

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:

Series

No.:

AU023.024S

FORMS PART OF:

AU023 Martha Kostuch fonds

TITLE:

Water series

CREATOR:

Kostuch, Martha

DATE RANGE:

1964-2008

EXTENT:

3.21 meters of textual records and other material

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/ BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

In 1986, the Government of Alberta announced they were proceeding with the first phase of the Parby Creek-Buffalo Lake water management project. This project was intended to control flooding, provide agricultural benefits and improve drainage from Buffalo Lake to Highway 50. In 1989 they intended to continue with the next phase of the project, stabilization of Buffalo Lake water levels to allow for multi-purpose use. It was noted in the newspapers that Premier Don Getty had a cottage on the lake which had severely fluctuating water levels. Ralph Klein, Alberta Environment Minister, announced a Calgary company was hired to conduct an independent environmental assessment of the project and that the public would be allowed to participate in all aspects. At the public hearing, Martha Kostuch and many other presented their briefs opposed to the project, one reason being that it would destroy the ecosystems and nesting grounds including, the endangered Piping Plover on Parbly Creek. On July 5, 1991, in a news release the Government of Alberta announced the project would proceed. Kostuch tried to have the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) apply the Environmental Assessment and Review Process to this project, but after a ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada in the Oldman Dam case, the DFO felt they didn't need to proceed. (This ruling was subsequently appealed by Kostuch and members of the Friends of the Oldman River Society.) Despite their efforts, the project proceeded and Buffalo Lake became a reservoir that had water pumped in through pipelines from several creeks and rivers including the Red Deer River and Parbly Creek.

Along with the Parlby Creek-Buffalo Lake water management project, Kostuch was interested in many other water related issues including the Oldman and Milk River Dams in Alberta; the diversion of water from the Bow River in Alberta; the Grand River Dams in Labrador; the James Bay Hydroelectric Project, the Garrison Diversion Project, the Grand Canal, the Rafferty/Alameda Project, the South Saskatchewan River Basin Planning Program, the Prairie Rivers Improvement Management and Evaluation (PRIME) plan, the Big Horn Dam, the Slave River Hydro Electric Proposal, the Blood Indian Irrigation Project, the Wabamun Lake train derailment and the St. Mary's Irrigation District.

Other general water issues that Martha Kostuch worked on were, water pollution, diverting water, inter-basin transfers, irrigation, dam projects, the quality of drinking water, oil and gas pipeline leaks, sewage in water and waste from pulp mills disgoring into rivers and the Great Lakes. As a canoeist, fisherman and environmentalist, she also worked to preserve wetlands and nesting areas for waterfowl and to ensure the rivers and lakes were clean and accessible for recreational use.

Over the years Martha Kostuch was Co-Chair of the Canadian Environmental Network's subcommittee, Water Caucus, 1992 -2008. She was a member of the Alberta Environmental Network's subcommittee Water Caucus, 1985-2008, as well as a member of the Environmental Council of Alberta's Pollution Study Group from 1979-1989. She also prepared and presented briefs to the Inquiry on Federal Water Policy, reviewed legislated water policy including Alberta's Bill 41 & Bill 51 *Water Act*, and made a presentation at the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's International Association for Impact Assessment Conference, in Seoul, Korea on June 5-9, 2007.

CUSTODIAL HISTORY:

In April 2008, Martha Kostuch signed an agreement with Athabasca University to have her records digitized but she passed away before this work could be started. After her death on April 23, 2008, her records went into the custody of her son Edward and in July 2008, he donated the records to Athabasca University, Athabasca, Alberta.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of textual records pertaining to a wide variety of water issues in Alberta, Canada and worldwide. Also included, are records from several committees Kostuch was a member of that helped to establish recommendations, regulations and legislation concerning water.

Textual records in this series consist of reports and maps, articles, correspondence, presentations, articles by Kostuch, newsletters, agendas, meeting minutes, hand written notes from meetings, maps, newspaper clippings, reports from seminars, workshops and conferences, speeches, pamphlets, books, periodicals and a poster of La Grande Riviere Hydroelectric Complex in Quebec. As well, much of the material has been annotated by Martha Kostuch.

The majority of the graphic material is of Horseguard Creek near Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Several photographs are of a replacement bridge over the North Saskatchewan River and the transparencies are of maps of interbasin water transfer. One CD is of a report by the Friends of the Earth, and one CD is about the Lower Churchill Hydro Project. The videotape is a show about the North Saskatchewan River.

SOURCE OF TITLE:

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Series also contains -38 photographs. -7 transparencies. - 2 maps. - 2 CDs - 1 videotape. - 1 poster.

CONSERVATION:

Conservation copies have been made of some of the newspaper clippings, thermal fax paper and mimeograph paper.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE:

Series have been based on the major topics identified from the creator's arrangement, though some records may pertain to a number of series.

LANGUAGE NOTE:

The material is in English.

ACCESS CONDITIONS:

None.

USE CONDITIONS:

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

FINDING AIDS:

Box list and file list are available. Some of the material is available in electronic form.

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:

2008.015

Further accruals are not expected.

GENERAL NOTE:

Information for the administrative history was obtained from the records and from *The Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald* and *Red Deer Advocate* newspapers.

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Actions and defenses
Irrigation canals and flumes
Environmental policy
Environmental law
Water -- Pollution
Water -- Conservation
Dams