

University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

Finding Aid - Co-operative Vegetable Oils Ltd. fonds (MSS 95, PC 90, TC 64)

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Co-operative Vegetable Oils Ltd. fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
Title:	Co-operative Vegetable Oils Ltd. fonds
ID:	MSS 95, PC 90, TC 64
Date:	1943-1988 (date of creation)
Physical description:	84 cm of textual records and other material
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Co-operative Vegetable Oils Ltd. (CVO) was established in Altona, Manitoba in 1943 under the direction of J.J. Siemens. Siemens was an active member in the Mennonite community having been both a school teacher and a farmer. Siemens was also part of the Rhineland Agricultural Society (est. 1931) which was established to develop better agricultural practices--especially through education and experimentation. Equally important was Siemens' belief in the co-operative movement, most notably the development of various Credit Unions.

CVO was established largely because Second World War Canadian imports of edible vegetable oils (from Russia and Argentina) were noticeably reduced, creating a need for domestic production. To support the domestic industry, the Federal Government offered incentives such as price subsidies, transportation subsidies and facilities for processing the crop in Hamilton, Ontario. Although the 1943 crop was shipped to Hamilton, the high costs of long distance transportation of sunflowers - the principle oilseed crop - proved discouraging. Consequently, with a view to the future when these subsidies would be lifted, CVO chose a local processing plant. This scheme, half-heartedly endorsed by the Provincial Government, satisfied the needs of the local community, which backed the project enthusiastically. The Altona plant was to cost a projected \$60,000, half of which would be raised from private funds, with the remainder coming from guaranteed loans from the Provincial Government. The community eagerly threw its support behind the plant because it offered long-term economic growth and stability. As farming became increasingly mechanised, farm labour diminished leaving little employment for the young. This affected the close-knit structure of the Mennonite family. Furthermore, wheat prices had not increased significantly since the Depression, and the family farm was suffering. However, the CVO plant provided jobs for locals and an outlet for the alternative crop, the sunflower; it added soybeans and canola in the 1950s.

CVO's list of achievements include: the development of Safflo oil as its first consumer product in 1949, the first oilseed crushing plant in Canada, the first company to commercially process sunflowers in North America, the first North American company to process pure sunflower-based cooking oil, and a strong

role in the development of canola as an "oilseed". To meet growing needs, CVO officially merged with Manitoba Pool Elevators April 1, 1975, and called itself CSP Foods. CanAmera Foods purchased CSP Foods 20 March 1992.

Custodial history

The records of the merged companies were donated to the Archives by CanAmera Foods in 1993.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of minute books, annual reports, correspondence, published and unpublished reports and articles, brochures, newspaper clippings, scrap books and photographs.

Notes

Title notes

Arrangement

These records are organized into twenty series.

Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on this material.

Conditions governing use

Users must abide by relevant copyright legislation.

Finding aids

A finding aid can be generated from this description.

Accruals

Further accruals are possible.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Series descriptions

Minute Books (MSS 95): 1943-1975

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
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Co-op Vegetable Oils Ltd., 1943-1975

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Board Minutes, 11 September 1943-10 November 1956			1 1
	Otherlevel - Board Minutes, 23 November 1956-14 November 1964			1 2
	Otherlevel - Board Minutes, 26 November 1964-18 November 1967			1 3
	Otherlevel - Board Minutes, 18 November 1967-11 December 1971			2 1
	Otherlevel - Board Minutes, 16 December 1971-5 May 1975			2 2

Gardenland Packers, 1963-1967

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Board Minutes (no binding), 1963-1967			2 3

Annual Reports (MSS 95): 1951-1983

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
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Co-op Vegetable Oils Ltd., 1951-1974

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - 1951			3 1
	Otherlevel - 1952 - Balance sheet only (photocopy)			3 1
	Otherlevel - 1953 - with Balance sheet			3 1
	Otherlevel - 1954			3 1
	Otherlevel - 1955 - 1968			3 2

	Otherlevel - 1969 - 1970 (with annual meeting agenda)			3 3
	Otherlevel - 1971, 1972, 1973 (with summary), 1974			3 3
Pool Elevators, 1975-1983				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - 1975, 1976 (with condensed annual meeting agenda), 1978, 1980 (with condensed annual report), 1983			3 4
Merger (MSS 95): 1949-1982				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Excerpts from annual reports, annual meetings, 1968-1981			3 5
	Otherlevel - Memoranda re: Co-op Vegetable Oils - Manitoba Pool, 1974			3 6
	Otherlevel - 1974 annual meeting registration: Merger Meeting			3 7
	Otherlevel - Voting Lists - annual reports & related correspondence 1968-1974. Includes agenda for 1972 & 1973 annual meetings			3 8
	Otherlevel - Correspondence to shareholders re: annual meetings			3 9
	Otherlevel - "A Prairie Saga" - C.P. Morin - History of Co-op Vegetable Oils Ltd.			3 10
	Otherlevel - "Making it Happen" - unpublished history of CSP by L. Hicock			3 11
	Otherlevel - Three histories of the oilseed industry - one by L. Hicock (unpublished, 1982) - includes correspondence with CSP			3 12
	Otherlevel - Three letters. One provides a short biography of R.W. Siemens, 1978-1981			3 13
	Otherlevel - Co-op Vegetable Oils Ltd. Report to District representatives, 1951-1952			4 1
	Otherlevel - Co-op Vegetable Oils Ltd. News Bulletin, 1952			4 2
	Otherlevel - "The Expeller" (Company periodical), 1949-1950			4 3
	Otherlevel - News Release - re: Cost reduction plan with attached letter to shareholders, 7 December 1982			4 4
	Otherlevel - Unpublished reports on sunflower oil, 1952			4 5

