

**P111- Ernie Checkeris Fonds**  
**n.d; 1934-2000 (Predominant dates 1955-1980)**  
**4.13 Im of textual records and photographs**

**Biographical sketch:** Ernie Checkeris (1925 -2014) was born in Toronto, Ontario to Greek refugees. He attended public schools in Toronto until grade 12, when he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy to serve in World War II. Checkeris moved to Sudbury in 1945 where he was general manager and part-owner of Wahnapiatae Lumber Building Supplies. In 1945 he was elected a school trustee in Dryden Township, serving in this position for 55 years until his retirement in 2000, as of 2011 he was the longest serving school trustee in Ontario's history.

Ernie Checkeris has been highly influential in the field of education in Ontario, serving on numerous committees and councils in addition to his work as a trustee, perhaps most notably was his membership of the Ontario Provincial Committee of Aims and Objectives of Education in the Schools of Ontario which published *Living and Learning*, better known as the 1968 Hall-Dennis Report. Checkeris' involvement in education included addressing issues facing schools such as labour relations, special education, racism, and violence, with specific attention given to the concerns of Sudbury and the needs of Northern Ontario.

In recognition of his work in education Ernie Checkeris was made a lifetime member of the Ontario Public School Boards and the Canadian School Boards and received many awards acknowledging his accomplishments including the Order of Ontario in 2000, an honorary doctorate in canon law from Thornloe University in 2001, and the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2003. The Ernie Checkeris Public School, in Sudbury, was named after him in 1989 and the Thornloe Theatre was renamed "The Ernie Checkeris Theatre" in 2011.

In addition to his work in education Ernie Checkeris was active in his community. He was a supporter of the Junior Chambers of Commerce (Jaycees), Boy Scouts of Canada, and other youth organizations. Checkeris was also involved with Greek cultural organizations such as the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Community. A supporter of the arts, he attended Cambrian College where he studied pottery in 1980; his works include publicly displayed murals, as well as clay sculptures. Checkeris also published a collection his writings, *Thanks Be to the Gods* (Long Lake: Teen Tree Pah Publishing) in 2001.

**Scope and Content:** This fonds attests to the role that Ernie Checkeris played in the growth of the Ontario education system, as well as his role in specific challenges and debates facing the system. The fonds contains published and unpublished reports, correspondence, newspaper clippings, books, transcripts of speeches and photographs relating to education in local, provincial, federal and global contexts. Additional material includes personal correspondence and

documentation relating to Ernie Checkeris' interests and activity in the community. The manuscript of his book *Thanks Be to the Gods!: A Memory* with hand-written notations is also included.

The fonds also informs us of the changes and evolution of the education system in Ontario throughout the period of Ernie Checkeris' trusteeship, with an emphasis on the specific challenges that would face the schools of the Sudbury region. Of particular insight is the centrality of issues related to the delivery of French language education and the challenges of bilingualism in the school system of Ontario and the Sudbury region.

Specific documentation regarding education includes correspondence and unpublished notes regarding the 1968 Hall-Dennis Report, issues of multiculturalism, bilingualism, and special needs education.

**Note : Immediate source of acquisition:** The fonds was donated by Ernie Checkeris

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**Accruals:** A first accrual was received in 1999 and a second in 2007. A third accrual received from Mrs. Checkeris, in August 2017.

**Finding Aid:** A preliminary list is available in the archives.

**Related material:** The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation fonds (P021); fonds Jean-Louis Bourdeau (P092); fonds AFOCEC (P101); Fonds de la commission scolaire catholique [Région de Sudbury] (P112); Fonds du Conseil des écoles séparées catholiques romaines du district de Sudbury (P115), Jackson Pind fonds (P214) may contain complimentary information.

**P111- Ernie Checkeris Fonds**  
**File List**

**BOX 1**

- Harvard and the Study of Education – Winter 1965-1966
- [Hall Committee – Points for Discussion]
- [Provincial Committee on Aims and Objectives – Reports]
- [Provincial Committee on Aims and Objectives – Briefs and Papers]
- [Documentation]
- [SDC Magazine & Curriculum Bulletin]
- [Conferences]
- [The Canadian Issues Project]
- [Educational System of Ontario]
- Policy Drafting by the Administrative Council
- [Board of Governors – Thorneloe University]
- [Newspaper Clippings on Bilingualism and Biculturalism]
- [Education in Northern Ontario]
- [The School World of the Child]
- [Class Size]
- [Submission to the Planning and Implementation Commission]
- [Educational Supervision]

- [ODDS & SODS]

**BOX 2**

- Careers with a future

- [Declining Enrolment]

- [Curriculum]

- Newspaper Clippings

- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Correspondence]

- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Documentation]

- [Ontario Bicentennial Advisory Committee – Correspondence & Documentation]

- [Strike 1980]

- [Trustee – Local and National Correspondence]

- [Jaycees]

- [Correspondence – Speaking Engagements]

- [Recommendations from the Wyatt Report]

- [CSTA – The President's Report]

- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Minutes and Presentations]

- [Pitman Report: *Now is not too late* – Report and Response]

- [Youth: The Forgotten Generation]

