Aboriginals

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Arrangement:

From 2009 loose photos, from File 13

Images





Aboriginals at the Brandon Summer Fair

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13839>

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 20-2009.150

Accession Number: 20-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1923

Physical Description: 5" x 7" (b/w)

Material Details: reproduction

Custodial History:

Donated to Fred McGuinness by G. Baldock in 1971

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows the backside of a pair of Aboriginal men dressed in traditional regalia.

Both are wearing beaded clothing and one is wearing a deer head headdress. An American flag is visible in the background

Notes: Writing on back of photograph reads: 6 prints [20-2009.145 to 20-2009.150]. Indians at the Brandon Fair. Camping off 18th St. back of fair grounds. 1923

Name Access: Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba

Brandon Summer Fair

Subject Access: fairs

summer fair

tipis

wagons

children

First Nations

Aboriginals

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Arrangement:

From 2009 loose photos, from File 13

Images





Aboriginals camping at the Brandon Fair

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13835>

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 20-2009.146

Accession Number: 20-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1923

Physical Description: 5" x 7" (b/w)

Material Details: reproduction

Custodial History:

Donated to Fred McGuinness by G. Baldock in 1971

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows the Aboriginal camp site at the Brandon Fair. Pictured are wagon carts and canvas tents. Two children can be seen sitting in a wagon.

Notes: Writing on back of photograph reads: 6 prints [20-2009.145 to 20-2009.150]. Indians at the Brandon Fair. Camping off 18th St. back of fair grounds. 1923

Name Access: Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba

Brandon Summer Fair

Subject Access:

fairs

summer fair

tipis

wagons

children

First Nations

Aboriginals

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Arrangement:

From 2009 loose photos, from File 13

Images





Aboriginals camping at the Brandon Fair

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13834>

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 20-2009.145

Accession Number: 20-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1923

Physical Description: 5" x 7" (b/w)

Material Details: reproduction

Custodial History:

Donated to Fred McGuinness by G. Baldock in 1971

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows the Aboriginal camp site at the Brandon Fair. Pictured are wagon carts, tipis, and canvas tents.

Notes: Writing on back of photograph reads: 6 prints [20-2009.145 to 20-2009.150]. Indians at the Brandon Fair. Camping off 18th St. back of fair grounds. 1923

Name Access: Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba

Brandon Summer Fair

Subject Access: fairs

summer fair

tipis

wagons

First Nations

Aboriginals

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Arrangement:

From 2009 loose photos, from File 13

Images





Album - Michipicoten First Nations

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14211>

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 1-2015.277.A3

Accession Number: 1-2015

GMD: graphic

Date Range: [1900s]

Physical Description: 4" x 2.5" (b/w)

Material Details: mounted in album

Physical Condition: Photo is warped

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows two aboriginal women standing before a tipi in the brush.

Notes: Writing beneath the photograph in the album reads: At the Indian Settlement. Based on provenience of images in the album, the aboriginals in question may be from the Michipicoten band.

Subject Access: Natives
Aboriginals
First Nations
tipis
women

Storage Location: 1-2015 McG 1.4 Box 1 (in stacks, top shelf)

Images



Toal Commission

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14289>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Accession Number: 3-2013

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1971-1972

Physical Description: 24 cm textual records

Material Details: Photocopies of originals

History /

Biographical:

The Toal Commission was a Commission of Inquiry conducted by James Toal at the Prince Edward Hotel in Brandon, MB from 1971-1972. The purpose of this inquiry was to investigate a report published by the Brandon Police Department entitled, "Problem Metis Families, City of Brandon," as well as allegations of police harassment in the City of Brandon from January 1, 1970, onward. The report was prepared by the Brandon Police Department following a petition submitted to Mayor Wilton. The petition, signed by approximately thirty residents of Brandon's East End, requested that the city prohibit the sale of homes in their neighborhood to Native families. A copy of the report was obtained by the Brandon Sun, which generated a considerable public response that resulted in the investigation in question.

Custodial History:

Records were ordered from the Archives of Manitoba by Brandon University Archivist Tom Mitchell and Brandon University history professor Jim Naylor in 2013.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records created over the course of the Toal Commission. It includes copies of verbatim transcripts of the Toal Commission hearings, as well as a commission of inquiry, a report on the commission, and indexes, which list the witnesses and evidence presented for each day of the hearings.

