

Physical education program shows increased activity

Increased activity in the province's physical education division was noted by director, Dave Boswell in reporting his division's work for the 1960-61 period.

Mr. Boswell, before dealing with the growth of the division, paid special tribute to his predecessor, Brigadier W. W. Reid, for the "growth and development of a sound and practical program during the past 15 years."

Mention was made by Mr. Boswell of the newly integrated program of alcohol studies and

physical education and its extensive promotion, with a true perspective in terms of aims and objectives. This program reached a large segment of the province's population.

Throughout this period a physical education competition was organized for rural schools and a total of \$735 in prize money was made available for this competition. The schools were classified according to size and the winning schools were Tignish, Kensington, Sherwood, Parkdale, St. Teresa's and Murray Harbour.

In all 22 schools were entered in the competition and director Boswell is optimistic that the number of competing schools next year will be greatly increased and the physical education will be given the time it merits on the curriculum.

In addition to the physical education competition organized for rural schools, new classifications for competition in both girls and boys basketball and hockey were established with the result that 11 of the 12 senior and regional high schools were entered in hockey compe-

tion, making interscholastic competition in this sport almost one hundred per cent. An elementary and 'B' classification, to meet the needs of other than high schools, was organized with twelve schools registered.

The first high school basketball tournament for both boys and girls was sponsored and staged by the division with team, individual aggregate, and individual awards and crests. The division was most appreciative of the generosity of the Charlottetown School Board in providing the facilities of Queen Charlotte and Birchwood High School gymnasiums.

VISIT SCHOOLS
An effort was made by the division to visit as many schools as possible and conduct some actual testing and teaching. A physical efficiency test for the various components of fitness—endurance, flexibility, strength, balance, speed, posture and

agility—was administered in seven schools during the fall term. It was indeed apparent from the representative sample of schools tested that where programs have been in existence for even short periods of time, the students are superior in physical efficiency and are more mentally alert.

In addition to the schools tested and those which entered the physical education competition, forty-seven other schools were visited for observation and survey of programs and facilities. Mr. Boswell reported that a number of these schools were rendered assistance in organizing a physical education program.

Great strides were made in interscholastic track and field competition. After consultation with department and other education administrators, it was decided to hold the Provincial meet during the spring rather

than the fall. This change necessitated two provincial interscholastic meets in one school year. To further increase participation and competition, the number of events was also increased from previous years.

These track and field meets are highly competitive affairs at the present time and much interest is being evidenced in them.

ICE MEETS
Mr. Boswell's division also promoted and staged the annual county and provincial ice meets. The highlight of the provincial get-together was the visit of Maurice 'Rocket' Richard, former great of the Montreal Canadiens. Professional preparation in the field of physical education was encouraged and bursaries were made available by the division for this purpose. Director Boswell reports that physical educators are now in Tignish, O'Leary, Evangeline

Regional, Miscouche, Summerside, Kensington, Slemmon Park, Charlottetown and Montague. The division is hopeful of several other centres employing physical educators next school year.

"Before any program can be successful," claims Mr. Boswell, "leadership training, especially for volunteer workers in the program, is imperative." It was for this reason that the provincial physical fitness director that considerable budget was used to improve leadership in all phases of the program throughout the province. A record number of 15 clinics, provincial and regional for coaches, officials and players in football, hockey, basketball, baseball and track and field were sponsored and conducted by the division throughout the year. These involved taking in top authorities on coaching and officiating techniques, and dis-

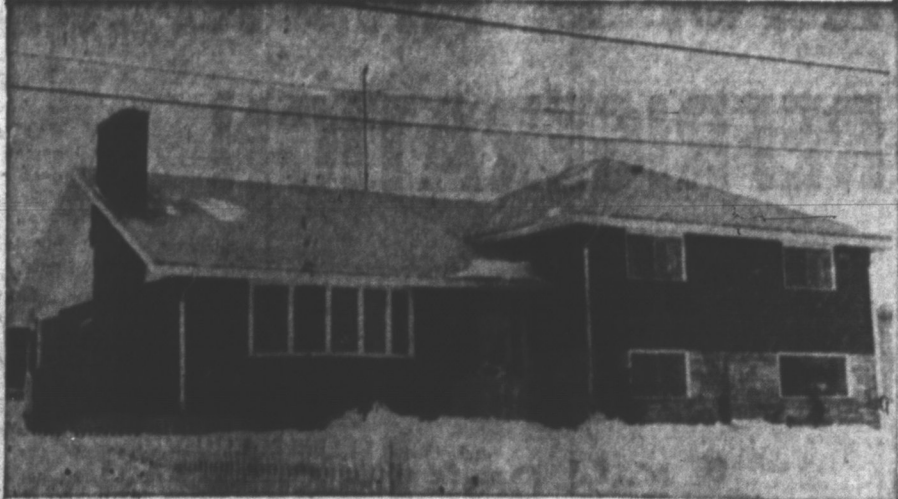
tributing rule books, coaching manuals and other helpful materials. These clinics were conducted with a true perspective of physical education aims and objectives in the hopes that the leadership in these activities will improve.

