

P111- Ernie Checkeris fonds
s.d; 1934-2000 (Predominant dates 1955-1980)
3.63 lm of textual records

Biographical sketch: Ernie Checkeris (1925 -) was born in Toronto, Ontario to Greek refugees. He attended public schools in Toronto until grade 12, when he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy to serve in World War II. Checkeris moved to Sudbury in 1945 where he was general manager and part-owner of Wahnapiatae Lumber Building Supplies. In 1945 he was elected a school trustee in Dryden Township, serving in this position for 55 years until his retirement in 2000, as of 2011 he was the longest serving school trustee in Ontario's history.

Ernie Checkeris has been highly influential in the field of education in Ontario, serving on numerous committees and councils in addition to his work as a trustee, perhaps most notably was his membership of the Ontario Provincial Committee of Aims and Objectives of Education in the Schools of Ontario which published *Living and Learning*, better known as the 1968 Hall-Dennis Report. Checkeris' involvement in education included addressing issues facing schools such as labour relations, special education, racism, and violence, with specific attention given to the concerns of Sudbury and the needs of Northern Ontario.

In recognition of his work in education Ernie Checkeris was made a lifetime member of the Ontario Public School Boards and the Canadian School Boards and received many awards acknowledging his accomplishments including the Order of Ontario in 2000, an honorary doctorate in canon law from Thornloe University in 2001, and the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2003. The Ernie Checkeris Public School, in Sudbury, was named after him in 1989 and the Thornloe Theatre was renamed "The Ernie Checkeris Theatre" in 2011.

In addition to his work in education Ernie Checkeris was active in his community. He was a supporter of the Junior Chambers of Commerce (Jaycees), Boy Scouts of Canada, and other youth organizations. Checkeris was also involved with Greek cultural organizations such as the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Community. A supporter of the arts, he attended Cambrian College where he studied pottery in 1980; his works include publicly displayed murals, as well as clay sculptures. Checkeris also published a collection his writings, *Thanks be to the Gods* (Long Lake: Teen Tree Pah Publishing) in 2001.

Scope and Content: This fonds attests to the role that Ernie Checkeris played in the growth of the Ontario education system, as well as his role in specific challenges and debates facing the system. The fonds contains published and unpublished reports, correspondence, newspaper clippings, books, transcripts of speeches relating to education in local, provincial, federal and global contexts. Additional material includes personal correspondence relating to Ernie Checkeris' activity in the community.

The fonds also informs us of the changes and evolution of the education system in Ontario throughout the period of Ernie Checkeris' trusteeship, with an emphasis on

the specific challenges that would face the schools of the Sudbury region. Of particular insight is the centrality of issues related to the delivery of French language education and the challenges of bi-lingualism in the school system of Ontario and the Sudbury region.

Specific documentation regarding education includes correspondence and unpublished notes regarding the 1968 Hall-Dennis Report, issues of multi-culturalism, bi-lingualism, and special needs education.

Note: :Immediate source of acquisition: The fonds was donated by Ernie Checkeris

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: Accruals: A first accrual was received in 1999 and a second in 2007
More accruals expected.

: Finding Aid: a preliminary list is available in the archives.

: Related material: The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation fonds (P021); fonds Jean-Louis Bourdeau (P092); fonds AFOCEC (P101); Fonds de la commission scolaire catholique [Région de Sudbury] (P112); Fonds du Conseil des écoles séparées catholiques romaines du district de Sudbury (P115) may contain complimentary information.