

Add. Mss. 795

CHILLIWACK & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY

An inventory of its records held in the
CHILLIWACK ARCHIVES

by

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The Chilliwack Agricultural Society was formed as a result of a meeting on May 7, 1873, and was incorporated under the Agricultural Societies Act of B.C. on May 7, 1874. It was one of the earliest institutions of the community.

From the beginning, the main function of the Society was to organize an annual fall fair, to encourage agricultural development. The fair was at first held on various members' farms, but purchases of land from Isaac Kipp in 1884 and 1887 established the first Fairgrounds - the block bounded by Wellington, Mary, Princess, and Edward Streets. An Agricultural Hall was completed there in 1887. In 1909 the Fair was moved to the present Fairgrounds on Spadina Avenue, and these were expanded in 1936 when the City sold a group of lots along Corbould Street to the Society.

By 1893 the spelling of the Society's name was changed to "Chilliwack Agricultural Society" in its minute books. Around 1897 it became the Chilliwack Agricultural Association. On October 30, 1969 it became the Chilliwack & District Agricultural Society.

The Society continues to manage the annual Chilliwack Exhibition, and act as an umbrella organization for various agricultural clubs and interest groups.

PROVENANCE OF THE COLLECTION

The collection of Minute Books (1873-1927, 1936-1970) of the Society, together with correspondence documenting property ownership by the Society was deposited in the vault of the Chilliwack Municipal Hall on September 4, 1975. On November 30 1987, it was transferred to the Chilliwack Archives by Patricia Carnegie, Secretary-Manager of the Society. At that time, Minutes for the period 1976-1981 were also transferred.

