

Niagara District Council of Women fonds, 1918-2024, n.d.

RG 76

Brock University Archives

Creator:	Niagara District Council of Women
Extent:	85 cm of textual records (2.5 boxes) 279 photographs
Abstract:	Fonds contains material related to the activities of the Niagara District Council of Women. Most of the material is related to the group's meetings, and includes minutes, promotional material for public meetings, and lists of those who attended meetings. Other materials include membership lists, financial records, annual reports, correspondence, certificates and photographs.
Materials:	Minutes, meeting lists, membership lists, promotional material, correspondence, financial records, annual reports, certificates, photographs.
Processed by:	Chantal Cameron
Last updated:	September 2024

Terms of use:	The Niagara District Council of Women fonds is open for research.
Use restrictions:	Researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright and the University Archives before publishing quotations from materials in the collection. Most papers may be copied in accordance with the Library's usual procedures unless otherwise specified.
Preferred citation:	RG 76, Niagara District Council of Women fonds, 1918-2024, n.d., Brock University Archives, Brock University.
Acquisition info.:	Material donated by Mary Potter on behalf of the Niagara District Council of Women in 1996. Further accruals were added in 1997, 2005, 2007, 2012, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Some of these accruals were received from Gracia Janes.

Administrative History:

The St. Catharines and District Council of Women was founded in 1918 and elected as its first president, Mary Malcolmson. In 1910 Mrs. Malcolmson founded North America's first Girl Guide Association in St. Catharines. The aim of the organization was to work for the betterment of conditions pertaining to the family, community and state. The Council is an umbrella group for various women's organizations in the area and functions at the provincial, national and international levels and is associated with the United Nations.

In the early years the National Council brought in the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) and started the Women's Canadian Club. The St. Catharines Council initiated Child Welfare Centres in local churches that grew into the Well Baby Clinics. Women were encouraged to take political office and join committees with much success. In 1929, "Shop at Home" exhibition became an annual event highlighting the services of local merchants. Money raised by the Council was donated to local charities and in 1930 the Council assisted the local Armenian community in building the first Armenian Church in Canada. In 1932 the Council started the Maternal Welfare programme in which Mothers' Meetings were held weekly with various speakers from the Public Health Department. In 1975 to celebrate International Women's Year and the 1976 Centennial of the City of St. Catharines, the group sponsored the book *Women of Action, 1876-1976*, written by two of its members, Lily M. Bell and Kathleen E. Bray. Sometime after 1976 the name of the organization changed from St. Catharines Local Council of Women to St. Catharines and District Council of Women. In 2016, the organization's name changed to the Niagara District Council of Women to reflect the fact that they are the only Women's Council in the Niagara Region. Today the organization functions as an advocacy and educational group.

Scope and content:

Fonds contains material related to the activities of the Niagara District Council of Women. Most of the material is related to the group's meetings, and includes minutes, promotional material for public meetings, and lists of those who attended meetings. Other materials include membership lists, financial records, annual reports, correspondence, certificates and photographs.

Organization:

The records were arranged into four series:

Series I: Administrative, 1929-2024

Sub-series A: Minutes

Sub-series B: Financial records

Sub-series C: Membership & Meeting lists

Sub-series D: Correspondence

Sub-series E: Constitution and By-laws

Sub-series F: Reports (includes briefs & presentations)

Series II: Promotional Material, 1918-2022

Sub-series A: Public meetings

Sub-series B: Newsletters

Sub-series C: Clippings

Sub-series D: History

Series III: Activities & Events, 1978-2018, n.d.

Sub-series A: Recognition

Sub-series B: Guest book

Sub-series C: Photographs

Sub-series D: National Council of Women

Inventory:

Series I: Administrative, 1929-2024

Sub-series A: Minutes, 1929-2024

Includes minutes of regular monthly meetings, executive meetings, annual meetings, resolutions, and financial statements.

