

# Blake-McNaughten Collection

1890-1964

153 cm of textual records

## *Biographical Sketch*

Alexander McNaughten, city clerk for Fort William from 1900-1945, collected and preserved material in and out of office relating to the history of the city. He was born on 23 Dec. 1866 and died 3 Dec. 1945. He came to Fort William in 1890, taught school for two years and then worked at the Port Office from 1892-1900. He assembled a large collection of primary documents from City Hall, clippings from local newspapers and interviews with individuals. When he died his research collection was given to Sidney H. Blake, treasurer of Fort William, 1945-1955, and civic administrator 1955-1965.

Blake was born in 1913, in Fort William, and died in office in 1965. A prominent and active member of the community he was affiliated with the city's housing authority, Neebing Valley Conservation Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, the Home for the Aged, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Masonic Order, the Canadian Legion, Civil Defense, Lakehead Industrial Commission, the Association of Civic Executives, the International city Managers Association, and the Ontario Municipal Association. He graduated from the Royal Military college in Kingston and the University of Chicago. He was a major in W.W. II.

Blake's intention was to publish a book on the history of Fort William, so much of his and McNaughten's material was compiled in manuscript form here.

## *Scope and Content*

The Blake-McNaughten collection is composed of both original documents, mostly pertaining to the business of the city of Fort William, and a research collection of clippings and information on the history of the Lakehead (primarily Fort William). The fonds also includes some documents relating to the Mount McKay Golf Club and the Old Timer's Club. It is broken down into eight series by producer with one, A 47/7, for miscellaneous small items.

**Series A 47/1/1-36** - Files of the treasury department, Town and City of Fort William - 29cm. - 1889-1925

1-7) Correspondence (1903-1906, 1912, 1925) including that re: taxation, garnisheed wages, debentures, expenditures, fees, and school board site.

8) Reports to the Minister of Agriculture of existing municipal debenture debts (1907-1908, 1910-1911).

9) Deeds and debentures (1897-1900)

10) Drafts of debentures to be issued (1909)

11) Registry Officer account book (1906) listing occupants and the value of all buildings and a list of owners of all lots in Fort William by street and lists of debenture debts held by the town of Fort William up to May 1905.

12) Liquor license statements (1905-1913)

13) City employee time cheques (1903-1904)

14) Miscellaneous receipts and certificates of registration of births and deaths (1901-1902)

15) Misc. cheques, memos and certificates (1902-12) including city financial statement for 1903.

16) Treasurer's vouchers for town of Fort William (1902).

17) Treasurer's vouchers for city of Fort William (1910-1911).

18) One envelope of 7 Fort William debentures and stock specimens and 2 oversized Neebing debentures

19-36) Fort William treasurer's reports and financial statements, 1896, 1897, 1901-1910, 1913, 1915, 1917-1918.

**Series A 47/2/1-17** - Files of the Public Utilities (hydro-electric power, lights, waterworks and civic railway) department of Fort William - 10 cm. - 1893-1926

1) Bids to furnish electric street lamps (1894).

2) Contract and by-laws concerning Fort William's water supply (1894).

3) Correspondence concerning the sale of debentures for Fort William Waterworks project (1898).

4) Report of water and light commission asking for construction of a steam power plant (1898).

5) Three reports on Fort William's water supply by W. Murdoch (ca.1898), A.E. Farncombe (1901) and H.S. Hancock Jr. (ca.1910). and memo of agreement between Fort William and the Dept. of Indian Affairs re: access to water from Loch Lomond (1910).

6) Contract: Fort William and E.S. Jennison to build a waterworks (1898-1899).

7) Letters, telegrams, and clippings re: the power developments of the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario (1922).

8) Miscellaneous acts, programs, letters and brochures regarding public utilities of Fort William and Port Arthur (ca.1911-1912).

9) Specifications for Ark, Incandescent and steam plant, ca.1899

10) Specifications for extensions of electric lighting system, Fort William 1903

11) Bylaw and schedules for water and light rates, 1899

12-14) Fort William water, light and telephone system financial statements, 1902, 1906, 1907

15) Hydro-electric commission of Fort William, souvenir booklet, turning on power at Cameron Falls, 1926

16) Report on water supply system, Fort William, 1912

17) Invitation to turning on of Loch Lomond water system, 1909

**Series A 47/3/1** - Files of the Public Works department of Fort William - 2cm. - 1894-1895

1) Bills, schedules, petition and assessment data relating to the construction of sewers on Victoria Ave. and Brodie St. (1894-1895).

**Series A 47/4/1** - Records of the tax collectors of the Corporation of the town and city of Fort William, E.S. Rutledge, tax collector - 1cm. - 1898-1900

1) Miscellaneous memos and statements regarding the collection of taxes in Fort William, 1898-1900.