Notes: Description by Jason Dooley (October 2016).

Name Access: James Toal
City of Brandon
Brandon Police Department
Brandon Sun
City of Winnipeg
Prince Edward Hotel
J.S. Walker
K.P. Regier
Chief Constable D.A. McNamee
Inspector L. White
Constable Keith Yorke
John Richard Bell
Alan Ross
John Langston Tyman
Mayor W.H.K. Wilton
R.G. Lagimodiere
Edith May Bryan
C.W. Gordon
Mr. Houle
Archie Joseph Nabess
The Canadian Native Justice League
Manitoba Indian Brotherhood
Andy Moir
Brandon Friendship Center
Indian Affairs Department
Keystone Center
Mr. Meighen
Ronald Stoney

Thomas Stoney
Henry Hunter
Marie Hunter
Sharon Pompana
Edgar Lee Pompana
Howard Clyde Sandy
Sanderson family
Lorna Esther Wright
Dorothy Sarah Watt
Wayne James Clifford Desjarlais
Elizabeth Edith Oudie
Mary Wilma Wasicuna
Beulah Faye Langford
P. Schacter
Donald James McKay
Leo John Wayne Porter
Isobel Grasby
Gladys Pasche
Harold Weitman
George Munroe
Dorothy Betz
Roger Obansawin
Peter Whitecloud
Dr. Adam Cuthand
Kenneth Neil McCaskill
Rene Joseph Houle
Carole Diane Lavalley
Brian Norman Otis
IMPACTE
Indian Metis Project for Careers Through Teacher Education
Walter David Dennehardt
George Melvin Fleury
Frank Elding Price
Dr. Samuel W. Corrigan
Ruth McRae
Eddie Gosnold
William Wolski
Beth Cale
Clarence C. Mitchell
Ragnar B. Nygaard
Mrs. R. Nygaard
Marlene Brichon
Joseph A. Farion
Calvin Gerry
Helen Bell

Kenneth Bell
 Angus Spence
 J.W. Potter
 Donald Pratt
 Henry Carroll

Subject Access: Aboriginals
 First Nations
 Metis
 race relations
 government commissions
 indigenous peoples

Storage Location: 2013 accessions

Related Material: Toal Commission Review - F.C. Muldoon Commissioner - Review the
 Toal Commission's conclusions - review report (handwritten and typed
 copy), notes on testimonies and correspondence, Library and Archives
 Canada Inventory no. 6822 Finding aid no. MSS2374
 Toal Commission - Archives of Manitoba
 John Langston Tyman fonds (70-1997 & 9-2001)
 Audrey Silvius collection (21-2000)



Horseback riders on Rosser Avenue

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13700>

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 20-2009.10

Accession Number: 20-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: [1906]

Physical Description: 7" x 4.5" (b/w)

Material Details: on matting

Physical Condition: Photographs have been glued to a backing board that has warped over
 time

History /

Biographical:

Photograph of possible Dakota from Sioux Valley in Brandon for the summer fair.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows street view of north side of Rosser Avenue, primarily the 700 block. Businesses visible in the Fleming Block include: Lowes Brothers Clothing, Robert Hall [Insurance Broker], Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company. Businesses visible in the Beaubier Block include the Empire Hotel. Businesses east of the Empire Hotel are grocer A.M. Percival and the Brandon Hardware Company. A number of Aboriginal peoples are travelling on horseback west along Rosser Avenue as spectators look on.

Notes: Writing on the front of the photograph matting reads: 293. One photograph (20-2009.9) is glued above and two others are glued on the reverse side. Page appears to be from a photo album.

Name Access: Fleming Block
Lowes Brothers Clothing
Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company
Empire Hotel
D.W. Beaubier Block
A.M. Percival
Brandon Hardware Company
Rosser Avenue

Subject Access: Street scene
Transportation
downtown
grocers
storefronts
Aboriginals
First Nations
horses
insurance agents

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Images



Horse and buggies travelling east on Rosser Avenue

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13769>

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 20-2009.80

Accession Number: 20-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: [1906]

Physical Description: 6.5" x 4.25" (b/w)

Material Details: on matting

Physical Condition: Photographs have been glued to a backing board that has warped over time

History /

Biographical:

Photograph of possible Dakota from Sioux Valley in Brandon for the summer fair.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows street view of north side of Rosser Avenue, primarily the 700 block. Businesses visible in the Beaubier Block include the Empire Hotel. Businesses east of the Empire Hotel are grocer A.M. Percival, the Brandon Hardware Company, and the Arlington Hotel. A number of Aboriginal peoples are driving horse and buggies east along Rosser Avenue as large numbers of spectators look on.

