

Trent University Archives

Finding Aid - Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds. 2005 additions (05-015)

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Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds. 2005 additions

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Summary information

Repository:	Trent University Archives
Title:	Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds. 2005 additions
Reference code:	05-015
Date:	1976-2003 (creation)
Physical description:	36 cm of textual records

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Bruce Hodgins was born in 1931. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Ontario; his Master's degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and his Doctoral degree from Duke University in North Carolina. Before he became a professor at Trent University he was a history professor for 3 years at the University of Western Ontario. He taught at Prince of Wales College at Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island. While he was in Charlottetown he met Carol, his future wife. By 1963 they had two sons. In 1965 he joined the faculty of Trent University and he taught Canadian Politics. From January to June of 1979 he was an Acting College Head. From 1980 to 1984 he was the Department and Program Head of History and from 1986 to 1992, and 1995, he was Director of the Leslie M. Frost Centre. Bruce's parents established the Wanapitei Wilderness Camp on Temagami. He became the camp's director in 1971 and played a major role in running and developing it. Bruce is an active member in a canoeing organization in Peterborough that also includes other members of the Trent and Wanapitei communities.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Stanley Hodgins was born in Manitoba in 1900. He was raised in Stratford, Ontario, and, when he was old enough, began teaching school near Kitchener, Ontario. He later became a public school principal. Hodgins met Laura Belle Turel, who graduated as a registered nurse from Hamilton General Hospital shortly before their marriage in 1926. The couple honeymooned on a canoe trip in Algonquin Park, and later took their two sons, Larry and Bruce, on canoe trips. In 1943, Stanley Hodgins became camp director at Camp Wabanaki near Honey Harbour in Georgian Bay. The ideals and beliefs associated with Camp Wabanaki later shaped the Hodgins family's approach to Camp Wanapitei. In 1956, Stanley and Laura Belle Hodgins purchased Camp Wanapitei Limited from Ed Archibald. Under their directorship, Camp Wanapitei opened as a co-educational camp for boys and girls, as well as men and women, organized around a community-based, informal, and relaxed atmosphere.

Canoe tripping played a major role in the life of the camp. Over time, the Hodgins expanded the canoe-tripping program to include four-week trips to Moosonee and Ottawa, and numerous regattas were held each summer.

In 1971, a cooperative company, Camp Wanapitei Co-ed Camps Ltd., purchased the youth camp from Laura Belle and Stanley Hodgins. The Hodgins retained the Chateau and continued to operate it. Their son, Bruce Hodgins, became president and camp director of the new private Camp Wanapitei. In 1973, Bruce and Carol Hodgins organized an adult tripping program. In 1989, Laura Belle Hodgins, née Turel, died. In 1990, legal ownership of the Chateau was transferred to Bruce and Carol Hodgins, and the Chateau property was transferred to Larry and Bruce Hodgins. Stanley Hodgins died in 1993. The dreams and ideals established at Camp Wanapitei under the Hodgins directorship continued with the younger Hodgins.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Camp Wanapitei Limited was purchased by Stanley and Laura Belle Hodgins from Ed Archibald in 1956. The purchase included a chateau, a number of buildings, tent floors, an ice house, a dining hall, and canoes. The camp opened under the directorship of the Hodgins, who had previously been associated with Camp Wabanaki near Honey Harbour in Georgian Bay, where Stanley Hodgins had become camp director in 1943. The ideals and beliefs the Hodgins brought from Camp Wabanaki shaped the development of Camp Wanapitei.

Camp Wanapitei operated as a co-educational camp for boys and girls, as well as men and women. It was organized as a community-based camp with an informal and relaxed atmosphere. The camp offered a youth camp and a spring season. Canoe tripping played a major role in camp life, and the program eventually expanded to include four-week trips to Moosonee and Ottawa. Numerous regattas were also held each summer.

