



CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES

**Inventory of the
York University historical collection**

Inventory #F0450

The digitization of this finding aid was made possible - in part or entirely - through the Canadian Culture Online Program of Canadian Heritage, the National Archives of Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

Fonds/Collection Number: F0450

Title: York University historical collection

Dates: 1885-2006, predominant 1970-2006

Extent: ca. 0.7 m of textual records
 8 photographs : b&w and col. ; 27 x 35 cm or smaller
 1 drawing
 9 audio cassettes
 2 micro cassettes
 1 CD-ROM
 4 video cassettes
 1 plan
 3 prints : col. ; 100 x 69 cm and smaller

Biographical Sketch/ Administrative History: The York University historical collection is an assembly of documents in a number of formats accumulated by York University Archives to document the ongoing history of the university. The early part of the collection is made up of material acquired from the Stong Historical Society and from John Becker who joined the staff of York University in 1966 as assistant to the dean of Atkinson College. Becker later served as assistant vice president (Student affairs) and assistant vice-president (business operations). The collection has since expanded to include other sources such as artwork, oral histories and audio-visual recordings of special events. Much of the material received from the Stong Historical Society concerns the history of the land and community on which the main campus of the university is located in Toronto (formerly North York) Ontario. The original community, Kaiserville (later Elia), established circa 1800, was home to German loyalist settlers who had left Pennsylvania following the American Revolutionary War. The first settler in the area was Peter Erlin Kaiser who is buried on what is now the grounds of York University. When the University purchased its Keele Street land, there were extant buildings on the site. Among these, the principal buildings were the Jacob Stong house and the Abraham Hoover house. The Stong house was built on a parcel of land sold to Jacob by his father Daniel (d. 1868) and was constructed in the 1850s. Descendants of Jacob Stong sold the house in 1951. The Stong lands now form the central part of Black Creek Pioneer Village as well as forming the northern portion of the University property. The Hoover residence, built on a plot purchased by Christian Hoover in 1826, was constructed in 1848 by Christian and his son Abraham (1821-1905). The land (buildings and farm) was held by the Hoover family until the 1930s when it was purchased by a Mrs. Hart. In 1958 the house was purchased by Claude Passy, who resided in it for a period of time before selling it to York University ca. 1964. The Stong Historical Society was established in 1979 at Stong College, York University. Its purpose was to discover the history of the area on which the university was built, and it proposed that the houses of the Stong College residence bear the names of the pioneer families of the area. The society was begun by Olga Cirak, the college's administrative assistant. It is currently inactive.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, genealogical charts, family histories, newspaper clippings, publications and related material detailing the history of the site on which the Keele Street campus of York University now stands; correspondence and newspaper clippings relating to the search for the grave site of Peter Erlin Kaiser and a photocopy of his Last Will and Testament; a genealogy and a history of the Kaiser family of Ontario (1933); copies of articles on the Palatine settlements in York County and Upper Canada; a publication, 'An account of the Boynton family and the family seat of Burton Agnes,' (1914); material on the Smith family (Hoover relations), correspondence seeking information from descendants of the Hoover family with responses, Hoover genealogies and material on the Troyer family genealogy (Hoover descendants); biographical material on York pioneers, correspondence, archaeological reports, copies of campus and survey maps and of architectural renderings of the Hart, Hoover, and Stong buildings on the University campus; obituary notices for the last surviving member of the Stong family who lived on the property, a copy of a genealogy of the family and a photocopy of a history of the church that was

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located on the property (by T.E. Kaiser); a newspaper article concerning Hart House, a building on the York campus which was relocated there in the 1930s from King Township, material related to the 40th anniversary celebrations of York University in 1999 and the York University Faculty Association strike of 1997, as well as other material details of which are available in the finding aid.

S00323 Minutes of the Inter-College Curriculum Committee

Restrictions on Access and Use: No restrictions apply.

Finding Aid: Containers list available.

Accruals: The collection comprises the following accessions: 1961-002, 1972-009, 1976-020, 1978-012, 1979-004, 1979-037, 1980-027, 1991-005, 1998-022, 1999-004, 1999-005, 1999-019, 1999-024, 1999-028, 1999-051, 1999-071, 2000-011, 2000-019, 2000-020, 2000-021, 2000-022, 2000-031, 2000-033, 2000-060, 2000-062, 2000-080, 2006-004, 2007-038, 2007-045. Further accruals are expected.

Related Records: Related records may be found in the William Greer fonds (F0185), Murray George Ross fonds (F0398), Louis Applebaum fonds (F0254), York University photo collection (F0091) and Organizing Committee of York University fonds (F0074).

Other Notes: Title based on contents of collection.

