

S. J. McKee Archives



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba documents

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4353>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1910-1972

Physical Description: 25 cm

History /

Biographical:

These documents were created between 1910 and 1972 by the administration of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

Custodial History:

See sous-fonds RG2SF1 for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

This series includes various contracts and agreements between the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba and companies hired for the fair. These companies include musicians, entertainment, stage hands, concessions and more. The series also includes inventories, by laws, the 1920 Act of Incorporation. Most of the documents are from 1957 to 1962.

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

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba minutes

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4354>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1903-1981

Physical Description: 1.17 m

History /

Biographical:

The minutes were created by the summer fair Board of Directors and the various committees and sub-committees associated with the Board.

There is ample evidence in the minutes of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba that the administrative structure was largely one by committee. By 1903, there were at least nine separate committees. These committees were Grounds and Buildings, Sports and Attractions, Public Comfort, Advertising and Printing, Privileges, Gates, Finance, Excursion and Transportation, and Prize List. Of these committees only Public Comfort, Privileges, and Excursion and Transportation were comparatively short-lived. These committees are not mentioned after 1903, 1920, and 1925, respectively. The remaining six committees all survive in various forms to this day.

In 1908 there is mention of a Speed committee, which dealt with the racetrack at the fairgrounds. This committee was in existence until the early 1970s, when racing, along with the condemned grandstand, was discontinued. By 1915 there is mention of a Reception committee that continues on until the mid-1970s.

In the 1920 minutes several committees are mentioned. The committees included Concessions, Grandstand, Accommodation, Police/Security, and Wild Birds and Animals. The Wild Birds and Animals is not mentioned in further minutes, but Grandstand and Accommodation are mentioned into the mid 1950s. Both the Concessions and Police/Security are mentioned until the late 1970s.

In 1925, there are several new committees mentioned. They include Heavy Horse, Light Horse, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Farm Boy's Camp, Poultry, Grains and Grasses, Horticulture, Dairy Competition, Machinery Row, Natural History, Fine Arts and School Exhibits, and Livestock Parade. The enormous expansion of committees is a reflection of the expansion of the exhibition. Almost all aspects of farming now had its own committee, and an effort to help young people continue in farming was made with the forming of camps for farm boys. All of these committees were long lived, although not necessarily with the original title. From approximately 1930 to 1940, all of the Cattle were lumped together, but by 1950 a Commercial Cattle committee was mentioned, and by 1974 there was also a Special Agriculture Display and Exotic Breeds. By 1979 there were Steer Show and Bull Sale committees. Around 1930, a Calf and Colt Competition committee was also added.

In 1930 there is mention of a Dining Room committee, but it is not mentioned again. In response to changing society, a Car Parking committee was created around 1935. This committee remained under various titles through to today. Another short-lived committee, Grandstand Gates, is mentioned from about 1935 to 1940. For some time there was also a Band Competition committee. It is mentioned from 1940 to 1945, and then not again until 1979.

In 1950 there was a Dogs committee, but no further mention is made of this committee. From 1955 to 1960 there was a separate Fire committee, until it was amalgamated with Police/Security. In 1955 two new committees are mentioned. These are the Trade Fair and Homecraft committees. While the Trade Fair is not mentioned after about 1960, the Homecraft committee seems to have been in existence until the mid 1970s.

A 4-H and Junior Activities committee was formed around 1960 to take the place of the Farm Boy's Camp. This committee continued the exhibition's attempts to keep young rural people interested in farming.

In the minutes for 1970, two more committees are mentioned. They are the Food and Beverage and the Bees and Honey committees. While one would suppose that the Food and Beverage Services committee was a new title for the Concessions committee, the Concessions committee is also mentioned. The Bees and Honey committee is mentioned until about 1974 in committee minutes.

By 1974 three more committees are mentioned in the minutes. They were the Baby Fair committee, which was a netting zoo, the Expansion Project and Grants committee and the

committee, which was a petting zoo, the Expansion, Project and Grants committee and the Midway committee. While the Midway and Baby Fair committees lasted until at least the late 1970s, the Expansion, Projects and Grants committee is not mentioned past the mid 1970s. Also mentioned in 1979 are the Pork Congress, Family Fair, Entertainment, and Exhibitor's Lounge committees.

