

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECREATION ORGANIZATION

The advance of spring has not only brought out crocuses on the lawns of Confederation Square but has enticed numerous members of the Department, clad in equally colourful attire, to emerge from their winter hibernation to see what the recreation activities are all about. The hope is that they will not wilt as soon as the crocuses.

Interest in softball has been revived to the point where for the first time in several years External Affairs will be entering a team in the Civil Service R.A. League. At least one other men's team will be drawn up for less formal competition, and a number of energetic ladies are making plans for a women's team. The women's group will not be playing in a league but seems to have as its sole ambition the defeat of the men's team. Mrs. J.M. Hughes is organizer of softball, with J.C. Desjardins, Keenan Spence, Jean McDonald and Doris Scott as committee members.

Another activity for the strong and the brave has been broomball. For those who have not participated in this hybrid game, it should be pointed out that the players borrow their rules from hockey and use the same kind of rink. They wear tennis shoes instead of skates and use a basketball instead of a puck. They borrow a broom from heaven knows where and with it try to whack the ball into the opposing team's goal. Let's not ask why! The External Affairs Broomball Team possessed in great measure the many skills required for this game and reached the playoffs of the C.S.R.A. League before being defeated. The coaches were J.C. Desjardins and L. Kingsley; Captain, D. Larkin; and Assistant Captain J. Charette.

Bowling continues to be the most popular activity. Every Thursday night from September to April, 80 members of the Department take over 16 alleys at a downtown bowling centre. The final playoffs for this year have just been held and the annual Pearson Trophy has been won by

Miss A. Cole Mrs. E. Mead
Miss L. Lacombe Mr. D. Larkin
Mr. B. Morin (Captain)

The Trophy and other prizes were awarded by the Acting Under-Secretary at the annual banquet held on April 29, 1954.

The free-for-all that was honoured with the title of "External Affairs Bonspiel" was held at the Glebe Curling Club early in April. Forty members of the Department put in a strenuous two hours in the competition, many of them learning the game as they went along. Some of the men players almost sent the rocks through the end wall; some of the ladies had difficulty getting the rocks beyond the mid-point of the rink; but with practice all began to get their rocks closer to the magic circle. The few expert players served as "skips", with Mr. MacKay providing emergency instruction here and there as required. The winning team was skipped by John Sigvaldason and included Helen Larkin, Neil Currie and Stan Daley. The prize for the most spectacular sweeping went to Dorothy Little. Other skips were Frank Ballachey, Charlie Campbell, Morley Coleman, G.C. Crean, E.W.T. Gill, John Holmes, R.M. Macdonnell, Joe O'Brien and L.A.D. Stephens. A bean and salad supper at the rink followed.

Several bridge nights have been enjoyed by those who prefer to display their athletic prowess in card playing. These sessions have been held at the R.C.A.S.C. mess on Sparks Street. The competition has usually been so warm that many players have had to take advantage of cooling potables available nearby. Participants were able to watch TV when the game became too much for them. High scorers at the last session were Mary Macdonald and Peter Robitaille. During the winter Brian Crane was bridge convenor, but this responsibility has now been assumed by Sheila Weir.

Plans for the future call for a spring dance to be held in late May under the chairmanship of Guy Beaudry and a series of square dance sessions to be organized by Jack Maybee and Jack Zoubie. There was some thought of a theatre party but this has been put off until the autumn. It is possible that several noon-time activities, including sketching and public speaking courses, will be instituted shortly.

Plans for the annual picnic, golf tournament and other activities are also in preparation.

Elections for the 1954-55 Recreation Committee took place early in March. This 17-member Committee provides the framework of the External Affairs Recreation Organization, and in turn it