

---

1903-1952

32 cm. of textual records (6 v.)

---

Under the authority of the Public Health Act, a Local Board of Health was established in Fort William. Local Boards of Health were to be established in every municipality of Ontario, their focus was to “prevent and abate ... insanitary conditions particularly those that are ... injurious...dangerous to health ... (or) likely to result in the spread of disease” (The Law of Municipal Corporations in Ontario, 1931). Operating within its’ municipal Limits, the Board of Health approved accounts for services performed under its’ direction including expenditures incurred by the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector and the Isolation Hospital. Appointments to the Board of Health were made by Council. By-law 1713 (1915) outlined in detail the regulations for public health in Fort William and gave the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector and the Chairman of the Local Board of Health. Responsibilities of the Board of Health and its’ designates included the inspection of slaughter houses, monitoring dairies and other food preparation facilities for contamination, examination and enforcement of buildings for sanitation and disease, and placing public health notices as required. Portions of the By-law regulated well maintenance, the proper disposal of garbage and other responsibilities of Citizens in relation to public health. Penalties for infractions were laid out, as well. Amendments to this public health By-law include By-law 1950 and By-law 2041, the only notable changes being increases in fines.

Minutes of the Local Board of Health refer to such diverse interests as plumbing inspection and sewer installations to recommendations for regulating eating establishments. The Board made recommendations to and requests of council in regard to advancing public health through enacting By-laws and securing funds for projects, such as the construction of the isolation hospital. In the early 1900s the Board undertook responsibility for Street cleaning responsibilities and employed a Scavenger (until 1908). After 1924, the Board enforced vaccination for public school students. As part of their responsibilities to the Province, the Medical Health Officer and the Board were required to submit annual reports, most of which were retained by the City (See Series 16). In addition to reports from the Medical Officer of Health, reports relating to Short Weights and Measures and the Meat Inspector originated from the Board of Health and/or its’ officials.

In 1950, the Board recommended that Council establish a Health Unit and that the Health Unit become active upon completion of the proposed Health Building to be built next to the McKellar Hospital. In 1952, an agreement between the City of Fort William, and the Townships of Neebing, Paipoonge, Oliver, O’Connor and Conmee was reached to establish a Health Unit under the Public Health Act. In the City of Fort William, this agreement is documented under By-law 4373. The Board of Health operated until August 1st, 1952. Thereafter, all matters pertaining to the health of the community, including the Isolation

Hospital facility, were to be assumed by the Fort William and District Health unit.

This series consists of minutes for the Fort William Board of Health. Some additional financial material may be interspersed. Includes minutes for the First Meeting of the Fort William and District Health Unit Board, July 16th, 1952.

A\*

Further accruals are not anticipated.