Custodial History:

See sous-fonds RG2SF1 for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

The records consist of minutes created by the Board of Directors, Shareholders, and various committees and subcommittees of the Provincial Exhibition. It should be noted that while the minutes are extensive, they are not organized according to committee. Rather, they are organized by the year in which they were created.

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

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba tickets

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4360>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.8

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1951, 1955-1973

Physical Description: 13 cm textual records
tickets, badges, ribbons

History /

Biographical:

The records are a product of the administrative staff of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The series contains letters regarding complimentary tickets in 1951 and 1955. As well, the series contains examples of tickets, badges, and ribbons used or worn by guests and exhibitors to the provincial exhibitions from 1955 to 1973. There is also a pin from the 1909 Inter-Provincial Fair.

Notes: Part of RG2SF1. Inventory of documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba scrapbooks

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4362>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.10

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1968, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1975

Physical Description: 8 cm

History /

Biographical:

The records were created by a member of the administrative staff of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The scrapbooks mainly contain newspaper clippings that deal with the Provincial Exhibitions of various years. Most pictures and articles that appeared in various newspapers during this time are included in the scrapbooks.

Notes: Part of RG2SF1. Inventory of the documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba miscellaneous

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4363>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.11

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1920, 1966-1980

Physical Description: 6.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

See Administrative History RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The file consists of various records that in some way involve the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba, but do not belong to a specific series. There are newspaper clippings, a cartoon, a file believed to have originated with the Schidlof family, and some letters.

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
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba financial records

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4355>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1903-1939, 1963-1969

Physical Description: 9 cm

History /

Biographical:

See Administrative History for RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

Custodial History:

See sous-fonds RG2SF1 for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

The series consists of the financial records, transfer ledgers and prize money lists created by the Provincial Exhibition.

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

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba administrative files

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4356>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.4

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1980, 1982

Physical Description: 71 cm

History /

Biographical:

See Administrative History for RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The series include various files from the Provincial Exhibition from 1980 and 1982. The contents include staff meetings, mailing lists, insurance, contracts, tenders, trophies and ribbons, animal events and shows, exhibits, results, etc.

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

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba news releases

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4358>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.6

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1984-1990

Physical Description: 13.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

This series is a product of the Publicity committee of the Board of Directors. The collection has minutes from this committee from 1903, when it was known as the Advertising and Printing committee, until approximately 1979. The name change occurred in the 1920s.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

The series contains copies of the news releases that went out to various forms of media before, during, and after the Provincial Exhibitions from 1984 to 1990.

Notes: Part of RG2SF1. Inventory of documents in the series is available in the printed finding aid.

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba original results

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4359>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.7

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1935-1949, 1984, 1985

Physical Description: 13 cm

History /

Biographical:

See Administrative History RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

Custodial History:

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

Scope and Content:

This series contains records from the horse races from 1935 to 1949. These ledgers contain information regarding the horse, the horse's owner, who entered the horse, who is riding or driving the horse, where the horse is from, the color, sex, gait and age of the horse, what race he is entered in, and what prize money is to be won. As well, the series contains the original results files from 1984 and 1985. These files include the results of several different events and competitions, and include information on the exhibitor and exhibit, as well as the prize money to be collected.

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

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial exhibition of Manitoba prize lists and programs

<http://archives.bradonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4357>

Part Of: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds

Description Level: Series

Fonds Number: RG2SF1

Series Number: 1.5

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1910-1991

Physical Description: 62.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Prize Lists and Programs are products of the Prize List Committees and the Programs Committees respectively. The committees were attached to the Board of Directors. The history of the committees can be traced from 1903 to 1979 by using Appendix 1 in the printed finding aid.

Custodial History:

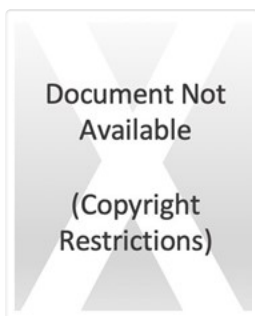
See sous-fonds RG2SF1 for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

The series consists of five boxes containing the prize lists and programs from the summer fairs. The prize lists and programs encompass virtually all events held at the summer fair. The programs include daily programs, as well as the programs for specific events and competitions. The competitors for each class are also listed. The prize lists include all classes and list the amount of prize money or the prize to be won in each class.