In 1971, a cooperative company, Camp Wanapitei Co-ed Camps Ltd., purchased the youth camp from Laura Belle and Stanley Hodgins. The Hodgins retained the Chateau and continued to operate it. Bruce Hodgins became president and camp director of the new private Camp Wanapitei. In 1973, an adult tripping program was offered and organized by Bruce and Carol Hodgins. The youth camp offered woodcraft, swim instruction, sailing, crafts, canoe re-canvassing, square dances, and special activities for younger campers.

By the 1970s, Camp Wanapitei's canoe-tripping program encompassed rivers and lakes in Northwestern Quebec and Northeastern Ontario. Trips continued to James Bay and Hudson Bay, and the camp also led trips down the Nahanni and Coppermine rivers in the Northwest Territories, as well as trips into Manitoba, British Columbia, and New Brunswick. The Canadian Studies program of Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, took trips to Wanapitei every September.

Laura Belle Hodgins, née Turel, died in 1989. In 1990, during Stanley Hodgins's lifetime, legal ownership of the Chateau was transferred to Bruce and Carol Hodgins, and the Chateau property was transferred to Larry and Bruce Hodgins. In 1991, the Chateau received an official Heritage Building Designation. Stanley Hodgins died in 1993. The dreams and ideals established at Camp Wanapitei under the Hodgins directorship continued with the younger Hodgins. Trips and camping continued into 1996 and the future.

Custodial history

Fonds was in the custody of Professor Bruce Hodgins before it was forwarded to Trent University Archives in November 2005.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of personal and Trent University-related correspondence, and correspondence related to Camp Wanapitei, Ontario Camping Association, Society of Camp Directors, and the Canadian Canoe Museum.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the creator of the fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition

Fonds acquired from Professor Bruce Hodgins in November 2005.

Restrictions on access

None

Related material

For related records see Bruce Hodgins fonds (93-013).

Accruals

This fonds, along with 99-011 and 04-001, is an addition to 92-008.

Note [General]

Special thanks to volunteer Claire Stewart, who rehoused and re-described this accession in Summer 2026.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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Access points

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Camps and Camping (subject)

Series descriptions

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
05-015/001(01)	File - Wanapitei Bulletin	1981, 1986-1993	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(02)	File - Wanapitei administration	1988-1997	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(03)	File - Chateau administration	1987-1999	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(04)	File - Financial records related to Wanapitei Chateau	1934, 1985-1998	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(05)	File - Chateau brochures and letterhead	1988	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(06)	File - Correspondence	1976-1992	1 folder of textual records 3 postcards 1 map 1 photograph
05-015/001(07)	File - Correspondence	1993-1999	1 folder of textual records 6 postcards
05-015/001(08)	File - Correspondence	1982, ca. 1985	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(09)	File - Letters to parents	1979-1993	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(10)	File - Mailing lists	1985-1997	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(11)	File - Tripping	1981-2003	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(12)	File - Society of Camp Directors: Camping in Canada Writing Awards <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes correspondence, and the following papers: - "Camping with a purpose: the history of marketing summer camps in Ontario" by Barbara Janicek - "Attitudes of camp counsellors and camp directors towards integration practices at summer camp" by Cathrine Bogle - "'Our minds weren't on fish': men and women in a Canadian landscape" by Claire Campbell - "Shaped by the west wind: memories of a Canadian landscape" by Claire Campbell - "'Strap a compass and knife and an axe to your belt:' the role of camp counselor training in the socialization of women at the Margaret Eaton school (1925-1941)" by Anna H. Lathrop	1996-2000	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(13)	File - Professor Bruce Hodgins' notes and Canadian Canoe Museum reports, minutes, and flyers	1998-2000	1 folder of textual records 3 maps (copies)
05-015/001(14)	File - Canadian Canoe Museum: survey report	1992	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(15)	File - Canadian Canoe Museum: feasibility and planning study / LORD Company	1993	1 folder of textual records
05-015/001(16)	File - Canadian Canoe Museum: feasibility and planning study / LORD Company (two copies)	1994	1 folder of textual records