

S. J. McKee Archives



A.E. McKenzie

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4317>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 2 2.1
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1910-1964; 1966 (legal), 1976 (patents)
Physical Description: 26.3 cm

History /

Biographical:

Albert Edward McKenzie was born in Wilcox Lake, York County, Ontario in 1870 to Francis Bethel McKenzie and Maria (Carley) McKenzie. In 1882 he moved to Brandon, Manitoba with his family, where his father established a Flour, Seed and Grain business. At the age of twenty-six, following his father's death, A. E. took over the family business and transformed it into a seed institute. As the President of The Brandon Seed House, and, later, A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd., Mr. McKenzie played a central role in the daily operations of his company up until three weeks prior to his death on September 25, 1964.

In 1901, Mr. McKenzie married Laura Bell of Carmen, Manitoba, with whom he had two daughters, Marjorie and Kathleen. Kathleen married Walter C. Roberts and became a member of the Board of Directors of her father's company. Marjorie graduated from Brandon College, and received additional degrees from the Columbia College of Expression, and from Northwestern University. From 1927-1930 she taught at Brandon College, then resigned to do post-graduate work. She returned to Brandon College in 1935 as Instructor of Public Speaking and Dean of Women in Clark Hall. Marjorie resigned as Dean of Women after one year, and eventually relocated to British Columbia. Both Kathleen and Marjorie survived their father. Laura had passed away in 1943. At the time of his death, A.E. McKenzie was also survived by had one grandson: David McKenzie Roberts.

In addition to building his company into one of Canada's foremost seed institutes, McKenzie was also involved with many community projects. He was affiliated with the YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, and Community Chest. He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club, and a long-term officer of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. However, McKenzie's major interest was Brandon College, for which he served as a governor and as chairman of the board of governors for the College.

A central figure in the fight to save Brandon College, McKenzie was instrumental in the formation of Brandon College Inc., and, in 1945, he established the A. E. McKenzie Foundation, for which the Government of Manitoba was the sole trustee. His gift to the Foundation was securities valued at \$1 million, which ensured the survival and re-establishment of Brandon College and later Brandon University.

In 1941, McKenzie received the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa from the University of Manitoba. In 1962, he was honored with a certificate of merit for exemplary citizenship in commerce and in every aspect of community life from the City of Brandon.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series consists of correspondence created and received by A.E. McKenzie during his years as President/General Manager dealing with the operation of his company. This includes construction estimates, and correspondence with the company's lawyer, Wm. Johnson. A letter from Gairdner & Company Limited regarding McKenzie's attempt to reacquire ownership of A. E. McKenzie Ltd. from the Province of Manitoba.

The sub-series also contains material relating to legal matters: one file concerns a successful legal action against the A.E. McKenzie Seed Company by the Canadian Alfalfa Association. The action arose following the sale of seed to a seed company located in Berlin, Germany in 1938. A second file deals with the prosecution of the company in Bismarck, North Dakota for mail fraud. The company lost both cases. Patents secured by the company are also included within the sub-series.

Also contained within the legal sub-series are records dealing with A.E. McKenzie's passing. These include correspondence with the National Trust Company and Miss Jean MacKay, and a summary of A.E. McKenzie's will. There are also some documents dealing with McKenzie's stocks and shares in the Company.

Documentation relating to the 1918 By-Law Campaign, in which McKenzie tried to secure tax relief for his company in relation to the construction of its new plant, is also included within the sub-series.

The sub-series is divided into six sub sub series, including: (1) Secretary; (2) Legal Matters; (3) Correspondence; (4) Patents; (5) By-Law Campaign 1918; and (6) Miscellaneous.

Notes:	* "Tapes" in the Related Material field refers to hard copy written summaries originally provided on tape for typing. Organization by tape number was found to be more efficient than listing these items by title.
Language Note:	Within McS 2 1.3, the correspondence sub sub series, there are some documents written in Gregg shorthand. No translation is available.
Storage Location:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager
Related Material:	Regarding sub sub series McS 2 2.2 (Legal Matters): The court pocket for the alfalfa case involving McKenzie Seeds at the Court of Queen's Bench in Regina, Saskatchewan may be available through the Saskatchewan Archives Board. John Diefenbaker acted for the Alfalfa Association in this case.

Historical Topics under A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds, Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes) contains some information regarding McKenzie's patents (file 16, Tapes 29 and 30), and a legal case in Bismarck, North Dakota in 1957 regarding the violation of mail fraud statutes involving the sale of seed wheat (file 11, Tape 26)*. Information regarding the sale of Alfalfa seed to a German seed company is available in file 2. There are also a number of files containing information about A. E. McKenzie.



A.E. McKenzie fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4337>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Series
Series Number: MG 5
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1887-1989; prredominantly 1887-1968
Physical Description: 31 cm

History /

Biographical:

See biographical sketch of A.E. McKenzie under RG 3 Series 2 (Office of the President/General Manager), sub-series 1 (A.E. McKenzie).

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

The manuscript group contains records pertaining to A.E. McKenzie's personal life, such as personal correspondence and family documents. Records dealing with McKenzie's involvement with Brandon College, the Brandon Allied Arts Council and the Brandon Board of Trade are also included.

It has been divided into five sub-series, including: (1) Brandon College Inc.; (2) A.E. McKenzie Foundation; (3) Brandon Allied Arts Council; (4) Brandon Board of Trade; and (5) Miscellaneous.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds
MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds

Related Material: RG 1 Brandon College fonds in the McKee Archives contains additional information on A.E. McKenzie, particularly his involvement with Brandon College.

