

YOUR 1970 S.D.M.R.O. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Back Row (L to R): Mr. Laurie G. Branch, Executive Secretary
 Mr. Brian Wigglesworth, Secretary
 Miss Shannon Rowe, Treasurer
 Mr. Robert Christie, Second Vice-President
 Front Row (L to R): Mr. Thomas Riley, Past President
 Mr. Blayne Rennick, President
 Mr. Frank Burch, First Vice-President

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since this is our first 1970 issue of the Society Newsletter, on behalf of the Executive may I extend appreciation for the many letters and verbal comments of good wishes for our term of office. Our initial meetings indicate a challenging year in many areas, but progress to date in committee appointments, area liaison communication, and an attitude towards a program of action by each member of the Executive promises a successful year.

First Vice-President Frank Burch is endeavouring to further closer direct communication with all the Society's Committees as well as special appointments. The new role of the Second Vice-President Bob Christie (title formerly Member-at-Large) in co-ordinating liaison with various area recreation groups throughout the province provides a vital source of information to the Executive, and we hope in return to the groups in question. Initial release of the Amplifier of executive minutes to liaison chairmen has provoked both a further knowledge of our work, as well as widening the opportunity for members to react to our decisions. We ask that each member express their point of view regarding our work at any time, rather than waiting until the Annual Meeting in November.

In addition to his many duties as Secretary, Brian Wrigglesworth has acted as one of our Society representatives to further study a proposed Ontario Recreation Society; an up-to-date report should be available after their February 17th meeting. Past President Tom Riley has accepted certain specific duties, including the task of releasing information from the 1969 Personnel Report to the members prior to February 28, 1970.

At our 1969 annual meeting, a progressive step was taken in establishing separate positions of Executive Secretary and Registrar. However, Treasurer Shannon Rowe has expressed concern about our overall financial picture. The above change has added approximately \$2,000 to our budget; billing the province only for services rendered rather than accepting a government grant has reduced revenue; and \$1,800 was required to produce the up-to-date Pool Operators Manual. The \$3,000 reserve fund established by the 1968 and 1969 Executives should meet the initial problem in staff costs, and we anticipate the work of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee in promoting the sale of the Pool Operators Manual and other publications will allow us a return on monies necessarily spent to produce these studies. However, as a result of Shannon's budget proposals, it is absolutely necessary that all spending committees of the Society remain within their allocations during this fiscal year. As president I can assure the many Chairmen that those cut backs made in budget requests were absolutely necessary.

Although the executive of the past few years prepared for the added expense in 1970 by establishing the Reserve Fund, the fee

structure of our S.D.M.R.O. must be continually studied if revenue is required to carry out the aims and objectives of Society membership. Despite the fact it has been necessary to withstand these setbacks, it should be noted past Executives have always tried to keep funds available in order that any projects which benefit the Society were not cancelled or delayed and, for this reason, the S.D.M.R.O. has never been in a position where progress was completely hampered. We will strive to continue this policy with a special request to Executive members, Board of Regents, Standing, ad Hoc and Liaison Committees to develop a "hold the line" attitude in this fiscal year, wherever possible.

The following are some of the highlights of matters being discussed by the membership:

- A possible special or general meeting to discuss the O.R.S. situation and other vital matters, to be called only if deemed absolutely necessary.
- A "gathering" of all committee chairmen, or their representative, in conjunction with the O.M.R.A. Conferences to discuss work to date.
- Continued dialogue with the Ministers Study Committee on Recreation Services, with recommendations expected to be made in March of this year.
- Joint meeting with the Board of Regents to "air" matters of joint concern, including the problem of personnel or professional assessment and evaluation.
- Joint meeting with Youth and Recreation Branch senior personnel.
- Meeting with Minister of Education to discuss problems relating to our Society.
- Possible visit to area or zone meetings by an Executive member at least once in 1970.

In summation, may I urge all members of S.D.M.R.O. to assist the Executive in providing two-way communication in 1970 - we welcome your suggestions, participation and criticisms in developing our profession, let us hear from you !

Blayne C. Rennick,
President.

SOME THOUGHTS ON CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

Allan Argent,
Director of Training and Education.

The 1969 Annual Institute was a departure from previous institutes in two ways; it was one of the few times that the Society has used a resource person who was not directly connected with recreation (The Management of Time in 1963 was another), and it was one of the few institutes that has dealt with recreation in a philosophical manner. Both of these departures were deliberate.

