

MJ-47

Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park fonds. – [textual record, graphic material, object]. – 1929-1975. – 28.0 cm of textual records. – 6 b&w photographs. – 4 objects.
Boxes V-46 - V-47, H-37, OS-8, A-1

Variations in title

Animal Park Society

Administrative history

The Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park Society was formed in 1928 following two years of promotion of the subject by Frank McRitchie, a Moose Jaw real estate agent. John R. Green allowed the use of several hundred acres of his property along the Moose Jaw River south of the City.

The park was officially opened on May 25, 1929, with events on the previous day as well. As it had not been officially named, it was called Chief Sitting Bull Park at the time of the opening but this was later dropped and was simply referred to as the Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park.

A number of native and non-native animals were imported and displayed including bison, bears, wolves and a variety of North American fowl. As time went on, more exotic animals were purchased including lions and a hippo which was injured in transport to Moose Jaw and had to be euthanized en route.

Breeding programs with wild turkey and pheasant are greatly responsible for the current populations of these species in Saskatchewan.

The park was owned/operated by several different groups:

From 1929 to 1958 it was operated by a volunteer group but by the 1950's it was felt that the group was too small to handle the operation and some of the service organizations were asked to get involved.

In 1958, operation of the park was taken over by a committee of the Moose Jaw Lions Club. It was taken over by the provincial government ca. 1965 and operated as a regional park until 1987 when it was privatized by the Devine government.

It was operated by several private owners until 1994 when it was purchased by Dr. You Seuk Sung. He was unable to arrange liability insurance and the park was closed to the public in September 1995. Litigation followed over ownership and the length of time that Dr. Sung had been allowed to pursue insurance.

A Moose Jaw Wildlife Park Society was active in 2001, primarily to explore future use of the park lands.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of minutes, correspondence, leases, permits and materials relating to the history of the Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park.

Conservation note

This fonds was re-boxed and foldered in 2004.

Note of immediate source of acquisition

Accession number 47.BA - donor unknown.

Accession 55.2017 was donated to the archives by V. Leone Townend on April 23, 2014.

Arrangement note

From formation to closure, the park went through a number of owners/operators. Some of these files overlap in date, content and creator so they have been arranged in series to broadly reflect the different periods of administration. The divisions are not always distinct.

MJ-47/1 Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park Society. - [textual record]. - 1929-1958. - 8.00 cm of textual records.

Box V-46

This series consists of records relating to the Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park Society. It includes correspondence, minutes, financial statements, by-laws and the constitution.

MJ-46/2 Moose Jaw Lions Club Wild Animal Park Committee. - [textual record]. - 1958-1964. - 1.00 cm of textual records.

Boxes V-46, OS-8

This series contains the records of the Moose Jaw Lions Club Wild Animal Park Committee, including minutes and disbursements of the committee.

MJ-47/3 Regional Park. - [textual record]. - 1953-1975. - 13.00 cm of textual records.

Boxes V-46, V-47

This series consists of records relating to the Regional Park. It includes legal agreements, financial statements, briefs, correspondence, shipping information and membership information.

MJ-47/4 Historical Files. - [textual record, graphica material, object]. - 1929-1975. - 6.00 cm of textual records. - 6 b&w photographs. - 4 objects.

Boxes V-47, H-37, A-1

This series includes material about this history of the park, including past programs, guest

books, postcards, brochures and booklets.

Finding aids

See file list.

File List

MJ-47/1 Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park Society. – [textual records]. – 1929-1958. – 8.00 cm of textual records.

Box V-46

001 - Constitution, By-Laws, financial statements, legal / financial agreements, lease, etc. – 1952-1974. – ca. 40 p.

002 – Leases of Park property from Green family. – 1929 and 1940. – ca. 20 p.

003 – MJWA Park - Misc - includes list of Directors and statement of assets. – 1955-1957. – ca. 40 p.

Box H-37

004 – Minutes of the Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park Society. – 1948-1958. – ca. 150 p.

Box V-46

005 – Correspondence and General file. – 1931-1953. – ca. 50 p.

006 – Correspondence (primarily re: wild turkeys). – 1932-1937. – ca. 40 p.

007 – Correspondence. – 1936-1942. – 13 p.

MJ-46/2 Moose Jaw Lions Club Wild Animal Park Committee. – [textual records]. – 1958-1964. – ca. 190 pages of textual records.

Box V-46

001 – Minutes - Moose Jaw Lions Club Wild Animal Park Committee. – 1958-1963. – ca. 40 p.

Box OS-8

002 – Disbursements. – 1961-1964. – ca. 150 p.

MJ-47/3 Regional Park. – [textual records]. – 1953-1975. – 13.0 cm of textual records.

Box V-46

001 – Orders in Council, leases re: regional park. – 1953, 1974. – ca. 40 p.

002 – Park Operating Agreement. – 1973. – 3 p.

003 – Financial Statements and auditors reports. – 1966, 1974.– ca. 40 p.

004 – Briefs. – 1964-1974. – ca. 40 p.

Box V-47

005 – Correspondence. – 1959-1972. – ca. 100 p.

006 – Correspondence. – 1971-1975. – ca. 60 p.

007 – Insurance Certificates, correspondence and permits to keep animals. – 1962-1975. – ca. 40 p.

008 – Shipping forms, permits and other documentation re: shipping of mountain lion from California. – 1973. – 7 p.

009 – Membership cards and car window stickers. – [19-]. – 30 p.

MJ-47/4 Historical Files. – [textual record, graphica material, object]. – 1929-1975. – 6.00 cm of textual records. – 6 b&w photographs. – 4 object.

Box V-47

001 – Programme of Park Inauguration. – 1929. – 7 p.

Box H-37

002 – Guest Book. – 1946-1947. – ca. 100 p.

Box V-47

003 – Descriptive Tour of Wild Animal Park. – [193-?]. – 13 p.

004 – Early History of Park. – 1933. – ca. 40 p.

Box H-37

005 – Poster promoting park membership (attached photo of bison). – [19-]. – 1 poster.

Box V-47

006 – Promotional Brochures. – [196-?]. – 10 p.

007 – Promotional Booklet. – [196-?]. – ca. 20 p.

008 – News Clippings. – 1930-1975, 1953-1975 predominant. – 30 p.

009 – Photos printed on Postcard stock - poorly fixed, image degrading. – [19--]. – 6 b&w photographs.

010 – Coupons. – [before 1995]. – 16 p. of textual records.

A-1

011 – Wooden Licence plates. – [19-]. – 2 objects.

012 – “Official Seal”. – [19-]. –1 object.

013 – Poster promoting sale of park permits - brass moose plaque for attachment to car grill (one attached to poster). – 1930-1931. – 1 object.