A photograph of A.E. McKenzie is located in oversized drawer #5 of the Brandon College photograph series.



A.E. McKenzie fonds - miscellaneous

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4343>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.5

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1887-1960

Physical Description: 3.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

This sub-series is artificially created and contains records that did not fit into any of the preceding series or sub-series.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

The records in this sub-series concern A.E. McKenzie's personal life. It contains a number of documents created by his father, F. B. McKenzie, including land deeds, financial records, and a grant of probate. The sub-series also includes documents concerning the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Co., the dissolution of partnership between A.E. McKenzie and George. E. McKenzie, the release of F.B. McKenzie's estate to his son and a copy of A.E. McKenzie's mother's last will and testament.

Also included within the sub-series is a file of correspondence between McKenzie and R.B. Dessert, a former employee of McKenzie Seeds who established his own seed company in California after leaving Brandon. The correspondence is almost entirely personal in nature.

Thank you letters regarding Brandon College and scholarships, as well as minutes from meetings of the Education Advisory Board can also be found within the sub-series.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds



A.E. McKenzie Foundation

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4340>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1940, 1945-1989

Physical Description: 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

In 1945 the A. E. McKenzie Trust of 1939, which led to the formation of Brandon College Incorporated, was cancelled. As a result A.E., who was still trying to solve the College's financial problems, set about attaining a special act of legislature that would enable him to transfer 90% of his company's stockholdings to the control of the Province of Manitoba to benefit the College.

See fonds level administrative history description.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes correspondence regarding the McKenzie Foundation between Brandon College Inc., McKenzie Seeds, William Johnson and the Government of Manitoba. It also contains records dealing with Educational Advisory Board. A substantial amount of this correspondence is in regards to the payment of Brandon College Inc. from the McKenzie Foundation. In addition, there is also correspondence generated by the Comptroller-General and Wm. Johnson regarding Foundation Account, as well as some other financial information.

Various documents are also present within the sub-series, including Bill 87, amendments, an authorization provision for variation in agreement and an agreement between McKenzie, Brandon College Inc. and the National Trust. A collection of prepared statements or briefs, many written by A.E. McKenzie regarding the purpose and future of the Foundation are also included.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds
MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds

Related Material: Information regarding the A.E. McKenzie Foundation can be found in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes), Historical Topics file 1 (Tape 9).

Series 5 (Photographs), oversized drawer #4 contains newspaper clippings dealing with the establishment of the McKenzie Foundation.



A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4309>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Fonds

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1887-1996; predominantly 1910-1974

Physical Description: 7.47 m of textual records
500 photographs

History /

Biographical:

The A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. originated with the McKenzie family Flour, Grain and Seed business, started by F. B. McKenzie in the early 1880's. When F. B. McKenzie passed away in 1896, his son, Albert Edward McKenzie, assumed control of the company, and renamed it The Brandon Seed House. With its main office and plant in Brandon, Manitoba, the company specialized in the production and sale of field seeds and service exclusively to seed buyers in the prairie provinces and British Columbia. In later years, a complete line of products including garden seeds, lawn grass, and other allied lines was developed for sale across Canada.

In 1906, the company underwent a change of name when A. E. McKenzie determined that the growth of the country demanded a larger seed institute than could be managed by one man. As a result, the company was incorporated under provincial statutes and the federal Joint Stock Companies Act as A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd., and new personnel were hired.

Under the Joint Stock Companies Act, A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was required to elect a Board of Directors of not less than three, and not more than nine individuals. Only shareholders of the company were eligible for election, and election was to take place yearly with each shareholder entitled to as many votes as shares owned in the company. The Act also dictated that the directors were, from time to time, to elect from among themselves, a president of the company. They were also able to appoint and remove all other officers of the company and to create company by-laws. The directors were not obliged to pay any dividend on shares if the company should become insolvent. Under the Act, the stock of the company was deemed a personal estate and was only transferable as such. In addition, the company could acquire, hold, and transfer real estate, and was required to submit annual statements.

A. E. McKenzie was elected President of the newly constituted company. For the remainder of his natural life he remained in this position and supervised the operation of the company. S. A. Bradford, who was given responsibility for various company departments, filled the position of General Manager. H. L. Patmore became the Vice-President, overseeing the nursery business, while W. A. McCracken was put in charge of the warehouse stock, and shipping department. McCracken also supervised the mail order department.

The Company was initially comprised of three divisions: The Brandon Seed House, Brandon Nurseries, and Brandon Greenhouses. Each division was registered under Dominion Patents. Later, the company was divided into Retail Mail Order, Wholesale and Commission Packet Trade divisions. It also undertook some export business.

By registering the divisions of the company under federal legislation affecting trademarks and industrial designs, McKenzie and the Board, were able to register both the company's trademarks and to protect the company's industrial techniques. The company could thus patent the methods and processes of its operations so that no other individual or business could duplicate them.

Located at 30 9th Street, the head office and plant of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. housed all the facilities and staff of the company, with the exception of the regional sales offices and warehouses. The business of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. was conducted from a frame warehouse until the current McKenzie building was constructed on the same site after a fire destroyed the original premises. Designed by architect Thomas Sinclair, and built by the Brandon Construction Company, the new building opened in 1911. In time, The A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. came to be known as Western Canada's Greatest Seed House.

