

Eventually, Halifax's Supervised Playgrounds were incorporated and the provisions of public playgrounds became accepted municipal responsibility. Across the western world, Supervised Playgrounds were the basis of the modern municipal. "parks and recreation department" as well as the "summer day camps" also offered by most municipalities.

# Historic Bloomfield Park

## Halifax's First Public Playground



"In grateful appreciation of the Local Council of Women, Halifax who began the playground movement in Halifax, July 13 1906, on this spot." [plaque laid May 27, 1986].

The Bloomfield Supervised Playground is an important piece of our local history belonging to a much broader international movement that helped shaped the modern world. However, there are currently no plans to save this valuable piece of our local history when the Bloomfield Centre is redeveloped. Contact Halifax city council to help save Historic Bloomfield Park!

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Email: [bloomfieldurbancommon@hotmail.com](mailto:bloomfieldurbancommon@hotmail.com)



# A History of Halifax's Supervised Playgrounds

## Halifax, Nova Scotia

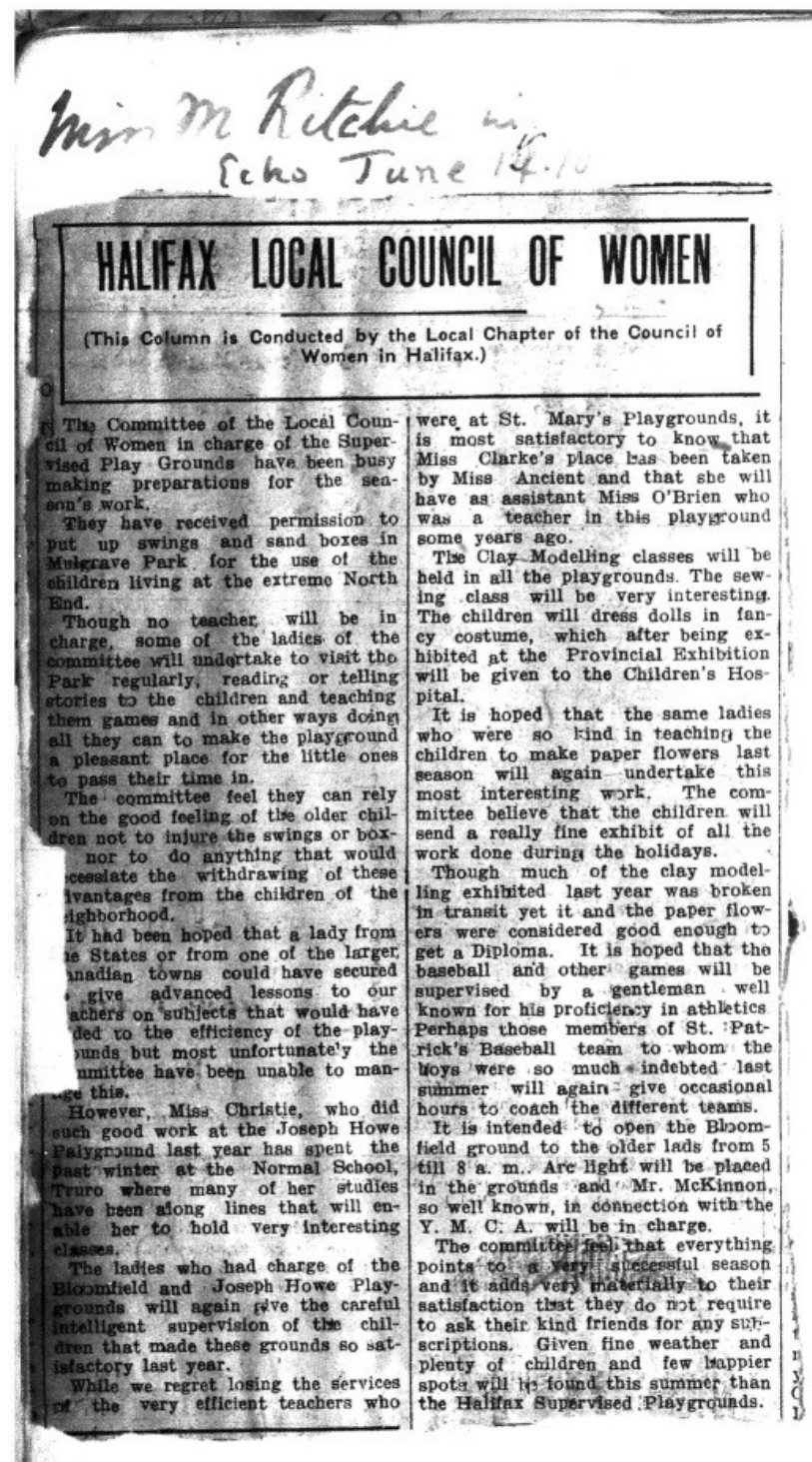
Through the efforts of the local Council of Women, the first supervised playgrounds in Halifax were opened during the summer of 1906. Taking advantage of their proximity to the United States, the ladies engaged Miss Ford of the Hyannis Normal School in Boston as playground supervisor. She was assisted by two teachers from the Halifax Public Schools. Instruction was given in sewing, basketmaking, clay modelling, and physical culture. The grounds were open in the evenings from six to nine o'clock for boys over thirteen and for men. Two band concerts, "enjoyed by thousands of people," were part of the summer programme.<sup>46</sup> The success of the 1906 programme led to a grant in the amount of \$150 from the Halifax School Board for the 1907 summer programme, and the same grant was repeated in 1908 to assist in paying the teachers. In addition an appeal for funds brought in \$72.55, but the local Council of Women was faced with a large deficit that was only solved when Mr. Thomas Mitchell, "a warm friend of the Playgrounds," donated \$150. At the close of the 1908 season the playgrounds committee of the local Council of Women made it clear that it thought the time had come for the playgrounds to be taken over by the school board or the city, the aim of the local Council of Women being rather to initiate than to carry on work of this kind permanently.<sup>47</sup>

