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COMMUNITY CENTRES AND THEIR LEADERSHIP  
A STUDY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

by

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to describe community centres in British Columbia and to evaluate them, particularly in relation to leadership.

What appears to the author as the best of current thought on the purposes and leadership of community centres is set forth. On the basis of this criteria for the evaluation of community centres are evolved. Twenty nine community centres in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, concerning which information was available, are described. Finally, the community centre developments, so described, are evaluated in terms of the criteria.

In outlining the standards, by which it is proposed that the community centres described should be judged, reference is made to the origins of community centres. Their growth is attributed to the leisure-time needs arising out of urbanization and industrialization. The principal developments in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada are outlined. There has evolved the conception of the community centre as an institution which enables a feeling of unity and democratic expression for the community.

If such ends are to be served, the planning for the community centre must be done in consultation with other organizations of the community. For this purpose a co-ordinating,

planning council must be organized. Such a council should become a permanent part of a community, for the pooling of resources can meet other needs. The Community Centre must be related to such a group.

Buildings are a means to an end and efforts should be made not only to provide new ones but to adapt existing ones to serve the objectives of the centre.

Program and the organization of the membership of the centre must serve the primary objectives of meeting human needs and establishing such a pattern of social relationships as will make possible the growth of individuals as social beings.

Effective leadership can be provided only by those who understand these things. Training must equip leaders with a knowledge of community life, an understanding of human needs and behaviour, recreational, supervisory, administrative and other skills. Professional leadership, so trained and equipped, is essential.

The description of the twenty-nine community centres is prefaced by an outline of the work of several public and private provincial agencies. The community centres of eight districts of the City of Vancouver are described. There follow three important centres in municipalities adjoining Vancouver. Developments in seventeen other communities of the Province are then outlined.

In evaluating developments, it is pointed out that

requests for help addressed to provincial agencies clearly indicate a widespread need for more recreational programs and activities. The fact that many communities are organizing to meet their own needs suggests they see in the community centre a desirable agency for their community.

The developments in the various communities and their relationship to the presence or lack of leaders are outlined. Few of the areas within the scope of the study have the services of trained leaders. The capacities and limitations of these leaders are reflected in the constitution and functioning, the successes and failures of their several centres.

The relationship between the value of the leadership and its financial cost is pointed out. For smaller communities it is suggested that more extensive use of trained leadership would be possible if costs and services were shared. More trained leadership at the provincial level would accelerate community centre developments throughout the province.

# Community Centres and Their Leadership

## A Study of British Columbia

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Community Centres and Their Leadership

A Study of British Columbia

Part I

The Community Centre -

A Nascent Institution

## Chapter One - Origins

### Social Conditions and Needs

"Our inability to provide at once the appropriate structure for our civilization should be no cause for permanent discouragement. Most of the forces that work benignly toward the cooperation and communion of peoples are young; most of the forces that work against such intercourse are old and deeply ingrained in institutional habits and in organization."

Such a statement might well be illustrated by a study of the growth and development of community centres. This growth has been a sporadic one, and it appears to have been most rapid when democracy is threatened. During the first and second great war periods and during the present post-war period, there has been a widely expressed desire on the part of communities themselves for the establishment of community centres. Since we live in an age of materialism, this desire usually results in activity directed toward the erection of a building, which will serve as a meeting place for the members of the community. There is rarely sufficient formulation of the purposes of such a centre and no articulate realization that the erection of the building is but a means to an end.

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1. Lewis Mumford, Culture of Cities, Harcourt, Brace & Co., N.Y., 1938, P. 352

There are several conditions which have contributed to the demand for community centres. The industrialization and urbanization of large sections of the population has resulted in an increase in leisure time. The need for learning recreational skills and creative expression became widespread. These conditions were highlighted and accentuated by the depression and war years, when the needs of youth became obvious and acute.

It is now an established fact that in his leisure time the individual seeks certain satisfactions. They include self-expression, fellowship, the joy of creation, new experiences, the sense of achievement, a feeling of physical well-being, the use of mental powers, the enjoyment of beauty, the rendering of service and relaxation.

The shock of the recent war period forced people of democratic countries to take stock of their society. The necessity for mobilization of resources during the war and the threat to a way of life forced communities to create new organizations whereby their needs might be met. The tasks were commonplace ones: the collection of aluminum, the recruiting of volunteers to release personnel for more essential services, the collection of supplies and their preparation for the Red Cross, the work of air raid wardens. All of these contributed to a more widespread awareness of the broader community, in which each person and family lived. In these activities people found satisfaction and confidence. Democracy became alive and meaningful. Old patterns of isolation and competition

were forgotten and organizations sought ways of working together for the common objectives.

"The central purpose of a positive freedom -- seeks to organize opportunities, which harmonize the individual and the social purpose. It is thus seeking to create the environment in which the emerging of an integrated personality becomes possible for a mass of the citizens."<sup>1</sup>

On this basis permanent methods for democratic, free and co-operative living have to be worked out. Agencies which bring people together, which recognize that the welfare of the whole is dependent on the integration of its social units, have to be created. At present our society is highly specialized, and there are many organizations in each community which are concerned with a particular interest or subject. There is need for these to be integrated, so that problems and needs common to all may be dealt with.

A community has been described as a group of people living near to one another who, because they have developed a sense of unity, are carrying on certain activities together. Such a sense of unity is demonstrated in times of physical or emotional stress. When it is active, there is participation, co-operation and concern for the welfare of the community by its members. Recognition that such participation in community life brings satisfaction to the individuals concerned, and hastens the solving of problems and the meeting of needs, has

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1. Harold Laski, Reflections on the Revolution of Our Times  
Viking Press, N.Y. 1943. P. 408

made many communities anxious that organizations and facilities be created that will foster the sense of unity on a permanent basis.

### The Development of Organizations

Many new agencies have been created and many older organizations have adapted their facilities to meet the need for recreation. The governments of the United States, Great Britain and Canada have created agencies to meet them. In the United States public recreation has developed at all three levels of government. The Federal Government has established and maintains such agencies as the National Parks Service, the U.S. Forest Service and from 1933 to 1939, through the Leisure Time Division of the Works Program Administration, gave recreational leadership on a national level.

States have been concerned with the development of parks and playgrounds. Departments of education and agriculture have given leadership in rural areas and have sponsored recreational and educational projects. At the municipal level, park, recreation and school departments, libraries, museums and art galleries provide recreational programs of diverse sorts.

In Canada and Great Britain similar services are operated. In Britain the National Physical Education Act of 1944 requires local school authorities to provide physical education programs to supplement the school programs, provides financial assistance for youth service programs and for voluntary

organizations. In Canada, the Federal Government, in addition to its National Parks Service, has established such agencies as the National Film Board, the National Museum and Art Gallery. A system of grants was established to assist provincial governments in providing physical recreation. The development of this has depended on the initiative of the provincial governments in taking advantage of the scheme. The federal government has also offered grants to assist provincial schemes designed as youth training projects. These were discontinued during the war, but have since been resumed and are planned by provincial agencies to give rural youth educational and recreational skills, which can be used to advantage in their local communities.

Private agencies were active long before the public agencies and, as their services became public concerns, went on to plan ways of meeting other needs. The settlement movement was active in all three countries and conducted successful experiments in the field of creative recreation. The Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. and the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements and many others planned ways of meeting the recreational needs of youth. As recreational services became more common and available, these agencies began to experiment in the field of "character education".

It has been as a result of this experimentation that methods for meeting the need for democratic expression and planning on a community basis, have been evolved. In all of the three countries, used as examples above, settlement houses,

established in the heavily populated areas of large cities, experimented with ways of creating neighborhood centres, where a community spirit could be expressed and where recreational and educational needs could be met. In Canada and the United States Y.W.C.A.'s and Y.M.C.A.'s on a national level recognized the need and demand for community-centred recreation, and in communities, where there was an expressed desire for it, they recommended decentralization to the local agencies. Councils of Social Agencies, through the establishment of group work sections, gave leadership in helping both private and public agencies to plan cooperatively. In Canada the Canadian Social Welfare Council began to serve as a resource and planning agency on a national level. The Adult Education Association and the Canadian Council of Education for Citizenship, through their publications and conferences both on a national and a provincial basis, gave guidance and leadership to communities with recreational and educational problems.

In England the private agencies organized the National Council of Social Agencies in 1919 for the purpose of promoting community activities of a recreational and social nature. By 1939 this Council was engaged actively in promoting the establishment of community centres. In this endeavour it had the aid of both government and Carnegie grants. Through its leadership there developed a well rounded conception of a community centre. This conception placed the responsibility for the management of the centre on the community, and to serve this purpose community associations developed. In 1945 the Government

recognized the place of such centres in the social life of communities and passed legislation setting up a system of grants to facilitate their development, to be administered by the Board of Education and the housing authorities.

Definite standards were formulated. Financial responsibility for the maintenance of the centre is placed in the hands of the local authority, on which the membership of the centre is represented, while the management of the centre is left largely to those who use it. Professional staff is declared to be essential if the centre is to become a permanent part of the community, and recommendations regarding the nature and qualifications of this staff have been formulated. Recommendations are also made regarding the procedures for setting up centres. These emphasize the importance of consultations and joint planning with other organizations of the community, the need for surveying the area to be served, the type of facilities most practical, methods of financing the centre, and the place of youth groups in a community centre.

The Canadian and American Governments have also experimented in the field of community centres. In Canada definite steps were taken to encourage their development, through the establishment of Wartime Housing Limited. This project included the appointment of a national director and a staff of Community Counsellors who were concerned with the development of good tenant relationships. Community centres were developed as a part of the program in many wartime housing areas. In the United States during the depression era the National Housing

Administration established community centres in a number of its housing projects. The Wartime Housing Administration continued to experiment. In both countries these programs were discontinued after the war.

Even more important in the United States during the war period were the developments in the field of community organization. Both on a national scale, through the experiences of the United Services Organization, and locally, under the leadership of the Office of Civilian Defence, communities were drawn together for the purposes of defence and the mobilization of resources to meet material and recreational needs. However, in contrast to England, where these developments and plans resulted in permanent legislation for the establishment of community centres and for the encouragement of community organization, in Canada and the United States they were emergency measures and no permanent structure has been created at the national level.

## Chapter Two - Characteristics

### Definition and Objectives

As a result of these experiments the conception has emerged that a community centre is a means of meeting the recreational needs of a community and is an organ through which a community can gain unity and democratic expression. The British Ministry of Education have adopted the conception evolved by the National Council of Social Service. The Community Centres<sup>1</sup> "exist so that neighbors can come together on an equal footing to enjoy social, recreative and educational opportunities either as members of groups following particular habits and pursuits or on the basis of their common needs and interests as human beings in the same locality." Their aim is defined as "the fostering of a sense of community through the service of the social and cultural needs of a neighborhood".

Steiner, an American authority, defines a community centre as<sup>2</sup> "a place where people living nearby can come together to participate in social, recreational and cultural activities and build up a democratic organization that will minister to the needs of the community". If these two definitions are combined the function of a community centre for the purpose of this study may be defined as:

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1. H.M. Stationery Office, London "Community Centres" (1945) p. 6
  2. Jesse Steiner "Community Centres" Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences. Edited by E.R.A. Seligman, The MacMillan Co., New York, 1931. Vol. 4. P. 105.

1. To provide a place where neighbors can come together on an equal footing to participate in social, recreational and cultural activities.
2. To foster a sense of community by the creation of a democratic organization through which the social and cultural needs of a community can be met.
3. To stimulate interest in and to provide facilities for the wise and enjoyable use of leisure.

There can be no blueprint or set of rules through which a community centre can reach these objectives, for a centre takes form and character from the community it serves. However, there are certain principles or elements which must be present or it will fail in its objectives and become just another organization serving a select group of people.

### Joint Planning

Planning for a community centre must be done on a co-operative basis in consultation with the other organizations of a community. By this method real knowledge of the needs of the community and of the facilities already in existence for meeting them can be obtained. <sup>1</sup> "In our complex society where the very spirit of democratic freedom in thought and action naturally leads to the development of many specialized programs, it is recognized that an overall point of view is necessary in planning for the total program of community services". Since human needs are constantly changing and new

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1. Violet Sieder, Overall Planning, Canadian Welfare, Canadian Welfare Council, Ottawa, Canada, Vol. XXII, No. 3 (P. 3)

ways of meeting them are being evolved, it is necessary that a community centre be always related to such a planning group or council. Such an organization, made up of representatives of the organizations and the educational and social agencies of a community, will be able to work towards the co-ordination of services and programs, to eliminate duplication, to publicize the needs and resources of the community and to discuss problems that concern all. Planning done by such groups has also the advantage of gaining from the practical experience of those who know the community in a specialized way and in that larger numbers in the community will have an understanding of new projects and a concern for their success. Finally, participation in such a council and its projects will enable members to become "community minded" rather than "organization minded", to learn to plan on a co-operative basis rather than on a competitive one and to learn that the welfare of each section or part of the community is dependent on the welfare of the total community.

