

Woodbridge Agricultural Society Fonds

TITLE:	Woodbridge Agricultural Society fonds
DATES:	1876-1989, predominant 1960-1989-
EXTENT:	2.5 m of textual records and other material,
BIO & ADMIN HIST:	<p>The Woodbridge Agricultural Society was formed in 1890 as a consequence of the amalgamation of the West York Agricultural Society and the Vaughan Agricultural Society. The first joint annual agricultural fair was held in 1847 on the Stegman Estate in Pine Grove. The following year witnessed the fairs being held in Burwick (name changed to Woodbridge in 1871) and then alternately between Burwick/Woodbridge and Weston until 1885 at which time it found a permanent home in Woodbridge and received the official appellation of Woodbridge Fall Fair. (In 1885 the Ontario Provincial Government passed legislation requiring the agricultural fairs be permanently located). The <u>raison d'être</u> of the Woodbridge Agricultural Society was the administration of the Woodbridge Fall Fair. Since 1939, the fair has been held continuously on Thanksgiving weekends, with its organization and administration a year-long affair. The predecessor agencies of the Woodbridge Agricultural Society were also instrumental in agricultural advocacy. The societies assisted in encouraging the appointment of the first Deputy-Minister of Agriculture and in 1868 a Commissioner of Agricultural (Federal), the latter evolving into a full-time Minister of Agriculture in 1888. With the advent of the Ministry of Agriculture, the societies devoted themselves to the administration of agricultural fairs.</p> <p>At the time of the latest update of this descriptive inventory (1999), The Woodbridge Agricultural Society continues in its function as administrative and governing body of the Woodbridge Fall Fair.</p>
CUSTODIAL HIST:	<p>The records of the Woodbridge Agricultural Society and its predecessor agencies were generated between 1876 and 1989, with the bulk of materials relating to the period 1960-1989. Until 1990, the Society's records were held in the custody of the Woodbridge Agricultural Society Archivist, at which time the fonds was donated to the City of Vaughan Archives. Prior to this date, access was at the discretion of the City of Vaughan's Archivist.</p>
SCOPE & CONTENT:	<p>Fonds consists of records which reflect the functions and activities of the subject agency, namely the administration of the Woodbridge Fall Fair.</p>

Series I and Series II provide the largest degree of insight into the conduct of the Society's affairs. The first offers a view of the administration of Society business, namely the Woodbridge Fall Fair. Whereas, the second focuses on the actual operation of the Fair.

The fonds is primarily textual in terms of documentary form: correspondence, subject files, financial documents, legal records, by-laws, constitution, Board of Directors' minutes, lists of Board of Directors, general member lists, prize lists, fair programs, directories, promotional material, etc. To a lesser extent, graphic material is also represented: photographs, postcards, posters and videocassettes. A small series of ephemera is also present. Subject matter addressed by fonds' constituent records includes internal organization of Woodbridge Agricultural Society, funding (donations, grants, etc.), publication, membership and specific Fair-related events: opening and closing ceremonies, Miss Woodbridge Pageant, Demo Derby (videocassette), etc..

Noteworthy in the fonds are a history of the Woodbridge Fall Fair as well as postcards produced by the Society bearing images reproduced from ca. 1860-1910 and photographs of significant Woodbridge landmarks.

**TITLE SOURCE:
ARRANGEMENT:**

Title based on contents of fonds.

Little order originally graced the fonds of the Woodbridge Agricultural Society. However, sufficient evidence of the original arrangement scheme remained to enable the processing archivist to reconstitute series and subseries as originally organized by the records' creators with relative accuracy. Where size and/or conservation concerns preclude filing of documents in original sequence, a separation sheet has been inserted describing the item(s) in question and providing location information. Patrons are advised to consult staff in order to view such material.

**RESTRICTIONS:
COPYRIGHT:**

The fonds is in its entirety free of access restrictions. Copyright for this fonds lies with the City of Vaughan Archives. Credit must be accorded the latter in the event of any portion of this fonds being utilized in any format: written, audio-visual, electronic, etc. The following citation is acceptable: City of Vaughan

Archives, Woodbridge Agricultural Society fonds, MG 3, series and folder (or volume) name and number, as well as the box number for the folder(s) cited.

Reproduction of any part of this fonds requires the consent of the City Archivist.

ACCRUALS: The fonds is subject to intermittent accruals, as the City of Vaughan is designated the official records repository of the Agricultural Society.

RELATED MATERIAL: Related material may be found in the Claire Coates fonds, 1932-1993 (M995.12).

