



**WESTERN ARCHIVES**

FINDING AID FOR

**Western Fair fonds**

**AFC 477**

# Table of Contents

Biographical Sketch/Administrative History .....	3
Scope and Content .....	3
AFC 477-S1 Business and Legal Documents .....	4
AFC 477-S1-F1 Deed between province of Canada and council of the district of Lonu.....	4
AFC 477-S1-F2 Statutes, by-law, agreements, etc. relating to the Western Fair Asso.....	4
AFC 477-S1-F3 Annual report and financial statement of the Western Fair Associati.....	4
AFC 477-S2 Correspondence .....	5
AFC 477-S2-F1 Correspondence .....	5
AFC 477-S2-F2 A presentation to the City of London .....	5
AFC 477-S3 Memorabilia .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F1 Provincial exhibition member's badge (yellow badge) .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F2 Prize lists for Western Fair .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F3 Prize lists for Western Fair .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F4 Prize lists for Western Fair .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F5 Prize lists for Western Fair .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F6 Prize lists for Western Fair .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F7 Record of merit from the Holstein-Freisian Association of Canada .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F8 Third prize card .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F9 First prize certificate .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F10 Tickets .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F11 Rules and regulations governing the boy's and girl's calf feeding cc.....	6
AFC 477-S3-F12 Envelopes with Western Fair logos and advertising .....	6
AFC 477-S3-F13 [Western Fair prize lists] .....	6
AFC 477-S4 Newspaper Clippings and History .....	7
AFC 477-S4-F1 Article entitled "the provincial exhibition" from "the Ontario farmer" .....	7
AFC 477-S4-F2 Newspaper articles about the Western Fair and provinical exhibition.....	7
AFC 477-S4-F3 Western Fair history, London, Ontario, Canada by A.M. Hunt .....	7
AFC 477-S4-F4 Newhauser's London hatchery announcement about price list .....	7
AFC 477-S4-F5 Press release on Western Fair stock barn .....	7
AFC 477-S4-F6 Fairmont press advertisement about Western Fair advertising .....	7
AFC 477-S5 Photographs.....	8
AFC 477-S5-F1 Photograph of Western Fair building and crowd .....	8
AFC 477-S6 Programmes.....	9
AFC 477-S6-F1 Shows held on fair grounds (craft show, industrial and business sho.....	9
AFC 477-S6-F2 Shows held on fair grounds (craft show, industrial and business sho.....	9
AFC 477-S6-F3 Horse shows.....	9
AFC 477-S6-F4 Sport Focus - harness and thoroughbred racing .....	9
AFC 477-S6-F5 Official program of Western fair raceway .....	9
AFC 477-S6-F6 [Western Fair pamphlets] .....	9

# AFC 477

**Western Fair fonds.  
1845-2001.**

**21.1 cm of textual records, 3 volumes, 1 photograph : b&w**

## **Biographical Sketch/Administrative History**

Western Fair: The Western Fair Association began with the amalgamation of the East Middlesex Agricultural Society and the London District Horticultural and Agricultural Society in 1867. The first annual Western Fair was held the following year in September 1868 over two days. It eventually expanded into a ten-day event. It was originally created in part for farmers to sell their produce and their families to sell other wares, but has become a much larger autumn fair and agricultural exhibit with auto shows, harness racing, midway rides and more.

The Western Fair's exhibits often appealed to what people were interested in each year. In 1883, night exhibitions with incandescent lightbulbs were held. In 1960, a fully-stocked bomb shelter drew large crowds. In the 1930s, due to demands made by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the fairgrounds went "dry" and prohibited the use or sale of alcohol. The agricultural and livestock portions of the fair, which had originally made up the majority of its offerings, eventually became minimized for more urban attractions that matched the urbanization of London itself. This included the development of musical acts and concerts and an expansion of the midway rides. It had a lot of community engagement and support, especially in the beginning. Children would sometimes be let out of school early, given a day off or taken on a field trip in order to attend the fair.

The Western Fair was originally held north of Victoria Park at a site on Richmond Street but moved to Queens Park by Dundas and Rectory Street in 1887. When the fair moved, they held a contest to design the main exhibition building. The winner was George Durand, whose design was known as the Crystal Palace because it was based off the Crystal Palace in London, England. The building burnt down in 1927 and was replaced with the Confederation Building. During the Second World War, the fairgrounds were used by the Department of Military Defense as barracks and training grounds, thus shutting down the Western Fair from 1939 to 1947. It resumed in 1948 but the fairgrounds had been extremely altered and many buildings and amenities had to be rebuilt or renovated.

The Western Fair Association has had a number of presidents over the years, including James Johnston and Lieutenant Colonel William Moir Gartshore. John Huse Saunders was president of the association for 22 years, from 1922 to 1944, and is credited with many accomplishments, including his work in developing the poultry department over his fifty year-long association with the Western Fair.

The Western Fair is an important cultural, historical and financial event for the City of London as it supports a number of merchants and businesses in London and its surrounding areas, as well as its citizens. Although it began as an annual event, the Western Fair has now become a corporate entity that hosts events year-round. In June 2011, the Western Fair Association was rebranded as the Western Fair District.