- 1.1 Minute book, 1929-1934. Topics include the Well Baby Clinic and Shop at Home exhibition.
- 3.1 Minute book, 1934-1939. Topics include Maternal Welfare, Mothers Meetings, and the Institute for the Blind.
- 1.2 Minute book, 1939-1943. Topics include mental hygiene; wages and working conditions for young women; refugees; charitable initiatives during the War and depression; and the liquor problem. Includes several news clippings.

- 1.3 Minutes, 1956-1959. Topics include the regulation and licensing of nursing homes; layettes for unmarried mothers; Linwell Hall (home for the blind); and Linhaven Home for the Aged.
- 1.4 Minutes, 1960-1963. Topics include Linwell Hall; jury duty for women; marriageable age for minors; immigration; and a seat belt project.
- 1.5 Minutes, 1964-1968. Topics include daycares for preschool children; safety in the home and on the road; immigration; problems of the aged in Canada; special education; the establishment of a Royal Commission on the Status of Women; and women and taxation.
- 1.6 Minutes, 1969-1972. Topics include public education; the economic report on Canada and poverty; a survey of poverty among the unemployed aged; mental health; and the rehabilitation of female convicts.
- 1.7 Minutes, 1973-1976. Topics include children with learning disabilities; the rising cost of living; health care; and the publication of a book, *Women of Action*, to commemorate International Women's Year and the Centennial of the City of St. Catharines.
- 1.8 Minutes, 1977-1980. Topics include the Health Forum; guest speakers from the St. Catharines Indian Friendship Centre, Niagara Child Development Centre, and Flora McDonald, M.P.; and problems facing senior citizens.
- 1.9 Minutes, 1981-1984. Topics include waste management; sex education; allergies; the economics of nuclear disarmament; and water quality.
- 1.10 Minutes, 1985-1987. Topics include immigration; immunization; sex education; housing; special education services; the Cameroon Project; a proposed toxic waste facility in Lincoln; illiteracy; sexual assault; and recycling.
- 1.11 Minutes, 1988-1989. Topics include women's concerns about the Meech Lake Accord; the impact of Free Trade on the Niagara Fruit Industry; women and reproductive technology; mental health; and immigration.
- 1.12 Minutes, 1990-1991. Topics include poverty; AIDS and its effects on women and children; preservation of agricultural lands; pesticide residue on imported fruits and vegetables; regulating retirement homes; improving human rights commissions; multiculturalism and literacy; and waste management and recycling.

- 1.13 Minutes, 1992-1993. Topics include the Social Assistance Review Committee; new directions in technological education & job employment; street proofing; stress management; alternate forms of energy; and the Young Offenders Act.
- 1.14 Minutes, 1994-1995. Topics include the International Year of the Family; an update on social reform; mediation in divorce; over-use of medication; and streamlining the educational system.
- 1.15 Minutes, 1996. Topics include Malcolmson Park; a conference on community action on violence; affordable housing; environmental concerns; and educational issues.
- 1.16 Minutes, 1997-1998. Topics include hospital restructuring; Malcolmson Park; early childhood education; the impact of the transfer of social housing to municipalities; effect of family violence on children; welfare & workfare; and protecting the Niagara Escarpment.
- 1.17 Minutes, 1999-2001. Topics include women & justice; environmental law; U.N. Year of the Older Person; genetically modified organisms; one-tier health care; home care; and electoral reform.
- 1.18 Minutes, 2002-2004. Topics include electricity deregulation and privatization; palliative care; aboriginal rights; the Romanow Commission report; mentoring; rehabilitation of offenders; waste management; housing for the homeless; hospital private public partnerships; black history; date rape drugs; and pesticides.
- 1.19 Minutes, 2005. Topics include air quality and pollution; poverty; threats to the Great Lakes; violence against women; and privatization of health care.
- 1.20 Minutes, 2006. Topics include seniors' advocacy; mental health; a pesticide ban; responsible waste management; HIV/AIDS; nuclear power; women aviators; and women of Bangladesh.
- 1.21 Minutes, 2006-2008. Topics include human rights legislation in Ontario; electoral reform; pesticides; energy conservation; new community health centres; poverty; immigrant & newcomer issues; eating locally; transportation in Niagara; and jobs in Niagara in the new economy.

