

# Factors That Influence the Development of Sport in Rural and Urban Communities

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Five factors have been identified as major influences on the development of sport in urban centres. The research of Don Morrow, Alan Metcalfe and Gerald Redmond on the development of organized sport in Montreal has revealed that urbanization, industrialization, ethnic composition and immigration, social elitism and the formation of sport clubs/organizations are precursory to the establishment of organized sport. These findings can be replicated for smaller urban centres such as Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (Ballern) where the intensity of the “influences” was not as great nevertheless the factors were readily detectable.

The factors that stimulate the development of organized sport in rural communities appear to be of a different derivation. Summerside, Prince Edward Island which emerged as a rural community in the 1850's reflected a vigorous organized sport development during its first fifty years of settlement. While leadership came from the professional and business segments of the community participation reflected a high degree of integration of the populace. The opportunity to socialize was of considerable importance with horse racing, ice skating and fancy dress skating carnival the primary recreational activities. Hockey and cycling developed as major competitive sports and attracted participants and fan support from all sectors of the community. S.F. Wise in his writing on *Sport and Class in Ontario and Quebec* wrote “Sport and games have never been absent from Canadian life, not even from the small town—and were certainly not an exclusively urban preoccupation”.