

SFU Simon Fraser University Archives and Records
Management Department

Finding Aid - East Enders Society fonds (F-59)

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East Enders Society fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department
Title:	East Enders Society fonds
ID:	F-59
Date:	1964 - 1994 (date of creation)
Physical description:	45 cm of textual records 6 audio recordings
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Note [generalNote]:	PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION Fonds includes 16 audio cassettes (originals and copies).

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The East Enders Society was a private social service group which worked to aid women in Vancouver's East Side neighbourhoods from 1965 to 1993. The group was initiated by Mrs. May Gutteridge, a social worker at St. James Anglican Church in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. In 1964, at the request of Anglican Bishop Godfrey Gower, she extended her work to include assisting native women in the courts. Through this work she saw a need for a women's hostel in Vancouver's East End. The East Enders Society was then established to provide this hostel and other services. The Society was incorporated March 24, 1965, with early members including Mrs. M. Gutteridge, Mrs. M. White, Mrs. S. Ainsworth, Miss P. Dale, Mrs. K. Arens, Mrs. M. Beckett, Miss D. Oikawa. To raise funds for the Society, a "Dollar Club" was formed, in which members contributed one dollar each month towards the Society. The East Enders were also assisted by Mary Southin (a lawyer who provided free legal advice), the United Church Women, the Anglican Church Women's Auxiliary, the Soroptomists, the Fresco Club, and various Lions Clubs. A donation of \$10,000 was also received from two anonymous women from the United Church, which went toward the purchase of a rooming house at 883 East Hastings. The rooming house was refurbished and opened as a hostel in May 1965, with Mrs. Margaret White hired as matron to live at the hostel full-time. The hostel provided temporary shelter for a number of women in the Downtown Eastside. Often, women charged with drunkenness and vagrancy would be given suspended sentences, on the condition that they go to the East Enders hostel. The Society also received a monthly grant from the provincial government to hire a social worker to assist women arriving at the hostel. This hostel (sometimes referred

to as the Lodge) operated for five years, then moved to 1656 East 4th Avenue, when the Hastings Street building was demolished as part of an urban renewal program. This second lodge was later sold in the mid-1970s to the Mental Patients Association, who operated it as a halfway house.

To meet the social needs of women in the area, a Women's Centre was opened at 342 East Hastings Street in 1967. The Centre provided typewriters, sewing machines, steam irons, hair washing and drying facilities, a television, a radio, a turntable, and children's toys and games. Volunteers at the Centre served tea daily, held monthly birthday parties and sponsored demonstrations and talks. This Centre later moved to 217 Dunlevy Avenue, and eventually closed in the mid-1970s.

By 1970, several other hostels were operating in the Downtown Eastside area, and social services agencies from the City of Vancouver began to request that the hostel accept long-term guests. As a result, in 1971, the hostel began taking in women who had been discharged from hospitals, but were not yet ready to live on their own.

By 1971, the Society saw a need for low-income housing for women, and began to press for the provision of such housing. In 1972, it worked to have women included in Oppenheimer Lodge (a senior citizens' housing project built by the City of Vancouver). It also assisted in the planning of other housing projects for low income women (Bauer Villa and Adanac Place). In 1974, members of the East Enders Society joined with members of the Amherst Lions Society to form the "East-Enders Amherst Lions Housing Society" to work toward providing affordable housing for senior citizens. This Society then obtained property on 3433 Renfrew St. (between 18th and 19th Avenues), where they constructed Renfrew Park Manor, a 41-unit senior citizens housing development. In the late 1970s, the Society became involved in the Franklin House Society to purchase and refurbish a vacant apartment building on 1721 Franklin Street. Two members of the East Enders Society (Margaret Davies and Mary Kelly) were executive members of the Franklin House Society, and the East Enders provided many furnishings and appliances for the building.

During the 1970s, income generated by term deposits allowed the Society to support various agencies providing housing and other services to low income women. By 1978, the Society was donating money to agencies such as Powell Place, the Y.W.C.A., Charlsford House, the Makwalla Native Women's Association, T.R.A.C.Y. (Taking Responsible Action for Children and Youth), and others.