## **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of records created and acquired by the Western Fair Association. This includes business and legal documents, correspondence, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, photographs and fair programmes.

## Series Descriptions

**AFC 477-S1 Business and Legal Documents.  
1845-1951.**

**1.4 cm of textual records**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of business and legal documents created by the Western Fair Association, including deeds, statutes, by-law agreements, and an annual report and financial statement.

**AFC 477-S1-F1 Deed between province of Canada and council of the district of London. -- 1845.  
-- 0.1 cm. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/1**

**AFC 477-S1-F2 Statutes, by-law, agreements, etc. relating to the Western Fair Association. --  
1908. -- 1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/15**

**AFC 477-S1-F3 Annual report and financial statement of the Western Fair Association. -- 1951. -  
- 0.3 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/26**

**AFC 477-S2 Correspondence.**

**1964-1970.**

**0.1 cm of textual records, 1 volume**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of correspondence from the Western Fair Association. Includes a letter sent to recipients of an incorrect invitation and a presentation given to the city of London.

**AFC 477-S2-F1 Correspondence. -- 1964. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/24**

**AFC 477-S2-F2 A presentation to the City of London. -- 1970. -- 1 volume. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/30**

**AFC 477-S3 Memorabilia.**

**1854-2001.**

**10.3 cm of textual records, 1 volume**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of memorabilia relating to the Western Fair. Includes prize lists, badges, prize certificates, tickets, and rules and regulations of events.

**AFC 477-S3-F1 Provincial exhibition member's badge (yellow badge). -- 1854. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/2**

**AFC 477-S3-F2 Prize lists for Western Fair. -- 1880-2001. -- 2.5 cm. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/6**

**AFC 477-S3-F3 Prize lists for Western Fair. -- 1880-2001. -- 2 cm. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/7**

**AFC 477-S3-F4 Prize lists for Western Fair. -- 1880-2001. -- 2 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/8**

**AFC 477-S3-F5 Prize lists for Western Fair. -- 1880-2001. -- 1.6 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/9**

**AFC 477-S3-F6 Prize lists for Western Fair. -- 1880-2001. -- 1.4 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/10**

**AFC 477-S3-F7 Record of merit from the Holstein-Freisian Association of Canada. -- 1927. -- 0.1 cm. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/16**

**AFC 477-S3-F8 Third prize card. -- 1887. -- 0.2 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/17**

**AFC 477-S3-F9 First prize certificate. -- 1913. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/18**

**AFC 477-S3-F10 Tickets. -- 1917. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/19**

**AFC 477-S3-F11 Rules and regulations governing the boy's and girl's calf feeding competition. - - 1924. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/20**

**AFC 477-S3-F12 Envelopes with Western Fair logos and advertising. -- 1929, n.d.. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/21**

**AFC 477-S3-F13 [Western Fair prize lists]. -- 1888. -- 1 volume. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/32**

**AFC 477-S4 Newspaper Clippings and History.  
1867-1983.**

**1.9 cm of textual records, 1 volume**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of newspaper clippings collected by the Western Fair Association. Also includes a book on the history of the Western Fair.

**AFC 477-S4-F1 Article entitled "the provincial exhibition" from "the Ontario farmer". -- 1869. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/3**

**AFC 477-S4-F2 Newspaper articles about the Western Fair and provincial exhibitions . -- 1883-1983. -- 1.5 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/4**

**AFC 477-S4-F3 Western Fair history, London, Ontario, Canada by A.M. Hunt. -- 1867-1910. -- 1 volume. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/5**

**AFC 477-S4-F4 Newhauser's London hatchery announcement about price list. -- 1945. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/23**

**AFC 477-S4-F5 Press release on Western Fair stock barn. -- 1945. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. - - Box Number AFC 477-1/25**

**AFC 477-S4-F6 Fairmont press advertisement about Western Fair advertising. -- 1960. -- 0.1 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/27**

**AFC 477-S5 Photographs.**

**1930.**

**1 B&W photograph**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of a photograph taken by the Western Fair Association of a crowd of people in front of a Western Fair building.

**AFC 477-S5-F1 Photograph of Western Fair building and crowd. -- 1930. -- 1 B&W photograph.**

**-- Box Number AFC 477-1/22**



**AFC 477-S6 Programmes.  
1916-1986.**

**5.9 cm of textual records**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of programmes from previous Western Fairs and Western Fair events. Includes pamphlets, horse racing programmes, and other various show programmes.

**AFC 477-S6-F1 Shows held on fair grounds (craft show, industrial and business show, seed fair) programmes. -- 1916-1981, n.d.. -- 2 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/12**

**AFC 477-S6-F2 Shows held on fair grounds (craft show, industrial and business show, seed fair) programmes. -- 1916-1981, n.d.. -- 0.5 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/13**

**AFC 477-S6-F3 Horse shows. -- 1934-1953. -- 2 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/14**

**AFC 477-S6-F4 Sport Focus - harness and thoroughbred racing. -- 1983. -- 0.8 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/28**

**AFC 477-S6-F5 Official program of Western fair raceway. -- 1986. -- 0.2 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/29**

**AFC 477-S6-F6 [Western Fair pamphlets]. -- 1923, 1965. -- 0.4 cm of textual records. -- Box Number AFC 477-1/31**