

University Endowment Lands Collection / various collectors

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Collection Description

University Endowment Lands Collection / various collectors. – 1907-1989.

63 cm of textual records.

5 photographs.

Historical Sketch

Prior to the formal establishment of the University of British Columbia, the Provincial Government passed the *University Endowment Act* (1907) to reserve up to two million acres in the northern and interior parts of the province, the proceeds from which would be used for the betterment of higher education. Proponents of the plan anticipated that the funds generated by the sale of the agricultural land would be used to support the construction and maintenance of a university. In 1908, the Government passed the University Act that provided the enabling legislation for the establishment of the University of British Columbia. Two year later a Site Commission charged with the task of selecting a location for the university, recommended situating the new institution at the tip of Point Grey. The Government acted quickly and in December 1910 reserved 175 acres of land for the university campus. A subsequent grant of agricultural land in 1915 expanded the campus site to approximately 550 acres. The University finally opened its doors on the new Point Grey campus in 1915.

The early years for the fledgling University were fraught with financial difficulties. Unfortunately, the land endowment scheme dating back to 1907, proved to be ineffective. As far back as 1914, when then Agriculture Dean Leonard Klinck toured the endowment lands in the interior, it had been obvious that there was insufficient demand for the land to ever provide significant endowment revenue for the university. As a consequence, the Government passed the *University Loan Act* in 1920 that effectively surrendered the original two million acres endowment in return for 3,000 acres more or less of land owned by the province in the westerly part of Point Grey. Given the proximity to Vancouver, it was anticipated that the proceeds of land sales and leases would provide a relatively secure form of revenue for the University.

Between 1920 and 1930 approximately 185 acres were serviced and offered for sale with another 120 acres set aside for the Westward Ho Golf Course (now University Golf Course). Unfortunately, the costs of surveying and servicing the UEL lots outstripped the limited demand. No payments were made to the University as a result of the land sales because all of the revenue was allocated to debt retirement and general operating expenses for the land. The sale of land and construction of houses during the 1930s and 1940s were slowed by the Depression and war time shortages. By 1957 the deficit in the UEL account totalled approximately \$1 million.

To help recoup its losses the Provincial Government in 1956 commissioned a master plan for the UEL which had as a terms of reference to realize optimum cash endowment on a perpetual basis, to further the objectives of the University of British Columbia. *The Master Plan Survey* proposed the comprehensive development of the area with single and multi-family housing, commercial development and an industrial park. The development area was to be on a leasehold basis with a projected population of 22,000. The report estimated that an initial \$20 development investment would yield a minimum annual endowment of \$2.5 million endowment for the University after 15 years. The report was never acted upon. The next twenty years witnessed a variety of development plans for the area. That period also saw the rise of increasingly organized efforts on the part of local residents and other interested environmentalists who began to lobby against the residential and commercial development in the area in favour of having the UEL designated as parkland.

Following reports commissioned by the Provincial Government and recommendations received from the Greater Vancouver Regional District that a large park be established in the UEL, Premier William Vander Zalm announced the designation of Pacific Spirit Regional Park in 1988.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of a combination of materials relating to the University Endowment Lands collected and acquired over the years by the UBC Archives. It includes notes, printed material, reports, correspondence, photographs, and clippings.

Notes

File list available.

Acquired from several sources at different times. Includes materials collected by the University Archives; documents donated to the Archives by Iva Mann, a long-time UEL resident and outspoken advocate for the designation of the area as parkland; Nora Coates, a resident of Kerrisdale and a member of Iva Mann's "Save the UEL" committee; and records created or acquired by three UBC bodies (the University Marine Foreshore Development Committee, the Cliff Erosion Task Force, and the President's Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the University Endowment Lands).

Related records may be found in the [UBC Technical Committee on the Endowment Lands fonds](#).

Series Descriptions

General Files series. – 1907-1989.

26 cm. of textual records.

Series consists of various materials relating to the University Endowment Lands collected over the years by the UBC Archives; documents donated to the Archives by Iva Mann, a long-time UEL resident and outspoken advocate for the designation of the area as parkland; and Nora Coates, a resident of Kerrisdale and a member of Iva Mann's "Save the UEL" committee. Materials include notes, printed material, reports, correspondence and clippings.

Cliff Erosion Task Force series. – April-November 1979.

5 cm of textual records.

Stanley Weston, a member of the UBC Board of Governors, was appointed by the Board in October 1979 as the sole member of the Cliff Erosion Task Force to carry out a critique of proposals to control cliff erosion at Point Grey prepared by Swan Wooster Engineering Co., to consult with other concerned groups and citizens, and to prepare a written plan of operation, timetable and budget. As part of this process he collected documentation of the cliff erosion issue, invited submissions from the public, and held several public meetings. In December 1979 Weston submitted a low-cost plan for erosion control, calling for public co-operation and wide use of faculty and student expertise from UBC.

