

S. J. McKee Archives



Manitoba winter fair administrative files

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4368>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.4

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1980, 1982

Physical Description: 62 cm

History /

Biographical:

These files were created by a member of the administrative staff of the winter fair.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The files include the administrative records from the 1980 RMWF and the 1982 RMWF. The files encompass such subjects as Prize List Production, Concessions, Correspondence, Mailing Lists, Canvassing, Grants and Donations, and many others.

Notes: Part of RG2SF2. Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair documents

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4365>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1908-1968

Physical Description: 6.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

The documents were created by members of the Board of Directors, and others involved with the management of the winter fair.

Custodial History:

See sous-fonds RG2SF2 for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

The series includes several copies of the MWF Constitution, a 1908 constitution, 1909 MWFFSA shares belonging to John Bradley, a 1968 agreement for the non-military use of property, and several agreements between the MWF and several other companies spanning the dates 1934 to 1963.

Notes: Part of RG2SF2. Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair financial records

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4367>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1925-1977

Physical Description: 76.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

This series was created by a committee attached to the Board of Directors of the winter fair.

Custodial History:

See sous-fonds RG2SF2 for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

The series contains financial statements from 1925 and 1926, as well as financial records from the 1930s to 1969. There is also a transfer ledger from the years 1939 to 1953. There is a box with the statement of prizes won from 1972 to 1977.

Notes: Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair minutes

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4366>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1908-1932

Physical Description: 6.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

These minutes were created by the Board of Directors and the Shareholders at the meetings that they held from 1908 to 1932. The Board of Directors was created in 1908. While the collection currently houses minutes from 1908 to 1932, it is evident from Prize Lists and Programs that the Board of Directors structure evolved in the following way.

The structure of the winter fair was quite different from the summer fair. Instead of having a committee structure, the winter fair had both committees and representatives from various agricultural associations. The representatives were part of the Board of Directors. In 1908 these representatives included men from the Horse Breeders' Association, the Cattle Breeders' Association, the Sheep Breeders' Association, the Swine Breeders' Association, the Poultry Breeders' Association, the Brandon Winter Fair and Fat Stock Association, and the Manitoba Agricultural College. With the addition of representatives from the Manitoba Clydesdale Association, and the Manitoba Seed Growers' Association, these committees continued virtually without change until 1930.

By the 1930s, several more representatives joined the Board of Directors including the Winnipeg Livestock Exchange, the Manitoba Percheron Association, the Canadian Shorthorn Association, and the Hereford Association. By 1935 there were also representatives from the Prairie Thoroughbred and Racing Association, the Manitoba Boards of Trade, the Western Manitoba Board of Trade, the Aberdeen Angus Association, and the Canadian Percheron Association. The Canadian Clydesdale Association joined the Board by 1940.

By 1950, several more agricultural associations had joined the Board of Directors. They included the Brandon Light Horse Society, the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, the Manitoba Veterinary Association, the Minister of Agriculture, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and the Canadian Red Poll Association. By 1955, a representative from the City of Brandon rounded out the representatives on the Board of Directors.

The first committees of the Board of Directors began in 1908 with the formation of the Brandon Winter Fair and Fat Stock Association. The committees included an Executive, Horse, Livestock, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Poultry and Seed. By 1915 there were also Program, Prize/Accounts, Carcass, Exhibits/Public Comfort, Building, and Provincial Government committees. Most of these later committees were not long lived, or were not mentioned much past 1915. A Judging Competition Committee was added in 1925 and lasted until sometime in the 1940s. In 1950 an official Finance committee was formed, as well as a Gates/Tickets committee. By 1955, three more committees had been added including 4-H/Junior Activities, Light Horse and Heavy Horse.

By the 1960s, a Publicity committee was also added. In 1965 there were several committees formed including Police/Traffic/Parking, Concessions, Calf/Pig Scrambles, Baby Fair, Flower Show and the Fall Feeder Show and Sale. A Fashion Show committee was added by 1970. In 1975 a Property committee is also mentioned.

The 1980s appear to have been a time of great growth for the winter fair, as there was a large increase in the number of committees. By 1985 the following committees had been formed: Dance, Hitching Ring, Steer Show, Bull Sale, Western Breakfast, Egg Show, Entertainment, Exhibitor's Lounge, VIP, Cattle Parade, Calcutta, Winter Fair Sponsors, Casino and Royal Manitoba Winter Fair. These committees continued for the most part through into the 1990s.

