CENTRE D'ARCHIVES DE LA GRANDE ZONE ARGILEUSE
Archival description

Title: Collection Événements Reesor Siding (RS)

Dates: 1963, 1966, 1981, 1988, 1996, 2003.

Extent of descriptive unit: 1,08 m of textual, audiovisual and sound documents.

Administrative history or biography: In 1963, the strike of the unionized bush workers employed by the companies Spruce Falls Power and Paper in Kapuskasing and Kimberly-Clark Company in Longlac left an indelible mark on the history of the region and the country. It is the bloodiest strike in Canadian labour history. During the night of February 10-11 1963, some strikers were going to Reesor Siding (56 kilometres west of Kapuskasing) to tumble down the piles of wood that the "independent" bush workers, members of Chantier coopératif Val Rita-Harty, stacked at Reesor Siding. These strikers were trying to prevent the members of Chantier coopératif from sending their cut wood to the Spruce Falls paper mill, in Kapuskasing. When the strikers arrived at Reesor Siding, members of the Chantier coopératif opened fire; three strikers were killed and eight others were injured. This deadly conflict has divided the population and left deep scars in communities throughout the region.

Scope and content: The collection includes textual, audiovisual and sound documents about the 1963 strike and the Reesor Siding shooting. Three of the series mainly contain reproductions of newspaper clippings as well as various textual documents. Documents pertaining to Paul Doucet's play *Le silence d'une tragédie ou la mesure humaine* can be found in two of the series. There also is a series containing the funeral cards of the three strikers who lost their lives during the shooting. The last series contains sound and audiovisual documents.

The collection contains seven series:

Pierre Ouellette (RS1)
Bibliothèque publique de Hearst (RS2)
Emmanuel et Rachel Dupuis (RS3)
Dolores et Danielle Coulombe (RS4)
Cartes mortuaires (RS5)
Documents audiovisuels et sonores (RS6)
Laurent Vaillancourt (RS7)

Sources of information: Records of the 1963 strike and Reesor Siding shooting.

Physical description: The collection includes five boxes of textual records and a box of audiovisual and audio documents.

Immediate source of acquisition: Le Centre d'archives de la Grande Zone argileuse acquired the collection from several donors between 2012 and 2022. Some of the series are identified by the name of their donor.

Arrangement: The documents, once acquired, were organized by the archivist. A digital copy of all the documents exist in this collection. The clippings were classified by newspaper and in chronological order.

Language: English and French.

Restriction on access: Digital documents are available only at Le Centre d'archives.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Copyright Act applies. Reproduction permitted depending on the condition of the documents. A detailed inventory for all the newspaper clippings for each series is also available.

Finding aids: A research tool is available.

Associated materials: Fonds Local 2995, Lumber and Sawmills Workers Union.

Accruals: Further accruals expected.

General Note: Some newspaper clippings are found in more than one series.

Content Warning: Archival records are historical in nature and reflect the mindsets of the people and time of their creation. The series "RS7-01" contains problematic wording, cultural references and stereotypes that are no longer used or appropriate today, because deemed racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory, namely against Indigenous peoples.

Descriptors: Bibliothèque publique de Hearst
Chantier coopératif de Val Rita-Harty
see also
coopératives forestières
Coulombe, Danielle
Coulombe, Dolores
Connors, Stomping Tom
Dubé, Marco
Dupuis, Emmanuel
Dupuis, Rachel
Grèves, Ontario
see also
grève, 1963
grèves, Ontario, histoire
Fusillade

see also
Reesor Siding
Ontario, histoire
Industrie forestière – Ontario, Nord de l'
Kapuskasing, ON
Kimberly-Clark Corporation
Laberge, Stéphane
Longlac, ON
Ontario, Nord de l'
Ouellette, Pierre
Reesor Siding
see also
fusillade
grève, 1963
Spruce Falls Power & Paper Co
Syndicat
see also
Local 2995
Syndicat des Bucherons et Employés de Scieries
Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union
Carpenters and Joiners of America
United Steelworkers, local 1–2010
Union catholique des cultivateurs
see also
chantiers coopératifs
diocèse de Hearst

Last updated, March 2022.