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Library – Special Collections and Archives

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# Dr. William J. Knox fonds

Compiled by Paige Hohmann (2022)

OSC ARC 16

University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus Library

Okanagan Special Collections – Archives

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# Fonds description

## Dr. William J. Knox fonds. – [1958-1961]

11 reel-to-reel tapes

### Biographical sketch

William J. Knox (1878-1967) was born at Fitzroy Harbour, Ontario, and was of Irish-Scottish descent. He was the second of eight children born to mother Jessie Argue and father Reverend Knox.

Before becoming a doctor, W.J. Knox worked as a teacher. He entered the Medical School at Queen's University, Kingston, in 1899 at age 21. In 1903 he travelled west toward British Columbia, arriving in Kelowna for the first time that same year as *locum tenens* under Dr. Benjamin de F. Boyce, Kelowna's first doctor. He returned on a permanent basis in 1904 as partner of Dr. Boyce, and would practice medicine in Kelowna for a total of sixty years.

Knox married Jean Dickson of Kingston, Ontario in 1905. They had four children between 1906 and 1918.

Knox was elected to the Kelowna School Board, and served as Secretary until 1912. In 1909 he was appointed Medical Inspector of Schools. He delivered a report on the population health in schools in this role for 53 consecutive years; this service culminated in his recognition in the naming of the Dr. Knox Junior Senior High School in 1961.

Local politics, and politics of the medical profession, interested Knox. He contributed to the establishment of the first interior medical association in 1922 and served as its first president. In 1932, he served as president of the BC Medical Association. Other distinctions include his appointment to the Order of the British Empire in 1946, his receipt of an honorary Doctor of Letters from his *Alma mater* Queen's University in 1951, and his naming as "Freeman of the City" in Kelowna in 1961.

### Custodial history

The fonds was donated to Okanagan Special Collections by grandson Don Knox in 2020.

### Scope and content

The fonds consists of 11 reel-to-reel tapes holding audio. Content includes capture of speeches and ambient audio of various events including dedications, conferences, and interviews.

### Notes

#### Availability of other formats

These tapes have been converted to digital and are available online through the British Columbia Regional Digitized History portal at <https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/object/ubco%3Aknox>.

### Finding aids

Item list available.

### General Note

#### Sources

Green, David. "Dr. William Knox 1878-1967 Beloved Doctor of the Okanagan." *Thirty-third report: Okanagan Historical Society* (1967): 9-18. <https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/object/ohs%3A5129>.



The significance of Dr. William Knox as a key figure to Kelowna is described in various ways across 29 volumes of the annual report of the Okanagan Historical Society. All OHS volumes up to 2017 are available online at <https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/object/ohs:root>.



# Item list

## SOUND RECORDINGS

Control no. and Title	Description	Location(s)	Extent
<b>OSC ARC 16/SR001</b> My Fair Lady. – 1959 February.	Women's Musical Club production of My Fair Lady, audio recordings. Includes note from technician John Emerson.	R2R Box 1	1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 7 minutes
<b>OSC ARC 16/SR002</b> Mrs. D. Walker Living Memory. – 1965 (tape 1).	Dorothea Walker speaking about early life in the Okanagan. Note on Reel reads: "Mrs. D. Walker - Living Memory, Tape 1 of 2 one track. Speed 3 3/4. No. 5., P.S."	R2R Box 1	1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 1 hour 3 minutes
<b>OSC ARC 16/SR003</b> Mrs. D. Walker Living Memory. – 1965 (tape 2).	Dorothea Walker speaking about early life in the Okanagan. Note on reel reads: "Mrs. D. Walker - Living Memory, Tape 2 of 2 Single Track ar 3 3/6 No. 3 P.S." Note on outside of the box states: "[Ladies Fund] + 9-5 A Tuesday April 27/65.	R2R Box 1	1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 1 hour 4 minutes
<b>OSC ARC 16/SR004</b> Early medicine and moving to Kelowna. – 1958.	Speech given by Dr. William John Knox about early medicine, as well as his experiences moving to British Columbia and Kelowna.	R2R Box 1	1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 1 hour 11 minutes
<b>OSC ARC 16/SR005</b> Dr. Knox Junior-Senior High School. – 1961.	Speeches given during the opening banquet for the Dr. Knox Junior-Senior High School. Note in reel reads: "Recorded at Capri Motor Inn, Tape no. 5."	R2R Box 1	1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 18 minutes
<b>OSC ARC 16/SR006</b> Dr. Knox Junior-Senior High School. – 1961.	Speeches given during the opening banquet for the Dr. Knox Junior-Senior High School. Note in reel reads: "Recorded at Capri Motor Inn, Tape no. 4."	R2R Box 1	1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 30 minutes



