

Welland Canals Preservation Association Fonds, 1977-1990, n.d.

RG 598

- Creator:** Welland Canals Preservation Association
- Extent:** 56 cm. (1 ½ boxes) textual records, 1 trophy, 1 plaque, 18 slides, 9 photos, 5 videotapes
- Abstract:** The textual material of the Welland Canals Preservation Association consists of administrative records, clippings and awards that document the activities of this association.
- Materials:** Textual material, clippings, video tapes, awards, photographs and slides
- Repository:** Brock University Archives
- Processed by:** Anne Adams
- Finding Aid:** Anne Adams
- Last Updated:** June 1, 2017

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Acquisition Info.

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Administrative History:

In 1979, Louis Cahill of the Ontario Editorial Bureau established Welland Canal 150th Anniversary Inc. to commemorate the opening of the first canal. The region

and local municipalities banded together to promote the Welland Canals. After the celebrations, the Welland Canals Foundation was formed as a successor to the 150th Anniversary. This was a private group who worked in conjunction with the Seaway Authority. Private initiatives included the 1977 formation of the Welland Canals Preservation Association (WCPA) which was a citizen's group.

The Welland Canals Preservation Association was established in 1978 as a non-profit charitable organization. The goals of this organization were: to preserve the remnants of the Old Welland Canals, to increase public awareness of the old canals and to encourage development of the potential of these lands through an historic network which would beautify the land and provide residents with recreational facilities.

The association was successful in building a 28 mile hiking and biking trail from Port Dalhousie and Port Colborne; the building of parking lots at Oakdale, Westchester and Glendale Avenues; the creation of signage and brochures to advertise the trails and local history; the building of a pavilion at Lock 7 Park in Port Colborne and a grandstand in Dain City and the development of a park at the south end of the canal in Port Colborne. The association also undertook the Lock 24 archaeological dig and related park development; renovation of the Knife works (formerly the Belmar Welding building) and providing and storing of a tourist information booth for the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce. In 1988 the group worked alongside the Regional Municipality of Niagara and the municipalities to link canal communities. The Welland Canals Preservation Association cleared debris and partially restored Lock 1 of the Second Canal at Port Dalhousie. This was a community-service project which was done in conjunction with the Correctional Institute in Thorold.

The Welland Canals Society was formed in 1986. This was an independent, private organization which was formed as an offshoot of the Welland Canals Preservation Association. It ceased operations in 1991 when financial support from the region was withdrawn.

Source: Jackson, John N. *The Welland Canals and their Communities*. Toronto. University of Toronto Press, 1997

Organization:

The records are arranged in into 6 series.

Series I – Administrative Records, 1977-1990

Sub-Series A. Correspondence, 1978-1990 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series B. Minutes, 1977-1986, 1990

Sub-Series C. Documents, 1978-1990, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series D. Finances, 1979-1990

Series II – Projects and Events, 1982-1989, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Series III – Clippings, 1978-1985

Series IV – Audio Visual Materials, 1986, n.d.

Sub-Series A. Slides and Photographs, n.d.

Sub-Series B. Videos, 1986, n.d.

Series V – Awards, 1983-1987, n.d.

Series VI – Miscellaneous, 1984

Series I – Administrative Records, 1977-1990

Sub-series A. Correspondence, 1978-1990 (non-inclusive)

- 1.1 Correspondence from various organizations commending the work of the Welland Canals Preservation Association. A list of founding patrons is included, 1978-1984 (non-inclusive)
- 1.2 Correspondence regarding the Summer Employment/Experience and Development Program (SEED), the Merritton Tourist Development Project and other projects, 1985
- 1.3 Information on Challenge '86 summer employment application, 1986
- 1.4 Correspondence regarding the Knife Works Project and the Merritt Trail Project and the alteration of the relationship between the Welland Canals Society and the Welland Canals Preservation Association, 1987-1989
- 1.5 Correspondence regarding inmates of the Ministry of Correctional Services' participation in project work, 1990

Sub-series B. Minutes, 1977-1986, 1990

- 1.6 Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting, 1977-1978
- 1.7 Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting, 1979-1980
- 1.8 Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting and the Planning Committee, 1981-1982
- 1.9 Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting, 1983
- 1.10 Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting, 1984
- 1.11 Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting, 1985

1.12 Minutes of the Planning Committee, the Board Committee and the Marketing Committee, 1986

1.13 Minutes of a Welland Canals Preservation Association meeting, 1990

Sub-series C. Documents, 1978-1990, n.d. (non-inclusive)