Published Reports/Articles - Economic (MSS 95): 1946-1988**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Manitoba Industrial Topics vol. 1, no. 1, May-June, 1946			4 6
	Otherlevel - Manitoba Industry and Commerc Bulletin, January, 1954			4 6
	Otherlevel - Manitoba Industry and Commerce Bulletin, April, 1958			4 6
	Otherlevel - News for Farmer Cooperatives, February, 1954			4 6
	Otherlevel - News for Farmer Cooperatives, special A.I.C. report (see p. 31), November, 1962			4 6
	Otherlevel - "The Rural Society in Transition," E.J. Nesius, 1966			4 6
	Otherlevel - Trade and Commerce Magazine, 1988			4 6
	Otherlevel - Cooperative Enterprise, n.d.			4 6

Published Reports - Commodity (MSS 95): 1952-1982**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Sunflower Seed Production, 1952, 1957			4 7
	Otherlevel - Economic Aspects of Sunflower Production in Manitoba, foreward by Sol Sinclair (see Sol Sinclair Collection), 1960			4 7
	Otherlevel - Rapeseed: Canada's "Cinderella" Crop, May 1970			4 7
	Otherlevel - Sunflowers - The Canadian Experience, July 1978			4 7
	Otherlevel - Canadian Rapeseed Oil, August 1978			4 7
	Otherlevel - Harvest: CSP Foods Ltd. vol. 1, no. 1, April 1982			4 7

Staff Benefits (MSS 95): [1960?]-[1971?]**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Pension Plan for Co-op Vegetable Oils Ltd. employees, [1971?]			4 8
	Otherlevel - Group Insurance Plans for Co-op Vegetable Oils Ltd., employees, [1960?]			4 8

CSP/C.V.O. Brochures - Promotional (MSS 95): [1943?]-[1992?]

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Recipe Books			4 9
	Otherlevel - Brochures/handbooks explaining the oilseed industry			4 10
	Otherlevel - Brochures illustrating Canola meal as fodder			4 11
	Otherlevel - Brochures re: Canola, Sunflower oil & C.V.O./CSP Foods			4 12
	Otherlevel - Brochures promoting MB, Morden and Altona			4 13
Newspapers/Newsclippings (MSS 95): 1950				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Newspaper clippings re: C.V.O./CSP Foods			4 14
Newspaper articles re: 1950 Flood				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Altona Echo, 3 May, 14 June 1950			4 15
	Otherlevel - Morris Herald vol. 71, no. 18, 4 May 1950			4 15
	Otherlevel - Winnipeg Free Press, 22 May 1950			4 15
Miscellaneous (MSS 95), [1943?]-[1992?]				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Decal for Canola(?) logs, Company Christmas Card, greeting cards and obverse of three envelopes addressed to C.V.O./CSP			4 16
Scrap Books (MSS 95): 1944-1985				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Newsclippings (blue scrapbook), 1944-1952			5 1
	Otherlevel - Newsclippings (green scrapbook), 1947-1958			5 2

	Otherlevel - Newsclippings (blue Centennial scrapbook), 1970-1972	5 3
	Otherlevel - Newsclippings, letters, articles, new release, negatives and memorabilia relating to CSP plant expansion, 1977	5 4
	Otherlevel - Newsclippings, 1979-1985	5 5

Files (MSS 95): 1977**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Miscellaneous newsclippings			5 6
	Otherlevel - Material regarding Red River Exhibition display			5 7
	Otherlevel - Consistent Grain Growers file, 1977			5 8
	Otherlevel - "Edible Oil Field" - article			5 9

Slide shows (PC 90): [1970?]-1979**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Series 1: "C.V.O. 30 Year History,"			1 1
	Otherlevel - Script for "C.V.O. 30 Year History"			1 2
	Otherlevel - Series 2: "C.V.O./CSp Tour 1974,"			1 3
	Otherlevel - Script for "C.V.O./CSP Tour," 1974			1 4
	Otherlevel - Series 3: "Harvest Come Home," 1979,			1 5
	Otherlevel - Series 4: "Harvest Come Home" - B version, 1979,			1 6
	Otherlevel - Series 5: "Tomorrow's Harvest"			1 7
	Otherlevel - Series 6: "Tomorrow's Harvest" - B version,			1 8
	Otherlevel - Series 7: Slides of 1970(?) Soybean factory explosion			1 8

