

FONDS DESCRIPTION (MBMS-64)

Joan K. Foran fonds

n.d., 1912-2007

92 cm of textual records
2 compact discs and 4 cassettes (audio records)
114 photographs
6 drawings

Joan Kathleen Foran, the daughter of Anthony and Ina (Graves) Amyoony, was born in 1939 at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she grew up and attended school, eventually graduating from Mount Saint University. In the 1960s, as she and her husband, Walter Foran, were starting their family, they moved to Mahone Bay in Lunenburg County, where Joan Foran managed several businesses. She also began to research the history of the town and actively promote it as a tourist destination. Her passion for the community resulted in her involvement with several business and heritage organizations, such as the Mahone Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, the South Shore Tourism Association (which awarded her a Lighthouse Route Award), the Mahone Bay Founders Society, and the Mahone Bay Settlers Museum (for whom she worked for a time as a contract researcher). As well, for ten years she served as the manager of the town's Visitor Information Centre, which brought her in contact with hundreds—if not thousands—of people from all over the world. An active participant in the organization of the town's 250th anniversary commemorations, she also contributed to several different publications celebrating the town's heritage, including a guide to Bayview Cemetery and the book *Dear Old Mahone*. In addition, Foran was active in a number of charitable organizations. Joan Foran died in 2014 and is buried at Hillside Cemetery at Clearland, Nova Scotia.

Fonds consists of research notes, reference material, memoranda, drafts, clippings, grey literature, publications, correspondence, photographs, oral history recordings, and artwork documenting Foran's research into Mahone Bay's history as well as her longtime involvement with efforts to promote the town. The fonds has been arranged in five series: Mahone Bay Research Files, Nova Scotia History Files, Oral History Recordings, Organizations, and Publications.

The bulk of the records were donated by one of Foran's daughters-in-law, Julia Foran, in 2020 (Acc. No. 2020.1.1). The file of correspondence with Fred Mosher was donated by another daughter-in-law, Patricia Foran, in 2017 (Acc. No. 2017.8.1).

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Mahone Bay Research Files

n.d., 1922-2006

72 cm of textual records

91 photographs

Series comprises research notes, memoranda, clippings, grey literature, publications, correspondence, and photographs documenting Joan Foran's longtime research into Mahone Bay's history. The files include various chronologies, genealogical information regarding Mahone-Bay-area families, and general reference material relating to heritage properties and subjects such as businesses, schools, shipbuilding, water-lot grants, and the town's Wooden Boat Festival. As well, the series includes a significant body of correspondence with Fred Mosher, a former resident of the town, who provided detailed reminiscences of his early life.

Nova Scotia History Files

n.d., 1912, 1989-2004

1 cm of textual records

2 photographs

Series consists of clippings, publications, and grey literature touching on the *Titanic* and other topics relating to Nova Scotia history.

Oral History Recordings

n.d., 1993-2004

.5 cm of textual records

2 compact discs and 4 cassettes

Series consists of notes and recorded reminiscences by Hilda Burgoyne, Fred Mosher, and Ruth Johnson; all touching on Mahone Bay history. There is also a recording of an unknown person singing in German.

Organizations

n.d., 1993-2007

1 cm of textual records

7 photographs

Series comprises correspondence, memoranda, agendas, notes, drafts, photographs, grey literature, and publications documenting Foran's involvement with the Mahone Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, the Mahone Bay Founders Society, the Mahone Bay Settlers Museum, the Mahone Bay 250th Anniversary Committee, the Mahone Bay Visitor Information Centre, and the South Shore Tourism Association.

Publications

n.d., 1992-2004

6.5 cm of textual records

14 photographs

6 drawings

Series consists of correspondence, notes, drafts, clippings, research material, photographs, photocopies of photographs, and original artwork relating to Foran's contributions to *Dear Old Mahone*, *A Forgotten Industry*, and other publications exploring aspects of Mahone Bay's heritage.