FINDING AID FOR

Reginae M. Tait fonds

PF50
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Biographical/Sketch/Administrative History
Reginae Mae Tait (nee Stapleford) was born to Richard Homer and Lily Mae Stapleford on July 9th, 1910, in Watford, Ontario. Tait took her elementary and secondary education in Watford, before continuing on to London Normal School in 1930-1931 and completed her education with undergraduate courses at the University of Western Ontario. She married George Edward Tait in 1938 and had one son.

Throughout her early career, Tait taught elementary and junior high school in Windsor (1931-1938) and taught summer art courses in St. Thomas, London and Sarnia, Ontario. She also traveled with her husband, and spent three years as assistant director of the Anglo-American school in Bogotá, Columbia (1941-1944). She was responsible for establishing a library in the West Indies.

Outside her teaching career, Tait was active in many societies. She founded the National Committee on the Status of Women; was the National President of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (1970-72) and honorary vice-president (1973); Governor and first female executive member of Frontier College (1969-79); President of the Health League of Canada (1979-82); Canadian National Exhibition Association member (1969-80), director (1980-87) and honorary director (1987), and served as the representative from the Law Society of Upper Canada (1980-86). She was Vice-President for Canada at the Commonwealth Countries League in London, England (1970-1989); Executive member of the National Action Committee, Status of Women (1965-79), Board member and direct council for Canadian Unity (1974-1981); Director of Sir William House Foundation (1978-80); and, an executive member of the John Graves Simcoe Foundation.

Tait served as a lay bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada from 1974 to 1987. She was one of the two female lay benchers appointed to the Law Society in 1974. During her time as a lay bencher, Tait served as Chair of the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee and played a large role in the installation of the stained glass windows in Convocation Hall in Osgoode Hall, even staying on after her bencher duties were complete to finish the project. The committee was also responsible for the creation of the Law Society's archives and museum of law. Although the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee was her main focus, Tait was also a member of the Legal Aid Committee and the Complaints Review Committee.

Tait's contributions to society have not gone unrecognized. She was the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1977, Fellowship of the Frontier College in 1980 and the Order of Canada in 2002. Tait passed away on September 19th, 2012.

Scope and Content
Fonds consists of records created and accumulated by Reginae M. Tait, primarily during the period of time she served as a lay bencher for the Law Society of Upper Canada (1974-1987). The records are arranged according to Tait's personal collection, records pertaining to her activities as Chair of the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee, with a special emphasis on the installation of the stained glass windows illustrating the history of law in Canada, and records created and received from her position as a lay bencher. Records include correspondence, memorandums, manuals, agendas, speeches, pamphlets, greeting cards, reports, notes, news clippings, articles, financial records and photographs.

Provenance
Records were stored in Reginae Tait's residence until donation to the archives.

Restrictions
Access by external researchers to Law Society records requires the permission of the corporate secretary. All other
material is open to research.

**Arrangement**
The fonds is arranged in four series.

**Title Notes**
Title based on the content of the fonds.
PF50-1 Personal records. -- 1958-2006. -- 2.5 cm of textual records, 3 photographs

Scope and Content
Series consists of records created and maintained by Reginae Tait during her activities outside of the Law Society of Upper Canada. The series includes correspondence, speeches, articles written by Tait and others, notes, as well as newspaper clippings, information about being an Order of Canada recipient, a poem, a color photograph of a co-worker.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on content of the series.

2005031-001 Articles and news clippings. -- 1958-1991
Scope and Content
File consists of articles and news clippings collected and written by Reginae Tait. The file includes three articles Tait wrote for "Echoes" magazine, an article about the Franklin Probe, "Theoretical Discourse in Native Studies" by Tony Hall, an article entitled "Indian Law" written by Tait and a news clipping about the Prince of Wales' visit to The Law Society of Upper Canada.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-002 Card from Roland Michener. -- [ca. 1971]
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-003 Correspondence. -- 1976-1996
Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence written to and from Reginae Tait. The correspondence includes personal letters from Princess Alice and the Honorable R. Roy McMurtry and a Christmas card from Roland and Nora Michener. The file also contains Tait's correspondence concerning the Sir William Campbell Foundation, references about John Graves Simcoe, ideas for the 200th Anniversary of The Law Society of Upper Canada, the nomination of Samuel Learner for the Order of Canada, a legal history conference and the oral history programme for The Osgoode Society.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-03P Photograph of Natalie Provenko. -- 1993. -- 1 photograph; col.; 15 x 10 cm
Scope and Content
Item is a colour photograph of Natalie Provenko standing in front of an oven. The notes provided with the photograph say that Natalie Provenko worked as a pastry maker at The Law Society of Upper Canada and made "delectable" butter tarts. The note also provides information that Natalie Provenko was from Ukrainian nobility and she had survived the Nazi death camps with husband. The photograph was taken a few days before her death.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title based on contents of image.
2005031-004 Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. -- 1962-1963