### Building

This principle is basic both in the planning of the community centre buildings and in the planning of its program. If people are to live co-operatively and democratically they must have facilities of equal access to all for meeting together, planning together and doing together. It does not follow, however, that a new building must be erected in every

community. In many if not all communities buildings exist which could be adapted for this purpose. The wide use in the United States and in Britain of school buildings and the increasing opinion that these structures if properly planned are ideally designed for community centre purposes, indicates that good planning may prevent the erection of extra buildings, while others go unoccupied during a large part of the day. Such planning involves the co-operation of all. A survey of the community should be conducted so that needs can be determined and the potential use of existing facilities studied. Finally, the location of the centre and its construction require specialized knowledge and specialists should be consulted.

### The Program

The creation of program also requires joint planning. The program of a community centre is dependent on the needs of the members of the community and of the resources already in existence for meeting them. The centre is only one means of providing recreation. The home, the church, the school and various kinds of organizations provide different experiences for various individuals. It may well be that certain needs can be met by the strengthening of a program already functioning, rather than by the creation of a new one. A community recreation survey of Grand Junction, Ohio,<sup>1</sup> includes criteria for a

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1. Community Recreation Survey, Grand Junction, Ohio, Recreation Commission Inc. (1945) P. 36

total recreation program and points out that such a program should:

1. Provide equal opportunity for all.
2. Provide a wide range of individual choices in different types of activities.
3. Continue throughout the year.
4. Provide equally for both sexes.
5. Serve all ages.
6. Encourage family recreation.
7. Utilize fully all existing facilities.
8. Include passive as well as active forms of recreation.
9. Provide activities for different periods of free time.
10. Be related to other programs in the city.
11. Carry over leisure-time skills and interests developed in the school.
12. Provide activities of a progressive nature.
13. Include activities that will persist at an adult level.
14. Offer possibilities for varying degrees of skills, aptitudes and capacities.
15. Encourage individuals and groups to provide their own activities.
16. Furnish outlets for the satisfaction of the desire for social relationships.
17. Recognize the different tastes and interests of the individual.
18. Give people who participate a share in the planning and in control.

19. Place recreational opportunities within the financial abilities of all people.
20. Make possible the wisest use of available funds.
21. Provide outlets for creative expression.
22. Assure safe and healthful conditions for creative activities.
23. Afford opportunity for the development of good citizenship.
24. Be based on the specific interests and needs of the community.
25. Be sensitive to changing conditions or needs.

These criteria should be an excellent measuring device for assessing the total recreation program of a community. On the basis of its deficiencies so shown, and the basis of the needs and desires of its membership a sound community centre program could be created.

### The Organization of the Membership

The structure of a community centre must be based on its objectives. If these are the ones enumerated above there must be channels created, through which the needs and interests of members can be expressed. If the members are encouraged and given the opportunity of planning ways of meeting these needs there will be more enthusiastic participation in the program that results. This planning must necessarily go on at various levels. Councils or Committees, representative of age groups

and special interests, problem-centred groups representative of the groups concerned, and a group representative of the total membership must be created. Through such channels members share responsibility in the creation of the policy, the program and in the management of the centre. Organized along these lines and related to other organizations in the community, the centre can become an agency through which its members can become an active force for the welfare of their community.

<sup>1</sup> "The success of a democracy, on the other hand, rests upon the individual's capacity for self-determination and voluntary group life. Democracy is a relationship in which only developed adults can participate fully. A democracy, in any country, therefore is possible only to the degree that the maturity of its citizenship permits. Childish dependence, ambitions, self-centredness, ----- make co-operative effort and group integration well nigh impossible. Accordingly education in a democratic plan of life has two major functions to perform. In the first place, it must direct the orderly and wholesome development of the human personality. Its second major duty is to develop those dispositions of man's nature that make him desirous and capable of participating in a progressive and evolving society."

Such a purpose is closely related to those of a community centre, and the development of a community centre is

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1. S.R. Slavson, "Creative Group Education", Association Press, N.Y. (1937) P.6

dependent on this kind of citizenship. Thus the two are interdependent, for the community centre is a natural environment for this kind of education, provided the structure outlined above is present to provide democratic experiences for the participants and provided there is leadership required to make these experiences meaningful.

Psychologists, psychiatrists and educators have established certain facts about the growth of individuals. From infancy to death every person is a member of groups, and his ability to live effectively depends on his ability to live, work and play in diverse groups. Individuals learn through groups. The closest and most intimate associates with whom a person has acceptance and status are the most powerful influences in the formulation of his attitudes and patterns of behaviour. Thus co-operative behaviour is learned through group experience, for a group which has a feeling of unity, of belonging for each member, gives security to its members, so that each is free to recognize the importance of contributions made by the others and is stimulated to make his own contribution. The principle of social control is learned when final decisions are the wish of the majority and through the process of carrying them out the individual learns to be responsible for his share of the activities.

Many private agencies are rendering valuable service by the promotion of voluntary friendship groups for young people. These include such agencies as the Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., Scouts, Guides. Yet, as the statistics in chapter four

indicate, they are able to serve only a small proportion of the population. Such groups should also be part of a community centre. Then the members have experiences of even greater value: they not only participate in small groups of friends or of people of like interests, they associate with people of interests different from their own and they also learn of the relationships between groups. They learn of the need of others, of common needs, and that through co-operative planning and democratic action communities can meet many of their own needs.

### The Importance of Volunteers

A democracy needs leadership. If a community centre has a democratic structure, there will be opportunities for natural leaders to develop. In addition, opportunities should be provided for citizens to give of their experience and skills to others. There are many people in every community who have knowledge and understanding, from which others, especially younger people, would benefit. Many would find satisfaction in contributing in this way toward the welfare of others. The community centre which attracts large numbers should seek to discover individuals who have skill and understanding. It should provide the organization, through which they can contribute to the community and gain satisfaction in doing so, as leaders, advisors, committee members, and as assistants in the office. Such volunteers will increase the activities and programs that the centre can offer.

### Chapter Three - Leadership in a Community Centre

#### Type of Leadership

The term leadership is widely used and it has various connotations. Members of a democratic society select their own leaders and as a part of this society members of a community centre should select their leaders on a democratic basis. Both the members of the centre and the leaders selected by them seek to serve the objectives of the centre. In order that they may do so a structure must be developed through which they can function. This is a task for skilled professional leadership.

The essential elements of community centres are neither the buildings or the program, for these are the results; rather they are processes involving social relationships. Members are related to groups, groups to one another, to the whole and the whole to the community. A structure provides the means through which such relationships can be formed and it is through them that objectives are set. The development of this process is neither obvious nor rapid, rather it is a long range process, constantly changing and with many implications.<sup>1</sup> "The leader of a democratic society must be thought of as a guide, not as a dictator of the thoughts and acts of individuals." The relationships and processes in a community centre require

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1. Baxter & Cassidy Group Experience, The Democratic Way,  
Harper & Brothers, N.Y. 1943, P. 1

this kind of leadership if they are to have direction and value. There must be people with an understanding of the function of a community centre, and the skills which will enable it to develop, who are able to devote all their energies to the task. The experiences of recreational and private agencies give definite indications of the kind of skills necessary for leadership in the development of a democratic organization.

### Knowledge of Community Life

If the community centre is to be a functioning part of society its leaders must have knowledge of the social and economic structure of society. The forces which are labelled "world forces" seem remote from everyday living but in reality they are the ones that create the conditions under which the community operates. World economic and social conditions affect the needs of the total population. The war created certain needs, the depression period created different ones and the post war period has produced its own variety. If a leader is to act as a guide for a community seeking to organize to meet its recreational and social needs he must have some understanding of the forces that produce these needs.

Knowledge of the community and the skill of knowing how to acquire this knowledge is necessary. The leader or leaders of a community centre need to know the resources in or available to the community. It is necessary to know the conditions in the community that create certain needs and interests,

for recreation needs are characteristic of the nature of a community. Programs needed in industrial areas are different from those needed in rural areas. Natural resources, climate, terrain, are factors which affect the needs of people, while such factors as tradition and custom will also have their effect.

### Understanding of Human Needs and Behaviour

Community centres are concerned with communities and with human beings. The understanding of human behaviour has become a science and there is knowledge which enables leaders to analyse scientifically human behaviour, needs and social relationships so that these can be guided into areas and activities which allow the individuals concerned to make their contribution and to gain satisfaction in doing so. Such knowledge should be a part of the resources a leader in a community centre possesses.

The welfare of a community centre is dependent on the individual members which it serves. The leaders must recognize the worth of each of these individuals. He must have understanding of the experiences which make for the growth of an individual and confidence in his ability to grow. Such growth is dependent largely on satisfactory group experiences. The role of the leader in a group is a skillful one and the development and direction of the group and the individuals in it are a result of the leader's knowledge and skill in assuming the proper

role at the right time. A community centre is made up of individuals in groups and it is important that the leaders know the principles and methods of work with individuals and of group leadership and that they have skill in the application of these principles and methods.

### Knowledge of Recreation

One of the objectives of a community centre is that it serve the recreational needs of its members. The leaders, therefore, must have an understanding of the way these are expressed and they require knowledge of and skill in the activities which will serve them and the interests of the members. Interest and enthusiasm must be aroused and they must be maintained.

The interesting of the many different sections of a community in the development and organization of a centre and in its program requires both skill in the arts of publicity and understanding of people and their needs. The maintenance of this interest, once aroused, is dependent on the leader's ability to make the organization meaningful to those who attend its programs.

### Knowledge of the Art of Supervision

Every leader should have some recreative skills but no one person can have all of them. Many programs in a community centre require specialists with special skills. For

these jobs part time workers or volunteers can be used and in every community there are people who would find satisfaction in contributing their skill and knowledge to the welfare of others. Volunteers are especially important in a community centre. They can serve in many different capacities. The ability of the leader in a community centre to use their services efficiently and in such a way that the volunteers will gain satisfaction through new experiences, the development of more social understanding of and confidence in the worth of their contribution and in the knowing of their community is important. Such ability lies in the acquiring of skill and knowledge in the art of supervision and leaders if they are to have satisfactory and useful relationships both with paid staff and volunteers will require it.

#### Knowledge of Administration

Finally, the community centre must have an efficient administration. There must be ways of obtaining money for the running of the centre and budgets must be compiled for the spending of it. This involves good business practices, sound planning and an efficient office staff. In a community centre the development of these are involved, for board, staff and membership are concerned. If these elements are not present the program and activities of the centre will be hampered and frustrated by the lack of a good foundation on which they can operate. The leadership then must have understanding and

knowledge of the administrative processes involved in the development and operation of a centre.

### The Training of Leaders

There are qualities and potentialities for leadership in all people and there is no doubt that various members of a community would have some proportion of the skills outlined. There is little likelihood of people possessing all of them for they require specialized training.

The demand for leadership with these qualifications has resulted in the development of specialized training courses. Short term courses to introduce staff already employed to new skills are sponsored by Council of Social Agencies, Public Recreation Department, National Agencies and University Extension Departments and are available to all. These have been designed to meet immediate and pressing needs for leadership. More important from the long range point of view is the development of University Departments and Graduate Schools concerned with the teaching of the knowledge and skills outlined above. In these schools graduate students with Bachelor of Arts degrees and who desire to give democratic leadership in the field of recreation and social welfare are assured of the opportunity of obtaining the necessary knowledge and skill. Actual experience is provided in group leadership and community participation under close supervision so that students can gain insight into their own strengths and weaknesses. If the

necessity for such training and experience is recognized by communities and these trained leaders are given opportunities to make their contribution, the community centre movement should gain strength and permanence.

Part II -

British Columbia

Chapter Four - Recreational and Leisure Time  
Services.

Department of Provincial Recreation and Physical Education

There are numerous recreational agencies which are active in British Columbia. Most are private agencies which function wherever interest and conviction in their purpose warrant them. Public recreation on a provincial basis is organized under the Recreational and Physical Education Branch of the Department of Education. The history of this organization dates back to 1934<sup>1</sup>. In 1947 its services included leadership training courses, advice and direction on community recreation, public recreation classes in 202 centres throughout the province with an attendance from April 1, 1946 to March 31, 1947, numbering 128,794 and programs sponsored in co-operation with other agencies. To this Department, too, have come many requests for assistance with the development of community centres and as much help as the budget would allow has been given. Contributions to the salaries of the directors of eleven community centres have been made, advice and direction have been given on the formation of community recreational councils, buildings, maintenance and the selection of staff. The Department recognizes that its function is to strengthen the community

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1. Annual Report, Director Department of Recreation and Physical Education.

centred recreation program so that a well rounded recreational program which uses the "pro rec" services, and adds others on the basis of the interests and needs of the community, can develop on a permanent basis.

#### Department of University Extension

In many communities and in the development of community centres the work of the Department of University Extension is important. In 1945-46 the activities of the department were used by over 1200 organizations in 350 communities in the province. These services included evening classes in Vancouver, Cloverdale, Haney, Langley, North Vancouver, Victoria; the supplying of material and directions for study groups, Citizen Forum and Farm Forum radio listening groups, drama groups, the operation of an Extension Library Service, a phonograph record loan service and visual instruction service. These services are being widely used as the statistics for the year 1945-46 show and could be used to greater advantage if communities were better organized to use them.