During the 1930's, before a new building was erected in 1945, the A. E. McKenzie Co.

occupied space at five different locations in Brandon, including the Massey Harris Building, the International Harvester Building and the Security Building. The last of these premises was destroyed by fire in 1972. As a result of its proximity to the Security Building, the main McKenzie Building also suffered heavy fire and water damage. A. E.

McKenzie Co. Ltd. also utilized a warehouse on the north side of Pacific Avenue alongside the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks between 5th and 6th streets. This building and its contents were destroyed by fire (1946). In May of 1949, the company purchased and erected a Quonset structure on the west side of 15th Street between Rosser and Pacific Avenues.

In 1908, the first branch of the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was established at Calgary. In the following sixteen years, additional branches were established in Edmonton and Saskatoon (1923), Moose Jaw, Toronto (1934) and Winnipeg (1935). Both the Edmonton and Saskatoon branches were seasonal, operating for a four-month period, March to June inclusive. Business in the Maritime Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick further extended the company's operations by the mid 1940's. In 1946, the company purchased property in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, 120 miles north of Brandon. This purchase enabled the company to handle larger quantities of Sweet Clover, a popular crop that was grown in the surrounding area. Additional offices were opened in Vancouver and Quebec City in rented premises by the early 1960's.

In the years 1944-1945, the McKenzie Foundation was created. Through the Foundation, arrangements were put in place to transfer shares of the company to the Manitoba Government for the benefit of higher education, specifically Brandon College. In return for this gift, which included 90% of all capital resources of the company together with all of the income earned each year, except for the amount retained annually to ensure sufficient operating capital, the A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. received exemption from paying Corporate Tax.

Prior to the establishment of the McKenzie Foundation, in 1945, the National Trust for the benefit of the College held the shares of McKenzie Seeds. On April 7, 1945 the Manitoba Legislature passed legislation whereby A. E. McKenzie retained effective management control of his company, but 1031 shares out of 1145 issued shares were gifted to the Provincial Government. In return, the government agreed that all financial benefits from the shares would go to Brandon College through the A. E. McKenzie Foundation. When Mr. McKenzie passed away in 1964, the primary responsibility of appointing the Board of Directors for McKenzie Seeds passed to the Provincial government.

The remaining 114 shares of the Company were turned over to the Crown on July 16, 1975 in accordance with an agreement between Brandon University, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. and the Manitoba government. The same agreement also turned the McKenzie Foundation over to Brandon University. Therefore, since 1975 the crown has held all shares of the McKenzie Co. through the Province of Manitoba.

A.E. McKenzie died on September 25, 1964 at the age of 94 and was succeeded as President of the company by J. Lasby Lowes. When Mr. Lowes retired in 1968, A. R. Swanson was appointed by the government to fill the position and was responsible for all operations of the company under a Board of Directors comprised mainly of appointees of the government. It has proven impossible to establish a complete list of those individuals who held the positions of President/General Manager of McKenzie Seeds after 1964. A partial account is as follows: Anthony J. Maruca became President of A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. in 1972. In 1975, the Board of Directors appointed William Moore General Manager, creating a new position to relieve the President of the company from management of plant operations. At the same time, Pat Kelleher was named new interim President. Following the resignation of Kelleher, William Moore assumed the role of President as well. Moore left the company in the early 1980s. He was later convicted of criminal misconduct as President of the company. Keith Guelpa became President/General Manager in the mid 1980's; Raymond West was his successor.

Beainnina in 1969. the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. began phasing out the Field Seed

division of their company, including business related to forage crops and cereals. Seed cleaning equipment located in Brandon and the company's Calgary and Toronto cleaning plants was sold. The Company concentrated its resources on the production and sale of vegetable and flower seeds, and lawn and turf grasses. It acted as a wholesaler and conducted business through chain stores, grocery, hardware and general stores.

Late in 1971, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. purchased its largest competition in packaged seeds - Steele Briggs Seed Co. from Maple Leaf Mills Inc. for two million dollars. At the time of the acquisition the company changed its name to A. E. McKenzie Co. - Steele Briggs Seeds, in order to benefit from the favorable reputation held by Steele Briggs Seeds across Canada. In the early 1970s, the acquisition of Brett-Young Seeds Ltd., a Winnipeg company that dealt exclusively in the production and sale of field seed, brought the A. E. McKenzie Co. back into the field seed market.

In 1994 the Manitoba Government sold the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, Canada's largest non-retail mail-order catalogue company, which is owned by MDC Corporation of Toronto.

In 2001, McKenzie Seeds is Canada's leading supplier of packaged seeds and related gardening products. It is divided into a Retail Consumer Products division which features well known seed brands including McKenzie Seeds, Pike Seeds and Thompson & Morgan Seeds from England. As well, this division also carries a complete range of lawn seeds and perishables. It also continues to ship the seed racks invented by A.E. McKenzie to numerous retail stores. The second division, Direct Mail, consists of the McFayden and McConnell catalogues which reach over 500,000 Canadian homes each year.

Custodial History:

Following the sale of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, the records of McKenzie Seeds and its subsidiaries were retained in the McKenzie Plant on 9th Street. In April of 1997, the records were transferred to the McKee Archives at Brandon University. Because the company was a crown corporation, the records of McKenzie Seeds belonged to the Province of Manitoba and might have been placed in the Provincial Archives. However, Provincial Archivist Gordon Dodds permitted the retention of the records in Brandon at the S. J. McKee Archives. The minutes of the Board of Directors, previously transferred to the Provincial Archives, remain in Winnipeg. Until 1960 these minutes, by-laws of the Company, and the letters patent of incorporation (April 7, 1906) were in the possession of the Company's lawyers, Johnson, Garson, Forrester, Davidson, & Steen.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of textual records, photographs and artifacts from A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. The textual records include minutes, documents, financial records, administrative records, by-laws, legal records, catalogues, sales literature, seed packets, newspaper clippings, appraisals, publications, scrapbooks and miscellaneous sections.

