THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
WESTERN ARCHIVES

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – February 2010
Western Archives
AFC 137
Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch #145 Fonds

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ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates
1933-1995

Extent
30 cm of textual records
54 photographs

Administrative History
During and after the First World War, a number of disparate veterans’ organizations emerged in Canada acting as voices for returning troops and their families. Attempts at unity to strengthen the voice of veterans resulted in the founding of the Dominion Veterans Alliance in 1925. One of the groups who joined the Dominion Veterans Alliance was the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, formed in Winnipeg in November, 1925.

Initially, the Legion had three roles: to care of the war disabled, the dependent and the needy; to keep alive public memory of the sacrifices of Canadians in the cause of world peace; and to promote unity of the nation and development of a greater national consciousness. This mandate grew in time to include many community service projects.

The administrative structure of the Royal Canadian Legion is hierarchical and is divided into Commands, districts, zones and branches. At the national level is the Dominion Command, subdivided into the Provincial Commands. The Ontario Command is divided into nine administrative districts, each in turn divided into zones. The most important and most visible element of the Legion structure is the branch. Each branch belongs to a zone, a district and a command.

The London Great War Veterans Association joined the Canadian Legion and became Branch Number 2. The London branch of the Legion experienced inner turmoil as differences of opinion grew between ex-officer members and other ranks; in 1928, Branch Number 2 was dismantled. Several local veterans were still interested in Legion membership; after several meetings, the name Vimy was chosen for a new branch. Vimy Branch #145 was chartered in March, 1929 by the Dominion Command of the Canadian Legion. The branch holds its meeting twice a year in the form of a dinner on dates which coincide as closely as possible with the anniversaries of the Armistice and the Battle of Vimy Ridge. It has no fixed headquarters.

Originally, the branch had between 30 and 40 members; since the Second World War, its membership has remained at about 160. A number of London’s prominent veterans such as Ibbotson Leonard, D. B. Weldon, and Tom Lawson have been members of the branch.
In the 1930s, Vimy Orchestra was formed. It performed at the twice-yearly meetings as well as some other occasions.


Scope and Content
This fonds contains records created and collected by the Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch #145 of London, Ontario. Minutes of meetings, correspondence, financial documents, souvenirs, and photographs are included.

Arrangement
The fonds is arranged into the following series:
Series 1: Minutes of meetings
Series 2: Ontario provincial command documents
Series 3: Dominion command documents
Series 4: Membership documents
Series 5: Dues correspondence
Series 6: Annual financial reports and other documents
Series 7: Dinner meeting programmes and other documents
Series 8: Community involvement documents
Series 9: Special events souvenirs
Series 10: History project documents
Series 11: Photographs

Finding Aids
File lists are available.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Donated by Bill Corfield, director of Vimy branch’s Executive Committee, in July 1991.

Related Material

Conditions Governing Access
No restrictions on access.
Series 1  Minutes of meetings

Dates
1936, 1947-1985

Extent
5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains minutes of meetings in which Vimy branch was involved. Meetings of the Vimy branch executive, as well as minutes of regional zones under which Vimy was represented, are included.

Arrangement
This series is arranged in the following sub-series:
   Sub-series 1.1:  Minutes of executive committee meetings
   Sub-series 1.2:  Minutes of zone meetings
Sub-series 1.1  Minutes of executive committee meetings

Dates
1947-1985

Extent
5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains minutes of the regular meetings of the executive of Vimy Branch #145 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Membership, financial matters, and event planning issues are discussed.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>1947-1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>1960-1965</td>
<td>B562-2</td>
</tr>
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<td>Meetings</td>
<td>1966-1969</td>
<td>B562-3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Meetings</td>
<td>1970-1972</td>
<td>B562-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>1973-1974</td>
<td>B562-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>1975-1976</td>
<td>B562-6</td>
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<td>Meetings</td>
<td>1977-1978</td>
<td>B562-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>1980, 1982-1985</td>
<td>B562-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sub-series 1.2 Meetings of Zone meetings

