

# Milo Library Archives

## Finding Aid - Milo Community School fonds (MCS)

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# Milo Community School fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Milo Library Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Milo Community School fonds
<b>ID:</b>	MCS
<b>Date:</b>	1938-1948, 1962-2014 (predominant 1990-2000) (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	39 cm of textual records. – ca 525 photographs. – 35 overhead transparencies
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

The town of Milo had its beginnings around 1909, and by the early 1920's was a flourishing community. When the railway came through the area in 1924, about 2 miles to the southwest, the decision was made to move the existing buildings and re-establish the town on the rail line, and a local history book notes that "... the need for a school became urgent." While it seems unlikely that they had no school, there is so far only anecdotal evidence of its existence, such as a reference to students from Lake McGregor school who "took part in the School Fair at Milo in 1920" and won several trophies.

What is known is that Milo School District #4251 was established in May 1926. While the school was being built, classes were held in the United Church basement, as well as in a building that would later be used as the school barn.

The 2-room building was completed in December 1926, and the following year there were 26 students in grades one to eleven. By 1933 Milo School was serving grades 1-12, and as the one-room schools in the area were gradually closing, those students were brought to Milo by van. The Milo Dormitory was organized in 1939, and accommodated rural students coming in for High School. Grade 12 students were sent to Cluny starting in 1942, housed during the week in dormitories there, and the Milo Dormitory closed around 1944 when all high school classes in Milo were discontinued. Enrollment in the primary grades continued to grow, and the Corbie Hill school building was moved to town to be used as an additional classroom in the early 1940's, as was the Pioneer School, in 1944.

Milo School became part of Bow Valley School Division #43 in 1943, but in 1948 petitioned the Minister of Education for permission to either operate independently or become part of a larger division, which resulted in its jurisdiction being transferred to the County of Vulcan in 1953. That same year the construction of a new school building was completed, and high school was re-introduced, with total attendance standing at 173 students.

In September 1963, high school classes were again cut back, and grade 12 students were bussed out to Vulcan; in 1968 they were joined by the grade 10s and 11s. Also in 1968, students from the Blackfoot (Siksika) Nation were given the option to attend Milo School.

The school has hosted a Terry Fox Run since 1989, raising many thousands of dollars for cancer research, and in 1992, inspired by a Provincial Government initiative emphasizing community involvement, became an officially designated Community School. In 1993 the school spearheaded a community-wide recycling program.

Guided by the Milo Rural Initiatives School Committee, a compressed school week was piloted in 1994-95, and the first such trial in Canada to involve elementary or primary students. The Compressed School Week was permanently adopted in December 1995.

Also in 1995, Milo Community School became part of Palliser Regional School Division, and was incorporated as Milo Community School Foundation, able to write charitable receipts for donations.

In 2015, Milo Community School was approved as an International Baccalaureate (IB) candidate school, the first step toward their goal of offering an IB Primary Years Programme.

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## Scope and content

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The fonds consists of correspondence, reports, staff and student lists, 1986 Provincial Evaluation, yearbooks, handbooks, school newspapers, photographs and prints of historical photos relating to the structure and activities of Milo Community School.

The fonds has been divided into the following series: Correspondence, Compressed School Week, Terry Fox Run, Publications, Recycling Trailer, Christmas Programs, People.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Attributions and conjectures**: Title from content of fonds.

### Restrictions on access

No restrictions on access.

### Accruals

Further accruals expected though not scheduled.

### Other notes

- **Publication status**: Published

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## Access points

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- Education (subject)
  - Public Events (subject)
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## Series descriptions

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### Series MCS-01: Communications

Date: 1948, 1986, 1993-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists of a 1948 letter regarding Milo School's request for a transfer of jurisdiction, funding requests to Project G.R.O.W. (Generating Rural Opportunities Within), a 1986 Alberta Education Milo School evaluation, 1995 Provincial Achievement Test results, parent handbooks (2000-2003, 2004-2009, 2011-'12) and handouts (International Baccalaureate program, field trip transportation) and the mock-up design for a Milo Community School collector's pin.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

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#### File / item list

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### Series MCS-02: Compressed School Week

Date: 1993-1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

In the early 1990's, Milo Community School was facing serious challenges posed by the financial realities of government funding. In most small rural communities, a strong, viable school is vital to maintaining the stability of the area as a whole, and Milo was determined to find ways to cut education costs without sacrificing the quality of learning or the sense of community for which their school was known. Extensive research led an advisory committee, under the umbrella of the Milo and District Agricultural Society Rural Initiatives Groups, to focus on a 4-day or 'compressed' school week, lengthening each day by a set amount of time, allowing for Fridays to be entirely non-instructional. The approach had been implemented before, but only either in modified forms, or at the Middle School, Junior High and High School levels. After a successful 18-month trial, with the support of over 90% of all stakeholders, Milo Community School became the first school in Canada to permanently adopt an unmodified compressed school week including the elementary level.

