Kamloops Museum and Archives

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John Fitzwater collection

1970.061, 1970.069, 0.2669, 0.3382, 0.3539

1970.061, etc.   John Fitzwater collection

                                                                              1901-1970

Access: Open.   Textual, Object, Cartographic, Graphic   0.25 meters

Title: John Fitzwater collection

Dates of Creation: 1901-1970

Physical Description: 24 cm of textual records, 7 objects, 5 maps, and 4 b&w photographs

Biographical Sketch:

John Edward Fitzwater was born on February 20, 1887 in the village of Byfleet in Surrey, England to James Fitzwater and Mary Prosser. He received his academic education in London and then in Danbury, Essex where his uncle was headmaster, and his religious education in Weybridge, Surrey where his father served as the church organist for forty-six years. John worked with his older brother Percy for a short time in the installation of domestic electrical services in Godalming, Surrey before coming to Canada in 1906 at the age of nineteen.

Fitzwater worked in several positions in Manitoba, primarily in general stores, before he enlisted with the 43rd Cameron Highlanders in Winnipeg in January, 1915. Shortly afterwards he transferred to the 16th Canadian Scottish in the spring of 1915. After receiving three minor wounds overseas, Fitzwater received his discharge in April, 1918.

Upon returning to Canada, Fitzwater started his career with the Canadian National Railway company as a timekeeper on an extra-gang with the Maintenance-of-Way branch in Hope, B.C. in 1918. After taking a leave of absence from fall, 1919 until May, 1920, Fitwater was posted in Kamloops as a joint bridge and building clerk and roadmaster's clerk. Two years later he worked strictly as clerk to the Bridge and Building department where he remained until his retirement in February, 1952 at the age of sixty-five.

John Fitzwater married Edith Morven Bannerman in Kamloops in 1924. Bannerman came to Kamloops in 1904 and served as vice-president in 1933, president in 1941 and 1952, and as life member of the Kamloops Council of Women, as well as vice-president of the Provincial Council of Women. She was also a member of the Kamloops United Church women's organization, a charter member of the Excelsior Rebekah Lodge, administered the donations of various volunteer associations, and acted as the convenor of the Well Baby Clinic during the Great Depression. Bannerman was one of the women that founded the Red Cross Guild in 1914. She served as president of the guild from 1916-1919 and contributed to establishing the official Red Cross branch in 1920. She served as secretary- treasurer from 1919- 1928, then assumed the role of president of the Kamloops Red Cross until 1936, also acting as the delegate to the provincial branch. On a

1970.061, etc.   John Fitzwater collection

number of occasions she also served as the province's vice-president and president. Bannerman served in the Red Cross for thirty-five years and in 1950 was given the distinction of being made the first vice-president of the Kamloops branch for life. Edith's father, James, served as the Indian Land Agent for the district.

John Fitzwater was active and served in a number of positions in the United Church and various fraternal organizations, was a member of the school board and a director of the Royal Inland Hospital; in addition to a civic career. Fitzwater was honored unanimously by City Council in 1962 for his contributions to the community and named the fourth Freeman of Kamloops.

After joining the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church when he first arrived in Kamloops, Fitzwater was elected to the first Board of Stewards when union was effected between the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. From 1929- 1932 he served as Envelope Secretary and from 1932- 1934 as Chairman of the Board of Stewards, while also serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee for a number of years. During his last year as Board Chairman, Fitzwater also served as president of the AOTS (As One That Serves) Men's club, and continued to serve as a steward.

The fraternal organizations in which Fitzwater was active included the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Elks. He became a member of the Kamloops Masonic Lodge No. 10, A.F & M in 1928 and held various offices, including Presiding Officer of the Lodge in 1944 and Worshipful Master in 1944. From 1940-1961 Fitzwater was a member of the Excelsior Encampment and Rebekah Lodges of the I.O.O.F order, and served on the joint committee for the United War Effort and the Follow-up Bursaries Committee for the Grand Lodge I.O.O.F of British Columbia. In 1936 he was elected to the position of Grandmaster at the provincial grand lodge of the I.O.O.F in Chilliwack.