Notes: Writing on the front of the photograph matting reads: 298. One photograph (20-2009.79) is glued above, another (20-2009.81) adjacent. One other is glued on the reverse side. Page appears to be from a photo album.

Name Access: Empire Hotel
D.W. Beaubier Block
A.M. Percival
Brandon Hardware Company
Rosser Avenue

Subject Access: Street scene
Transportation
downtown
grocers
storefronts
dogs
Aboriginals
First Nations
horses
buggies

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Images



Horse and carriages travelling on Rosser Avenue

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13702>



Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection
Description Level: Item
Series Number: McG 9
Item Number: 20-2009.12
Accession Number: 20-2009
GMD: graphic
Date Range: [1906]
Physical Description: 6.5" x 4.25" (b/w)
Material Details: on matting
Physical Condition: Photographs have been glued to a backing board that has warped over time

History /

Biographical:

Photograph of possible Dakota from Sioux Valley in Brandon for the summer fair.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows street view of north side of Rosser Avenue, primarily the 700 block. Businesses visible in the Fleming Block include: Lowes Brothers Clothing, Robert Hall [Insurance Broker], Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company. Businesses visible in the Beaubier Block include the Empire Hotel. Businesses east of the Empire Hotel are grocer A.M. Percival and the Brandon Hardware Company. A number of Aboriginal peoples are driving horse and carriages west along Rosser Avenue as spectators look on.

Notes: Writing on the front of the photograph matting reads: 295 July 1906. One photograph (20-2009.11) is glued above and two others are glued on the reverse side. Page appears to be from a photo album.

Name Access: Fleming Block
Lowes Brothers Clothing
Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company
Empire Hotel
D.W. Beaubier Block
A.M. Percival
Brandon Hardware Company
Rosser Avenue

Subject Access: Street scene
Transportation
downtown
grocers
storefronts
dogs
Aboriginals
First Nations
horses
insurance agents

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Images



Horse and buggies travelling on Rosser Avenue

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13699>

Part Of:	Fred McGuinness collection
Description Level:	Item
Series Number:	McG 9
Item Number:	20-2009.9
Accession Number:	20-2009
GMD:	graphic
Date Range:	[1906]
Physical Description:	6.5" x 4.25" (b/w)
Material Details:	on matting
Physical Condition:	Photographs have been glued to a backing board that has warped over time

History /

Biographical:

Photograph of possible Dakota from Sioux Valley in Brandon for the summer fair.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows street view of north side of Rosser Avenue, primarily the 700 block. Businesses visible in the Fleming Block include: Lowes Brothers Clothing, Robert Hall [Insurance Broker], Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company. Businesses visible in the Beaubier Block include the Empire Hotel. Businesses east of the Empire Hotel are grocer A.M. Percival and the Brandon Hardware Company. A number of Aboriginal peoples are driving horse and buggies west along Rosser Avenue as spectators look on.

Notes: Writing on the front of the photograph matting reads: 294 July 1906. One photograph (20-2009.10) is glued below and two others are glued on the reverse side. Page appears to be from a photo album.

Name Access: Fleming Block
 Lowes Brothers Clothing
 Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company
 Empire Hotel
 D.W. Beaubier Block
 A.M. Percival
 Brandon Hardware Company
 Rosser Avenue

Subject Access: Street scene
 Transportation
 downtown
 grocers
 storefronts
 dogs
 Aboriginals
 First Nations
 horses
 buggies
 insurance agents

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Images



Keystone Centre development and construction fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4854>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 22-1998

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1957-1974; predominant 1970-1974

Physical Description: 36 cm

History /

Biographical:

The idea of the Keystone Centre was first mentioned in 1958, at a meeting of the board of directors of the Manitoba Winter Fair. The Manitoba Winter Fair wanted a new facility because the old Wheat City Arena had a leaking roof and a deteriorating west wall. The old facility also had limited space and the Winter Fair felt it needed more space for expansion. The Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba also had problems with their facilities, such as old barns and poor display areas. The idea of the Keystone Centre was put on hold until 1969, when the boards of the Provincial Exhibition and the Manitoba Winter Fair joined together as the Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba and the Wheat City Arena was sold and demolished. The original estimate for the cost of the Keystone Centre facilities was \$4.5 million and funding would be proportioned so that the federal and provincial governments would each put in one-third of the money, with the rest coming from local donations. The financial campaign for the Keystone Centre began in 1970, and construction began in November 1970. The grand opening of the Centre was in March 1973, and coincided with the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair of that year.