- [Green Paper on Immigration]

- [NSBA Annual conference]

- [Financing Education]

- [Conference for Newly Elected School Trustees]

- [Secondary Education Review Project]
- [Education Relation Commission]
- [Sudbury – Education]
- [Reorganizing of School Jurisdictions]
- [School Reform in Quebec]
- [CSTA – Memos]
- [Documentation]

### **BOX 3**

- [OCLEA – Magazine]
- [Copper Cliff High – Clippings]
- Ontario Public School Trustees' Association Annual Meeting, 1982
- Constitution
- Review of the Two French-Language District Education Additional Qualification Courses
- [Sexual Violence and Abuse in Schools]
- [Smart communities]
- [Education Legislation]
- [Ontario College of Teachers]
- [Minister's Taskforce on Teacher Recruitment and Renewal]
- [Maintaining Competency]
- [Setting the Stage for Improved Teacher In-Service]
- [Rethinking Education]
- [Sudbury]

- [Declining Enrolment]
- [Skills – Magazine]
- [Conference Presentations]
- [Field Development Newsletter]
- [Family Studies]
- [Issues and Directions]
- [Corporal Punishment]
- [Scout's Canada]
- [Speeches & Addresses on Education]
- [Sudbury Board of Education Annual Reports]
- [Documentation]
- [Personal Notes]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Presentations]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Documentation]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Minutes & Memorandums]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Correspondence]
- [Documentation]
- [General Correspondence]
- [Trustee Correspondence]
- [Secondary/Post Secondary Interface Study]
- [Ontario School Trustees Council]
- [PEOPLEPAC – Public relations]

- [Excellence in Education]
- [School & Work – Apprenticeships]
- [Expo 67]

**BOX 4**

- Strike !!
- [Science North]
- School Closings
- [Declining Enrolment]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Documentation]
- [Correspondence]
- [Documentation]
- [Hall-Dennis Committee-Documentation]
- [Mock Board Meeting]
- [Report – Committee on Trustee Representation]
- [Youth Stress]
- [Pre-Schools in Toronto]
- [The Women's Project]
- [CSTA – Presidents Report]
- *"What happens next is up to you"*
- *Youth the forgotten generation, Vol. 1*
- *Work for Tomorrow*
- *Support to Education by the Government of Canada*

- *Partners in Action: The Library Resource Centre in the School Curriculum*
- *Report of the Joint Committee on the Governance of French Language Elementary and Secondary Schools.*
- *Research Project no.6 – Special Education*
- *The Windsor Early Identification Project*
- *French Core Programs, 1980*
- *Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism Book III – The Work World, Part 3 & 4*
- *Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism Book IV : The Cultural Contribution of the Other Ethnic Groups*

#### **BOX 5**

- [Speeches, Reports, Notes]
- [Jamaica – Reports]
- [Jamaica – Correspondence]
- [Jamaica – Documentation]
- [Interim School Organization Committee – Correspondence]
- [Interim School Organization Committee – Documentation]
- [Canadian Ethnic Organizations]
- [Physical Education Project]
- Lunenberg Trip
- [Daily Planner]
- *Report of the Ontario Legislatures Select Committee on Youth*
- *Getting Together: Problems you face*



- *The Family as a Focus of Social Policy*
- *For the Love of Learning: Report of the Royal Commission on Learning. Vol. I to Vol. IV*
- [The Select Committee on the Utilization of Educational Facilities – Reports]
- The Ontario School Trustees' Council
- *Issues and Directions*
- *A submission to the Commission to Review the Collective Negotiation Process Between Teachers and School Boards from the Ontario Teacher's Federation*
- *Means and Ends in Education*
- *Mathematical Tables*
- *How Canadians Govern Themselves*
- [Drug Abuse – Documentation]
- *History of Education*
- *Ministerial Commission on French Language Secondary Education*
- *Race, Religion and Culture in Ontario School Materials*
- *TESL-TALK (Teachers of English as a Second Language)*
- *Journal of Education*

## **BOX 6**

- [Cyril Varney School – Fence]
- [Newly-Elected Trustees Conference – Documentation]
- [Declining Enrolment]
- [French Language Education]
- [Collective Bargaining]
- [Human Rights – Equal Opportunity]

- [United Nations – Documentation]
- [Responses to Issues and Directions]
- [Racism]
- [Newspaper Clippings]
- [Educational Finance]
- [OSTC Education Reports]
- [Ontario School Trustees' Council]
- [Canadian School Trustees' Association]
- [Northern Ontario School Trustees' Association]
- [Documentation]
- [Sudbury – Education]
- [Sudbury-Algoma Sanitarium Association]
- [Alcohol and Drug Concerns]
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- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Correspondence]
- [Sudbury Trustee – Correspondence]
- [CSTA – Correspondence]
- [General Correspondence]
- [Green Paper on Immigration]
- [Australia: Immigration & Multiculturalism]
- [Heritage Ontario]
- [Dynamics of Racism in Toronto: Report]

