

South Peace Regional Archives

Finding Aid - Clem and Muriel Collins fonds (0476)

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<http://albertaonrecord.ca/index.php/clem-and-muriel-collins-fonds>

Clem and Muriel Collins fonds

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Summary information

Repository: South Peace Regional Archives

Title: Clem and Muriel Collins fonds

ID: 0476

Date: 1916-2008 (date of creation)

Physical description: 32 cm of textual records
103 photographs.

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:**

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Clem Collin's father, Alfred Collins, had come to Canada before WW1 and after arriving in Montreal and taking the train to Edmonton, he walked to the early settlement of Spirit River. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1915, and during the war married Emily Hiam from London. He brought his bride and their daughter, Betty, back after the war. Clem Collins was born in Spirit River Nov. 16, 1920. The family moved to Westlock when Clem was three and he grew up there, dropped out of high school and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force when WWII began. After the war he went to University of British Columbia and earned a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. During a summer job doing a project for the Department of Health, he met Muriel Peets who was assistant manager in an Eaton's store in Edmonton. Muriel Peets was born to Harry and Thelma Peets who were married in 1917 in Killam, Alberta. Her grandparents were Edward and Florence Peets. Thelma passed away March 4, 1976, age 77 in Penticton. Harry died Jan 19, 1949, age 59 at Penticton. Muriel grew up in Penticton and after she moved away from home corresponded with her young nieces and nephews. When Clem graduated in 1950, he moved to Edmonton where he and Muriel were married. In 1951, Clem joined a firm of accountants in Grande Prairie and promised Muriel their stay in Grande Prairie would only be for three years. But, in 1961, the couple had a home built on a corner lot on the outskirts of town (100 St and 88 Ave.) and they lived there for the rest of their lives. They had no children of their own but two of Muriel's nephews lived with them in their growing up years. Clem's accounting business grew and he and partner, J.H. Bennion were joined by Marcel Joberty and by the late 1970s their staff numbered over fifty. Clem became very involved in community organizations, including the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce (1975-76 as President of the Alberta Chamber of Commerce), Grande Prairie Regional College, the Progressive Conservative Assoc., Grande Prairie Museum, and the Boy Scouts. Muriel was equally involved, serving in the arts and cultural organizations such as the Grande Prairie Music Festival. She served on Grande Prairie City Council, and Grande Prairie Regional College Board of Govenors, and was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi. Both Clem and Muriel were supporters of the QEII Foundation, the Grande Prairie Museum and both

created the Muriel and Clem Collins' Writing Contest for the Grande Prairie Public Library. Muriel died in 2004 and Clem died in 2008.

Custodial history

The records were donated to the South Peace Regional Archives by Mike Frey, executor for the Clem and Muriel Collins estate.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of a series of Clem Collins' personal and professional records including his involvement with the Chamber of Commerce, Muriel Collins' personal and community involvement records, and the couples' personal papers, involvement with arts and cultural groups, Grande Prairie Regional College, and Grande Prairie Public Library. Included are 103 photographs (plus 3 unidentified) documenting their personal and community life.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were donated to the South Peace Regional Archives by Mike Frey, executor for the Clem and Muriel Collins estate.

Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on access.

Finding aids

A finding aid is available at <http://southpeacearchives.org/clem-and-muriel-collins-fonds/>

Related material

More of Clem and Muriel's story in "Remembering Grande Prairie 1958-2008" booklet.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Final
- **Description identifier:** 0476
- **Institution identifier:** South Peace Regional Archives
- **Alpha-numeric designations:** Accession numbers: 2008.104; 2009.71

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Arts (subject)
- Family and personal life (subject)
- Organizations (subject)
- Alberta (place)

Series descriptions

Series 0476-0476.01: Clem Collins

Date: 1920-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists of Clem's personal papers, records of his professional life and photographs.