Fitzwater was initiated into the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks Lodge No. 44 on December 9, 1920 and was elected Tyler in January, 1921. He served as assistant secretary from January 1922 to January, 1924 and secretary for ten years afterwards. Fitzwater served as an active member and trustee of the Elks for forty-two years, visiting patients at the Tranquille Sanatorium every Sunday on behalf of the Lodge and receiving the highest award for a member- the meritorious service jewel.

Fitzwater served on the School Board from 1936-1941, during which time he was instrumental in securing the appointment of the first school nurse, led actions to improve the appearance of the school grounds, and in 1937 arranged for obtaining coronation medals to give to school children during the coronation parade. Also in 1937, he moved for insurance to cover board liability regarding pupils and board employees. In 1941 Fitzwater was elected School Board Chairman. Fitzwater also served as a director of the Royal Inland Hospital for twenty-two years. Fitzwater was elected to the board of the RIH in September, 1934, re-elected in 1935, and served until he decided not to have his name placed in nomination and left the position in February, 1956. He served on the Purchasing Committee in 1937, the Building Committee in 1938, and served as acting Chairman in 1951.

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John Fitzwater also had a civic career. He was elected Alderman in 1942 and served in this position until 1951. During this time, he was appointed as the council representative to the Athletic Association Executive in 1945, the Museum Association in 1946, the Memorial Arena, Fire Hall Board and the RIH in 1950, and the K.A.A Hall and the Exhibition Park Advisory Committee in 1951. He was also the Chairman of the Parks, Health, and Finance committees for many years, and chaired the Public Works committee in 1951.

Fitzwater was elected Mayor of Kamloops in 1951, winning the chief magistracy by acclamation, and officially assumed the position on January 1, 1952, succeeding A.M Affleck. In 1956 he became President of the Union of B.C Municipalities, succeeding George Hills, mayor of Prince Rupert. He had been a member of the UBCM for fifteen years. As a member of city council, he served in municipal organizations regionally, provincially, and nationally. He served a term as President of the Okanagan Valley Municipal Association, and was one of four members from B.C on the executive of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, along with the mayors of Vancouver, New Westminster, and Victoria. Fitzwater served as mayor until 1961, becoming the first Kamloops mayor to hold office for more than eight years. Following his tenure as mayor, he remained an active member of the community and vocal critic of the city council.

John Edward Fitzwater died on June 26, 1970 at the age of 83 in his sleep, seven years after the death of his wife in 1962.

Scope and Content:

Collection predominantly documents John Fitzwater's tenure as mayor of Kamloops and the period following his retirement until his death. The collection includes personal and business related correspondence, newspaper clippings and magazine articles, and ephemera from 1912-1970, primarily from the period 1952-1970. Also included are five leather-bound volumes regarding his life, presented to him in 1962 to honor him being named a Freeman of the City of Kamloops. Collection also contains a small amount of photographs, and books and records pertaining to Fitzwater's wife, Edith Fitzwater.

Custodial History:

Collection was initially comprised of records from accessions 1970.061 and 1970.069, both of which were donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives by the Fitzwater Estate on July 9, 1970 and July 24, 1970 respectively. Textual records donated with accession 1970.061 (item 11) are noted to have been donated prior to the main accession, with some cataloguing and arrangement done in December 1977. At this time, photographs and ephemera records were removed from the collection and placed in the KMA Photograph Collection and in various subject files. Photographs found in

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the collection labelled "Fitzwater Estate" in 2018 were assumed to have been part of this collection of records, and were assigned the accession number 1970.061.003 during reprocessing in 2019.

Additional records which had been donated by the the Fitzwaters were initially placed in the Vertical Files Collection (accession 0.3539) and in the Rare Books Collection (accessions 0.2669 and 0.3382), and were accrued to this collection during reprocessing in 2019. Accession 0.2669 was donated in 1959 by Mrs. J.E. Fitzwater; accession 0.3382 was donated in 1955 by Mrs. J.E. Fitzwater; and accession 0.3539 was donated in 1962 by J.E. Ftizwater.