Paul Goodman is a social critic who is respected throughout the Western World as a man who has spent his life studying social life, writing about social life and attempting to change social life. His concern has always been the quality of life in communities, and with education as it relates to the function of citizens in these communities. Are these not our goals as well ?

Recreation by its very nature is embedded in the fabric of community life. The philosophies of the recreation movement have always emphasized involvement and self-determination. We have not always been true to these philosophies and the unrest and violence in the cities of North America are the result of people demanding self-determination and involvement. Are we, because of our betrayal of these philosophies contributing to the alienation of people; confronting them rather than involving them ?

Perhaps not. Perhaps there is yet time to reconsider where we are going and how we are getting there. Dr. Goodman suggested that we are not as far down an irreversible path as is his country. And yet the seeds of the social scene as he described it in the United States are germinating in Canada.

Dr. Goodman described a social milieu where the predominate philosophy is social engineering. Social engineering means that people are processed and prepared to "play roles or fit into slots in the corporate enterprise". This philosophy has pervaded all facets of life; work, play, science, and education. All of these endeavours are done in prescribed ways, and at prescribed times, toward prescribed goals. This is the philosophy of social engineering.

And is recreation part of the same process ? Goodman says yes.

"If you have the notion that we have an increased amount of leisure time, then the problem is how do you fill the time in order that people don't get restive, and so that it is useful for the ongoing machine in society".

Now we may not agree that this is what recreation is all about, but we cannot deny that this is how most people view it.

The important fact about all this, Goodman says, is that this system is not only bad, but it doesn't work, "because it involves the exclusion of all spontaneous human resources and the question is whether the animal can work if you do that." Too much that is part of human nature is left out; anger, rebelliousness, love and loyalty, all these very human emotions render the social engineering process inefficient, so they are discarded.

"The fact is, determination, the will of an animal to do the thing which has come from his own strength, gets left out."

The failure of this process is most evident in education. Dr. Goodman cited studies that show conclusively that there is "no correlation whatever between school performance, college performance, and achievement in any profession whatever." Could this also apply to recreation education ?

He lists other social facts that point to the malfunction of the social engineering system. The increase of degenerative diseases which appears to be linked to the way we live; social rebellion, which is directed against existing social institutions; token performance, which is a realization that the jobs we do are not considered important; and vandalism, which indicates a disrespect for the "things" around us.

The result of all this has been inefficiency, simply because by ignoring social costs and concentrating upon unit production costs the system becomes costly. "You get inflation and lo and behold, now the unit cost is inefficient because you can't afford to make it with inflationary prices."

What has all this to do with recreation ? Within this social situation that Dr. Goodman described lies the challenge to the recreation profession. The challenge is spelled out precisely.

"We are in conditions which are profoundly dehumanizing and the problem really is how to rehumanize the situation and see to it that in order to man these collective enterprises, you must have living people."

In order to have men, many changes will be necessary. Education must recognize that play is the natural state of childhood and through play, and only through play, do children learn. "It's their way of being in the world." Play is our business. It is our insights and philosophies that must pervade education. "Nothing else makes sense," Goodman says. Schooling for adolescents must happen in real situations, not in academic ivory towers.

But even more important to us, the quality of life in neighbour-

hoods and communities must be enriched. Goodman sees our biggest challenge in the endeavour to produce citizens who have a patriotism to the neighbourhood in which they live. His reasoning here is profound !

"Under what conditions are cities governable ? When there are citizens. Under what conditions do you have citizens ? When you give citizens power."

What he means is quite clear. Centralization of power produces non-citizens. When people no longer have control over important parts of their lives the result is apathy and vandalism.

"There might be some advantages to some centralization, but I think that the even greater advantage is to increase local control. I'm not too happy about recreation being run by experts. I think the experts should act as catalysts in activities which are really being run by the participants and the participants should be all the citizens."

This is not new. This is the philosophy that is expressed in all texts on recreation. I think the wording goes something like this: People should be involved in the planning of recreation programs. Do we believe it ? Do we practice it ? More important, have we been trained to know how to do it ?

Goodman ended his speech on a philosophical note. What is the goal of the recreation movement ? To plan, provide, and educate for an era of increased leisure ? He thinks not.

"I don't think there will be increased leisure in the future - less time will be spent surely on manufacturing hardware, but then more time is going to be spent on necessary social activities. As things become more complex the number of social relations and the amount of services and social services will necessarily increase." Forget about leisure, he maintained, but, "be the guardians of humanization."

At the end of his address, he suggests a goal, an intellectual orientation that we should adopt.