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

Storage Location: RG 2 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Association fonds
RG2SF1 Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba



Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba history: Pride of the land monograph

<http://archives.bradonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13671>

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

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McG 5.1

Accession Number: [formerly 6-2008]

GMD: textual records

Date Range: c. 1984 - 1985

Physical Description: Approximately 1 m of textual records
1 map

History /

Biographical:

These records were produced between 1984 and 1985, the researching and writing period for the book *The Pride of the Land: An Affectionate History of Brandon's Agricultural Exhibition*. Published in 1985 by Peguis Books (Winnipeg), *Pride of the Land* is a 222-page soft cover book, containing hundreds of pictures, and 50,000 words of text.

BU faculty members Dr. Kenneth "Ken" Stephen Coates, Assistant Professor of History, and Mr. Fred McGuinness, Lecturer in Journalism, authored the book. Assisting the writers was a research team of four BU history students, which were referred to as "The Pride Team": Diane Fowler, Rob McGarva, Bruce Stafeld, and Byron Williams.

The Pride Team was tasked with collecting and synthesizing exhibition documents and other materials in city, provincial, and federal records spanning 100 years. Many local newspapers and committee minutes were consulted.

The authors cover 103 years of Brandon Fair history, starting with the first fair in 1882 followed by the development of other agricultural fairs and exhibitions in Brandon, specifically The Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, The Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba, and the Ag-Ex livestock show.

Custodial History:

Records were collected and created by McGuinness, Coates, and The Pride Research Team during the process of the creation of the book, *The Pride of the Land: An Affectionate History of Brandon's Agricultural Exhibition*. The materials were donated to the S.J. McKee Archives by the authors circa 1988. The Archives accessioned the records in 2008.

Scope and Content:

The subseries consists of textual records, created and collected during the production of the monograph *Pride of the Land*. It includes research cards created by the research team, copies of newspaper articles from very early editions of Brandon newspapers (such as the *Brandon Sun*, *Brandon Daily Sun*, *Western Sun*, and *The Independent*), copies of fair/organizational minutes, photocopies of photographs used in the publication, and chapter drafts. Of particular interest are the detailed summaries of Provincial Exhibition minutes that were specifically produced for each book chapter.

Notes:

Information in the history/biography was taken from a Brandon University press release dated June 1985, about the *Pride of the Land* Project (see file 64)

Description Note: The original accession number is noted on the front of each file folder. The circled number indicates the original file order in the 6-2008 accession

Accruals:

Closed

Language Note:

Fred McGuinness often uses journalistic jargon to label his files. A "brite" refers to a short, amusing story

Pride of the Land acronyms:

PEM = Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba

RCMP = Royal Canadian Mounted Police

WAAA = Western Agricultural & Arts Association

Finding Aid:

A file level inventory is available

Storage Location:

2015 accessions

Related Material:

Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba fonds

Arrangement:

Arrangement was artificially created by the Archives. Subseries has been arranged according to book chapter. McGuinness often organized his ideas and research materials by potential brite topic

Documents



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 it's 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 "Roval" as a way to celebrate the centennial. Although many organizations applied

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



1990 Provincial Manitoba

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions6266>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 1319
GMD: textual records
Date Range: Nov. 1990-Feb. 1992
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 52



Provincial Manitoba June-December 1989

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5548>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 611
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1989-1990
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 22



Provincial

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5803>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 857
GMD: textual records
Date Range: Aug. 1986-Sept. 1987
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 34



Provincial

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5804>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 858
GMD: textual records
Date Range: Aug. 1986-Nov. 1988
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 34



Provincial

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5805>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 859
GMD: textual records
Date Range: June 1983-June 1986
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 34



Provincial 1984

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5806>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 860
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1984-1985
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 34



P.C. Party- Provincial

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5853>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 907
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1990
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 38



Federal Provincial Relations Correspondence

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions6182>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: File
Series Number: MG 3 1.14.1
File Number: 1235
GMD: textual records
Date Range: July 1993
Physical Description: 1 file
Scope and Content:
File consists of correspondence
Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration
1.14.1 W. Leland Clark - political career
Box 50