

CHILLIWACK BUSINESS AND

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

an inventory of its papers held by the

CHILLIWACK MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Add.MSS. 637)

arranged by Mary Armstrong (1986)

inventory by Jim Bowman (1987)

The Chilliwack Business and Professional Women's Club was founded in May 1947. It was part of a provincial, national, and international network of women in business and the professions whose origins date back to the 1920's.

The Chilliwack Club met monthly to hear guest speakers, for social activities, and to promote charitable causes. In common with other "B & P" clubs, it lobbied for the rights of women, promoted their economic advancement, and encouraged them to pursue careers outside the home. In this, the organization preceded the feminist movements which was developed in the 1960's. One of the most significant activities of the Chilliwack Club was the bestowal of a "Woman of the Year" award, to honor women for their contributions to the community.

By 1982 the Club was faced with a continuing decline in membership. The majority of members were past the age of retirement, and few were willing to serve on the executive. Several other organizations of younger women had become active in promoting the original goals of the club, and so it was decided to disband.

The collection donated to the Chilliwack Museum in 1983 by Mary Van Horne includes the three scrapbooks kept by the Club's Archivists from 1947 to 1982; a series of mounted photographs of the Woman of the Year awards from 1957 to 1979; numerous loose snapshots and negatives; the club Minutes from 1978 to 1982; and collected ephemera and correspondence representing the period 1980-1982.

