

**P029 Barbara M. Hanley fonds**  
**1936-1967**  
**1 scrapbook**

**Biographical sketch:** Barbara McCallum Hanley, the first woman Mayor in Canada, was born to Catharine Mitchell and Henry John Smith on March 2, 1882 in Magnetawan, Ontario. She worked as a public school teacher at Trout Creek, Emsdale and Chetwynd before teaching at Webbwood in 1909. On August 27, 1913 she married Joseph B. Hanley, a Locomotive Foreman for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The following year they adopted a daughter named Ella.

From the time that Hanley moved to Webbwood in 1909, she was involved in community activities in the town. In 1923, she was elected to the Webbwood School Board, and by 1935, Hanley was the first woman councillor. On January 6, 1936 she was elected as Mayor, when she ran against her male opponent, Robert E. Streich. In 1940, Hanley served on the executive of the Sudbury and District Municipal Association. Other positions that she held were: Chairman of the Relief Board, Member of the Resolutions Committee for the Provincial Board of Education, President of the Algoma Trustee and Ratepayers Association and Director of the Ontario Educational Association. In 1944, Hanley decided to step down as Mayor after serving for eight consecutive terms. She continued to work as the Clerk/Treasurer for Webbwood from 1946-1950. Barbara Hanley passed away on January 26, 1959 at the age of 76.

**Scope and content:** This fonds consists of one scrapbook that contains correspondence, telegrams, pictures, an article and newspaper clippings. The correspondence, telegrams and newspaper clippings are primarily related to the successful election results for Barbara Hanley. The pictures include two photos of Hanley and one group photograph. The article was written by Hanley with regard to the subject of civic responsibility, for a secondary school magazine. The newspaper clippings are from local and national papers.

**Note: Immediate source of acquisition:** These records were donated by Mrs. (Ella) Clifford Scutt, the daughter of Barbara Hanley, in August of 1967.

- : **Reproduction/publication:** The Copyright Act regulations apply
- : For more information on Hanley: Doyle, James. "Barbara M. Hanley: First Woman Mayor in Canada." *Ontario History*, Volume XXXIV, Number 2 (June 1992), p. 133-140
- : The records of this fonds are also important because no files can be found for her time in office following a fire. These documents that were saved by her daughter, relate to the public life of Barbara Hanley.