

E84

Thunder Bay Memorial Society Fonds

Originals and photocopies, 70.5 cm of textual records, 1963-2007.

Scope and Content: The fonds of the Thunder Bay Memorial Society consists of six series which span from 1963 to 2007. It includes minutes of various meetings, legal documents, trial transcripts, surveys, research, reports, and a wide variety of miscellaneous documents, largely consisting of correspondence and newspaper clippings. All of this information can be found in 47 file folders, three binders, one ledger, and one spiral bound book.

Series E 84/111-9: Minutes, 42.5 cm, 1963-2003 (originals and photocopies).

One binder, one ledger, 34 folders. Organized chronologically. Related correspondence, financial legal documents, forms, newsletters, speeches, pamphlets, membership lists, media references, petitions, book lists in some folders

1) Annual General Meetings- June 1972-April2002.

Binder. 1979, 1980, 2002 no minutes, only agenda.

2) Board of Directors of the Thunder Bay Memorial Society meetings - September 1972-January 2003.

Ledger and file folders. Several agenda and minutes missing, with no corresponding supplementary material. Most common after February 1990. Later years (1996 onward) common to find agenda, but no corresponding minutes. Many of included agendas contain notations from board members.

3)Steering Committee Minutes- September 1971-May 1972.

File folders. February 1972 missing.

4) Co-Op Annual General Meetings -April1988-April1990, April1994-April1995.

File folders. No minutes, only agenda and ads 1990, 1994, 1995

5) Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies Annual General Meetings - October 1978, June 1982, September 1998, September 2000, September 2002.

File folders

6) Co-Op Memorial and Removal Services Board of Directors meeting- July 1990.

File folders

7) Special Planning Committee meeting- April1978.

File folders

8) Education Committee meeting- December 1980.

File folders

9) Creative Committee meeting- June 1982.

File folders

Series E 84/2/1-2: Legal Documents, 4.5 cm (originals and photocopies, file folders)

1) Bills and Briefs -various dates.

Briefs to parliament prepared by Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies, private members bills for funeral legislation, notes, media articles, and related correspondence

2) Bylaws - various dates.

Bylaws and further amendments for Memorial Society and Co-Op Memorial and Removal Services; incorporation papers and related correspondence for Co-Op

Series E 84/3/1-9: Trial and Appeal Transcripts, 7.5 cm (photocopies, one binder)

- 1) January 16, 1981
- 2) May 19, 1981
- 3) May 20, 1981
- 4) September 9, 1981
- 5) December 1981
- 6) April 16, 1982
- 7) May 14, 1982
- 8) May 19, 1982
- 9) October 7, 1983

Series E 84/4/1-2: Surveys and Reports, 3.5 cm (originals and photocopies, file folders)

- 1) Action Research Project -1973.

Job posting and resume for the individual who carried out the project, copy of "Questionnaire for an Action Research Survey of Attitudes of Thunder Bay Residents," project outline, completed conclusions, results, publicity material

- 2) Ontario Funeral Service Association Study -1979.

Correspondence, copies of questionnaire, and completed study

Series E 84/5/1-4: Research notes and reports, 2 cm (originals and photocopies, file folders, spiral bound book)

- 1) "Highlights of Meetings held by the Board of Directors," Author Unknown. January 1979-November 1995
- 2) "Fourteen Years in Two Pages," Dolores Dickey.
- 3) "Memorial Society of Thunder Bay, 1942-2002," A. Gruno.
- 4) "Simplicity, Dignity, and Moderate Expense: Confrontation or Common Sense?" Dolores Dickey, 2007 (first draft)

Series E 84/6/1: Miscellaneous, 12.5 cm (originals and photocopies, file folders)

- 1) Miscellaneous documents- 1963, 1965-1966, 1971-2003.

Media clippings, correspondence, financial documents, newsletters, speech and interview transcripts, petitions, pamphlets, Finnish community outreach information, medical/anatomy donation forms.

Organizational Sketch: The Memorial Society of Thunder Bay was established in 1971, after the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship was unable to establish a mortuary society in 1963. The intent of the memorial society is to provide members of the society with a simple, yet dignified burial service that does not require what is often seen as extravagance from the funeral industry. The society found resistance constantly as they grew, largely from the four funeral homes in Thunder Bay. In order to circumvent the legalities associated with removal and burial/cremation, Co-Op Memorial and Removal Services was established in 1978 by seeking incorporation, though the official charter was not received until 1979. After much contention over the removal of a deceased member, who did not want to be embalmed, from a funeral home, Eric Gowen (president) and the Co-Op were given summons to appear in court in September, 1980. The ensuing trial changed the face of funeral legislation and has had a resounding impact. The Co-Op Memorial and Removal services became the Northwest Funeral Alternative in 1997. The Memorial Society of Thunder Bay continues to work in partnership with Northwest Funeral Alternative to provide dignified burials and cremations at reasonable prices.

Additional Information: Donated by Dolores Dickey