Series consists of written submissions and other materials collected by Stanley Weston of the Cliff Erosion Task Force, and includes correspondence, reports, and printed materials.

Future of the University Endowment Lands series. – 1972-1973.

6 cm of textual records.

5 photographs : 25 x 25 cm B&W prints.

The President's Ad Hoc Committee to Consider the Future Use of the University Endowment Lands was appointed by UBC President Walter Gage in November 1972. Chaired by Philip White, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, the committee invited submissions from faculty and students on the educational, recreational, and financial potential of the UEL and their possible future development and use. Local residents and organizations also submitted statements. The committee's report was to be submitted to the provincial Ministry of Lands, Forests and Water Resources for consideration.

Series consists of written submissions to the committee, and includes correspondence, reports, and photographs. The photographs are aerial views of UBC and the UEL included in one of the submissions.

University Marine Foreshore Development Committee series. – 1960-1982.

26 cm of textual records.

Series consists of documents relating to the deliberations of the University Marine Foreshore Development Committee, in particular regarding cliff erosion at Point Grey, and includes correspondence, reports, notes, and clippings.

File List

BOX 1

GENERAL FILES

- 1-1 Historical Sketch of the Site of the University of British Columbia and the University of British Columbia (n.d.)
- 1-2 Copy of "An Act to Aid the University of British Columbia by a Reservation of Provincial Lands" (1907)
- 1-3 University Endowment Lands - Price list, etc. Unit Number One, University Hill [192-]
- 1-4 University Endowment Lands - Unit Number Two - University Hill [192-]
- 1-5 University Hill - A Residential Section - Part of Vancouver (1925)
- 1-6 University Endowment Lands - The Residential Section of Greater Vancouver (1926)
- 1-7 "Planning the British Columbia University Endowment Lands" and "The Planning of the University Endowment Lands, Vancouver, British Columbia" in Town Planning (December 1926).
- 1-8 Department of Lands - University Endowment Lands - Memos, reports (1928, 1929)
- 1-9 University Endowment Lands - Land Use Code (1950)
- 1-10 University Endowment Lands - Master Plan Survey by D.B. Turner (December 1956)
- 1-11 "Some Notes on Certain Incidents in the Early History of the University of British Columbia with Special Reference to the University Endowment Lands" Prepared by Leonard S. Klinck (April 29, 1958)
- 1-12 Copies of newspaper clippings re" University Endowment Lands" (1967-1989)

- 1-13 Copy of letter from Jean Chretien to William Gibson re: Conveyance of land to UBC (October 10, 1969)
- 1-14 "Proposal for Preserving the University Endowment Lands as Park" Prepared by the Point Grey Action Group of the Canadian Scientific Pollution and Environmental Control Society [197-]
- 1-15 Proposal - "A Policy Decision for the Endowment Lands Park" by the Endowment Lands Regional Park Committee [197-]
- 1-16 "Educational and Research Uses of the University of British Columbia Endowment Lands: A Preliminary Survey" by D.J. Norris (April 1971)
- 1-17 "A Proposal for the Future of the University Endowment Lands" Prepared for Students' Council by Adrian Belshaw (September 1971)
- 1-18 "It Could Happen Again: A Proposal to Stop Point Grey Cliff Erosion" UBC Alumni Association (October 1972)
- 1-19 University Endowment Lands - Land Use Code (1972)
- 1-20 "Consider Future Use of the University Endowment Lands" - Report of the President's Ad Hoc Committee (April 3, 1973)
- 1-21 "Brief Requesting the Preservation of the University Endowment Lands as Parkland and Green Belt Submitted on Behalf of the Dunbar-West Point Grey Endowment Lands Committee (November 1973)
- 1-22 Vancouver. City Planning Dept. "A Preliminary Assessment of Some Potential Effects on the City of Vancouver Arising from Residential Development on the University Endowment Lands" (July 1974)
- 1-23 Endowment Lands Regional Park Committee - Submission to the Government of British Columbia (December 1974)
- 1-24 Press Release - University Endowment Lands Committee (March 6, 1975)
- 1-25 Press Release - "Dr. Frank Buck Memorial Park" (December 1, 1975)
- 1-26 Press Release - UEL Tenants Society (March 23, 1976)