Activities on the Halifax playgrounds in 1908 were supervised by women teachers from the Halifax public schools, assisted by women from the sponsoring committee. The programme of that summer indicates a wide variety of activities including stories, games, sewing, paper flower making, knitting, kindergarten work, clay modelling and basket-making. Mr. McKinnon of the YMCA assisted with older boys' baseball. "A very popular gift was a large number of solid wooden blocks given by Mr. Dempster of Dempster Planing Mills. These last forever and are capital for rainy days indoors."<sup>48</sup>

The local Council of Women continued its efforts on behalf of the children of Halifax until, in 1914, the Halifax Playgrounds Commission was formed "to promote healthful recreation for the residents of Halifax and Dartmouth."<sup>49</sup> The organization was a voluntary one with no formal relation to civic government; however, there was provision for appointment of two school board members to the commission. The local Council of Women was to be represented continually by three members. While the articles of incorporation provided for employment of superintendents, no permanent appointment was made.

In 1944 the Halifax city council established a recreation committee of council which in 1946 appointed Roy K. Smith as full time director of recreation.<sup>50</sup> For the next several years both the Playgrounds Commission and the recreation committee continued to operate. Duplication of responsibilities was obvious and several meetings were held to discuss amalgamation of the two bodies.<sup>51</sup> Finally in 1952 the two were joined as the Halifax Recreation and Playgrounds Commission with appointments to the commission made by city council.<sup>52</sup>

This article references the installation of the arc-light at the Bloomfield Playground. Another article references the contribution of the St. Patrick's baseball team who helped coach the children in the 1909 season.



A community "little league" began to play baseball out of the playgrounds beginning sometime around 1907. By 1910, the league consisted of a beginners, intermediate, and advanced division with teams playing out of each of the playgrounds. The games were very popular and followed by the community. Being the first public playgrounds in Halifax, this likely represents the first organized community baseball in the city as well. An arc-light was installed at the Bloomfield Supervised Playground in 1910 to allow the baseball teams to play later into the evening.

# INTEREST CONTINUES TO GROW IN EVENING PLAYGROUNDS

This is proving a banner year for the evening work in connection with the supervised playgrounds. The number of grounds has been doubled and the attendance so far has trebled over last year. Two baseball leagues are in full swing with keen contests marking all of the games. In the intermediate league the Bloomfield Clippers are leading, with the Grove team pushing them for this position. The "Cubs" are in first place in the senior league.

