



The City of Thunder Bay Archives

Jeux Canada Games 1981 Fonds

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Dates

1963 – 1982, predominantly 1978 – 1981.

Extent

21.5 boxes of textual records.
2 boxes of photographic material.
111 technical drawings.
1.5 boxes of publications.
2 film reels.
1 artwork.

Administrative History

The Jeux Canada Games, held every two years, is a sporting event for Canadian amateur athletes which alternates between summer and winter events. The Games are overseen by the Canada Games Council, an independent body which sets out the standards for venue design and the technical rules for competition. Between August 9th to 21st, 1981, The City of Thunder Bay was the host City for the Jeux Canada Games. The Games held in Thunder Bay featured 17 different sports across a range of venues in the City including Fort William Stadium, Port Arthur Stadium and the recently constructed Canada Games Complex, which served as the principle venue for the diving and swimming events. The Games featured 3600 amateur athletes from across Canada, drawing over 15,000 spectators and 800 media personnel to the City for the two week event. The success of the Games relied upon the support of an estimated 5000 volunteers and 1000 coaches and officials and led to numerous improvements to facilities in the City, provided training and development opportunities to local members of the community and helped to foster a community spirit that continues to be looked upon with pride.

Having competed against numerous other cities across the country, including five other cities in Ontario, the City of Thunder Bay was announced the official host city at a press conference on December 14, 1977. Announcing the decision was Iona Campagnola, the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport and Robert Andras, President of the Treasury Board. It was the first time that the Games had been held in the Province of Ontario. The Games were organized by a host society, the Jeux Canada Games 1981, which was approved by City Council and officially incorporated on March 17, 1978. The host society's principle mandate was to plan and organize the Games on behalf of The City of Thunder Bay. At the conclusion of the

Games, the host society entered into an agreement with The City of Thunder Bay, assigning all rights and responsibilities to the City upon the society's dissolution on December 31st 1981.

The management structure of the host society consisted of a Board of Directors and an Executive Committee, which made all final decisions and approved all high level monetary expenditures. The original President of the host society was P.R. Cook. However, Bruce Walker assumed this position in July 1980 and maintained the role until the society's dissolution. Also included was a Management Committee which was responsible for making final decisions on policy and problem resolution. Taras Kozyra, who served as the General Manager throughout the organization of the Games, headed the Management Committee and was responsible for overseeing staff and for guiding the general direction of the host society through making reports and recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The host society was divided into six different divisions, each covering a separate functional area. These divisions were presided over by a Vice President and included: Administration, Services, Protocol, Sports, Facilities and Public Relations. The Administrative division served as the primary support arm for the host society, managing all financial matters including budgeting and accounts, banking, investments, insurance and employment payments and benefits. Other operational functions performed by the host society included managing athletes and officials, managing facilities including the construction and upgrading of sporting venues and operating the cultural program. The Public Relations division was also a critical element of the host society's success. This division was broken into several sub operations including Community Relations, National Promotion and the Friends of the Games. The division was responsible for media and communications, fundraising, garnering support from the local community, marketing strategies and developing corporate partnerships.

Custodial History

The Jeux Canada Games 1981 Fonds came under the ownership of The City of Thunder Bay following the dissolution of the host society on December 31, 1981. The records were transferred to The City of Thunder Bay Archives and Records Centre in 1993. The two film reels were acquired separately on August 31, 2011, having previously been in the custody of the Recreation and Culture Division.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records generated by the host society relating to the organization of the Jeux Canada Games 1981. Included are records of the operational activities undertaken by the host society, including the preparation of facilities and organization of sport equipment,

including records relating to the construction of the Canada Games Complex and the renovation work performed at Fort William Stadium. Also included are records generated through fundraising activities including raising donations and establishing promotional partnerships with corporate sponsors. The fonds also consists of administrative records covering arrangements for funding with various levels of government including the Four Party Agreement between the Governments of Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay and the host society, which confirmed a \$4.5 million commitment towards capital costs. Other records include correspondence, meeting minutes and reports pertaining to the organization of volunteers, staff and officials, the activities of former host societies and formal documents outlining the policies and procedures for the daily operation of the host society. In addition to the records generated by the host society are a small quantity of records created by the ad-hoc committee of the City Council documenting the formal establishment of the host society.

Aside from textual records, the fonds also contains a range of technical drawings, photographs and film reels. The technical drawings largely consist of blueprints of sporting venues and bleacher seating construction for Fort William Stadium, Port Arthur Stadium and the Canada Games Complex. The photographs show formal donations and other fundraising events such as the "Breakfast with the President" event. The film reels feature the Chetwynd Films Production titled "Going for Gold" which documents the events of the 1981 Games and a student produced production about the Canada Games Complex.

The records have been arranged into the following series: 417: Administration, 1977-1982; 418: Publications, 1970-1981; 419: Communications and Media Coverage, 1978-1982; 420: Background Information to the Games, 1978-1981; 421: Information about other Games, 1974-1981; 422: Preparations, Policies and Procedures, 1970-1981; 423: Conferences and Seminars, 1975-1981; 424: Personnel Files, 1970-1982; 425: Finance, 1978-1981; 426: Committees and Minutes, 1978-1982; 427: Facilities, 1963-1982; 429: Fundraising, 1978 -1981.

Arrangement

The film reels were acquired separately and incorporated into Series 419: Communications and Media Coverage.

Sources

The City of Thunder Bay Archives: Jeux Canada Games 1981 Fonds.

Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame: Photo Album (Accession: X989-004-76) and National Media Tour scrapbook (Accession: X989-004-77).

Other Formats

Digital copies of photographs are available at The City of Thunder Bay Archives.

Date Note

The records created in 1982, following the formal dissolution of the host society, were generated by last minute activities to find locations for equipment used during the Games and prepare reports which would be used by the host society of the Jeux Canada Games 1983.

Access Conditions

Records containing the personal information of employees, officials and volunteers are subject to privacy restrictions under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Use Conditions

Publications and graphical material are subject to restrictions on reproduction and use under the Copyright Act. Copyright for most items is retained by The City of Thunder Bay. Consult the catalogue for copyright terms on specific items.

Finding Aids

A File Inventory is available for each series in the fonds. Publications, photographs and other material can be searched as individual items in the database.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.