

Trent University Archives

Finding Aid - Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds. 1999 additions (99-011)

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Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds. 1999 additions

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Summary information

Repository:	Trent University Archives
Title:	Hodgins - Wanapitei fonds. 1999 additions
Reference code:	99-011
Date:	1967-1996 (creation)
Physical description:	30 cm of textual records (3 boxes) 4 photographs 3 maps

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.

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.

Custodial history

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

Scope and content

This fonds consists of Camp Wanapitei promotional material, correspondence, material relating to camp operations including staff contracts and staff lists, campers lists, policies, shares, and background notes and itinerary for canoe trips.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

This fonds was donated by Professor Bruce Hodgins.

Restrictions on access

None

Related material

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

Accruals

This fonds, along with 05-015, 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)

- Photographs (documentary form)
- Maps and atlases (documentary form)
- Camps and Camping (subject)

Series descriptions

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
99-011/001(01)	File - Promotional material and application forms <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes Wanapitei calendars. <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1982-1991	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(02)	File - Poem regarding Wanapitei, an essay, and Wanapitei history <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes an article written for the Temagami Times regarding Laura Belle Hodgins' death. <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1981-1999	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(03)	File - Policies, mission statement, and camp standards <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1978-1992	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(04)	File - Inspections and camp licenses <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1982-1992	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(05)	File - Insurance, mortgage, and finances <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1978-1991	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(06)	File - First aid kit records <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1992	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(07)	File - Meals <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1982-1987	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(08)	File - Maintenance <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1991-1992	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(09)	File - Site improvement project <i>Restrictions on access:</i>	1984-1988	1 folder of textual records

	None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.		
99-011/001(10)	File - Planning for 1993 <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1992	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(11)	File - Shares and shares campaign <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1986-1990	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(12)	File - Shareholders survey <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1990	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(13)	File - Staff lists and contracts <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes correspondence. <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1982-1989	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(14)	File - Staff lists and contracts <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1990-1994	1 folder of textual records
99-011/001(15)	File - Correspondence and records regarding a staff problem <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1993	1 folder of textual records
99-011/002(01)	File - Pre-camp schedules, itineraries, and plans <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes a pre-camp itinerary booklet for the 1994 season. <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1991-1994	1 folder of textual records
99-011/002(02)	File - Youth camp, wilderness training, and campers' lists <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes schedules, summaries, itineraries, and notes. <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1982-1994	1 folder of textual records
99-011/002(03)	File - Voyageur programs, resumes, and correspondence <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1960, 1980-1985, 1992	1 folder of textual records
99-011/002(04)	File - Trips: background notes <i>Restrictions on access:</i>	1972-1992	* 1 folder of textual records * 1 map

	None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.		
99-011/002(05)	File - Trips: adult trips and camping-related courses <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes a booklet advertising "Ecosummer Expeditions" (1987). <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1985-1996	* 1 folder of textual records * 1 map
99-011/002(06)	File - Trips: reports <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1981	1 folder of textual records
99-011/002(07)	File - Trips: Trent's Canadian Studies 200 field trips to Wanapitei <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1977-1993	1 folder of textual records
99-011/002(08)	File - Thanksgiving at Wanapitei <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1981-1984	1 folder of textual records
99-011/002(09)	File - Temagami research centre search conference <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes correspondence, a report, and a brochure for the Canadian Canoe Museum. <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1991	1 folder of textual records
99-011/003(01)	File - Correspondence <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1990-1993	* 1 folder of textual records * 3 photographs
99-011/003(02)	File - Correspondence with Premier Ed Schreyer regarding South Indian Lake/Churchill River development <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1970-1973	* 1 folder of textual records * 1 map
99-011/003(03)	File - Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association correspondence and certification <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1988-1992	1 folder of textual records
99-011/003(04)	File - Bruce Hodgins' personal records <i>Restrictions on access:</i> None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.	1992	1 folder of textual records
99-011/003(05)	File - Photograph, and "The Canoe and Canoeing in Canada" by Florian Muller <i>Restrictions on access:</i>	19--	* 1 folder of textual records * 1 photograph

	None. Contact the Archives to arrange access.
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