- 1-27 University Endowment Lands Special Planning Project - Brochure (September 29, 1976)
- 1-28 "A Forest in an Urbanizing Environment: A Report on the Use of the University Endowment Lands by the Faculty of Forestry, UBC and Its Establishment of as a Forest-Park" (November 1976)
- 1-29 "University Endowment Lands Special Project Planning Study: Progress Report" (November 8, 1976)
- 1-30 "The Position of the University of British Columbia on the Future Development of the University Endowment Lands" (December 7, 1976)
- 1-31 "Report of the President's Ad Hoc Committee on the Development of the University Endowment Lands" (1976)
- 1-32 University Endowment Lands Study Team - Interview and Submission Summary Book (March 1977)

BOX 2

- 2-1 University Endowment Lands Special Project Planning Office - Contact Summary (1976)
- 2-2 "1977: The University Endowment Lands" (1977) 2 copies
- 2-3 University Endowment Lands Planning Project - Transportation Appraisal" (January 1977)
- 2-4 "Bicycles in the Endowment Lands: A Report on Bicycle Land Use in the University Endowment Lands" by Project Lifecycle and the Vancouver Bicycle Club (February 1977)
- 2-5 "A Regional Park for the Endowment Lands" [198-]
- 2-6 U.E.L Incorporation Committee. "University Endowment Lands: Community Options" (March 1982)
- 2-7 Endowment Lands Regional Park Committee. "A Settlement of the Endowment Lands Park Impasse" (November 1982)

- 2-8 "UBC Response to the GVRD Position on Land Allocation in the University Endowment Lands (December 1983)
- 2-9 Coriolis Consulting Corp. - "Community Plan and Development Regulations" (August 25, 1986)
- 2-10 Press Release - "A New Park for British Columbians" (December 12, 1988)
- 2-11 "The UEL Park and the Musqueam Band: The Real Story" (April 1989)
- 2-12 Printed material re: Opening of Pacific Spirit Regional Park (April 23, 1989)
- 2-13 Nora Coates correspondence (1974, 1988)
- Mrs. Coates was a member of the committee for preserving the UEL as parkland headed by Iva Mann. The correspondence is with B.C. government ministers and MLAs, including Bob Williams, Garde Gardom, and Premier Dave Barrett. Donated to the Archives in December 2018.

BOX 3

CLIFF EROSION TASK FORCE

- 3-1 Critique Proposals October-November 1979
Briefs numbered 1-13, received from: C.J. Marchant, Stuart Lefeaux, W.H. Mathews, R. Allan Freeze, M.M. Ames, Citizens Council on Civic Development, R.H. Blunden, Michael de St. Q. Isaacson, Tattersfield Associates, Arthur Erickson Architects, UBC Alumni Association, Ian Bain, C.A. Rowles
- 3-2 Alternate Proposals April-November 1979
Briefs numbered 1-12, received from: Abraham Fast, UBC Dept. of Civil Engineering, [missing], Dr. Eva Bene, James Paterson Izatt, Sand Grabber Inc., [missing], [missing], Wreck Beach Committee, Tattersfield Associates Ltd., UBC Geography 315 students, Vladimir Plavsic Group
- 3-3 Information Appendices 1979
Correspondence, reports, and printed materials, numbered 1-12 (#3 missing), plus list of Physical Plant reports

FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS

- 3-4 President's Ad Hoc Committee on the Future Use of the University Endowment Lands - Briefs [includes 5 photographs] 1972-73
- 3-5 President's Ad Hoc Committee on the Future Use of the University Endowment Lands - Briefs 1972-73

UNIVERSITY MARINE FORESHORE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 3-6 Marine Foreshore Development Committee 1975-77

BOX 4

- 4-1 Marine Foreshore Development Committee – “Cliffs” 1978-79
- 4-2 Marine Foreshore – December 1 & 2 1977 meeting
- 4-3 Notes – Cliffs meetings of Marine Foreshore Development Committee 1977-79
- 4-4 (Point Grey) Cliff Erosion – Marine Foreshore Devt. Cttee for history etc. 1978-79
- 4-5 Cliff Erosion – Point Grey – 1967- 1960-79
- 4-6 Point Grey Cliff Erosion Task Force 1979-80

BOX 5

- 5-1 Cliff Erosion Control Program 1980-82
- 5-2 Cliff Erosion Control Program 1982
- 5-3 Point Grey Erosion Control Master Plan Proposal – Swan Wooster Engineering Co. Ltd. July 1979
- 5-4 Costs – Swan Wooster 1978-79

- 5-5 Point Grey Cliff Erosion Control Report to the Board of Governors from the Cliff Erosion Task Force 4 December 1979
- 5-6 Museum and Cliffs Correspondence 1976-80