
1907-1975

5m., 44 cm. of textual records. - 126 photographs. - 52 cartographic items

A special recreational committee of council was in existence as early as 1943. Mr. Widnall, then Manager of the Board of Parks Management was appointed as Secretary to the Special Recreation Committee. The provision of recreation as a Municipal service was furthered with the passage of By-law 4263 (1949) which formally created the Fort William Civic Recreation Committee. The mandate of this Committee was to provide a program of community recreation as prescribed under the Department of Education Act.

The longstanding Board of Parks Management established in 1910 under the Public Parks Act, assumed responsibility for the management of Recreation for the City of Fort William when By-law 4492 passed on February 26th, 1952. This Board was already responsible for the independent management, regulation and control of public parks and had in the past run recreational activities on park property. Six members of the Parks Board were appointed on an annual basis to the Fort William Civic Recreation Committee. Together both committees oversaw the acquisition and management of park property, and the establishment of suitable programming for the cultural, educational, physical and social activities as prescribed under the Department of Education Act.

In addition to formally joining Parks and Recreation under one management unit, By-law 4492 (February 26, 1952) enabled the appointment of personnel in the form of a director, assistants, and area recreation directors to conduct the community recreation program. It was the intention of Council, as per a motion dated February 7, 1952 to include the City Band under the umbrella of Civic Recreation, as well.

Much of the early material in the Fort William Parks and Recreation files originated with Mr. Art Widnall, Secretary-Manager to the Parks Board from 1929 to 1962. However, records are most consistent after the 1952 by-law which amalgamated Parks and Recreation. In these subject classified files, headings include Administration, Agencies, Arts and Crafts, Associations, Community Centres, Conferences, Correspondence, Employment, Events, Facilities, Finance, Information, Media, Meetings, Parks, Playgrounds, Programs, Property, Reports, Senior Citizens, Sports, Training, Youth.

This Series includes textual records generated by employees of the Parks and Recreation department including correspondence, newspaper clippings, and plans.

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A detailed file list is available.

Further accruals are not anticipated.

The photographs, maps, plans and blueprints which have been removed from the files have been replaced with a reference sheet. Inventories of these materials are available.

Other records relating to parks and recreation functions include the Fort William Board of Parks Management Minutes (Series 5) and the Fort William City Clerks Files (Series 4).