Scope and Content
File consists of two pamphlets created for Remembrance Day in 1962 and 1963. The pamphlets include messages written by Reginae Tait who was the National Educational Secretary for the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-005 The Order of Canada. -- 2002-2003

Scope and Content
File consists of records concerning Reginae Tait being the recipient of the Order of Canada in 2002. The file includes two colour photographs of Tait with her medal for the Order of Canada, a proof from the 2005 edition of the "Canadian Who's Who" (annotated), a photocopy of the announcement that Reginae Mae Tait, C.M. will receive the Order of Canada, questions and answers about the Order of Canada taken from Info-Fiche and "Her Excellency the Right Honorable Adrienne Clarkson speech on the Occasion of the Order of Canada Investiture" printed from the Governor General of Canada's webpage.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-01P Photograph of Reginae Tait next to window in Rideau Hall. -- 9 May 2003. -- 1 photograph; col.; 15.5 x 10 cm

Scope and Content
Item is a colour photograph of Reginae Tait after being awarded the Order of Canada. The photograph was taken in Rideau Hall directly following the ceremony.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on the content of the image.

2005031-02P Photograph of Reginae Tait at Rideau Hall. -- 9 May 2003. -- 1 photograph; col.; 15.5 x 10 cm

Scope and Content
Item is a colour photograph of Reginae Tait in Rideau Hall after being awarded the Order of Canada. The Order of Canada medal can be seen clearly in the photograph.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on content of image.

2005031-006 Tours of Osgoode Hall. -- 1988-1989

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence concerning tours of Osgoode Hall given by Reginae Tait. The file includes a thank you card and letters from the Rotary Club of Midland.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2006031-001 Correspondence from Christopher Wallis. -- 1999-2006
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the file.


Scope and Content
Item is a sheet bearing a poem by William Oliver Herold entitled "Give us grace". Herold was a bencher of the Law Society. The poem bears an annotation by Tait, most likely written in 2006.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2006031-003 Remarks for first tour of Osgoode Hall for R. Ferguson, bencher and seven students (grades 11, 12, 13) from Midland and surrounding towns. -- 1988

Scope and Content
Item is a set of notes created by Tait in regards to a tour of Osgoode Hall she gave to Roderic Ferguson, a bencher, and a group of students on 19 May 1988.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2006031-004 Remarks to legal aid dinner, Convocation Hall, Osgoode Hall. -- 9 Apr. 1999

Scope and Content
Item is a speech given by Tait at a legal aid dinner held in Convocation Hall of Osgoode Hall on 9 April 1999. Included is an envelope that housed the speech.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

PF50-2 Muniments and Memorabilia Committee. -- 1979-1989, [2006?]. -- 16.5 cm of textual records, 15 photographs

Scope and Content
Series consists of records relating to Reginae Tait’s involvement with the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee. The records document the creation of both the archives and museum of law, as well as committee meetings, reports to Convocation, budgets and correspondence concerning such topics as a portrait of the Queen Mother and Osgoode Hall class photographs. The series consists of one sub-series, containing records relating to the stained glass window installation project.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the series.

2005031-007 Archives records. -- 1980-1987

Scope and Content
File consists of records accumulated in the establishment of the archives for the Law Society of Upper Canada and the reports the archives department created during its course of business. The file includes memorandums, reports, correspondence (concerning, finding an archivist and archival programmes, the Omnibus application process and donations) and budget information.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-008 Budgets. -- 1981-1988

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence and a preliminary budget report for the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee. The correspondence estimates the necessary budget for the committee and discusses ways to increase the money allotted to them for the budget.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-009 Correspondence. -- 1979-1988

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence on topics such as: meeting schedules, acquisitions, the Osgoode Hall class photographs, gifts given to the Law Society of Upper Canada, Duncan McPherson, the loan of portraits to the Art Gallery of Ontario, "Twelve Angry Men" at Roy Thompson Hall, donations, Cavouk portrait, portrait of Her Majesty The Queen Mother, the bronze door of the Supreme Court of the United States, C.H.A. Armstrong donation, Tait's resignation letter and Tait's agreement to stay with the Committee until the stained glass window project was complete.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-010 Meeting material. -- 1980-1989

Scope and Content
File consists of records relating to the meetings of the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee. File includes such things as agendas for meetings, articles and correspondence that relate to what was being discussed at the meeting and a list of members of the committee. Many of the records are annotated.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.