Custodial History:

See sous-fonds RG2SF2 for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

The series includes the minutes from meetings held from 1908 to 1932. An interesting aspect to these records is that they include the first meetings held by the newly formed winter fair Board of Directors. The early minutes are an interesting look into the formation of an organization.

Notes: Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair miscellaneous

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4375>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.11

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1920, 1926, 1955, 1971

Physical Description: 6.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

See Administrative History for RG2SF2 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The series contains records that did not fit into any other series. Some of these records include, notices of meetings, a donation sheet, sketches for a RMWF logo, a speech, and an article about Robert John Wright.

Notes: Inventory of documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair news releases

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4370>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.6

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1984-1989

Physical Description: 6.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

This series was created by the Publicity committee attached to the Board of Directors. There are no records of this committee, but it is possible to find mention of it in the prize lists and programs for the winter fair. See Appendix 2 in the printed finding aid.

Custodial History:

The records were housed at the MEA until c1986 when they were transferred to the S.J. McKee Archives at Brandon University on a continuing basis.

Scope and Content:

The series include the news releases that were sent out to various media to promote the fair. The series includes the years 1984, 1985, 1987, and 1989.

Notes: Part of RG2SF2. Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair original results

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4371>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.7

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1982-1985

Physical Description: 43.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

The series was created by a member of the administrative staff of the Board of Directors. It is believed that these files were originally part of a larger administrative file, but before deposit in the archives they were separated from the files and a new series was created.

Custodial History:

The records were held by the MEA until c1986 when they were transferred to the S.J. McKee Archives at Brandon University.

Scope and Content:

The files include original results for the different events from 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985.

Notes: Part of RG2SF2. Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair photographs

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4373>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Creator:

Known creators of the records include:

PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTO SERVICES

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
Allen Photo
Avalanche Photographics
Benny Mighall
Canada Pictures Ltd., Toronto, Ontario
CKX-TV, Brandon, Manitoba
Ernie Tayler
Fred's Photo Finishing, Brandon, Manitoba
Gilbert A. Milne Photography
H. M. Salisbury, Brandon, Manitoba
H. W. Doleman, Brandon, Manitoba
Harold K. White, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Holstein-Friesian Journal
Jack Hiebert
Jerrett's Photo, Brandon, Manitoba
Jim Rose, Livestock Photographer, Toronto, Ontario
Ken Bullock, Brandon, Manitoba
Leech Printing Ltd., Brandon, Manitoba
Novelty Manufacturing
Photo Studios of Bulman Brothers, Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba
R. M. Coleman, Free Lance Photographer, Brandon, Manitoba
R. M. McNaught, Hamilton, Ontario
Rabinsky
Sargent, Memphis, Tennessee
Singer Studio, Britton, South Dakota
Strohmeyer
Verna Allison, Beechy, Saskatchewan
Wilkinson's Photography, Newmarket, Ontario

NEWSPAPERS AND PRINTING SERVICES

Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Brandon Sun, Brandon, Manitoba
Leech Printing Ltd., Brandon, Manitoba

GOVERNMENT

Frank Royal for the National Film Board of Canada

Description Level:

Series

Fonds Number:

RG2SF2

Series Number:

2.9

GMD:

graphic

Date Range:

1902-1984

Physical Description:

780 photographs and other graphic materials

History /

Biographical:

Exhibitors and participants in the fairs donated many of these records to the Winter Fair Board. Professional photographers, hired by the Board, generated others. As well, Brandon Sun photographers took a large number of photos throughout the twentieth century. In the 1980s, the Board reprinted them and then added the reproductions to their own photograph collection. Publishing houses generated some photographs, probably as services to participants and organizers of the fairs. Finally, the Canadian government created a few of the photos.

Custodial History:

Exhibitors and participants in activities at the winter fair donated many of these records to the Winter Fair Board. The Manitoba Provincial Archives housed other records and later transferred them to the McKee Archives. Most of the records were stored in the offices of the Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba until they were brought to the McKee Archives ca. 1986.

Scope and Content:

Series consists primarily of black and white photographs either taken at the Winter Fair or owned by the Winter Fair Board. Subjects included are buildings and grounds, horses, livestock, poultry and eggs, exhibits, youth activities, entertainment, and dignitaries. Almost all of the materials have been excellently preserved.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Several of the pictures of the buildings and grounds are aerial photos; these date from 1949 through the 1980s. Photos taken between 1908 and 1952 depict the winter fair building, the livestock arena, the Wheat City Arena, the horse barns, and the swine barn. Photos taken from the 1960s to the early 1980s show horse barns, the Keystone Centre, and quonsets.

