

**Series 44 - Port Arthur Board of Parks Management Minutes**

**Port Arthur Fonds**

1913-1966

29 cm. of textual records (5 volumes)

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Under By-Law 203 in 1888, the Town of Port Arthur adopted the Public Parks Act and thereafter appointed a Board of Park Management. It appears that the Board was allowed to lapse and, in 1908, there was no Board acting as such. Under By-Law 192, in 1908, a new Board of Park Management was appointed. There are no minutes available for the Board of Park Management until 1913, but there are references to the Board in the Port Arthur City Council Minutes starting in approximately 1908.

The Board was responsible for the general management, regulation and control of the various parks within the City, including Current River Park, Boulevard Lake, Waverley Park, Hillcrest Park and was also responsible for the operation of the Strathcona Golf Course which opened on September 7, 1925 as "Strathcona Links, Port Arthur". Various properties in the City were also acquired by the Board for park purposes throughout the years of its operation and the Board also took over the control of Trowbridge Falls Park in 1963.

The Board appointed various committees to look after specific areas under its control, including the Buildings Committee, Golf Committee, Grounds & Nursery Committee, Playgrounds Committee and Refreshment & Tourist Committee.

Under By-Law 5328, the City applied for special legislation to dissolve the Board of Park Management and to have its assets and liabilities become the assets and liabilities of the City of Port Arthur. Under the above-mentioned By-Law, the City also applied for legislation to allow Council to appoint a board or committee to be known as The Parks, Recreation and Community Centres Board, which Board was to be both a recreation committee within the meaning of The Department of Education Act and a Community Centres Board within the meaning of The Community Centres Act. This legislation, Bill PR9 – 1966 took effect on April 6, 1966. In 1966, the City also passed By-Law 5415, which established the Department of Parks and Recreation and By-Law 5416 which appointed the Board.

The series consists of meeting minutes relating to the management of Parks in the City of Port Arthur. One bound handwritten volume exists for minutes dated June 21, 1913 – May 5, 1920. Three post binders exist for minutes dated May 17, 1920 – May 17, 1966. A post binder containing Indexes for the years 1920 – 1964 is included with this Series.

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Further accruals are not anticipated.

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Copies of Minutes for the years 1951 – 1959, 1961 – 1963, 1965 and 1966 are available in Series 28 , City of Port Arthur Parks & Recreation Files, TBA 4747 and TBA 4748.

Other records relating to the Board of Park Management may be found in Series 48, Board of Park Management Miscellaneous Records, Series 47, Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes, Series 28, Parks & Recreation Files and Series 29, City Clerk's Files.