Custodial History:

This fonds was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. Prior custodial history is unknown.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains many folders full of correspondence, financial statements, meeting minutes and other documents relating to the development and construction of the Keystone Centre from 1970-1974, including those from the Keystone Executive Committee, as well as the Building Committee. Fonds also contains one folder that pertains to the Brandon Area Agricultural Development Survey from 1959. This folder contains the names and locations of all farmers in the Brandon area in 1959. The Brandon Area Agricultural Development Survey was created in 1959, in order to make farming in the Brandon area more profitable. The survey was aided by Doane Agricultural Service from St. Louis, Missouri, who had success creating agricultural development programs in the United States. Fonds also contains folders from the Provincial Exhibition with correspondence, pamphlets, estimates, and studies from the 1960's. There is also one folder belonging to the Manitoba Winter Fair, which contains correspondence and financial statements relating to the Wheat City Arena. Fonds also contains information pertaining to the proposals made in the 1960's, for the building of the Keystone Centre, as well as one folder about the Keystone campaign from 1970-73. There is also one folder about the opening of the Keystone Centre, which contains newspaper clippings and guest lists. Finally, the fonds contains information about a court case involving Albert Bobyk and Robert Stewart. Stewart was the project manager for the Building Committee and Bobyk worked on the Keystone Center. The fonds includes a report about the trial of the two men who were charged with fraud involving their work on the Keystone Centre.

Notes:

CAIN No. 202608

Subject Access: Ray Forbes
 Fred McGuinness
 Brandon Area Agricultural Development Survey
 Doane Agricultural Service Inc
 Agricultural & Homemaking School of Brandon
 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair
 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba
 South-Western District Agricultural Society
 4-H
 Manitoba Department of Agriculture
 City of Brandon
 Keystone Committee
 Keystone Building Committee
 agriculture
 architecture
 exhibitions
 swine farming
 sheep farming
 cereal grain farming
 rural life
 winter fairs

Storage Location: 1998 accessions

Storage Range: 1998 accessions



RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4351>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Fonds

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1884-1992

Physical Description: 9.46 m textual records; 1919 photographs & graphics

History /
 Biographical:

Brandon, Manitoba was incorporated as a city in 1881. In 1882, led by Charles Whitehead and a small Board of Directors that included J.W. Vantassel, Charles Pilling, George Halse, J.E. Smith, William Johnson, R.T. Evans, and Thomas Lockhart, it was decided to hold an agricultural exhibition. These men were all involved in the farm business in one way or another, and they wanted an opportunity to help residents realize the agricultural potential of the region. In October of that year, the fledgling community held its first agricultural exhibition. The fair was held in downtown Brandon at what was known as "Market Square." Market Square was two acres of land located on Princess Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Streets. Due to poor weather, and the fact that not many people were ready to show animals and grain, there was a relatively small turnout. The following year was much improved. There were 730 entries into the exhibition. By 1884, the Board of Directors of the Brandon Agricultural Society, which was in charge of the exhibition, realized that they were in poor financial shape, to the point of being

personally out of pocket. It was realized that October was not the best time for farmers to be leaving their farms to go to an exhibition. In 1888, it was decided to move the exhibition to the summer time, when it was much easier for people to attend.

The first Brandon Summer Fair was held in July 1889, and it was a resounding success. The Board of Directors had added many items of interest to appeal to the entire public, not just agricultural people. In 1892, the Western Agricultural and Arts Association (WAAA) was formally established to take over duties from the Brandon Agricultural Society. However, it was not until 1897 that the WAAA held its first meeting. There is no explanation as to why there is a five year gap between the formation and the first meeting of this organization. 1897 was the turning point of the Brandon Exhibition. The fair was now firmly established in Brandon, and the Board of Directors was instrumental in ensuring that it remained so. This was done by petitioning to both the municipal and provincial governments for grant money. As well, the Board booked midway and grandstand acts that would bring the city dwellers to the agricultural exhibition.