University Extension Dept.  
Statistical Summary (1945-46.)

**Outside Lectures given by Members of University Staff**

Number	330
Attendance	39,518

**Evening Classes**

Number	26
Attendance	1,709

**Institutes, Conferences, Short Courses**

Number	6
Registration	600

**Summer Courses**

Number	6
Registration	335

**Discussion Group**

No. of registered Groups and Individuals,	271
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**Radio**

No. of Farm Forum Groups and Individuals,	50
Citizen       "       "       "       "	76
Poultry School of the Air	163

**Extension Library Circulation**

Books	5,689
Plays	4,364

**Phonograph Record Loan Service**

No. of Registered Groups	115
Circulation	3,887

**Drama**

No. of Registered Groups	115
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**Visual Instruction Services**

Circulation:	
Motion Picture Films (reels)	9,204
Sets of Film Slides	2,305
Sets of Lantern Slides	84
Attendance at Motion Picture Showings	460,170
No. of Organizations using the service	727
No. of Towns and Communities in which material was used	300

## The British Columbia Community Centres Association

The University Extension Department has also given leadership in the development of Community Centres. In January, 1946, as a result of the increasing number of requests for information and advice on community centres, a Community Centres Institute was sponsored jointly by the departments of Extension and Social Work. One hundred and ten people representing about thirty communities attended. The Institute devoted its attention to the basic principles of community centre organization and the interest and concern of those attending resulted in the election of an interim committee to assist the sponsors of the Institute in planning a longer summer conference. This conference took place in June, and in addition to the Social Work and Extension Department's leadership was given by the Secretary of the Group Work Division of the Greater Vancouver Welfare Council and the Provincial Director of Physical Education and Recreation Department of British Columbia. The conference provided an opportunity for those who attended to gain practical aid and indicated the need of an organization which would enable joint consultation and action for those interested in community centres. As a result the B.C. Community Centres Association was formed with the stated objective<sup>1</sup> "To promote the establishment and development of community centres and other organizations whose aim is to provide leisure time services in B.C.; to

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1. "Constitution", B.C. Community Centres Association

co-operate at the local, provincial and dominion levels with other organizations having similar objectives; to sponsor conferences, conventions or institutes and any other activities to attain these objectives."

#### National Film Board Services

There are other services for the constructive use of leisure time available to communities. Travelling libraries operate through many areas. The Department of Agriculture provides leadership in the promotion of clubs for young people interested in the various aspects of farming and the Department of Education offers assistance for those who would continue with their education. The National Film Board Services, operated under the auspices of the Dominion Government are available to communities and widely used. The statistics for April, 1947, for B.C. indicate the interest in this type of recreation.

<u>Audience Type</u>	<u>No. of Shows</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Rural Community	191	11,413
Rural School	157	17,121
Urban Community	251	15,811
Urban School	180	21,652
Special	25	1,108
Labour and Management	5	189
Industrial	113	4,458
Trade Union	4	258
Retail and Wholesale	3	285

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1. National Film Board; Statistical Bulletin, Statistics and Record Divisions, Ottawa, April, 1947

## Provincial Services of Private Agencies

Private agencies have also extended their services to many areas throughout the province. Such organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Y.W.C.A., and the United Churches have found that the demands for their programs were sufficiently widespread to warrant the establishment of provincial offices so that assistance and leadership can be given to rural areas.

The statistics which show the number of participants in these programs and the areas where they are located indicate the interest in and demand for them.

<u>District</u>	<u>Boy Scouts</u> <sup>1</sup>	
	<u>No. of Groups</u>	<u>Total Membership</u> <u>October 31, 1946</u>
Burnaby	6	339
Centre Okanagan	4	136
Duncan-Cowichan	11	334
Kamloops	4	110
Langley	2	53
Nelson	8	279
New Westminster	2	62
North Okanagan	4	167
Powell River	4	180
South Okanagan	3	201
Trail-Rossland	12	434
Upper Vancouver Island	3	156

1. The Boy Scouts Association, 1946 Reports, British Columbia Provincial Council

<u>District (cont'd)</u>	<u>No. of Groups</u>	<u>Total Membership</u>
Greater Vancouver	62	3189
Greater Victoria	28	1142
Total Groups not in districts	42	1294
Lone Scouts		34
<b>Totals</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>8110</b>

<u>Girl Guides</u> <sup>1.</sup>			
<u>District</u>	<u>No. of Groups</u>	<u>No. of Leaders</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Vancouver Centre	23	36	473
Point Grey	33	42	770
West Vancouver and North Vancouver	9	13	284
Burnaby	15	21	387
Lower Fraser Valley	6	11	109
Greater Victoria area	31	41	582
Saanich	15	24	211
Central Vancouver Island	13	15	232
Cowichan Area	13	23	292
South Okanagan	6	33	184
North Okanagan	21	35	426
West Kootenay	21	36	448
East Kootenay	14	23	267
Caribou	14	22	295
Unattached Areas	24	40	515

Statistics supplied by the Provincial Office of the Girl Guide Association. Other Guide groups are sponsored by the Salvation Army, which are not listed here.

1.

United Church Youth Groups

	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
Vancouver	30	32
New Westminster and Burnaby	8	8
North Vancouver	4	2
West Vancouver		1
Lulu Island and Richmond	3	1
Victoria	8	3
Vancouver Island	9	3
Skeena and Hazelton area	20	5
Kootenay	17	9
Caribou	4	2
Okanagan	17	11
Districts South of New Westminster	20	16
Britannia Beach	1	1
Pioneer Mines	1	1
Powell River	1	
Westview	1	

Girls' Hi-Y

The Vancouver Y.W.C.A. sponsors groups throughout the city and the southern sections of the province. At the present time groups are active in schools in the following districts -- Kerrisdale, Grandview, West End, Dunbar, South Vancouver, South

and North Burnaby, West and North Vancouver, New Westminster, Surrey, Cloverdale, Maple Ridge, Coquitlam, Chilliwack and Nanaimo. The Victoria Y.W.C.A. sponsors groups in Victoria and the surrounding area.

There is no co-ordinating agency for these provincial organizations. In Vancouver through the Group Work Section of the Council of Social Agencies, recreational agencies do have opportunity for joint planning and there is information about the services and needs in the various districts. A Recreation Council has been organized to serve as a co-ordinating and planning agency for Victoria and surrounding districts. There is no similar group operating on a provincial basis and it is difficult for rural communities to obtain information about just what services are available to them or for provincial organizations to discover where the areas of greatest need are.

#### Community Centres

There is little information available about Community Centres in British Columbia. There is a Vancouver Community Association to which many Community Centre Association members belong. It was organized in 1934 to promote and plan special events - i.e., Vancouver's Jubilee. More recently it became concerned about the Community Centre developments in various districts and presented a brief to the Government asking for financial assistance and suggesting a plan through which the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments could provide

financial assistance for the establishment and operation of Community Centres.

The provincial organizations also report increasing demands for information and assistance in the development of Community Centres. Insofar as possible within the existing framework, efforts have been made to meet these demands, but resulting developments are largely unknown. In an effort to ascertain what they were, a questionnaire was submitted to 110 communities which had indicated their interest in the "B.C. Community Centres Association". The questionnaire<sup>1.</sup> was designed to obtain information about the communities, the recreational programs existing at the present time, the use of provincial services, facilities, leadership and community organization. Thirty-one areas sent in information about their communities, others indicated their interest but inability to do so.

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1. Copy attached. Appendix P. 102

### Chapter Five - Vancouver

Vancouver is Canada's third largest city and it is a rapidly growing one. In 1941 its population was 275,351.<sup>1</sup> It has a wealth of natural recreational resources.

In addition to the Extension Department and the Provincial Recreation Department, the services of which were outlined in the previous chapter, two civic agencies, the Vancouver Parks Board and the Vancouver School Board, are concerned with the provision of leisure-time activities. To date these agencies have operated independently. The Parks Board is developing an excellent parks system. The School Board has a night school program offering a wide choice in both practical and cultural subjects. Recently a Cultural Arts Council has been formed with a view to co-ordination of the activities of such agencies as the Art Gallery, the Public Library Association, the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia and the Vancouver Symphony Society.

There are thirteen private agencies conducting leisure-time activities in Greater Vancouver through the financial aid of the Community Chest. These include the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides, Alexandra Neighborhood House, the Vancouver Boys' Club Association, Gordon House, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., North Shore Neighbourhood House, Alexandra Fresh Air Camp, First United Fresh Air Camp, the Sailors' Home, the Seamen's Institute and the North Shore Seamen's Institute.

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1. Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Dept. of Trade and Commerce, Canada Year Book, Ottawa, 1945

Through the Group Work Division of the Welfare Council, some social planning and co-ordination is done. However, there is little co-ordination or joint planning between the public agencies, the Chest-supported agencies and the independent organizations.

The needs of the various areas of Vancouver and the services of the Chest-supported agencies were surveyed in the Norrie Report.<sup>1</sup> However, the social areas, upon which this survey was based, have no relation to the districts popularly known by the names used in the following pages, districts which the Community Centre Associations described seek to serve.

### Collingwood

Collingwood is an urban residential area of predominantly the lower income group. Population density, juvenile delinquency and transiency are not high. Total population is approximately 20,000, while elementary school population is about 1600 and the high school population is small. Although transportation services are good, the distances involved are too great for adequate use of the central recreational and cultural resources of the City.

Commercial recreation in Collingwood consists of one

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1. L.E. Norrie and David F. DeMarche; Survey Report of Group Work and Recreation in Greater Vancouver, 1945. The Community Chest and Welfare Council of Greater Vancouver.

theatre and one pool hall. Parks and playgrounds operated by the Vancouver Parks Board, include Norquay Children's Playground and Collingwood Park which have play equipment and have facilities and equipment for tennis, softball and hardball. Killarney Park has potentialities for the future but at the present time is undeveloped.

According to the Norrie Report from 2.94 percent to 2.20<sup>1.</sup> percent of the three social districts which make up Collingwood are served by the Group Work and Recreational Agencies supported by the Community Chest. Groups sponsored by the Guide Association and Scouts are located in the neighbourhood and are popular. In addition the central Y.W.C.A. has over 200 members in these areas while the Y.M.C.A. has approximately 150. There are also church groups. The Catholic Youth Organization is active at St. Mary's Church while Collingwood United has a Young People's group, O.G.I.T., and Tuxis.

The Community Centre Association formed in January, 1946, has a membership of 150. Fees are one dollar per person or three dollars per family and the Association is financed by its fees. Officers are elected at the annual meeting. The objectives are, "(1) The erection and development of a local community centre with all needed equipment and the erection of a local library. (2) The general promotion of community welfare - social, educational, cultural and athletic."

Undoubtedly the fact that there is only one hall

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1. Ibid. P. 24

available in the district has focussed the attention of those concerned on the need for facilities. The second objective is a long range one and should be the main objective with the first and other immediate aims developing from it as the need arises.

The officers although they are elected on the basis of their interest in the Community Centre Association are affiliated with other varied community organizations. Such a relationship is based on coincidence rather than on a permanent structure. There is need for the creation of an organization which would provide a method through which all groups -- educational, social and service clubs could meet together to discuss the needs of the area and ways of meeting them.

When such a council or committee exists the Community Centre Association will have more guidance as to most immediate needs. The need for a library might be met if arrangements could be made for the establishment of a branch library by the Vancouver Public Library similar to those in Kitsilano, the West End and Grandview. The possibility of using school or church buildings for a temporary period could be explored. There are few activities in the community to which people can go. Some program could be initiated. This would develop interest in the objectives of the association and gain wider participation in it. Activities for raising money could be sponsored. If the premise that a community centre is successful to the degree that there is participation in it and that its activities are based on community needs and interests is accepted, then these

are early steps on which the development of the centre should be based.

### Kitsilano

Kitsilano is an urban residential district, with light industrial and commercial areas scattered throughout. The population is predominantly of the lower middle income group, although there are also some upper middle and lower income areas. Population density is high, but transiency is not marked. The elementary school population is 1951, the high school population 1750.

Commercial recreation consists of two theatres, a bowling alley and a pool hall. The Vancouver Parks Board operates four parks in the area with facilities and equipment for baseball, football, tennis and children's play. There is playground supervision, and volunteers are used to assist in the operation of competitive games.

The northern section of the district is served by Alexandra Neighbourhood House which has over three hundred members. In addition, organized recreation is sponsored in the area by the Provincial Recreation Dept., the Girl Guide and Boy Scout Associations. There are numerous churches of various denominations. There is a branch library and the services of the National Film Board are used by several organizations.

The Community Centres Association was formed in 1945, and incorporated in 1947. Its officers are elected at the

annual meeting. Membership in the association totals sixty. It is financed by membership fees of one dollar.

The objective of the association is - To erect and operate a community centre for the physical, social and educational uses of citizens and children. Toward this end it has set a financial objective of \$200,000 and to date has raised \$39,000.

On the executive of the association are members of the Kitsilano Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Ratepayers and Canadian Legion. There are other active organizations in the community. Again no council or committee exists through which joint planning can be done.

There is at least one church building equipped and available for community recreation. However, the use of it is not outlined, and there is no indication that other possibilities, such as schools and park facilities, where program could begin to operate, have been explored.

