

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2 fonds

No.: JWV

DATE RANGE: 1977-2013, 1980-2010 predominant

EXTENT: 32cm of textual records. -- 10 objects. --1 DVD. --2 textiles

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

The Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2, was formed in 1977, the second branch Post to be founded in Canada. The driving force behind its formation was Robert Sattin, who served as Commander from 1977-1992, followed by Sid Macklin (1992-1995) and Val Rimer (1995-2014). Colloquially referred to as the War Vets, the aims of the organization were "... to combat anti-Semitism, to promote comradeship amongst Jewish veterans, to protect the rights of Jewish servicemen, to have a strong representation for the Department of Veterans Affairs, to help the welfare of service personnel in Israel who are very much in need." The Post began with 35 paid-up members, and at its peak, boasted of approximately 200 regular and associate members.

The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) assisted their membership with everything from information on available government services, to the replacement and repair of medals and decorations, to the provision of an honour guard at burial. They conducted their own annual Remembrance Day service in addition to participating in the municipal ceremonies, and hosted social events both for their members and for the community at large. JWV were staunch supporters of many community activities and projects, and were the Jewish National Fund (JNF) Negev Dinner honourees in 2002. Guests at their meetings and dinners included active military figures, National JWV Commanders, Righteous Gentiles, American Consuls, local Chiefs of Police, politicians, journalists, and others. In 2001, Commander Val Rimer undertook to have two towns in Holland declared Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, in acknowledgement of their collective actions during WWII. Between 1980 and 2012[?], Jewish War Veterans produced a quarterly newsletter called the *Bulletin*, consisting of "... items that may be of interest to the J.W.V. Family."

The JWV initiated several major projects, including the erection of a Memorial Cenotaph (1977) to honour Calgary Jewish Servicemen who fell in the two World Wars; the creation of a Wall of Honour (1998) in the Jewish Community Centre acknowledging all local servicemen; the publication of *Memories on the March* (2002), a 'tribute book' containing the "Personal Stories of the Jewish Military Veterans of Southern Alberta"; the creation of a Senior's Lounge (2005) in the Jewish Community Centre. They also played a role in the development of Calgary's Museum of the Regiments' Jewish War Veterans Memorial (1989) and Plaque (1994), and participated in the establishment of that institution's War Art Gallery, which includes a large mural mosaic and a permanent display of materials "describing part of our veterans' contribution to Canada, through the Sharing our Military Heritage Foundation (2007).

While not officially a War Vets project, the 1978 formation of the Calgary Association of Jewish Immigrants (from Russia), under its founding President, Samuil Klammer, owed much to the work of then-JWV Commander Bob Sattin. The organization was created to assist Jewish immigrants from the (former) Soviet Union, many of them veterans, with their adjustment to life in Canada.

The War Vets qualified for a provincial Casino license in 1984, and over the 27 years they held the license, their proceeds supported a wide range of organizations, including the Alzheimer's Society, Calgary Children's Hospital Foundation, Calgary Food Bank, Calgary Homeless Foundation, the Calgary Jewish Centre's Meals on Wheels program, Camp B'nai Brith (later Camp BB-Riback), Chevra Kadisha of Calgary, Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta (JHSSA), Salvation Army, the War Amputees Association and many others. In 1997, they purchased the first "Bob's Bus", a passenger van for the use of the Calgary Jewish Centre, in memory of Robert Sattin.

An Endowment Fund was established through the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary in 2007 with an initial donation of \$10,000. Following the death of Commander Val Rimer in March 2014, the remaining Post members made the decision to dissolve the organization, transferring the financial assets to the fund. All material in the Jewish War Veterans office was donated to the JHSSA, as specified in a 'Gift Memo' dated November 1, 2010.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of minutes, correspondence, notes, clippings, project files, ephemera and objects relating to the activities of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2 and its members.

The fonds has been arranged into the following series: Governance, Minutes, Correspondence, Membership, Activities, Memories on the March, Clippings, Objects; Calgary Association of Jewish Immigrants (from Russia)

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2; estate of Robert Sattin; see series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ACCRUALS: no further accruals expected

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: JHSSA photo collection; JHSSA Oral History collection

GENERAL NOTE: Clippings and correspondence have been arranged chronologically by the archives.

Copies of JWV Calgary newsletters are available to researchers through the JHSSA Periodical Library.

