

Lorne and May Brown fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (2019)

[University of British Columbia Archives](#)



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

Table of Contents

- **Fonds Description**
 - Title / Dates of Creation / Physical Description
 - Biographical Sketch
 - Scope and Content
 - Notes
- **File List**
- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

Fonds Description

Lorne and May Brown fonds. – 1957-2018.

2 volumes.

4 photographs.

2 folders of textual records.

Biographical Sketch

Lorne Brown was born in Belleville, Ontario in 1908, but later moved with his family to Vancouver. He taught physical education at Kitsilano High School (1930-40), and worked in YMCA recreation services for the RCAF during World War II. He was Superintendent of Physical Education for the provincial Department of Education (1944-46), and served as Director of Health and Physical Education at the Provincial Normal School in Vancouver (1946-55). He earned his B.P.E. (1952) and M.A. (1954) in Physical Education from the University of Oregon. He joined the faculty of UBC in 1957 when the Faculty of Education opened that year, holding the position of associate professor until his retirement in 1973. Brown served one term on Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Board (1967-68). His long-time enthusiasm for camping began at the YMCA's Camp Elphinstone, beginning in 1925 until he left in 1950 as the camp's co-director. At various times he served as president of the B.C. Camping Association, The Canadian Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and the Council of Outdoor Educators. He and his wife, May Brown, ran Camp Deka, a private boys' camp on Deka Lake near 100-Mile House in the Cariboo, from 1961 until his death in 1976.

May Brown (née Adams) was born in Alberta in 1919, and moved with her family to Surrey, B.C. in 1927. She earned her teacher's certificate at the Provincial Normal School in 1940, and later obtained a Bachelor's degree from McGill (1947) and a Master's degree from UBC (1961), both in physical education. After teaching in several public schools, she joined the faculty of UBC's Department of Physical Education (now the School of Kinesiology) in 1947. She remained at UBC until 1955, during which time she also coached the women's swimming and field hockey teams. In her honour, UBC Athletics instituted the May Brown Trophy in 2007 for each year's outstanding graduating female athlete. She was also involved with the YWCA and the Canadian Camping Association. In 1972 she was elected to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and remained on the Board until 1976, serving as chair for the final two years. In 1976, May Brown was elected to the Vancouver City Council and served four terms as councilor until her voluntary retirement in 1986. She also ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 1978. She also served on the Greater Vancouver Regional District Executive Committee, and chaired the Planning Committee. She was also a director of

the Pacific National Exhibition, Chairman of the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission, and a Director of B.C. Transit. For career achievements, May Brown has been acknowledged by a UBC Alumni Achievement Award, a Sport BC Award, a YWCA Woman of Distinction award, membership in the UBC and BC Sports Halls of Fame, and membership in the Order of British Columbia and the Order of Canada.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of materials documenting the lives and careers of Lorne and May Brown, and includes two self-published biographies (*Lorne Brown Remembered* and *May Brown – A collection of stories*), four photographs of Lorne Brown, a newspaper clipping about Camp Deka, and some of Lorne Brown's UBC personnel records.

Notes

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

File list available.

Donated by Greg Brown in February 2019.

Additional records from Lorne and May Brown can also be found at the [City of Vancouver Archives](#) and the [British Columbia Archives](#).

File List

BOX 1

- 1-1 "May Brown – A collection of stories" 2015
- collection of stories and anecdotes by and about May Brown
- compiled and edited by Greg and Suzanne Brown, self-published by Greg Brown
- 1-2 "Lorne Brown Remembered" 2018
- collection of tributes to Lorne Brown, May Brown, and Camp Deka
- compiled and edited by Greg and Suzanne Brown, self-published by Greg Brown
- 1-3 "Camp Deka – where boys grow!" [n.d.]
- newspaper clipping from 100-Mile Free Press
- 1-4 Lorne Brown – UBC personnel records 1968-71

PHOTOGRAPHS

- UBC 138.1/1 [Lorne Brown teaching in classroom]. – 11 x 8.5 cm BW print. – February 1957
- written on back: "Lorne Brown 1957 – first year teaching at UBC – Faculty of Education opened"
- UBC 138.1/2 Lorne E. Brown. – 12 x 17.5 cm BW print. – 1970
- UBC 138.1/3 Lorne Brown. – 10 x 14 cm BW print. – [n.d.]
- credited to Whitefoot Studio, Vancouver
- UBC 138.1/4 Lorne Brown. – 9.5 x 12 cm BW print. – [n.d.]