Dates
1936, 1956, 1977

Extent
1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains minutes of Zone 3 and Zone A-6 meetings, distributed to members of the local legion branch. Vimy branch fell under the jurisdiction of Zone 3 in 1936, and is a part of the current Zone A-6 today.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone meetings</td>
<td>1936, 1956, 1977</td>
<td>B562-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 2  Ontario Provincial Command documents

Dates
1969-1977

Extent
1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains documents received by Vimy branch from the Legion’s Ontario Provincial Command. Reports and correspondence are included.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provincial command</td>
<td>1969-1977</td>
<td>B562-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 3  Dominion Command documents

Dates
1971-1976, 1986

Extent
1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains documents received by Vimy branch from the Legion’s national
Dominion Command. Reports, booklets, and correspondence are included.

File/Item List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dominion command</td>
<td>1971-1976, 1986</td>
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</table>
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Series 4  Membership documents

Dates
1968-1988

Extent
9 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains membership documents for the Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch #145. Membership lists, correspondence, and membership applications and forms are included.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awards, life members</td>
<td>1968-1986</td>
<td>B562-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership lists</td>
<td>1969-1979</td>
<td>B562-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for membership, A-M</td>
<td>1969-1979</td>
<td>B562-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for membership, O-Y</td>
<td>1969-1979</td>
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<td>Membership criteria</td>
<td>1969-1979</td>
<td>B562-18</td>
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<td>Dominion command information forms</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>B562-15</td>
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<td>Membership lists</td>
<td>1983-1988</td>
<td>B562-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 5  Dues correspondence

Dates
1969-1980

Extent
1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains reminders and other correspondence regarding dues to be paid to Vimy branch. Appeals for special projects funding are also included.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual dues</td>
<td>1969-1980</td>
<td>B562-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 6 Annual financial reports and other documents

Dates

Extent
2 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains annual financial reports issued by the Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch #145. Receipts, expenses, and records of donations made are included. Invoices and interim statements are also included.

File/Item List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous financial documents</td>
<td>1969-1972</td>
<td>B562-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual statements</td>
<td>1975-1979</td>
<td>B562-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 7  Dinner meeting programmes and other documents

Dates
1936-1995

Extent
6 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains documents relating to Vimy branch’s dinner meetings. Programmes and organizing documents are included.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dinner meetings miscellaneous documents</td>
<td>1936-1969</td>
<td>B562-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmes, duplicates</td>
<td>1966-1985</td>
<td>B562-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangements, contracts, permits</td>
<td>1976-1985</td>
<td>B562-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment, orchestra, music</td>
<td>1976-1985</td>
<td>B562-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner programmes</td>
<td>1991-1995</td>
<td>B562-38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 8    Community involvement documents

Dates
1953-1986

Extent
3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains record relating to Vimy branch’s involvement in community charitable
activities. Documents recording donations made to Vimy branch through the annual poppy
fund, and donations made to by Vimy branch to other charitable organizations, are included.
Records relating to the Canadian Legion Memorial Boys’ Club, now the Boys and Girls
Club of London are also included.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>1953-1986</td>
<td>B562-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian legion memorial boys’ club</td>
<td>1960-1984</td>
<td>B562-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 9  Special events souvenirs

Dates
1933-1977

Extent
1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains souvenirs retained by the Vimy branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Souvenirs from commemorative dinners, benefit concerts, and the ceremony to mark the unveiling of London’s cenotaph in Victoria Park are included.

File/Item List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>1933-1977</td>
<td>B562-32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 10  History project documents

Dates

Extent
3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
This series contains documents relating to Vimy branch’s 1983 history book, “Friends and comrades: a history of the branch and its pursuits”. Collected articles, planning documents, and correspondence are included.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articles – general</td>
<td>1960-1983</td>
<td>B562-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles – Vimy orchestra</td>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>B562-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning documents</td>
<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>B562-33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 11 Photographs

Dates
1985, 1988, 1990

Extent
54 photographs : col. ; 25 x 20 cm or smaller

Scope and Content
This series contains photographs taken at meetings of the Vimy branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Many of these photographs include captions on the reverse.

File List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box/File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>