

**East Fort William Women's Institute Fonds**

Original, 87cm, 1914-1995

**Scope and content**

The East Fort William Woman's Institute Fonds are a collection of Minute books, newspaper clippings, newsletters, research documents, administrative documents, correspondence, membership information, financial records and scrapbooks that were donated by the East Fort William Women's Institute. As a collection the East Fort William Woman's Institute Fonds give an excellent understanding of the activities of this organization which has operated in the Thunder Bay area for over eighty years before disbanding in 1995.

**E77/1/1-17:** Minute books, 40cm, 1914-1995 (original)

This series contains sixteen minute books that document the activities, finances and membership of the East Fort William Woman's Institute. Also, contained within some of the minute books are some correspondence and receipts. This series is arranged chronologically.

- 1) 1914-1918, 1cm
- 2) 1918-1920, 1cm
- 3) 1923-1925, 1cm
- 4) 1925-1927, 1cm
- 5) 1927-1929, 1cm
- 6) 1930-1934, 2cm
- 7) 1934-1941, 2cm
- 8) 1941-1946, 2cm
- 9) 1946-1950, 2cm
- 10) 1951-1955, 2cm
- 11) 1955-1959, 2cm
- 12) 1959-1965, 2cm
- 13) 1965-1971, 2cm
- 14) 1971-1974, 2cm
- 15) 1974-1981, 2cm
- 16) 1981-1987, 2cm
- 17) 1993-1995, 1cm

**E 77/2/1:** Newspaper and magazine clippings, 2cm, 1920-1995 (original)

1) Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1920-1995; Contains clippings that were removed from local publications for the purpose of documenting historical events in the Thunder Bay area. The clippings are arranged chronologically. 2cm

**E 77/3/1-5:** Newsletters, 8cm, 1942-1995 (original)

These newsletters are arranged alphabetically.

- 1) "Associated Country Women of the World" 1994-1995; Five newsletters containing pictures, stories and letters that document the activities of the ACWW, 1cm

- 2) "Home and Country" 1942-1948 1984-1995; Seventeen newsletters that contain information on the activities and events sponsored by the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, 3cm
- 3) "Municipal Review" 1977; One newsletter published by the municipality of Thunder Bay describing the activities of the various municipal divisions, 2pgs
- 4) "Northwest Region Agri-Rural Newsletter" 1990-1995; Several newsletters published by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Within these newsletters are editorials, meeting notices and articles relating to farming, 2cm
- 5) "Thunder Bay Museum Newsletter" 1993, 1995; Two newsletters published by the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society. Contained within these newsletters are articles, management lists, exhibit information and articles, 4pgs

**E 77/4/1:** Historical research documents, 2cm, 1959-1995 (original)

- 1) Historical research documents, 1959-1995; These documents contain historical information on Thunder Bay and the surrounding area. They were collected by the East Fort William Women's Institute for the purposes of dissemination amongst their members and community. Contained within these documents are several comprehensive histories of Thunder Bay and Fort William. 2cm

**E 77/5/1-3:** Administrative documents, 5cm, 1945-1995 (original)

- 1) 1945-1995, Operating procedure books for the East Fort William Women's Institute. These books outline the beurocratic process of the organization, 3cm
- 2) 1986-1994, Lists of executives for the East Fort William division of the Ontario Women's Institute, 1cm
- 3) 1988-1995, Meeting information. Contained within these documents is information on meeting agenda's, 1cm

**E 77/6/1:** Field correspondence file, 1cm, 1991-1994 (original)

- 1) "Women's Institute Field Correspondence" 1991-1994; Contained within this file are several correspondence between the East Fort William Women's Institute and various groups, 1cm

**E 77/7/1-3:** Membership information, 3cm, 1959-1966 (original)

- 1) Adress books, c1950, Two address books containing the name and contact information of all of the East Fort William Women's Institute's members, 2cm
- 2) Guest book, 1959, One white guestbook signed by the members of the East Fort William Women's Institute on the night of the 50th anniversary of their organization, 1cm
- 3) "Roll call book", 1959-1966; One brown notebook used to record attendance at meetings of the East Fort William Women's Institute, 18pgs

**E 77/8/1-2:** Financial records, 4cm, 1938-1995 (original)

- 1) 1938-1992, Ledger books; Three ledger books containing the financial information of the East Fort William Women's Institute including bank balances, donations, and costs. 4cm

- 2) 1990-1995, Bank books; Two Royal Bank bank books containing the account balances for the East Fort William Women's Institute, 24pgs
- E 77/9/1:** Biographical books, 3cm, 1960 (original)
- 1) Books, 1960; Two hardcover blue books entitled, "Ontario Women's Institute". These books document the history of the Ontario Women's Institute and that of its founder Adelaide Hoodless. They were commissioned on the 50th anniversary of the organization, 3cm
- E 77/10/1-5:** Scrapbooks, 14cm, 1956-1990 (original)
- These scrapbooks are arranged chronologically
- 1) 1956-1957; One leather bound book entitled "The Tweedsmuir Book of History - East Fort William". Contained within this scrapbook are various newspaper clippings and articles regarding the history of Thunder Bay and the East Fort William Women's Institute, 4cm
  - 2) 1958-1959; Ibid, 4cm
  - 3) 1966-1967; One bound, red book entitled "Scraps". Contained within are various newspaper clippings that document the history of Thunder Bay and the East Fort William Women's Institute, 2cm
  - 4) 1967; One stapled booklet entitled, "Norway - EFWWI". Contained within are various newspaper clippings that involve Norwegians and their culture in the Thunder Bay area, 10pgs
  - 5) 1990; One green untitled scrapbook. Contained within are various cards and correspondence involving the East Fort William Women's Institute. 4cm
- E 77/11/1-4:** Miscellaneous, 3cm, 1958-1995 (original)
- These documents are arranged alphabetically
- 1) Certificates, 1988-1993; Two certificated that were presented to the East Fort William Women's Institute. The first certificate recognizes the organizations contributions to the 4-H club while the second certificate was presented to the East Fort William Women's Institute by the city of Thunder Bay to commemorate their 80th anniversary. 2pgs
  - 2) Documents, 1960-1995; Various correspondence, lyrics, letterhead, advertisements and notes compiled by the East Fort William Women's Institute, 2cm
  - 3) Poster, 1989; One black and white poster entitled "Working with Women Worldwide". This poster was published by the ACWW, 1pg
  - 4) Quilt book, 1958; One quilt book that contains various patterns that were compiled for the East Fort William Women's Institute Handicap Project in 1958. 16pgs
- E 77/12/1-2:** Tweedsmuir Histories – 4cm -1943-1995 (originals)
- Firsthand accounts, newspaper articles, photographs, and other documents covering the history of the Women's Institute and the community at large. Architecture and historic figures seem to fill most pages not focused on the Women's Institute itself. The folder connected to it contains loose pages that were within the larger book. These were separated to minimize the risk of them being lost.

**Biographical sketch:**

The East Fort William Women's Institute was founded in 1910 (or 1909 depending on the source) and was amongst the earliest such groups in the Thunder Bay area, following the Slate River branch and roughly contemporary to the O'Conner branch. They, in turn, were inspired by the earliest institute founded in Stoney Creek (modern day Eastern Hamilton). Originally the East Fort William branch served the entire region of Fort William, but eventually the western segment split away. According to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario website the East Fort William Women's Institute came to an end in 1995, the same year as the last dated material in the fonds.

**Associated material**

Associated Material: See Photo and Artifact Catalogue 2006.85.1-2006.85.3