CHIEF INSTRUCTORS
These chief instructors were as follows: Pete Kelly, director of athletics at the University of New Brunswick, William Ritchie, assistant director of physical education for New Brunswick, Ken Fultz, referee-in-chief Atlantic Football Conference, Frank Udvari, NHL referee, Roi McLennan, director of youth in New Brunswick, Don Canham, head track coach at the university of Michigan. Valuable assistance was given by local physical educators and director Boswell.

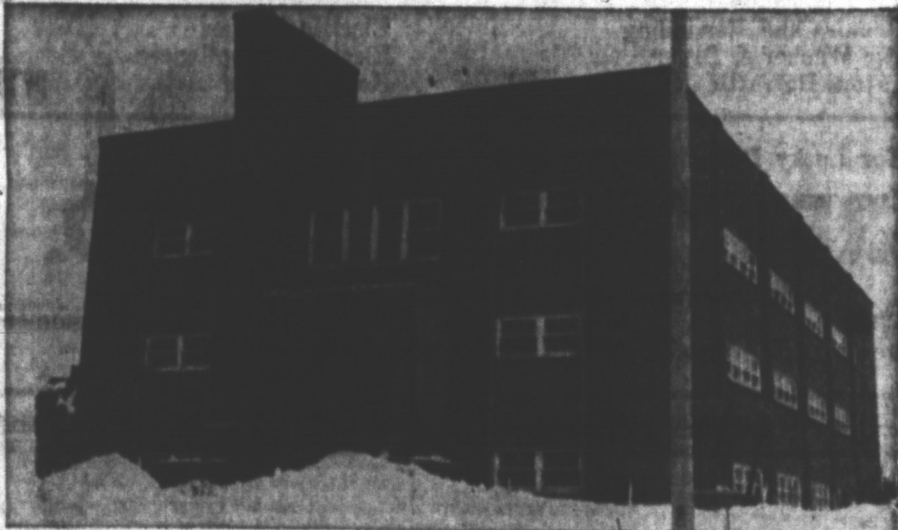
help with the physical education program. These schools were provided with the minimum equipment necessary for playing various seasonal activities such as softball, baseball, hockey, basketball, volleyball, badminton, soccer, track and field and other group games.

Two competitions were highlights during the year and each of these was sponsored and conducted by the division. They were the Maritime Senior 'C' basketball championships and the open Prince Edward Island Track and Field championships. Mr. Boswell is mighty optimistic about the days ahead. He sees much greater interest being shown in physical education and this interest, he maintains, will reflect in the manner in which students from various schools compete in all athletic endeavours.

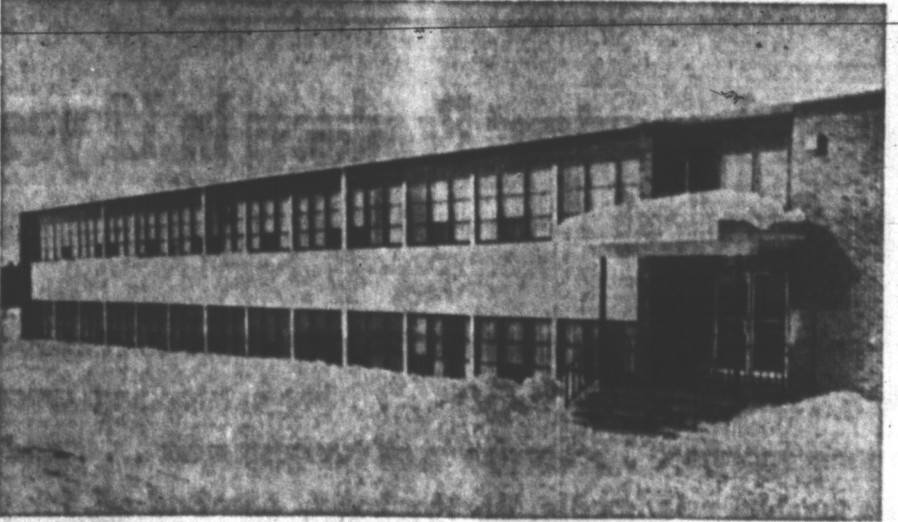
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