

**John MacPhail Collection**

Research Documents, Reports, clippings, letters and policy statements 1960-1998

**Scope and Content:**

The John MacPhail collection is composed of three series which contain reproduced reports, clippings, letters, photographs and policy statements. This collection documents the history of the urban redevelopment within Thunder Bay from amalgamation until the late 1990's. Specifically, this collection is focused upon the development and eventual failure of the Victoriaville Mall as a means of rejuvenating the South Core of Thunder Bay. The collection is arranged alphabetically.

**Series A 97/1/1-26:** Research files, 14cm 1960-1999 (photocopies)

Contains reports, letters and studies on the development of the Victoriaville Mall.

- 1) "Cancellation of Urban Renewal" 1965-1969; letters, press release and statement regarding Port Arthur urban renewal, 25pgs.
- 2) "Chapples" 1972-1981; City of Thunder Bay resolutions regarding the building of Chapples Store, 16pgs.
- 3) "City Hall Relocation" 1974; memorandum regarding the location of the Thunder Bay city hall, 10pgs.
- 4) "Fort William Urban Renewal" 1964-1971; letters, intergovernmental reports, memorandums and reviews of the zoning and development of Fort William, 2cm
- 5) "Fort William 1970-1974" Letters, memorandums and reports from the Downtown Business Association regarding the urban renewal of Fort William, 13pgs.
- 6) "Fort William 1976" Minutes, reports and open letters regarding the building of a mall in downtown Fort William, 11pgs
- 7) "Fort William 1977" Approval of the Victoriaville Mall by the City of Thunder Bay and province. Includes: development plans and budget estimates, 58pgs.
- 8) "Fort William 1979" Minutes from the Thunder Bay Redevelopment Authority regarding the construction costs of redevelopment, 10pgs.
- 9) "General Commercial Development" 1955, 1961, 1965; letters and reports regarding the concentration of commercial industries and the effects on the city of Thunder Bay, 13pgs.
- 10) "Lakehead Planning Board" 1958-1969; letters, minutes, newspaper clippings and reports regarding the establishment of the Lakehead Planning Board to supervise joint economic planning between Fort William and Port Arthur, 3cm.
- 11) "Letters to Lawrence Timko" 1979; Letters to Alderman L. Timko regarding the cancellation of the downtown canopy project, 11pgs.

- 12) "PA-FW Joint Liaison Committee" 1962, 1965; Inaugural report from the Port Arthur-Fort William Joint Liaison Committee. There is specific mention to the acceptance of Daylight Savings Time, 8pgs.
- 13) "Port Arthur Parking Structure" 1971-1973; Response letters and newspaper articles regarding the building of a downtown parking garage near Park St., 26pgs.
- 14) "Port Arthur Urban Renewal 1960's" Letters, press releases and Thunder Bay policy statement regarding the creation of a downtown shopping center, 8pgs.
- 15) "Port Arthur urban renewal; 1970's" Studies, reports, letters, minutes, policy statements and proposals regarding the renewal of downtown Port Arthur, 2cm.
- 16) "Port Arthur - Shuniah Dispute" 1961, 1968; Provincial recommendations and municipal concerns regarding the construction of a shopping center on the north side of HWY 11. Specifically its effect on the downtown renewal project, 11pgs.
- 17) "Rita Umbracio's Statements" 1980-1982; Financial reports on the Victoriaville costs and an evaluation of the opening ceremonies, 11pgs.
- 18) "Shopping Mall Controversy – 1970" Letters of objection to a new shopping center on the northwest corner of Arthur St., notice of a special meeting to discuss this development, 28pgs.
- 19) "South core Revitalization" 1975; Briefs, minutes and reports conducted by the Core Team in order to explore the development of the south core of Thunder Bay, 3cm.
- 20) "South Core Redevelopment 1979" City of Thunder bay report on the costs of the south core development, 40pgs.
- 21) "South core/T. Bay Commercial Studies." Several studies produced by the City of Thunder Bay that examine the effects of south core redevelopment, 21pgs.
- 22) "Victoriaville 1990-1999" Newspaper articles, letters, financial statements and policy summaries regarding the poor conditions of the Victoriaville Mall, 21pgs.
- 23) "Victoriaville: A Resume" A complete history of the Victoriaville Mall up to 1983 including: a list of meetings regarding the mall and several maps, 58pgs.
- 24) "Victoriaville Reports" 1981, 1986, 1988; Three reports commissioned by the City of Thunder Bay regarding the evaluation of the Victoriaville Mall, 62pgs.
- 25) "Victoriaville Yearly Reports1" 1981-1982, 1988; One report and two resolutions by the City of Thunder Bay evaluating and making recommendations regarding the Victoriaville Mall, 21pgs.
- 26) "Ward System" 1974; A letter from Mayor McLennan advocating the continued use of the general vote system within Thunder Bay as opposed to the ward system, 2pgs.

**Series A 97/2/1:** Binder of newspaper clippings from the Daily Times Journal and Chronicle Journal that reference the development of the Victoriaville Mall, 5cm. 1968-1998 (photocopy).

- 1) Newspaper articles documenting the history of the Victoriaville Mall 1968-1998

**Series A 97/3/1:** Reports and pictures including: an invitation, 56pgs. 1976, 1980 (originals and photocopies).

- 1) "Shopping Centers in Canada – 1951-1973" 1976; A research paper conducted by Statistics Canada examining the shopping mall phenomena, 52pgs.
- 2) Political Cartoon of Mickey Hennessy (Photocopy), 1pg
- 3) Invitation for the grand opening of the Victoriaville Mall (Original)
- 4) Photo of the Lethbridge manager of Eaton's (Original)
- 5) Photo of Victoria Ave. (Photocopy)

**Biographical Sketch:**

John MacPhail was a graduate student at Lakehead University where he conducted extensive research on the Victoriaville Mall for the purposes of writing his thesis. His thesis was completed in 1999. Upon graduating with his master's degree he moved to Oakville in order to teach Grade seven.

**Additional Information:**

*Associated Material:* See photo catalogue 2006.12