### Kerrisdale

Kerrisdale is an urban residential area having few industrial and commercial buildings. Although the district is well populated, juvenile delinquency is low. Its population is almost wholly of the upper middle income group, with some of the upper income group. The school population of the area is: elementary, 1211; junior high school, 1225; high school, 867.

Kerrisdale has very little commercial recreation.

There is one park in the area with facilities for softball, baseball, football, bowling and tennis. The Junior Board of Trade sponsors an organized baseball league for intermediate boys. The Girl Guide and Boy Scout Associations have groups in this area, and a large number of young people participate in the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.

The Community Centre Association has a membership of 100. It was formed in 1942 and incorporated in 1943. Fees are two dollars per annum. Officers are elected annually. The objective of the association is "to provide social and recreational activities, not only for the members, but for the whole community." The association has concentrated in the area on fund-raising, and has not made any efforts to organize the community, or to evaluate its resources and needs.

### Marpole

Marpole is a lower middle income group residential district on the slope above the Fraser River, Vancouver's southerly boundary. Along the Fraser and on the islands of its delta there is considerable industrial plant, principally woodworking. Population density is low. Vancouver's central recreational and cultural resources are remote. The population is approximately ten thousand.

Commercial recreation consists of a pool hall, theatre and dance hall. The Vancouver Parks Board operates Oak Park, with facilities for lawn bowling, baseball, tennis and

football, and there is some children's play equipment.

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The Norrie Report indicates that from 2.66 percent to 3.79 percent of the population of this area is served by agencies supported by the Community Chest. Of these, the programs of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides are community centred. The United Church sponsors Boys' Brigade, Life Boys and C.G.I.T. and the Provincial Recreation Department uses the Anglican Church facilities for its program.

The Community Centre Association, with a membership of twelve hundred, was formed in January, 1944, and incorporated in the same year. Its executive is elected at the annual meeting, and officers belong to such organizations as the P.T.A., the Rotary Club, the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Vancouver Community Association and the B.C. Community Centres Association. There are various committees and groups, to which responsibility is delegated, such as the Executive Committee, the Women's Auxiliary and the Athletic Club. The objective of the Association is "to promote the educational, social, cultural and athletic endeavours of the community".

Fees are one dollar per year. Additional funds are raised through subscriptions, social activities and carnivals. A large portion of these are designated for the building fund. Funds in hand total \$19,412.53.

The Association is using a house, "Marpole House", where it sponsors programs. The facilities include an assembly

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1. Ibid P. 24

hall, which will accommodate eighty, a stage and kitchen. The program includes whist drives, parties, teen club dances, the meetings of various committees and in the morning a kindergarten.

Community projects are discussed and planned by the Marpole Community Association. Represented on it are the Scouts, Guides, Boys' Brigade, P.T.A. and Marpole Bowling Hall. Projects sponsored by this organization include a community gala day, sports day and band concerts.

The activities in this area indicate a good community spirit and active and efficient volunteer workers. The lay leadership has a sound conception of the function of a community centre, and is building an organization which should have permanence and vitality. With the guidance and aid of professional leadership the activities already initiated could be expanded and directed into the development of a democratic framework, through which members and organizations could work toward the objectives stated by the Association.

#### Grandview

Grandview is a lower income group residential district. It is bounded on the north by Burrard Inlet and on the west by False Creek. Along the inlet are port facilities and lumber mills, while the filled-in Creek bed is a growing centre of light industry. Population density is not high, but juvenile delinquency is high in comparison with other low

income districts of similar density.

There is more commercial recreation in Grandview than in most residential areas. There are four theatres, two bowling alleys, one pool hall and four dance halls. The Vancouver Parks Board operates three parks - Buffalo, Woodland and Grandview. Buffalo Park has facilities for tennis and rugby, while Woodland Park has an open ball field. Grandview Park has facilities for tennis and good children's play equipment and in the summer it is supervised in the afternoon and evening.

In addition to the activities organized under the Parks Board, there are a lawn bowling club, Pro-Rec classes, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, activities sponsored by the churches and those sponsored by the Vancouver East Community Y.

The Vancouver East Community Y serves as a community centre for the Grandview district. It is sponsored by the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. and financed by a membership fee of two dollars a year and the contribution of the Community Chest. The objectives of the centre are those of the Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. The Board of Directors is affiliated with the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. Metropolitan Boards. Consideration is being given to the method by which the Board is elected.

Facilities of the Vancouver East Community Y include an assembly hall which seats one hundred, a committee room, two club rooms, a kitchen, coke bar and office equipment. There is equipment for softball, basketball, badminton, leatherwork, plastics and shell-craft. There is also a children's branch of

the Vancouver Library Association. Other facilities used by the centre include two church gymnasiums, a school auditorium, home basements, school and park grounds. The program consists of sports, interest groups, mass activities and friendship groups.

The membership is largely self-governing. Each section has a committee or council by which programs and activities are planned. Such plans are subject to the approval of the Board.

The staff includes an executive secretary, assistant executive secretary, a Y.W.C.A. secretary, assistant Y.W.C.A. secretary and nursery school teacher. Volunteers are used as leaders of junior and craft clubs, teen age programs and on policy-making and advisory committees.

The development of program, the use of community resources, the building of a largely self-governing organization and the encouragement of participation in a democratic organization indicate the presence of professional leadership. However, the information supplied does not indicate what the contemplated reorganization of the Board will mean. Nor does it show how the agency is related to other agencies and organizations of the community. The use of community facilities and resources would indicate that such relationships exist or have existed in the past.

## The West End

The West End lies between the commercial centre of the city and two of Vancouver's most noted recreational resources, English Bay and Stanley Park. It was Vancouver's earliest high income group residential area. Now it is a congested, low income group residential area, presenting most of the evils of a rooming house district. It should be noted that many fine apartment buildings have been built in this area. If present trends continue this will become predominantly an apartment house area of the high income group. At present, however, the dominant characteristics of the district are blight, decay and congestion. Population density is the highest of all Vancouver residential areas. Although the apartment house population is stable, the rooming house population is largely transient. Elementary school population is 1341 and high school population 530. Total population is 44,000.

The district is close to the centre of the City and thus has access to every kind of commercial recreation. The residents have at their disposal the resources of Stanley Park. They have also other playgrounds - Denman and Ceperley Parks which are well equipped for the activities of children and have the services of two recreational directors. The Vancouver Art Gallery provides art classes and other cultural programs. The central Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.'s are located on the fringe of the area and attract large numbers of young people. In

addition there are Guides, Scouts, and six established churches with recreational activities. However, it should be noted that while Denman and Ceperley Parks, and some of the commercial recreational facilities serve mainly residents of the district, Stanley Park, the Art Gallery, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. serve the city generally.

Gordon House serves as a Community Centre for the area. It is managed by the Alexandra Community Activities Committee and financed by the Community Chest, a small city grant and the interest on an endowment fund. Its facilities consist of a gymnasium which is used both as a gym and an assembly hall, two houses with a combined total of approximately forty rooms of various sizes. Special rooms include - music room, workshop, art room, nursery school, sewing, card room, reading room, two kitchens, coke bar and library. There is equipment for badminton, basketball, football, baseball and volleyball. In addition Gordon House uses the neighbouring school grounds, the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool and the Stanley Park playing fields and tennis courts for its activities.

Membership in Gordon House is open to young and old and totals 1400. There is a membership fee of one dollar. It was founded in 1942 and is one of three activities sponsored by the Alexandra Communities Activities Committee, trustees of the endowment fund. There is a Gordon House Board which is appointed by the Alexandra Communities Committee and is concerned with the details of management and policy making. Members are asked to serve on this Board and representatives of the Board

serve on the Alexandra Activities Committee. Each of the two houses - Junior and Senior - has an advisory committee and they are represented on the Board. At the present time there is no statement of the objectives of Gordon House. However the importance and need of these, if the work of the centre is to have direction, has been recognized and they are in the process of formulation.

The membership of Gordon House is organized on a democratic basis so that the interests, needs and suggestions of the members can be presented to the Board. Each section has a planning council. In the Junior House there are planning committees for juniors, seniors and intermediates. In the Senior House there is a Young Adult Committee and a House Council which is representative of all the groups and sends representatives to the Gordon House Board.

Such a structure is a complicated one and requires careful guidance. Unless there is good leadership there is a danger of groups becoming possessive and operating on a competitive basis rather than for the welfare of the whole. There is also danger of the administering and policy-making groups becoming self-perpetuating and removed from the actual membership. The operation of a Centre when its maintenance is controlled by such regulations as those which govern the Alexandra Community Activities Committee makes it difficult for members to feel that they can influence policy or create an agency that is truly representative of their community. For these reasons a structure must be developed so that there can be channels to the

final authority and it will require constant adjustment to meet the needs of the membership and interpretation so that the structure will be used as a means of membership participation.

There is program for everyone at Gordon House. Attendance totalled 120,000 for 1946. Activities include a Nursery School for children of ages two to four, sports, interest and hobby groups for children, young adults and adults. The large numbers going to the centre make it necessary to sponsor activities for large numbers, however efforts are being made to develop small club groups so that as many members as possible can participate in them and through them become a part of the centre. In addition other agencies use Gordon House to make their services available to the community. There is a branch of the Public Library, a Child Health Centre sponsored by the Metropolitan Health Committee, night school classes and pro-rec classes. There is a monthly showing of National Film Board films. The Canadian Legion has taken over the basement of the Senior House and its headquarters are stationed there.

The West End is peculiarly lacking in service clubs. In addition to the churches there are branches of the P.T.A., the I.O.D.E. and the Canadian Legion. The other service clubs in the area serve not only the West End but Vancouver City. All the city Social Welfare Agencies give service in the district. These include the Family Welfare, Children's Aid Society, Foster Day Care Association, V.O.N. etc.

The West End Community Services Committee is an organization, which is concerned with community planning and

co-ordination of services. Its membership includes representatives of churches, schools, Children's Aid Society, Family Welfare Services, Child Guidance Clinic, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Gordon House, Dawson P.T.A., Canadian Legion, I.O.D.E., and Metropolitan Health Committee. Its stated objectives are to provide a means by which the work of the various organizations serving the West End Community may be co-ordinated and for greater vigilance and effective action on neighbourhood problems. Specific problems and needs with which it has dealt include the establishment of a branch library, control and treatment of moral perverts (Stanley Park and beaches), co-operative action by group work and case work agencies in problem cases, co-ordination of facilities, the prevention of the overlapping of the programs of the group work agencies, housing problems and a survey of the West End.

The development of a structure, through which members can participate in the democratic process of a community centre, the creation of a program which will meet the needs of the members and the relation of the agency to others serving the same area requires trained leadership. In fact, the degree to which these can develop is largely dependent on the understanding and skill of the professional employed leadership.

Gordon House has an executive director, trained in the Social Work School of Toronto, with many years' experience in case work, group work and community organization. An assistant to her, who has administrative experience and skill as well as training and experience in the field of education, is

employed. There is a director for each House. Each has had training and experience in the field of social group work. Other workers in both Houses are responsible to them and have special recreation skills. These include four full-time workers and a small varying number of part-time workers. The Nursery School has a well qualified staff, including a director and two assistant teachers. To handle office work and administrative details, two full-time and one part-time office workers are employed. Two full-time and one part-time janitors look after the housekeeping and care of the buildings.

The work of the professional workers is supplemented by that of the volunteers. These number approximately fifty, and they serve as receptionists, club and craft leaders. They also give clerical assistance and help in the Nursery School. The volunteers' knowledge and understanding of the community and the role of the centre in its life is fostered by a program of supervision and training.

#### Fairview-Mount Pleasant and West Point Grey

Fairview-Mount Pleasant is a lower income residential area of marked social need. West Point Grey is of the upper middle income group. Little information concerning community centres in these districts was available.<sup>1</sup>

In Fairview-Mount Pleasant the Y.M.C.A. sponsors a community Y program. This agency is in process of organization.

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1. See Appendix.

At present it sponsors sport leagues, teen age dances and clubs. Other resources in the area include Douglas Park, with children's play equipment, facilities for softball, tennis and rugby, Pro-Rec classes, Scouts, Guides, various church groups and a younger teen age dance program sponsored by the P.T.A.

The West Point Grey Community Centre Association owns a community hall, which has a large assembly room.

## Chapter Six - Adjacent Municipalities

### West Vancouver

West Vancouver is a relatively new residential area almost devoid of industry. The population, totalling 11,000, is scattered over a wide area and is predominantly of the upper middle income group. The district is situated on a mountain hillside by the sea.

There is little need for commercial recreation. Two golf clubs, a bowling alley and a theatre are operating at the present time. There are two parks managed by the Municipality. Ambleside Park has facilities for baseball and soccer. Memorial Park has bowling greens, merry-go-round swings, bars and slides.

Organized recreation is centred around the West Vancouver Community Centre. There are 997 participants, aged four to thirty years, seven paid leaders and 129 volunteer leaders. The average number of meetings per week is eighty-six. In addition to sports, special interest programs, mass activities and discussion and cultural groups, a large number of friendship groups are being developed. These total twenty-five, thirteen girls' groups and twelve boys' groups. They are led by volunteers, supervised by the staff. The meetings are held in homes conveniently situated.