- [Workshop Reports on Multiculturalism]
- [Computers in Education]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Briefs & Reports]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Documentation]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Statements & News Release]
- *Urban Renewal for Sudbury*
- *Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, Book 1: The Official Languages*
- *Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, Book II: Education*
- *Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, Book III: The Work World, Part 1 & 2*
- *A Preliminary Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism*
- *Natural Resources Inventory: Technical Report 72-2, Nickel District Conservation Authority*

## **BOX 7**

- Education Week '83 – Sudbury
- The Creative English Problem
- Strike
- Newspaper Clippings
- Jamaica – Jim McLaughlin
- [Canadian Citizenship Branch]
- [Citizenship Programs Series]
- [Jaycees]

- [Community Programmes Branch]
- [Native-Documentation]
- [Ontario Association for Curriculum Development]
- [Secondary/Post Secondary Interface Study]
- [Special Education]
- [Financing Education]
- [School Closings]
- [Multiculturalism]
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- [Science of Creative Intelligence]
- [Science]
- [Immigrant Education]
- [Sudbury Trustee]
- [Documentation]
- [Addresses & Papers on Education]
- [A Point of View in Education]
- [Conference for Newly Elected Trustees]
- [Race Relations]

**BOX 8**

- [Ten Years in Review... Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism]
- Student transportation
- [Financing Education]

- Younger et al.
- OTF Curriculum Project
- [Speeches from a Conference on Education]
- [Continuing Education]
- [Post Secondary]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Reports]
- [Racial Attitudes Test]
- [Collective Bargaining – Documentation]
- [Collective Bargaining – Sudbury]
- [Newspaper clippings on Education in Ontario]
- [Proposal for Students under clinical Care]
- [Reports for Ernie Checkeris]
- [CSTA – Correspondence]
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- [Learning through the Arts]
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- [Special Provincial Review of the School Year...]
- [Secondary Education Review Project]
- [Advisory Committee on Financing Education]
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- [Educational Progress]
- [Alternative and Community Programs]
- [Papers, Speeches and Remarks on Education]
- [Documentation]
- [Public Schools of Quebec]
- [3<sup>rd</sup> Congress on Education]

**BOX 9**

- [Project 21 – Sudbury Board of Education]
- [Special Education – Ontario]
- Occupational and Special Services Courses
- Early School – Stay
- [Alternative Schools – Early Leaving]
- [Correspondence]
- [Youth Stress Jeunesse – Correspondence]

- [Youth Stress Jeunesse – Memo's and Clippings]
- [Speeches, Notes from Ernie Checkeris]
- [Provincial Committee on Aims and Objectives]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism]
- [Sudbury Board of Education]
- [CSTA – Memos]
- [Remarks, Notes and Speeches]
- [Jamaica]
- [Commission on Freedom of Information]
- [Documentation]
- [Jamaica – Documentation]
- [Curriculum Development]
- [World Development]
- [Commission on Declining School Enrolments on Ontario – Working Papers]
- [Native Documentation]
- *Program Delivery in the Small High School*
- *Rethink Education*
- *Recommendations and Information for Secondary School Organization leading to Certificates and Diplomas*
- *Systematic Decision Making in Education*
- What to do for the Gifted Few
- *Addresses by the J.G. Althouse*
- *Teaching Canada for the 80s*

## **BOX 10**

- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Correspondence]
- [Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism – Reports and Clippings]
- [Provincial Policy on Native People]
- Strike
- [Teacher – Board Negotiations – Clippings]
- [Annual Report of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism]
- [Public Education]
- [Correspondence]
- CUPE & Bus Op's
- [Early School Leaving]
- [Hearings – Multiculturalism]
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- [Speaking of Our Culture]
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- *Ontario Schools*
- *The Sudbury board of Education – 1969*
- *Notes for community Leaders*
- *Review and Evaluation Bulletins*
- [Provincial Committee on Aims and Objectives – Reports]
- [Hall Committee]



- [Educational Systems]
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- 46<sup>th</sup> Couchiching Conference
- [Speech from the Throne]
- [Family Life]
- [Violence in the Communications Industry]
- [University of the West Indies]
- [Project 21 – Special Education]
- *Systematic Decision Making in Education*
- *Quality of Education in Ontario*
- *Committee on the Cost of Education – Final Report*
- *Committee on the Cost of Education – Interim Report Number Two*
- *Ontario Task Force on the Portrayal of Racial Diversity in Government Advertising and communications*
- *245 Days*
- *Summary Report of the Task Force on the Educational Needs of Native People of Ontario*
- *Attitudes Toward Elementary Schools and Teachers in Ontario*
- *Continuing Education – The Third System*
- *Research on the Gifted*
- *Moral Education in the Schools*

- *Teachers and Collective Bargaining in Ontario – A means to what end?*
- *Multiculturalism in Action*
- *Pre-schools in Toronto – Who should be the end user?*
- *Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario – Draft Report*
- *Vivre et s'instruire*
- *Résumé of the Report of the Royal commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism: Book four*
- *Let's take a look at Prejudice and Discrimination*
- *Educational Television Canada*
- *Focus on Canadian Studies*
- *The Renewal of Secondary Education in Ontario*
- *Teachers Qualification Evaluation Programme*
- *Mathematical and Physical Tables*
- *New Hope for the Retarded*
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