**Series A 47/5/1** - Files of the Personnel Department of the City of Fort William - 4cm. - 1962

1) Reports and correspondence relating to the City of Fort William staff relations in 1962, including Fort William Civic Employees Federation and City Hall Staff Assoc. records, personnel management reports, salary reports, job titles and descriptions, union/city correspondence, arbitration records and salary negotiations of fire fighters and transit employees.

**Series A 47/6/1-9** - Files of the council and town clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Fort William. Files of correspondence arranged by applicant industry for bonuses - 3cm. - 1885-1930

1) Correspondence of Mayor John McKellar of Fort William and George Parker of George A. Parker Flour and Millstuffs, Minneapolis, concerning the erection of a flour mill in Fort William, 1890-1897.

2) Correspondence of Fort William's town council and John King, merchant regarding the establishment of a pulp and paper mill, 1894.

- 3) Correspondence to the mayor and council of Fort William regarding the building of a blast furnace and rolling mill in Fort William, 1894. D.F. Burk is the main proponent of the scheme.
  - 4) Letters to Fort William town council regarding the erection of a blast furnace in Fort William, 1892.
  - 5) Correspondence regarding the wording of an agreement to bonus the Fort William Car Co. by the city of Fort William, 1908.
  - 6) City clerk's fact book, 1885-1924 with statistics and informatoin about Fort William
  - 7) By law #1517 respecting streets, 1914
  - 8) Clerk's voters' list, 1903-1930 recording the results of Dominion and Provincial elections in local ridings
  - 9) By laws respecting the fire brigade, ca.1890, 15 p.
- Series A 47/7/1-4** - Correspondence and minutes from the Mayor's and city clerk's offices, town of Fort William, the Mount McKay Golf Club and the Old Timer's Club - 1cm. - 1903-1910
- 1) Correspondence originating in Mayor J. Dyke's officer regarding the insurance claims on the recently burned town hall, 1903, transcribed.
  - 2) Claims for damages relating to the typhoid epidemic of 1905-1906 against the town of Fort William, 1906.
  - 3) Minutes of meetings, membership rolls and clippings relating to the creation and activities of the Old Timer's Club, 1905.
  - 4) Minutes of the Mount McKay Golf Club from its inauguration in 1908 to 1910.
- Series A 47/8/1-6** - Manuscript binders - 87cm. - ca.1860-1964
- Binders of manuscript material written by S.H. Blake and several others, often transcribed from sources such as newspapers, books, city records, and personal interviews. Arranged by subject into twelve binders each broken down into parts and sections by S.H. Blake.
- 1) Index to seven binders. Some material referred to in the index is missing from the binders as it was removed prior to cataloguing. The illustrations in this collection referred to in the index have been transferred to the photographic collection. See 977.113.1-473
  - 2) Part 1, section I gives a brief chronology of the history of Fort William, the origins of street names and geography. Section II covers the Ojibway Indians -- primarily an excerpt from the diary of J.J. Vickers on treaty making, 1859. Section III gives biographical data on Alexander McNaughten and Donald N. Martin, both Fort William city clerks.
  - 3) Part 1, Section IV recounts the history of the departments, boards, utilities and services of the town and city of Fort William, including cemeteries, schools, hospitals, fire, police and parks departments, hydro-electric, waterworks, telephone, and transit. Illustrated.
  - 4) Part 1, Section V, covers the early legends of the region, early Fort William history in the era of the fur trade, and the early building of a town including topics such as the Riel Rebellion, Jesuits, shipping, grain trade, the C.P.R., personalities of the local Hudson's Bay Co. fort, biographies of early pioneers of Fort William and the political process of incorporation of Fort William.
  - 5) Part 1, Section VI deals with the role of women in early Fort William history. Section VII gives short biographical sketches of many prominent citizens of the 20th century in Fort William along with some of their comments or speeches. Section VIII examines Great Lakes Paper Co. in 1930 and 1964, Abitibi in 1930, the Canadian Car and Foundry Co. and Searle elevator in 1928. Section IX is a short history of four local newspapers. Section X contains a list of some of Fort William's barristers and solicitors.
  - 6) Part 2, entitled: "Political History and the Man and Women who made it Possible", covers

topics such as: lists of MPPs and MPs; lists of Mayors and councillors of Fort William, 1892-1964; statistical information such as Fort William's population, tax rate and assessment, 1892-1963; reminiscences of early Fort William; correspondence regarding the town hall fire of 1903; new town hall, 1903; pamphlet regarding municipal ownership 1904; report of the typhoid epidemic in Fort William 1906; advertisements and programs; the postal service; street by-law 1914; agreement with Department of Indian Affairs 1910; speeches of mayors Peltier and Young; Act regarding Mt. McKay and Kakabeka Railway 1912; the 52nd Battalion.