1.14 Letters patent, by-laws, purpose, and objectives, personnel employment policies, inventory [The photos and posters listed in the inventory are not located at Brock University. They may be housed at the St. Catharines Museum] and historical background notes, 1978, 1984, 1988-1990

1.15 Feasibility Study on the Welland Feeder Canal, 1979

1.16 Founding patron sales pitch, n.d.

1.17 A Position from Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Related Agencies concerning the Welland Canals System, 1982

1.18 City of Port Colborne Contract for Demolition of Building, 1986

1.19 Welland Canal Society Job Training Manuel, 198[7]

1.20 Job development monthly training logs, 1987

1.21 Welland Canals Preservation Association job training manual for the Old Knife Works. Jim Roy is the project manager, 1989

1.22 Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants Heritage Directory, 1989

Sub-series D. Finances, 1979-1990

1.23 Yearly financial statements, 1979, 1982-1990

1.24 Donations, 1979-1986

Series II – Projects and Events, 1982-1989, n.d. (non-inclusive)

1.25 Rubber Works building: includes floor plans, correspondence and old newspaper articles about the building that housed the Beaver Cotton Mill, then the Merritton Cotton Mills Company and the Independent Rubber Company. , 1982, 1985-1987

1.26 Labour Day draw ticket, Registration slips for symposium and Guestbook for the Niagara Canals Symposium, the Knife Works Opening and the Heritage Day Reception, 1982, 1986-1988

1.27 Boat building project includes floor plans, 1984

1.28 Merritton tourist development project, 1985

- 1.29 Merritton Canal Village proposals, n.d.
- 1.30 Niagara South Rowing Club grandstand, 1985-1986
- 1.31 Lock 7 parkettes includes floor plans, 1986
- 1.32 Temporary service for Henley Fest includes floor plans, 1986
- 1.33 General Motors V8 block including floor plans, 1986
- 1.34 Project worksheets, 1986-1987
- 1.35 Pavilion building at Lock 8 includes plans, 1986-1987
- 1.36 The Knife Works Building includes floor plans, 1986-1988
- 1.37 Niagara Region tourist information booth at Queen Elizabeth Way, Grimsby, 1987-1988
- 1.38 Lock 24 and Mountain Locks Park includes floor plans, 1987-1989
- 1.39 Hamilton kitchen cabinets includes floor plans, 1987, 1989
- 1.40 Port Robinson Locks Park includes floor plans, 1988
- 1.41 First annual Welland Canal Classic, 1988
- 1.42 Maintenance of Merritt Trail and building of Herb Fraser parking lot includes floor plans, 1988
- 1.43 Children's slide at Humberstone Community Centre includes floor plans, 1988
- 1.44 Charles Fell Nature Trail, 1988
- 1.45 Float design proposal floor plans, 1988
- 1.46 Woodworking pattern originals including a cribbage board, a toy box, a dartboard cabinet, a coffee table, a desk organizer, a trophy case, a light table, an entertainment centre and a kitchen table, 1988, n.d.
- 1.47 Various contracts, 1988-1989
- 1.48 West Street Marina, Port Colborne floor plans, n.d.

Series III – Clippings – [Clippings are contained within scrapbooks. Most scrapbooks were left intact, but book 2B had water damage so items were photocopied and removed to a file folder], 1978-1985

- 3.1 Clippings book 1A includes planning of a nature trail from Port Dalhousie to Thorold; scuba divers searched the old Welland Canal for artifacts; a 35 mile bicycle path from Port Dalhousie to Port Colborne is planned by the Welland Canals Preservation Association (WCPA); the WCPA opens a drive to drum up public support and raise