HORSES

Photos of horses and horse events comprise the largest number of the graphics of RG2SF2. Unlike other winter fair pictures, types of horse photos do not change throughout the twentieth century. There are many pictures of heavy horses, including Clydesdales, Belgians, and Percherons. They are usually in harness and in teams of two, four, six, and eight. They pull wagons, landaus, and carts. Heavy horses appear in photos of shows, sales, parades, ceremonies, and draft horse competitions.

Light horse photos are also numerous. There are many photos of owners and drivers with award-winning horses. Depictions of races form a prominent part of the light horse pictures; these include portrayals of chuck wagon, chariot, bike, and barrel races. Also featured are competitions like cutting, jumping, pole bending, western riding, musical chairs, hackney, costume, unicorn, and fault and out. Finally, there are many photos of ponies, including hackney, harness, and pleasure ponies.

LIVESTOCK

There are three types of livestock shown in the photos of RG2SF2: cattle, swine, and sheep. Depicted are both sales and shows of these animals. As well, there are pictures of these animals' carcasses.

In the first forty years of the fair, people took few pictures of cattle, but after World War II, pictures of cattle became a prominent part of the Winter Fair Board's graphic records. Featured are purebred cattle such as Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, and Simmental. Dairy cows like Jersey and Holstein-Friesian are also notable. Some pictures depict people grooming their cattle.

Photos of swine date from 1927 through the 1980s, and include Yorkshire sows and boars, as well as market hogs. Sheep are depicted throughout the twentieth century. While most sheep photos are of shows and sales, there are some photos of sheep-shearing contests taken in the 1950s.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Poultry photos date between the 1950s and the 1970s. Featured are both chickens and game birds. Pictures of egg shows and competitions date from 1966 through the 1980s.

EXHIBITS

There are four types of exhibit photos: commercial, award, seed, and Baby Fair. Commercial exhibits date from the 1940s through the 1980s. They feature agricultural implements made by Ford, John Deere, Massey Ferguson, and Case. Photos dating from the 1970s depict commercial booths owned by such companies as Badger and Sprayer Monitor.

Award exhibits date throughout the twentieth century, and feature ribbons, plaques, and trophies. Placed on tables, these awards are mostly for winners in horse and livestock competitions.

Seed exhibits date from the 1950s through the 1970s. Included in the seed exhibit pictures are prize-winning wheat, potato, and canola seed pictures.

Baby Fair, or petting zoo, photos comprise a large portion of the graphic records of MG 2. Dating primarily from the 1970s, Baby Fair pictures depict chicks, pups, lambs, piglets, and other baby animals.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Most of the youth activities' photos are of calf and pig scrambles, and date from the 1950s through the 1980s. 4-H Club activities are prominent, and include pictures of boys and male teens learning how to show and judge livestock and seed. Depicted also are fashion shows put on by female 4-H members. Finally, pictures of a hula-hoop competition dating from the 1950s are notable.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment graphics date from the 1950s through the 1980s, and include ceremonies, rodeos, parades, and contests. Pictures of ceremonies depict the opening and closing ceremonies of the Winter Fair. Featured in these photos are winners of horse events, pipe and drum bands, and dignitaries giving speeches.

Rodeo pictures date only from the 1970s. Featured are men riding bucking broncos and cattle round-ups.

Parade photos, which date throughout the twentieth century, depict floats, six-horse teams pulling wagons, people riding horses, club entries—such as the Lions' Club and the Neat and Nifty Sewing Club, and marching bands.

Contest pictures include fiddling competitions and dog shows. The Winter Fair Board sponsored fiddling contests sporadically, and photos of such contests date from the 1950s through the 1970s. Dog show pictures also appear intermittently in the records, such as the Mutt Show photos of the 1950s.

DIGNITARIES

Photos of dignitaries, which date throughout the twentieth century, are mostly of men. Depicted both individually and severally are members of Winter Fair Boards, municipal and provincial politicians, and local professional and business representatives. In these pictures they are usually giving speeches, signing documents, and holding meetings. Notable are the pictures of members of associations that held meetings at the winter fairs, including the Cattle Breeders Association (1960s).

The graphic materials of RG2SF2 are useful for many purposes. For one, they offer a rich visual history of the Winter Fair. From these pictures, one can ascertain the ways in which the fair has changed and expanded throughout the twentieth century. By viewing the photos of newly built buildings, for instance, one can determine that the fair expanded in size over the years.

Also valuable is the history of western Canadian agriculture that is contained in these pictures. Over the years, the types of exhibits changed at the winter fair, thus indicating the changing nature of farming. Photos of cattle, for example, reflect the changes in types of breeds raised in the west. Exotics like Simmental only appear after the late 1960s, thus indicating that this breed began to flourish in western Canada only in the second half of the twentieth century.

