FINDING AID FOR

George D. Finlayson fonds

PF207
Summary

The "George D. Finlayson fonds" Fonds contains:
  0 Subgroups or Sous-fonds
  4 Series
  2 Sub-series
  0 Sub-sub-series
  25 Files
  0 File parts
  15 Items
  0 Components
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Biographical/Sketch/Administrative History
George Duncan Finlayson was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on 4 December 1927 to Roderick Finlayson and Jean Duncan. After growing up between Winnipeg and Ottawa, Finlayson enrolled in University College at the University of Toronto, where he received a BA in 1949. The same year, he entered Osgoode Hall Law School. He was called to the Bar in 1953 after articling with Beverley Matthews at law firm McCarthy & McCarthy, where he continued to work as a litigator in criminal and civil law. In 1964, he was appointed a Queen's Counsel, and he received a Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) in 1981. Finlayson was also a member of the Bars of Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon Territory and Northwest Territory. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario on 4 December 1984, and he was a member of the Court of Appeal for Ontario and an ex officio judge of the High Court of Justice for Ontario. In addition to his legal work, Finlayson was elected a bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1970, and he served as Treasurer from May 1978 to May 1980. He was also a member of the Canadian Bar Association, the Toronto Lawyers Club, the Medico-Legal Society, the County of York Bar Association and an original member of the Advocates' Society. George Finlayson died on 23 March 2008.

Scope and Content
Fonds consists of records created and accumulated by George D. Finlayson largely pertaining to the research and writing of a biography of John J. Robinette, his colleague at the law firm of McCarthy & McCarthy. Also included in the fonds are a selection of Finlayson's speeches and personal correspondence.

Provenance
Material in the fonds were temporarily in the possession of Law Society bencher Tom Heintzman while Joan Finlayson was moving, and he delivered the records to the Archives.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Arrangement
Fonds is arranged in four series: John J. Robinette biography files; personal correspondence; photographs; speeches and interview transcripts.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the fonds.
PF207-1 John J. Robinette biography files. -- 1976, 1982-2002. -- 46.5 cm of textual records, 10 compact discs

Scope and Content

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Arrangement
Series has been divided into two sub-series: research files and draft manuscripts.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the series.

PF207-1-1 Research files. -- 1976, 1982-2002. -- 41.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
Sub-series consists of records created and accumulated by George Finlayson pertaining to research for his book about John J. Robinette. Records largely relate to Robinette's notable cases and work at McCarthy & McCarthy, and the editing and content of book chapters. Records include legal judgments, book chapter drafts, interview transcripts, correspondence, memoranda, indexes, and newspaper and journal articles.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Arrangement
Sub-series is arranged in alphabetical order.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the sub-series.

2012004-001 Apprenticed to the law. -- 2001. -- 1.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File pertains to research for chapter six of George Finlayson's biography about John J. Robinette. Records in this file include a copy of the Acts of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, part 1, public general acts; A Supreme Court, act two (1949); a copy of Finlayson's book outline; and copies of court judgments and appeals regarding the estate of Louise Bogart Cox, a case with which Robinette was involved.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-002 Counsel to Canada. -- 2002. -- 3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of legal judgments, interview transcripts, an index, draft chapters, a cartoon and memoranda pertaining to George Finlayson's research for chapter 15 of his book about John J. Robinette. Also documented are interviews he conducted with Justice Stephen Goudge, Mark Jewett and T. Brad Smith.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.


Scope and Content
File consists of draft and edited epilogues for George Finlayson's book on John J. Robinette, a memorandum from Alison Warner, who edited the epilogue, and an excerpt of a tribute given by Roy McMurtry at Robinette's memorial service.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
2012004-004 Interview transcripts: John Arnup. -- Nov. 1982 - Apr. 1983. -- 5 cm of textual records
Scope and Content
File consists of a subject index and transcripts from interviews conducted for the Osgoode Society by Christine Kates with John Arnup between November 1982 and April 1983. The transcripts document Arnup's family background, education, legal career and notable legal cases with which he was involved.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-005 John J. Robinette. -- 1990, 2000-2001. -- 1 cm of textual records
Scope and Content
File consists of an address list, a draft chapter, correspondence, a memorandum, an obituary, a legal judgment, a family tree, and case notes created and accumulated by George Finlayson pertaining to his work on his book about John J. Robinette. The records document feedback about a draft chapter of the book, research about Robinette's cases as a defense lawyer and about the Robinette family, and Robinette's 1990 interview for the Osgoode Society's Oral History Programme.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Scope and Content
Item is a transcript and subject index pertaining to interviews conducted for the Osgoode Society by Christine Kates with John J. Robinette in 1987. The item documents the subject matter of the interviews, which ranged from Robinette's family and personal life, his early life and education, his career as a lawyer, experiences with other lawyers and judges, details about the many legal cases with which he was involved, and his work as a bencher and then treasurer of the Law Society. The item has been bookmarked by George Finlayson.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title based on contents of the item.