<p><b>OSC ARC 16/SR007</b> Dr. Knox Junior-Senior High School. – 1961.</p>	<p>End of a speech describing how a school was named after Dr. Knox. At the end of the recording, members in the audience sing "God Save the Queen." Note in reel reads: "#3 end of Sladen's Speech."</p>	<p>R2R Box 1</p>	<p>1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 4 minutes</p>
<p><b>OSC ARC 16/SR008</b> Dr. Knox Junior-Senior High School. – 1961.</p>	<p>Series of speeches done during the ceremony of exchanging keys for the new school being opened, named after Dr. Knox. Note in Reel reads, "#2 End of Benn Speech, Unveiling - Presentations Choir."</p>	<p>R2R Box 1</p>	<p>1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 33 minutes</p>
<p><b>OSC ARC 16/SR009</b> Dr. Knox Mural. – 1961.</p>	<p>Ceremony unveiling a mural dedicated to Dr. Knox. In attendance was former British Columbian premier William Andrew Cecil (W.A.C.) Bennett. Note in reel reads: " #1 Mural, O Canada, Intro of Guests, Choir, Invocation, W.A.C.B."</p>	<p>R2R Box 1</p>	<p>1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 31 minutes</p>
<p><b>OSC ARC 16/SR010</b> Dr. Knox Freedom of the City. – 1961.</p>	<p>Ceremony to honour Dr. William John Knox and present him with the Freedom of the City of Kelowna award. Note on Reel container reads: "Tomby Pet Parade, Owen Johnston, Excerpts from 1961 Inaugural Council Meeting, Presentation of Freedom of City to W.J. Knox also Life Membership Board of TRADE."</p>	<p>R2R Box 1</p>	<p>1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 27 minutes</p>
<p><b>OSC ARC 16/SR011</b> [Untitled]. – [ca. 1958-1961].</p>	<p>Contains recordings of commercial music.</p>	<p>R2R Box 1</p>	<p>1 ¼" reel-to-reel tape : 1 hour 58 minutes</p>



# Catalogue record

**Title:** Dr. William J. Knox fonds

**Author/Creator:** Knox, William J.

**Published/Created:** [1958-1961]

**Permalink:** <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=12433105>

**Location:** OKANAGAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS archives

**Call Number:** OSC-ARC-16

**Number of Items:** 1

**Status:** Available

**Location Has:** R2R Box 1

**Description:** 11 reel-to-reel tapes

**Summary:** The fonds consists of 11 reel-to-reel tapes holding audio. Content includes capture of speeches and ambient audio of various events including dedications, conferences, and interviews.

**Biography/history note:** William J. Knox (1878-1967) was born at Fitzroy Harbour, Ontario, and was of Irish-Scottish descent. He was the second of eight children born to mother Jessie Argue and father Reverend Knox. Before becoming a doctor, W.J. Knox worked as a teacher. He entered the Medical School at Queen's University, Kingston, in 1899 at age 21. In 1903 he travelled west toward British Columbia, arriving in Kelowna for the first time that same year as locum tenens under Dr. Benjamin de F. Boyce, Kelowna's first doctor. He returned on a permanent basis in 1904 as partner of Dr. Boyce, and would practice medicine in Kelowna for a total of sixty years. Knox married Jean Dickson of Kingston, Ontario in 1905. They had four children between 1906 and 1918. Knox was elected to the Kelowna School Board, and served as Secretary until 1912. In 1909 he was appointed Medical Inspector of Schools. He delivered a report on the population health in schools in this role for 53 consecutive years; this service culminated in his recognition in the naming of the Dr. Knox Junior Senior High School in 1961. Local politics, and politics of the medical profession, interested Knox. He contributed to the establishment of the first interior medical association in 1922 and served as its first president. In 1932, he served as president of the BC Medical Association. Other distinctions include his appointment to the Order of the British Empire in 1946, his receipt of an honorary Doctor of Letters from his alma mater Queen's University in 1951, and his naming as "Freeman of the City" in Kelowna in 1961.



**Indexes and finding aids:** Online inventory available.  
Item list available.

**Notes:** Title based on the content of the fonds/collection and on the information supplied by the donor/creator.





# Document control

Date	Revision	Issued for
20221130	A	Formatting (PH)
20221206	B	Add Catalogue Record (LC)
20221207	0	Use (PH)