In addition, some of the records within the fonds relate to the operations of McKenzie subsidiaries -- Brett-Young Seeds, Steele-Briggs Seeds, Pike & Co. and McFayden Seeds -- and various properties owned by McKenzie Seeds.

Fonds contains approximately 500 photographs. These depict the operations and employees of McKenzie Seeds and the seed industry in general. Artifacts contained in the fonds include blueprints, newspaper clippings, copper printing plates, seed bags and plaques.

Fonds also includes an artificially created series of records dealing with Brandon College Inc., the A.E. McKenzie Foundation, the Brandon Allied Arts Council and the Brandon Board of Trade. These records stand outside the provenance of the McKenzie Seed Co.

Of particular interest within the textual records are the transcripts of various features of the company's history as dictated, researched and recalled by its second President/General Manager, J. Lasby Lowes. The fonds also contains a collection of company catalogue which is almost complete. Outside of the seed industry, the records dealing with both Brandon College Inc. and the McKenzie Foundation are significant records relating to the history of Brandon College/University and the City of Brandon.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2001).

Name Access: A.E. McKenzie
J. Lasby Lowes
Irene Cullen
Joseph Airey
Alan R. Mundie
Sandy Black
Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha
McFayden Seeds
Steele-Briggs Seed Co
Pike & Co
Davidson & Gowen
Davidson Studio
Frank Gowen
Dean Photo Service
Jerrett's Photo-Art Studio/Jerrett's Photo Service
Crawford Drug Store
Leech Printing Ltd
Eastman Photographic Materials Ltd

Subject Access: Seed Industry
Seed Catalogues
Brandon Business
Seed Photographs
Brandon Photographs
Seed Packets
Agriculture
Women Workers
Labour Relations
A.E. McKenzie
J. Lasby Lowes
A.R. Swanson
William Moore
Anthony J. Maruca
Pat Kelleher
Keith Guelpa
Raymond West
Brett-Young Seeds
Sabetha
Steele Briggs Seed Co
Pike & Co
McFayden Seeds
Seed Marketing Co
Brandon Board of Trade
Brandon Allied Arts Council
McKenzie Foundation
Regal Greetings and Gifts

Repro Restriction: Because the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was a crown corporation, the records in the fonds are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Related Material: Additional records regarding A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. are housed at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. In order to gain access to these records it is necessary to contact the Archives of Manitoba.

Arrangement:

RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds

McS 1 Board of Directors

- 1.1 Documents
- 1.2 Minutes/Meetings
- 1.3 Management Consultant Reports
- 1.4 Miscellaneous
- 1.5 Financial Records

McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager

- 2.1 A.E. McKenzie
- 2.2 J. Lasby Lowes
- 2.3 Comptroller
- 2.4 Properties

- 2.5 Marketing
- 2.6 Reference Library
- 2.7 Miscellaneous Publications/Correspondence

McS 3 Acquisitions

- 3.1 Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha
- 3.2 Steele-Briggs Seed Co.
- 3.3 Pike & Co.
- 3.4 McFayden Seeds

McS 4 Seed Marketing Co.

McS 5 Photographs

- 5.1 McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Executives
- 5.2 Construction at McKenzie Seed Co. Brandon (two files)
- 5.3 Exterior Photographs of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Building
- 5.4 McKenzie Seed Co. Plant Operations and Workers (2 files)
- 5.5 McKenzie Seed Co. Equipment and Plant - Head Office 1983
- 5.6 McKenzie Seed Co. Field Operations and Workers
- 5.7 McKenzie Seed Co. Strike 1944
- 5.8 Fires at McKenzie Seed Co. 1910, 1945, 1972
- 5.9 McKenzie Seed Co. Centennial Exhibition 1996
- 5.10 Miscellaneous McKenzie Seed Co. Photographs
- 5.11 People Connected to McKenzie Seed Co.
- 5.12 Princess Anne's Visit to McKenzie Seed Co. 1982
- 5.13 Onion Set Production Book
- 5.14 Irene Cullen Photographs - McKenzie Seeds Employee Photos
- 5.15 Josiph Airey Photographs - McKenzie Product Photos
- 5.16 Alan R. Mundie Seed Production Photographs
- 5.17 Steele Robertson/Steele Briggs Seeds Photographs
- 5.18 Seed Packet Display Units Photographs
- 5.19 Product Photographs
- 5.20 Parade Photographs
- 5.21 Oversized Photographs
 - 5.21.1 Drawer #1: Executive Photographs
 - 5.21.2 Drawer #2: Office and Equipment/Plant Photographs
 - 5.21.3 Drawer #3: Miscellaneous Oversized Photographs
 - 5.21.4 Drawer #4: Artifacts

McS 6 Miscellaneous

- 6.1 Centennial Exhibition
- 6.2 Miscellaneous Publications
- 6.3 Scrapbooks

MG 1 A.E. McKenzie Fonds

- 1.1 Brandon College Inc.
- 1.2 McKenzie Foundation
- 1.3 Brandon Allied Arts Council
- 1.4 Brandon Board of Trade
- 1.5 Miscellaneous



A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. - miscellaneous publications

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4335>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 6 6.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1963, 1978, 1984-1985

Physical Description: 6 titles; 6 cm

History /

Biographical:

This sub-series consists of publications that did not fit into any of the preceding series or sub-series.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes one copy each of Manitoba Business Top 100 (June 1985), Trade and Commerce Supplement, Brandon (c. 1963) and Manitoba Business (November 1985).