Scope and Content
Item is a transcript and subject index pertaining to interviews conducted for the Osgoode Society by Christine Kates with John J. Robinette in 1987 and 1988. The item documents Robinette’s work and colleagues at McCarthy and McCarthy, his brief 1953 appointment to the Ontario Court of Appeal, his assessment of former treasurers of the Law Society, and the many cases with which he was involved as a lawyer.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title based on contents of the item.

2012004-008 John J. Robinette: replies to solicitations for information. -- 2001. -- 0.5 cm of textual records
Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence, notes, a memorandum of agreement and an interview transcript pertaining to George Finlayson's research about John J. Robinette, information requests made to John Honsberger, Justice R. Jeffrey Flinn, Gavin MacKenzie and David Stockwood, Finlayson's authorship agreement with the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History and his interview with Charles F. Scott.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
2012004-009 Leitch v. Texas Gulf. -- 2001-2002. -- 3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of interview transcripts and legal judgments pertaining to George Finlayson's interviews with John Arnup and David A. Brown in 2001 and 2002 and his research about John J. Robinette's legal work on cases Leitch Gold Mines Ltd. et al. v. Texas Gulf Sulphur Co., and R. v. McNamara Construction (Western) Ltd.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-010 Miscellaneous. -- 1992, 1996, 2001-2002. -- 2.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-011 The mother of all constitutional cases. -- 2002. -- 5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of interview transcripts, legal judgments, a press release, biographies, a draft chapter, a memorandum and correspondence pertaining to George Finlayson's research for chapter 16 of his book about John J. Robinette. The records document Finlayson's interviews with and background research about R. Roy McMurtry, Mark Jewett, T. Brad Smith, Barry L. Strayer and Michel Robert.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-012 Not too old to cut the mustard. -- 2002. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence, a transcript of a 2002 interview between George Finlayson and Charles Scott, and a copy of the judgment in the case of R v. McNamara et al. (1981) pertaining to research for chapter 14 of Finlayson's book about John J. Robinette.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-013 Robinette: index of cases. -- 2001. -- 2.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of an index of Robinette's cases before the Supreme Court, copies of judgments from cases before the Ontario Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Canada dating between 1945 and 1959, and a memorandum from researcher Gabriel Fahel to George Finlayson regarding the acquisition of copies of Robinette case judgments.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-014 Ross v. Lamport. -- 2001-2002. -- 1 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence, a memorandum, legal judgments, citations and copies of newspaper clippings, pertaining to George Finlayson's research about the case of Ross v. Lamport for chapter 10 of

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-015 Search for documents. -- 2001. -- 1 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence, blank request forms, archival finding aids, information sheets, a list of researchers, memoranda and copies of the Access to Information Act. The records pertain to George Finlayson's reference requests to the National Archives of Canada regarding his research about John J. Robinette's appointment to the Ontario Court of Appeal, his participation in the repatriation of the Constitution and his advice concerning the October Crisis of 1970.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-016 Steven Suchan. -- 2001. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence, copies of newspaper articles and a memorandum pertaining to George Finlayson's research about John J. Robinette's role in the defence in the murder trial and appeals of Steven Suchan in 1952, for chapter seven of his book about Robinette.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-017 Suchan. -- 1990, 2001. -- 4 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of research materials and a draft book chapter pertaining to chapter seven of George Finlayson's book about John J. Robinette. These records concern Robinette's 1952 defense of Steven Suchan, who was convicted and hanged for the murder of Toronto detective Edmund Tong, and the Ontario Supreme Court and Supreme Court of Canada appeals of this case. Records include correspondence, copies of legal judgments, a court transcript, journal articles, copies of newspaper articles, memoranda, notes, and Archives of Ontario finding aids and request slips. Also included are memoranda and correspondence from 1990 pertaining to reforms involving the standardization of judicial robes.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-018 Taking in our own laundry: part II: NONG [Northern Ontario Natural Gas] and Leo Laudreville. -- 2001-2002. -- 1 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of records pertaining to chapter 11 of George Finlayson's book about John J. Robinette, regarding Finlayson's recollections of cases concerning the Northern Ontario Natural Gas Company and lawyer and judge Leo Landreville. Records include copies of legal judgments, correspondence and a draft chapter.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-019 The view from Olympus. -- 1976, 1991, 2002. -- 1.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
No restrictions on access.

