

THE CHILLIWACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(formerly the Chilliwack Board of Trade)

(Add.MSS.381)

an inventory of its records in the
CHILLIWACK ARCHIVES

compiled by

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History

The Chilliwack Board of Trade was incorporated on September 18, 1903. In common with Boards of Trade or Chambers of Commerce elsewhere in North America, it was organized to represent the interests of the business community and promote conditions for business.

The Board of Trade was inactive from 1917 to 1920, but by the 1930's it had again become a powerful, dynamic organization, organized into "bureaux" (standing committees) which met to deal with issues of concern to various sectors of business and agriculture.

To encourage visitors to the community, the Board sponsored the annual Cherry Carnival from 1927 to 1955. This tradition of organizing community festivals was revived in the form of Country Living Days in 1968.

As early as 1911 the Board began publishing pamphlets to promote tourism and investment in Chilliwack. From the 1960's onward a major focus was the operation of tourist information offices both downtown and near the Trans-Canada Highway.

In 1952 the Board began an annual tradition of honoring a Citizen To Be Recognized.

Around 1960 the name of the Chilliwack Board of Trade was changed to Chilliwack and District Chamber of Commerce. In May 1980 it became the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce.

Scope and content

This fonds contains documentation of much of the activities of the Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce, although there are some gaps.

The surviving minutes cover the periods 1929-1936, 1971-1985, and 1988.

A chronology of Board of Trade history based on 1903-1937 minutes exists, however.

The fonds also includes the By-Laws adopted in 1903, 1967, and 1974; scrolls presented to some of the Citizens To Be Recognized; and various other items.