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Notes:

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of collection

Arrangement: The material was arranged into two series based on the organization to which the materials appeared to relate by the previous archivist (ca. 1977). These two groups included correspondence and the freeman biography journals. Correspondence records were previously arranged in five groups - correspondence misc. 1952-1962; correspondence misc. 1963-1970; Union of B.C Municipalities misc. material; Canadian Federal Mayors and Municipalities corr. 1961-1962; correspondence with the city 1958-1970. The correspondence series was re-arranged during reprocessing in 2017 into five sub-series including: mayoral term correspondence, Union of B.C Municipalities, Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, Post-mayoral term correspondence, and newspaper clippings, miscellaneous correspondence, and ephemera. Previous groupings were primarily arranged chronologically and were left as such. Newly created files were also arranged chronologically. Previous groupings that were not re-arranged, but contained materials related to newly created series and files were left in their original arrangement. A third series was added during reprocessing in 2019 to accommodate records which had been initially removed from the collection in 1977 (ephemera and photographs) and records formerly placed in the Vertical Files Collection and Rare Books Collection. Records in this series have been arranged chronologically based on donation date.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access. The archivist reserves the right to restrict access to any fragile material for preservation purposes.

Terms governing use and reproduction: No reproduction permitted without consent of copyright holder. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission for the reproduction of materials for publication or dissemination.

Finding aids: Series descriptions, sub-series descriptions, and file lists are available for this collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Related materials: See Artifact Collection for additional materials donated with accessions 1970.061 and 1970.069.

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Series 1: Correspondence

1912-1970. — 9 cm of textual records, 5 maps, and 6 objects

Scope and Content: Series includes personal and business related correspondence, newspaper clippings and magazine articles, and ephemera from 1912-1970, but predominantly from the period 1952-1970. Material is primarily regarding the period of John Fitzwater's tenure as Mayor of Kamloops and following his retirement, as well as correspondence and ephemera regarding the various organizations he was involved with.

Sub-Series 1: Mayoral term correspondence

1952-1962. — 2 cm of textual records and 4 maps

Scope and Content: Sub-series consists of newspaper clippings and magazine articles, personal and business correspondence, and miscellaneous documents and items from the period 1952-1962 during J. E. Fitzwater's term as mayor of Kamloops.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1970.061.11.1.1.1	Newspaper clippings and other material – File contains newspaper clippings, invitations, essays or speeches, magazine clippings, and correspondence. – 1 cm of textual records and 4 maps	1952-1962	1/1
1970.061.11.1.1.2	Kamloops diamond jubilee – File contains newspaper clippings, invitations, speeches, and correspondence related to Kamloops' Diamond Jubilee celebration. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1953	1/2
1970.061.11.1.1.3	Royal visit – File contains newspaper clippings related to the Royal Visit to Kamloops. – 1 textual record	1958	1/3

1970.061, etc.	**John Fitzwater collection**	
		1901-1970
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Sub-Series 2: Union of B.C. Municipalities

1952-1969. — 1 cm of textual records, 3 objects, and 1 map

Scope and Content: Sub-series consists of documents relating to the Union of B.C Municipalities.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1970.061.11.1.2.1	Union of B.C. Municipalities correspondence and other material – File contains correspondence, name badges and ribbons, programs, pamphlets, brochures, an information package about Kamloops, postcards, and annual reports from the Executive Director and President of the UBCM for 1969. – 1 cm of textual records, 3 objects, and 1 map	1952-1969	1/4

Sub-Series 3: Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities

1961-1962. — 1.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content: Sub-series consists of documents relating to the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1970.061.11.1.3.1	Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities correspondence and other material – File contains correspondence primarily with George S. Mooney (Executive Director of the C.F.M.M.), meeting agendas, invitations, newspaper clippings, a conference delegates list, constitution, and a conference cities and presidents chronology. – 1.5 cm of textual records	1961-1962	1/5

