

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Verda McDonald collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14293>

Part Of: MG 2 Brandon College students

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 16-2016

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1951-2005

Physical Description: 10.5 cm textual records  
18 loose photographs

Physical Condition: Some of the pages and photographs in the scrapbooks have become loose

## History /

### Biographical:

Verda Joan McDonald (nee Peden) was born in Brandon, MB on May 2, 1934. She was the middle daughter of Bill, a school principal, and Phyllis Peden. McDonald attended school at King George, Alexandra (now Betty Gibson), Earl Oxford and Brandon Collegiate Institute.

In 1951, McDonald enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program at Brandon College. A fellowship program from the local YMCA enabled her to teach gym and swim programs after school and on Saturday for a small salary, which enabled her and some other students to finance their education. She graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. During her graduating year, McDonald served as Lady Stick for Brandon College; the title of Lady Stick was an elected position and an honour, and gave McDonald and the person elected Senior Stick, Frank McKinnon, the responsibility of leading the student council for that year. In 1956, McDonald obtained her Bachelor of Pedagogy degree, also from Brandon College, which allowed her to teach grades 1 to 12 in Manitoba.

Verda married her college sweetheart, Dick McDonald, on August 25, 1956, and the couple moved to Dauphin to teach at the Dauphin Collegiate and Technical Institute for two years. They returned to Brandon in September 1958, and Verda proceeded to teach at Brandon Collegiate, Neelin High School and Vincent Massey until December 1960.

When Dick finished his degree at Brandon College and started teaching, Verda stayed at home to raise their three sons, Rick, Paul and Daren. During this time she began her many years of volunteering within the community. She served seven years on each of the following three boards: The Brandon Schools Instrumental Music Association; The Brandon University Alumni Board; and The Board of Fairview Nursing Home. She became President of each board during her term.

McDonald supported her husband throughout his teaching and financial career, as well as his strong involvement in the Artillery Reserve Army with the 26th Field Regiment where he served as Commander and later Honorary Colonel. Both McDonald and her husband maintained strong ties with Brandon University and have contributed generously to funding campaign and scholarships. The Sports Wall of Fame in the Health Living Centre on the Brandon University campus is named in their honour.

In addition to their involvement with Brandon University, the McDonald's were members of the Kinsmen, K40 service club, golf and bridge clubs and enjoyed many years together in Brandon. They enjoyed going on cruise ship holidays and visited many countries together.

Since Dick's death in September 2015, Verda has tried to maintain her involvement in university activities. She continues to reside in Brandon, MB.

### Custodial History:

Records were created and collected by Verda McDonald during her years as a student and alumna of Brandon College/Brandon University. The records were stored in her home until their donation to the McKee Archives in 2015.

#### Scope and Content:

Collection consists of records dealing with Verda McDonald's experiences as a student and alumna at Brandon College/University. The majority of the collection contains records from the early 1950s during McDonald's college years (1951-1955). These records, which cover the social and athletic aspects of Brandon College in the 1950s, provide a detailed look at college student life during this time period. The collection also contains a small number of records (1955-2005), documenting McDonald's experiences as an alumna of Brandon College/University.

The collection consists of four scrapbooks, which contain photographs, newspaper clippings, graduation cards, lyrics for class songs, and programs for graduation banquets, school dances, graduation ceremonies and drama productions. The scrapbooks also contain ephemera such as sports emblems, table decorations, election paraphernalia. It also includes McDonald's oath of office from when she was sworn in as Lady Stick, as well as her acceptance speech from the same ceremony.

The three file folders in the collection include: a list written by Frank McKinnon, a classmate of McDonald's, outlining his reasons for coming to Brandon College and his recollections of being a student at Brandon College; the rules of Clark Hall residence hall; and pamphlets for various celebrations and events at Brandon University (Homecoming 2009, Homecoming 2006, Reunion Weekend 2005, Reunion Weekend 2004, Homecoming 1995 and 1995 Reconovocation program, Homecoming 1980, 1975 Open House).

Finally, the collection contains 18 loose photographs. A number of the photos document important reunions for the Class of 1955 (40th Anniversary in 1995, 50th Anniversary in 2005), while others were taken at alumni events over the years (1988-1997). There is one postcard of Brandon University buildings (Original Building and Clark Hall, McMaster Hall and the Queen Elizabeth II School of Music building). Some of the 1995 reunion photos include images of the Brandon College Building and Clark Hall under renovation. Also included are a composite portrait of the Class of 1955 and class portraits Arts and Science for the Class of 1960.

Notes: History/Bio information provided by Verda McDonald. Description by Emily Bate (October 2016) and Christy Henry.

Name Access: Verda McDonald  
Dick McDonald  
Brandon University Alumni Association  
Henry Champ  
Joan Garnett  
Eileen McFadden  
Norma Walmsley  
Ernie Criddle  
Jean Wilkie  
Jean Brown  
Frank McKinnon  
Hilt Stewart  
Lou Visentin  
Edward Schreyer  
Doug Adams  
Carla Eisler  
Shawna English  
Cindy Yacyshen  
Jim Minions  
Walter Huculak  
Ben Ward  
Elaine Cameron  
Elaine McCrorie  
Barrie McLeod  
Gord Williams  
Harvey Young  
George Strang  
Gerald Graham  
Helen Batho  
Helen Mitchell  
Allan Hattie  
Trevor McNeely  
Russ Roney  
Harold Woods  
George Gooden  
Harold Stewart  
Jack Meyers  
Ron McMurray  
Ken Adams  
Bill Keller  
Lorne Day  
Don Dillistone

Subject Access: student life  
student activities  
graduations  
convocations  
homecomings  
reunions  
chancellors  
student productions  
residences  
college athletics  
college initiation  
Student government  
Lady stick

Storage Location: 2016 accessions

Related Material: Dilys Collier collection  
Bob Blair collection  
Brandon College fonds  
Brandon University fonds

Arrangement:

Two of the scrapbooks are in chronological order. The third scrapbook contains miscellaneous materials from the 1950s until 2005.