

# Canadian Canal Society fonds

1896, 1904, 1966, 1973-2013

RG 389

Brock University Archives

- Creator:** Canadian Canal Society
- Extent:** 0.85 metres of textual material (3 boxes)  
83 photographs  
20 stamps  
14 slides  
2 negatives  
1 floppy disk  
1 license plate frame
- Abstract:** About half of the records are administrative and include financial records, correspondence, and meeting minutes. The remaining records include photographs, newsletters, reports, clippings, media releases and promotional materials.
- Materials:** Financial records, correspondence, meeting minutes, information on group field trips, membership and directors' lists, constitution, photographs, newsletters, reports, clippings, media releases and promotional materials.
- Repository:** Brock University Archives
- Processed by:** Chantal Cameron
- Last updated:** March 2012
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### **Administrative History:**

The Canadian Canal Society was founded in 1982 in St. Catharines, Ontario. The Society is a "not-for-profit, educational, scientific and historical organization, dedicated to the preservation of the canal heritage of Canada."<sup>1</sup> To this end, the Society endeavours to promote the collection and publication of materials related to the preservation, documentation and interpretation of Canadian canals. Their newsletter, *Canals Canada/Canaux du Canada* is distributed to Society members, and regular field trips are organized for interested members.

The Society also liaises with similar organizations in the United States and throughout the world. These ties are facilitated by the exchange of newsletters, bulletins and other periodical publications that keep the Society and its members informed about canal related issues, events and activities, in both Canada and abroad.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.canadiancanalsociety.org/aboutus.html> (2012), retrieved 09/03/2012

**Scope and Content:**

Fonds contains material related to the founding and activities of the Canadian Canal Society. Approximately half of the materials are administrative records such as financial records, correspondence, information on group field trips, constitution, membership and directors' lists, and minutes of board meetings and general meetings. Other related materials included with the minutes were retained, including agendas, financial statements, notices of meetings, proxy voting forms, President's Reports and Reports of the Nominating Committee. These documents are interfiled with the minutes in chronological order. Some day-to-day and operational financial documents were discarded, such as cheques and cheque books, bank books, receipts and invoices. An account book and Treasurer's Reports were retained.

The remaining materials include photographs, slides, newsletters, reports, clippings, media releases and promotional materials. Some of the original folder headings for promotional materials have been retained and may contain other related materials such as clippings and newsletters. Duplicate items were removed. Folders are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically within each series.

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**Organization:**

The records were arranged into four series:

- Series I: Administrative, 1966, 1978-2013
  - Series II: Photographs, 1904, 1978-1985, n.d..
  - Series III: Publications, 1973-2003
    - Subseries A: Periodicals
    - Subseries B: Reports
    - Subseries C: Books
  - Series IV: Media, 1896, 1973-2001, n.d..
    - Subseries A: Clippings
    - Subseries B: Media releases
    - Subseries C: Promotional material
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**Inventory:****Series I. Administrative, 1966, 1978-2004**

- 1.1-1.2 Constitution, 1978, 1981-1984, 1990-1994. Contains proposals, drafts and amendments of the Society's Constitution. Also contains the Constitutions of the American Canal Society (1978) and bylaws of the Pennsylvania Canal Society (ca. 1966).
- 1.3-1.9 Correspondence, 1981-2003, n.d.
- 1.10 Directors' Lists, 1982-1997
- 1.11-1.14 Field Trips & Conferences, 1982-2004. Includes registration forms, itineraries and programs, tour guides, maps, some financial statements, lists of participants and a report prepared for the Joint Meeting of the Canadian Canal Society and the Canal Society of New York State, Sept. 25-27, 1992. *Four Welland Canals, the St. Lawrence Seaway and their Canal Communities.*
- 1.15-1.16 Financial records, 1982-1992. Includes an account book (1982-1984) and Treasurer's reports (1984-1992).
- 1.17 Forms, 1980-1990, n.d.. Includes a form for Registered Charities and Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Associations (Revenue Canada Taxation) and an application for a Heritage Organization Development Grant (Ministry of Citizenship and Culture). There is also information sheets included for both forms.
- 1.18 Incorporation, 1985-1995. Contains forms and correspondence relating to the Incorporation of the Canadian Canal Society.
- 1.19 Insurance, 1990-1994. Contains correspondence and policies.
- 1.20-1.21 Membership, 1982-2001. Includes applications and renewal notices as well as membership lists. There is also a card file containing the names and contact information for members. The card file also includes a floppy disk labeled CSS Membership.

- 2.1-2.4 Minutes, 1982-2013. Contains minutes of board meetings and general (annual) meetings, as well as agendas, financial statements, notices of meetings, proxy voting forms, President's Reports and Reports of the Nominating Committee. All items are interfiled and arranged in chronological order.

