



### Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds

<https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions36>

Part Of: Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds

Fonds Number: M36 / V683 / S37

Sous-Fonds: TBD

Accession Number: 3069 and various

Reference Code: M36 / S37 / V683

GMD: Drawing

Motion picture

Film

Photograph

Album

Ambrotype

Cased photograph

Daguerreotype

Negative

Photograph print

Postcard

Tintype

Transparency

Sound recording

Cassette

Reel to reel

Textual record

Plan

Poster

Private record

Published record

Other Title Info: Also known as the Whyte family fonds

Date Range: 1856-1980

Physical Description: 25 m of textual records. -- ca.46,000 photographs : prints, albums, postcards, cased photographs, transparencies, negatives. -- 178 sound recordings : audio tape reels, audio tape cassettes. -- 6 motion pictures (and film strips)

## History /

### Biographical:

Peter and Catharine Whyte were artists, photographers, outdoor enthusiasts, travelers, philanthropists and cultural workers at Banff, Alberta, Canada. Peter Whyte, 1905-1966, was born at Banff in 1905 to pioneer merchant Dave White and Annie (Curren) White. He was an accomplished skier and ski jumper and one of the region's first native-born painters with an intimate knowledge of the mountains and was an active photographer from ca.1920 until the 1950s. Peter Whyte studied art at the Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, 1923-1924, and at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston, 1925, where he met Catharine Robb. Catharine Robb Whyte, 1906-1979, was born in 1906 at Concord, Massachusetts and grew up amongst the wealth and creativity of the Robb and Morse families. She studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston, 1925-1929.

Following their marriage in 1930, the Whytes pursued a life of painting, photography, hiking, skiing and travelling. Their log home and studio in Banff became a focal point for their artist friends, Stoney Indians and local pioneers. Catharine shared Pete's involvement in skiing and hiking organizations and together they managed Skoki Lodge from 1932-1934. In following years, the Whytes travelled extensively. During the Second World War, Peter served in the reserve army, with the Royal Canadian Air Force as a photographer and, briefly, as an official war artist. Catharine continued to paint and maintain their home and, when possible, accompanied Pete to his military postings. In civilian life, Pete resumed his art career, explored new photographic techniques and sculpted.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Whytes formulated plans for a foundation to preserve the art and history of the Canadian Rockies. Plans for a building to house an archives, public library and gallery were in preparation when Pete died in 1966. The Peter Whyte Foundation was named in his honour. Catharine immersed herself in the development of what is now the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, in the cultural community, painting, outdoor activity, travel and work with the Stoney First Nations. She became a more active photographer, recording her travels and outdoor pursuits. She served in an official capacity with numerous cultural and charitable organizations, was a patron to individuals studying art and music, and supported numerous causes relating to the Stoney First Nations. Catharine also supported causes related to multiculturalism, regional culture and recreation, and cancer research. Despite her modesty and often anonymous patronage of causes, Catharine was recognized with numerous awards and honours, including the Order of Canada in 1978. She died in Banff in 1979.

### Scope & Content:

Fonds consists of papers, photographs and sound recordings of Peter and Catharine Whyte and the papers and photographs of their respective families. Consists of three sous-fonds: V683, S37 and M36. M36 and S37 consists of three series. Series I: Peter and Catharine Whyte, Series II: Robb and Morse families, Series III: White and Curren families. Within Series I, there are four Sub-series: Series: A. Catharine Robb Whyte papers; B. Peter Whyte papers; C. Peter and Catharine Whyte papers accessioned after 2017; D. Peter and Catharine Whyte sound recordings.

Name Access:	Whyte, Peter Whyte, Catharine
Subject Access:	Arts Communications Environment Exploration, discovery and travel Family and personal life First nations Sports, recreation and leisure

Access Restrictions:	Some restriction/s on access Copyright, privacy, commercial use and other restrictions may apply
Language:	Language is English
Finding Aid:	Finding aids and reference tools: arrangement outline sous-fonds, series and file description for textual sub-series and group description for photographs item description, subject/proper name index, and summaries for sound recordings reference copies for sound recordings
Creator:	Whyte, Peter Whyte, Catharine
Category:	Arts Communications Environment Exploration, discovery and travel Family and personal life First nations Sports, recreation and leisure
Title Source:	Title based on contents of fonds
Processing Status:	Processed

## Electronic Resources



m36\_s37\_finding\_aid.pdf

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## Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation fonds

<https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions313>

Part Of: Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds

Fonds Number: M 124  
S 38  
V 692

Sous-Fonds: M 124  
S 38  
V 692

Accession Number: 429, 1010, 1415, 1464, 1488, 1558, 1567, 1609, 1856, 1879, 1919, 2043, 2471, 2803, 2810, 2968, 3068, 3112, 3123, 3149, 3228, 3291, 3372, 3438, 3499, 3702, 3840, 4062, 4089, 4092, 5102, 5161, 5180, 5344, 5422, 5489, 5685, 5806, 6162, 6495, 6694, 6915, 7263, 7317 (unproc), 7763 (unproc)