## EXCITING GAME LAST EVENING.

One of the best games of the season was played at Richmond last evening, when the Grove team met the Northerns for the first time. The Groves went to bat first and in a very few minutes ran up a score of four runs. It certainly looked bad for the Northerns, but when Ash came to bat and tapped out a three bagger the Northern fans began to think that the world was not so dark after all. At the end of the first inning the score was 5-3 in favor of Groves.

The other innings were marked by heavy batting, good fielding and a few sensational catches. After the second the Northerns took the lead and kept it until the end. The final score was 13-10.

## GOOD GAME TONIGHT.

There will be a good game tonight when the Grove senior team plays the Clippers at Richmond.

## GREAT EXCITEMENT AT BLOOMFIELD STREET SCHOOL.

### Two Hundred Children Wild With Joy Over the Erection of the Swings, Tilts and Giant Strides.

There is great excitement around the supervised play-ground. Eight swings, six tilts and the giant stride had been put up and after the men stopped working, children to the number of about two hundred, flocked in and were enjoying themselves in fine style. As the teacher will not arrive until to-day, the Woman's Council were obliged to have the gates locked and posters put up saying there would positively be no admittance until the play-ground was ready. Yesterday a man was raking up the field and putting flowers in the little plot of ground which has been dug up. All the arrangements will be made known later. It is probable that children under 13 will be admitted from 9 until 5. There will be a couple of hours from 6 to 8 for older boys who will be allowed to use the ball ground. There will be no admission except under supervision. It is not the intention to turn a crowd of children into the grounds to amuse themselves. The gates will only be open when the teacher or authorized supervisor is present. Seats will be put in this week for use of parents and others, and it is expected that the open air concerts will begin next week.

### To the Editor of The Herald:

Sir,—Perhaps our far-seeing city fathers did not fully understand or appreciate the ultimate benefits our boys would receive from the first and perhaps the best play-grounds Halifax will ever have. Their action in reserving the W.A.A.C. grounds for our growing young citizens was undoubtedly a good action. The love of outdoor life, cricket, football, tennis, golf, quoits, etc., the sturdy rivalry, and hard-fought games witnessed there, cannot fail to impress even the most thoughtless that qualities are unconsciously absorbed, that help to fit the player both mentally and physically to fight the sterner game of life.

Environment is possibly, next to heredity, the greatest factor in moulding our future—so all chip in and help to give the boys and girls proper play-grounds with congenial surroundings.

I enclose cheque for \$25 for Albro street play-grounds.

H. H. S., ALBRO NO. 2.	
Recent Contributions.	
H. H. S., Albro No. 2.....	\$26.00
Mr. and Mrs. George Mitchell ..	5.00
Mrs. Armitage .....	1.00
W. T. Kennedy .....	2.00
Miss Ella Ritchie, for Albro street .....	5.00

The Bloomfield Supervised Playground was the first of three supervised playgrounds opened in Halifax in the summer of 1906 that included the Grafton Street Playground at St. Mary's and the Albro Street Playground. Supervised Playgrounds were also established at Young Street, Joseph Howe School in 1909, and Mulgrave Park in 1910. Members of the council were concerned that in an increasingly industrialized and urban city, there were limited opportunities for children to play outside in a safe and clean environment. Moreover, many parents could not afford adequate daycare during the summer when their children were not in school. The answer was the international Supervised Playground Movement. Parents could leave their children under the supervision of specially trained teachers where there would be playground equipment, games, arts and crafts, and organized sports. Also known as "vacation schools", the playgrounds were open during the evenings to older children and the men and women who worked in nearby factories. The "open air concerts" referred to in this article drew 1000s of attendants as mentioned on the previous page.



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TAG DAY RALLY  
 AND  
 THE VOLUNTEERS

Badges and Tags Distributed and Districts Assigned at an Enthusiastic Meeting Held Yesterday Afternoon.

THE LAST INSTRUCTIONS

Tomorrow Morning at Seven o'clock the Girls Will Begin to Sell Tags in the Interest of the Playgrounds.

