

CENTRE D'ARCHIVES DE LA GRANDE ZONE ARGILEUSE  
Archival description

**Title:** Fonds Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région (SHHR)

**Dates:** 1981-1993.

**Extent of descriptive unit:** 2.8 m of textual records, audio and audiovisual material.

**Administrative history or biography:** Established in 1981, La Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région's objectives were to promote the area's history and to protect local heritage.

During its 12 years of existence, La Société Historique sponsored summer projects, which enabled students to work, among other things, at collecting photos relating to the history of the region. Reproduced on slides, some of these photos were then used to mount exhibitions pertaining to bygone villages, sports, business and commerce. In the summer of 1986, researchers Martine Cantin and Guylaine Coulombe gathered testimonies of some of the area's pioneers. These were then published in the weekly *Le Nord*. In 2000, "Les Éditions Cantinales" published some of these testimonies in a book called *Témoins de notre Histoire*.

In 1990, a committee whose mandate was to find ways to preserve and renovate the Hearst railway station, was established. Despite the committee's tireless efforts and the backing of concerned citizens, the train station was demolished in September 1992. La Société Historique ceased operations shortly afterwards.

**Scope and content:** In addition to the records documenting the work and activities of La Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région, the fonds contains valuable historical information about the region. It includes 1146 slides, photos of the exhibitions, information about the communities in the area, documentation pertaining to the work of community organizations, and numerous records relevant to the efforts of the group who tried to save Hearst's train station. The fonds also contains documents relating to the foundation and the activities of the Hearst Chamber of Commerce, between 1953 and 1987.

The fonds contains three series:

Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région (SHH1);  
Projet pour sauvegarder la gare de Hearst (SHH2);  
Chambre de commerce de Hearst et de la Région (SHH3).

**Sources of information:**

1. Fonds Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région.
2. Danielle Coulombe, one of the founding members of La Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région.
3. *Témoins de notre Histoire*, Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région, Hearst, Les Éditions Cantinales, 2000, p. 9.

**Physical description:** The fonds consists of 15 boxes: one box of the exhibition photos, three boxes of slides and 11 boxes of textual documents. The fonds also contains three oversized documents. Slides, photos, as well as sound documents are available in digital format.

**Physical condition:** A few textual and photographic documents are damaged.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Le Centre d'archives de la Grande Zone argileuse acquired the fonds from Roland Chartrand, one of the founding members of La Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région, in 2012.

**Arrangement:** The documents, once acquired, were organized by the archivist. The photos have been classified and efforts were made to identify those that were not. Corrections were brought to some documents and photographs. Symbols in the indexes identify the modifications.

**Language:** The majority of the records are in French, some are in English.

**Originals and reproductions:** Slides and photographs have been digitized and, except for those who were too damaged, originals have been preserved.

**Availability of other formats:** Digital copies of the exhibition photos and slides exist. Some audio reels have also been transferred in digital format. The digitized material is not available online.

**Restriction on access:** Some sub-series and folders contain personal information and cannot be accessed as long as privacy laws apply.

**Terms governing use and reproduction:** Copyright Act applies. Reproduction permitted depending on the condition of the documents.

**Finding aids:** A research tool is available. Indexes are also available for slides, exhibition photos and sound recordings of Radio CINN's programme entitled "Un regard vers le Passé".

**Associated materials:** Several other fonds available at Le Centre d'archives de la Grande Zone argileuse.

**Accruals:** No further accruals expected.

**Descriptors:** Société Historique de Hearst et de la Région  
Projet de la gare  
Chambre de Commerce de Hearst et de la Région  
Témoins de notre Histoire  
Ontario, Nord de l'  
Bradlo, Ont.  
Coppell, Ont.  
Fryatt, Ont.  
Hallébourg, Ont.  
Hearst, Ont.

Jogues, Ont.  
Lac-Sainte-Thérèse, Ont.  
Mattice, Ont.  
Reesor, Ont.  
Ryland, Ont.  
St-Pie X, Ont.  
Strickland, Ont.  
Val Rita, Ont.

Last updated, June 2017.