

Activities Report of Georgetown Recreational Council

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...able, so that the interest of the parents generally might be merged with the aims and objectives of this overall community effort. It was hoped particularly that a good representation of this group of citizens would be on hand in order to obtain greater public support for a more ambitious programme.

Unfortunately very few fathers attended this gathering with the result that the main objective of the occasion was defeated. However, approximately 140 boys with G.R.C. members acting as foster fathers crowded into the hall and listened to a representative from the Maple Leaf Hockey Club—Gus Bodnar—outline some of the fine points of Canada's national game. Championship crests and trophies were presented to the winners of the Bantam and Industrial Softball leagues, and medals to the winners of the Track and Field Meet. In addition a buffet supper was served during the evening.

Each father and G.R.C. member present paid 75c towards the cost of this activity, but the cost of the meal for the boys—the rental for the hall and the advertising expense was carried entirely by the G.R.C.

Social Dance
Late in October the Georgetown Lions Club and the G.R.C. jointly sponsored the Lightbulb Debonaires Orchestra (Cy McLean) for an adult dance in the Rose Room of the Arena. The public response to this event was very encouraging, as a capacity crowd of 367 filled the dance floor. The Board of Parks Management donated the use of the Rose Room and the Lions Club turned their share of the receipts toward the work of the G.R.C.

Apprentice Productions
This group of drama enthusiasts under the capable leadership of Mr. Jack Thompson made arrangements with the G.R.C. to produce two

plays during the season. It was agreed that 50 per cent of the expenses be shared by each organization and the net receipt divided equally. In this connection it may be added that Apprentice Productions turned over 60 per cent of the net receipt of the first play in order to further assist the G.R.C.

The first play, *The Last Review*—was presented on December 5th to a record crowd in the Old Town Hall. It must be borne in mind that the production of this review was a most difficult undertaking at the time. No major repairs had been made to the Old Town Hall; there was no heating equipment, no toilet or running water, the electric wiring was in a dangerous condition; there were no stage sets or properties, no footlights, no curtain and no chairs for an audience to sit on.

Despite all these handicaps, a curtain was made by the ladies, temporary footlights were installed, stage sets built, properties borrowed, and through the kindness of the local churches over 300 chairs were obtained. The G.R.C. managed to purchase two second hand circulating stoves at a cost of \$55.00, and these gave the hall a semblance of warmth. The spirit of this group was excellent and they rendered a splendid first performance.

Immediately after Christmas the group went into rehearsals for their second effort and despite the cold and very limited facilities produced a good three act comedy which ran for two nights in April. The G.R.C. and Apprentice Productions divided the net receipts 50-50 for this second effort.

Junior Art Classes
Saturday Morning Art Classes were inaugurated late in the Fall and commenced with an enrolment of 27 boys and girls. This was an experimental group drawn from Grade 7 at the Public School. It was started in this manner in order

to test the very limited facilities which the G.R.C. had at their disposal. Progress was very satisfactory and the young students showed remarkable ability and enthusiasm in the initial stages of the work. Due to the cold of the Town Hall the classes were transferred to the Public School and continued there during the winter months. Late in April when the weather moderated the class was again moved back to the Hall.

A good deal of worthwhile work was produced and it is hoped to include this in an exhibition which will be held when this class and others are reformed. Classes were not started in the fall of 1947 due to the reconstruction work and the uncertainty of heat in the Hall, but it is hoped that classes may be started as soon as possible.

All art supplies, such as water colours, tempera, paint brushes, art paper and pads, pencils and crayons, etc., were supplied to each pupil free of charge by the G.R.C.

Men's Bridge Club
In mid-September a number of men in town approached the Director with a view to organizing a Men's Bridge Club, which might operate during the winter months at the Old Town Hall. This suggestion met with the approval of the G.R.C. and notices publicizing this event were inserted in the local paper. Results of the first bridge session were encouraging when 4 or 5 tables were in frequent use. However, late in November the cold at the Hall became unbearable for this type of recreation and it was disbanded until other facilities were available. This activity has not been reformed due to the fact that the Town Hall will be warm enough to carry on throughout the winter months.

Senior Girls' Club
On parallel lines with the Men's Bridge Club, a Girls' Club was formed which took in the older girls of the High School, working girls and especially those who boarded in town and who were anxious to participate in some form of organized recreational activity in congenial surroundings. For this group the G.R.C. managed to secure badminton equipment, cribbage board, and various types of games at which they might pass an amusing evening. This group eventually numbered 40 girls, but it too had to be disbanded before Christmas due to cold.