This is the "last call" for Tag Day—yesterday afternoon the Y. M. C. A. assembly hall was the scene of "strenuous life" for two hours. The playgrounds' committee, the captains and the young ladies who have volunteered to sell the tags met together, districts were assigned, squads organized, badges, tags and books, kindly lent by the Eastern Canada Savings and Loan Company were distributed, and final instructions given, in order that to-morrow there may be plain sailing.

Let us mere man and no woman proposing to buy fresh eggs in the green market entertain the hope that they may escape the tagging forces. This campaign has been so fully, so thoroughly organized that escape will

be quite impossible, so the most philosophical plan will be to put aside a generous sum for the blue ribboned young ladies and wish them and the playgrounds well.

THORO WARD ORGANIZATION.

"Ward organization" is thoro—a squad will be on duty at Richmond, and another on duty on Inglis street. Another will take up a "strategic position" in the neighborhood of North street station, and will look well after the "suburbanites." The west end, the north end, the south end will be fully covered—let a generous public take notice and meet the taggers "half way."

The captains will, generally speaking, assemble their workers at seven o'clock to-morrow morning, in order to catch people on their way to their offices and places of work, for the committee have given instructions that no buildings are to be entered, save in certain cases where special consent have been secured. With these exceptions no buildings and no stores are to be entered, and for that reason it will be absolutely necessary to catch the business men on their way to or from work.

Each group of young ladies will be chaperoned.

The badges are very pretty, being of pale blue silk, upon which in a darker shade is the bow of the Local Council of Women and the word captain.

Y. M. C. A. BUILDING TO BE HEADQUARTERS.

The "headquarters" will be at the Young Men's Christian Association building, and squads are requested, if they find themselves likely to need

more tags than those with which they start out to telephone to the Y. M. C. A. and the needed supplies will be sent to them. They are cautioned not to wait until their supply is nearly exhausted before communicating with headquarters, in which case they will, of course, lose opportunities for selling tags. THE NUMBER of the Y. M. C. A. TELEPHONE IS 658.

Tags may be sold for not less than 5 cents. The maximum which may be charged will be just as much as they can get for them. It will be quite permissible for any capitalist, wishing to do so, to pay \$500 for a tag—no objection will be entered by anybody.

WILL SERVE LUNCHEON IN ST. PAUL'S HALL.

From 11 to 2 o'clock luncheon will be served in ST. PAUL'S HALL to the workers, by a committee consisting of the following ladies: Miss Hodgess, Mrs. Jane Ross, Mrs. E. Blackadder, Mrs. Percy Strong, Mrs. Scarfe, of Dartmouth; Mrs. W. R. Foster, Mrs. H. W. Cunningham, Mrs. Egan, Mrs. H. Davis, Mrs. James Moir, Miss Mary Ritchie, Mrs. Brinkman, Mrs. M. E. Keefe, Mrs. W. J. Wallace, and Mrs. W. J. Armitage.

Now—the public will be confidently relied upon to make the work of tag-selling as easy as possible for the young girls who have volunteered for the work. All of them are novices in the work and have a natural shrinking about it, but they have, nevertheless, undertaken it, wishing to help a good cause and are a bright, gentle and charming group who may be trusted to use tact as well as enthusiasm.

All interested in the playgrounds are hoping for a fine day—given such weather as three, years ago, success is regarded as assured.

In a time of increasing industrialization and urbanization, the Halifax Local Council of Women were concerned about the effect this would have on children who did not have safe and healthy places to play. The playgrounds were seen as a public health measure of which a key component was the "mental health" of those who used them, although this would have been referred to as "spiritual" or "moral" health back in the early 1900s.

