

Kamloops Museum and Archives



Nelson Riis fonds

0.3116, 2018.148, 2020.003

Compiled by
Jaimie Fedorak, January 2020

KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

0.3116, etc.

Nelson Riis fonds

1907-1986

Access: Open.

Textual, Graphic, Cartographic, Architectural Drawing

0.10 meters

Title: Nelson Riis fonds

Dates of Creation: 1907-1986

Physical Description: 9 cm of textual records, 7 b&w photographs, 4 maps, and 1 architectural drawing

Biographical Sketch:

Nelson Andrew Riis was born on January 10, 1942 in High River Alberta. Riis began working at the age of 12 and by the time he was 30 he had worked as a clerk, waiter, fisherman, surveyor, truck driver, timber cruiser, farm labourer, deckhand, and refinery worker. He then decided to enter the teaching profession, gaining a Bachelor of Education at the University of British Columbia and working as an elementary and secondary school teacher throughout the 1960s. Riis went back to the University of British Columbia during the later 1960s to gain a master's degree in geography, and after his graduation in 1970 he became one of the charter members of the Geography Department at Cariboo College in Kamloops, B.C. (now Thompson Rivers University). During his time at Cariboo College Riis would rise to become the chairman of the Social Sciences Department, and became very involved in local politics. Riis won a seat as Alderman in 1973 in Kamloops, where he would serve until 1978. Afterwards he served as a School Trustee (1978-1980) and as a Director for the Thompson Nicola Regional District. In 1980 Riis entered federal politics representing the New Democratic Party, and won the seat for the Kamloops-Shuswap riding. Riis would continue to represent the Kamloops-Shuswap and later Kamloops riding in the House of Commons until his defeat in the 2000 election. During his tenure Riis served as the House Leader (1986-1996) and the Caucus Chair (1996-2000), and was well known during his time as the Critic for Finance. After his retirement from politics Riis continued to live in the Ottawa region, and entered the world of business. From 2000-2010 he worked for Canadian Rockport Homes International, and then went on to start his own business as a long term care planning specialist.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of Nelson Riis' research materials on the Walhachin area, including maps, water records, maps, and photographs; a booklet on community organizations in Kamloops; and ephemera related to his political career representing the Kamloops-Shuswap (later Kamloops) riding.

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Custodial History:

Accession 0.3116 was donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives ca. 1972 by Nelson Riis. Photographs from this accession were initially integrated into the KMA Photograph Collection, and the remainder of records were filed in the Vertical Files collection. Accession 2018.148 was donated ca. 1981 by Nelson Riis. Records in accession 2020.003 were initially placed in the biographical file about Nelson Riis, but were pulled from the file for permanent preservation by the previous Archivist around 2010 and accessioned in 2020. All three accessions were brought together during reprocessing in 2020.

Notes:

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of fonds.

Arrangement: Fonds has been arranged into three series, based on the separate accessions: Series 1: Walhachin Research; Series 2: Community Organizations; and Series 3: Subject File Ephemera. Within each series the original order of the records has been maintained wherever apparent.

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: File list is available for this collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

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Series 1: Walhachin Research

1907-1963— 6 cm of textual records, 7 b&w photographs, 4 maps, and 1 architectural drawing

Scope and Content: Series contains documents collected by Nelson Riis related to his research in the Walhachin area, focused on the developments around the Snohoosh Lake Dam.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
0.3116.001	Report re Condition of Dams on Vidette Lake and Snohoosh Lake B.C. – File contains a report written by E.H. Tredcroft for the Department of Lands, Water Branch on the condition of dams on Vidette Lake and Snohoosh Lake, B.C. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1929	1/1
0.3116.002-003	Conditional Water Licenses – File contains two conditional water licenses issued to the Sno-hosh Water, Light and Power Company Limited for storage and irrigation water from Shohoosh Lake. – 2 textual records	1920	1/2
0.3116.004	Water Rights Branch, Determination and Order – File contains a Determination and Order issued to the Sno-hosh Water, Light and Power Company Limited for water claims on Snohoosh Lake by the Water Rights Branch. – 4 textual records	1916	1/3
0.3116.005	Water Rights Branch Correspondence re: Sno-hosh Dam – File contains correspondence with the Water Rights Branch and a Water Rights Branch Cancellation Order for Conditional Water Licenses 4619 and 4620 on Snohoosh Lake. – 0.25 cm of textual records	1927-1942	1/4
0.3116.006	Report on Inspection of Snohoosh Lake Dam and Suggested Alternations for Storage Purposes, Deadman's Creek I.R., Kamloops Agency – File contains a report written by W.C. Warren regarding alterations to the Snohoosh Lake Dam. – 8 textual records	1942	1/5