In the 1990s, the Society began to discuss its own dissolution, and plan for distributing its assets. After accepting proposals and discussing various distribution plans, the Society was presented with a request by the Owl House Society (later renamed the Vi Fineday House Society) for financial assistance to install a \$22,000 sprinkler system in the house they had just purchased for use as a shelter. The East Enders Society eventually covered the entire cost of this system, which totaled \$26,827.05. Early in 1993, the Society received a proposal from the Kettle Society for a service centre for women with mental health disabilities, and it was decided that the majority of the remaining assets would go to this group. Smaller donations from the group's assets were made to Charlsford House, Children's Foundation, First United Church, St. James Anglican Church, and the Sisters of the Atonement. On October 7, 1993, the Society applied for dissolution under the Societies Act, and was formally dissolved on March 4, 1994.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records arising from the general administration of the East Enders Society, and from the Society's participation in various social service projects for women in Vancouver's East Side. Fonds includes financial statements, receipts, correspondence, bulletins, reports, proposals, minutes of meetings, constitutions, job applications, letters of reference, newspaper clippings, audio tapes of interviews with Society members, partial transcripts of interviews, and other records.

Notes

Title notes

- Source of title proper: Title of the fonds is based on provenance.

Immediate source of acquisition

The fonds was donated by one of the last members of the Society, Margaret Walker.

Arrangement

The materials were arranged by the Archivist.

Restrictions on access

Some files may contain personal or confidential information. Access to these files may be restricted as stipulated by Archives policy or the donor. Files marked 'pending review' must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release, and as a result of the review access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the archivist for more details. Access to the sound recordings is restricted due to the fragility of the audio cassettes; consult the reference archivist for more information about access.

Finding aids

Series descriptions and file lists are available.

Accruals

All accessions have been processed as of September 2002. No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- Publication status: published

- Level of detail: Full
- Status description: Revised

Access points

- Sound recording (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Health and social services (subject)
- Community life (subject)

Series descriptions

Series F-59-1: Administration and organization

Date: 1964 - 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records arising from the establishment, organization, administration and dissolution of the East Enders Society. Series includes constitution, minutes, correspondence, notes, and other documents.

Physical description: 11 cm of textual records

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-59-1-0-0-1	File - Beginnings	1964 - 1966	Restricted in part	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-2	File - Minutes	1965 - 1970	Restricted in whole	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-3	File - Minutes	1971 - 1973	Restricted in whole	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-4	File - Minutes	1974 - 1993	Open	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-5	File - Annual meetings	1966 - 1988	Open	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-6	File - Minutes note book	1971 - 1990	Open	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-7	File - Constitution	1965 - 1971	Restricted in part	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-8	File - Board members	1964 - 1992	Open	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-9	File - Correspondence	1964 - 1992	Restricted in whole	59-1
F-59-1-0-0-10	File - Dissolution	1989 - 1994	Open	59-1

Series F-59-2: Finance

Date: 1965 - 1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records arising from fundraising, budgeting, and accounting activities of the East Enders Society. Series includes financial statements, ledgers, budgets, and correspondence.

Physical description: 7 cm of textual records

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-59-2-0-0-1	File - Financial statements	1965 - 1992	Restricted in whole	59-1
F-59-2-0-0-2	File - Funding	1969 - 1971	Restricted in part	59-2
F-59-2-0-0-3	File - Vancouver Foundation	1969 - 1977	Open	59-2
F-59-2-0-0-4	File - Treasurer's notebooks	1968 - 1992	Restricted in part	59-2
F-59-2-0-0-5	File - Final distribution of assets	1989 - 1993	Open	59-2
F-59-2-0-0-6	File - Financial ledger and statements	1971 - 1986	Open	
F-59-2-0-0-7	File - Financial ledger and statements	1987 - 1993	Open	

Series F-59-3: Personnel

Date: 1967 - 1973 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records arising from the hiring of house mothers and social workers for the East Enders Society hostels. Series includes correspondence, lists of applicants, letters of reference, job descriptions, social worker's reports, statistics on hostel guests, and other materials.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-59-3-0-0-1	File - Social workers	1967 - 1973	Restricted in part	59-2
F-59-3-0-0-2	File - House mothers	1970 - 1972	Restricted in whole	59-2