It also includes a Christmas Song book, the book "By Gossip and Myth" by Prof. George MacDowell and a document entitled "Background Information re A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd."

The following newspaper clippings have been located in the map case drawer #4 located in the archives reading room:

1. \$175,000 Gift Set for College from City Man
2. McKenzie Will Leave House to Arts Centre
3. The Old Alma Mater is Down on Her Knees
4. How to Help the Alma Mater
5. Good Things are "growing" on at McKenzie Seeds (ad)
6. Fire fails to halt work at McKenzie Seeds
7. McKenzie Seeds: new facilities are first in North America
8. A full-page advertisement for McKenzie Seeds from "The Brandon Sun" (September 24, 1971)

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 6 Miscellaneous



A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. - scrapbooks

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4336>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 6 6.3
GMD: textual records
Date Range: c.1903 - c.1940
Physical Description: 27.5 cm
Physical Condition: The scrapbooks in this sub-series are fragile, particularly the product book. They must be handled with great care.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series consists of three scrapbooks. Two of the three contain copies of advertisements for a number of businesses, including McKenzie Seeds, Steele Briggs, Patmore's, Rennie's, and McFayden Seeds. Clippings dealing with a variety of other companies in the seed industry are also included. The third scrapbook contains pictures of various flowers, vegetable, herbs and other seed products in alphabetical order. An inventory is available for the third scrapbook.

Notes: Date(s) of creation, including distribution, publication, etc.:

- a) [No title] ad book - 1906-1911
- b) "Scrap Book" ad book - 1917-1926
- c) [No title] product book - c.1903 - c.1940

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 6 Miscellaneous



Board of directors - documents

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4311>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1904-1971

Physical Description: 24.5 cm

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series is comprised of various documents, agreements and contracts generated by A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Among the documents are by-laws, letters of patents, land deeds, leases, transfers of property, grants of probate, trademark documents, certificates of title, incorporation documents, bills of sale, assets and liabilities, licenses to do business, loan documents, tax statements/certificates, insurance documents, memorandums, declarations, estate documents, releases, settlements, mortgages, and bill 87.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

McS 1 Board of Directors



Board of directors - financial records

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4315>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.5

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1900-1986

Physical Description: 1.56 m

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes financial statements of various kinds for McKenzie Seeds and combined financial statements for McKenzie Seeds and its subsidiaries, particularly McFayden Seeds. Chartered Accountants used for this purpose include: Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Webb, Read, Hegan, Callingham & Co./Webb, Read & Co., George A. Touche & Co., Oscar Hudson & Co., Morden, Sprague & Co./Laird, Sprague & Co., Edwards, Morgan, Halliday & Co., Welch, Hinton and Welch, McDonald, Currie & Co./Cooper Brothers & Co., Meyers Dickens Norris Penny & Co./Meyers, Norris, Penny & Co. and the Comptroller-General for the Province of Manitoba.

This sub-series also includes a number of purchase offers made to A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd as well as proposed plans to sell the company. Offers were received from United Grain Growers, Maple Leaf Mills, McKenzie Seeds Staff, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta Wheat Pools, and the Ferry Morse Seed Co.

Twelve ledgers, including branch order, mail order and cash registers, general ledgers, current ledgers, payroll sheets and branch daily cash reports, are also part of the sub-series. Other miscellaneous financial records and statements include information on McKenzie Seeds' proposal to the Manitoba Government for re-financing in the early to mid 1980's.

Notes: Additional dates for the records in the financial sub-series are as follows:
1. Prepared Financial Statements: 1907-1918, 1920-1923, 1926-1938, and 1942-1979.
2. Purchase Offers: U.G.G. (1959, 1966), Wheat Pools (1961), McKenzie Staff (1963),
Maple Leaf Mills (c. 1965), Ferry Morse Seed Co. (c. 1969-1970).

The extent of the ledgers in sub-series McS 1 1.5 (Financial Records) separate from the other financial records in the sub-series is 95.9 cm. The financial records without the ledgers measure 60 cm.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 1 Board of Directors

Related Material: Financial statements and records for the individual companies acquired by McKenzie Seeds are located in Series III.

Information regarding the sale of McKenzie Seeds is located in Series II (Office of the President/GM), sub-series I (A.E. McKenzie), in the file entitled A.E. correspondence with W.A. Johnson. Some of these records are connected to the purchase offers received by McKenzie Seeds.



Board of directors - management consultant reports

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4313>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1965-1970

Physical Description: 4.5 cm

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes reports from three management consultants: Harbridge House, Urwick, Currie & Partners Ltd., and Thorne Stevenson & Kellogg. As well, the sub-series contains correspondence between the President and Comptroller of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. and Harbridge House regarding the implementation of a management training program and plans to combat the weak field seed market. The Urwick, Currie reports deal with improvement in company operations and improvements in packet seed processing. The Thorne Stevenson & Kellogg report is entitled 'Implementing a Strategic Planning Process.' Each of the reports completed for the company deal with improving the business operations of McKenzie Seeds.