Junior Girls' Club
Similarly the Junior Girls' Club was formed for the younger girls of the high school and Grade 8 of the Public School. This group met occasionally in the evening, but most of their activities took place after school hours. The cold also closed off this activity as it was found that despite the active games in which the girls participated, it was impossible to have enjoyable recreation in a frigid room. When this group ceased there were about 65 girls in attendance.

Teen Age and Junior Gymnastic Class

At the request of a number of teen-agers, a mixed gymnastic class was formed and held its activities in the Armouries at the Park. This group grew from 10 or 12 initially to a membership of over 35. At that time the Lorne Scots Regiment had consented for the G.R.C. to utilize the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening and it was hoped at the time to enlarge this group so that it would take in basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, a larger group in badminton in addition to boxing and wrestling. However, early in the New Year the G.R.C. was advised by the officer commanding the local company that the Armouries was to be utilized by the Dept. of National Defence as a winter storage compound for Army vehicles and could not be used by the G.R.C. for the remainder of the season. The gymnastic class was then moved back to the Old Town Hall but only lasted a very short time due to the lack of heat. This was but another of the G.R.C. efforts which had to be shelved due to conditions beyond their control.

Hockey Cushion Construction
Realizing that the Board of Parks Management were allowing as much time as was available for the bantam, midget and juvenile hockey, the G.R.C. planned the construction of an outdoor rink facing the Drill Hall at the park. The Municipal Council was approached for the purpose of sanctioning the purchase of the necessary lumber and this request was granted at an expenditure of \$152.00. Members of the G.R.C. under the supervision of Mr. Bruce Mackenzie devoted several evenings of the week and a number of Sundays to construct and erect this cushion. The Georgetown Volunteer Fire Brigade very kindly flooded the area. Unfortunately a mild January set in and it was found impossible to obtain a satisfactory ice surface, so that the hockey cushion was not utilized. The side boards were constructed in such a manner to permit easy transportation and erection on a more suitable site and it is hoped that this will be accomplished in the next

season.

Hockey
The big sports programme of the G.R.C. is undoubtedly hockey. After a registration period, the Council found themselves with 89 bantams, 65 midgets and several juvenile teams. Schedules were drawn up under the chairmanship of Mr. Alf Sykes and each Saturday morning and several evenings each week during the hockey season, these teams played through to their final games. In the juvenile group an All-Star team was entered in the O.M.H.A. and was outfitted in so far as sweaters, stockings, sticks, etc., by the G.R.C. The team was successful in eliminating Millburg, Acton and lost a sudden death game to a strong team from Hespeler. Also two girls' hockey teams were formed and they played several exhibition games in the Arena.

Teen Town
Teen Town which held its opening dance session on July 7th, 1946, had developed into rather a sizeable organization by the end of the year. In November they held their first Sadie Hawkins dance with a record crowd of 267 teen-agers. These special nights were followed with almost equal success by a Christmas Party, a New Year's Night Dance, Valentine's, St. Patrick, Easter and Spring parties. In all 41 dance sessions were held with an average attendance of between 150 - 200 teen-agers. At times the dances were cold, grim affairs and on several occasions the Director, nearby neighbours and parents of various teen-agers supplied coal for the fires when the town coal bin was exhausted.

During the early part of the year it was found that a good proportion of the teen-agers wished to engage in group games in addition to the regular Friday night dances. Also the rental of the amplifying system had been increased from \$5.00 to \$8.00 and finally \$10.00 per evening, and it was felt that this was too expensive a proposition. A meeting was arranged between the Teen Town Council and G.R.C. and it was agreed that the G.R.C. should take over the collection at Teen Town Hall, and would in turn purchase an up-to-date amplifying system and recorder, records, games, and such other equipment as would be required from time to time. Teen Town Council donated the sum of \$150.00 towards this expenditure and an amplifying system to the amount of \$285.00 was purchased immediately. Also an additional amount of \$20.00 was spent on new recordings and various types of games were purchased to the amount of \$65.00. The programme on Friday nights was also varied so that there was a games session twice monthly.

Radio Programme
Early in the spring Willard's Ontario Panorama programme was broadcast from the Old Town Hall over station CFRB when a number of prominent citizens including the mayor broadcast from this paper-making town. A cheque from Willard's Chocolate Company Ltd., was turned over by the Lions Club to the G.R.C. for use in its work.

