

MJ-40

Buffalo Lake Water Conservation Association fonds. - [textual record, cartographic material]. - 1930-1936. - 6.00 cm. of textual records. - 1 map.

Box V-28

Administrative history

Buffalo Pound Lake was also known as Buffalo Lake and High Pound Lake. It is the water source for the cities of Regina and Moose Jaw and for the potash mining operations in the Belle Plaine area.

The lake was shallow and the broad downstream end allowed spring runoff to quickly drain. During the late 1920's, a committee was formed to investigate building a dam. It wasn't until 1933, with a combination of drought and large government projects attempting to stimulate the economy and provide employment, that a formal association formed to promote the building of a dam in the Qu'Appelle River Valley to raise and stabilize water levels in Buffalo Pound Lake.

The Buffalo Lake Water Conservation Association was formed at a meeting in the Grant Hall Hotel on August 9, 1933. The first directors were: W.G. Ross - President, Richard Loney - Vice President, and George D. Mackie - Secretary/Treasurer. Petitions were circulated and research was done. At some later date, Richard Loney served as chair.

Arguments made in support of the project included the development of a resort for fishing and camping, employment, irrigation, a steady water supply and flood prevention. During the Fall of 1935, a survey party spent a month surveying topography and profiles of proposed dam sites.

It was clear from comments made by government that these projects must show an agricultural benefit. According to the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), the balance of the values are secondary. As agriculture was not the primary benefit of this project, it was not supported.

A dam and control structure was built by the PFRA in 1939 to control the outflow of the lake and in 1967 the lake became part of the water diversion from the Lake Diefenbaker/Qu'Appelle River Dam project.

Scope and content

This fond consists of records of the Buffalo Lake Water Conservation Association that were held by Richard Loney. They are primarily correspondence and "general" files relating to the Association, likely filed by Loney. There is also a file relating to petitions and lists of area landowners, a scrapbook of press clippings relating to this and other similar projects and a reprinted speech to the Legislative Assembly given by W.G. Ross supporting the project.

Conservation note

This fonds was re-boxed and foldered in 2004. Numerous tears in map were given spot repair with Filmoplast P to prevent further tearing.

Note of immediate source of acquisition

Accession number 40.BA donated to the archives by Harold Loney.

Associated materials

"The Engineering Journal" - Vol XVIII - No. 4, April 1935. Contains numerous articles dealing with drought, water conservation & resources on the Canadian Prairie transferred to the archival books collection.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Finding aids

See file list.

File List

001 - General File. Correspondence, Reports, etc. 1932-1936

002 - Correspondence, Minutes, etc. 1935-1936

003 - Petition and landowner information. Typed lists of names on petitions, lists of landowners by section, and some grid maps showing property owners. 1935 [Land Sale Agreements on the reverse of some items.]

004 - Surveys Report 1935

005 - Reprint of November 23, 1934 Speech by W.G. Ross to Saskatchewan Legislation Assembly

006 - Press Clippings 1932-1936 [Many items glued to the reverse of letterhead and records of the Moose Jaw City Badminton Association and the Moose Jaw Lawn Tennis Association

007 - Map of Moose Jaw District. Department of the Interior (Canada) 1930. Scale 1:792,000