

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Series I: Library Activities

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions2>

Part Of: Brandon University Photograph Collection

Description Level: Series

Series Number: I

Start Date: 1940

End Date: 2000

### Scope and Content:

This series contains three sub-series: Layouts & Furnishings, Receipt of Gifts, etc. and Archives. The first sub-series, Layouts and Furnishings, consists of photos of the Brandon College and University libraries from the 1940's to the present time. These photos highlight interesting areas of the library and include past and present library staff members. The second sub-series contains photos taken in the library during presentations of gifts, and other important events, such as the naming of the Robbins Library. The third sub-series contains photos taken in the McKee Archives, at its former location in the Jeff Umphrey Building, and since 1997, in its new location on the mezzanine floor of the John E. Robbins Library.



## BAPC 4: Education

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions10087>

Part Of: RG 12 Brandon and Area Photograph Collection

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 4

GMD: graphic

History /

Biographical:

Series is artificially created.

### Scope and Content:

Photographs in this series relate to education in the Brandon area, including the Brandon Normal School, Brandon Collegiate Institute (BCI), and science fairs.

Storage Location: Brandon and Area photograph collection photograph drawer (regular and oversize)

## McGuinness library

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13683>

Other Title Info: Title based on the contents of the series

Document Not  
Available  
  
(Copyright  
Restrictions)

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection  
Description Level: Series  
Series Number: McG 8  
Accession Number: 1-2015  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: c. 1882-2010  
Physical Description: Approximately 2 m  
83 books and other materials (see Material Details Note)  
Material Details: 49 booklets  
3 maps  
3 newsletters  
18 periodicals  
16 pamphlets  
35 newspapers [oversize drawer]

History /

Biographical:

The publications in this series were collected by Fred McGuinness during the course of his career as a newspaperman. McGuinness' personal library contained over 500 volumes pertaining to local history. He regularly consulted these materials when writing his radio broadcasts, newspaper columns, and monographs. McGuinness was known to file related materials (e.g., correspondence, newspaper clippings, invitations) between book covers of various titles.

McGuinness donated a substantial portion of his personal library to Brandon University's John E. Robbins Library when he moved to River Heights Terrace (Brandon, Manitoba). That collection can be found in BU's library catalogue under the McGuinness local history collection. The titles McGuinness retained upon his move were donated to the McKee Archives by his estate in 2011.

Custodial History:

Accession 1-2015 contains records created and collected over the course of McGuinness' career as a newspaper journalist and freelance writer. The Estate of Fred McGuinness donated the materials to the SJ McKee Archives circa 2011. The Archives accessioned the records in 2015.

Accession 20-2009 contain records created and collected by Fred McGuinness over the course of his career as a newspaper journalist and during the research and writing period of the Brandon history book, *The Wheat City*. Records remained in his possession at his home until their transfer to the McKee Archives on July 28, 2009.

Accession 6-2008 contains records created and collected during the writing of the Provincial Exhibition book, *Pride of the Land*. Fred McGuinness, who co-authored the book with Ken Coates, donated these records to the McKee Archives circa 1988. The materials relating to Souris, Manitoba, were given to McGuinness by Kay Sullivan in August 2007, and were subsequently deposited in the Archives.

#### Scope and Content:

This series contains publications collected by Fred McGuinness during the course of his lifetime as a newspaperman. McGuinness was a well-known local history enthusiast and frequently wrote about Brandon's local history. Many of his readers forwarded booklets and pamphlets for his consideration and review.

Materials in this series include books, booklets pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers and maps. Subjects include, but are not exclusive to: the city of Brandon, the town of Souris, memoirs, family histories, Canadian Pacific Railway, and local businesses.

Accruals:	Closed
Finding Aid:	A file level inventory is available
Storage Location:	All library titles, except the newspapers in the McGuinness oversize drawer, are located in Special Collections

#### Arrangement:

Arrangement was artificially created by the Archives.