- 1.22 Minutes, 2009-2011. Topics include mental health and youth; the Great Lakes and nuclear power; employment insurance; renewable power; chemicals in our water; pension reform; nanotechnology; caring for natural areas in Niagara; community legal assistance; violence against women; and protecting democracy.
- 1.23 Minutes, 2012-2013. Topics include pensions; human trafficking; local governance; gas fracking around the Great Lakes; Niagara Community Foundation; overloaded jails; youth at risk; child poverty; decline of bees and threat to the food supply; and GMOs and the silencing of scientists.
- 1.24 Minutes, 2014-2015. Topics include dying with dignity; autism spectrum disorder; cuts to health care; Bill 36 re: prostitution; the job crisis; transport of dangerous liquid nuclear waste; seniors in Niagara; violence against women; and understanding nutrition and food labels.
- 1.25 Minutes, 2016. Topics include a Basic Income Guarantee; the Garden City Food Co-op; a review of conservation authorities; destigmatizing marijuana use; and a compassionate city initiative.
- 1.26 Minutes, 2017. Topics include trans inclusion; indigenous justice; health care (LHINs taking over CCAC responsibilities); human trafficking in Canada; criminalization of HIV; and migrant workers.
- 1.27 Minutes, 2018. Topics include homelessness; care of vulnerable adults; women in leadership; protecting the Great Lakes; and legal cannabis.
- 1.28 Minutes, 2019. Topics include precarious work; the opioid crisis in Niagara; the climate change crisis; homelessness; anti-racism; child poverty; youth and mental health; and ageism.
- 1.29 Minutes, 2020. Topics include youth and mental health and Niagara's health system; protecting the bees; employment in the COVID era; emergency responses and mental health; child advocacy; elder care; and precarious work. Includes some related correspondence and news articles.
- 1.30 Minutes, 2021. Topics include the inequitable distribution of COVID vaccines in Ontario and the crisis in long-term care homes; tenant rights and Bill 184; Islamophobia and Racism; affordable child care and decent pay for workers; and food security and small-scale farms. Includes some related correspondence and news articles.

- 1.31 Minutes, 2022-2023. Topics include precarious work and those living in poverty; a basic income guarantee program; the Canada Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB) implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic; a federal disability benefit; Indigenous history in Niagara; women candidates for regional council; Covid-19 and its variants; the impacts of poverty; mental health in the workplace; seniors and elder abuse; and national and provincial resolutions. Includes some related correspondence and news articles.
- 3.6 Minutes, 2023-2024. Topics include threats to the Great Lakes; transportation in Niagara; impacts of COVID-19 on school experience; Niagara nutrition partners; the housing crisis; national and provincial resolutions; and the Niagara health system. Includes some related correspondence and news articles.

Sub-series B: Financial Records, 1935-1972

- 3.3 Finances, 1935-1951. An account book of the St. Catharines Council of Women with entries dated from 1935 to 1951.
- 3.4 Finances, 1941-1957. An account book of the St. Catharines Council of Women with entries dated from 1941 to 1957.
- 3.5 Finances, 1957-1972. An account book of the St. Catharines Council of Women with entries dated from 1957 to 1972.

Sub-series C: Membership & Meeting lists, 1970-2018, n.d.

Membership lists, 1970-2017, n.d.

- 2.1 Membership lists, 1970-1999. Contains lists of affiliates, executive members, individual members and a brief overview of membership patterns from 1976-1999.
- 2.2 Membership lists, 2000-2018. Contains lists of affiliates, executive members, and individual members.
- 2.3 Biographies, n.d. Contains brief biographies of notable members of the St. Catharines and District Council of Women, including Mary H. Malcolmson, Jill Downie, and Edna Krickorian.

