

P073- Mick Lowe fonds

**15.4 linear meters of textual and graphic records, 92 cassette tapes
n.d.; 1948-2007 (predominant 1978-2002)**

Biographical sketch: Mick (Michael) Ellenwood Lowe (1947-2021) was born September 23rd in Omaha, Nebraska to Jack and Grace Lowe. He had two daughters, Julia and Melanie.

Lowe spent the first twenty-three years of his life in Nebraska, attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1965-1969, where he also worked as a staff writer and columnist for the student newspaper, *The Daily Nebraskan*. In 1970 he decided he did not want to be part of the Vietnam War by resisting the draft and emigrating to Canada. Originally settling in Vancouver, he co-founded *The Grape (Western Voice)* and worked as a staff writer at *The Georgia Straight* from 1970-1972. Afterwards, Mick moved eastward and continued his education at the University of Calgary, where he served as editor for the student newspaper, *The Gauntlet*. After graduating from University of Calgary in 1974, he started working as a freelance writer for *The Globe and Mail* from 1974 over a long period stretching into the late 1980s. He also spent time in broadcast journalism, first as a staff reporter for CBC Radio News, and then in 1978 as a founding producer of CBC Radio Morning North in Sudbury.

During this time, he also began writing for *The Northern Life* and *Northern Ontario Business*. In addition, around this time Mick also began volunteering with the United Steelworkers Local 6500, serving as an advisor to Dave Patterson during his campaign to become director of USWA District 6-Sudbury. By 1987, Mick had established himself as a freelance writer with prominent newspapers and periodicals such as *The Globe and Mail* and *Maclean's*. While still working for the *Globe*, Lowe wrote the book *Conspiracy of Brothers: A True Story of Bikers, Murder, and the Law* (1988) which received the Arthur B. Ellis Award from the Crime Writers of Canada for best non-fiction work. He is also the author of *One Woman Army: The Life of Claire Culhane* (1992) and *Premature Bonanza: Standoff at Voisey's Bay* (1998). In addition, Lowe worked as a lecturer in journalism at Cambrian College from 1988-1990, and again with a brief stint in 2002. From 2004 to 2007, Lowe worked in communications for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) at the Eastern Campus in Sudbury at Laurentian University.

In May 2008, Mick suffered a massive stroke which forced him into retirement in the autumn of 2008. He passed away April 17th, 2021 in Sudbury.

Scope and content note: The Mick Lowe fonds attests to his militancy and achievements in the field of writing and journalism. The records demonstrate his dedication and commitment to northern Ontario in general and the labour movement in the region in particular. The fonds contains various files, such as notes, letters, and briefs from Lowe's work, on a voluntary basis, with the United Steelworkers Local 6500 in Sudbury in the late 1970s to the 1980s. The fonds also consists of research notes on stories that Lowe covered over the years as a journalist, which includes his collection of various newspapers and

periodicals. Many of the stories that Lowe wrote for the *Globe and Mail* and *Northern Life* can be found in his fonds which attests to his interests over the years. Lowe's articles can provide insight as to the political and cultural milieu in Canada and Northern Ontario at the time of their publication. It also consists of Lowe's personal papers which include his correspondence and notes. Moreover, the files depict and inform us on Northern Ontario and more specifically on labour, militancy, and journalism.

Note: Immediate source of acquisition: Donated by Mick Lowe in June 1992.

Restrictions on access: There are restrictions on some documents.

Terms governing use and reproduction/publication: Copyright regulations apply to these records.

Finding aids: A preliminary inventory is available at the Laurentian University Archives.

Accruals: August 1992, November 1997, July 2000, November 2005, October 2010

Related material (this repository): P144 Mercedes Steedman fonds, P038 United Steelworkers of America-District 6 Sudbury, and P019 Mike Solski fonds may contain complementary material.

Associated material (other repositories): Mick Lowe Fonds at University of British Columbia Special Collections.