McG 8 McGuinness library

McG 8.1 Books

McG 8.2 Booklets

McG 8.3 Maps, newsletters, and periodicals

McG 8.4 Pamphlets

McG 8.5 Magazines and newspapers (oversize)

## Documents

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Document Not  
Available

(Copyright  
Restrictions)

McG 8 McGuinness  
library inventory.pdf

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## BC 15: Brandon College library

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4291>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 15

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1912-1967

Physical Description: 33 cm

History /

Biographical:

From the very beginning, Brandon College has maintained library services for its students. A professor was put in charge of the library, although in the beginning it was little more than an empty shelf in a cabinet. As it grew, there became more of a need for an administrative body. A Library Committee was created in order to keep the library running smoothly. With the construction of the A.E. McKenzie Building in 1960 came a permanent resting place for the Brandon College Library.

Scope and Content:

The records include a 3 cm book of Library of Congress Card Orders of Recent Publications from 1957 to 1960. As well, there are applications for employment, minutes from the Library Committee and Sub Committees. There is also correspondence from the Director of Library Services and accession records.

Series has been divided into three sub-series, including: (1) Minutes; (2) Director of Library Services; and (3) Library Accession Records.

Storage Location: RG 1 Brandon College fonds  
Series 15: Brandon College Library

Related Material: RG 6 (Brandon University fonds), series 8 (Brandon University Library Services).



## BU 7: Faculties and schools

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions152>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds  
Description Level: Series  
Series Number: 7  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1900-2004; predominant 1920-1988  
Physical Description: 18.22 m  
History /  
Biographical:

This is an artificially created series.

### Scope and Content:

Series has been divided into five sub-series, including: (1) Faculty of Arts; (2) Faculty of Science; (3) Faculty of Education; (4) School of Music; and (5) School of Health Studies.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds



## BU 8: Brandon University library services

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions169>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds  
Description Level: Series  
Series Number: 8  
GMD: multiple media  
Physical Description: 5.14 m textual records; approximately 20 photographs (Millwood display)  
Scope and Content:

Series has been divided into three sub-series, including: (1) Director of Library Services; (2) S.J. McKee Archives; (3) Film Services.

Notes: Series needs to be processed.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds



## Manitoba Pool Elevator Library collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/specialcollections1407>

Part Of: RG 4 Manitoba Pool Elevator fonds  
Collection: Manitoba Pool Elevator Library collection  
Description Level: Series  
Series Number: MPE E  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: 1888-1998  
Physical Description: 13.7 m  
History /  
Biographical:

The importance of knowledge and education to the Manitoba Wheat Pool is made clear in the *The Scoop Shovel*, the official organ of the Manitoba Wheat Pool and other co-operatives in Manitoba. Established in the 1920s, *The Scoop Shovel* owed its existence to a decision by the directors of the Pool to set aside small percentage of income per bushel for educational purposes. R.A. Hoey began to hold meetings to discuss the idea that the Pool was about more than just marketing grain, and in 1926 a Department of Education and Publicity was organized within the Pool. It was directed by J.T. Hull and advised by R.A. Hoey; they expanded and supervised *The Scoop Shovel*.

They also began to accumulate the educational volumes that would become the Pool library. Hull announced in November of 1926 that the library would be open by the end of the month and reported that: "We have a good representation of works on sociology... On co-operation we have about every book that we can find published in the English language. We have also a good selection of books on economics, history, science, general literature, and rural life. In a word, we have tried to make the library one of usefulness to people whose life is on the land."

He also encouraged Pool members—who were the only ones allowed to use the library at this time—to utilize the library to educate themselves, saying "Use it, for knowledge is power". Once the library was open to all Pool members, Hull wrote a regular column for *The Scoop Shovel* called "In the Library", in which he would review books and recommend reading in response to frequent questions from members. When the library gained new books, which was almost continually, he would list them and sometimes discuss them.