Provenance Access Points: York University (Toronto, Ont.). Archives and Special Collections

Date of creation: 2002/04/09

Date of last revision: 2007/11/01

CALL NUMBERCONTENTS LISTBox 1

- 1961-002 Installation of Murray Ross as the first president of York University, 1961. (1 file)
- 1972-009 Stong Family House, 1966-1972. (1 file)
- 1976-020 Kaiser Family. Photocopied history and information, plus an article written about the Townline Church which the Kaisers were active in pioneering, 1976. (2 files)
- 1978-012 Hoover Family, 1978. (1 file)
- 1979-037 Hart Family House. Includes information and articles, 1979. (1 file)
- 1980-027 Stong Family, 1976. (1 file)
- 1991-005 John Becker collection. Consists of historical information on the residences that became York University campus. Includes Heritage Structure reports on Stong House and Hoover House, 1963-1990. (1 file) Also includes biographical material on York pioneers, correspondence, archaeological reports, copies of campus and survey maps, and copies of architectural renderings of the Hart, Hoover, and Stong buildings on the University campus.

Box 2

- 1979-004 Stong Historical Society. Genealogies of the family's whose properties make up York University Campus. Includes: Hoover, Stong, Kaiser, Snider, Boynton, 1979-1984, and a report on Parson's archaeological site [197-]. (1 box, 4 files)

Box 3

- 1999-004 Vernon Stong property, photocopies, 1895-1998. (1 file)

Box 4

- 1999-005 A service to celebrate the life of Robert Hall Haynes, 1999. (1 audio cassette of a memorial service for Professor Robert Haynes, who passed away in December 1998.)

Box 5

- 1999-024** Celebration York, a musical composition by Louis Applebaum commissioned by York University for the installation of Harry W. Arthurs as President of York University, May 9, 1985, for Brass Ensemble and Timpani. — Paper copy of a scanned image of the original donated by Louis Applebaum in April 2000.
- 1999-028** Videotape of the 40th anniversary ceremony at the commencement of a University Senate meeting held on 25 March 1999 in the Senate Chambers of York University at which time Bill Small was awarded the first Founders Award. Also includes a certificate which lists the senators in attendance at the 25 March meeting who were also present at the first meeting of the Senate on 14 November 1960.

Box 6

- 1999-051** A short history of York University's Department of Psychology written by Norman S. Endler, September 1998.
- 1999-071** Interview by Paul Axelrod of Arthur R. Hackett regarding events from 1956 that he was involved with which led to the founding of York University. Contains transcripts and original recordings of the interview, n.d.

Boxes 7 - 8

- 1998-022** Four audio tapes consisting of reminiscences of York's history by three of its earliest employees, Sandra Bracken Cameron, Vivienne James and Philippa Gerry, commissioned by Clara Thomas. These women were prominent in the establishment of Glendon College. Bracken was hired as Assistant to David Fowle, first professor of Biology while James was hired as secretary for Science. Bracken was also the first Don of Wood Residence. Both were at Glendon from the time of its opening in 1961. Gerry came to York with Jack Saywell from the University of Toronto in 1963.

Box 9

- 2000-019** Two audio reels, possibly masters, from the "escalator piece", the sculpture installed on the escalators between the second and third floors of Scott Library, n.d.
- 2000-020** "A History of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Western Ontario" by D.R. Moorcraft, 1999. This was donated to York Archives by Ralph W. Nicholls on account of the many images of York alumnus captured in the photos therein.

- 2000-021 Convocation address by Professor Robert Finch, 1976.
- 2000-022 York University Founders' Society, 25th Anniversary lunch programme listing all participants, March 25, 2000.
- 2000-033 Text of "York at 40 - A Euphody" written by "Poets Laureate Anon.", 1999.

Box 10

- 2000-011 Newspaper issues of Excalibur and Lexicon; newspaper clippings from the Toronto Star, the Globe and Mail, NOW Magazine; correspondence and ephemera related to the York University Faculty Association strike March 20 - May 13, 1997, 1997-1998.

Box 11

- 2000-031 Photostat of a drawing of York University which was given to Margaret Morris by Wolf Sanders, former head of Research and Development at York University, [ca. 1970].

Box 12

- 1999-019 Audio-visual recordings of York University's 40th Anniversary celebrations. Consists of 1 DVCAM tape, 1 CD-ROM and 1 video cassette produced by the ITC (Instructional Technology Centre) at the request of the Archives, 1999.
- 2000-060 2 micro cassettes of Bruce Bryden, Chairman of York University's Board of Governors from 1982 until 1991, recounting his experiences at York. These cassettes were found in a desk by the Office of Vice-President (Advancement) in 2000, n.d.
- 2000-062 Audio cassette and paper copy of Germaine Greer's speech upon receiving her Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from York University during Convocation ceremonies, Saturday November 6, 1999.
- 2000-080 1 video cassette containing a screening copy of *The National and Magazine* for February 29, 1996. Includes the documentary "Buying an Education" which looks at the problem of plagiarism at universities and chronicles the efforts of York University in its attempt to shut down an essay writing service. Includes interviews with Professor Janice Newton and former Associate Dean of Arts, Professor Mark Webber, 1996.