Includes material from the following accessions: 2004-022, 2007-008, 2010-007, 2014-003

Series Title: Governance

No.: .01

Date Range: 1977-2013

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation, 2 Charter certificates, a Procedures duotang and office sign, copies of the manifesto & organizational objectives, documentation re: organizational dissolution, and correspondence regarding the Endowment Fund established with the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary by the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2.

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: Establishment & Dissolution; Procedures; Endowment Fund.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Minutes

No.: .02

Date Range: 1977-2012

Extent: 4cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of formal and informal minutes from Executive, General and program planning meetings, as well as the year-end financial statements for 1987. Meeting agendas have been kept when no minutes were extant. There are no minutes from 1993 or 1994. Two pages of minutes for Memorial Service meetings are undated and were placed at the front of the file. Included in the series are notes and news clippings kept 1996-2009 (?) by then-Commander Val Rimer, some on pages removed from a coil notebook.

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: Meeting Minutes; Val Rimer Notes.

Some 1980 program planning minutes are located in JWV.04 (Activities).

Series is presumed incomplete.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Correspondence

No.: .03

Date Range: 1976-2011

Extent: 4cm of textual records. –1 object

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence, including certificates (one with a lapel pin attached), sent and received by the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2, as well as blank stationery and templates. Included in this series is correspondence regarding the “Hidden Village” in Holland, 3 issues of the *Bulletin* (Sept 1981, April 1995, August 2010), and the originals of letters sent to JNF Calgary in 2002, when JWV were the Negev Dinner honourees.

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: Stationery; 1976-2011 (includes *Bulletin* issues); Certificates.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Membership

No.: .04

Date Range: 1977-2012

Extent: 9.5cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of membership forms and certificates, blank membership cards, Paid-up / Deceased / Former Member index cards and membership lists of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2.

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: General Membership Information (includes lists and blank cards); Index Cards; Membership Forms.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

LANGUAGE NOTE: some documents are in Russian and have not been translated

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Activities

No.: .05

Date Range: 1978-2012

Extent: 4.5cm of textual records. –1 DVD

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of planning notes, correspondence, notices, proposals, surveys, programs and ephemera relating to Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2 activities. These activities include support services (such as medal replacement) and social events, as well as commemorative activities and projects, ranging from veteran’s burials to the creation of exhibits. The material has been arranged chronologically by the archives.

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: General; Museum of the Regiments; Remembrance Services; Senior’s Lounge; Veterans Wall of Honour; Speeches, which includes speeches and notes.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Memories on the March

No.: .06

Date Range: 2000-2003

Extent: 5cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

In the fall of 2000, the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2 was granted approval to dedicate some of its Casino funds to the publication of a book of first-person stories of the participation of Jewish veterans. Author Tyler Trafford was commissioned to research and write the book. Veterans, and in some cases their survivors, submitted their stories, and *Memories on the March: Personal Stories of the Jewish Military Veterans of Southern Alberta*, was officially launched in January 2002. Copies were freely distributed to schools, libraries and other institutions, and also sold to the general public. In 2003, students at the Calgary Jewish Academy submitted essays based on the stories, and two prizes were awarded in each of two age categories.

The series consists of proposals, correspondence, drafts, advertisements, cost breakdown, distribution notebooks, and letters of response relating to the publication of *Memories on the March*, as well as a copy of the book signed by Val Rimer and Tyler Trafford. The series also includes all contest entries received. Undated material has been placed in the front of the folder.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Clippings

No.: .07

Date Range: 1977-2013

Extent: 2cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of original and photocopied clippings and articles relating or of interest to the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Calgary Association of Jewish Immigrants (from Russia)

No.: .08

Date Range: 1978-1987

Extent: 2cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of original and photocopied documents, name and address lists, clippings, resumes and correspondence relating to the membership of the Calgary Association of Jewish Immigrants (from Russia).

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

LANGUAGE NOTE: Many of the documents in this series are in Russian and have not been translated.

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Objects

No.: .09

Date Range: [1980-2010?]

Extent: 9 objects. -1 textile

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a Canadian flag, an 11cm x 25cm vinyl business card holder with 70 business cards, a small box containing 20 assorted lapel pins, 2 fabric badges, a Military Collectors Club Delegate ribbon [1997], 4 JWV office stamps, a pine carving "VAL" (13cm x 6cm x 3cm), a 28cm diameter Jewish War Veterans of Canada plastic window decal, and a vinyl "Jewish War Veterans" ribbon. Also included is a blazer (with commemorative medal), slacks, wedge cap and tie, worn at JWV Calgary functions.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: JWV Calgary; Julius Bleviss

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access