Board of Trade Town Planning
Early in May the Georgetown Board of Trade held a Town Planning meeting in the Old Town Hall at which prominent planning experts were present and pointed out many of the advantages of a planning programme for small towns and how closely this was allied with the recreational activities of a progressive community.

First Motorcycle Meet
A very happy relationship was developed between the Toronto Motorcycle Club and the G.R.C. when a motorcycle meet was held on the 24th of May at Georgetown Park by these two organizations. This event had high entertainment value and one of the largest crowds on record gathered at the Park on that occasion. The financial arrangement with the Toronto Motorcycle Club was 50 per cent of the expenses and a cut of 50 per cent of the net proceeds. The share received by the G.R.C. was over \$400.00 and this amount placed the G.R.C. on a firmer financial footing than it had experienced thus far.

Baseball
In the spring the bantam and industrial softball leagues were again organized and played a schedule throughout the summer months. The midget baseball which had also been launched had to be abandoned due to the lack of playing facilities. It was found that the majority of boys in this age group worked during the summer and it was impossible to schedule games for them in the morning or afternoon. As the intermediates and juvenile teams needed the diamond for league games in the evening and also their practice periods, there wasn't time enough for the midget group. The juvenile team was entered in the O.B.A. and played a double schedule. The G.R.C. purchased complete uniforms to the amount of \$165.00 and in addition purchased over \$100. worth of playing equipment. Transportation was also a problem, so that arrangements were made to transport the team by bus for their six out-of-town games at a cost of \$30.00. It was also necessary to pay the umpire \$4.00 for

each home game and this amounted to \$24.00. With a total gate of less than \$50.00 it can readily be realized what it cost to sponsor juvenile baseball in Georgetown.

Community Picnic
In July the G.R.C. organized a community picnic which was held in Stanley Park, Erin. This picnic was entirely free to all the young people of the town—adults were also welcome provided they could furnish their own transportation. The merchants of the town were most generous in donating prizes for the various events and a grand afternoon and evening of sports, games and baseball was enjoyed by nearly 200 young people and some 40 adults. The cost of renting the Park, pop and ice cream cones together with rental of two buses and two trucks was borne by the G.R.C.

Repairs to the Old Town Hall
When setting the 1947 Budget the Municipal Council budgeted the sum of \$2000.00 to be spent on major repairs to the Old Town Hall. The main repair work of reglazing the windows, caulking the brick work, re-roofing the tower room and installing space for the dual toilets was given to J. R. Mackenzie and Son and this work was started during the summer months. During this period it was impossible to hold any organized activity in the hall. This work extended over the summer months and late into the Fall making it extremely difficult to carry out various plans which had been planned earlier in the year. The cost incurred for this work is not known by the G.R.C. but it is understood that the original estimate was in the vicinity of \$800. In addition to this amount \$250.00 was spent on re-wiring the hall. Also \$350.00 of the balance of the \$2000.00 was granted by the Municipal Council for the purchase of an oil heater. Apart from these expenditures which were made by the town council the G.R.C. purchased a 1000 gal. oil drum, paid \$18.00 for excavating labor and undertook the installation of the furnace at an additional cost of approx. \$288. The Lions Club also undertook the installation of the dual toilets at an additional cost of \$400. These toilets are now complete except for a tile drain from the septic tank, an item which the G.R.C. cannot afford at this time. Although the major part of the work is completed all this renovated area is badly in need of decoration. However, after two years it looks as though our Director will at last have an office to centralize his work.

Purchase of War Asset Equipment
Through the efforts of the Director and the generosity of one citizen who guaranteed one-third of the purchase price, 25 folding tables, and 90 folding benches were purchased by the G.R.C. for the sum of \$200.00 plus freight charges. This purchase permitted the G.R.C. to provide work tables for various groups and seating accommodation after a fashion for approx. 300 people. It was found, however, later this year that it was difficult to ask an audience to sit on benches for a period of time and still maintain their interest, so it was decided to endeavour to locate chairs at a reasonable price. Again the Director approached War Assets and was successful in obtaining sturdy built folding chairs at \$2.00 each. The sum of \$400. was spent on this new equipment for the town hall.