"I think you should tie yourselves up with the conservation people, with some kinds of constitutional notion in your mind that, in order to have a natural scene at all, and in order to have human beings at all, there has to be a certain area in which intervention of the social engineering and processing attitude is not allowable, just as if it were in the Bill of Rights. That's the conservationist's attitude and I think that if you think in these terms, you'll get a bigger vision, and, I think, the only vision that is relevant to the kind of society we are really going to have."

In reading over Dr. Goodman's address, I was impressed with its

logical structure. It was all there, and beautifully organized. There is enough material in that one-hour speech; enough insights, and implications to be considered to fill a score of Institutes.

Recreation, of all professions, cannot ignore the social changes that are occurring all around us. Whether or not Dr. Goodman's assessment of our role in this changing society is valid is not the important factor. What is important is that we become "plugged in" to what is happening to the extent that we don't find ourselves so far out of focus that we become irrelevant, or worse, we find ourselves contributing to the malfunction of our society.

Personally, I find the idea of being a guardian or conservator of humanization a very noble ideal.

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

On January 15th, 1970, the Society Training and Education Committee was represented by Allan Argent at a meeting held in Waterloo to discuss the feasibility of inaugurating the Executive Development Program at the University of Waterloo.

At the meeting Dr. Griffith presented a tentative outline of the proposed program. The text of that report is included below. At this time all plans are tentative and no final decisions have been made. Your comments and suggestions would be appreciated.

Tentative Plans for Executive Development Program

WHAT

The Proposed EDP would include two resident periods of intensive course work designed for park and recreation executives. Courses, on a university level would be offered related to:

- Personnel Management
- Planning
- Research
- Finance
- Public Interpretations
- Areas and Facilities
- Current trends in recreation

WHERE

Campus of the University of Waterloo.

WHY

To assist recreation and park executives in the continuing development of their managerial skills.

WHEN	A) Two five-day sessions in residence plus continuing assignments. B) Two ten-day sessions in residence plus continuing assignments. During the period from May - August.
WHO	Enrollment limited to a maximum of 40 to insure maximum opportunity for individual participation with personnel in top management positions given priority.
SPONSORSHIP	University of Waterloo, hopefully in co-operation with a professional association.
TENTATIVE COSTS	A) Five-day sessions B) Ten-day session \$160 room and board 165 tuition \$325
UNIVERSITY APPROACH	The entire university, including the Department of Extension, the Department of Recreation, faculty members from the University of Waterloo and other Ontario universities would compose the instructional and administrative staff. Out-of-province personnel would also participate.
QUESTIONS UNANSWERED	A. Best time of year. B. Best year - 1970 or 1971. C. Co-sponsorship. D. Credit or non-credit basis.

1. N.O.R.D.A. RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Some concerns about the Society expressed by the members of N.O.R.D.A. came to the attention of the Executive in a letter from Archie Dillon. We feel the letter is important whether or not they were tossing beefs or bouquets, since the N.O.R.D.A. members were involved and talking about the Society. The following are some of the points raised :

- N.O.R.D.A. has a history of selling the Society as a "must" rather than an organization whose quality of services depend on the degree of involvement of its members.

- It was questioned whether surveys are effective if the results don't get back to the people in the field, and whether a Society survey report would be available to non-members.
- The value of O.R.S. was questioned. It was seen as just another organization to split membership. Allowing related recreation areas to join the society would be a better alternative, it was felt.

THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S AMPLIFIER

2. Delinquent Memberships

Several members are still delinquent in paying their dues for 1969-70. The executive would like to point out that if dues have not been received within one month after receipt of a letter from the executive secretary, membership privileges will be suspended and their names stricken from the registrar's list. Therefore, we sincerely request that those members affected clear up the matter as soon as possible.

3. Human Rights Code

The executive noticed in a recent advertisement for a Director of Recreation that the community requested a photograph accompany the application. This is against the Human Rights Code. The Human Rights Code will not allow an employer to ask religious preferences, pictures, country of origin etc. We would suggest that you might wish to obtain a copy of the code from Queen's Park, Toronto.

4. Suggested Legislation Gathering Dust

Following the Minister of Education's Conference on Recreation in 1966 suggested changes in legislation to increase Recreation grants on a per capita basis were presented to the Minister. We understand that this proposed legislation is still "gathering dust" on a deputy's desk. The executive will be writing the Prime Minister of Ontario hoping to encourage some action but to add weight to the cause we urge you to write to your local M.P.P. asking that the proposed changes in legislation affecting the municipal recreation grant structure, tabled in December 1967, be given new consideration.