Harbridge House – this record is a management-training program designed to address a weak field seed market.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

McS 1 Board of Directors



Board of directors - minutes/meetings

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4312>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1958-1981

Physical Description: 1.8 cm

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes minutes of the Board of Directors of McKenzie Seeds, extracts from minutes of the Board of Directors, information on shareholders of the company, notices of Board meetings, suggested meeting agendas, the President's annual report for 1967, and memos regarding Board meetings/business.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 1 Board of Directors

Related Material: Additional minutes for the meetings of the Board of Directors of McKenzie Seeds, dating from the mid 1930's, are held in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba.

Minute excerpts for the Board of Directors are located in the Document sub-series in the file titled By-Laws for 1940-1985.



Board of directors - miscellaneous

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4314>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 1 1.4

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1974

Physical Description: 0.1 cm

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series consists of one folder containing thank you letters to Prof. George F. MacDowell, Professor of Economics at Brandon University, and a long-time member of the McKenzie Seeds Board for his service to the company.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 1 Board of Directors

Related Material: RG 6 (Brandon University fonds), MG 3 (Brandon University Teaching and Administration), MG 3 1.12 (George MacDowell fonds).



Brandon Allied Arts Council

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4341>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1959-1968

Physical Description: 4.3 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Brandon Allied Arts Council was established in the fall of 1959 and spring of 1960. At that time a Foundation was set up, consisting of six men 'of affairs' in Brandon, who were to act as Trustees and administer gifts, bequests and all capital expenditures. The men asked to serve were: Judge Buckingham, Roy Armstrong (Manager of the Royal Bank), Lasby Lowes, R.A. Clement, Victor Sharpe and D.R. Doig.

From the beginning A.E. McKenzie was a great supporter of the Allied Arts Council. Shortly before his death in 1964 McKenzie proposed leaving his home at 436 Victoria Ave. to the Arts Council to be used as an art gallery. Following a great deal of debate it was finally decided, sometime after McKenzie's death, to decline the offer.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series has been divided into two periods, the first dealing with A.E. McKenzie and the Arts Council and the second concerning Lasby Lowes and the Arts Council.

Included within the sub-series is correspondence to McKenzie from Marion Doig of the Arts Council relating the progress of the establishment of the Council through the fall of 1959 to the summer of 1960. It also includes correspondence between McKenzie and R.A. Clement regarding the gift of McKenzie's home to the Brandon Allied Arts Council, and correspondence between McKenzie and the Chairman of Nominations, Brandon Allied Arts Council.

The records generated during the Lasby Lowes period revolve primarily around the estate of A.E. McKenzie. Included is correspondence between The National Trust, Sutherland Agencies Limited, Kathleen Roberts (nee McKenzie), Canadian Diebold Safe Co., G.R. Rowe (President of Arts Council), Green Blankenstein Russell Associates, Income Tax Department, Winnipeg, Monarch Life Assurance Company and Lasby Lowes. Other correspondence deals with Lowes' role as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Brandon Allied Arts Council.

Also included within the sub-series is a photocopy of the Memorandum of Agreement that established the "Brandon Allied Arts Foundation" (1960).

The sub-series has been divided into two sub sub series, including: (1) 1.3.1 A.E. McKenzie and the Brandon Allied Arts Council (1959-64); and (2) 1.3.2 Lasby Lowes and the Brandon Allied Arts Council (1964-68).

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds
 MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds

Related Material: Additional Information on the Brandon Allied Arts Council is located in the Brandon Art Club fonds 03-2001 in the S.J. McKee Archives.

Series 5 (Photographs) contains newspaper clippings concerning the gift of McKenzie's house to the Brandon Allied Arts Council in oversized drawer #4.



Brandon Board of Trade

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4342>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.4

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1910-1911

Physical Description: 0.3 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Brandon Board of Trade was founded in 1883 to promote business activity and economic expansion in Brandon. Aside from these records, no other records of the Board of Trade are known to exist.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

Sub-series includes the intervention of the Board in the 1910 municipal election in Brandon and a listing of the standing committee for 1911. The sub-series also includes a letter to Mr. Blanchard from A.E. McKenzie and a financial statement for the Brandon Commercial Bureau.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds
MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds



Brandon College Inc.

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4338>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 5 1.1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1929-1968

Physical Description: 15.9 cm

History /

Biographical:

A.E. McKenzie was involved with Brandon College from its very beginnings. He was present at the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the Brandon College Building in July of 1900; he became a member of the Brandon College Endowment Committee in 1918; the following year he was on the Finance Committee. By the mid-1920's, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the College. In 1928, he was part of a group that convinced the Baptist Union of Western Canada, the principal funding body for the College, to provide money towards reducing the College's accumulated deficit. McKenzie and other members of the College Board had advised the Union that they were developing an endowment plan to provide continuing financial support for Brandon College.

In 1931, Mr. McKenzie organized the Brandon Board of Trade to help save the College when the Baptist Union indicated its intention to withdraw financial support to the College. When efforts to have the City of Brandon provide financial resources to the College failed, A.E. McKenzie organized the Brandon Citizen's Campaign to raise enough money to enable the College to open the next year.