**PF207-1-2 Draft manuscripts. -- 2002. -- 5 cm of textual records, 10 compact discs**

**Scope and Content**

**Restrictions**
No restrictions on access.

**Arrangement**
Sub-series is arranged in chronological order.

**Title Notes**
Title based on contents of the sub-series.

2012004-020 Robinette - early drafts. -- 4 Feb. 2002. -- 1 compact disc

**Scope and Content**
Item contains copies of draft chapters and a transcript from an interview with Charles Scott pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography.

**Restrictions**
No restrictions on access.

2012004-021 John J. Robinette: final chapters 1 to 13. -- 14 Apr. 2002. -- 1 compact disc

**Scope and Content**
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography.

**Restrictions**
No restrictions on access.

2012004-022 John J. Robinette: a memoir: final draft. -- 16 May 2002. -- 1 compact disc

**Scope and Content**
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography.

**Restrictions**
No restrictions on access.

2012004-023 John J. Robinette: a memoir: final draft: chapters 1 to 15. -- 3 June 2002. -- 1 compact disc

**Scope and Content**
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography. A copy of these chapters has been printed for reference and preservation purposes.

**Restrictions**
No restrictions on access.

2012004-024 John J. Robinette: a memoir: final draft: chapters 1 to 15. -- 3 June 2002. -- 5 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content**
File consists of 14 draft chapters of George Finlayson's book about John J. Robinette. These chapters have been printed from 2012004-023.

**Restrictions**
No restrictions on access.

2012004-025 John J. Robinette: a memoir: final draft: chapters 1 to 15. -- 2 July 2002. -- 1 compact disc

**Scope and Content**
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography.

**Restrictions**
No restrictions on access.

2012004-026 John J. Robinette: a memoir: final draft. -- 10 July 2002. -- 1 compact disc
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.


Scope and Content
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography, including its epilogue.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.


Scope and Content
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.


Scope and Content
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.


Scope and Content
Item consists of copies of draft chapters pertaining to the John J. Robinette biography.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

PF207-2 Personal correspondence. -- 1995, 2002. -- 1 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of correspondence sent and received by George Finlayson pertaining to personal and law-related subjects.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the series.

2012004-031 P.D. Isbister. -- 1995. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of a mailing list, memoranda, a curriculum vitae, and correspondence sent and received by George Finlayson regarding his campaign lobbying the Law Society of Upper Canada to grant a posthumous Law Society Medal to lawyer Philip D. Isbister.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-032 Personal letters and cards on the occasion of your retirement. -- 2002. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence sent and received by George Finlayson pertaining to his retirement from the Court of Appeal for Ontario, as well as a copy of a speech given at his retirement dinner held on 15 October 2002.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

PF207-3 Photographs. -- [between 2006 and 2008]. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 20.3 x 25.3 cm
Scope and Content
Series consists of a photograph of George Finlayson with former Treasurers of the Law Society, taken during Gavin MacKenzie's term as Treasurer.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title based on contents of the series.

Item is a group photograph of Treasurer Gavin MacKenzie with the former treasurers, taken in Convocation Room. Depicted are: (standing, left to right) Harvey Strosberg, W. Dan Chilcott, Arthur Scace, Frank Marrocco, Vern Krishna, Lee Ferrier, E. Susan Elliott, James Spence, and Robert Armstrong; (seated, left to right) Sydney Robins, Laura Legge, Gavin MacKenzie, and George Finlayson.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title based on contents of the image.

Scope and Content
Series primarily consists of speeches given by George Finlayson, as well as some of his other writing, pertaining to a variety of legal topics. Also included are transcripts of Finlayson’s 1988 and 1990 interviews with the Osgoode Society.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Arrangement
Series is arranged in alphabetical order.
Title Notes
Title based on contents of the series.

2012004-033 Call to the Bar - 1991 - Toronto. -- 1991. -- 0.5 cm of textual records
Scope and Content
File consists of a speech, memoranda, a programme and correspondence created and maintained by George Finlayson pertaining to his participation in the Call to the Bar ceremony held at Roy Thomson Hall on 22 March 1991.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
2012004-034 Finlayson: speeches. -- 1991. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of two speeches presented by George Finlayson, including the original and copy of a speech made at a call to the Bar ceremony held in Toronto on 22 March 1991 and an original undated speech titled "The judiciary in Canada - essentials of independence."

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.


Scope and Content
Item is volume one of an edited transcript of taped interviews with George Finlayson conducted by Janette Macdonald of the Osgoode Society in 1988. The transcript documents Finlayson's early life, his family, his education at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School, articling at McCarthy and McCarthy and his association with John J. Robinette, his early career with McCarthy and McCarthy, and details of some of his cases.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.


