

Trent University Archives

Finding Aid - Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds (92-008)

Generated by Trent University Archives on November 18, 2025

Language of description: English

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Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Trent University Archives
Title:	Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds
Reference code:	92-008
Date:	1930s-1980s (creation)
Physical description:	91 cm of textual records 29 maps 11 objects (pins and medals) 6 photographs 2 volumes 2 drawings 1 postcard

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Stanley Hodgins was born in 1900 in Manitoba. He was raised in Stratford, Ontario and when he was old enough started to teach school near Kitchener, Ontario. Later he became a public school principal. He met Laura Belle Turel and they were married in 1926. Just before their marriage Laura Belle had graduated as a registered nurse from Hamilton General Hospital. They honeymooned on a canoe trip in Algonquin Park. Eventually they would take their two sons, Larry and Bruce on canoe trips. In 1943 Stanley became camp director at Camp Wabanaki near Honey Harbour in Georgian Bay. In 1956 they purchased Camp Wanapitei Limited, from Ed Archibald. In the purchase they acquired a chateau, a number of buildings, tent floors, an ice house, dining hall and canoes. The Camp opened under the directorship of the Hodgins. It was co-ed with boys and girls as well as men and women forming a group that would be community based and informal and relaxed. The ideals and beliefs of the Hodgins, which were part of Camp Wabanaki where the Hodgins were previous to Wanapitei, were brought in Wanapitei. A youth camp was offered as well as a spring season. Canoe tripping played a major role in the life of Camp Wanapitei. Eventually they expanded their canoe tripping to four week trips that took campers to Moosonee and Ottawa. As well there were numerous regattas every summer. In 1971 a cooperative company, called Camp Wanapitei Co-ed Camps Ltd., purchased the youth camp from Laura Belle and Stanley Hodgins. The Hodgins kept the Chateau and continued to operate it. The president, and camp director, of the new private Camp Wanapitei was Bruce Hodgins. 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 the younger crowd. By this point in time the canoe tripping encompassed rivers and lakes in Northwestern Quebec and Northeastern Ontario. Trips were still going to the James and Hudson's Bay. The camp had also led trips down the Nahanni and Coppermine in the Northwest Territories and trips into Manitoba, British Columbia and New Brunswick. In 1989 Laura Belle Hodgins (nee 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 instilled, at Camp Wanapitei, under the Hodgins directorship continued with the younger Hodgins. The Canadian Studies program of Trent University, in Peterborough, Ontario, took trips to Wanapitei every September. In 1991 the Chateau received an official Heritage Building Designation. The trips and camping continue on into 1996 and the future.

Custodial history

This fonds was in the custody of Professor Bruce Hodgins before it was donated to the Trent University Archives.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of records of Laura Belle Hodgins who was Chair of the Kitchener, Ontario, Branch of the Women's Voluntary Services from 1942 to 1946; papers and legal documents of Stanley and Laura Belle Hodgins who bought Camp Wanapitei (a wilderness canoe tripping camp) in the mid-1950s; and correspondence, legal records, financial records, and camper, staff and program records of Camp Wanapitei under the directorship of Bruce Hodgins from 1960 to 1985.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

This fonds was donated by Professor Bruce Hodgins of Trent University.

Restrictions on access

None

Related material

For related records the Canadian Camping Association fonds and the Ontario Camps Association fonds.

Note [General]

Special thanks to volunteer Claire Stewart, who rehoused and re-described this accession in Fall 2025. The original order of the accession was maintained, although some larger files were subdivided.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Maps and atlases (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Postcards (documentary form)
- Drawings and sketches (documentary form)
- Objects (documentary form)
- Camps and Camping (subject)

Series descriptions

Series 1: Laura Belle Hodgins, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Women's Voluntary Services

Date: 1942 - 1946 (creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of the records of Laura Belle Hodgins (Kitchener, Ontario), Chairman of the Kitchener-Waterloo Women's Voluntary Services for the Department of National War Services.

Physical description: 5 folders of textual records

3 photographs

1 volume

10 pins

1 medal

Access points:

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Objects (documentary form)
- World War II (subject)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
92-008/001(01)	File - Women's voluntary services for the Department of National War Services: reports <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes five partial original copies.	1942-1946	1 folder of textual records