Meeting Registration lists, 1975-2018

- 2.4 Meeting Registration lists, 1975-1999. Lists of individuals who attended meetings.
- 2.5 Meeting Registration lists, 2000-2011. Lists of individuals who attended meetings.
- 2.6 Meeting Registration lists, 2012-2018. Lists of individuals who attended meetings.

Sub-series D: Correspondence, 1951-2017

- 2.7 Correspondence, 1951-1986. Contains general correspondence. Topics discussed include CPP pension reform and the impact on women (1986); the publication of *Women of Action, 1876-1976*, (1978) by Lily Bell and Kathleen Bray; and some resolutions.
- 2.8 Correspondence, 1987-1995. Contains general correspondence. Topics include affordable housing in St. Catharines (1987-1988); the Meech Lake Accord (1988); Free Trade Agreement (1988); a Niagara Regional Police Inquiry (1988); funding for rape crisis centres in Ontario (1989); and the report of the Social Assistance Review Committee (1989).
- 2.9 Correspondence, 1996-2005. Contains general correspondence sent and received by the NDCW. Includes several letters concerning the Regional Niagara long-term waste planning study.
- 2.10 Correspondence, 2006-2017. Contains general correspondence. Topics include an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) case involving Ms. Jean Grandoni; a ban on pesticide use in urban areas on private property; the potential to create a Founders Forest at Brock University; the proposed 'Allanburg Energy from Waste' incinerator in Thorold; and the transportation of nuclear fuel from Buffalo to South Carolina.

Sub-series E: Constitution and By-laws, 1979-2018

- 2.11 Contains the Constitution and By-laws (1979, 1988) and updated By-Laws, (2003-2018).

Sub-series F: Reports, 1918-2015

- 2.12 Annual Reports, 1918-1995.

- 2.13 Briefs and Presentations, 1988-2015, 2022. Contains a presentation to the Standing Committee on Resource Development re: Bill 118—an act to amend the Power Corporation Act, 1992; comments on a report on the issue of waste management; a brief re: the Official Plan of the City of St. Catharines; a presentation to the Standing Committee on Administration of Justice re: Bill 160, Education Quality Improvement Act (1997); remarks re: Bill 142, the Social Assistance Reform Act; a report of proceedings of *Securing Our Future: the economics of later life*; comments to the Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee opposing incineration as part of a regional long-term waste management plan; a brief re: restrictions or prohibitions of pesticide use on private lands; a brief re: the Niagara/Hamilton Waste Plan draft environmental assessment; a pesticide bylaw for Niagara-on-the-Lake; formulation of an alternative waste disposal system; the transportation of highly radioactive liquid nuclear waste from Chalk River to South Carolina; and urban expansions and the Niagara Regional Official Plan.

Series II: Promotional Material, 1918-2018

Sub-series A: Public meetings, 1988-2016

- 2.14 Press releases, 1999-2011. Contains press releases for public meetings hosted by the Niagara District Council of Women. Meetings deal with a variety of social, legal, and environmental issues, and include guest speakers.
- 2.15 Advertisements, 1988-1989, 1999-2010. Contains advertisements for public meetings including topic and guest speakers. Also contains a St. Catharines Consumers' Guide to recycling (1988).
- 2.16 Advertisements, 2011-2015. Contains advertisements for public meetings including topic and guest speakers.
- 2.17 Advertisements, 2015-2018. Contains advertisements for public meetings including topic and guest speakers.

Sub-series B: Newsletters, 1977-2021

- 2.18 Newsletters, 1977-2005 (non-inclusive). Contains newsletters of the Niagara District Council of Women.

- 2.19 Newsletters, 2006-2013. Contains newsletters of the Niagara District Council of Women.
- 2.20 Newsletters, 2015-2021. Contains newsletters of the Niagara District Council of Women.