these play grounds and see the children at play—safe from the street—to be assured the money so generously be- is put to a most excellent use. is for tag day itself that I must word. This objection has been "It is begging, under the guise selling something; this something nothing but a tag. Why not ask the money out and out." I take the ground that it is not giving, but that we are giving something for the money. In the place, the citizens get a lot of amusement and a little mild excitement out of it. Halifax, three years on "tag day" was in a festive and excitement among our citizens. Every face was bright, and lips laughed—joy reigned in season. It was the influence of tag day. Then the tag, which so many of our citizens proudly wore that day—and the mites which we hope they will wear again on June 18, our second "tag day"—means something. It stands for many things. It is a reminder of the play grounds, of the duties of citizens, of the needs of the children, and of our responsibilities towards them. Contrast the children playing on the streets and wharves with those on the play grounds, and then think what the "tag" has done and can do again. It is a reminder, too, of what neglect of duty leads to. The children of our City who grow up on the streets and have played in her gutters, go largely to swell the criminal class, the loafers and the degenerates, and their support in jails, hospitals and poorhouses increase our taxes. In self-defence, if not for the uplift of the children and the ultimate good of our City, citizens must aid in all that goes to give the youths and children a chance to "make good."

The little tag is a reminder of the work of our women, of their love and self-sacrifice. With hearts filled with love and pity for the children who have

## THE LADIES WHO WILL SELL TAGS ON SATURDAY FOR BENEFIT OF THE PLAYGROUNDS

The following is a complete list of the captains together with the names of the young ladies who will sell tags on Saturday for the playgrounds and the districts assigned them.

**Ingis Street to Morris—**Mrs. W. F. Page, captain, Miss Nora Allen, Miss Edna Webster, Miss Freeman, Miss Hay, Miss Hay.

**Mrs. James Ross, captain:** Miss L. Schwartz, Miss Gladys Wilson, Miss May Pyke, Miss E. Allen, Miss Freeman.

**Morris to Backville—**Mrs. Morrow, captain: Miss O. Hayward, Miss M. Fraser, Miss J. Crichton, Miss M. Brown, Miss M. McKean, Miss Price and friend.

**Backville to Duke, Mrs. H. Blackadar, captain:** Miss Blackadar, Miss Blithen, Miss Litter, Miss Wiewell, Miss F. McDonald, and two others.

**Jacob and Lockman—**Mrs. H. Macnab, captain: Misses Gass, Miss Longard, Miss Mary Archibald, Miss Russell.

**Lower Water and Kollis, Salter to Backville—**Mrs. MacClelland, captain: Miss Eva Crowe, Miss L. Whitman, Miss G. Thompson, Miss N. Harvey, Miss Purcell.

**Backville to Chespic—**Mrs. Walsford, captain: Miss E. Sanford, Miss Glassey, Miss Mabel Sanford, Miss Edna Sanford.

**Market Square and Dartmouth—**Mrs. J. Wood, captain: The Misses Morrison, Miss Merlin, Miss H. Kane, Miss E. Arthur, Miss J. Pier, Miss R. Johnson, Miss M. Mitchell, Miss M. Doull.

**George Street to Ordnance—**Mrs. Hunt, captain: Miss Fox, Miss M. King, Miss Schmidt, Miss Williamson.

**Granville Street—**Mrs. Sterns, captain: Miss Hall, Miss Allison, Miss K. Johnson, the Misses Hughes, Miss Caranagh, Miss Freeman, Miss Toulis, Miss McNamara.

**Upper Water Street—**Mrs. Pier, captain: Miss Annie Kennedy, Miss Trefry, Miss T. Ross, Miss A. McDonald, Miss A. Strachan.

**The Parade—**Mrs. Ross, captain: Miss Schwartz, Miss Wilson, Miss Pyke, Miss E. Allen.

**Argyle Street—**Mrs. Richardson, captain: Miss Stoddard, Miss Hay, Miss Belling.

**Brunswick and Jacob Streets—**Mrs. Northover, captain: Miss Crease, Miss Priest, Miss Maxwell, Miss Cunningham, Miss G. Cunningham.

**Gottingham Street—**Mrs. Sage, captain: Mrs. Shaw, captain: Miss Meagher, Miss Butcher, Miss Carson, Miss Fellow, Miss Grant, Miss Denice.

**Windsor, Robie and Quinspool Road—**Mrs. Simms, captain: Miss Agnes Montgomerie, Miss Mary MacLean and friend, Miss Guldford.

