

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:

Fonds

No.:

AU023

TITLE:

Martha Kostuch fonds

CREATOR:

Kostuch, Martha

DATE RANGE:

1930-2008 predominantly 1978-2008

EXTENT:

59.21 m of textual records and other material.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Martha Susan Kostuch was born July 8, 1949 in Moose Lake, Minnesota, to parents Jaqueline and Edward Schwocher. She grew up on a small farm and attended Moose Lake Public School. After graduating from high school in 1967, she attended the University of Minnesota where she graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1973.

In 1971, she married Thomas Edward Kostuch, who was awarded his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine two years after Martha. Martha and Thomas Kostuch had four children; Edward, Mark, John and Daniel. In 1975 the family immigrated to Canada and moved to Rocky Mountain House, Alberta where they established a veterinary business called the Rocky Veterinary Clinic Limited. They chose this location because they valued being near the wilderness of the foothills and the Rocky Mountains for recreation, and their clinic would serve the nearby farms and ranching operations. In 1979 the Kostuch family became naturalized Canadian citizens. Martha Kostuch practiced veterinarian medicine until her retirement in 2007.

As a practicing veterinarian, Kostuch noticed unusual problems with animal health in the Rocky Mountain House area. In 1978, after investigating the causes and doing some research, she determined the cause to be high sulphur emissions from the Ram River and Strachan sour gas plants. When these plants applied to the Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) to increase production, Kostuch was the main dissenter at the Environmental Assessment hearings regarding the applications. As well, in 1979 a development permit was awarded to Cline River Development Corporation to build a large hotel and golf complex on the environmentally sensitive Kootenay Plains. Kostuch and like-minded folks formed the Alberta League for Environmentally Responsible Tourism (ALERT) to oppose the building of the Odyssey Project. These initial activist roles began Kostuch's role as a prolific environmental activist. Kostuch earned provincial and national recognition and respect while facilitating improvements in managing air, land and water ecosystems. She was skilled at achieving consensus with diverse multi-stakeholder groups of government,

industry and non-government organizations. Kostuch lived her life committed to achieving positive outcomes for complex environmental and health issues.

Some of the awards that Martha Kostuch received include: Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Environmental Network; Alberta Wilderness Defenders Award from the Alberta Wilderness Association; Douglas Pimlott Award from the Canadian Nature Federation; Canadian Environment Award from *Canadian Geographic* magazine; Alberta Emerald Award, from the Alberta Emerald Foundation for Environmental Excellence; Archie Hogg Award from the Alberta Fish and Game Association and the H.C.H. Kernkamp Award from the University of Minnesota in recognition of student contributions to the profession of veterinary medicine.

Associations and groups that Martha Kostuch served on also garnered many awards including: the Arthur Kroeger College Award for Policy Leadership awarded to the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA); Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Pollution Prevention Award awarded to the CASA Flaring and Venting Project Team; Alberta Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence awarded to the CASA Electricity Project Team; Alberta Premier's Award of Environmental Excellence awarded to the CASA Multi-Stakeholder Group on Particulate Matter and Ozone; Alberta Premier's Award of Excellence awarded to the CASA Target Loading Subgroup; Alberta Emerald Award for Environmental Excellence awarded to the CASA Flaring Project Team.

Martha Kostuch was involved in numerous associations and organizations in both leadership and membership roles nationally including: the National Fish Habitat Coordinating Committee; Acid Rain Task Group; Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN); the RCEN Water Caucus; the RCEN Steering Committee Atmosphere Caucus; the RCEN Steering Committee Environmental Assessment Caucus; the RCEN National Council; the RCEN Harmonization Working Group; the RCEN National Steering Committee; Core Advisory Committee to the Development Committee for Particulate Matter and Ozone; National Advisory Group on Harmonization; National Air Issues Coordinating Committee Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Provincial panels she was involved with: Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives Ministerial Committee; Alberta Oil Sands Review (AOSR); AOSR Environmental Non-Government Organization (ENGO) member of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee; AOSR ENGO member of the Hearings Panel; AOSR Member of the Process Design Committee; Acid Deposition Advisory Group to Alberta Environment; Multi-Stakeholder Group on Particulate Matter and Ozone; Alberta Environmental Impact Assessment Task Force; Acid Deposition Research Program (Alberta) Public Member; Environment Council of Alberta (ECA); the ECA Public Advisory Committees; the ECA Pollution Study Group.