Photographs - Executive (PC 90): 1968-1980,Physical description: 37 photos**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Board members, 1968,			1 9
	Otherlevel - Board members, 1971,			1 10
	Otherlevel - Board members, 1974,			1 11

	Otherlevel - Board members, 1978,	1 12
	Otherlevel - Board of directors, n.d.,	1 13
	Otherlevel - Board members/annual meetings, n.d.,	1 14
	Otherlevel - Annual meeting, 1980,	1 15

Photographs - Portraits (PC 90): 1967-1981,

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - J.J. Siemens,			1 16
	Otherlevel - R.W. Siemens,			1 17
	Otherlevel - N. Buhr,			1 18
	Otherlevel - J. Enns,			1 19
	Otherlevel - E.H. Epp, P. Doll and E.H. Toews,			1 20
	Otherlevel - B.H. Friesen, D.K. Friesen and J. Friesen,			1 21
	Otherlevel - J.J. Peters,			1 22
	Otherlevel - F. Nickel (1967), Dr. E.D. Putt and K. Sarsons (1981),			1 23
	Otherlevel - E. Wiebe, 1967, 1972,			1 24
	Otherlevel - 3 unidentified portraits, 1969			1 25
	Otherlevel - 3 unidentified portraits,			1 26

Photographs - Couples/Duos (PC 90): 1966

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - 2 unidentified; R. Siemens and D. Friesen; D. Reimer and M. Zacharias (1966); B. Wiebe and H. Buhler,			1 27

Photographs - Groups/Trios (PC 90): 1948-[196-?]

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - J.J. Siemens, E. Putt and ?, 1948			1 28
	Otherlevel - Arbour Gang, 1952			1 29
	Otherlevel - 15 Year Club, 1961 and ?,			1 30
	Otherlevel - Northern Regional Laboratory - Say Cot Convention (early 1960s)			1 31
	Otherlevel - International Sunflower Conference - Morden, Manitoba, 1966,			1 32
	Otherlevel - External Affairs Tour, n.d.			1 33
	Otherlevel - Unidentified group shots,			1 34

Photographs - Awards/Presentations (PC 90): 1968-1979

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Service Award recipients,			1 35
	Otherlevel - C.V.O. award presentation to R.P. Lemoring, 1968			1 36
	Otherlevel - Seed Competition, 1979,			1 37
	Otherlevel - Mr Manitoba Sunflower, 1979,			1 38
	Otherlevel - Ceremony with Ed Schreyer, 1977,			1 39

Photographs - Buildings (PC 90): 1964

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Old Office Building - Exterior,			1 40
	Otherlevel - Old Office Building - Interior,			1 41
	Otherlevel - New Office Building - Exterior,			1 42
	Otherlevel - New Office Building - Interior,			1 43
	Otherlevel - Plant exterior, black and white 2.5" x 3.5",			2 1
	Otherlevel - Plant exterior, 5 x 7,			2 2
	Otherlevel - Plant exterior, 7.5 x 10,			2 3
	Otherlevel - Plant exterior, 2.5 x 3.5 and 3.5 x 5 - colour,			2 4
	Otherlevel - Plant exterior special,			2 5
	Otherlevel - Plant interior - black and white, 2.5 x 3.5 and 3.5 x 4.5,			2 6
	Otherlevel - Plant interior, 5 x 7 and 6.5 x 8			2 7
	Otherlevel - Plant interior, 8 x 10,			2 8
	Otherlevel - Plant interior, 2.5 x 3.5 and 3.5 x 4.5 - colour,			2 9
	Otherlevel - Plant interior - laboratory, colour,			2 10
	Otherlevel - "Prestalog" fire, 1964,			2 11
	Otherlevel - Construction,			2 12

Photographs - Promotional (PC 90): 1948

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - Products/Advertising,			2 13
	Otherlevel - Farmers and farm machinery,			2 14
	Otherlevel - Seeds,			2 15

	Otherlevel - Canola,	2 16
	Otherlevel - Sunflowers - black and white,	2 17
	Otherlevel - Sunflowers - colour,	2 18
	Otherlevel - Altona and CSP Plant - aerial shots,	2 19
	Otherlevel - Altona - town shots with parade and family life,	2 20
	Otherlevel - Product transportation - Rail,	2 21
	Otherlevel - Product transportation - Truck,	2 22
	Otherlevel - Grain terminal (Fort William); Processing plant (Chili - 1948); unidentified man in Cesna(?),	2 23
	Otherlevel - Oilseeds Conference, January 1978,	2 24
	Otherlevel - Negatives,	2 25
	Otherlevel - Film: C.V.O. Presents: "Sunflowers" (held in MSS 95, Box 5), n.d.	2 25

Tape Collection (TC 64): 1979-1980,

Physical description: 2 tapes

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - CSP Foods audio dub for "Harvest Come Home" (tape 1), 1979			1 1
	Otherlevel - CSP Foods audio dub for "Tomorrow's Harvest" (tape 2), 1980			1 2