The series consists of correspondence, reports, research, presentation information, newspaper clippings, survey forms, and staff comments related to the implementation of the Compressed School Week, and 33 overhead transparencies used for presentations. It also contains a copy of an essay submitted by a University of Calgary student, who used Milo Community and the compressed school week as the basis for a final paper.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records. – 33 overhead transparencies

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

#### File / item list

### Series MCS-03: Terry Fox Run

Date: 1995-2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

In 1986, a Milo infant was diagnosed with cancer. In 1988, his health regained, he and his father walked a lap around a nearby track as participants in the Terry Fox Run, a national event that raises money for cancer research. The following year, local resident Penny Heather organized the town's participation in the Run, with the strong support of Milo School. Raising almost \$3,000 in its first year, and 100 times that amount cumulatively through 2014, Milo School's annual Terry Fox Run has become a much-anticipated event with students, staff and community members all taking part, sometimes over a two-day period. The levels of participation and the amounts raised have been such that, several times, Milo's Terry Fox Run has raised more money per capita than anywhere in Alberta, often making the national 'Top 10' per capita list.

The series consists of correspondence, participant's pledge sheets and summaries, speech notes, thank you posters, Terry Fox Foundation newsletters noting Milo School's contributions, and photographs.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records. – 21 photographs. – 2 transparencies

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

#### File / item list

### Series MCS-04: Publications

Date: 1938, 1943, 1963, 1977, 1986, 1991, 1998-2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists of 16 Yearbook volumes (1938, 1943, 1963-64, 1977, 1986-'87, 1991-92, 1992-94, 1994-'96, 1996-'98, 1998-'01, 2001-'03, 2004-'05, 2005-'07, 2007-'09, 2009-'11, 2014), one Milo

High School Yearbook War Memento Number (1943), nine editions of the Milo Mooz student newspaper (December 2005 – April/May 2007), and 35 soft-bound student stories.

Physical description: 17 cm of textual records

Location of originals:

Oversize student newspapers are located in the map drawer.

Alternative form available:

Digital and paper copies of the the War Memento 1943 yearbook are available to researchers.

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Conservation:

The cover of the War Memento 1943 yearbook was removed by the Archives for conservation reasons.

#### File / item list

### Series MCS-06: Christmas Programs

Date: 1994-[2009] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists of posters, programs, scripts, cast lists and planning notes from Milo Community School Christmas programs.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

#### File / item list

### Series MCS-07: People

Date: 1962-2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists of a “Staffing --Milo School” duotang originally compiled in 1988, containing staff lists from 1926-2006; loose staff and class size lists from 1962-1991, 1982-1992 and 1996-1997; student lists from the mid-1970’s; photographs; a Student Union card; 1977 Milo School Reunion documents; one scrapbook and two photograph albums.

The 1977 Reunion documents include lists of staff and students, correspondence and clippings (glued to scrapbook pages); the scrapbook was prepared for the 80th birthday of Pat Nugent, a long-time

teacher at Milo School; one photo album was prepared as a 1971 Christmas gift for Carl Johnson, who had then been Milo School's bus driver for over 20 years, and includes "then and now" photographs of Milo School students; one photo album was compiled by Linda Booth from three albums that had previously been donated to Milo library.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records. – ca. 500 photographs

Note:

20 of the photographs are reprints produced in 2008 and given to the Milo Library by Ian Thomson.

Restrictions on access:

No restrictions on access.

Conservation:

The Archives has removed the Pat Nugent scrapbook pages from their binder for conservation reasons, and placed them in a file folder in their original order. The Archives has removed the oversize Compiled Photo Album pages from their binder for conservation reasons, and placed them in the map drawer in their original order.

**File / item list**