The value of the West Vancouver Community Centre facilities is estimated at \$11,500. There is an assembly hall,

having a capacity of five hundred. It has a portable stage. There are six club rooms of various sizes, equipment for baseball and basketball, a kitchen, a coke bar and offices. The Association also uses other community facilities. These include the West Vancouver High School, Ambleside Park, the United and Anglican Church halls and homes scattered throughout the area.

The West Vancouver Community Centre Association was established in 1943 and incorporated in 1946. Its constitution states that its objectives are "to enlist the residents of the municipality of West Vancouver in a united fellowship for the purpose of bettering their intellectual, spiritual and social well being". There are 427 members, including children, boys, girls, youth and adults. There are sixteen members on the Board of Directors and they are elected by the members. The work of the Centre is financed by the Community Chest. Other revenues are membership fees and the donations of the Municipality, and service clubs.

Employed leadership consists of a boys' worker, a girls' worker and a youth worker, all paid by the Community Chest and responsible to the Board. These leaders have had previous experience in youth work and one has had professional training. Salaries for the Executive Director, Administration and Membership Secretary and the worker in charge of facilities are paid by the Municipality.

Such a financial structure is complicated. The

contributions from the Municipality and the service clubs are on a yearly basis only, and no permanent relationship has been created as yet between the Community Centre Association and these organizations.

A structure has been created, through which the membership plans the program for the Centre. Each section has a planning council. Representatives of these serve on the program committee, which is concerned with the total program of the centre. The chairman of this committee is appointed by the Board and the committee is represented on the Board.

There are many service, community and special interest organizations in West Vancouver. These include the Chamber of Commerce, Army and Navy Veterans, A.O.T.S., Canadian Legion, Bahai Group, Boys' Band Auxiliary, Canadian Red Cross, Baptist Young People's Society, Brownie Pack, Capilano Riding Club, West Vancouver Amateur Mum Club, Civic Action Group, Kinsmen, Knights of Pythias, Lions Club, Lady Laurier Club, West Vancouver Bowling Club and Little Theatre. Social welfare agencies in the community are the Victorian Order of Nurses, Social Assistance Branch (Provincial Welfare Department), Family Welfare Bureau and the West Vancouver Welfare Association.

A cross-section of these organizations are represented on a co-ordinating council. Those represented include the West Vancouver Registered Nurses Association, the V.O.N., I.O.D.E., the Kinsmen Club, the West Vancouver Community

Association, the Canadian Legion, the S.P.C.A., the Hollyburn P.T.A., the Lady Laurier Club, the United Church Women's Auxiliary, the Baptist Young Adult Fellowship, St. Stephen's Church, the Primrose Club, the Family Welfare Bureau, the Bahai Group, the West Vancouver Tennis Club and the Pauline Johnson P.T.A. The objectives of the Council are "to deal with community matters affecting the people within the bounds of the Municipality of West Vancouver." The projects it has been or is concerned with include a library, a Red Cross Blood Donor Service, assistance to handicapped and a community survey. Such a council should prove of real value in co-ordinating services and activities, indicating needs, and in the formulation of plans to meet them.

#### North Vancouver

North Vancouver, a residential area adjoining West Vancouver, had a rapid industrial growth during the war years. Shipbuilding, although not continued on the scale of those years, remains an important industry, and a principal one for the port and heavy industrial area ranged along the waterfront. North Vancouver has developed more urban characteristics than West Vancouver. The population is predominantly of the lower income group, and totals 21,000. Its elementary and junior high school population is 2,789 and its high school population is 561.

Commercial recreation consists of two theatres, a

bowling alley, a roller skating rink and two pool halls. The City of North Vancouver operates six parks, all well-equipped for sports and two of them for children's play. It also manages two picnic grounds. Swedish Park, with facilities for softball, swimming and dancing, is managed by the Swedish Society. There are nine playgrounds adjacent to schools with facilities for sports, managed by the School Board.

There are also numerous halls throughout the City and district. The Scout Hall is used as a small gymnasium. The Horticultural Hall has an assembly hall with a capacity of 450, a stage, dressing rooms, a banquet room and a kitchen. There is also a drill hall with a capacity of one thousand. There are store rooms, an officers' mess, facilities for various sports and a kitchen. Chesterfield School, a private school, has a small gymnasium and swimming pool. There is a Legion Hall. In addition, there are centres in the various districts, Hendry Community Centre, Deep Cove Community Hall, Lynmour Library, St. Agnes Parish Hall, Capilano Community Club, North Shore Neighbourhood House and Deep Cove Legion Hall.

Recreational programs are varied. There are three Anglican Churches which have Young People's Associations. A sports planning committee plans the sports conducted in the various parks and playgrounds. There are Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, a Y.W.C.A.-sponsored Girls' Hi-Y, a Y.M.C.A. sponsored Boys' Hi-Y and C.G.I.T. groups sponsored by the United Church.

The Provincial Recreation Department conducts classes in the Elks Hall, the Heywood Community Centre, Lynn Valley and Capilano. The Water Board sponsors Junior Fire Wardens. In addition there are special interest clubs, men's and women's bowling clubs, the North Shore Rifle Club, the Olympic Athletic Club and the Kit Kat Teen Age Dance Club. The National Film Board, through the Film Council, sponsors about thirty film showings a month. Social activities are carried on in the Capilano, Lynn Valley, Deep Cove and Lynmour Community Centres.

The North Vancouver Memorial Centre Society sponsors many activities and uses various community facilities. Night school courses sponsored by it are held in the High School and attract approximately three hundred people. It sponsors a dramatic group, the Community Players, a tennis club, badminton and the Pro-Rec courses in the North Vancouver Centre. These activities are held in the Drill and Scout Halls. North Vancouver Teen Town, embracing a membership of between two hundred and four hundred, use the facilities of the City Hall, and the Legion and Horticultural Halls. It is sponsored by the Society. In the summer of 1947 the North Vancouver Memorial Community Centre, the North Vancouver Neighbourhood House and the Heywood Community Centre jointly planned and operated a Summer Fun Club. Activities were conducted in Lynn Valley, the Scout Hall, North Vancouver Neighbourhood House and Heywood.

The North Vancouver Memorial Community Centre Society

was founded in 1944 and incorporated in 1946. Its stated objectives are: "To promote and develop varied educational, athletic, dramatic, social, civic and neighbourhood programs in order to develop community neighbourliness and good citizenship; To promote the advancement of the general interests of municipal affairs; To promote any or all objects of a national, patriotic, philanthropic, charitable, scientific, artistic, social, provincial or sporting character".

The building or capital funds of the Society have been subscribed by individuals and service clubs. The Kinsmen donated \$4,000. for operational expenses for 1946. The Society hopes to have an income from the Community Chest, as well as donations and membership fees. There is a special building fund of approximately \$100,000., with which the Society plans to build a gymnasium-auditorium unit adjacent to the North Vancouver High School.

Membership totals 850. This included two hundred voting members, who pay a one dollar membership fee only, approximately two hundred participating members, who pay extra fees for their activities and two hundred Teen Town members, who are affiliated with the Society.

The Board of Directors consists of not more than sixty and not less than twenty members. Not less than twelve of these directors are elected at the annual general meeting. The North Vancouver City Council may appoint two, the North

Vancouver District Council or Commissioner may appoint two, the School Board of District 44 may appoint two and the Board of Directors may request certain "community minded" organizations to appoint or elect one director, according to the procedure outlined in the Constitution of the Society. That document provides for the appointment of several standing committees by the officers of the Society: program, advisory, public relations, building and grounds, finance, trustees and membership. In addition, the Program Committee is instructed to appoint and prescribe the duties of further committees on such matters as gymnasium, auditorium, swimming, social, music and games.

Professional leadership of the Society consists of one director. He has had five years' experience in group work and recreation and has a B.A. degree and a diploma in Association Science. One stenographer is employed by the Society. The work of planning committees and interest group leadership is carried on by 120 volunteer workers.

The development of a constitution providing for the relating of the Society to civic and education authorities and community organizations, the creation of a program which is so well attended, the use of community resources and the financial contributions thus far coming from the community indicate that the North Vancouver Community Centre Society is meeting conscious needs and that it has direction. So numerous are the members and activities that one professional leader cannot develop all to ideal objectives. The program is designed to

meet the needs of large numbers of people and the constitution of the Society is designed to enable a wide degree of participation of community minded citizens. The use of halls and community resources means that relationships are being built with other community agencies and organizations.

There is need for the development of more small friendship groups, which would enable members to form primary relationships and make their relationship to the whole more conscious and purposeful. Representative councils and committees for the various sections and age groups are being developed. The organization of these is similar to that used by the West Vancouver Association. There is a program committee, with a chairman appointed by the Board. The councils and committees send representatives to the program committee and the latter is represented on the Board.

Community organization is complicated in North Vancouver. Over ninety known community organizations and three social welfare agencies are listed. The North Vancouver Welfare Council is the community co-ordinating group. Its objective is to co-ordinate welfare and recreational work in North Vancouver. At the present time it is working on a child welfare survey and four sub-committees are working on health services, child delinquency, group work and child protection. The group has not been strong during the past five years and efforts are being made to relate all groups to it, either directly or indirectly through the Neighbourhood Councils. Such an arrangement would seem practical for such

an area, for it would allow for group planning on a neighbourhood basis. There are five districts which already have some kind of community centre or association. These would stand to benefit from joint planning and the sharing of resources. One of the most obvious needs is leadership, and through such a council arrangements could be worked out, so that the cost and use of this service could be shared.

North Shore Neighbourhood House provides a centre for one district. It is financed by the Community Chest and from membership fees. It is managed by a Board of Directors. Membership totals twenty-five. The stated objectives of the organization are "welfare, service". Its facilities consist of a house, with one large room accommodating forty, and other smaller rooms for club meetings and interest groups.

Program includes a nursery school and such interest groups as woodwork, sewing and dancing. Junior Forest Wardens, sponsored by the Canadian Forestry Association, meet in the house. Administration and co-ordination of the program is carried out by an executive director, who has had administrative experience and training. There is also a director of the nursery school and an assistant to her. Volunteers lead the sewing, woodworking and dancing classes.

The area served by North Shore Neighbourhood House is but one of several similar areas in North Vancouver. It would seem that recreation in these areas could be co-ordinated with that of the central area. The framework in the process of

development there consists of the creation of relationships between educational and civic authorities and other community organizations. Program and activities in the surrounding districts could be drawn into this project through the creation of neighbourhood councils. Such an organization requires leadership, skilled in the field of community organization and the assistance of others with group work and special skills. However, it would be economical for it would mean that the smaller areas would have the benefit of a variety of professional skills.

Heywood is a wartime housing area in North Vancouver, which might also be drawn into the organization outlined above. At the present time it has a community centre managed by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, with a counsellor responsible to the Corporation. Population of the area is two thousand, while there are 360 elementary school students. There is an elementary school and the Corporation manages a playground.

The Community Centre has an assembly hall with a capacity of two hundred, stage, craft room, committee room, kitchen, office, store room and equipment for badminton and table tennis. The Heywood Playground has a baseball diamond, swings and bars.

Recreation for the district is centred in the Community Hall. There are a kindergarten, sponsored by a Co-operative Kindergarten Mothers' Club, a Well Baby Clinic, sponsored by the Metropolitan Health Committee, Brownies, sponsored by

the Salvation Army, Cubs, sponsored by the Cubs Parent Committee and Junior Forest Wardens, sponsored by the Canadian Forestry Association.

A Youth Advisory Committee, appointed by the Community Council, sponsors activities for boys and girls. These include five friendship groups, a boys' sports club, in co-operation with the Provincial Recreation Department, physical education classes for boys and girls and a craft teachers' class in co-operation with the Extension Department of the University. The Community Council sponsors an interior decorating club, a senior badminton club, a women's service group, a women's handicraft group, a kindergarten mothers' club, the club parent committee, the youth advisory board and movies for children.

These activities show that there is much participation in the Centre. Through the Community Council the community is planning and operating its own activities, with the assistance of the Counsellor, who has had training in group work. Also some forty-five volunteer workers serve as group leaders and assistants in the kindergarten. The training and use of the skills of so many is also indicative of the community support of the centre and assures the continuance of that support.

### Burnaby

Burnaby is a municipality similar to North Vancouver, in that it is spread over a large area and contains several

different largely independent districts. Until recently lack of good roads and transportation facilities hindered the development of unity within the municipality. It is largely a residential area of the lower income group. There are also industrial and commercial sections. Industry is centred mainly along the Fraser River, which bounds the municipality on the south, and Burrard Inlet, which bounds it on the north. The Pacific Highway, passing through the southern section, is the centre of a growing commercial area.

Information available touches only two of Burnaby's districts; namely, North Burnaby and the Burnaby Lake-Douglas Road district.

North Burnaby is one of the principal districts, having a total population of 16,000, an elementary school population of 2,000 and a high school population of 450. Commercial recreation consists of a theatre and a pool hall. The Municipality operates Confederation Park, with facilities for baseball, football, softball, lacrosse, horseshoes and track and field sports. Organized recreational groups include the Norburn Youth Organization, a church boys' group and classes sponsored by the Department of Provincial Recreation.