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0.3116.007-008	Water Rights Branch Correspondence re: W.C.Warren's Report – File contains correspondence from the Water Rights Branch re: W.C. Warren's report on alternations to the Snohoosh Lake Dam, and a hand drawn map of the dam site and surrounding area. – 0.5 cm of textual records and 1 map	1942-1945	1/6
0.3116.009	Water Records – File contains two water records granted to M.S. Wade for Snohoosh Lake, claimed by the Sno-hosh Water, Light and Power Company Limited and Barnes Estates Limited. – 2 textual records	1907	1/7
0.3116.010	Reconstruction Snohoosh Lake Dam Storage for Deadmans Creek I.R. No. 1. Kamloops Agency – Item is a composite architectural drawing showing the downstream profile showing the proposed new spillway, sketch plan of dam, and section through dam showing construction of proposed new spillway. – Scale indeterminable. – 83.6 x 56.7 cm – Title based on contents	September 2, 1942	1/8
0.3116.011	Deadman's Creek/Snohoosh Lake to Accompany Application for Storage on Snohoosh Lake – Item is a map showing the area around the Snohoosh Lake Dam including Deadman's Creek Indian Reserve No. 1, Criss Creek, and township lines. – Scale indeterminable. – 23 x 56.4 cm – Title based on contents	May 12, 1942	1/9
0.3116.012	Ashcroft Water District – Item is a map showing the Ashcroft Water District noting the location of water intakes and flumes. Map also notes the location of townsite boundaries, lots, the C.P.R. line, and forest reserves. – Scale: 240 chains = 1 inch – 27.9 x 31.8 cm – Title based on contents	1925	1/10
0.3116.013	Stadia Contour Survey of Rock Canyon on Deadmans Creek approx. 2 1/4 miles from junction with the Thompson River / Kamloops Field Office, A.G.H. – Item is a contour map showing the elevation of the rock canyon on Deadmans Creek. – Scale: 25 feet = 1 inch vertical, 50 feet = 1 inch horizontal, 100 feet = 1 inch. – 50.7 x 34.2 cm – Title based on contents	July 1944	1/11

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0.3116.014	Photographs – File contains photographs of the Snohoosh Lake Dam. See Appendix 1 for listing of individual photographs. – 7 b&w photographs	1927-[1963?]	Photo Collection
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Series 2: Community Organizations

[ca. 1981]. — 0.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and Content: Series contains a booklet documenting community organizations and clubs in Kamloops, B.C. around 1981.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
2018.148	Community Organizations and Clubs, etc. – File contains a booklet documenting community organizations and clubs in Kamloops around 1981. Types of organizations included are churches, recreational services, service and fraternal organizations, social clubs, labour union organizations, professional organizations, and others. – 0.5 cm of textual records	[ca. 1981]	1/12

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Series 3: Subject File Ephemera

1980-1986 — 3 cm of textual records.

Scope and Content: Series contains materials issued by Nelson Riis in his capacity as a Member of Parliament for the Kamloops-Shuswap and Kamloops ridings. Records include reports, a heritage calendar, and correspondence.

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
2020.003.001	Reports – File contains reports issued by Nelson Riis to his constituents in the Kamloops-Shuswap riding. Reports include Ottawa Reports, Parliamentary Reports, Riis Report, and a Budget Bulletin. – 2.5 cm of textual records	1980-1985	1/13
2020.003.002	Kamloops-Shuswap Heritage Calendar 1986 – File contains a calendar of heritage photographs issued by Nelson Riis to his constituents. – 0.25 cm of textual records with photographs	1986	1/14
2020.003.003	Correspondence and Bulletins – File contains letters to Riis' constituents, a Constitution Speech given by Riis on March 2, 1981, a feedback form, and greetings from Parliament. – 0.25 cm of textual records	1980-1983	1/15

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Appendix 1: Series 1, 0.3116.014: Photographs

Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
KMA 8540	Penny's Ranch, Walhachin – Item is a photograph of Penny's Ranch at Walhachin showing a flume. – 10.7 x 7.5 cm – Title based on contents	[December 29, 1963?]	Photo Collection
KMA 8541	Aqueduct at Walhachin – Item is a photograph of the aqueduct at Walhachin, focusing on the trestles. – 7.6 x 10.5 cm – Title based on contents	[December 30, 1963?]	Photo Collection
KMA 8542	Snohoosh Lake Dam – Item is a photograph of the Snohoosh Lake Dam showing a close-up of the log construction. – 8.7 x 14.6 cm – Title based on inscription	May 1942	Photo Collection
KMA 8543	Snohoosh Lake Dam – Item is a photograph of the Snohoosh Lake Dam from the right. – 8.7 x 14.5 cm – Title based on contents	[May 1942]	Photo Collection
KMA 8544	Snohoosh Lake Dam – Item is a photograph of the Snohoosh Lake Dam, with a man sitting on the dam. – 14.8 x 8.8 cm – Title based on contents	[May 1942]	Photo Collection
KMA 8545	West Side of Snohoosh Dam Showing Vents – Item is a photograph of the vents of the Snohoosh Lake Dam. – 13.8 x 18.8 cm – Title based on inscription	September 28, 1927	Photo Collection
KMA 8546	Dam on Snohoosh Lake – Item is a photograph of the dam on Snohoosh Lake. – 14.6 x 8.8 cm – Title based on contents	[May 1942]	Photo Collection