Physical description: 7.5 cm of textual records
33 photographs

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Subseries 0476-0476.01-0476.01.01: Personal Papers and Photographs

Date: 1920-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series consists of records of Clem Collins' personal and professional life - his birth certificate, Canadian Air Force service record, an address book, a 1947-1949 field book recording ticks, fleas and rodents in various areas, his graduation from the University of British Columbia including his paper on

the vanilla bean, and records related to his profession as a chartered accountant in Grande Prairie, his connection with CFS Beaverlodge, correspondence, newsclippings and a resume (1983). Also included is a copy of his father's attestation papers from WW1, and a photocopy of a photograph of his father, Alfred Collins, with other soldiers.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records
33 photographs

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
0476-0476.01-0476.01.01-0476.01.01	0476.01.01 Kelly's Camp C.N.P. Lumber Co.	[ca. 1920]		
0476-0476.01-0476.01.01-0476.01.01	0476.01.01 Clem's Graduation from University of British Columbia.	1950		
0476-0476.01-0476.01.01-0476.01.01	0476.01.01 Kelly's Camp C. N. P. Lumber Co.	[ca. 1920]		
0476-0476.01-0476.01.01-0476.01.01	0476.01.01 Kelly's Camp C.N.P. Lumber Co.	[ca. 1920]		

Subseries 0476-0476.01-0476.01.02: Chamber of Commerce/CKUA

Date: 1965-1988 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series consists of records of Clem's involvement in the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce, as the president of the Alberta Chamber of Commerce, 1975-76, his involvement in the Trade Mission to Euope in 1975 and a poster "Clem Collins on Free Trade".

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
0476-0476.01-0476.01.02-0476.01.02	0476.01.02 Clem's of the Alberta Resources Railway.	1969		
0476-0476.01-0476.01.02-0476.01.02	0476.01.02 Clem's of the Alberta Resources Railway.	1969		

Series 0476-0476.02: Muriel Collins

Date: 1917-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists of Muriel's personal papers and photographs, her sorority Beta Sigma Phi records, records of her involvement as Grande Prairie City Councillor especially the Civic/Cultural Center Committee, and her song and speech writings.

Physical description: 8.5 cm of textual records
18 photographs

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Subseries 0476-0476.02-0476.02.01: Personal Papers and Photographs

Date: 1917-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series contains correspondence between family, especially her nieces Sigrid-Ann and Sylvia RoseThors and her nephew, Lance; a biography of William T. Peets, letters Muriel wrote to her mother from trips overseas, photographs of Muriel and some of her family, her grade 8 art composition, a list of the events and organizations she was involved in and a memorial card.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.01	Muriel Peets.	[ca. 1945]		
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.02	Muriel and Clem with family.	[ca. 1952]		
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.03	Muriel and Clem with family.	[ca. 1952]		
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.05	Muriel Peets.	[ca. 1945]		
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.06	Muriel Collins.	1958		
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.07	Muriel Collins' nieces and nephew.	1947		
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.08	Muriel Collins' nieces and nephew.	1947		
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.09	Muriel and Peggy Mair.	1954		
0476-0476.02-0476.02.01-0476.02.01.10	Muriel and Clem Collins with nieces and nephew.	[ca. 1955]		

Subseries 0476-0476.02-0476.02.02: Beta Sigma Phi

Date: 1974-1991 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series consists of records of Muriel's involvement with the sorority Beta Sigma Phi- Alpha Delta Chapter # 8155 from 1974-1991, including the "Book of Ritual", a booklet containing history of the chapter, by-laws, and membership (1975-1976), programs from Founder's Day anniversary banquets, (1974-1991), cards and letters from members, newsclippings and three photographs featuring "Girl of the Year " and "Sorority Queens".

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records
3 photographs

File / item list

Subseries 0476-0476.02-0476.02.03: G.P. City Councillor

Date: 1978-1979 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series consists of Muriel's nomination papers, newspaper coverage of the election, Council's mandate statement (1978-79) and records of the Civic/Cultural Centre Planning Committee including minutes, master plan, feasibility study and preliminary report (1979).