**Sulker Car Works and Round House—**Mrs. L. Brunt, captain.

**The Common—**Mrs. Pluck, captain: Miss Ingis, Miss Conrad, Miss Madeline Scott, Miss M. Litter.

**North of North Street—**Mrs. Hubley, captain, Mrs. Walsh, captain, Mrs. Evans, captain, Miss Hamilton, captain, Mrs. Tobin, captain: Miss Walsh, Miss May Taylor, Miss Jackson, Miss McPhee, Miss Fleming, Miss Moxon, Miss J. Leel, Miss Brodie.

**Spring Garden Road, Tower Road and South Park Street—**Mrs. C. B. captain and Mrs. Little, captain.

**Hart, Miss J. Keath and friend—**Miss J. Foster, Miss M. Hebb, Miss Joakims, Miss R. McDonald.

**Coburg Road, Robie to Jubil's Road—**Mrs. Alvin McDonald, captain: Suteiffe, Miss Hilland, Miss Kelly, Miss Hawkins and two others.

**Across the Arm and Arm Ferry—**Mrs. Jost, captain, Miss M. MacLeod, Miss D. Jost, Miss W. Jost, Miss E. Burchell.

**Extra Banks—**Mrs. L. Murray, Miss Sara Dennis, Miss DeWolfe, Miss O'Brien, Miss Mary Bennett, Miss Shenk, Mrs. Halliday.

## GIRLS AT THE CROSSWAY.

The making or marring of the girl in her early teens is one of the many problems on which the Crossway Central Mission reports in the admirably-produced booklet issued as a record of the Mission's seven years of existence. A selection of the employments represented in the girls' club includes general servant, cigar-maker, dressmaker, lampshade-maker, book-binder, box-maker, tobacco-packer, button-maker, upholsteress, blouse hand, waitress, and doll-maker.

With a choice between an overcrowded home, an aimless stroll in the street, or a visit to a picture-theatre after a day of hard work, the girls are eager to accept the hospitality of Crossway as club-members, and are gradually but surely drawn under the higher influences for which the Mission stands.

It is satisfactory to note that Crossway has ended its seventh year financially independent of the London Congregational Union, under which it works.

*This is a need in Hfx*

MARY MACNAB.

The Supervised Playgrounds were privately funded through public fundraising activities. The Halifax Local Council of Women paid to install slides, swings, see-saws, sand boxes, and also offer games like bag tosses and tetherball, arts and crafts, and organized excursions and day-trips. June 1906.

put in the bank for a Galician emi- the matter. (CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT.)

# ONE WAY TO DO GREAT GOOD WITH LITTLE EFFORT

## The Supervised Playgrounds Are Going to Fill a Want That Has Been Heretofore Greatly Felt---But More Money Will Be Required.

A meeting of the supervised playgrounds committee of the Woman's Council was held on Saturday. It was decided to purchase kindergarten material, also to place ten sand boxes in the play-ground. These will be about four feet square and two feet high and when filled with sand will be a great source of pleasure to the little ones. Parallel bars, three dits and half a dozen swings will be placed in the yard. A friend on College street has offered to donate the giant stride. W. H. Johnson has promised the use of a piano, and S. M. Brookfield has given two loads of sand. Kindergarten chairs and tables will be required for the little ones who will employ themselves in paper cutting, basketry, sewing and other enjoyable ways. A tent, with slides, which can be rolled up, is much needed for the very hot days. The teacher, Miss Sarah Ford, of St. Alban's, Vermont, is expected to begin her work the second week of vacation. She will be assisted by a number of Halifax young ladies. It is intended to take the children on excursions to the Park and other places of interest, at least once a week. A number of ladies will visit Brookfield, Albion and Young street schools this week with a view to finding out how many children will use the play-ground. The committee have on hand \$230. At least \$300 will be required and \$400 or \$500 could be used to advantage. The hope was expressed that money enough would be sent in to furnish the grounds with benches, so that parents could sit around the grounds with their little ones in the early evening. The committee confidently expect that enough money will be sent in for all these purposes. St. John has a play-ground fund of \$1,200. Halifax must not be behind in this movement. Donations will be received by E. L. Thorne, treasurer, and by The Evening Mail.

### GOVERNOR FRASER WILL ASSIST IN GOOD WORK.

His Honor Cordially Approves of Supervised Play-Grounds, and Hopes All Will Help to Secure Them.