In 1938, when the Baptist Union did withdraw support from the College, McKenzie offered to establish a \$100,000 endowment, which he later raised to \$300,000, to ensure the continuation of the College. On August 1 of the same year, the Board of Trade, of which McKenzie was a member, set out to raise \$15,000 to match the offer the government had made to the College. In September 1938, McKenzie increased his endowment again, this time to \$500,000. As a result, of McKenzie's endowment and the fundraising efforts of the Board of Trade the charter establishing Brandon College Incorporated was approved on April 17, 1939.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series includes correspondence between McKenzie and Lowes with various government officials - Duff Roblin, Hon. George Johnson, Hon. Stewart E. McLean and Comptroller-General George D. Iiffe. There is also correspondence with the company lawyer, William Johnston. Documents within the series consist of the Act to Incorporate Brandon College, Inc. and Bill 86, as well as an indenture and an agreement between C.S. Eaton, G.C. Edwards, A.E. McKenzie, D.H. Hudson and E.J. Tarr. There are also a number of documents written by McKenzie that were presented to the Brandon College Board of Directors. Brandon College Inc. resolutions regarding the McKenzie Foundation are also included.

The sub-series has one sub sub series: MG 5 1.1.1 History of Brandon College Inc.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

 MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds



Brett-Young Seed Company/Sabetha

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4326>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 3 3.1
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1953-1976
Physical Description: 4 cm

History /

Biographical:

In 1971, A. E. McKenzie Seeds Co. Ltd. acquired Brett-Young Seeds. Based out of Winnipeg, Brett-Young dealt exclusively in Field seeds. The price of the company was based on 75% of the booked pre-tax profit for a five-year period starting in 1972, with a minimum price of 1.3 million. In 1975, the company was sold to Manitoba Pool Elevators for 1.76 million plus inventory. However, while McKenzie Seeds owned the company, it generated 2.3 million in profits, 75% of which was paid to the previous shareholders.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

Sub-series consists of financial statements, board minutes and documents, including return of information and particulars under the Companies Act of Manitoba and notices of the change of directors. Correspondence in the sub-series deals largely with the resignation of the directors of Brett-Young Seeds. Records dealing with the sale of Brett-Young Seeds to Manitoba Pool Elevators are also included. The sub-series also includes one file of documents relating to the Sabetha Seed Co.

The sub-series is divided into two sub sub series, including: (1) Correspondence; and (2) Financial.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 3 Acquisitions

Related Material: One document relating to Brett-Young Seeds and McKenzie Seeds is located in Series 1 (Board of Directors), sub-series 1 (Documents).

Historical information regarding Brett-Young Seeds is located in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes), Historical Topics file 11 (Tape 24).

The 1974 catalogue for Brett-Young Seeds is located in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 4 (Marketing).

Sales literature and catalogues for Brett-Young Seeds are located in Series 5 (Miscellaneous), sub-series (Centennial Exhibition) in the file entitled Acquisitions Booklet.



Canada Seed Company

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4328>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub sub series
Series Number: McS 3 3.2.4
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1967-1979
Physical Description: 2.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

The Canada Seed Company was formed in 1913 by Mr. R. C. (Clark) Steele at Hagersville, Ontario with the intent to process and export farm seeds. However, in later years, the company branched out into the Garden Seed business. Early in the 1930's, R. C. Steele merged his company with the Steele Briggs Seed Co., which was owned by his brother Walter D. Steele. Following the deaths of W. D. Steele and E. F. Crossland, R. C. Steele was elected President of Steele Briggs.

A few years later, Vancouver interests took over the seed companies under Steele Briggs, including the Canada Seed Company. At this time, R. C. Steele retired from the company to form Steele Robertson Co., headquartered in Edmonton. W. D. Dack was appointed President of Steele Briggs. In June 1951, W. D. Dack took control of company operations from the Vancouver interests and, in 1961, the Steele Briggs Seed Co. purchased the Rennie Seed Co.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series contains the resignation of A.J. Maruca as an officer and director of Canada Seeds Ltd. and a report on operating results for the nine-month period ending February 28, 1967. The remainder of the records in this sub-series are financial statements prepared by Meyers Norris Penny & Co.

The sub sub series is divided into two sub sub sub series, including: (1) Financial; and (2) Miscellaneous.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 3 Acquisitions
3.2 Steele Briggs Seed Co. Ltd.

Related Material: Historical information regarding Canada Seeds Ltd. is located in Series 2 (Office of the President/GM), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes), Historical Topics file 10 (Tape 23) and file 11 (Tape 24) of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds.



Comptroller

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4319>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: McS 2 2.3
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1965-1967
Physical Description: 2.5 cm

History /

Biographical:

Prior to 1964, the Manitoba Government representative on the Board of Directors, as well as other members of the Board of McKenzie Seeds, urged A.E. McKenzie to hire a comptroller. Although he said he would take their recommendation under advisement, an appointment was not made until J. Lasby Lowes became President/General Manager in the fall of 1964.

While in Vancouver on business, Lowes and Mr. Wm. Johnston, the Company's lawyer interviewed W. E. (Ted) Chiswell. After conferring with Chris. Flintoft of McDonald, Currie & Co. and George Ilifee, Comptroller General for the Province of Manitoba, Chiswell was hired as the first comptroller at McKenzie Seeds and began his employment with the Company on January 1, 1965. Chiswell later resigned his position and relocated to Winnipeg.

Jim McLaren, one Peckover, Richard Olson and Don Haddock all held the position of comptroller at McKenzie Seeds following Chiswell's resignation. It is not known who held the position after Don Haddock left the company in the mid-1970s.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

Sub-series includes correspondence between W.E. Chiswell, McKenzie Comptroller, and a number of individuals, including Robert A. Steen and Wm. Johnston of Johnston, Garson & Co. (the Company's lawyers), G.T. Smith & Sons Ltd., General Contractors, and Nick Slowchek of Speers Seed Store. The sub-series also contains letters between Chiswell and Lasby Lowes and memos to McKenzie Staff written by Chiswell. Some of the records in the sub-series deal with McKenzie Seeds' name change to McKenzie Seeds Inc.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager

Related Material: Further information regarding the comptroller can be found in Series 2 (Office of the President/General Manager), sub-series 2 (J. Lasby Lowes) Historical Topics, file 13 of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds.

