

Thunder Bay Chambers of Commerce fonds

1885-1975

225 cm of textual records

Administrative history

The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce began as two separate organizations, the Port Arthur and the Fort William Boards of Trade. The Port Arthur Board of Trade was founded on 21 April 1885 in order to nurture a healthy business climate, develop local industries, attract business, lobby governments regarding issues such as trade, transportation, harbours, mining, forestry, grain trade and shipping. It operated through a committee structure. Early committees were formed ad hoc, to discuss and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding specific issues. Later committees became permanent standing bodies responsible for all matters pertaining to a specific subject. The membership was voluntary. It changed its name to the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce in 1922.

The Fort William Board of Trade possibly grew out of the Kaministiquia Club that was formed in 1879 to look after Fort William's business interests then threatened by an attempt by Prince Arthur's Landing in 1878 to gain control of the entire area through the passage of the Shuniah Act (i.e. to annex the area on the Kam River where the CPR terminal was situated). It received its charter on April 4, 1891, and operated in the same manner as the Port Arthur Board of Trade. Its name was changed to the Fort William Chamber of Commerce on 19 May 1930.

The Port Arthur and Fort William Chambers of Commerce were voluntarily dissolved on 13 Jan. 1965 and were incorporated together into the Lakehead Chamber of Commerce in that same year. In 1970 they changed the name again, this time to the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Scope and Content

The Thunder Bay Chambers of Commerce fonds is a collection of minute books, administrative records, exhibits, scrapbooks, certificates, reports, and other miscellaneous records regarding the business of the Chambers of Commerce of Fort William, Port Arthur and Thunder Bay.

Series E 1/1/1-7. - Minute books. - 43 cm. - 1889-1964

Minute books of the Port Arthur Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce, bound and arranged chronologically. Each book contains lists of members, general minutes, resolutions and petitions, transcripts of speeches, financial reports, letters, committee minutes, clippings, and agenda. The 1940-1964 books are arranged chronologically back to front.

1) 1889-1912 (487 pages, mostly handwritten) -also on microfilm.

2) 1913-1914 (100 fol, typed) -also on microfilm.

3) 1914-1920.

4) 1921-1927.

5) 1940-1955 (ca.600 fol.)

6) 1956-1959 (ca.300 fol.)

7) 1959-1964 (ca.700 fol.)

Series E 1/3/1-2. - Minute books. - 5 cm. - 1947-1952

1) The Travel and Publicity committee of the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce, 1947-1952. One binder of 116 fol. Contains some newspaper clippings.

2) Retail Merchants' Committee of the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce 1949-1952 (64 fol).

Series E 1/4/1.- Administrative records.- 3.5 cm.- 1953-1964

Salary records book concerning the paid staff of the Port Arthur Chambers of Commerce. Lists of employees and their salaries, deductions, tally sheets, and letters regarding the same as above are contained in a binder (ca.120 fol).

Series E 1/5/1-2. - Exhibits. - 8 cm. - 1951-1952, 1960-1962

Two folders containing:

- 1) A plan for a 1951-1952 exhibit of an Ojibway Indian Statue with sketches, schematics, drawings, specifications, letters, historical background and photographs. 15 items.
- 2) 21 exhibit panels for a 1961-1962 display as well as pamphlets, newspaper clippings, a button, photographs, plus two newspaper sections regarding the opening of the Trans Canada Highway Circle Route in 1960 plus one Holiday in Canada travel guide.

Series E 1/6/1-6. - Minute books. - 68 cm. - 1915-1964

Minutes of the Fort William Board of Trade/Chamber of Commerce, arranged chronologically except for the volume covering 1953-1964 which is divided by year into committees. They contain minutes of general, special and committee meetings, resolutions and petitions, membership lists, clippings, letters and reports. Covers all business subjects including tourism and recreations, transportation and natural resource extraction.

- 1) 1915-1932 (ca. 1000 fol, partially indexed).
- 2) 1932-1948 (ca. 1,200 fol).
- 3) 1949-1950 (ca. 175 fol).
- 4) 1951 (ca. 100 fol).
- 5) 1952 (177 fol).
- 6) 1953-1964 (ca. 2,200 fol, indexed).

Series E 1/7/1-2. - Minute books. - 30 cm. - 1965-1971

Two volumes of minutes of the Lakehead Chamber of Commerce: 1) 1965-1971 (also covers the first ten meetings of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce), 21 cm.

- 2) Unbound minutes covering the year 1969, ca.350 fol. Minutes of general, special and committee meetings. Also contains miscellaneous papers, and all are arranged chronologically.

