

Fonds 90

Title: Martha Anne Kidd Fonds

Creator: Martha Kidd

Dates of material: 1817-1997 (historical documents (copies) chiefly after 1817)

Physical description: 11.3 metres

Repository: Trent Valley Archives

Reference number: Fonds 90

Scope and content:

Research collection of Martha Anne Kidd, local Peterborough historian, relating to her work with the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC), Peterborough Historical Society, Peterborough Planning Committee, as well as numerous research notes and papers on the preservation of historic buildings, the Ontario Heritage Act, and Heritage Canada. The papers related to all aspects of her career.

- Series A **Historical Preservation in Ontario** (Files 1-101), 1932, 1967-1991
Reports, books, pamphlets, and other materials related to heritage preservation, Heritage Canada Foundation, and more particularly on developments in Ontario, including government legislation and programs in the 1970s and 1980s.
- Series B **Heritage Planning in Peterborough** (Files 102-166), 1962-1991
Reports on planning initiatives, bylaw development, heritage architecture, PACAC, and the famed annual Heritage Walks, 1983-1991.
- Series C **Heritage Tourism and Promotion** (Files 167-230), 1968-1978
Includes brochures for many committees promoting heritage and tourism, particularly in Central and Eastern Ontario; documents related to the Roy Studio Collection promotion(1996-1998); original sketches and planning with Tim Jackson (1984); Heritage Peterborough (1985-1987); Jackson Park Pagoda Project (1987) including historical research from the 1890s.
- Series D **Historic Properties** (Files 231-300)
Photographs, historical research and materials relating to streetscapes and identified houses and buildings in Peterborough and surrounding areas; includes information from CIHB and HABS, c. 1970; PACAC bylaws (1974-1986)
- Series E **Peterborough Biographies** (Files 301-400)

Historical research on Peterborough individuals, (including all architects) and families as well as records relating to the Peterborough Historical Society.

- Series F **Historical Documents** (Files 401-461)
Pamphlets promoting heritage buildings elsewhere, together with historical documents crucial to the history of the Peterborough area. Highlights include: Dobbin Index to Industries (1913), Dr. Hutchison Register of Births (1817), Langton Letters (1834-35), Prime Time Profiles.
- Series G **Peterborough Historical Sources** (Files 462-564)
Copies of news articles (1848-1860) on subjects such as: Peterborough Town Council, bylaws, elections, politics, Peterborough people, agriculture, amusements, businesses, organizations, fires and fire brigade, military, religion, sports, transportation; births, marriages, deaths. Particularly noteworthy are the historical photographs, and copies of Hilliard Clements' postcards, postcards by George Cobb and A.B Mills, and the newspaper coverage of the building booms of the 1880s.
- Series H **Ashburnham Maps and Plans** (Files 565-580), 1850-1903
Copies of Ashburnham 1850; Ashburnham Plan 4, 1857; Plan 8, 1867; Plan 11, 1875; and other planning maps for development of Ashburnham.
- Series I **Peterborough Fire Insurance Plans** (Files 581-600), 1882, 1889, 1911, 1929 together with copies of local development maps.
- Series J **Martha Ann Kidd and the Heritage Movement** (Files 601-657)
News features on Martha Ann Kidd, correspondence; copies of some articles written by her husband, Kenneth Kidd.
- Series K **Ashburnham and Peterborough City Collector's Rolls and Directories** (Files 658-702)
Copies of Ashburnham Collector Rolls (1861-62), copies of Ashburnham Directories (1858, 1864, 1865-66, 1870, 1876, 1883-84, 1894-95, 1897, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1914), copies of Ashburnham Assessment Rolls (1874, 1882, 1889, 1899, 1900), copies of Ashburnham Voter's Lists (1863, 1878), copies of Peterborough City Directories (1851, 1858, 1870-71, 1876, 1883, 1888, 1895, 1897, 1913).
- Series L **Peterborough Street Index** (Files 703-772)
Photographs and descriptions to various properties researched by Martha Kidd and the Old Buildings Committee in the 1960s.
- Series M **Peter J. Stokes Photographs** (Files 773-779), 1969
Photographs and negatives, shot by noted heritage architect, Peter J. Stokes, relating to the downtown district of Peterborough. He wished to highlight the value of retaining the fantastic architectural heritage of the city. Some of the buildings have since disappeared.
- Series N **Photographs and Postcards** (Files 780-834)
A vast photograph and postcard collection depicting residents, properties, and events in Peterborough townships including Lakefield, Chandos, Harvey, Otonabee/Keene, Asphodel, Dummer, Douro, Smith/Ennismore as well as Stoney Lake. Materials relating to surrounding

counties such as Victoria and Northumberland.

- Series O **Negatives** (Files 835-924)
Contact sheets for the various projects of the Old Buildings Committee of the Peterborough Historical Society, of the CIHB projects in Peterborough, and of family life of Martha Kidd in Scarborough, Russia and Peterborough.
- Series P **Street Series** (Files 925-1407), 1970s
Photographs and research materials related to significant houses, buildings and streetscapes in District A [Parkhill, Park, Townsend and the river] and arranged by sides of the street. Collection includes historic summaries of various street names in downtown Peterborough, as well as a detailed street by street pre-1890 building Inventory featuring many photographs of Peterborough properties as well as owner history.
- Series Q **Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings (CIHB) Reports** (Files 1408-2863)
Files on old buildings of note in Peterborough, mainly outside the city center (files 1408-1460); CIHB long forms for Ashburnham, and research information on nearly every building (files 1461-2504); North Monaghan collectors roll, voters lists and assessment rolls, 1854-1869 and other research (files 2507-2517). CIHB keys and street indexes; CIHB reports on District B Streets (bounded by Park, Weller, Monaghan and King) (files 2525-2860).
- Series R **Mixed Items** (Files 2864-3178)
Maps of Peterborough, Allandale, reports on various historical sites, walking tours, driving tours, files related to *Peterborough's Architectural Heritage*, and other materials.
- Series S **Oversize Maps and Atlases**
Fire Insurance maps (1915, 1929) as well as Canadian Atlases.

Access Conditions:

Open to researchers.

Finding aids:

Available on site.

Accruals:

Custodial history:

Papers also include research notes and publications by Martha's late husband Kenneth Kidd, a former professor of Anthropology at Trent University.

Collection was donated by Martha Anne Kidd in July 2003.

Biographical sketch / Administrative history

Martha Ann Kidd (b 1917) is Peterborough's leading authority on the architectural history of Peterborough. She was born and raised in Illionis, and while completing her Master's degree at the Chicago Institute of Art, met Kenneth Kidd, then with the Royal Ontario Museum and later the founder of the departments of Anthropology and Native Studies at Trent University. Martha's interest in art and architecture blossomed in Peterborough. She became active in the Peterborough Historical Society [PHS], the Centennial Museum [PCMA], the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee [PACAC], the Trent Valley Archives and other organizations and her historic home became the nerve center of Peterborough's heritage movement, defined by memorable fights over the Cluxton Building and Peterborough Square, 1969-1975). She was a frequent contributor to local newspapers, most notably *Peterborough Common Press*, and *Prime Time*. Her work has led to two indispensable books *Peterborough's Architectural Heritage* (1978) and *Historical Sketches of Peterborough* (1988). She remains active, and her journal of a trip around the world has been published recently.

Access points

Architectural History of Peterborough