**Series II. Photographs, 1904, 1978-1985, n.d.**

- 2.5-2.6 Photographs, 1904, 1983, n.d.. Includes a black and white photograph of what is thought to be the opening of the Peterborough lift lock, July 7, 1904. There are also photographs of various field trips including Fenelon Falls (1983), the Grand River Tour (1983) and Trent-Severn (no date). Several colour photocopies of the Rideau Canal, the Peterborough lift lock and the Welland Canals Corridor are also included. There are two negatives of Colin Duquemin and Don Smithies, 1983.
- 2.7 Slides, 1978-1983. Contains slides of the Grand Canal at Robertstown, Ireland (1978) and some corresponding photographs. There are also slides of the Grand River field trip in 1983.

**Series III. Publications, 1973-2003**

**Subseries A: Periodicals, 1983-2003**

- 2.8-2.41 Periodicals. Includes the following newsletters, magazines and journals:
- *American Canals*. Bulletin of the American Canal Society. November 1988.
  - *Bottoming Out*. The Canal Society of New York State. No.37 (1998), no. 39 (1999).
  - *Buffalo Preservation Report*. The Preservation Coalition of Erie County, Fall 1992-Fall 1994.
  - *The Canadian*. Canadian Nautical Research Society. September 1984.
  - *Canals Canada*. Newsletter of the Canadian Canal Society. 1983-2003.
  - *Chamber News*. St. Catharines and District Chamber of Commerce. Summer 1985-November 1985, Jan. 1986-Sept. 1986, March 1987.
  - *Contact*. Ontario Editorial Bureau. Jan., 1987.
  - *Current Events*. The Lachine Canal Bulletin. Fall-Winter 1984-85.

- *Explore Historic Toronto*. Toronto Historical Board. Nov.1992-Summer 1994, Spring/Summer 1995-Fall/Winter 1995.
- *Fresh Water*. A Journal of Great Lakes Marine History. Spring 1986, Vol.9 (1994), no. 1-4.
- *Heritage Dimensions*. Newsletter of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Summer 1989, Spring 1990.
- *The Historical Technologist*. The Niagara Society for Industrial History, May 1984.
- *I.W.I Newsletter*, n.d..
- *Jib Gems*. Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston. Spring 1986, Winter 1993, Spring1994.
- *Legacy*. Archives of Ontario. Vol. 1 no. 2-3 (1988-1989).
- *Let's Talk Business*. Nov. 1988, Dec. 1989, Jan. 1990.
- *Marine Museum Newsletter: Marine Museum of Upper Canada*. Toronto Historical Board. Vol. 1 (1989) no. 3-4, Vol. 2 (1990), no. 3.
- *Museum Musings*. Port Colborne Musuem. Christmas 1998, Fall 1999, Spring 2000, Summer 2000, Spring 2001.
- *Newsletter*. Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston. March1984.
- *Ontario History*. Ontario Historical Society. June, 1984.
- *The Precambrian*. The Newsletter of the Central Canada Section of the Canadian Society for the Promotion of Nautical Research. May 1984.
- *Preservation Report*. The Preservation Coalition of Erie County, Nov./Dec. 1984-Sept./Oct. 1986, Feb. 1987-April 1987, Nov./Dec. 1987-Jan./Feb. 1988, July/Aug. 1988, Oct. 1988, Dec. 1988, Feb. 1989-May 1989, Dec. 1989, Apr. 1990-Winter 1990, March/April 1991.
- *The Reporter*. St. Catharines and District Chamber of Commerce. 1988-1991.
- *Rideau Ripple*. A Newsletter of the Friends of the Rideau. September 1994.
- *The Scribe*. A publication of the St. Catharines Heritage Committee. April 1996.
- *Seaway Review*. The bi-national transportation business magazine of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence System. June 1984.
- *The Spearpole*. Misener Shipping Limited. 1984-1990.
- *St. Catharines Scene*. St. Catharines & District Chamber of Commerce, St. Catharines District Labour Council, St. Catharines Downtown Association, the City of St. Catharines Business Development Department, n.d..

- *Tales of the Twelve*. St. Catharines Museum. July 1987, Fall 1987, Summer 1988, Winter/Spring 1999.
- *Towpaths-to-Trails Fact Sheet*. Rails to Trails Conservancy & the National Park Service, n.d.

### **Subseries B: Reports, 1973-1988**

- 3.1 Toronto Historical Board. *Annual Report*. 1987, 1988.
- 3.2 *A Year in Review: A Communications Report*. Welland Canal 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Inc., 1979(?)
- 3.3 *Great Lakes—Hudson River Waterway (Great Lakes to Eastern Seaboard All-American Canal)*. Proceedings of the Public Information Workshop on the Preliminary Results of the Reconnaissance Level Studies of Alternative Navigation Plans Connecting the Great Lakes to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States held in Albany, New York, on 23 April 1980. Department of the Army. There are also two other reports with the same titles but held in different cities on different dates. The second report was held in Cheektowaga, New York on 24 April 1980, and the third report was held in Des Plaines, Illinois on 26 April 1980.
- 3.4 *Review of Reports on Lake Erie-Lake Ontario Waterway, N.Y.* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District. October 1973. Also includes a map of a 5-lock canal, n.d..

