



Dundas Museum and Archives

Inventory No. 5

YMCA Dundas Fonds

2008 February
revised 2010 February

Dates of creation: 1901-1912, predominant 1905-1907

Physical description: 13 cm of textual records

Administrative history:

The YMCA Dundas was formed in 1900 after Mr. C.W. Williams of Dundas attended the summer convention in Hamilton. He was appointed Corresponding Secretary and assisted in organizing the YMCA group in Dundas. During these early years the group held meetings at the Baptist Church and took an aggressive approach to preaching and was involved in temperance work.

By 1902 the YMCA Dundas had rooms for meetings, games, reading, and exercise and in 1905 it moved into its own building, donated for the purpose by J.B. and J.L. Grafton. By this time the focus of the group had shifted from the religious to the more traditional role we see the YMCA in today. Indeed, the letterhead of the time describes the goal of the group: "An association for mutual helpfulness, providing Dundas young men an attractive social resort, with wholesome surroundings, well equipped for their physical, intellectual, and spiritual development". It is not known whether these were two different groups or one group whose purpose had evolved.

The YMCA Dundas disbanded by 1913. However, after World War I, the Wentworth County organized a YMCA and Dundas became part of that group. It was closed for lack of funds and re-organized in 1925. Richard C. Sidenius was the first County Secretary. He retired in 1934.

Custodial history:

The fonds was donated to the Museum in April 1957 by R.D. Sidenius through Mrs. Nellie Baker.

Scope and content note:

The fonds consists of minutes; reports including annual reports and committee reports; financial records including an account book, statements of receipt and expenditure, and budgets; correspondence; and a membership book.

Restrictions on access: There are no restrictions on access.

Box Listing

- Box 1** Miscellaneous records, 1901-1905. Includes correspondence, accounts, receipts, and clippings.
- Minute book and "Record of the YMCA work in the Town of Dundas", 1901. Includes attendance records, and an agreement signed by the members.
- Minute book, 1901-1907.
- Minutes, 1905.
- Account book, 1906-1913.
- Financial records, 1905-1907. Includes budgets and statements of receipt and expenditure.
- Reports, 1905, 1907-1908, 1911. Includes annual reports and committee reports.
- Membership book, 1911-1912. Includes names, dues levied and paid, etc.
- Pamphlet: "The Headquarters for Men: YMCA Dundas, Ontario, 1908-1909."