92-008/001(02)	File - Photographs of six unidentified members of the Women Voluntary Services holding a box reading "Rotary International"	1942-1946	2 photographs
92-008/001(03)	File - Guest book from the visit of Princess Alice Mary and a closing meeting from the Department of National War Services	1944-1946	1 volume
92-008/001(04)	File - Reports on the "Block System" and tuberculosis surveys	1946	1 folder of textual records
92-008/001(05)	File - Reports on the "Block System," tuberculosis surveys, monthly salvage collection routes, women's voluntary services membership roll, Kitchener x-ray survey, and a photograph of a women voluntary services member receiving something from an unidentified person <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes an envelope with a stamp from K.W. Y.M.C.A, Kitchener, Ontario, to Mr. Larry Hodgins.	1943-1946	1 folder of textual records1 photograph
92-008/001(06)	File - Canadian Women's Voluntary Services minutes, ten WVS (women's voluntary services) pins, and one coronation hospital fund medal	April 1942 – April 1945	1 folder of textual records10 pins1 medal

Series 2: Stanley and Laura Belle Hodgins and early days of Camp Wanapitei

Date: 1951 - 1974 (creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of papers, correspondence and records of Stanley and Laura Belle Hodgins, their purchase of the canoe trip camp of Wanapitei at Lake Temagami, Ontario, and administrative records of the camp's early days under the directorship of the Hodgins.

Physical description: 4 folders of textual records
1 volume

Access points:

- Textual records (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
92-008/001(07)	File - Papers relating to the purchase of Camp Wanapitei, and a booklet of camp staff and talks and sermons	1951-1956	1 folder of textual records
92-008/001(08)	File - "Adult list"	1956-1970	1 folder of textual records
92-008/001(09)	File - Agenda belonging to Laura Belle Hodgins	1970-1972	1 volume

92-008/001(10)	File - Correspondence, including a letter from [Runel?] and Barbara Ward, to Laura Belle and Stan Hodgins	December 1974	1 folder of textual records
92-008/001(11)	File - Correspondence, including the last will and testament of Edward Blake Archibald sent to Mr. and Mrs. Hodgins, and an obituary for Edward Blake Archibald	May 1965	1 folder of textual records

Series 3: Bruce Hodgins and Camp Wanapitei

Date: 1930s-1980s (creation)

Scope and content: Series 3 consists of papers, correspondence and records relating to the operations, promotions, and activities of the canoe trip camp of Wanapitei at Lake Temagami, Ontario under the directorship of Bruce and Carol Hodgins.

Physical description: 45 folders of textual records

3 photographs

29 maps

2 drawings

1 postcard

1 print

Access points:

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Maps and atlases (documentary form)
- Drawings and sketches (documentary form)
- Postcards (documentary form)
- Prints (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
92-008/001(12)	File - Camp Wanapitei co-ed financial accounts	1983	1 folder of textual records
92-008/001(13)	File - Camp Wanapitei history and philosophy	1957-1981	1 folder of textual records
92-008/001(14)	File - Camp Wanapitei: Federation of Ontario Naturalists canoe trip records, and correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes the following: - Canadian nature tours (1976) - Booklet on wilderness summer outings presented by the national and provincial parks association of Canada (1977) - Canadian nature tours (1977)	1974-1977	1 folder of textual records

	- Check-list of birds in the Lady Evelyn region (1974) - Lists of canoe trip expenses File includes the following correspondence: - A letter from John Hogenkamp to Bruce Hodgins (1975) - Several letters between Jane Hall and Bruce Hodgins (1975-1976) - A letter from John Clarke to Rob Grant (1976) - Two letters between Jeff Miller and Bruce Hodgins (1976) - A letter from D.H. Sutton to Bruce and Mary Ann		
92-008/001(15)	File - Canoe trip records and expenses	1975-1979	1 folder of textual records
	<i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes records relating to the “canoe tripping school” between camp Wanapitei and Trent University for university and high school students (1975-1977).		
92-008/001(16)	File - Temagami Lakes Association records and newspaper photocopies	1981-1982	1 folder of textual records
92-008/001(17)	File - Photographs	1960s-1980s	3 photographs
	<i>Scope and content:</i> File includes the following photographs: - A group photograph in colour - A black and white photograph on a beach. Written on the back is “Returning from Chapel – early 1960s” - A black and white photograph of a house. Written on the back is “Box 455, Ketton Rd., West Grove”		
92-008/001(18)	File - Maps	1930s-1980	17 maps
	<i>Scope and content:</i> File includes the following maps: - North Shore, Georgian Bay (1930s) - Shawanaga Bay (1930s) - Muskoka (1940s) - Muskoka (1940s) - Muskoka (1940s) - Sudbury – Cobalt – Porcupine region (1945) - Muskoka Lakes (1949) - Penny Sound (1950s) - Aston, district of Nipissing (1956) - Camp Wanapitei (two copies, 1980) - Camp Wanapitei, Sandy Inlet (four copies) - Dump closures, Temagami Lake - Map showing public roads, private roads, and proposed Temagami planning area (3 copies)		
92-008/002(01)	File - Legal documents regarding Camp Wanapitei	1962-1979	1 folder of textual records
	<i>Scope and content:</i> File includes some of the following documents: - Correspondence between Mr. W.B. Salkeld and Bruce Hodgins (1962) - Land titles act - Summer camp license (1973) - Corporation income tax return (1977)		
92-008/002(02)	File - Trailhead and vehicle service records	1980	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(03)	File - Records relating to Morley Chalmer, Camp Wanapitei’s associate director	1979-1981	1 folder of textual records

