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1893-1970

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Local Improvements consisted of road, sewer or sidewalk repairs undertaken by the City as recommended by the Fort William Board of Works or requested by petition of City residents. Municipal authority for undertaking works of local improvement was conferred by the Local Improvement Act, which allowed for the related costs to be split between the City and the property owners who benefited from the improvements. All Local Improvements were formalized through a by-law and if not the result of a public petition, required a favorable vote of 2/3 of the Council.

Funding for local improvements came through the application of a levy or increased assessment applied to a property for the owner's financial contribution. By-law 1121 passed in 1911 was a procedural by-law for local improvements. This By-law outlined the City's regulations and proportion of payment for works of Local Improvement. It was the duty of the Assessment Commissioner to determine the value of improvements to property and to assess charges for ratepayers. Records in this series document local improvements in terms of these increased assessments.

Arranged by year, Local Improvement/Assessment records describe the completed work in terms of location, the nature of the improvements, and the duration of the levy until payment is complete. Details generally include the total cost of the work, the various categories of expenditure, the breakdown of the cost to both the corporation and the property owner(s), and the annual levy to be paid by both the corporation and the property owner(s). Reference to the Lots and property owners are also included for the purpose of collection. Additional details may explain why the work was completed, as well as the related construction by-law and debenture by-laws that were passed by council in order to complete the work.

Local Improvement Assessments were a record of the combined Assessment/Tax Collection department. They were certified by the City Clerk and confirmed by the Court of Revision. The records conclude at the point of amalgamation with the City of Port Arthur.

See also Series 106 Local Improvement Registers (1909-1992) and Series 108 Local Improvement Distribution (1910-1930).

Some files in the City Clerks Series (#4) contain newspaper clippings with public notifications regarding local improvements.

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**Series 80 - Fort William Local Improvement Records Fort William Fonds**

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Further accruals are not anticipated.