Scope and Content
File consists of records relating to the establishment of the museum of history of law. The file includes correspondence between Regina Tait and Roy Schaeffer concerning the creation and opening of the museum.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-012 Reports to Convocation. -- 1982-1987

Scope and Content
File consists of reports to Convocation given by the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee. The reports provide insight into the activities of the committee, including the creation of the archives and museum as well as the stain glassed window project. The reports are annotated.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.
File includes a copy of "Wolford letters: correspondence of John Graves Simcoe in the archives of the Law Society of Upper Canada" and a note by Tait regarding the publication.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the file.

PF50-2-1 Stained Glass Windows Project. -- 1981-1989. -- 8 cm of textual records, 15 photographs

Scope and Content
Sub-series consists of records relating to the stained glass window project of the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee. Records include the contract between the Law Society of Upper Canada and Christopher Wallis, designer of the stained glass windows; personal correspondence with Christopher Wallis; Barry Pepper's comments, project funding and donations, information about the dedication ceremonies, the background of the stained glass windows project, general correspondence about the project, color photographs of the windows, the competition for window designer, the competition for the filming of the installation of the windows and a pamphlet. The project began in 1982 and was completed in 1989.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

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

2005031-07P Photographs of stained glass windows. -- 1986-1987. -- 12 photographs; col.; 25.5 x 20.5 cm or smaller

Scope and Content
File consists of 10 colour photographs of sketches of the Convocation Hall stained glass windows, one colour photograph of the lower section of window #8 in the process of being made and a colour photograph of one of the completed Lincoln's Inn stained glass window.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on the content of the images.

2005031-013 Background information. -- 1980-1990

Scope and Content
File consists of notes, reports, correspondence and a pamphlet which illustrates the history of the stained glass windows project. The file provides a greater understanding to where the idea of the stained glass windows project initiated.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-014 Comments on Barry Pepper's submission to the archives of the Law Society of Upper Canada on the Stained Glass Windows in Convocation Hall. -- [198-]

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-015 Competition for designers. -- 1981-1984

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence and resumes of designers who competed for the design of the stained glass windows for Convocation Hall. The correspondence is primarily between Kenneth Jarvis and
designers such as Chagall and Patrick Reyntiens, and resumes belonging to Doreen Balabanoff, Stuart Reid, and Christopher Wallis. Records also relate to Kenneth Jarvis and Barry Pepper's trip to London, England.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-016 Contracts. -- 1985-1986
Scope and Content
File consists of contracts between the Law Society of Upper Canada and Christopher Wallis Stained Glass Ltd. and Christopher Wallis. The contract is for Christopher Wallis to provide the Law Society of Upper Canada with stained glass windows depicting the history of law in Canada for Convocation Hall.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-017 Correspondence with Christopher Wallis. -- 1982-1997
Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence between Christopher Wallis and various members of the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee, primarily Reginae Tait. The correspondence focuses on the development and installation of the stained glass windows for Convocation Hall. The file also contains some personal correspondence both in letter and card form as well as photographs of stained glass windows he has done in the past.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-04P Photograph of Christopher Wallis making window #8. -- June 1987. -- 1 photograph: col.; 10 x 15.5 cm
Scope and Content
Item is a colour photograph of Christopher Wallis making stained glass window #8 "Law Society of Upper Canada."
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on content of image.

2005031-05P Photograph of stained glass window in progress. -- 1987. -- 1 photograph; col.; 15.5 x 10 cm
Scope and Content
Item is a colour photograph of a section of window #8 in the process of being completed.
Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of image.

2005031-06P Photograph of stained glass window in Rideau Hall. -- 1994. -- 1 photograph; col.; 9.5 x 15 cm
Scope and Content
Item is a photograph of one of two stained glass windows commemorating the Governor Generals
Performing Arts Awards in Rideau Hall - Ballroom Alcove. The stained glassed window was done by Lakeview Studios of Christopher Wallis Stained Glass Ltd.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title base on contents of image.

2005031-018 Dedication ceremonies. -- 1986-1988

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence and speeches given in relation to the installation of individual stained glass windows in Convocation Hall. Correspondence is to make people aware of the ceremony to take place. The speeches were given by Reginae Tait, Christopher Wallis, Kenneth Jarvis and John Honsberger.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-019 Filming of the installation competition. -- 1986-1987

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence between filming companies and the Muniments and Memorabilia Committee in search of someone to film the installation of the stained glass windows in Convocation Hall.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-020 Funding and donations. -- 1986-1987

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence regarding the funding and donations acquired for the stained glass windows project. The file includes information on who the donors were and the funding which was supplied by the Law Society Foundation.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2005031-021 General correspondence. -- 1983-1989

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence concerning the stained glass windows project. Topics include: the competition for a designer, negotiations and payment of Christopher Wallis, the cost of each window, installment plan for the windows, errors found in the stained glass windows and an article in the Gazette describing the stained glass windows.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2005031-022 Pamphlet. -- 1989

Scope and Content
Item is a pamphlet inviting people to the exhibition of "Osgoode Windows" by Christopher Wallis, sponsored by London Regional Art and Historical Museums.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
Title Notes
Title is based on contents of file.

