

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Camp BB-Riback fonds

No.: CBB

DATE RANGE: 1956, 1965-2005

EXTENT: 6 cm of textual records. ---2 CDs. --1 object

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

Camp B.B.-Riback was originally known as Camp B'nai B'rith, an undertaking of North-West Canadian Council B'nai B'rith. The main impetus for the creation of the camp came from M. Ted Riback, who was frustrated by both the difficulty of finding rental camp facilities for the Alberta and Saskatchewan Jewish communities, and by the often-run-down state of those facilities. He spear-headed a fundraising campaign -- with the support of Morris Hector in Calgary, and Mickey Dlin and Tevie Miller in Edmonton -- that provided for the 1955 purchase of waterfront property at Pine Lake, Alberta. Architect Jack Abugov drew up plans and supervised the camp's construction.

The inaugural session of Camp B'nai B'rith was in the summer of 1956, the same year that the North-West Canadian Council B'nai B'rith Camp Service League was incorporated. The structure of the camp included a Board of Directors made up of representatives from each of the B'nai B'rith Lodges in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and over the years the camp office has variously been located in both Edmonton and Calgary. Early camp directors were Ida and Aron Eichler (1956), Max Levie (1957), Lou Faber (1958), Chaim Kornfeld (1959-1962), and Bill and Rivvy Meloff (1963-1964). By the late 1980s B'nai B'rith had become increasingly removed from camp oversight, and the administration of the camp was restructured.

Campers have ranged in age from 5-13 years old, with Counsellor-in-Training and Leadership Training programs offered for older participants. Over the years, programming has included arts and crafts, horseback riding and Judaic activities, as well as team and individual sports. Physical improvements to the original property have included the construction of the Harry and Martha Cohen Swimming Pool, paved basketball and tennis courts, and the addition of insulation and heating to all camp buildings. A 1998 overhaul of the kitchens and other foundational structures was instigated by Ted Riback, and the camp was renamed Camp B.B.-Riback at this time. The touch-down of a tornado on the far side of Pine Lake in 2000 led to the construction of a new Arts & Crafts building, designed to provide extreme-weather protection for the camp and its neighbours.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of incorporation documents, correspondence, in-house and commemorative publications, manuals and publicity material regarding Camp B'nai B'rith / Camp B.B.-Riback.

The fonds has been arranged into the following series: Governance; Facilities; Sessional Brochures; Sessional Activities; Events; Commemoration

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Camp BB-Riback; Ted Riback; A & C Shapiro; estate of Leo Sheftel

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ASSOCIATED MATERIAL: JAHSENA

ACCRUALS: further accruals expected though not scheduled

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: JHSSA Photo Collection

GENERAL NOTE: Some information for the Admin History is taken from *A Joyful Harvest*, cJHSSA 2007

Includes material from the following accessions: 2001-008, 2003-005, 2003-008, 2006-010, 2008-007

Series Title: Governance

No.: .01

Date Range: 1956-1967, 1989, 1997

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the Societies Act Application and By-laws, Certificate of Incorporation, and federal application for charitable status for the North-West Canadian Council B'nai B'rith Camp Service League, as well a copy of a 1965 letter regarding the transfer of the land title to a trust company, and 2 1967 documents regarding the establishment of trust known as the B'nai B'rith Foundation of North-West Canadian Council. Also included are copies of the 1989 Camp B'nai B'rith Board List, and a 1997 memorandum "RE: Original Purchase of Camp B.B. Lands", written by Howie Sniderman. It should be noted that information in the Sniderman memorandum contradicts information in the original incorporation documents.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Facilities

No.: .02

Date Range: [1955], 1998-2005

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a copy of the 7-page 1955 camp proposal (date of copy unknown), as well as updates and manuals regarding the development and maintenance of the physical plant of Camp B'nai B'rith / Camp BB-Riback, including emergency procedures.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Sessional Brochures

No.: .03

Date Range: 1960, 1981, 1993, 2001-2010

Extent: .5cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of brochures and handbills regarding the summer sessions of Camp B'nai B'rith / Camp BB-Riback, including a business card for Jerrod Henoch, Camp Director c2010.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Sessional Activities

No.: .04

Date Range: 1964

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a "Camp B.B. Roster Second Session" and a proposed daily schedule, as well as three issues of the "Camp B.B. Kibbitzer", an in-house publication of Camp B'nai B'rith.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Events

No.: .05

Date Range: 1956-1957, 1995-2005, 2015

Extent: 1.5cm of textual records.—1 CD.—1 object

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of flyers, brochures, invitations and newsletters relating to events held by Camp B'nai B'rith / Camp BB-Riback, including the official camp opening, reunions, and fundraising campaigns. Also included are an invitation, reply card, event program and monogrammed skullcap from the 2003 Tribute Luncheon, and a CD of Ted Riback's speech at the 50th anniversary event.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Commemoration

No.: .06

Date Range: 1980, 1990, 2003

Extent: 1cm of textual records. –1 CD. – 1object

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a glossy newspaper-format publication called “Camp B’nai B’rith: 25 years of service to western Canada’s Jewish Youth” (1980), an “Anniversary Book” (1990), and a commemorative album, containing photographs, speeches and signatures, given to Ted Riback after the 2003 Tribute Luncheon. Also included is a CD containing 6 songs being sung by campers and staff, possibly recorded at the 50th anniversary event.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access