Series F-59-4: Newsletters

Date: 1966 - 1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists primarily of newsletters from the East Enders Society. Includes two newsletters from the Battered Women's Support Services.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Note:

Predominant date of material is 1966-1978.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-59-4-0-0-1	File - Newsletters	1966 - 1990	Open	59-2

Series F-59-5: Society history

Date: 1990 - 1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

In the early 1990s, a member of the Kettle Society undertook a project to write the history of the East Enders Society. As part of this project, she interviewed several members of the Society and partial transcriptions of the audio taped interviews were completed. Members of the Society also submitted notes and proposals for book sections. The book project was eventually abandoned before the Society was officially dissolved in 1994. Series includes audio taped interviews, partial transcripts of interviews, notes and correspondence.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records
6 sound recordings

Note:

Physical description: series includes 16 audio cassettes (originals and copies).

Restrictions on access:

Audio recordings currently exist only on audio cassettes. Access is restricted due to the fragility of the cassettes; consult the reference archivist for more information relating to access.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-59-5-0-0-0-1	Item - Adams, Mrs. Catherine Ferrie interview	1992	Restricted in whole	OBJ-3122 OBJ-3123
F-59-5-0-0-0-2	Item - Gutteridge, Mrs. May interview	1992	Restricted in whole	OBJ-3124 OBJ-3125
F-59-5-0-0-0-3	Item - Martin, A. interview	1992	Restricted in whole	OBJ-3126 OBJ-3127 OBJ-3128
F-59-5-0-0-0-4	Item - Thomas, Wilma interview	1992	Restricted in whole	OBJ-3129 OBJ-3130 OBJ-3131
F-59-5-0-0-0-5	Item - Wilson, Winnie interview	1992	Restricted in whole	OBJ-3132 OBJ-3133
F-59-5-0-0-0-6	Item - Veil, Mrs. interview	1990	Restricted in whole	OBJ-3134 OBJ-3135

				OBJ-3136 OBJ-3137
F-59-5-0-0-1	File - History book suggestions	1990 - 1993	Open	59-2
F-59-5-0-0-2	File - Interview with Mrs. Catherine Ferry Adams	[ca 1992]	Pending review	59-2
F-59-5-0-0-3	File - Memories	[ca 1990] - [ca 1992]	Restricted in part	59-3
F-59-5-0-0-4	File - Transcripts	[ca 1990] - [ca 1992]	Pending review	59-3

Series F-59-6: Service projects

Date: 1964 - 1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records arising from the Society's involvement in various projects serving women and other individuals in Vancouver's East End. These activities include projects operated primarily by the Society (such as the Hostel and the Women's Centre), projects in which Society members were actively involved (such as Franklin House and Renfrew Park Manor), and projects and groups for which the Society provided financial support (such as the Kettle Friendship Society and the Vi Fineday Family Shelter Society). Series includes correspondence, brochures, bulletins, requests for funds, proposals, receipts, thank-you cards, and other materials.

Physical description: 11 cm of textual records

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-59-6-0-0-1	File - Hostels	1964 - 1990	Open	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-2	File - Housing concerns	1964 - 1993	Open	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-3	File - Alcohol, drug education services	1966 - 1991	Open	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-4	File - Women's day centres	1969 - 1973	Open	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-5	File - Vi Fineday Family Shelter Society (formerly Owl House)	1974 - 1992	Restricted in part	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-6	File - Renfrew Park Manor	1976 - 1993	Restricted in part	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-7	File - Charlshford House	1977 - 1993	Open	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-8	File - Miscellaneous gifts or support	1977 - 1993	Restricted in part	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-9	File - Young Women's Christian Association	1978 - 1986	Open	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-10	File - Taking Responsible Action for Youth	1980 - 1982	Open	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-11	File - Camps	1982 - 1993	Restricted in part	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-12	File - St. James Anglican Church	1982 - 1993	Pending review	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-13	File - First United Church Vancouver	1982 - 1993	Pending review	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-14	File - Franciscan Sisters	1985 - 1993	Open	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-15	File - Children's Foundation	1988 - 1993	Restricted in part	59-3
F-59-6-0-0-16	File - Kettle Friendship Society	1992 - 1993	Restricted in part	59-3