Reference Code: M124 / S38 / V692

GMD: Motion picture  
Video  
Photograph  
Negative  
Photograph print  
Transparency  
Map  
Plan  
Sound recording  
Cassette  
Recording disc  
Textual record  
Corporate record

Date Range: [after 1958]

Physical Description: ca.6.0 m textual records. -- ca.12,500 photographs: prints, transparencies, negatives. -- 13 sound recordings: 6 audio cassettes, 7 audio compact disc (copy of 2 audio cassettes). -- 7 video tape recording: 1 VHS, 6 DVD. -- 1 cartographic record: survey site plan: 1:250

#### History /

#### Biographical:

The Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation is a charitable, non-profit organization that operates the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff, Alberta, Canada. The Wa-Che-Yo-Cha-Pa Foundation, as the foundation was initially named, was founded and endowed by artists Peter and Catharine Whyte in 1958. It supported broad causes as well as acting as an agency for collecting and preserving cultural materials of the Canadian Rockies.

In 1968, a building designed by Philippe Delesalle and known as the Archives of the Canadian Rockies opened at 111 Bear Street in Banff, providing accommodation for a regional archives, gallery and the Banff Library. After a major renovation and addition in 1993, the foundation now supports three collection and exhibition departments under the name of the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies: Archives and Library, Art Gallery and Heritage Collection.

Geographic collecting limits of the museum are the mountainous areas of Canada bounded by the 49th Parallel on the south, the Peace River on the north, the Front Ranges of the Rocky Mountains on the east and the Columbia Mountains on the west.

#### Scope & Content:

Fonds consists of administrative and operational records of the Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation and the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.

Textual records: 1. Board of Trustees; 2. Administration; 3. Archives; 4. Gallery; 5. Heritage collections; 6. Photography.

Photographs: A. Foundation buildings; B. Gallery exhibition installation shots (negatives only); C. Events and guests (including Banff Day, gallery openings, special events and guests); D. Displays (inside and outside of the museum); E. Publicity and publication (includes views produced for this purpose); F. General (mainly people, places and events in Banff and area; includes photographs produced by Museum staff not included in other series). Photographs were made by staff of the Whyte Foundation, private photographers, and others.

Three sound recordings were made for research purposes during the course of Gallery operations; pertain to Ann Wheeler, David Settles and Peter Whyte art and exhibit. Other sound recording is of Grant MacEwan talk at the Whyte Museum, December 1993; recorded by Woody MacPhail. Video recording is of Banff Day 1997 by Eddie Hunter. 2 audio cassettes are a recording of the Clifford Jackson White memorial service held September 13, 2003 hosted by the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.

Six sound and video recordings were made as part of the Fireside Chats at the Whyte program. These oral histories were conducted before a live audience at the historic Crosby home, Abegweit during the years 2012-2014. Interviews with Rob Crosby, Dorothy Carleton, Ralphine Locke, Don Mickle, Bridget Jones, Fran Drummond.

Cartographic materials include a site plan of lots 7-12, Block A, Plan 6719 B.C., November, 2000.

Name Access:	Whyte, Catharine Whyte, Peter
Subject Access:	Arts Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation
Access Restrictions:	Access and use restricted
Language:	Language is English
Finding Aid:	Finding aids and reference tools: basic description
Related Material:	A CD-R copy of the Clifford Jackson memorial service with program notes and a transcript of a speech by Bill Holmes is located in the Clifford Jackson White fonds.
Creator:	Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation
Category:	Arts Cultural pluralism Education Environment Family and personal life Exploration, discovery and travel Commerce and industry
Title Source:	Title based on contents of fonds

Content Details: Note: March 16, 2023: Foundation Records were processed up to 2008 by Ted Hart in 2010-2011. The unprocessed records are stored off-site and there is no inventory. Some Art Department exhibition records prior to 2008 were inadvertently missed and remain in unprocessed. The file level descriptions prepared by Ted Hart are not in the database, however the inventory is located in the ArchivalMaster file for textual and sound, and ArchivalMaster2 for visual. Some records, including oversize have been added to the database, but it isn't consistent.  
O:\m\_textual\m124\_foundation\_records\_archivalmaster ;  
R:\v\_visual\v692\_foundation\_records\_archivalmaster. Access is restricted unless authorized by Head of Archives and Special Collections, CEO or CFO, or Head of applicable department.

Processing Status: Processed / Unprocessed

This material is presented as originally created; it may contain outdated cultural descriptions and potentially offensive content. [Read more.](#)