Scope and Content
Item is volume two of an edited transcript of taped interviews with George Finlayson conducted by Janette Macdonald of the Osgoode Society in 1988 and 1990. The transcript details Finlayson's involvement with the case of the Attorney General of Newfoundland v. Churchill Falls Corporate Ltd. et al., his call to the Bar of Newfoundland and membership in other provincial bars, his appointment as a Queen's Counsel, his experience working for McCarthy and McCarthy, a variety of cases with which he was involved, his election as a bencher of the Law Society, his experience as Law Society Treasurer, his work on committees of Convocation, his working relationships with Law Society secretary Kenneth Jarvis and chief librarian Rosemary McCormack, his honorary doctorate, and his appointment to and experiences on the bench.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.


Scope and Content
File primarily consists of copies of speeches or addresses given by George Finlayson throughout his career. Included are: a speech titled "Self government of the legal profession - can it continue?"; two speeches honouring John J. Robinette; an opening welcome for the Advanced Trial Advocacy Programme presented by the Douglas K. Laidlaw Fund (9 Apr. 1987); a draft copy of "The judiciary in Canada - essentials of independence" and a copy of the Advocates' Society "Journal" (vol. 5, no. 5) in which the speech was published; a toast on behalf of McCarthy & McCarthy honouring John J. Robinette; a speech titled "The over-lawyered society"; an address on the occasion of the unveiling of the portrait of John D. Bowlby; a proposal for the merger of the High Court of Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario with the county and district courts, 2nd draft (19 Oct. 1983); a speech given on the occasion of his appointment to the Ontario Court of Appeal (1984); an address to the Rotary Club (1 Feb. 1961); a speech given to student nurses at Wellesley Hospital (Jan. 1961); and a speech titled "The Coroner's Act - is it fulfilling its proper function?".

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2012004-038 Law Society of Upper Canada: "Wrongful Dismissal": Nov. 19/92. -- 1992. -- 0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content
File consists of copies of an edited speech on wrongful dismissal and workplace law delivered by George Finlayson at a seminar on employment law sponsored by the Law Society on 19 November 1992, as well as correspondence pertaining to Finlayson's collaboration with other speakers appearing on the panel.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
No restrictions on access.

2012004-039 Speeches and other writing. -- 1978-1989. -- 6.5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

File consists of speeches, articles, a proposal and correspondence pertaining to the activities and writing of George Finlayson, including the period he served as Treasurer of the Law Society. Also included is a copy of Finlayson's biography for Canada's "Who's Who", as well as his curriculum vitae. The following speeches and articles, dated and undated, are part of the file: "A proposal for a merger of the High Court of Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario with the county and district courts, 2nd draft" (19 Oct. 1983); "The over-lawyered society"; "Formalism in Canadian courts - a case for its retention" (Mar. 1978); "Specialization today - still a live issue" (5 Oct. 1983); notes for a speech at the county court judges seminar; an address to the Supreme Court of Canada on the retirement of the Honourable Mr. Justice Wishart Spence (21 Dec. 1978); "The lawyer as a professional"; a speech commemorating the 30th anniversary of David Humphries' call to the Bar (12 June 1980); an introduction to the 1980 March Lecture Series; a speech for the Opening of the Courts (8 Jan. 1979); an introduction for David Johnston on 16 April 1980; remarks for the opening of the Bar Admission Course (1980?); remarks for the opening of the courts (7 January 1980) on the subject of prepaid legal services; a speech titled "Relationships between bench and bar, bench and Law Society, and bench and Legal Aid Plan" (1980?); a report to the county and district law associations on the Professional Organizations Committee; "Formalism in the courts - a case for its retention" (21 Mar. 1979); a speech given at a dinner honouring Lord Denning (1979); "Professional advertising - the fine line between informational and promotional" (8 Feb. 1979); "The profession under attack" (Oct. 1978), "History of the Bar Admission Course and of legal education in Ontario generally" (28 Feb. 1977); and a speech given at Justice William Douglas Parker's retirement dinner on 16 June 1989. Included in the file is a copy of the "Gazette" (vol. XVII, 1984), which contains an article written by Finlayson titled "Memorial tribute: Douglas Kerr Laidlaw, Q.C."; two copies of the "Submission to the Professional Organizations Committee by the Law Society of Upper Canada" (30 Apr. 1979) as well as a supplementary submission of the Law Society to the Professional Organizations Committee written by Finlayson; and a 1985 issue of the Advocates' Society "Journal" (vol. 4, no. 1), which contains an article written by Finlayson titled "Self-government of the legal profession - can it continue?".

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Title Notes

Title based on contents of the file.