The library service was a mailing one; the main collection was kept at the Manitoba Wheat Pool central office in Winnipeg and members could request a catalogue of all the library holdings. If they wanted to borrow a book or books on a specific topic, they could write to Hull and the books would be mailed out to the member and returned by mail, all postage costs covered by the Pool Library.

During the crisis of the early 1930s, the library was saved because the Manitoba Co-operative Conference believed it was vital to the success of the Pools and the co-operative movement. The Conference took over administration of the Pool library in 1931, leasing the books and equipment from the Wheat Pool. The library was formally incorporated under a charter after it changed hands, the other charter members being the Co-operative Marketing Board and the United Farmers of Manitoba.

In 1935 the service was made available free of charge to all rural Manitobans with the financial support of the Co-op Marketing Board. By 1939, Manitoba Pool Elevators had begun to prosper again, and took back responsibility for the administration and housing of the library. The traveling library was also established around this time, and hundreds of boxes were distributed to all MPE points. The boxes were rotated and refreshed twice a year.

In 1942 Hull estimated that there were approximately 4,700 books in the Pool Library with an annual circulation of 4,000 to 5,000 books. Operating the library cost around two thousand dollars per year, although the cost was split between the members of the Manitoba Co-operative Conference, at least it was in theory. The Pool library ran as a free service to all rural Manitobans, regardless of whether they were members of the Pool, and the federal government census in 1941 indicates that over half of Manitoba's population (56%) still lived in rural areas. In 1948, the majority of the Pool Library's services were rendered unnecessary by an act called the "Public Libraries Act" that had been passed by the Manitoba legislature on April 22, 1948, and would go into effect July 1, 1948. The act provided for the establishing of a provincial "Public Library Advisory Board" that would be appointed by the government. Once the board had been established, the act allowed for the establishment of municipal and regional libraries that would be the administrative responsibility of the municipality or region they served and would be supported by a land tax levied on the population that would have access to the library. All employees of the central provincial library would be considered civil

servants.

When the Provincial Library was being established in 1949, the Minister in charge of education—Ivan Shultz—actively sought both the advice of those who operated the Pool Library and the physical resources of the Library. In a letter to W.J. Parker, the President of Manitoba Pool Elevators, Shultz wrote that: "We find that in looking at the province as a whole that the box library service of the Manitoba Pool Elevators is the best developed and the best distributed within the province... We would feel that to a considerable extent you had pioneered in this field and we would be using your accomplishments as a springboard for a wider coverage of the province and an enlargement of the service."

He also requested that Miss E.L. Shields—the Pool Librarian—be released from Pool employment so that the Provincial Library could hire her for a year to aid in setting up the new library system.

An agreement was reached between MPE and the Provincial Library, and the bulk of the Pool Library was transferred to the province. The Pool retained the volumes it wished to keep as reference for its employees, and donated the rest of the open shelf library to the province. The traveling library service was sold at a discount to the province, with the caveat that service not be interrupted during the transfer and that the quality of service to rural Manitoba not diminish once the Library had been entirely transferred to the government. In a letter to Ivan Shultz after the agreement to sell the traveling library had been reached, W.J. Parker wrote that: "...Manitoba Pool Elevators has maintained an open shelf library for a period of some twenty years. These books have been made available to anyone in Manitoba, outside the City of Winnipeg, and the postage both ways was paid by the Pool. We feel it has served a very useful purpose, but that it is not primarily our function and if the government proposes to offer a more complete and universal service we are prepared to retire from the field and avoid what might be considered unnecessary duplication."

Scope and Content:

Series contains items once held as part of the Manitoba Pool Library. It has been divided into the following four sub-series: (1) MPE E 1 Manitoba Pool Library publications; (2) MPE E 2 The Scoop Shovel; (3) MPE E 3 The Manitoba Cooperator; and (4) MPE E 4 Pamphlet collection.

Notes:

Description by Jill Sutherland and Christy Henry