The Community Centres Association was formed in 1945 and incorporated in 1946. Membership is on an organizational basis, and at present there are twenty-two member organizations. These include social, political, sports, P.T.A., church and other groups. The Executive and Board of Directors are elected

by the membership at the annual meeting. The Association is financed by its membership fees, donations and the proceeds of dances. Its objectives are the "building of a community centre and the fostering of community recreation activities".

At present the Association has the use of Burnaby North High School for its activities. The Norburn Youth Organization, a member of the Association, also uses the High School. This building has an assembly hall with a seating capacity of eight hundred, stage, cafeteria, several meeting rooms, gymnasium, kitchen and coke bar.

The use of the high school building indicates that, although the School Board is not represented on the Community Centre Association, it is willing to support its activities and a working relationship does exist. In North Vancouver constitutional provision for such a relationship has been made. If that precedent were followed in Burnaby, a co-ordinating body for the municipality could be developed. Such a body could encourage the development of neighbourhood planning groups, the utilization of existing facilities and the pooling of financial resources for the procurement of leadership.

Burnaby Lake-Douglas Road District lies in central Burnaby. The population of the area is between 2,500 and 3,000. The elementary school population is 350. There is no commercial recreation in the area. Two parks are being developed. The Central Burnaby Ratepayers and Citizens Association is developing Harwood Park and the Burnaby Lake Men's Community

Service Club in developing Deer Lake Park.

The Community Centre Association was formed in April, 1947. Membership is on an organization basis and three organizations are active at the present time, the Burnaby Lake Men's Community Service Club, the Central Burnaby Ratepayers and Citizen's Association and the Women's Community Club. The constitution is under consideration. The affairs of the Association are conducted by a co-ordinating council, made up of two elected representatives from each of the three affiliated organizations. The stated objectives are: "to co-ordinate the activities of public-spirited organizations in the erection, equipping, maintenance and administration of a community centre to be built on the Grandview Highway, and to provide opportunities in such a building and elsewhere in the community for the wholesome recreation, education, civic and other leisure time activities of the community".

Facilities already existing in the area include the Valley View Community Centre which is managed by the Valley View Co-ordinating Council, Church Halls and Douglas Road School. All lack equipment and have accommodation for little more than small group activities.

The organizations of the area sponsor some recreational activities. The Burnaby Lake Men's Community Service Club sponsors a Teen Town in the United Church Hall, and a Choral Society which meets at Douglas Road School. Guides and Brownies are sponsored by the Guide Associations, and meet in the school and two of the churches. Cubs also meet in the

school and are sponsored by the Central Burnaby Ratepayers and Citizens Association and there are a number of church groups. A total of nine volunteer leaders meet with these various groups. National Film Board showings are held once or twice a month.

The co-ordinating council has been designed to meet a need for joint planning and for the pooling of resources. It has been in existence for only a few months but it should serve as an organizing force in the community. However, since the resources of the area are limited, it would seem that further co-ordination and joint planning with other districts in Burnaby seeking the same ends would be practical.

## Chapter Seven - Larger Cities and Towns

### Port Alberni and Alberni

Alberni is a rapidly growing and thriving industrial town on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The main industry is lumbering. Population totals twelve thousand. The elementary school population is 2,500, high school is 650. Commercial recreation consists of three theatres, a bowling alley, two pool halls and one roller skating rink.

There are two parks. The Alberni Recreation Park, which is managed by the Alberni Athletic Association, has facilities for baseball and soft ball. The Port Alberni Recreation Park is managed by the Recreation Director. It has two grandstands, facilities for baseball, soft ball, soccer and tennis, and such play equipment as slides, swings, pool, rings, bars, ladders. Activities are supervised by teachers, acting in a volunteer capacity under the direction of the Recreation Director.

Organized recreation is co-ordinated and sponsored by the community centre association and forty-two organizations and clubs related to it. These include such organizations as the Kinsmen's Club, the Rotary Club, Elks, P.T.A., Alberni Athletic Club, Board of Trade, Carpenter's Union, Rebeccas, and Knights of Pythias. In addition to such service clubs, the Memorial Centre Boxing Club, Teen Town, Women's Keep-Fit classes, and other similar groups participate.

Each of the forty-two organizations sends representatives to the Alberni Memorial District Centre Community Committee, which governs the activities of the Centre, and contributes financially to its maintenance. Further contributions were made by the City of Alberni, The City of Port Alberni, the Provincial Department of Recreation and the Empire Stevedoring Company during the year 1945-46. No information was available as to whether these latter organizations are represented on the committee or not. The constitution has not been formulated as yet. The objectives are: "To sponsor and develop wholesome recreation and to provide facilities and leadership for this program".

Special projects of the Association are the creation of the park grandstands, civic arena, junior and senior high school, civic centre, children's parks.

The Committee acts as sponsor for a large sports program, concerts, discussion groups, boys' and girls' work and a teen town. These are self-governing groups with representation on the committee. The teen town, which numbers three hundred, is a social club as well as a service club. It elects its own council and the council appoints the advisor for the teen town. At the present time the Recreation Director acts in this capacity at the request of the council.

Other organized recreation includes Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, sponsored by the Scout and Guide Associations, Women's Keep Fit Classes, sponsored by the Provincial Recreation Department, drama and music by the schools and special

dances, carnivals and the fall fair sponsored by the service clubs.

Facilities at the present time include R.C.C.M.C. Hall, which has an assembly hall with a capacity of two thousand. Seating accommodation consists of benches with backs. There are a cafeteria, two club rooms, kitchen, coke bar, office and stage in this building. Other army huts have been adapted for special activities; i.e., teen town, archery, games room, dance floor, model craft.

The employed leadership consists of a Recreation Director, who has had training in the Y.M.C.A. and seven years' experience, and a full time physical education instructor with teacher training. Both are paid by and responsible to the Association. There is also a part-time women's physical education instructor who has teacher's training and experience and who is responsible to the Association, but paid by the Provincial Recreation Department. About 75 volunteers, supervised by the director, give leadership in clubs, interest groups and mass programs.

The recreational activities in Alberni indicate a good community spirit and demonstrate that Alberni residents are actively concerned to develop program and facilities to meet the needs of the community. A temporary structure has been set up through which groups widely representative of the community are co-ordinating program and resources and developing new ones. It also provides opportunity for participants in the program to plan and to create policy.

A permanent structure, placing the centre on a sound financial basis, providing for a maximum of self-government and related to a co-ordinating council, has still to be developed.

The government of the centre by a council representative of such widely different interests and participating groups seems to indicate confusion as to the objectives of the centre. It would seem that the centre is a natural unit and should be developed as such. If a structure suited to this purpose were provided, the total unit could be related to the Council and the financial, administrative and programatic aspects of the centre's growth could proceed along more clearly defined lines.

### Prince Rupert

Prince Rupert is B.C.'s most northerly seaport. The chief industries are fishing and logging. It has a population of 8,100, and elementary school population of 675 and a high school population of 443. Commercial recreation consists of a theatre, a bowling alley, a roller skating rink and two pool halls.

Mt. Clymount Park, which is managed by the Civic Centre Association and the Gyro Club, was established several years ago. It has equipment for children's play, outdoor sports and picnics. There are two other parks with similar equipment. Two recreation workers, and volunteers supervise

activities in these parks.

Recreation programs are largely centred in the Civic Centre. There are 480 adults participating in Pro Rec programs sponsored by the Civic Centre Association. Other programs sponsored by the Association include: the Little Theatre, the Civic Band, a Symphony, and a basketball association. Membership in these groups approximates two hundred. Churches sponsor scouts and Guides, which meet in church halls and have a membership of 155. National Film Board showings are held weekly, and there are a Radio Forum group, a discussion group and a dramatic group.

The Civic Centre building was opened in 1946 and is valued at \$200,000. There is an assembly hall with a capacity of 720. There is a well-equipped stage, ladies' lounge, games room, two committee rooms, three offices, public library, adult lounge, a hobby room, camera club dark room, solarium, showers, kitchen, coke bar and cafeteria. There is equipment available for basketball, volley ball, badminton. In addition to the main auditorium there is a separate well-equipped gymnasium. This has a seating capacity of 750 for such sports as basketball, and of 1,100 for wrestling or boxing matches. The association also owns and operates the Roosevelt Gym, which is six blocks away from the Civic Centre. It has floor space for games 120 feet long and sixty feet wide, and seating for 1500.

The Association employs a staff of five. There is a managing secretary who has sixteen years' business experience, a recreational director who has had training and experience in

physical education, an office worker and a janitor. Approximately fifty volunteers assist the staff.

The Civic Centre Association was formed and incorporated in 1941. It has a membership of eleven hundred. Officers are elected at the annual meeting. They are president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and six committee chairmen.

No information was available as to how program and policy for the association is evolved. The large membership and numbers participating in the program suggest that a somewhat complicated organization would be necessary if members are to have the opportunity of expressing their needs and interests.

The Civic Centre Association also serves as a community planning group. Such service clubs as the Kinsmen's Club, the Gyro Club, the Junior Board of Trade, the Co-operative Welfare and Education Group and the City Council are represented. Its objectives are the development of community recreation. The Association has been concerned with the financing and operating of the Civic Centre and now is making plans to erect a swimming pool and bowling alley. Again no information was available as to how these funds are raised and administered. Nor was information available as to the manner in which the organization of the Association is adapted to its dual functions.

## Kamloops

Kamloops<sup>1</sup> is situated at the junction of North and South Thompson Rivers. It is a railroad divisional point for both the C.N. and C.P. railroads and the commercial centre for a large ranching and farming area. Population totals eight thousand. The elementary school population is 1250, and the high school 750. Commercial recreation consists of one theatre, a bowling alley, two pool halls, a roller rink and an ice skating rink.

The city Parks Board operates Riverside Park. It has facilities for softball, baseball, football and swimming, and such play equipment as swings, and merry-go-rounds. Organized recreation is centred around the park. There are four paid instructors and approximately sixteen hundred participants in the various sports programs.

Recreational programs are largely in the field of sports. There are: a Kamloops Athletic Association, which employs a full-time sports director, Box Lacrosse Association, Softball Association, Hockey Association. In addition there is a Little Theatre Group and the Kamloops Athletic Association sponsors National Film Board showings monthly.

Facilities include the Kamloops Athletic Association Hall which is managed by that Association, the Elks Hall, which has an auditorium with capacity for 650. There is also a

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1. See Appendix.

spacious basement room with a stage and a kitchen. Both buildings are equipped for indoor sports.

The Kamloops and District Memorial Society was organized and incorporated in 1944. It has a membership of six hundred. Fees are one dollar per year. Officers are elected annually and have affiliations with such organizations as the Elks, Kinsmen, Rotary, Legion, School Board, the City of Kamloops, and the Students' Council, but do not act in a representative capacity. The objective of the society is "to promote sport and community life". Towards these objectives the Society has raised \$190,000 for the erection of a building.

Kamloops has already developed a sports program in which large numbers are participating. As a result of this the Society has support for its building fund. In this area interest has already been aroused. Closer relationships with other organizations in the community would disclose other needs and interests. If a group were developed for this purpose planning for the future could proceed along broader lines and more concrete short range objectives could be evolved. These would contribute to the long range objective stated by the Society.

### Chilliwack

Chilliwack is the largest city in the Fraser Valley area. It is the centre of a fertile farming area and has a population of twenty thousand. The elementary school

population is twenty-four hundred, the high school one thousand. Commercial recreation consists of a theatre, two bowling alleys, five pool halls and a roller skating rink.

The agricultural grounds, managed by the City and Municipality of Chilliwack, serve as a park area. Here there are facilities for all field sports. There is no children's play equipment and no staff. There are other fields at Yarrow and Atchelitz, which are kept up by those interested. The school grounds also provide field accommodation. A park at Cultus Lake, a resort close to Chilliwack, has some children's play facilities. Organized recreation consists mostly of athletic clubs.

There are numerous small halls in the Chilliwack area. The Agricultural Hall in Chilliwack has capacity for a thousand. It has a stage, dressing rooms, showers and kitchen. In Chilliwack there are also two church halls and a school gymnasium. There are community halls in Sardis (capacity seven hundred), Cheam (three hundred), Fairfield (three hundred), Achelitz (seven hundred) and Ryder Lake. There is seating accommodation in all halls and games are played with the equipment provided by the local associations.

There is no community centre association in Chilliwack. However, a group has recently been organized for the purpose of building a community centre.

## Cranbrook

Cranbrook, in the southeast section of the province, is a divisional point for the Kettle Valley Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Lumbering is an important industry. The population is 3,300, the elementary school population being six hundred. Commercial recreation consists of one theatre, a bowling alley, an ice rink and two pool halls. Baker Park is managed by the city and has facilities for baseball and soft ball and a swimming pool. Two lifeguards are employed in the swimming season. There is also a Rotary Children's Park.