There were also early attempts at holding an agricultural exhibition in the winter. The first such attempt was in 1884. There was also a Spring Stallion show held in 1891. By 1904, however, a petition by J.D. McGregor had gone out to formally establish a winter exhibition. This effort also failed, but by 1906, it was decided by businessmen, politicians, and farm representatives in Brandon, including McGregor, to organize a winter fair. Rather than seeing this new fair as competition, the Board of Directors of the summer fair felt that it would complement their exhibition. The new fair would remain primarily agricultural. The first winter fair was held in 1906. While the two fairs were not amalgamated, they did share the same secretary-manager. The secretary-manager was responsible for the day to day management of the fair, as well as keeping track of meetings and decisions reached by the various fair boards and committees. In 1907, the Brandon Winter Fair and Livestock Association (BWFLA) was formed to act primarily as a land-holding joint stock company. The following year the Provincial Winter Fair and Fat Stock Association (PWFFSA), an entirely separate organization from the BWFLA, was formed to manage the activities of the winter fair. The PWFFSA name was soon changed to the Manitoba Winter Fair and Fat Stock Association (MWFFSA).

By 1906, Brandon could boast two full size exhibitions, one in the summer and one in the late winter, both of which were considered to be premiere events. In 1908, the Brandon summer fair was renamed the Inter-Provincial Exhibition, and in 1912 it held its first Traveller's Day, an event which would soon become an important addition to the fair and is still in existence today. It is thought that the name "Traveller's Day" came from the fact that it was held on a Saturday, a day when many people could travel to Brandon for the exhibition.

In 1913, Brandon was bestowed with the honour of hosting the Dominion Exhibition. This was a national exhibition sponsored by the federal government. It was held in a different city every year. There were several cities vying for the 1913 Dominion Exhibition, but it was Brandon that impressed the sponsors the most. With the government funds received for this honour, the Board of Directors supervised the building of a new grandstand, display buildings, and racetrack, as well as the general expansion and improvements to the fairgrounds.

In the spring of 1912, it was decided by the Board of Directors of the winter fair that the facilities they were currently housed in were inadequate for their needs. The mayor and city clerk of Brandon went to the provincial legislature in order to request that there be an amendment added to the Brandon city charter. This amendment would allow the city to guarantee bonds issued by the winter fair board to help pay for the construction of a new facility. This request was granted, and a \$70 000 addition was built next to the original winter fair building. The new building was opened in 1913.

Throughout the First World War, both the winter fair and Provincial Exhibition buildings were used for the war effort. There was one distinct difference however. The summer fair Board was able to negotiate a deal with the army that enabled it to reclaim the fair buildings during fair

week. The winter fair, however, had to give up the idea of holding fairs in 1915 and 1916. It was not until 1917, that the winter fair was able to resume.

During this time, due to the financial problems that had beset the winter fair, the two exhibitions considered amalgamation. The Board of Directors of the winter fair felt that because they were the smaller of the two fairs, their interests would be swallowed up by the summer fair. The winter fair withdrew from the negotiations to amalgamate. With this rather sudden turn of events, the Board of Directors of the summer fair petitioned the government to be allowed to incorporate. This was granted, and in 1920, the WAAA was incorporated as the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba. From 1920, the summer fair was officially known as the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba. This was the first time that the summer fair was incorporated, and received the "status and financial assistance" that came with incorporation.

More problems beset the winter fair in the 1920s. In 1920, a fire burned down the winter fair pavilion, located at the south end of the winter fair buildings, and caused the Board to cancel the 1921 winter fair. It was not until 1922, that a new building was completed. By 1929, both fairs were well regarded throughout Canada. In 1929, a decade long Depression hit the west. While many fairs closed during this time, Brandon struggled to keep its open. The Directors of both fairs felt that the agricultural shows "encouraged excellence at a time when faith and enthusiasm were at a low ebb." The summer fair proved to be quite successful during the Depression, likely as a result of the few moments one was able to forget one's troubles while there. The winter fair was not quite as successful, although both fairs received government grants and work relief projects. There was little new entertainment in these exhibitions.

There were changes about to manifest themselves at the summer fair, however. While the winter fair had representatives from various associations on its Board of Directors, the summer fair Board of Directors was a small close-knit group of men. Citizens saw entry into this elite group as elusive and difficult. To ward off the possibility of the Board becoming a "self-sustaining clique," that only chose Directors from within, it was decided by several citizens to try and elect some new blood into the fair Board. In 1933, there was a general election for the Board. Instead of the usual men shuffling positions, there were forty-four nominations for the twenty positions. When the voting was all over, seven new men sat on the Board. Despite some inner rumblings, especially on the summer fair Board over the next few years, both exhibitions survived the Depression.