The number of people contained in these pictures is formidable, and the pictures of people are valuable in many ways. By studying the pictures of dignitaries associated with the fair, one can determine who the leading agricultural personalities were over the twentieth century in Brandon. As well, the photos of exhibitors offer a wide cross section of the rural residents of southwestern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan. From the pictures of exhibitors, one can establish who were the farmers and ranchers of this region, where they lived, and in what field they specialized.

The photographs of the Winter Fair, then, are valuable for many researchers. Not only do they offer a rich history of the fair, but they also offer a vivid history of the people and agriculture of southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba.

Notes:	Item-level descriptions of the graphics of RG2SF1 through RG2SF4 are located on a searchable database. This database is entitled "Brandon Photographs" and can be read using Microsoft Access. "Brandon Photographs" is located on a 3½ floppy disk entitled "Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba fonds Series 9" included in this finding aid. The description of each photograph on this database includes the following information: accession number, title, date, place, physical description, scope and content, notes, creator, and copyright. By searching the database, individual photographs can be located easily. Detailed instructions on how to use the database are located in the printed finding aid.
Storage Location:	RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair
Related Material:	Pictures of the Winter Fair may also be found on the National Archives of Canada website. The Western Canadian Pictorial Index in Winnipeg, Manitoba, houses additional graphic records of the Winter Fair.

Arrangement:

Graphics for RG2SF1 through RG2SF4 are located in boxes. Graphics larger than 24 x 35 cm are located in the image mapcase, which is located in the reading room. The graphics are filed chronologically by accession number. The arrangement is as follows:

Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds; RG2SF1-RG2SF4; Series 9
Boxes 1 through 15, as follows:

Box 1 EX0001 to EX0125
Box 2 EX0157 to EX0263
Box 3 EX0265 to EX0399
Box 4 EX0400 to EX0499
Box 5 EX0500 to EX0599
Box 6 EX0600 to EX0699
Box 7 EX0700 to EX0799
Box 8 EX0800 to EX0899
Box 9 EX0900 to EX0921
Box 10 EX1000 to EX1099
Box 11 EX1100 to EX1199
Box 12 EX1200 to EX1299
Box 13 EX1300 to EX1399
Box 14 EX1400 to EX1499
Box 15 EX1549 to EX1859



Manitoba winter fair prize lists and programs

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4369>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.5

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1918-1992

Physical Description: 56 cm

History /

Biographical:

The prize lists and programs of the winter fair were created by a committee attached to the Board of Directors of the fair. This committee was in existence from c1909, shortly after the winter fair was organized.

Custodial History:

See sous-fonds RG2SF2 for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

The series includes prize lists and programs from 1918 to 1992. The programs include daily programs, as well as individual classes and competitions. They also list the competitors for each class. The prize lists include all classes and the prize money or prize to be won.

Notes: Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair scrapbooks

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4374>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF2

Series Number: 2.10

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1966-1971, 1975

Physical Description: 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

The records were created by a member of the administrative staff of the winter fair.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The series contains scrapbooks from 1966 to 1971, and 1975. The scrapbooks are mainly newspaper clippings pertaining to the winter fair.

Notes: Part of RG2SF2. Inventory of documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



Manitoba winter fair tickets

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4372>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
Description Level: Series
Fonds Number: RG2SF2
Series Number: 2.8
GMD: multiple media
Date Range: 1966-1973
Physical Description: 10 cm textual records
tickets, badges, ribbons

History /

Biographical:

The records were created by a member of the administrative staff of the winter fair.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The series includes two files that house correspondence dealing with the issue of complimentary tickets. As well, the series includes many examples of tickets, badges, and ribbons from the winter fairs of 1966-1973.

Notes: Part of RG2SF2. Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF2 Manitoba Winter Fair



RG2SF2 Manitoba winter fair

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

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

History /

Biographical:

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

did share a secretary-treasurer and several Board members.

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

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

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

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

By 1917 the winter fair was allowed to open again, but by this time both the BWFLA and the MWFFSA were experiencing financial difficulties. It was at this time that the proposal first went out regarding an amalgamation of the summer and winter fairs. The provincial government approved of the idea of an amalgamation, and both fair Boards considered the proposal. However, in early 1920 the winter fair Board pulled out of the discussions, as it felt that the winter fair would lose out to the WAAA. The winter fair Board decided to struggle on independently.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

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

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

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds