

Hamilton Public Library (Ont.). Local History & Archives

Finding Aid - Royal Hamilton College of Music fonds (00615)

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Royal Hamilton College of Music fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	5
Physical condition	4
Collection holdings	5
00615-01, Governance (1904-1978)	5
00615-02, Administrative Records (1931-1980)	5
00615-03, Education (1933-1979)	6
00615-04, Financial Records (1942-1980)	6
00615-05, Minutes (1931-1980)	7
00615-06, Correspondence (1954-1980)	7
00615-07, Publicity (1956-1980)	7

Summary information

Repository:	Hamilton Public Library (Ont.). Local History & Archives
Title:	Royal Hamilton College of Music fonds
Title [Hamilton Conservatory of Music] :	Hamilton Conservatory of Music
Reference code:	00615
Date:	1904 - 1970 (creation)
Physical description:	66 cm of textual material and other materials.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Founded in 1897 by C.L.M. Harris as the Hamilton Conservatory of Music (HCM), the conservatory provided higher education in music with focus in piano, strings, winds, organ and guitar, as well as art, physical culture, dance, musical kindergarten and elocution. The conservatory was originally located in the former home of Robert Steele, and in 1899, the conservatory moved to Main and Charles Streets. In 1904, the conservatory moved to its permanent home on James Street South with studio space on the first floor, a recital hall on the second floor, and a meeting room in the basement.

Under Harris' directorship, the conservatory was incorporated by the province of Ontario in 1902, and two years later was affiliated with the University of Toronto as a means to prepare students for the Bachelor in Music from the university. The affiliation ended in 1918, when the HCM began to offer a competing system of examinations. Harris was succeeded by J.E.P. Aldous, W.H. Hewlett, and Bruce Carey who oversaw the administrative functions of the conservatory and presented internationally known artists in the recital hall. After Carey resigned, Hewlett began the first principal of the conservatory.

On May 15, 1965, the conservatory received a royal charter and changed its name to the Royal Hamilton College of Music. During this process, the conservatory renamed its associate diploma (AHCM) in piano, violin, voice, speech arts and drama to ARHCM, and expanded to offer a licentiate diploma (LRHCM) and an honorary fellow's degree (FRHCM).

The conservatory expanded its program to include courses in Suzuki string method, jazz, theatre, and the visual arts. The conservatory also physically grew to offer five branches in the Hamilton area and maintained branches in Windsor, Leamington and Oakville, Ontario.

The college closed in 1980 due to financial problems.

Custodial history

The custodial history of this donation is unknown.

Scope and content

The donation consists of letters patent incorporating the Hamilton Conservatory of Music, by-laws and minutes, financial records and statements, insurance, mortgage statements, invoices, quotes for maintenance work, applications, syllabi, reunion lists, appreciation and honorary fellowship certificates, and correspondence.

The fonds consists of records of the Royal Hamilton College of Music and includes the following series: governance, administrative records, education, financial records, minutes, correspondence and publicity. #

Notes

Physical condition

Good. The minute book is in poor condition with the leather broken in parts. The by-law ledger spine is torn at the top and bottom and the end pages has come away from the binding.

Immediate source of acquisition

The source of acquisition for this accession is unknown.

Arrangement

Accessions #01099 and #01100 were consolidated into accession #00615.

Restrictions on access

Restrictions on access:

The collection is open to researchers. There are restrictions on patron lists, financial campaign materials and teacher lists due to the inclusion of personal information. Permission to be granted by the Manager, Local History & Archives.

Finding aids

File list available.

Related material

The following material can be found in the Local History and Archives (LH&A) department at Hamilton Public Library pertaining to the Royal Hamilton College of Music:

Clipping File – Hamilton – Rewards, prizes etc. Excellence in the Arts Award

Microfilm #273 - Valley Journal

September 1, 1976, pg. 6 (College of Music is old institution with French approach)

Microfilm #338 – Hamilton Journal West

April 30, 1980, pg. 13 (RHCM insolvent, no government funds)

May 21, 1980, pg. 3 (Hamilton Piano dealer wants College of Music)

June 18, 1980, pg. 1 (Apology to Jon Watts)

Microfilm #400 – Journal West

January 18, 1978, pg. 8 (80th birthday party)

Accruals

#01008

#01109

Note [General]

Title is based on the contents of the fonds.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
-

Access points

- Hamilton Music Archives (subject)
-

Collection holdings

Series: 00615-01 - Governance

Title: Governance

Reference code: 00615-01

Date: 1904-1978 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of lists of the Board of Governors, by-laws, the organization's constitution and organizational structure. The series also contains a book of by-laws and lists of stock holders.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual material.

Publication status:

Published

Series: 00615-02 - Administrative Records

Title: Administrative Records

Reference code: 00615-02

Date: 1931-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of records pertaining to job applications and job descriptions, mailing lists, member lists, standard procedures and surveys. Series also consists of correspondence related to nomination and resignations, resolutions and legal arbitration. Administrative Records also contains

reports, contracts, and papers regarding RHCM's incorporation and royal proclamation. It also consists of a royal proclamation certificate in a gold, ornate frame.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual material.

1 framed certificate.

Publication status:

Published

Series: 00615-03 - Education

Title: Education

Reference code: 00615-03

Date: 1933-1979 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of documents pertaining to educational functions of RHCM, including teacher lists, staff reports and staff biographical materials. Series also contains class schedules, schedules of fees, programs, course outlines and faculty evaluations. There is material pertaining to convocation ceremonies, adjudicator remarks, faculty evaluations and exams. Series also contains a large fellowship certificate, a graduation hood and 12 photographs of a convocation ceremony.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual material.

12 photographs.

1 graduation hood.

1 certificate.

Publication status:

Published

Series: 00615-04 - Financial Records

Title: Financial Records

Reference code: 00615-04

Date: 1942-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of documents pertaining to appraisals, audits, budgets, donations, grants, insurance and taxes. Series also contains material related to the RHCM's fundraising campaign, including financial campaign materials, canvasser information, patron lists and submissions for funding. A collection of annual financial reports and statements of revenue and expenditure is also included in this series.

Physical description: 20 cm of textual material.

Publication status:

Published

Series: 00615-05 - Minutes

Title: Minutes

Reference code: 00615-05

Date: 1931-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of board meeting minutes and two minute books. Series also contains minutes from annual meetings and various committees including the executive committee, fundraising committee and planning and programming committee. Series also contains annual and committee reports.

Physical description: 18 cm of textual material.
2 minute books.

Publication status:

Published

Series: 00615-06 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: 00615-06

Date: 1954-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of correspondence related to RHCM's affiliations, building maintenance and repairs, faculty correspondence, documents related to the RHCM's instruments, fellowships publicity and sample letterheads. Series also contains correspondence in the form of customer complaints, fundraising dialogues and general correspondence from 1964-1965.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual material.

Publication status:

Published

Series: 00615-07 - Publicity

Title: Publicity

Reference code: 00615-07

Date: 1956-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of brochures, newsletters to parents, newspaper clippings and yearbooks. Series also contains a fact sheet used for fundraising purposes, an interview, script and speeches made by RCHM representatives.

Physical description: 7 cm of textual material.

Publication status:

Published