Series E 1/8/1-3. - Records. - 11 cm. - 1964-1975

- 1) Membership list (bound volume) of Charter members of the Chamber of Commerce from 1966-1975 (183 fol used).
- 2) Binder of By-laws and organizational structure of the Lakehead Chamber of Commerce and the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce (176 fol).
- 3) File folders: Board of Trade Act, the incorporation of the Lakehead Chamber of Commerce, change of name to the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce in 1970, and By-law changes from 1966; indentures, correspondence with Thunder Bay Appeal, 1965; Miscellaneous correspondence, insurance papers, and a special file marked "do not destroy" containing memos and letters mostly regarding plans for amalgamation of Fort William and Port Arthur chambers in 1964.

Series E 1/9/1. - Scrapbook. - 8 cm. - 1961

A scrapbook prepared for submission to the Canadian Tourist Association Area Promotion Contest in 1961. It contains clippings, brochures, pamphlets, manuscripts relating to the Lakehead, tourism and recreation, and business.

Series E 1/10/1-6. - Miscellaneous. - 21 cm. - 1965-1973

Three volumes, one file, and one envelope of the records of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce.

- 1) File folder containing some of the Minutes of Committee meetings from 1971, financial statements from 1967, and correspondence. (77 fol).
- 2) An envelope of administrative records -- indentures, memoranda, correspondence, financial statements, reports, and some relating to the Construction Association of Thunder Bay from 1970-1973.
- 3) A binder of statistics regarding tourism, real estate, business and commerce, industries, recreational activities, and other miscellaneous records from 1973-1974.
- 4) A binder of financial and administrative records of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Lakehead Chamber of Commerce from 1965-1973. Includes budgets, administrations, financial statements, job descriptions, and interview format sheets.
- 5) A binder of financial records of the Lakehead and Thunder Bay Chambers of Commerce from 1967-1971. Includes financial statements, budgets, balance sheets, and audited statements.

Series E 1/11/1. - Minute book. - 5 cm. - 1967-1971

A minute book covering the years from 1967 to 1971, containing minutes of meetings, financial statements, membership lists, and brochures.

Series E 1/12/1-4. - Certificates of incorporation. - 2 cm. - 1885, 1891

1) The certificates of the incorporation of the Port Arthur Board of Trade in 1885. 6 fol.

2) The certificates of the incorporation of the Fort William Board of Trade in 1891. 3 fol.

Plus one file folder of photocopies of the certificates of both originals. They have waxed seals that are intact but are damaged.

3) Certificate -- dated 1944 and 1946, at which time the name of the Port Arthur Board of Trade was officially changed to the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce (1944).

4) A photocopy of an act to incorporate the Twin City Chamber of Commerce from 27 Apr, 1906.

Series E 1/13/1-3. - Reports, briefs. - 5 cm. - 1956-1971

Three reports or briefs:

1) "Canadian Water Resource Survey produced for the National Resources Committee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce supplied courtesy of the Lakehead Chamber of Commerce", 1966.

2) A brief of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce on Quetico Park to the Quetico Park Advisory Committee, from 1 Mar. 1971.

3) A brief of the North Western Ontario Association of Chambers of Commerce et al. to the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, 1956.

Series E 1/14/1-11. - Miscellaneous publications. - 15 cm. - 1959-1972

Miscellaneous publications from the Chamber of Commerce collection including: 1) "A survey of Historical Sites in the Thunder Bay District by K.C.A. Dawson. 2) "The Dawson Trail, a Proposal for the Historical Development of Highway 11". 3) "Municipal Data". 4) Two volumes of "The Seaway in Canada; Transportation, An Economic Analysis", from Ottawa in 1970. 5) Souvenir of dedication ceremonies and official opening of Highway 11, supplement to *Fort Frances Times* and the *Daily Bulletin*, 1965.

6) *Lakehead-Northwestern Ontario Region Economic Survey* (Ontario Department of Economics 1959), 966 pp. and a map.

7) "Report of the Inquiry into the Brewing Industry of Northern Ontario", by A.A. Wishart, the Chairman of Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, done for the Ontario Provincial Secretary and Minister of Citizenship, 1972.

8) "Lakehead Local Government Review, Report and Recommendations" by Eric Hardy, Special Commissioner, 1968, for the Ontario Minister for Municipal Affairs (116 p), 2 copies.

9) "Lakehead Local Government Review, Information on the Lakehead, a Research Report", by Eric Hardy, Commissioner for the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, 1966.

10) "Ouimet Canyon Provincial Park Provisional Master Plan", prepared for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, no date.

11) "Sibley Provincial Park Proposed Master Plan Highlights", done for the Ontario Ministry of natural Resources, no date.

Notes

Formerly catalogued into the museum collection, 985.2.1.