



University of Victoria Archives

AR478

Paul Phillips fonds

## **1. Fonds-level description**

### **Title**

Paul Phillips fonds

### **Dates**

1970-2006

### **Extent**

4 boxes, 16 audio cassettes

### **Biographical sketch**

Paul Gwyn Phillips was born 14 January 1933 in Cheltenham, Wales and grew up in Builth. Phillips's parents were market gardeners and also operated a small hotel. In 1958 he moved to Toronto, shortly thereafter to Vancouver, to London, England for a time, and then to the United States. Having become a banjoist and folk musician, Phillips performed at the Century 21 Exhibition in Seattle in 1962. During this time he also performed with Pete Seeger and Phil Ochs. After speaking at an anti-Vietnam War rally in Joliet, Indiana in 1967, he was arrested at his home in California by the FBI, charged with sedition, and forced to return to Canada. After living in Vancouver for a short while, Phillips moved to Victoria and in 1970 founded the Amor de Cosmos Food Cooperative. During the 1970s Phillips devoted much of his time to protecting heritage buildings and fighting new development in Fernwood. At various times he served as the director of the Fernwood Community Association and the Neighbourhood Improvement Program. In the 1980s he also helped to develop the Fernwood Solar Farm.

Phillips was married for a time in the 1960s to Cheryl \_\_\_\_\_, with whom he had one daughter, Olwen. He died 17 May 2012 at age 79. The main hall at the Fernwood Community Association is now called Paul Phillips Hall in his honour.

### **Scope and content**

Fonds consists of personal and organizational records collected by Paul Phillips over four decades of community activism in the Fernwood neighbourhood of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The records highlight his grassroots conception of democracy and the participatory, sustainable model of community life that he pursued through a range of organizations and causes.

## Notes

Acquired from Ben Isitt, March 2013.

Phillips loaned the first series – original minute books, correspondence and ephemera relating to the Springridge Neighbourhood Improvement Program – to Benjamin Isitt in 2008, with the stated intention of permanently housing the collection in the University of Victoria Archives. Following his death, the remaining documents were donated by his Estate and prepared for the University of Victoria Archives by Dr. Isitt and Patrick Craib. The audiovisual records were created by Phillips and Isitt in 2001 and 2006 and digitized with the assistance of the University of Victoria Archives.

## **2. Structure**

### **Series 1. Springridge Neighbourhood Improvement Program (SNIP). 1975-1978.**

The Springridge Neighbourhood Improvement Program records offer an original and rare window into the innovative policy-making environment nurtured by the federally-funded program of the 1970s.

### **Series 2. Fernwood Community Organizations. 1970-2006.**

Series highlights the evolution of these organizations and ongoing passions over the future of the neighbourhood. The series includes records relating to the Fernwood Facility Study of 2000-2001 and accompanying controversy and mobilization in the neighbourhood.

### **Series 3. Community Projects.**

Series highlights specific causes that Phillips pursued throughout his life, most notably food security through the Amor De Cosmos and Fed-Up co-operatives, as well as early endeavours in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency through the Fernwood Solar Farm and the Greater Victoria Hardware, Building and Fuel Supplies Co-operative Association. Ephemera relating to Fernwood and social activism in Victoria and beyond are included in the series, as well as a newspaper clipping file.

### **Series 4. Heritage Restoration and Community Real Estate.**

Series highlights Phillips' sustained focus on land and the transfer of property from private ownership to the community – exemplified by his experience with the acquisition of Little Fernwood Hall (1923 Fernwood Road) and the Community Centre, and later by residential properties on Mason, Balmoral and Camosun streets that he retrofitted for low-cost housing and, finally, bequeathed to the Spring Ridge/Fernwood Community Housing Trust. The series includes documents on the restoration of a heritage home at 1423 Fernwood Road, as well as a collection of policy manuals and other ephemera relating to heritage policy, City of Victoria land use and development procedures, youth internship grants, and other government mechanisms that Phillips leveraged in pursuit of his vision of community ownership of property.

### **Series 5. Paul Phillips Personal Files.**

Series includes Phillip's historical writings, research materials on land use in Fernwood and Victoria, political writings, and miscellaneous personal correspondence and notes.

### **Series 6. Audiovisual Material.**

Series consists of audiovisual material on the history and built environment of Fernwood and an interview with Paul Phillips from 2006. The video recordings, collected by Phillips and the Spring Ridge/Fernwood Heritage Group in 2001 and 2002, include an interview with Victoria Yip, a Chinese-Canadian woman who describes the early history of the Fernwood neighbourhood in the 1910s and the experience of the expulsion of Chinese-Canadian students from George Jay and Spring Ridge elementary schools in 1923. The series also includes video footage collected by Phillips on the topography and built environment of Fernwood and footage

following the restoration of Fernwood House at 1923 Fernwood Road, a community heritage project.

## **3. Inventory**

### **Accession 2013-013**

#### Series 1 – Springridge Neighbourhood Improvement Program (SNIP)

- 1.1 SNIP minutes and records, 1975-1978
- 1.2 SNIP minutes and records, 1976-1980
- 1.3 SNIP correspondence, 1975-1979
- 1.4 SNIP ephemera, [1975-1978]
- 1.5 SNIP newspaper clippings

#### Series 2 – Fernwood Community Organizations

- 2.1 Fernwood Community Association (FCA)
  - 2.1.1 1970s
  - 2.1.2 1980s
  - 2.1.3 1990s
  - 2.1.4 2000s
  - 2.1.5 Land Use Committee - ca 1990s-2001
  - 2.1.6 Springridge Commons
  - 2.1.7 Fernwood News
- 2.2 Fernwood Community Centre (FCC)
  - 2.2.1 Fernwood Community Centre Management Group/ Fernwood Community Centre Society - 1980s - General
  - 2.2.2 FCC - Founding
  - 2.2.3 FCC - 1990s - General [2 folders]
  - 2.2.4 FCC - 1990s Policy
  - 2.2.5 FCC - 1990s - Finances
  - 2.2.6 FCC - 1998 - Governance Dispute [3 folders]
  - 2.2.7 FCC - 1999 - Constitutional Reform
  - 2.2.8 FCC - 2000s
  - 2.2.9 Village Vibe
- 2.3 Fernwood Facility Study Dispute, 2000-2001 [2 folders]
- 2.4 Fernwood Healthy Community Coalition
- 2.5 FCA-FCC Merger Dispute, 2005-2006

#### Series 3 – Community Projects

- 3.1 Amor De Cosmos Food Co-op
- 3.2 Community Association Network
- 3.3 Community Mapping
- 3.4 Consumer Resource Service

- 3.5 Fed-Up Co-operative
- 3.6 Fernwood Community Market
- 3.7 Fernwood Neighbourhood Planning
- 3.8 Fernwood Solar Farm
- 3.9 Festivals in the Neighbourhood
- 3.10 Gardening / Spring Ridge Commons
- 3.11 Greater Victoria Hardware, Building and Fuel Supplies Co-operative Association
- 3.12 Greenways Grant - ca. 2000
- 3.13 House Savers
- 3.14 Municipal Politics
- 3.15 Peoples' Well Project
- 3.16 Queenright Cooperative Beekeepers Association
- 3.17 Seniors Advocacy
- 3.18 Spring Ridge Housing Co-op
- 3.19 Fernwood Ephemera
- 3.20 Social Activism Ephemera
- 3.21 Community Projects - Newspaper Clippings

#### Series 4 – Heritage Restoration and Community Real Estate

- 4.1 Spring Ridge/Fernwood Heritage Group
- 4.2 1872 Balmoral/1607 Camosun
- 4.3 1872 Balmoral/1607 Camosun - Heritage
- 4.4 1280 Balmoral
- 4.5 1423 Fernwood Road - Fernwood House
- 4.6 1423 Fernwood Road - Fernwood House - History
- 4.7 1923 Fernwood Road - Little Fernwood Hall
- 4.8 1149 Mason Street
- 4.9 Fernwood Heritage Information Boards
- 4.10 Parfitt Exhibit c. 2001
- 4.11 Heritage Restoration and Community Development Ephemera
- 4.12 Real estate files – 1970s
- 4.13 Real estate files - 2000s
- 4.14 Spring Ridge/Fernwood Community Housing Trust

#### Series 5 – Paul Philips Personal Files

- 5.1 Personal Correspondence
- 5.2 Historical writings
- 5.3 Spring Ridge/Fernwood Historical research
- 5.4 Political writings
- 5.5 Miscellaneous Notes

## Series 6 – Audiovisual Material

- 6.1 Interview with Paul Phillips, by Benjamin Isitt, April 2006 (Audio recording, 2 hours, 36 minutes)
- 6.2 Interview with Victoria Yip by Paul Phillips and Benjamin Isitt, February 2002 (Video recording, approx. 1 hour, 30 minutes)
- 6.3 The topography and built environment of the Fernwood neighbourhood, October 2001 (Video recording, approx. 2 hours)
- 6.4 Restoration of Fernwood House, 1423 Fernwood Road (Video recording, 1 hour)