Dear Mrs. Dennis.—Permit me to congratulate you as president, and all your associates of the Woman's Council, on your practical efforts providing, during vacation, as many of the needs of our children with play-grounds, under proper care and supervision, as the generosity of our citizens will warrant. Healthy children will seek play, and if it is not provided for them they will find it where it may become hurtful because unchecked. Your efforts will not only make them happy, but will both strengthen their bodies and help to mould their characters. The greatest need of the age is more unselfish efforts to make our boys and girls strong in all that tends towards good citizenship. In your unselfish work I trust you will not only have sympathy, but the support of all classes to enable you to help the children during the trying vacation days, let all who, during these days, can get away to new scenes and changed surroundings, in their kindness help those who remain to do such good work for those who have not been blessed with the means of spending their vacations elsewhere.

With assurance of every assistance I can render, I am, dear Madam, your sincerely, D. C. FRASER, Government House, June 12.

Enclosed, please find cheque for play-ground fund, with every good wish for success in this most necessary work. Yours sincerely, MARION S. MORROW, North-West Arm, June 18, 1906.

Here's a dollar for your worthy fund. If there is a better way to spend a dollar, I'd like to know it. CHARLIE.

### WHERE CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE SENT.

Halifax's Supervised Playgrounds were part of the international Playground Movement which saw supervised playgrounds opened in cities like Philadelphia, Boston, New York, London, and Manchester as early as 1885. Fundraising for the Playgrounds was achieved, in part, through the selling of "tags". These tags would be analogous to the modern button-pin and would be worn as both a source of pride and notification that a person had already contributed to the fundraising effort. Organized groups of children led by adults would spread out across the city, and could raise over \$1000.

July 11, 1909.

This article describes the tags that were sold by the children. It is possible that some of these survive to this day either in the Halifax city archives, the Halifax Regional School Board's archives, the Local Council of Women's archive, or possibly in private homes by the descendants of their purchasers. Other historical items from the Supervised Playgrounds that I would like to try and recover include the clay models and paper flowers produced by the children and put on display at the Nova Scotia Exhibition Hall. The children also made dolls that were put on display at the Exhibition Hall and then afterwards donated to the children at the Children's Hospital. As well, there are the concert programs from the first season and the baseball uniforms worn by the children playing in the community baseball leagues that began to play out of the playgrounds starting around 1908. There are likely many more newspaper articles on the playgrounds, as well as the baseball leagues which played out of them, in the provincial archives. The articles in this pamphlet are drawn from the "Women's Council Archive" which is a small sample of the total number of articles that must exist.

streets encourages the gang and it is among such groups of boys that mischief and even crime is fostered and put into execution. Roosevelt says: "City streets are unsatisfactory playgrounds for children because of the danger, because most good games are against the law, because they are too hot in summer, and because in crowded sections of the city, they are apt to be school of crimes."

The "Boy without a playground is like a man without a job." If there is no other playground than the street, the children hang around there getting into a loafing habit which is answering to future manly and womanly usefulness. The street is the breeding place for juvenile crime. Judge Lindsay of juvenile court fame says, "If the juvenile court is designed to keep children out of prisons and jails, we ought to have something to keep them out of the juvenile court." His basal ideas is that we should prefer to correct the wrong conditions that prevent child life rather than to contend ourselves with correcting the wrongs done by the perverted child. The opening of the supervised playgrounds in certain sections in New York city where the children were notoriously law-breakers and hoodlums, has transformed these places into peaceful and education centers. The open air work and wisely directed exercises in the playgrounds given health to the children and the careful supervision of the teacher develop their moral sense. They learn to play without quarrelling. They learn self control. They have to share the swings, games, etc., with each other. Roughness and rudeness are not allowed. The moral tone of the children is thus raised. Moreover, the children learn to model in clay and there is sewing, crocheting, etc. Basket making was taught a few years back, only lack of funds prevented its being taught now.

Work for the hands and play for the body and the moral uplift are the guiding principles of the supervised playgrounds. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The great value of learning to play, regardless of the rights of others and care for property, and the lessons in citizenship which will never be forgotten. Give the children, especially those of the crowded districts, a chance to become all they should. Lend a hand, ye are your brother's keeper. "Flat winds bearing the noise of a city's traffic and cries, and from the little square. The voices of children in song. Hundreds of children at play.