2006031-006 Dedication of first stained glass window in Convocation Hall. -- 13 Nov. 1986

Scope and Content
Item is a speech given by Tait at the dedication ceremony for the first stained glass window in Convocation Hall.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

2006031-007 Speech to legal aid luncheon. -- 16 Dec. 1987

Scope and Content
Item is a speech by Tait on the stained glass window project given at a legal aid luncheon in Convocation Hall. Attached to the speech is a note from Tait about the termination of Andrew Lawson as Director of Legal Aid.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

PF50-3 Lay bencher records. -- 1974-1997. -- 12 cm of textual records, 1 photograph

Scope and Content
Series consists of records relating to Reginae Tait's other activities as a lay bencher for the Law Society of Upper Canada. The series includes copies of speeches, information about Tait being appointed a lay bencher, correspondence, information accumulated while she was a representative at the Canadian National Exhibition Association, comments on Christopher Moore's book "The Law Society of Upper Canada and Ontario's Lawyers 1797-1997", The Law Society Act: regulations and rules, suggestions for Continuing Legal Education, and a photograph of the benchers.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the series.

2005031-08P Photograph of attendees at dinner honouring John D. Bowlby. -- Nov. 1983. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 20.5 x 25.5 cm

Scope and Content

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on the content of the image.
2005031-023 Appointment of lay benchers. -- 1975-1983

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence and reports related to the appointment and re-appointment of lay benchers for the Law Society of Upper Canada. The lay benchers considered in the file include Noel Ogilvie, Roseanne Sutherland, Reginae M. Tait and Robert S. Tebbut.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-024 Canadian National Exhibition Association. -- 1982-1987

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence, a copy of the "C.N.E.A. News." The correspondence primarily discusses making Reginae Tait the Law Society of Upper Canada's representative and the "C.N.E.A News" has Tait as its personality profile.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-025 Continuing Legal Education. -- 1981-1985

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence, memorandums and reports concerning Continuing Legal Education. The file includes a "Five-Year plan for the expansion of legal education," a "Report on suggestions for a teacher training program for Bar Admission Course and Continuing Legal Education instructors," and a report on the "Proposed teacher training program."

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-026 Correspondence and reports. -- 1978-1989

Scope and Content

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-027 Correspondence concerning Christopher Moore's book. -- 1997

Scope and Content

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.
2005031-028 Legal Aid Committee. -- 1979-1985

Scope and Content
File consists of correspondence and reports concerning the Legal Aid Committee. The file includes information on how Tait became a member, a report entitled "Comments, submissions and recommendations for the legal staff of the Provincial Director's Office on the Report of Peat, Marwick & Partners on the administration of the Ontario Legal Aid Plan," Alternate sources of funding for legal aid plans by James B. Chadwick, and correspondence concerning newspaper advertisements for legal aid.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-029 Legal Aid Committee manual. -- 1985

Scope and Content
Item is a manual for the Legal Aid Committee. Accompanying the manual is a letter between Regynae Tait and Andrew M. Lawson, the Provincial Director of Legal Aid. The manual was removed from a three-ring binder for preservation purposes.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-030 Speeches. -- 1975-1987

Scope and Content

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-031 The Law Society Act, Regulations and Rules. -- 1983

Scope and Content
File consists of "The Law Society Act, Regulations and Rules," and correspondence between Regynae Tait and Michael A. Hardy. The Act was originally housed in a folder, but was removed for preservation...
purposes.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2005031-032 Toronto Scottish Regiment programme. -- 1974

Scope and Content
Item is a programme from a dinner in honour of the Toronto Scottish Regiment in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

2006031-008 Speech given at dinner honoring Reginae Tait. -- 28 May 1987

Scope and Content
Item is a speech given by Tait at a dinner given in her honour by the Law Society.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of file.

PF50-4 Photographs. -- 1939. -- 2 photographs : b&w ; 49.5 x 41 cm

Scope and Content
Series consists of miscellaneous photographs accumulated by Reginae Tait.

Provenance
The two photographs in this series (P1385 and P1386) are part of a series donated by Tait on June 17th, 1977.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Title Notes
Title based on contents of the series.

P1385 Photograph of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. -- 19 May 1939. - 1 photograph : b&w ; 49.5 x 41 cm

Scope and Content
Item is a photograph of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at the Parliament Building in Ottawa.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Photograph in the public domain.

Title Notes
Title based on content of the image.
P1386 Photograph of Queen Elizabeth. -- 1939. -- 1 photograph : b&w ; 49.5 x 41 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a photograph of Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) during the 1939 Royal Visit to Canada.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.
Photograph in the public domain.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of the image.