

The YMCA of Canmore

The YMCA of Canmore fonds. – 1926 - 1936. – 3 files of textual records. – 81 photographs. -- 4 postcards.

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was founded in London, England in 1844 by George Williams. It was founded on religious beliefs (Evangelical, Protestant, Christian) and provided opportunities for young men to make constructive use of their leisure. Initially the target audience was migrant workers coming to London. The goal of the YMCA was positive development of their spiritual and moral character. Word of the fast-growing association was spread at the world's fair in London in 1851. Over 350,000 YMCA pamphlets were distributed to visitors from all over the world. The first YMCA in North America got its start in Montreal, Quebec in 1851.

The YMCA is now a worldwide organization with more than 58 million beneficiaries from 125 national associations.

In Canmore the YMCA had its start in two separate facilities. One in the town site opened in the early 1900's, which functioned as a place to rent a room and join in organized events. This facility was closed sometime between 1955 - 1970. The other facility is a summer camp for kids called Camp Chief Hector. It was located at Bowfort Lake (in what is now Kananaskis) and began in 1925, started by Mr. H. S. Young and Rev. Mr. Rodger. It is named for Chief Hector Crawler in honour of his efforts in development of the camp and building a harmonious relationship with the Nakoda people. In 1974 YMCA Camp Chief Hector relocated from Bowfort Lake to the Diamond Cross Guest Ranch site at Seebe, becoming a co-ed camp in the transition. Then a new outdoor education complex and conference centre, named Yamnuska Centre, was created and together with YMCA Camp Chief Hector form the Rocky Mountain YMCA to this day (2013).

The fonds consists of annual reports from the director of Camp Chief Hector on summer activities (1926 - 1936), a hotel registry from the Town of Canmore YMCA (ca. 1934), newspaper clippings, and building plans (ca. 1920). The fonds consists of one series: I. Operational Documents.

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Operational Documents. – 1926 - 1936. 3 files cm of textual records.

Series consists of: dated and undated annual reports, a historical review of the camp, a hotel registry, and newspaper clippings.

Title based on the contents of the series.

FILE LIST

Series: I. Operational Documents

FILE TITLE	DATES	BOX/FILE
Dated Monthly Reports	1926 - 1936	1 / 1
Undated Monthly Reports		1 / 2
Newspaper Clippings	1931 - 1980	1 / 3