She was also involved with other provincial and regional environmental organizations that included: the Alberta Environmental Network (AEN); the AEN Clean Air/Energy Caucus; the AEN Water Caucus; Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Board; CASA Clean Air Strategy for Alberta; CASA Confined Feeding Operations Project Team; CASA Particulate Matter

and Ozone Project Team. CASA Human and Animal Health Project Team; CASA Flaring and Venting Project Team; CASA Animal Health Project Team; CASA Climate Change Project Team; CASA Electricity Project Team; CASA Pollution Prevention Project Team; CASA Renewable and Alternative Energy Project Team; CASA Sulphur Dioxide Management Team, the Acidifying Emissions Management Team; CASA Target Loading Subgroup; the Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ); the PAMZ Issues Response Group; Tay River Advisory Committee; Alberta League for Environmentally Responsible Tourism; Friends of the Oldman River; Friends of the West Country; Prairie Acid Rain Coalition; SO₂ Dispersion Modeling Committee for Alberta; Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA); AFGA Renewable Resources Committee; AFGA Director for Zone 3; Alberta Wilderness Association; Environmental Law Centre, Alberta; Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce; Trans Alta Utilities Public Advisory Committee.

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.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fond consists primarily of records pertaining to Martha Kostuch's activities on various environmental boards, organizations and projects.

The textual records include; correspondence, agendas, meeting minutes, attachments, applications and environmental assessment reports from natural resources companies, legal documents from court cases, reports, articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, handwritten notes, maps, plans and architectural drawings. A sizeable portion of the records are copies, including, material received under the Access to Information Act. As well, much of the material has been annotated by Martha Kostuch.

There are a large number of newspaper clippings covering a vast range of environmental issues and include articles, letters to the editor and special environmental supplements. The material has been clipped from provincial and national newspapers and includes the date of publication.

The graphic material includes photographs, transparencies and negatives mainly depicting damage to the environment. Some images are from Hunter Conservation Camps, taken while Kostuch was an instructor.

The artifacts consist mainly of buttons, badges and crests with environmental sayings and slogans. There is a plaque awarded to Kostuch, a travel beverage mug, a T-shirt and a small photograph album. Also included, is a plastic container approximately one-third

full of small plastic people, animals, and other small plastic objects used for an environmental display.

The fond consists of 25 series and 6 sub-series:

AU023.001S Abraham Glacier Resort series 1998-2005;
AU023.002S Acid rain series, 1966-2003;
AU023.003S Acid Deposition Research Program series, 1983-1999;
AU023.004S Alberta Fish and Game Association series, 1977-1991;
AU023.004S.001SS Organization sub-series, 1977-1991;
AU023.004S.002SS Hunter Training Conservation Camp sub-series, 1979-1984;
AU023.005S Air quality series, 1967-2008;
AU023.006S Clean Air Strategic Alliance series, 1990-2008;
AU023.007S Climate change series, 1984-2006;
AU023.008S Sour gas series, 1977-2007;
AU023.009S Electricity series, 2001-2007;
AU023.010S Energy series, 1976-2006;
AU023.011S Environmental assessment, 1979-2007;
AU023.012S Environmental Council of Alberta, 1972-1991;
AU023.013S Environmental enforcement, protection and legislation series, 1930-2005;
AU023.014S Fish and wildlife series, 1976-2008;
AU023.015S Friends of the Oldman River Society series, 1964-2005;
AU023.015S.001SS Organization sub-series, 1978-2000;
AU023.015S.002SS Legal action and law sub-series, 1964-2005;
AU023.016S Forestry series, 1960-2005;
AU023.017S Animal and human health series, 1964-2008;
AU023.018S Land use series, 1964-2006;
AU023.019S Alberta League of Environmentally Responsible Tourism (ALERT) series, 1972-2007;
AU023.019S.001SS Organization sub-series, 1979-2007;
AU023.019S.002SS Legal Action and Law sub-series, 1972-1988;
AU023.020S Lodgepole blowout series, 1936-2002;
AU023.021S Oilsands series, 1975-2008;
AU023.022S Sunpine Forest Products Limited Series, 1977-2004;
AU023.023S Tay River series, 1985-2002;
AU023.024S Water series, 1964-2008.

SOURCE OF TITLE:

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Fonds also includes ca. 1034 photographs. – ca. 498 transparencies. – ca. 383 maps. – ca. 321 negatives. – ca. 203 site drawings. – 38 posters. –32 optical disks. – 19 videotapes. – 14 artifacts. – 6 floppy disks. – 4 audio cassettes. – 6 postcards.

CONSERVATION:

Conservation copies have been made of some of the newspaper clippings, thermal fax paper and mimeograph paper. Some of the material was water damaged and was sent to a professional conservator for preservation.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE:

Martha Kostuch arranged the material according to topics and this arrangement has been followed as closely as possible.

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.

RELATED RECORDS:

Related records can be found in the Friends of the Athabasca Environmental Association (FOEA) fonds, the Tom Maccagno fonds and the Peter Opryshko fonds in the Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections at Athabasca University in Athabasca, Alberta.

GENERAL NOTE:

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

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

Ecology

Law

Industry and state

Natural resources