During the Second World War the fairs once again were forced to operate under adversity. Once again, the buildings were requisitioned for the army, although they were released during fair week. The summer fair was forced to make several concessions, and the winter fair was relocated to the summer fair grounds for the duration.

The winter fair did not survive the Second World War intact. Due to financial reasons, in December of 1945, the Board of Directors turned the winter fair buildings over to the City of Brandon. By 1946, the BWFLA, which was the joint-stock land holding company, had ceased operations because the city now controlled the winter fair land and buildings.

The next fifteen years would be a time of rebuilding for both of Brandon's exhibitions. Children especially were more active participants in the agricultural exhibitions. The summer fair continued to diversify and look for new ways of entertaining the public at large. The winter fair remained primarily agricultural. By the end of the 1950s the winter fair, which was used to struggling, was now both successful and stable; and the summer fair, a perennial success, was starting to fade.

By 1969, both the winter and summer fair Boards had realized that amalgamation was the best possible decision, both practically and financially, for the future of the two fairs. On 29 October, 1969, the two exhibitions amalgamated to become the Manitoba Exhibition Association. The reconstituted Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba was now responsible for both the winter and summer fairs. A new building was erected on the summer fair grounds to house both of the

exhibitions. On 2 April 1973, the Keystone Centre was officially opened at the winter fair, although it had been in use since October of the preceding year.

In 1970, Manitoba's Centennial, it was decided that an organization in Manitoba would receive the title of "Royal," as a way to celebrate the centennial. Although many organizations applied for the honour, it was the Brandon winter fair that received the accolades. The winter fair was bestowed with the title "Royal", and became known as the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

In 1975, a third exhibition was added, this time a purely agricultural fall show known as the Agricultural Exhibition, or AgEx. This fair was partly organized on behalf of the cattle growers, who found that the summer and winter fairs did not give them adequate time and space to properly show their cattle. The return to a fall show, which had not existed since 1888, would be the return to a purely agricultural exhibition. This show was to be primarily a show and sale event. On 3 November 1975, the first AgEx was opened to resounding success.

The Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba, the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair and AgEx are all still in existence in Brandon. They are regarded as three of the most important events to take place annually in the city.

Custodial History:

These files were housed with the Manitoba Exhibition Association until c1986 when they were transferred to the S.J. McKee Archives at Brandon University.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of textual records and photographs comprised of the records from the three annual exhibitions that are held in Brandon, Manitoba: the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba, the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, and the Agricultural Exhibition (Ag-Ex). The textual records include prize lists, programs, minutes, financial, administrative files, original results, scrapbooks, tickets, news releases, contracts, by laws, documents as well as a miscellaneous section. There are approximately 1846 photographs that include scenes from these three exhibitions. These records provide a unique perspective on the development of agriculture and rural life in southwestern Manitoba. Fairs such as these have been and remain prime media of farm improvement, technological and scientific advancement in rural Canada, and the promoters of country living. These fairs also reflected the long tradition inherited from Britain and Europe of country fairs as centers of entertainment, social interchange and diversion. These records are a principal source of information about the most broadly based vocational, entertainment and social events held on an annual basis in southwestern Manitoba over the last century. The records are vital to academic research on agriculture or fairs, individual biography, or community history.

Notes: The RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association finding aid was created by Karyn (Riedel) Taylor with the exception of Series 9 and the accompanying database, which were created by Donica Belisle. This finding aid was created in August 1999.

Name Access: Charles Whitehead
J.W. Vantassel
Charles Pilling
George Halse

Subject Access: Brandon Agricultural Society
Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba
Royal Manitoba Winter Fair
Agricultural Exhibition
Brandon Manitoba
AgEx

Repro Restriction:	Researchers are responsible for observing Canadian copyright restrictions.
Finding Aid:	Available
Storage Location:	RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
Storage Range:	RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
Related Material:	Additional records regarding the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba, the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, and AgEx are housed at the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association offices. To gain access to these records, it is necessary to contact the general manager of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association.