Sub-series C: Clippings, 1918-2017, n.d.

- 2.21 Clippings, 1928-1943. Contains photocopied clippings from a scrapbook. Includes an index of topics covered, including shopping locally; banning beauty contests; the establishment of a day nursery; preventing crops like fruits and vegetables from going to waste; a pageant of motherhood; and the bales for bombed Britons program.
- 2.22 Clippings, 1918-1999. Contains photocopied clippings, including some on government committees on divorce, abortion and birth control; problems facing senior citizens; and homelessness.
- 2.23 Clippings, 1948-1958, 1972. Contains photocopied clippings from a scrapbook. Topics include the election of new officers and local activities.
- 2.24 Clippings, 1964-1978. Contains photocopied clippings from a scrapbook. Topics include the election of new officers and local activities. This includes articles on problems of the aged, as well as a survey on poverty and the aged unemployed by the St. Catharines Council of Women. Also includes some clippings on meetings of the National Council of Women with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.
- 2.25 Clippings, 1993-2017, n.d. Contains photocopied news clippings on local environmental, political, and social issues, including women in politics, health care, waste disposal, homelessness, pesticide use, damage to the Great Lakes ecosystem, and the transportation of nuclear waste through the Niagara region.

Sub-series D: History, 1975-2005, n.d.

- 2.26 Organizational History, 1975-2005, n.d. Includes a brochure of Aims and Objectives; brief histories of the St. Catharines Council of Women; a document on the liaison role of the representative of the Local Council of Women; a list of local, provincial, and national accomplishments; and a brief history of the St. Catharines and District Council of Women to mark their 85th year by Cynthia Dobrindt, President (2003).

Series IV: Events and Activities, 1978-2018, n.d.**Sub-series A: Recognition, 1978-2018.**

- 2.27; 3.2 Certificates, 1978-2018. Contains certificates from local, provincial and federal politicians recognizing the work of the Niagara District Council of Women on the occasions of their, 60th, 75th and 100th anniversaries.

Sub-series B: Guest book, 1978-1994.

- 2.28 Guest book, 1978-1994. Contains names of guests present at the Centennial autograph party to introduce the book "Women of Action" (1978); a luncheon in 1983; a book launch in 1993; and the 76th annual meeting (1994).

Sub-series C: Photographs, 1978-2017, n.d.

- 2.29 Photographs, 1978-2017, n.d. Contains 84 photographs of Council activities and events, including meetings, fundraisers, and anniversaries.
- 2.30 Photo album, 1997-2009. Contains 193 photographs of the International Meeting of Women in Ottawa; the national meeting in Montreal; annual general meetings; and membership luncheons.

Sub-series D: National Council of Women of Canada, 1993-2005.

- 2.31 National Council of Women of Canada, 1993. Contains commemorative material of the National Council of Women of Canada on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. Materials include stamps featuring notable Canadian women, including Adelaide Hoodless, Marie-Joséphine Gérin-Lajoie, Helen Kinnear, and Pitseolak Ashoona; the annual meeting program; and a booklet produced by the National Archives of Canada titled *The Splendid Vision*.
- 2.32 National Council of Women of Canada, 1998-2005. Contains correspondence and a programme for the 105th National Council of Women Annual General Meeting, hosted by the St. Catharines and District Council of Women in 1998. Also contains a commemorative booklet and program of the National Council of Women of Canada for a plaque unveiling in 2005, and a report for the National Council of Women of Canada for the International Advisor by Gracia Janes, outgoing Environment Convener (2005).

- 2.33 Celebrating Women—National fundraising project by the National Council of Women of Canada, 2005. Contains a program, promotional material, and a photograph, of the Celebrating Women initiative featuring the artwork of Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn.

Related material:

Wilson, Sheila. *The evolution of Malcolmson Eco-Park*. St. Catharines, Ont: The St. Catharines and District Council of Women, 2002. **SPCL FC 3155.65 M35 W55 2002**