There is no community centre association or centre in Cranbrook. Organized recreation consists of Scouts, Guides, Brownies, a boys' band and a girls' bugle band. There is an East Kootenay Fine Arts Association, an Athletic Association, a Texas Ranger Group, a discussion group, a dramatic club and three sports clubs.

Facilities for recreation include an auditorium managed by the theatre proprietor. It has a seating capacity for four hundred, stage, dressing rooms and kitchen. There are four other halls -- Knights of Pythias Hall, Masonic Hall, Armouries, High School Auditorium and Anglican Church Hall.

There is no social planning group for the community. Active organizations are: the Women's Institute, the Board of Trade, Rotary, Gyro, the Knights of Pythias, Stagettes, Scandinavian Club, C.P.R. Social Club, I.O.D.E., I.O.O.F., Canadian

Legion, and the Farmer's Institute.

### Summerland

Summerland is situated in the Okanagan Valley near Penticton. Fruit growing is the main industry of the community and population totals 3,500. Commercial recreation consists of a theatre, bowling alley, pool hall and two ice skating rinks.

The Memorial Association Parks Committee established in 1946 now manages the Summerland Memorial Park and Playing Field. There are facilities for baseball, softball, football, field sports, ice hockey, roller skating, chequers and there is a wading pool for children.

Organized recreation consists of a large number of sports clubs. These include badminton and tennis clubs, basketball, baseball, golf, bowling, skiing. The A.O.T.S. sponsor hockey and baseball for boys ages ten to fifteen, and there are one hundred and fifty participants in this program. There is a National Film Board showing monthly. The community is also served by a travelling library.

Buildings available for recreation include Ellison Hall, which is managed by the Canadian Legion, and which has an assembly hall with a capacity of four hundred, stage, kitchen and rifle range in the basement; and Oddfellows Hall; and a Legion Hall.

## Nelson

Nelson<sup>1</sup> is the principal city of the Kootenay area. It is the commercial centre of an important mining district. Its population is approximately 7,600. Commercial recreation consists of two theatres, two bowling alleys, three pool halls and an ice rink.

There are three parks managed by the City of Nelson, the Civic Recreation Grounds, Lakeside Park and Gyro Club. They have facilities and equipment for softball, tennis, baseball, football, track sports and cricket. Children's play equipment consists of swings, teetertotters, slides, merry-go-rounds. Activities are supervised by a city athletic director, with the assistance of a swimming instructor, a lifeguard and three volunteers.

The facilities for recreation in Nelson seem to be adequate. The Nelson Civic Centre is valued at \$350,000 and is managed by the athletic director. It has an auditorium with seating for 860 and with theatre chairs, stage, library, kitchen, coke bar, office, and special rooms for photography and crafts. There is equipment for gymnastics, basketball, lacrosse, hockey and track and field sports. Other facilities in the city include a civic stadium, two tennis courts, two playgrounds, a swimming pool and a wading pool.

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1. See Appendix Page 102

The largest recreation program is sponsored by the Recreation Commission of the city of Nelson. It has five thousand participants, ages three to fifty, and is supervised by the athletic director, assisted by eight volunteers. The Provincial Recreation Department sponsors programs which have five hundred participants, ages three to fifty, and which are organized by an employed leader. There are Scouts, Guides and various church groups. A study group and a dramatic group are active and use the resources of the University Extension Department.

The two main recreation programs are mass programs and well attended. No information was available about the organization of the Centre or its management.

## Chapter Eight - Small Communities

### Invermere

Invermere, which is situated in the Windermere Valley, has a large tourist trade during the summer months. Its chief industries are lumbering and farming. It has a population of fifteen hundred, an elementary school population of 160, and a high school population of forty. The only form of commercial recreation is an ice skating rink. Athalmer, about a mile away from Invermere, has facilities for baseball and football. The grounds are managed by the Windermere District Farmers' Institute.

Organized recreation includes a Boy Scout group which meets in the Hotel Invermere Hall, Guides and Brownies and a Hospital Ladies' Aid, which meet in homes, the Women's Institute which meets in the Hotel hall and several church groups.

The Invermere Memorial Committee was formed in 1940 for the purpose of raising funds for the erection of a memorial community centre. These funds were raised by public donations, movies and dances. A Centre valued at \$15,000 was completed this summer. The present construction includes an assembly hall which will accommodate four hundred, a temporary stage, committee rooms, office, banquet room, check room, dressing rooms, coke bar and kitchen. The second unit which is to be constructed later, will include a theatre with a permanent

stage, library, larger banquet room, office and committee rooms.

When the first unit is completed a meeting of a community centre association is to be called, officers are to be elected. This group is to be responsible for the management and operation of the building. Its objectives are to be those of the committee; namely: "To foster and develop such communal activities in the district as they may from time to time consider would be of advantage to the community". There was no information regarding proposed program or leadership. Apparently this is to be the work of the association. The use of a committee to erect a centre and to enlist public support and interest in the project and the turning over of the project to those interested has proved a successful method for the development of a centre.

### Sooke

Sooke, a small community with a population of eighteen hundred, is situated on the southwest corner of Vancouver Island. The chief industries are fishing and logging. Commercial recreation consists of a pool hall. There is a ball park which is managed by the Sooke Athletic Association.

Organized programs for children consist of Scouts and Wolf Cubs sponsored by the Canadian Legion and held in the Community Hall and Guides and Brownies sponsored by the Women's Institute and held in the high school. For adults there are

Athletic, Badminton and Rifle Clubs. National Film Board showings are held twice monthly in the Community Hall. Other community organizations include a Women's Institute, a Farmer's Institute, a Canadian Legion and a Parent-Teachers' Association.

There is a community centre organization. It was founded and incorporated in 1935. Its objective is "Community Betterment". Towards this end in 1936 it erected a community hall which has an assembly hall with seating capacity for eight hundred, a stage, a dining room and kitchen. There is sports equipment for basketball and badminton. At the present time the association has a membership of 250. The association is financed by its fees which are one dollar a year, rental of the hall and the proceeds from various functions. It is governed by nine directors who are elected at the annual meeting.

#### Youbou

Youbou, situated on Cowichan Lake in central Vancouver Island, has a population of fourteen hundred, an elementary school population of two hundred, high school population of one hundred. Lumbering is the chief industry. Youbou is largely a company town. There is also an unorganized privately owned section.

The only commercial recreation is the theatre. A park was established in 1945. Here there are facilities for baseball, softball, track and field sports, and swings, rings, ladders and teetertotters. There is a Director of Recreation

who supervises activities, the teachers and other volunteers who assist with the program.

The recreation of the community is sponsored by the Department of Provincial Recreation and the Community Association. There are Keep Fit classes, boxing, wrestling and self defense classes, hobby groups, a dramatic group, softball teams and monthly National Film Board showings.

The Community Centre Association has 850 members. It is self-governing and the seven officers are elected by ballot annually. The fees in the Association are paid by an employee wage deduction system. The Association also has some income from hall rentals.

The Community Hall is managed by the Association. It has an assembly hall, with capacity for one thousand, stage, dining room, kitchen and office. There is equipment for basketball, badminton, volley ball, floor hockey, tumbling, gymnastics. The Director of Recreation is in charge of recreation for the whole community. He is responsible to and paid by the Department of Provincial Recreation and the Community Association. The other organizations active in the community are the International Woodworkers of America Union and its auxiliary, Technocrats, and three women's service clubs.

Youbou is the only small town which indicates that it employs a recreation worker. The activities outlined, and the participation in the Association, show that the community has had guidance in the development of a recreational program.

## Fulford Harbour

Fulford Harbour is smaller than Sooke and is situated on Salt Spring Island. There is one small playground for children equipped with swings. Organized recreation consists of a Badminton Club, Softball Team and Women's Institute. There are occasional National Film Board showings and the community has the services of a travelling library.

The Fulford Community Hall Association has a long history. It built a community hall in 1925. This building has a large assembly hall, a dining room and kitchen. There is equipment for basketball and badminton. Officers of the Association number seven and they are elected every two years. Funds, ten percent of which go into a Sinking Fund, are raised by subscriptions and dances.

## Mill Bay

Mill Bay, situated on the southern end of Vancouver Island, has a population of 397, an elementary school population of twenty-five and high school population of seven. Its chief industry is a cement works. There is a National Film Board monthly and a Union Library. The organizations active in the community are the Women's Institute, Farmer's Institute, Board of Trade, Fish and Game Association and the Women's Auxiliary. The Masonic Hall is available for recreational purposes on a rental basis. It has an assembly hall and kitchen.

The Community Centre Association, founded in 1945, has a membership of fifty-seven. Its purpose is "the advancement of all matters of community interest for the welfare of all". Towards this end it has started a building fund. There is a membership fee of one dollar and other funds are raised by means of concerts, card parties and bazaars. The officers, a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and executive committee are elected by ballot at the annual meeting.

#### Ashcroft

Ashcroft is an agricultural town situated on the Thompson River, west of Kamloops. It has a population of 750, and an elementary school population of 110 and high school population of twenty. Commercial recreation consists of a theatre and two pool halls. There are no parks or playgrounds but privately owned vacant land is used for baseball and tennis. There are five sports clubs - Junior and Senior Badminton Clubs, and basketball, baseball and tennis clubs. National Film Board showings are held monthly and there is a travelling library.

The community hall, value \$2,500, is managed by the Ashcroft School Board. It has an assembly hall, lodgeroom, kitchen and washroom facilities. There is equipment for basketball and badminton.

There is no community centre association in existence at the present, but one is being organized for the purpose of building a swimming pool. The community organizations

are the Board of Trade, Canadian Legion, Elks, Business and Professional Women's Club and the I.O.O.F.

### Dawson City

Dawson City is situated in the Yukon Territory. The principal occupation is gold mining. It has a school population of 121. There is one playing field in the area and a swimming pool which is managed by a business men's committee and kept up by the power plant workers on a voluntary basis.

There is a relatively large number of organized groups in the community. There are boys' clubs, the Dawson Youth Corporation, a Curling Club, softball teams of both men and girls and a ski club. Volunteer leaders work with most of these groups. There is a National Film Board showing once a week.

The community hall is valued at \$5,000. and is managed by a corporation of shareholders. It has an assembly hall with a capacity of four hundred, stage, cloak room and dining room, dressing rooms and a projecting room. There is equipment for basketball, volleyball and badminton.

The organizations which are active in the community are the I.O.D.E., Chamber of Mines, Dawson Youth Corporation and the Dawson Miners' Union.

**McBride**

McBride, with a population of 237, is situated on the main line of the C.N.R. close to the Alberta border. The chief industries are logging and agriculture. Commercial recreation consists of a theatre, pool hall and ice skating rink. There is a ball park managed by the Elks and the civic administration. The Elks give supervision for some of the activities.

Organized recreation includes Trail Rangers, a Junior Athletic Club and a girls' club. Special community programs are sponsored by the Elks on Victoria Day and July 1st. The organizations active in the community are the Women's Institute, the Board of Trade and the Elks. The church hall and the Elks' Hall are available as meeting places for the community.

## Part III

### Conclusions

## Chapter Nine - Evaluation

### Recent Growth

Members of and groups in communities are organizing to meet conscious needs. There has been no effort to stimulate this movement. It has come from the people themselves. The most commonly expressed need is for more recreation. The increasing use and demand for the services of the provincial agencies is an indication of this need. All of these agencies report increased demands, the need for more staff and increased enrolment of individuals and groups using the services offered by them.

It is for the purpose of providing more recreation that communities, or groups within them, have organized to raise funds for the erection of community centre buildings. Much has been accomplished. Several communities have acquired new buildings. Others have accumulated large building funds. In the fact that these organizations have been created on a voluntary, democratic basis, and in the fact that members of the community are finding satisfaction in them lies the proof that communities are seeking agencies, through which they can organize to meet their own ends.

The concern for the future lies in whether the community organizations in process of development will serve the recreational and social needs of the community and foster a sense of community by the creation of a democratic organiza-

tion, through which these needs can be met.

### Criteria

Certain general criteria were evolved in Part I, on the basis of which the development of community centres could be evaluated.

These can be summarized as follows. A community centre's planning should be shared by the organizations and agencies which function in the community, so that plans based on knowledge of the total needs and resources can be formulated. For this purpose an organization representative of the total community must be created and the community centre must be related to it. The erection of new facilities and the use of existing facilities should be the result of this kind of planning and co-ordination. These facilities should be adapted to the purposes of a community centre. The program and activities sponsored by the centre should be based on the knowledge of the existing resources and needs of the community. The development of this program to meet broader interests and to provide new experiences for the participants is dependent on the skill of trained staff and the use of volunteers. Finally, a structure must be created so that as many of the members as desire can, through participation in small groups, councils and committees, have a part in planning program and formulating policy. The development of any organization along these lines requires leadership with specialized training and

knowledge of the community, community organization, social group work and recreation.

### Co-Ordinating Councils

Some of the community centre associations described are associated with co-ordinating councils or groups which are distinct from the several associations. These include the West End, North Vancouver and West Vancouver. There has been a single committee in Invermere. Now it has completed its original task, the erection of the centre building and it intends to set up a separate body charged with administration of the centre. Alberni, North Burnaby and Burnaby Lake-Douglas Road have the following system: there is a single council or committee which has two functions, the co-ordinating of the work of the several agencies of the community and the administration of the centre.