5. Sports Clinics

Bob Secord, Director, Youth and Recreation Branch advised the Executive that any group wishing sports clinics should make their requests directly to the appropriate sports governing body. He also pointed out that budgets are established early by these groups, and that now is the time to apply.

6. School Board Advisory Committees

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from Dr. J. R. McCarthy, Deputy Minister of Education in reply to a letter sent by the executive regarding representation of municipal recreation authorities on school board advisory committees :

"As you are likely aware, it is very difficult to know where to stop once you begin to list the groups or organizations that should be represented on a committee, since such a list could virtually have no end. For this reason, we have left the appointment of four persons from the various communities of interest to the discretion of the board.

You may wish to suggest to the members of your Society that they make known to the Board of Education and to the Separate School Board in their respective areas their willingness to serve on a School Board Advisory Committee when it is established."

The Executive also suggests that Recreation Professionals contact their boards and express their desire to serve on such committees when they are established.

7. Bits and Pieces

The Chuck Griffith Study on recreation personnel is now complete and available through the Youth and Recreation Branch in Toronto.

Dennis McDonald of Centennial College (Scarborough) is presently studying the patterns of volunteer leadership in the Metro Toronto area. Results of the survey will be available to S.D.M.R.O. members.

Society Binders are being made available through the Membership Chairman, Gary Stoner, Barrie. The cost of the binder is \$3.00 plus 5% tax plus postage.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 4	Ontario Ringette Association Annual Meeting	Alliston
April 29, 30	Conference on High Density Living	MacDonald Building, Queen's Park
May 13 - 16	O.M.R.A. Conference	Sheraton Connaught, Hamilton
Sept. 13 - 17	Canadian Parks & Recreation Conference	Niagara Falls

Nov. 19 - 21

S.D.M.R.O. Institute

Geneva Park, Orillia

BETWEEN THE EDITORS AND YOU

The S.D.M.R.O. Newsletter is underway again for another year and We Need You ! Not only as readers but as reporters. Serving you means serving ourselves.

Articles on new programs, organizations, innovations put the meat on the bare bones of this newsletter. You can also do some bone building, by keeping us informed of staff changes in your operation. We like to know where you are, and who's with you.

We are presently considering two features for the Newsletter. A Sound Off column, a place for editorials from the members, and a Swap column.

Al Argent's article on Dr. Goodman's speech, we feel, is a good example of the type of material we would like to see in Sound Off, as was Bob Arnot's indictment last year "That what we have here is a failure to communicate". We will gladly consider printing any of your gripes or opinions in this section.

The Swap Column would be a vehicle for you to unload some equipment you no longer need or find something that someone else no longer needs but you do. This will be part of the newsletter only if we get some indication of interest from the members.

So, what about it ? Let's hear about your revolutionary new playground program, or your article entitled: "The Youth and Recreation Consultant Alive and Well and Living in Argentina", or your note that you have two four-year old typewriter ribbons for sale and you need a "welcome" mat for outside your office.

Items should be no more than four pages in length and mailed to :

Mr. Tom Rankin
Consultant - Youth and Recreation
Ontario Department of Education
759 Hyde Park Road
LONDON 73, Ontario

Issues are being planned for May, July, September and December. Deadlines for material are the 15th of the previous month.

Are you listening out there ?

Publications Available from the S.D.M.R.O.

Swimming Pool Management and Operation 1970 \$5.00

Believed to be one of the most extensive ever published, is an excellent reference text for pool operation, construction, programming, and maintenance. It is a must for all people involved in swimming pool operation.

Aquatic Survey 1969 \$1.00

An analysis of current staffing and programming in Ontario public pools, complete with salaries, levels of qualification, and pool and beach operating costs.

Standards for Ice Hockey Equipment \$1.50

This manual is the first of its kind and it is hoped that the information in this book will help reduce the number of injuries in ice hockey. Special quantity discounts.

Guidebook to Recreation Personnel Practices No charge

A report prepared by the Society, in an effort to provide guidance to employees in the Ontario Municipal Recreation field.

ORDER FORM

To: Public Relations Committee
S.D.M.R.O.
559 Jarvis Street
Toronto 5, Ontario

Please send _____ copies of _____

at _____ to : Name _____

Address _____

Make cheques payable to the Society and mail to the above address.

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S.D.M.R.O. Newsletter
759 Hyde Park Road,
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