Arrangement:

The fonds is divided into sous-fonds by exhibition. There is a Provincial Exhibition sous-fonds, a Royal Manitoba Winter Fair sous-fonds, an Ag-Ex sous-fonds, and a Miscellaneous sous-fonds that holds information that could not be easily broken down into one exhibition. The arrangement is as follows:

RG 2 Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba fonds

RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba

- 1.1 Documents
- 1.2 Minutes
- 1.3 Financial Records
- 1.4 Administrative Files
- 1.5 Prize Lists and Programs
- 1.6 News Releases
- 1.7 Original Results
- 1.8 Tickets
- 1.9 Photographs
- 1.10 Scrapbooks
- 1.11 Miscellaneous

RG2SF2 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair

- 2.1 Documents
- 2.2 Minutes
- 2.3 Financial Records
- 2.4 Administrative Files
- 2.5 Prize Lists and Programs
- 2.6 News Releases
- 2.7 Original Results
- 2.8 Tickets
- 2.9 Photographs
- 2.10 Scrapbooks
- 2.11 Miscellaneous

RG2SF3 AgEx

- 3.4 Administrative Files
- 3.5 Prize Lists and Programs
- 3.6 News Releases
- 3.7 Original Results
- 3.9 Photographs

RG2SF4 Miscellaneous

- 4.1 Documents
- 4.2 Minutes
- 4.3 Financial Records
- 4.4 Administrative Files
- 4.9 Photographs
- 4.10 Scrapbooks
- 4.11 Miscellaneous

Manitoba Women's Institute collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4860>



Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Description Level: Collection
Accession Number: 8-2002
GMD: textual records
Date Range: c. 1935-1980's
Physical Description: 64 cm

History /

Biographical:

The first Women's Institute in Canada was created by Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless in Stoney Creek, Ontario, on February 19, 1897. The Women's Institute was created to unite rural women with the hopes that this would help women improve their homes and communities. The motto of the Women's Institute became, "a nation could not rise above the level of its homes." The group was to be non-partisan and non-sectarian to allow for maximum participation. The Women's Institute became one of the very few ways for rural women to meet and share ideas and problems with others. The Women's Institute spread throughout Canada and reached Manitoba in 1910, when Morris and Valley River, Manitoba, formed Women's Institute branches. The Women's Institute branches in Manitoba were known as Home Economics Societies until 1919, when they became branches of the Manitoba Women's Institute. The Home Economics Societies specialized in community service work. At first, the groups concentrated on home management and child care, and eventually they became involved with social and political issues. In addition to community work, the Women's Institute branches also invited many guest speakers to their meetings and promoted education and the dissemination of information to rural women on subjects such as canning, growing fruits and vegetables, dental hygiene and rural electrification. The Manitoba Women's Institute continues its work today.

Custodial History:

This fonds was accessioned in 2002 by the McKee Archives. Prior custodial history is unknown.

Scope and Content:

This collection has been artificially created and consists of miscellaneous newspaper and magazine clippings, handbooks, newsletters, photos and song sheets collected by various unknown Manitoba Women's Institute branches. Some newsletters included in the collection are "Institute News" from the Manitoba Women's Institute, "National Farm Forum Guide", "Federated News" from the Federated Women's Institute of Canada and "The Country Woman" from Associated Women of the World. The newspaper clippings in the collection relate to Women's Institute branches around Manitoba and the rest of Canada.

Notes: CAIN No. 202660. Description by Robyn Mitchell.

Subject Access:	<p>Reverand M.L. Goodman</p> <p>Manitoba Provincial Council of Women</p> <p>National Council of Women in Canada</p> <p>Manitoba Women's Institute</p> <p>National Farm Forum</p> <p>Federated Women's Institute of Canada`</p> <p>Associated Country Women of the World</p> <p>women's organizations</p> <p>4-H</p> <p>rural women</p> <p>song sheets</p> <p>credit unions</p> <p>farm magazines</p> <p>newsletters</p> <p>women's magazines</p>
Storage Location:	2002 accessions
Storage Range:	2002 accessions
Related Material:	<p>Related women's institute collections in the McKee Archives include:</p> <p>Manitoba Women's Institute; Minnedosa Women's Institute; Cordova Women's Institute; Clanwilliam Women's Institute; Rathwell Women's Institute; Strathclair Women's Institute; Crocus Women's Institute; Southwest A Region - Manitoba Women's Institute; Douglas Women's Institute</p>