92-008/002(04)	File - Medical supplies and personnel records for Camp Wanapitei	1976-1981	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(05)	File - Camp Wanapitei ski trip records and expenses	1974-1978	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(06)	File - Food and equipment records and receipts for Camp Wanapitei	1962-1983	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(07)	File - "Feeding fifty campers" program <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes a handwritten sheet of the number of people in camp.	1953, 1962-1983	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(08)	File - Camp Wanapitei equipment inventory and maintenance records <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes one "camper's health certificate" for Leila (Lee) Stewart, dated July 1979.	1970-1983	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(09)	File - Camp records, camp activity records, canoe poem, and Trent Canadian Studies field trip records <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes following textual records: - Scripts for Camp Wanapitei musicale (1961-1963) - Wanapitei square dance calls (1980) - Camp Wanapitei awards and privileges records	1961-1983	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(10)	File - Camp Wanapitei handwritten program books one and two	1961	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(11)	File - Booklet with canoe trip timetables and notes	1976	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(12)	File - Canoe trip and equipment records, river proposal, camp inspection report, and forest travel permits <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes a diagram of a reflector oven by Carol Hodgins (February 1983).	1962-1983	1 folder of textual records1 drawing2 maps
92-008/002(13)	File - Camp Wanapitei adult canoe trip records, and correspondence	1973-1982	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(14)	File - Director's reports, staff reports, and trip reports	1962-1980	1 folder of textual records4 maps
92-008/002(15)	File - Camp Wanapitei advertising, publicity, newsletter, and canoe tripping course records <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes a pencil sketch of two people canoeing, likely drawn by Carol, a newsletter with camp photographs (1980, 1981), and a photocopy of a newspaper story about Bruce and Carol Hodgins (1983).	1971-1983	1 folder of textual records1 postcard1 sketch
92-008/002(16)	File - Camp Wanapitei brochures <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains some brochures with camp photographs and maps, and a draft for a brochure.	1971-1982, n.d.	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(17)	File - Camp Wanapitei registration, health, and staff forms	1961-1981	1 folder of textual records

92-008/002(18)	File - Camp Wanapitei "Indian night" records	1957-1975	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(19)	File - British canoe trip planning records, and correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes four booklets titled "An introduction to the eighteenth tour to Canada 1966", "An introduction to the sixteenth tour to Canada 1964", "Report on the tour to Canada 1964", and "Report on the tour to Canada 1968", all by the W.H. Rhodes Canada Educational Trusts.	1964-1976	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(20)	File - General camper and registration records, and correspondence	1962-1983	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(21)	File - Camp Wanapitei awards and privileges, and standards records	1956-1973	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(22)	File - Board minutes and agenda records	1971-1978	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(23)	File - Alternatives magazine records, including a contract with Alternatives Inc.	1973	1 folder of textual records
92-008/002(24)	File - General camp staff and registration records, and correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes staff salary records and a newspaper clipping (1984).	1965-1985	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(01)	File - Financial records and receipts	1962-1977	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(02)	File - Financial records and receipts continued	1978-1985	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(03)	File - Two booklets titled "Camp Wanapitei Financial Statements"	1977-1978	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(04)	File - Correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes a colour photo card of Christ Church, Devonshire, an envelope with stamps, and a map of York University.	1961-1980	1 folder of textual records1 map
92-008/003(05)	File - Correspondence	1971-1972	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(06)	File - Correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes an envelope and postcard with stamps.	1973-1974	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(07)	File - Correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes envelopes and a postcard with stamps.	1975	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(08)	File - Correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes an invitation to a Bar Mitzvah in both English and Hebrew.	1976-1977	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(09)	File - Correspondence	1978	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(10)	File - Correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i>	1979	1 folder of textual records

	File also includes "Selections from the Hebrew press."		
92-008/003(11)	File - Correspondence and an information booklet for an "exchange-radio telephone" <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes a photocopy of a newspaper clipping.	1980	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(12)	File - Correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes an envelope with stamps.	1981-1982	1 folder of textual records
92-008/003(13)	File - Correspondence	1983-1984	1 folder of textual records