

McKinnon Columbus Chain Limited Records  
1948, 1958-1960, 1963-1969, 1971, 1974-1975, 1978, n.d.

*Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds*

RG75-8

Brock University Archives

**Creator:** Ontario Editorial Bureau

**Extent:** 0.06 m textual records (1/4 box)

**Abstract:** This archive is part of the larger Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds (OEB) housed at Brock University. The majority of the collection is correspondence which centers around the company strike of the 1970s and the eventual plant closing.

**Materials:** Typed and handwritten correspondence, clippings, publications.

**Repository:** Brock University Archives

**Processed by:** Jen Goul

**Last updated:** December, 2005

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**Preferred Citation:** RG75-8, Ontario Editorial Bureau Records, 1951-1989, McKinnon Columbus Chain Limited, 1948, 1958-1960, 1963-1969, 1971, 1974-1975, 1978, n.d., Brock University Archives, Brock University.

**Acquisition Info.:** This collection is part of the Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds, donated by Lou Cahill in November 1997.

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**Administrative History:**

- 1870s (mid) McKinnon and Mitchell began in St. Catharines.
- 1900 Name change to McKinnon Dash and Hardware Company. Company produced fire-welded chain and shortly after automatically formed and electric-welded chain.
- 1909 The chain making operations of the company broke off into McKinnon Chain Company, remaining in St. Catharines and branching out to Tonawanda N.Y.
- 1917 The McKinnon Chain Company merged with the Columbus Chain Company of Columbus Ohio, changing the name to the McKinnon Columbus Chain Limited in St. Catharines and the Columbus McKinnon Chain Corporation in Tonawanda. Both companies were owned by the re-named McKinnon Industries Limited.
- 1929 McKinnon Industries was purchased by General Motors Corporation of Detroit.
- 1955 Edward Kennard becomes general manager of McKinnon Columbus Chain Ltd.
- 1960 The company changed its name to Columbus McKinnon Ltd.
- 1963 Archie L. McKinnon, former President and Chairman of the Board for Columbus McKinnon, dies.
- 1966 Columbus McKinnon Ltd. moves to their new location on Welland Ave. in St. Catharines, moving in 123 days after construction first began.
- 1974 John Bergsma is appointed General Manager of Columbus McKinnon Ltd.
- 1978 The St. Catharines plant of Columbus McKinnon is closed by Columbus McKinnon's parent firm in the United States after a 10 month strike.

The Canadian company produced items which included; carbon and alloy steel chain, chain assemblies, attachments and fittings, Herc-Alloy sling chains, and tire chains. Columbus McKinnon was the Canadian distributor for the British line of chain cable, anchors, moorings and chain attachments.

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**Scope and Content:**

Fonds contain materials related to the rise and fall of the McKinnon Columbus Chain Company of St. Catharines from the late 1940s to early 1970s. This collection contains information regarding the first Unions as well as Canadian Labour history. It contains employer employee contractual relations, benefits and negotiations.

Duplications were removed and media releases were kept within the correspondence folders as they relate closely to one another. Clippings were moved into their own section, unless mentioned within correspondence, in which case they remain with the correspondence.

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**Organization:**

The records were arranged into two series:

Series I, Correspondence, 1948, 1966, 1974-1975, 1978

Series II, Public Relations, 1948, 1955, 1958-1960, 1963-1969, 1971, 1974-1975, 1978, n.d.

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**Inventory:****Series I. Correspondence, 1948, 1966, 1974-1975, 1978**

1.1-1.5 Correspondence, 1948, 1966, 1974-1975, 1978; includes media releases, speeches, Canadian foundation for economic education, strike negotiations, plant closing.

**Series II. Public Relations, 1948, 1955, 1958-1960, 1963-1969, 1971, 1974-1975, 1978, n.d.**

1.6-1.7 Clippings, 1955, 1958-1960, 1963-1969, 1971, 1974-1975, 1978; includes Kennard and strike.

1.8 Publications, 1966, n.d.; includes *A salute to Columbus McKinnon Ltd., One hundred years at CM*

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**Added Entries:**

600 Bergsma, John, 1945-  
600 Kennard, Edward, 1910-?  
600 Williams, Vic

**Subject Access:**

650 Columbus McKinnon Limited.  
650 Hoisting machinery -- Handbooks, manuals, etc.

- 650 Industrial equipment industry -- Ontario -- St. Catharines.  
650 Industries -- Ontario -- St. Catharines.
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**Related O.E.B. Collections:**

[City of ] St. Catharines 1952-1983  
Steel Company of Canada 1965-1984  
Workman's Compensation Board 1952-1959

**Related Materials:**

Ontario Editorial Bureau, *Public Relations in the Making: A review of significant events in Canadian communication* (Toronto:1976?). Spcl FC 3140.7 P82056.

Columbus McKinnon. *CM Lodestar electric chain hoists instruction, maintenance and parts manual*. St. Catharines, Ont. : Columbus McKinnon, [1960?] FC 3155.123 C54 1960