SERIES FILE LIST - S00323

York University historical collection

Inventory #450

Call #:	File:	Title:	Date(s):	Note:
2006-004/001	(1)	Minutes	1978-1979	
2006-004/001	(2)	Minutes	1980	
2006-004/001	(3)	Minutes	1981	
2006-004/001	(4)	Minutes	1982	
2006-004/001	(5)	Minutes	1983	
2006-004/001	(6)	Minutes	1984	
2006-004/001	(7)	Minutes	1985	
2006-004/001	(8)	Minutes	1986	

S00323 - Minutes of the Inter-College Curriculum Committee

Series Number: S00323

Series Title: Minutes of the Inter-College Curriculum Committee

Dates: 1978-1986

Extent: 0.06 m of textual records

Scope and Content: Series consists of committee minutes from November 1978 to May 1986. Representatives of Bethune, Founders, McLaughlin, Stong, Vanier and Winters colleges met to discuss the role of the colleges and their tutorial programme, student admission and advising procedures, new courses and new instructors, funding and other arrangements for tutorial courses, course evaluation forms, and annual enrolment statistics and their significance in terms of class size.

Restrictions on Access and Use: Series is closed to researchers. A request to view these records must be submitted to York University's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Program through the University Archivist.

Arrangement: Series is arranged chronologically by year.

File: Title:

Date(s):

Note:

Call Number: 2007-038/001

- (1) Bayview / Chambers & Meredith Limited. -- 1 plan : 41 x 28 cm, folded to 21 x 9 cm. -- File consists of a folded pamphlet containing a plan showing the property bounded by Mercer Avenue on the north, Leslie Street on the south, Park Lane on the south, and Bayview Avenue on the west, including the estate of Frank P. Wood that would later become the site of Glendon College. The plan shows the topography of the area, the location of existing buildings, the estates of H.L. Plummer and R.M. Sheppard, and the Bayview Golf Course, as well as the acreages of subdivided parcels. [ca. 1930?]

File:	Title:	Date(s):	Note:
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Call Number: 2007-045/001

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| (1) | Weighing Locke in the scales of history : public lecture by Professor John Dunn in honour of Professor John W. Yolton and Mrs. Jean Yolton / The Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts. -- 1 print : col. ; 43 x 28 cm. -- File consists of a poster for a lecture held at the Moot Court, Osgoode Hall Law School on 16 October 2003. | 2003 | |
| (2) | Canadian writers in person : a series of free public readings, 2006-2007. -- 1 print : col. ; 100 x 69 cm. -- File consists of a poster for a series of readings by Canadian authors as part of an introductory course on Canadian literature, AK/ENGL 1953 6.0. Design features the top of the Peace Tower in Ottawa altered to look like a sharpened pencil. | 2006 | |
| (3) | Canadian writers in person : a series of free public readings, 2007-2008. -- 1 print : col. ; 100 x 69 cm. -- File consists of a poster for a series of readings by Canadian authors as part of an introductory course on Canadian literature, AK/ENGL 1953 6.0. Design features the a grain elevator with its top altered to look like a sharpened pencil. | 2007 | |

File:	Title:	Date(s):	Note:
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Call Number: 2009-019/001

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| (1) | Correspondence. -- File consists of: correspondence dealing with a contribution by the W.E. Marshall family to York University in honour of William Pearson Scott, 1964; the text for a tribute to Scott by Murray Ross delivered at the York Club, 14 June 1971; printer's keepsake by Erlin Press for the dedication of Scott Library; and a programme for the dedication ceremonies, 30 October 1971. | 1964-1971 | |
| (2) | Architectural photographs. -- File consists of a cerlox-bound album of 12 black-and-white presentation photographs taken by Panda Associates for Gordon S. Adamson & Associates, John B. Parkin Associates, and Shore & Moffat and Partners, featuring the residence and courtyard of Founders College, the Steacie Science Library, Farquharson Life Sciences Building, Burton Auditorium, and the Central Utilities Building. | [196-?] | |
| (3) | Convocation photographs. -- File consists of 19 black-and-white and colour prints of W.P. Scott at convocations, including a group image with Lester B. Pearson, Murray Ross, and William Davis. | [196-?] | |
| (4) | Dedication of Scott Library : photographs. -- File consists of 19 prints showing conferral of an honorary degree on W.P. Scott, unveiling of the plaque by Gerard Pelletier, the Scott family, and the dinner that followed the ceremony. | 30 October 1971 | |
| (5) | Dedication of Scott Library : newspaper clippings | October 1971 | |