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records

File / item list

Subseries 0476-0476.02-0476.02.04: Songs and Speeches

Date: 1980-[ca. 1990] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series consists of Muriel's writings - songs, poems and speeches.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records
2 photographs

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
0476-0476.02-0476.02.04-0476.02.04.02	Muriel Collins entertaining at home.	1978		

Series 0476-0476.03: Clem and Muriel Collins

Date: 1950-2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists of the Collins' personal papers and photographs, records of their involvement in the arts, with Grande Prairie Regional College, with the Clem and Muriel Collins Writing Contest for the Grande Prairie Public Library and miscellaneous correspondence.

Physical description: 16 cm of textual records
52 photographs

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Subseries 0476-0476.03-0476.03.01: Personal Papers, Photographs

Date: 1958-2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series consists of notes, drawings, correspondence, magazine clippings, a tax receipt (1960), pages from a guest book and 51 photographs of their homes, activities with friends, their celebrations and their travels.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records
51 photographs

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
0476-0476.03-0476.03.01-0476.03.01	The Collins' first home, Grande Prairie, Alberta.	1952		
0476-0476.03-0476.03.01-0476.03.01	The Collins' new home, Grande Prairie, Alberta.	[ca. 1995]		
0476-0476.03-0476.03.01-0476.03.01	Clem and Muriel Collins in Grande Prairie, Alberta.	[ca. 1955]		
0476-0476.03-0476.03.01-0476.03.01	Clem and Muriel Collins in Grande Prairie, Alberta.	[ca. 1960]		
0476-0476.03-0476.03.01-0476.03.01	Muriel Collins on a Teeter-Totter.	[ca. 1960]		
0476-0476.03-0476.03.01-0476.03.01	25th Wedding Anniversary.	1973		
0476-0476.03-0476.03.01-0476.03.01	33rd Wedding Anniversary.	1992		

Subseries 0476-0476.03-0476.03.02: Arts and Culture

Date: 1966-1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series consists of music and theatre programs, records of the Peace River Arts Conference (1983-1986), and the Grande Prairie Arts festival, 1983, and a photograph of the Grande Prairie Community Chorus and Orchestra.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records
1 photograph

File / item list

Subseries 0476-0476.03-0476.03.03: Grande Prairie Regional College

Date: 1966-2006 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The sub-series consists of records of the GPRC Preliminary Design presented by Douglas Cardinal, (1975), Completion of the Auditorium report by Bird Construction (1975), a copy of GPRC Goals (1985), records of the Grande Prairie Regional College Foundation when Clem Collins was President, (1989), records of GPRC's 25th Anniversary Committee, evidence of Muriel's role on the GPRC Board of Governors, of the Collins' support of the Fine Arts Dept. through scholarships (2005-2006), and a copy of them receiving the GPCR "Award of Distinction" in 2004. Also included is a Gary Borstad collection of drawings, a portfolio of GPRC artists' work (1973-1989), and a 1976 GPRC yearbook.

<p><u>Physical description</u>: 8 cm of textual records</p>
<p>File / item list</p>
<p>Subseries 0476-0476.03-0476.03.04: Library Writing Contest</p> <p><u>Date</u>: 2004-2008 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Scope and content</u>:</p> <p>The sub-series consists of short stories anthologies for Clem and Muriel Library Writing Contest for the years 2004-2008.</p> <p><u>Physical description</u>: 4 cm of textual records</p>
<p>File / item list</p>
<p>Subseries 0476-0476.03-0476.03.05: Miscellaneous Correspondence and Donations</p> <p><u>Date</u>: 1970-[ca.2000] (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Scope and content</u>:</p> <p>The sub-series consists of records of donations made, formal invitations received, letters, and certificates of recognition.</p> <p><u>Physical description</u>: 0.5 cm of textual records</p>
<p>File / item list</p>