

P029 Barbara M. Hanley fonds
1936-1967
4.9 cm of textual records

Biographical sketch: Barbara McCallum Hanley, the first female Mayor in Canada, was born to Catharine Mitchell and Henry John Smith on March 2nd, 1882, in Magnetewan, Ontario. She worked as a public school teacher at Trout Creek, Emsdale, and Chetwynd before teaching in Webbwood. On August 27, 1913, she married Joseph B. Hanley, a Locomotive Foreman for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The following year they adopted a daughter named Ella.

From the time that Hanley moved to the town of Webbwood in 1909, she was involved in community activities. In 1923, she was elected to the Webbwood School Board, and, by 1935, Hanley was the town's first female councillor. On January 6, 1936, she was elected as Mayor when she ran against Robert E. Streich. In 1940, Hanley served on the executive of the Sudbury and District Municipal Association. Other positions which she held include: Chairman of the Relief Board, Member of the Resolutions Committee for the Provincial Board of Education, President of the Algoma Trustee and Ratepayers Association, and Director of the Ontario Educational Association. In 1944, Hanley decided to step down as Mayor after serving for eight consecutive terms. She continued to work as the Clerk/Treasurer for Webbwood from 1946 to 1950. Barbara Hanley passed away on January 26, 1959, at the age of 76.

Scope and content: This fonds consists of one scrapbook which contains correspondence, telegrams, pictures, an article, and newspaper clippings. The correspondence, telegrams, and newspaper clippings primarily concern Barbara Hanley's election as Mayor of Webbwood. The pictures consist of two photographs of Hanley and one group photograph. The article was written by Hanley on the subject of civic responsibility for a secondary school magazine. The newspaper clippings are from local and national papers.

These records are also important due to the fact that no files from Hanley's time in office were preserved by the town. These documents, saved by her daughter, relate to the public life of Barbara Hanley.

Note: Physical description: Newspaper clippings and letters found in the scrapbook are not organized chronologically.

Physical condition: Much of the scrapbook is in a fragile state.

Immediate source of acquisition: These records were donated by Mrs. (Ella) Clifford Scutt, the daughter of Barbara Hanley, in August of 1967.

Availability of other formats: Some photographs and documents are digitized.

Terms governing use and reproduction/publication: Due to the fragile state of these records, reproduction is restricted.

General note: For more information on Hanley consult: Doyle, James. "Barbara M. Hanley: First Woman Mayor in Canada." *Ontario History*, Volume 34, Number 2. June (1992): 133-140.