### **Subseries C: Books, 1977-1996**

*Hometown History: Highlighting Your Heritage*. The Ontario Historical Society. 1996.

Garrity, Richard. *Canal Boatman: My Life on Upstate Waterways*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1977.

Kuehn, Diane. *An Interpretive Planning Guide for Communities Along Scenic Byways*. Sackets Harbor, N.Y.: Seaway Trail, Inc. October, 1993.

Paschen, Elizabeth. *Moosehide Jackets: Mackenzie's Arctic Journey Retraced*. Edmonton, Alberta: University of Alberta, 1989.

**Series IV: Media, 1896, 1973-2001, n.d..****Subseries A: Clippings, 1981-1997**

- 3.5 Clippings, 1981-1997. Topics covered include the Welland Canal, William Hamilton Merritt, the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, the Welland Canals Society, and the Canadian Canal Society.
- 3.6 Clippings—Obituaries, 1994-1995. Contains obituaries for Robert Legget, George Mansfield Carl, William Alexander (Bud) Quinn, and Agnes Robertson Quinn.

**Subseries B: Media releases, 1982-1992, n.d.**

- 3.7 Media releases, 1982-1992, n.d. Includes media releases from the Welland Canals Foundation, the Canadian Canal Society, the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, the St. Catharines Historical Museum, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications, Port Weller Dry Docks, and Heritage Toronto.

**Subseries C: Promotional Material, 1896, 1973-2001, n.d.**

- 3.8 Canadian Canal Society, 1983, n.d. Includes drafts of brochures as well as finished brochures. Also contains a small poster advertising *The Welland Canal Company* by H.G.J. Aitken.
- 3.9 Licence plate frame. On the top of the frame is written "Cdn. Canal Soc." and on the bottom "I Dig Canals".
- 3.10 Canals of New Jersey, 1991, n.d. Includes brochures on various canals in New Jersey, as well as information on the Canal Society of New Jersey and a copy of their newsletter, *On the Level*, August 1991.
- 3.11 Canals of New York State, 1896, 1973-1997, n.d. Includes brochures, newspaper and magazine clippings, and newsletters.
- 3.12 Ontario Historical Society, 1985, 1992-1994, n.d. Contains brochures advertising workshops, conferences, membership, and publications. Also includes a draft agenda for a workshop held at Lock 3 Visitors Centre on the Welland Canal, St. Catharines, Ont., Nov. 7, 1992.



- 3.13 Port Colborne Museum/St. Catharines Museum, 1987-2001, n.d. Contains brochures on exhibits and special events.
  - 3.14 Stamps. Contains 2 books of 10 stamps each, featuring 8 different canals in Canada. Also includes a newspaper clipping about the set.
  - 3.15 Trent-Severn Waterway/Peterborough, 1983-1985, n.d. Contains brochures on canal cruises, the Kirkfield lift lock, special events, and Friends of the Trent-Severn Waterway.
  - 3.16 Other promotional material, 1979-1995. Contains brochures and booklets for the Australian Canals Society, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the Steamship Historical Society of America, the Lachine Canal, the Chambly Canal, Muskoka boat cruises, Port Dover, Fenelon Falls, the Pump House Steam Museum, and a list of courses and programs offered at the Royal Ontario Museum.
  - 3.17 Miscellaneous items, 1982-1984, 1993, n.d. Includes handwritten notes, a map to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope, Ontario, A CV for Captain Bill McKelvey, a participants list for the 1984 fall tour of the Society for Industrial Archaeology and the Ontario Society for Industrial Archaeology, and a list of canal related organizations.
  - 3.18 List of books included. Complete bibliographic information for each item recorded on small index cards.
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### **Related Materials:**

Canadian Canal Society. *A Field guide to the 'Upper' Welland Canals, the Feeder Canal, the Grand River* [CCS Spring field trip, 1986].  
SPCL FC 3143.42 C357 1986.

*International waterways : papers presented at an international meeting held at Buffalo, USA, on 20th June 1992.* Bridgwater, Somerset, England : IWA International Committee, 1992. SPCL HE 381 I58 1992.

Aitken, Hugh G.J. *The Welland Canal Company: a study in Canadian enterprise.* St. Catharines, Ont.: Canadian Canal Society in co-operation with Riverbank Traders, 1997.  
SPCL FC 3143.7 W45 A65 1997.

**Removed Materials:**

Von Baeyer, Edwinna. *Garden of Dreams: Kingsmere and Mackenzie King*. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990.