- money; St. Catharines council voted to give the WCPA \$25,000; the old carousel in Port Dalhousie is finally designated as a place of architectural value and historic interest [some pages are loose], May 1978 – July 1981
- 3.2 Clippings book 1B includes news about the 150th anniversary of the Welland Canal; an article about the Niagara Regional Detention Centre; money needed to salvage 2 U.S. warships from the War of 1812 in the water off Port Dalhousie; Port Colborne would like to acquire a new ship building facility; the historic feeder canal is to be redeveloped; the locktender's house on the corner of St. David's and Pine Streets in Thorold is to be demolished; Rennie Park in Port Dalhousie is dedicated to Jim Rennie and there is an article on the original Thorold Tunnel [all of the pages of this scrapbook are loose], October 1978 – February 1981
- 3.3 Clippings book 2A includes the news that Misener Holdings will donate \$35,000 to the Welland Canals Preservation Association; Richard Kerr produced a film on canal life; prisoners from Niagara Regional Jail help to make the original Welland Canals into parkland; John Jackson and Fred Addis write a book called *The Welland Canals – a Comprehensive Guide*; the remains of old Lock 1 remain underwater and there is an article about the May-Clark-Seiler home [some of the articles have come loose from the pages], April 1979 – May 1984
- 3.4 Clippings book 2B includes: Port Dalhousie gets a second chance at prosperity; restoration continues on Port Dalhousie carousel; canal ship-towing experiment is scrapped; Up to thirty percent rise in seaway tolls; Walkers to cut back use of the quarry dump; tourist promotion pays off; a canal guidebook was published by the Welland Canal Foundation; Cyanamid is fined for pollution; the Canadian Canals Society takes shape [articles have been removed from scrapbook], March 1981 – March 1982
- 3.5 Clippings book 3A includes articles regarding Martindale Pond; a canal marathon to help the hungry; Port Colborne's quest for \$20,000 for a bike, hike trail; Merritt Trail nearing completion; Rotary donates \$5,000 to Welland Canals Preservation Association; floating docks installed then vandalized in Harborview Park and Welland tourism project funds were frozen by Ottawa, December 1983 – August 1985
- 3.6 Clippings book 3B includes an article on the King Street courthouse to be the new St. Catharines museum; unacceptable amounts of contaminants are found to be seeping out of the Niagara Escarpment next to the Walker Brothers Quarries landfill in Thorold; the fiftieth anniversary of the Welland Ship Canal [There had been 3 previous Welland Canals, starting with the original one which opened in 1829]; the freighter Leadale which sank on Dec. 7, is refloated; the Muir Dry-dock building is sold and the revival of Port Dalhousie [pages are loose and articles are also loose from pages], March 1982 – August 1984

Series IV – Audio Visual Materials, 1986, n.d.

Sub-series A. Slides and Photographs, n.d.

- 2.1 18 slides of Lock 24 - 1st Welland Canal. The slides cover construction and excavation, n.d.
- 2.2 Photographs including Premier William Davis and Mayor Roy Adams, 4 b&w photos, 5 col. photos, n.d.

Sub-series B. Videos - [Comments on the videos are taken from the accompanying notes], 1986, n.d.

- 2.3 *Welland Canals Preservation Association Promo* directed by Rose Seifert, narrator Mike Pape. The film is 6:50 minutes containing St. Catharines and then the canals. There are good visuals of the canals, work on the canals and use of the trails, n.d. [3/4" U-matic video]
- 2.4 *Henry and Helen* – the title is misleading. Henry is played by Peter J. Maurin. Helen is played by Rose Seifert. It was directed by Peter Hassebroek and John Giesbrecht. The film is 10:50 minutes and covers the story of the opening of the Welland Canals, n.d. [3/4" U- matic video]
- 2.5 *Credit Union* is produced by Greg Darling and Rose Seifert. It is an 8 minute film with a 2 minute lead. It portrays: a girl riding a bike, a horse, an old frame house and the first Credit Union in Ontario – in Welland, n.d. [3/4" U-matic video]
- 2.6 *The Merrittrail* was directed by Rose Seifert and produced by Greg Darling. David MacKenzie played William Hamilton Merritt. It is a 19 minute film which begins with William Hamilton Merritt talking, n.d. [3/4" U-matic video]
- 2.7 *W.H. Merritt and the Welland Canals* was narrated by Peter Murray. This is a 15:50 minute film which uses many old line floor plans, n.d. [3/4" U-matic video]
- 2.8 Notes regarding the videos, 1986

Series V. Awards, 1983-1987, n.d.

- 2.9 Certificates including: Katimavik certificate of appreciation; 2 John Howard Society participation certificates; Ontario Bicentennial certificate and National Parks Centennial Citizens' Committee certificate, 1983-1986, n.d.
- 2.10 Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Grande Parade club float trophy – 2nd place award, 1987
- 2.11 Wooden plaque from the Old Knife Works. The building was restored for reuse with support of the community and Provincial Ministry of Culture and Communication, 1987

Series VI. Miscellaneous, 1984

1.49 *The Canaller's Songbook* by William Hullfish, York, Pennsylvania, The American Canal and Transportation Center, 1984

Material Held at Other Repositories:

Welland Canals Preservation Association History Clippings – Welland, Ontario Library

St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre - St. Catharines, Ontario

Related Material:

The Welland Canals Foundation, Honourable William Hamilton Merritt and the St. Catharines Historical Society and Museum, 1971-1990, n.d – Brock University Archives and Special Collections – RG 75-11

Welland Canals Society fonds, 1979-1991 – Brock University Archives and Special Collections – RG 58

Canal trails by the Welland Canals Preservation Association – Brock University Archives and Special Collections – FC 3143.1 C35