7) Continuation of Part 2, "Political History of Fort William" covering the following topics: Royal Canadian Legion, Royal Edward Hotel, Monuments, first airport, J.R. Lumby, reminiscences of E.S. Rutledge 1930, municipal elections (reminiscences by A. McNaughten), the sanatorium, manuscript by Mayor R.B. Pow entitled "Fort William" 1936, Grandview Lodge, Paterson Park, sewage disposal plant, post office, public utilities, and various mayors.

8) Part 3: statutes of the Corporation of the City of Fort William, 1891-1960, indexed.

9) List of names and numbers of all bona fide Fort William residents to enlist in the Canadian armed forces during the period from the beginning of World War II to January 1944.

10) Manuscript of 108 pages on "Fort William -- Her Legends -- Geography -- Early History". Covers the history of Fort William up to her incorporation as a town in 1892. Contains much material from earlier binders.

11) Collection of transcribed documents, clippings and reminiscences relating to the legends, geography and early history of Port Arthur, covering topics such as town government, daily life, manufacturing (blast furnaces and shipyards), churches, personalities, reminiscences, education, etc.

12) Political history of Port Arthur with a list of mayors, mostly incomplete.

**Series A 47/9/1-4** - Reports, City of Fort William - 1 cm. - 1906-1914

1) *The Sanitary Investigation* Report by Thomas A. Starkey, 1906

2-3) Fort William Engineer's Annual Reports, 1909, 1910 including reports of City Treasurer and Assessment Commissioner for 1910

4) Report of the Fort William Playground Commission, 1914

**Series A 47/10/1** - Programs and by laws - 3 cm. - 1895-1960

Programs and by laws respecting clubs, organizations and events in Fort William, including Thunder Bay Historical Society (1912), Twin Cities Real Estate Assoc. by laws (1909), Curling club (1895), Free masons (1926, 1937, 1942, 1944, 1947), West Algoma Local Council of Women (1945), Oddfellows (1944, 1948), Board of Trade of Fort William (1912), Nanna Bijou Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix (1938, 1949), Fort William Aero Club (1929), Diamond Jubilee (1927), plaques unveiling (1960), Paterson Sailors' Memorial (1946), coronation of Queen Elizabeth II (1953), farewell concert, 94<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion (1916).

**Series A 47/11/1-34** - Publications re: promotion of Fort William - 12 cm. - 1900-1960

1) *Post Office Directory*, 1900-1901 for Northwestern Ontario

2-5) *Annual Reports* of St. Andrew's Presb. Church, 1906, 1931, 1935, 1946

6) *Fort William, the Future Manufacturing, Industrial and Commercial Centre*, 1906

7) Fort William, The Fastest Growing Spot, 1907

8) *The Buck-Eye*, ca.1908

9) *Lake Shippers' Clearance Assoc.*, 1909

10) *The Portal to the West, Mariday Park*, 1910

11) *Souvenir, Trades Congress of Canada*, 1910

12) *Municipal Ownership at Fort William*, 1904

- 13) *Monthly Guide*, 1912
  - 14) *The Inland Waterways of Canada*, 1913
  - 15) *Fort William, Port Arthur, The Twin Lakes Cities*, 1913
  - 16) *Electricity in Grain Elevators*, by H.E. Stafford, 1915
  - 17-19) *Annual Reports of McKellar Hospital*, 1911-1913
  - 20-21) *The Iridos*, 1926, 1927)
  - 22) *Grain*, 1928 (statistics on Fort William, 1910-1927)
  - 23-24) *The Oracle*, yearbooks for FWCI (1931, 1936)
  - 25-28) CPR publications, 1921, 1936, 1945, 1957
  - 29) *Factual Brevities, Fort William*, ca.1930
  - 30) *Look to Canada for Expansion*, ca.1950
  - 31) *Fort William, Ont., "Seaport of the Prairies"*, ca.1963
  - 32) *The Fort William Story*, 1960
  - 33) Ontario Traffic Conference newsletter, 1963
  - 34) *To the Canadian Manufacturers Assoc.*, 1906
- Series A 47/12/1** - Orders - 1 cm. - 1937, 1950  
Orders of the 18<sup>th</sup> Medium Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, Officers' list (1947) of the 40<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment, RCA
- Series A 47/13/1** - Misc.  
Documents including Grain Exchange advertisement, stock certificates, insurance letters, cheques, elections handbill, notices, deed of land, passport, telegram (Marks to McKellar, 1893)
- Additional Information*  
*Associated Material* - See photographic collection 977.113.+ and 973.105.+