ACCESSION NUMBER: MG 3

REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Series I: Administrative Files**

DATES: 1876-1988, predominant 1976-1988

EXTENT: 1.04 m of textual records

SCOPE & CONTENT: Series consists of material documenting the activities of the Woodbridge Agricultural Society. Records include minutes of meetings, financial statements and ledgers, legal documents, membership lists and the constitution and by-laws of the Society. The oldest documents are a membership card, 1876 and a policy renewal, 1882.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of series.

ARRANGEMENT: The series is divided into six subseries.

ACCESSION NUMBER: MG 3

LOCATION: Boxes 1-8

REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries A: Correspondence**

DATES: 1967-1987

EXTENT: 8 cm of textual records

SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of letters and reports pertaining to the operation of the Society and a history of the Woodbridge Fair.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries.

ACCESSION NUMBER: MG 3

LOCATION: Box 1

REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries B: Financial Documents**

DATES: 1912-1983

EXTENT: ?

SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries includes ledgers, statements and budget.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries.

ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3

LOCATION: Boxes 1-3
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries C: Legal Documents**
DATES: 1951-1988
EXTENT: 13 cm of textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of development of property and revision of constitution and by-laws.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries.

ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Box 4
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries D: Minutes, Proceedings**
DATES: 1952-1987
EXTENT: 38 cm of textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of minutes of meetings, including Annual and Board meetings and membership lists.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries.

ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Boxes 5-7
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries E: Photographic Material**
DATES: [ca. 1909]
EXTENT: 2 cm of graphic material
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of graphic material; relating to Woodbridge and surrounding area.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries.

ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Box 8
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries F: Printed Material**
DATES: 1876-1982
EXTENT: 5 cm of textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of booklets and program. A membership card dated 1876 is the oldest document in the fonds.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries.

ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Box 8
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Series II: Woodbridge Fall Fair**
DATES: [ca. 1930]-1989, predominant 1970-1989

EXTENT: 1.7 m of textual records and other material
SCOPE & CONTENT: Series includes records documenting the planning and operation of the Woodbridge Fall Fair. Material includes minutes of the Woodbridge Fair Directors meetings and financial reports. Also included are exhibits, prize lists, fair parade material, entry books, photographs and negatives of fair, video cassettes and tapes of events and publications pertaining to agricultural fairs.
The strength of this series is in the images of events as depicted in photographs and videotapes. An entry book is the oldest document, [ca. 1930].

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of series.
ARRANGEMENT: This series is divided into six subseries.
ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Boxes 10-22
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries A: Correspondence**
DATES: 1970-1986
EXTENT: 13 cm of textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of documents relating to the planning and operation of the Fair.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries
ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Boxes 9-10
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries B: Fair Administration**
DATES: [ca. 1930-] 1988
EXTENT: 48 cm of textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of records pertaining to the operation of the Fair and events planned.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries.
ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Boxes 11-15
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries C: Legal Documents**
DATES: 1971-1981
EXTENT: 8 cm of textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of liability contracts.

TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries
ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Box 17
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries D: Graphic Material**
DATES: 1977-1989
EXTENT: ca. 40 cm of non-textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of fair events in still and moving image formats.
TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of subseries
ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Boxes 17-19
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries E: Printed Material**
DATES: 1981-1989
EXTENT: 26 cm of textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of publications received or created as a result of administration and/or operation of Fall Fair. The program and prize lists, spanning 1883-1988 represent some of the most significant documentation in the entire fonds.
ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Boxes 20-21
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Subseries F: Publicity**
DATES: 1968-1982
EXTENT: 7 cm of textual records
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of press releases and newspaper clippings.
ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Box 22
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Series III: Ephemera**
DATES: 1876-1988, predominant 1976-1988
EXTENT: 26 cm of textual records and other material
SCOPE & CONTENT: Subseries consists of publications and material found in the administrative files of the Woodbridge Agricultural Society. Included in the subseries are ribbons, buttons, parking passes and an award.
TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of series.
ACCESSION NUMBER: RG 3
LOCATION: Box 23-24
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives

TITLE: **Series IV: Miscellaneous**

DATES: 1876-1988, predominant 1976-1988
EXTENT: 7 cm of textual records and other material
SCOPE & CONTENT: Series consists of various publications and other miscellaneous material presumably originating in the Woodbridge Agricultural Society's administrative and Operational records, but whose original order could not be accurately recreated. Series includes a flag, banner, and a picture.
TITLE SOURCE: Title based on contents of series.
LOCATION: Box 24
REPOSITORY: City of Vaughan Archives