

Sport, Social Class and Community In Late Nineteenth Century Ontario

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While broad trends in nineteenth century sport behavior are generally known, recent studies tend to focus exclusively on large cities without proper consideration of the lesser levels of the urban hierarchy where until recently most people lived. Since the differences between the metropolis and smaller urban places (villages, towns and small cities) are considerable, this paper addresses the problem by presenting a tentative research strategy for study in sport and its social class considerations in small communities and placing these communities in the context of Ontario's urban system as it developed in the late nineteenth century. The strategy aims at creating a means by which comparable community data can be analysed to elucidate urban sport development in small communities and by ascertaining how sport in these communities was affected by urban processes and by proximity to an urban corridor and a regional metropolis.