Halton County Championships
After the successful minor Track Meet held in August '46 it was decided to extend this meet so that it would become known as the Annual Halton County Championships. Jointly with the Glendale Athletic Club of Toronto the G.R.C. held this meet last September with a staggering entry of over 400 competitors from some of the best athletic clubs in Canada and the USA. The meet was officially recognized by the C.A.A.U. and any record established would be official. It is of interest to know that the Canadian 16-lb. Shot Put record was shattered at this meet in Georgetown Park. Winners of events were given gold medals for first place, silver for second and bronze for third, and cups and shields were given for the relay and tug-of-war teams. The G.R.C. had a special die cast for the medals, which incorporated the crest adopted by them and also another special die which marked the medal as a Halton County Championship. These dies alone cost the G.R.C. over \$65.00. The main feature of the meet, the 30-mile relay for the International Silver trophy was won by the famous Hamilton Olympic Club. The High School Championship was won by Burlington High School and the Public School championship was won by Georgetown Public School. It is hoped by the G.R.C. that this will continue to be an annual event for Halton County.

Also in this phase of sport the Director gave his assistance to Georgetown High School and Public School Tri-School Meets which were held in Georgetown this year.

Membership
The G.R.C. decided that there would be three classes of membership within the organization. A Junior membership costing 25c per annum would entitle the member to

participate in all programme activities of the G.R.C. in the age group of under 13 years. Teen-age membership of \$1.00 per annum for those 13 years and under 20 years would entitle members to all G.R.C. activities on the regular program. A Senior Membership of \$3.00 per annum was set for all adults who wished to participate in the various adult activities. Membership in this field were not sold this year due to the indefinite conditions which existed at the Old Town Hall.

Summary, 1948 Programing to Date
Teen Town continued to operate during the winter months, but due to the poor results obtained from the new heating unit, it was difficult to maintain the same enthusiasm amongst the young people. There was a definite feeling amongst them that someone was letting them down. However, they had many successful parties and a meeting held only last week it was decided that they would reorganize their Council and assume more responsibility for the development of this programme.

The 1947-48 hockey programme was one of the most successful yet attempted by the G.R.C. Five teams operated in the bantam group; four teams in the midget series and four sponsored by local merchants. In addition to this one merchant operated an All-Star juvenile entry in the O.M.H.A. and the G.R.C. also entered a second team in the O.M.H.A. playdowns. A total of 68 league games were played in the Arena and the G.R.C. are exceedingly grateful for the splendid cooperation they received from the Board of Parks Management. In addition to the regular league games the G.R.C. was host to the Central Ontario Recreational Zone Hockey tournament on two successive Saturdays in the Bantam and Midget groups. A total of 15 teams representing various towns in Ontario participated in these tournaments.

Under very unfavourable conditions at the Town Hall Apprentice Productions produced a modern 3-act comedy 'While the Sun Shines' and played for two consecutive nights to audiences who were compelled to keep themselves well wrapped up during the performance. Later in the spring this group repeated this performance in Acton to a larger audience.

Several members of the Lorne Scots Band approached the G.R.C. with a view to reorganizing the Boys' Band in Georgetown. The G.R.C. were assured that there were ample instruments available and the cost would be very small as the leader of the Lorne Scots band had kindly consented to donate his services free of charge.

With this assurance the G.R.C. agreed to this proposal but were surprised to read in the local paper that the Boy's Band was open for membership. At that it was presumed by the G.R.C. that the instruments had been rounded up and that the band was ready to start. However, it was found that when the 60 odd boys had registered there were scarcely a half dozen instruments available and the G.R.C. were advised that the others could not be located. From this it was obvious that a selling campaign would have to be inaugurated to interest the parents of the boys in purchasing their own instruments. It became very evident that most parents did not desire to invest a large sum of money in an instrument which may or may not be used by their boy. For this reason the Boys' Band has not been successful to date. Efforts are now being made to locate a group of band instruments which might be loaned or rented until the present boys get on their band feet.

As the weather moderated it was felt that certain adult groups might be formed in the spring and that their organization would be set and ready for the fall and winter programme. Two groups in this field have been formed. One, the adult music appreciation group which will cater to those interested in better music—the second, a parent education group which will study the behaviour and problems of children of all ages. Both of these groups have had enthusiastic organizational meetings.

On the 24th of May the G.R.C. again sponsored the Motorcycle Race meet at the park to another capacity crowd. The financial arrangements were the same as last year and the net proceeds were again over \$400.00.

Softball and baseball are already organized and the teams are awaiting the opening games. This year a Senior girls team has been entered in the Central Ontario Ladies Softball League and it is anticipated that some lively ball games will be seen by the girls at the Park this summer. The G.R.C. is having difficulty at this time in preparing a suitable diamond for these games but it is hoped to have this matter settled within a few days.

For many years lacrosse has not been played in Georgetown, and an effort is being made to prepare the Lions Club property for a Box Lac Cushion. This will also provide an excellent foundation for an outdoor rink next winter.

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