Sub-Series 4: Post-mayoral term correspondence

1963-1970. — 2 cm of textual records

Scope and Content: Sub-series consists of correspondence from the years 1963-1970, following J.E. Fitzwater's term as Mayor of Kamloops. Included are correspondence and criticisms with the City of Kamloops and federal government, as well as correspondence with a number of societies, clubs, associations, churches, fraternal organizations, and the school district, many of which are to thank Fitzwater for contributions or donations to their respective organization. Also included are a number of miscellaneous personal correspondence records.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1970.061.11.1.4.1	Correspondence with the City of Kamloops – File contains correspondence with the City of Kamloops. – 0.75 cm of textual records	1965-1970	1/6
1970.061.11.1.4.2	Correspondence with federal government – File contains correspondence with the federal government of Canada. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1968-1970	1/7
1970.061.11.1.4.3	Kamloops and District Society to Assist Retarded Children correspondence – File contains correspondence with the Kamloops and District Society to Assist Retarded Children. – 0.25 cm of textual records	1963-1967	1/8
1970.061.11.1.4.4	Royal Inland Hospital correspondence – File contains correspondence with the Royal Inland Hospital. – 0.25 cm of textual records	1964-1970	1/9
1970.061.11.1.4.5	Soroptimist Club correspondence – File contains correspondence with the Soroptimist Club. – 4 textual records	1964-1969	1/10
1970.061.11.1.4.6	Kamloops Museum and Archives correspondence – File contains correspondence with the Kamloops Museum and Archives. – 5 textual records	1964-1967	1/11

1970.061, etc.   John Fitzwater collection

                                                                                                  1901-1970
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1970.061.11.1.4.7	Miscellaneous correspondence – File contains miscellaneous correspondence. – 1 cm of textual records	1963-1970	1/12

Sub-Series 5: Newspaper clippings, miscellaneous correspondence, and ephemera

1912-1968. — 3 cm of textual records and 3 objects

Scope and Content: Sub-series consists of miscellaneous newspaper clippings, correspondence, and ephemera.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1970.061.11.1.5.1	Newspaper clippings, miscellaneous correspondence, and ephemera – File contains name badges and ribbons, invitations, programs, a notebooks related to meetings of the International Order of Oddfellows, a notebook of expenses, Royal Tour of Canada 1959 booklet, Fitzwater's I.O.O.F. certificates, newspaper clippings, and a personal reminiscence written by Fitzwater. – 3 cm of textual records and 3 objects	1912-1968	1/13

1970.061, etc.   John Fitzwater collection

1901-1970

Access: Open.   Textual, Object, Cartographic, Graphic   0.25 meters

Series 2: Freeman biography journals

1962. — 8 cm of textual records

Scope and Content: Series consists of five leather-bound volumes regarding the life of J.E. Fitzwater, presented to him at "Jack Fitzwater Night" in 1962 to honor him being named a Freeman of the city of Kamloops. The five volumes document Fitzwater's early life, his career with the Canadian Northern Railway, his church activities and fraternal services, his involvement with the school board and Royal Inland Hospital, and his civic career. Attached to the inside of the front cover of the volumes are a number of newspaper clippings regarding Fitzwater being honored at "Jack Fitzwater Night." Attached to the inside back cover is the funeral service pamphlet for J.E. Fitzwater's wife, Edith Fitzwater, from 1962.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1970.069.002	Freeman biography journals – File contains five leather-bound volumes regarding the life of J.E. Fitzwater. – 8 cm of textual records	1962	2

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1901-1970

Access: Open.   Textual, Object, Cartographic, Graphic   0.25 meters

Series 3: Other Records

1901-1965 — 7 cm of textual records, 4 b&w photographs, and 1 object

Scope and Content: Series consists of programs, invitations, and ephemera collected by J.E. Fitzwater, photographs, two books, and Edith Fitzwater's high school diploma.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
0.2669	*Royal Tour of Canada 1959 Arrangements*	1959	Reading Room
0.3382	*The History of the Northern Interior of British Columbia, Formerly New Caledonia (1660-1880) /* Rev. A.G. Morice	1904	Rare Books Collection
0.3539	The Founding of Kamloops 1812-1912 – File contains two copies of a booklet entitled "The Founding of Kamloops 1812-1912" written by M.S. Wade on the occasion of the Kamloops Centenary Celebration September 17-19, 1912. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1912	2/1
1970.061.011.002	Programs, Invitations, and Ephemera – File contains various programs, invitations, pamphlets, brochures, ephemera about Kamloops events collected by J.E. Fitzwater. – 1.5 cm of textual records and 1 object	1924-1965	2/2
1970.061.011.003	Photographs from Fitzwater Estate – File contains four photographs: two unidentified children, a woman, Miss Reid, and two women. – 4 b&w photographs	[ca. 1940s]	2/3
1970.069.004	Edith Morven Bannerman's High School Diploma – File contains Edith Morven Bannerman's high school diploma from Anaheim High School in California. – 1 textual record	1901	Map Collection