Cheering and singing their glee, Glad in the gift of to-day, The sunshine and warmth of the earth.

The joy of youth but begun, Chorus of mirth and good will, Childhood's treble of hope— This is the summer sound The sweetest the true heart knows."

But besides giving happiness to the children, the playgrounds direct and train them in ways of usefulness. "Proud is the city she finds a place for many a fad to-day. But she's more than blind if she fails to find a place for the boys to play.

Give them a chance for innocent sport, Give them a chance for fun— Better a playground plot than a court and a jail when the harm is done. Give them a chance—if you stint them not, to-morrow you'll have to pay A larger bill for a darker ill, so give them a place to play!"

250 girls and women will start out early on Thursday morning, equipped with a bank and bunch of specially printed tags. They will sell these tags to the people whom they meet, to their family and to their friends, for 10 cents or more, (preferably more). If a person buys a tag and wears it, he or she will not be asked to buy another tag, although in other places there has been much good-natured competition to see who could wear the most tags. The young women will move about in groups of two or four, and each group will be duly chaperoned or explained by well-known and responsible ladies, connected with the Local Council of Women. The headquarters will be at St. Paul's Hall. Luncheon will be served there for the workers at noon time and the banks will be taken at night to one of the large banking houses, opened, contents counted and money banked. Mr. A. M. Bell has generously offered a prize to the lady obtaining the most money.

St. John raised \$1100 on tag day. New Glasgow and adjoining towns raised \$1700 or more. Winnipeg raised \$10,000. We expect to raise at least \$1000. This money is to buy equipment and pay teachers to carry on the Children's Supervised Playgrounds at Grafton Park, Bloomfield St. school, and Joseph Howe school. Many articles have been recently published emphasizing the value and importance of this work. The Council of Women asks everyone to help them on Tag Day. —[COM.]

## Two Hundred and Fifty Charming Halifax Girls Will Act as "Tags" on Thursday

Even the dogs and horses will enjoy the privilege of buying a tag for the supervised playgrounds on next Thursday, when 250 of the most charming girls in the city, and divided into squads, each of which will be under the chaperonage of a member of the Local Council of Women, will prosecute the tag selling business in the interest of the supervised playgrounds. The pulpit has recently spoken warmly in praise of the grounds, and it is reported that tomorrow a number of the city clergy will call to the attention of the public the responsibility resting upon the community as regards its children.

"Tag Day" in the interest of worthy causes has been tried in a number of the Canadian cities with great success.

In St. John the treasury of the free kindergarten was augmented by \$1,300 as the result of a "tag day." One thousand five hundred dollars

was raised by the same means in New Glasgow, for an equally good object, and in Winnipeg \$10,000 was secured for the Y. M. C. A., as the result of a single "tag day."

No doubt this generous, responsive city, never happier than when assisting what is good, will break the record, remembering that they are purchasing tags in the interest of children who have no wholesome place in which to play.

As stated 250 girls will be divided into chaperoned squads, and will make their places on the principal thoroughfares, at the street corners. It is contemplated that most of the tagging will be done on the street, the squads being on duty early in the morning as the business men and their employees are on their way to their respective establishments. The large buildings will be "covered" by young lady stenographers employed therein.

The young ladies will wear pale blue badges and the chaperones badges of mauve color.

Each of the former will be provided with tags and a bank, the banks having been furnished by the Eastern Trust and Loan Company.

Any contributor to the amount of not less than ten cents will be tagged whether that contributor be you, or your dog, or your horse, or all three of you. Men, women and children may buy tags—that proud privilege is open to all, and A. M. Bell has offered a prize to the young lady whose bank, at the close of the day contains most money.

A luncheon for the squads will be served in St. Paul's hall by a committee of the Local Council of Women.

Tag Day cards, placed in windows about the city, herald the coming of Thursday, and nobody is more interested in them than the boys and girls.

All the young ladies as well as the chaperones are to meet at the residence of Mrs. F. H. Sexton at half-past four o'clock on Monday afternoon.