The establishment of a single committee, representative of the various agencies, having as its principal and most immediate task the erection of the centre building is a natural development. Such an arrangement should not continue indefinitely. It does not lend itself to adequate participation on the part of the groups participating in the centre program. There should be a separate administrative body of the centre and it should be representative of these groups. On the other hand, the larger committee representative of the various agencies should be preserved. Such a body can so co-ordinate the

work of the various agencies as to employ the total resources of the community more economically. Through affiliation with such a body the community centre association can obtain valuable advice and support.

### The Building

A number of the associations are concerned primarily with the erection of buildings and have limited their activities to this area. These include the associations in Collingwood, Kitsilano, Kerrisdale, Kamloops, Chilliwack, Invermere and Mill Bay. There is danger in this procedure. Once the building is erected the association may feel its task is done and lose its vitality. Invermere is attempting to avoid this by the dissolution of the group created to erect a building and by placing the responsibility for the administration and the development of the centre in the hands of a new organization.

Certain areas have erected buildings. These are West Vancouver, Burnaby Lake-Douglas Road, Prince Rupert, Nelson, Youbou, Sooke and Fulford Harbour. Others, such as Marpole, the West End, Grandview, North Vancouver, North Burnaby, and Alberni, are using existing facilities until new ones can be provided. In these areas buildings are needed and it has required ingenuity on the part of the associations to find housing for their activities. However, the development of activities at an early stage and the use of existing resources

indicates a recognition that the development of a community centre is not totally dependent on the erection of a building. The associations in the West End, Grandview, North Vancouver and Alberni have employed leadership.

### Democratic Structure

The associations which have leadership with skill in the field of social group work have been most successful in the development of a democratic structure. In the West Vancouver and North Vancouver associations, the Grandview Community Y, Gordon House in the West End, and the Alberni Association, the membership is so organized that each section has opportunities to participate in the program planning and policy formulating groups. In the Youbou, Prince Rupert and Nelson Associations where leaders have specialized training in the area of program, the planning of program and the formulation of policy is apparently based not so much on joint planning as on the popularity of the activities as indicated by the attendance. The Marpole Association, without the benefit of employed leadership, is developing a structure which provides for the participation of its members. Here responsibility is delegated to the organized groups. There are indications of similar patterns developing in the North Burnaby and Burnaby Lake-Douglas Road Associations. The other associations are organized on a simple democratic basis which provides for the election of officers annually and democratic

business procedures.

## Program

The programs of the association which have the services of leaders are varied and have a large attendance. Gordon House, the Grandview Y, North Vancouver, West Vancouver offer recreational activities of every type. In addition other community services are made available. These associations are also developing small group activities within their program. Nelson, Youbou and Prince Rupert are developing a variety of programs with a large membership participating in sports, interest groups and mass programs. However, the development of small self-governing groups has not been marked. Here the difference in the training and skill of the leaders is indicated.

Some of the other associations are sponsoring program. The Marpole Association has a varied program, small self-governing groups and has made services available to the community. The associations in Burnaby have begun to assist in the development of a community recreation program. In these areas, and in Marpole to some extent, responsibility for a specific program is delegated to a service club or some other community organization related to the association.

## Volunteers

Wherever there is program volunteers are active.

Few associations gave actual numbers. Burnaby Lake-Douglas Road listed nine volunteers; Gordon House - fifty; Alberni - seventy-five; Prince Rupert - fifty; West Vancouver - 129; North Vancouver - 120. The advantages of supervision and guidance of volunteers by staff with skill in supervision and guidance is indicated by the development of program and activities in the various areas.

### Trained Leadership

When the community centre is evaluated on the basis of these criteria, there is clearly a relationship between the resources of its leaders and its developments. In those areas where leaders with purely recreational skills have been employed, program which attracts large numbers has resulted. In those areas where leaders have been employed with skills in recreation, and in the fields of group work and community organization, the centre is developing as a democratic organization serving the recreation needs of the community. In most areas where there is no trained leadership, the concern of the association with material needs indicates its lack of direction in terms of long-range objectives. Among the described associations which have no employed leadership only Marpole is developing on the basis of the criteria outlined, while the two Burnaby Associations seem to have realized some of the factors involved. Recognition of the value and importance of professional leadership still remains to be achieved. The develop-

ments in those areas where trained leadership is being used should serve this purpose. There is also the problem of financing it. In the larger communities where a recreational director and assistants can serve large numbers, if plans can be made for the financing of a community centre, this service should be included. For smaller communities it is more difficult. Here there is need for the co-ordination of districts or areas. Units which could be served by leaders could be developed. Smaller areas would benefit from a proportion of a leader's time and they could share in the cost of this service. The proposed creation of neighbourhood councils in North Vancouver illustrates how such an area might be organized. With assistance in the organization of the centre, the development of program and supervision by a trained leader, the number of volunteers could be increased, so that the number and variety of activities would be greatly enlarged.

One of the most obvious and immediate needs is for the provision of leadership at the provincial level. The requests received by the Department of Provincial Recreation and the Extension Department for information about community centres shows that communities would welcome assistance and direction. They have objectives in mind and desire help as regards the methods of working toward them. In many cases the advice sought concerns methods of starting an organization, and the direction it should take in order that members of the community may desire to participate in it and in order that it may eventually serve the needs of the total community. It is

difficult to give guidance unless definite information about the community is available. However, efforts have been made by both the Department of Provincial Recreation and the University Extension Department to meet these requests. In addition special conferences and leadership training classes have been offered.

There is, however, need for leadership in this area. Much specific advice, information about provincial services and general direction could be made available, if provision were made for a trained worker. Such a worker could collect the material already available and new material and could serve as a consultant for committees seeking such services. Co-ordination of provincial services could be begun if the requisite leadership were available. There could be a pooling of the information about communities possessed by provincial organizations serving in them. Such a sharing of information would make possible a better understanding of needs and the formulation of joint plans.

The B.C. Community Centres Association seeks to serve as a co-ordinating group for associations already functioning. At present it lacks direction and resources. With leadership it could serve as a medium, through which problems could be shared and plans for the future made. There is much that could be done on a provincial basis, so that the development of community centres could be a less painful trial-and-error process. To that end the provision of leadership is necessary.

## The Future

Although the development of community centres is the result of trial and error, much has been accomplished. New patterns, characteristic of the communities where they are being created, are being evolved. Groups in the community are beginning to think in new patterns and to realize that the welfare of the total community is dependent on the welfare of each part. Prejudices are being overcome and diverse groups are learning to work together.

For the most part, community centres have had their beginnings in a war period and many see in them a fitting memorial to the courage and idealism of youth in war. As such they are a symbol of many of the ideals of a democratic society. The need to realize the ideals of our society is a pressing one. There is a growing realization that the transition from theory to practice must happen in our communities and in our neighbourhoods, if it is to happen in our national and international communities.

This study reveals one community centre in British Columbia which, without trained leadership, has observed the standard of good practice set forth in these pages. Generally, however, the best practice is to be found where there is trained leadership. The provision of trained leadership, therefore, is essential to the continued and rapid development of community centres.

With such leadership these organizations have it

within their power to contribute to the realization of the  
ideals of our democratic society.

## Appendix

## Appendix

### The Questionnaire, Its Compilation and Use

The questionnaire was carefully designed to obtain as much information as possible about the history, organization and development of community centre associations, the communities in which they seek to serve, the recreation programs operating at the present time, the volunteer leadership active in the community and the use of professional leadership. The objectives of the questionnaire and its contents were discussed with members of the B.C. Community Centres Association at the Provincial Conference of that Association in April, 1947.

The questionnaire was sent to a hundred and ten individuals throughout the Province. These names were selected from the mailing list of the B. C. Community Centres Association in consultation with the staff of the University Extension Department. All had indicated at some time their interest in the development of community centres and their affiliation with a specific association.

Thirty-one replies were received. Two were submitted from the area around Langley. However, the overlapping of districts made the information confusing. It was noted that a survey had been done of this area by the Department of Provincial Recreation. Efforts were made to obtain this but to date it has not been available.

Information was also submitted from Victoria. However, again the number of districts and the lack of specific information made it impossible to describe developments.

Further information was requested from North Vancouver, Alberni, Prince Rupert, Nelson, Chilliwack and Kamloops. Replies were received from North Vancouver and Alberni.

The author collaborated with Mr. Robert Torrance in the circulation of the questionnaire and the compilation of the results.

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY CENTRES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Name of Community \_\_\_\_\_

Major Industry \_\_\_\_\_

Population \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School Population \_\_\_\_\_

High School Population \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is there a Community Centres Association or similar organization in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Does it own or manage a building? \_\_\_\_\_ If owns, what value now? \_\_\_\_\_

Date When Established \_\_\_\_\_

If not, does it propose to establish one? \_\_\_\_\_

For How Much? \_\_\_\_\_

When to Build? \_\_\_\_\_

3. List buildings used or available in your community for recreational purposes. (Give details on next sheet.)

Community Hall .....

Others

4. List other recreational organizations if any.

OrganizationPrincipal Activities

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

etc.

5. Principal Commercial Recreation (indicate number)

Theatre \_\_\_\_\_ Bowling Alley \_\_\_\_\_

Skating Rink (roller) \_\_\_\_\_ Pool Hall \_\_\_\_\_

(ice) \_\_\_\_\_

Others

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

Name of Building \_\_\_\_\_ Value Now? \_\_\_\_\_

Date When Established \_\_\_\_\_

Managed by \_\_\_\_\_

List facilities as follows:

Assembly Hall \_\_\_\_\_ Type of seating accommodation \_\_\_\_\_

Capacity of Hall \_\_\_\_\_  
(estimated)Stage \_\_\_\_\_ For what games or sports is  
equipment available \_\_\_\_\_

Specify Other rooms \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office equipment, e.g. type-  
writer \_\_\_\_\_Refreshment facilities \_\_\_\_\_  
Kitchen \_\_\_\_\_Duplicator \_\_\_\_\_  
Handicrafts \_\_\_\_\_

Cokebar \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other facilities used:

If more than one building available, use separate sheets to describe.

LOCAL PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS

Name of park or playground \_\_\_\_\_ Value now? \_\_\_\_\_

Managed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date when established \_\_\_\_\_

List facilities as follows:

Sports which can be played .... Type of Supervision \_\_\_\_\_

i.e. tennis, baseball Groundsmen \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employed recreational workers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Play Equipment ..... Playground supervision .....

Other Equipment ..... Other personnel .....

N.B. if more than one park or playground is available use separate sheets to describe.

## C O M M U N I T Y   P R O G R A M

Describe the recreational programs in your area under the following headings. (Note: Sponsors would include - Community Centre Association; Private Agencies such as Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, etc.; Provincial Recreation Services; Schools; Churches; Service Clubs; Sports Clubs; Cultural Societies, etc.)

Program	Sponsor	Where is it held?	No. of participants	Age Range	No. of Paid Leaders or Instructors	No. of Vol-unteer leaders or Instructors	No. of classes or meetings per week	Total Expense (Cost)

Other Activities:- Does your community use the services of:

National Film Board \_\_\_\_\_ How often is there a film showing \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is it held \_\_\_\_\_

Extension Department, University of B.C. e.g. Is there a radio listening group \_\_\_\_\_  
Discussion group \_\_\_\_\_ Dramatic group \_\_\_\_\_ etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Travelling Library \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY CENTRES ASSOCIATION

or similar organization

Number of members in the Association \_\_\_\_\_ Kinds \_\_\_\_\_

Is it incorporated under the "Societies Act" \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date the Association was formed \_\_\_\_\_

Does it have a constitution \_\_\_\_\_

What are its stated objectives \_\_\_\_\_

What officers does it have \_\_\_\_\_

How are they elected \_\_\_\_\_

To what other organizations do they belong \_\_\_\_\_

How is the Association financed or from where does it get its funds? \_\_\_\_\_

What funds are "earmarked" for special purposes? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the membership of the Centre self-governing \_\_\_\_\_

What are the fees, and for what purposes \_\_\_\_\_

If so, list the responsible groups or their responsibilities or duties

	<u>Responsible Group</u>	<u>Responsibilities or Duties</u>
i.e.	Membership Council	
	Teen Council	

If possible, and convenient, attach copy of 1944, 1945, 1946 financial statements.

Does the Community Centre Association work with other agencies sponsoring recreation programs in the community \_\_\_\_\_

What clubs or organizations are active in your community:

Organization	Purpose
e.g. Women's Institute	
Board of Trade	
others .....	

What Social Welfare Agencies operate in your community .....

Is there a community planning or co-ordinating group or council in your area \_\_\_\_\_

If so, list organizations represented on it \_\_\_\_\_

What are its objectives \_\_\_\_\_

List problems or projects with which it has been or is concerned

# COMMUNITY CENTRE STAFF

or Staff of Similar Organization

Describe staff employed under the following headings:-

Position	Responsibilities	Experience	Training	Skills	Salary	Sex	Responsible to whom	Paid by whom

Are volunteer workers used? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, specify the number \_\_\_\_\_

List jobs in which they are used \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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