

Art Widnall fonds

predominant 1964-1980
24 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

Arthur Widnall was born in 1897 in Yorkshire, England and came to Canada in 1903 where he settled on homesteads at Silver Mountain and Whitefish Lake. He moved to Fort William in 1908. His father, Fred, operated Widnall Dairy until 1930. Art was a noted athlete and runner competing in the 1922 Caledonian Games in Calgary. He served in the Royal Flying Corps during World War I and after the war worked as a private secretary for the C.P.R.. He later entered the University of Manitoba, specializing in dairying. He worked in his father's dairy from 1923-1930, then became secretary manager of the Fort William Parks Board and later director of recreation and tourism director for the City of Fort William. He acted as voluntary secretary for the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce and later became its president. Widnall was for a long time associated with the Fort William Chamber of Commerce and, until 1975, Rotary International. He was past president of the Fort William Rotary Club and district governor of Rotary International. During World War II he was chairman of the Victory Loan Sales and Salvage Committee locally and secretary of the local ration board. He married Olive Eunice Atkins (school teacher and artist) in 1931 and had one son, Arthur Lloyd. Olive died in 1979 and Art in ca. 1982. Widnall was a Progressive Conservative and served as secretary of the Fort William P.C. Riding Association in the 1960s and 1970s. He ran unsuccessfully as P.C. candidate in a Federal election in the late 1950s or early 1960s. He served as alderman of Fort William in 1968-1969.

Scope and Content

The Art Widnall papers relate to Widnall's personal affairs as a member of various clubs and organizations such as the Rotary Club, the Emergency Measures Organization and the Thunder Bay District Municipal League, to his family life and to his and others' activities on the Fort William Progressive Conservative Association in the 1970s. Arranged into two series.

Series A 18/1/1-17 - Files - 13cm. - [ca.1972-1977]

Files of the Fort William Progressive Conservative Riding Association:

- 1) Minutes of meetings, correspondence, notices of meetings and agenda relating to the Association's meetings, 1975-1977
- 2) Minutes, correspondence, notices of meeting and agenda regarding the Association's Memento committee, 1972-1978
- 3) Notice of meeting and minutes of Association, 1973-1974
- 4) Membership file containing lists of members and workers for the Association, 1976-1977
- 5) Committee reports, outlines of committee memberships and duties and includes related correspondence, ballots, reports, notes and financial statements, 1976
- 6) Correspondence--misc. 1975-1977 and that relating to John Diefenbaker's Dinner, Feb. 1961
- 7) Constituency Office file containing a budget for 1976
- 8) Donations file containing lists and letter, 1976
- 9) Elections file containing 1975 Provincial election returns for Fort William and minutes from

- an election organization meeting in 1974 and a manuscript on campaign organization.
- 10) Federal Leadership Convention file, 1976 along with memos, reports, and minutes, 1975-1976
 - 11) Federal Headquarters correspondence file, 1972-1977
 - 12) Luncheon and dinner file with memos, receipts and notes, 1974-1975
 - 13) Membership Drive file with letters and memos, 1977
 - 14) President's file of letters, memos, minutes of meetings, Rocky Albertini's tenure as president, 1972-1973
 - 15) Redistribution file of letters, copy of the redistribution act of 1975, bulletins, memos all regarding the federal riding redistribution, 1976
 - 16) Sophia Tuyl file regarding her campaign for vice-president of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party
 - 17) Ontario Progressive Conservative Women's Assoc. correspondence file, 1973-1974
- Series A 18/2/1-29** - Personal Papers - 11cm. - [c.1964-1980]
- 26 files containing the personal papers of Art Widnall arranged chronologically according to subject:
- 1-2) two files relating to rental of property at 218 N. Brodie St., 1967-1980
 - 3-4) Three files dealing with Widnall's job as co-ordinator of the local Emergency Measures Organization including correspondence with the commissioner of the branch, 1964-1967
 - 5) Personal letters to and from W.A. Kennedy, 1966 & 1969
 - 6) Personal letters to and from Widnall's niece and family, 1979-1980
 - 7) Letters to and from George Hees, M.P., 1967
 - 8) Letters and documents pertaining to the leasing of Loch Lomond watershed by the City of Fort William from the Fort William Indian band, 1968
 - 9) Articles of agreement between Widnall and Marjorie Macdonald pertaining to the sale of land at 350 N. Archibald St., 1929
 - 10) Stock certificate, 1979
 - 11) Newspaper clippings relating to Minaki Lodge, 1974 & 1977
 - 12) Misc. letters to friends and relatives, 1924-1980
 - 13) Letters and clippings relating to Moose Lodge, 1964-1973
 - 14) Letter to and from Thunder Bay Parks and Recreation, 1973-1978
 - 15) Letters and clippings dealing with the possible construction of a senior citizen's home on Paterson Park, 1973-1974
 - 16) Letters and clipping regarding Widnall's retirement and testimonial dinner, 1976 and his retirement, 1978
 - 17) File for local Rotary Club, 1968-1979
 - 18) File for Rotary Club International convention in Minneapolis, 1974
 - 19) Items relating to Thunder Bay District Municipal League, 1968-1969
 - 20) File relating to U.I.C. claim, 1968
 - 21) Letters and log dealing with vacation to Western Canada, 1966
 - 22) Letters to and biography of Widnall's son, Arthur, 1964-1965, 1975
 - 23) Income tax files, 1943-1948
 - 24) Items relating to financial estate of Lance Widnall, Art's brother who died in 1972
 - 25) Last will and testament of Olive Widnall with funeral bills and invitations to an exhibition of her paintings
 - 26) File on Walter Widnall, brother

- 27) Passport, 1941
- 28) Score card for track meet, 1923
- 29) Programme for track meet, 1922