Other correspondence involving the comptroller can be found within the correspondence files of J. Lasby Lowes (Series 2, sub-series 2) of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds.



History of Brandon College Inc.

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4339>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub sub series

Series Number: MG 5 1.1.1

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1961-1963

Physical Description: 8.9 cm

History /

Biographical:

In the early 1960's, A.E. McKenzie set out to write a book chronicling the first 38 years of Brandon College's history. To achieve this goal, he contacted a number of former faculty members and students of Brandon College, and asked them to contribute their recollections of the College. The testimonials were published along with a message from Brandon University's President at the time, Dr. John E. Robbins. Brandon College Inc. also contained comments from McKenzie regarding the Re-establishment of the College.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of custodial history of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub sub series contains correspondence discussing textual and photographic content of the book, clarification of facts, and the format and printing of the book. There is also one newspaper clipping and some proofs. A large part of the sub-series is comprised of the contributions and mailing list for the project. Two copies of the completed book are also included.

The remainder of the documents in the sub-series deal with reactions to the project. Testimonials from well-known individuals such as Mrs. Olive Diefenbaker, a former student at the College, the Minister of Education, and the Premier of Manitoba are contained in the sub-series. As well, fonds includes numerous letters from other individuals, thanking and congratulating McKenzie on the project are included. There is also a file relating to the reaction – not unanimously favorable – of the Brandon College Board of Directors to the project.

The majority of the photographs used in the History of Brandon College Inc. are also included.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

MG 5 A.E. McKenzie fonds

1.1 Brandon College Inc.



J. Lasby Lowes

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4318>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: McS 2 2.2

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1900-1983

Physical Description: 56.2 cm

History /

Biographical:

James Lasby Lowes was born in Brandon on March 12, 1903, and passed away at Brandon General Hospital on August 9, 1986, after a lengthy illness. His wife Jean, his son Lasby Jr., daughter-in-law Carole, and grandsons Kirk and Rick survived him. Lowes also had one sister, Kathleen Conder, of Gross Pointe Mich.

Lowes was a dedicated employee of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. for 47 years, beginning February 13, 1924. Throughout his career with the Company, Lowes worked in various departments: he served as manager of the wholesale department, assistant manager in charge of Field Seed purchases, manager of sales for both domestic and export trade, and Field Seed division manager. In 1964, following A. E. McKenzie's death, Lowes became the President and General Manager of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Although he retired as President and General Manager in 1968, at the request of the Company, Mr. Lowes became Saskatchewan Sales Supervisor. In 1972, he accepted a new role in Public Relations. Here his primary task was to write a corporate history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. and its subsidiary companies.

Lasby Lowes attended Brandon College and was drafted by the Detroit Red Wings. He chose to make his career as a seedsman rather than a hockey player. He served on the Board of Brandon College/University, Brandon General Hospital, the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Lowes was a member of the Kinsman Club of Brandon and an elder in First Church United for many years. He enjoyed gardening. When he was not on the road traveling for the Company, visiting the many distributors of McKenzie seeds in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, he spent a great deal of time at the family cottage at Clear Lake.

Custodial History:

In the course of preparing notes for a history of the McKenzie Seed Co., Mr. Lowes extracted documentary records from the Company files. Records taken from the Company files by Mr. Lowes remain in the historical accounts he created.

See fonds level description of custodial history of A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Scope and Content:

This sub-series contains documents, primarily correspondence dealing with Lowes' years as President/General Manager. The correspondence involves Premier Duff Roblin, the Company lawyer, Wm. Johnson, the Bank of Montreal, and Charles Sharpe & Co. Ltd. Further correspondence relates to trademarks, the sale of the Company, the hiring of Ted Chiswell as Comptroller of McKenzie Seeds, and the change of the Company's name to McKenzie Seeds Ltd.

Subsequent to his retirement from the President/General Manager's office, Lowes undertook the task of writing a history of the McKenzie Co. His Historical Topics cover a wide-range of subjects including the history of the Company, Canadian agriculture and the seed industry, the life and times of A. E. McKenzie, and notes on various employees of McKenzie Seeds and McFayden Seeds. The Topics also include information related to various properties and acquisitions of the Company. There is also information pertaining to the McKenzie catalogues.

The original order in which these records were acquired has not been disturbed. However, the original order appears to be quite haphazard.

To facilitate access for researchers, a summary of the arrangement of Lasby Lowes' Historical Topics and related records has been created.

The sub-series is divided into three sub sub series, including: (1) Correspondence; (2) Historical Topics; and (3) Miscellaneous.

Notes: Lasby Lowes:
President/General Manager: c. 1960-1968, 11.5 cm
Historical Topics: 1900-1983; 44.7 cm

For the most part both the handwritten and typed version of each Historical Topic can be found within sub sub series McS 2 2.2.

Finding Aid: A file level inventory of McS 2 2.2 (Historical Topics) is available.

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager

Related Material: Additional records related to the Brandon Council of Women are located in the Brandon Council of Women Fonds (34-1998) in the S. J. McKee Archives.