

ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

This study utilizes private Ontario youth camp as a medium through which to analyze early twentieth century Anglo-Canadian middle-class ideology. It views the establishment of Ontario camps as a reflection of dissatisfaction with rapid industrial and technological changes, and the perceived breakdown of traditional ideals of masculinity and femininity as life became increasingly modernized. This study explores the culture of private Ontario youth camps using eight of the earliest camps (four boys' camps and four girls' camps) to gain insight into the concepts of character formation in youth, the importance of physical activity at private school and private camp, middle-class ideology, femininity and masculinity, and perception of wilderness in the interwar period. The camps in this study include: Camp Ahmek, Camp Temagami, Camp Wanapitei, Camp Kilcoo, Camp Northway, Camp Wapomeo, Glen Bernard Camp, and Camp Tanamakoon. This study is a qualitative research study based primarily on archival data found at the Trent University Archives which houses the extensive Ontario Camping Association fonds. In addition to research in other archives, semi-structured interviews were conducted with campers from the 1920s and 1930s, family members of those involved in the camping movement in the 1920s and 1930s, and people with extensive knowledge of the camping movement. The overarching theme of the dissertation is that camp directors at both boys' and girls' camp created a temporary society during the summer months. This society was supported by various elements of the directors' own values and ideologies

that also appealed to the adventurous spirit of the campers. These elements made it easier to construct the character in youth that parents and camp directors perceived to be lacking. At its core, this dissertation presents an analysis of character formation at early private boys' and girls' camps in a wilderness setting, which reveals middle-class Canadians' perceptions, ideals, and fears at the beginning of the twentieth century based on the creation of a temporary and isolated camp society in Ontario's wilderness.

Keywords: Ontario youth camp history; private Ontario youth camp; physical activity and sport in the 1920s and 1930s; Ontario private school; perception of wilderness in early twentieth century; gender in the 1920s and 1930s.

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GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

BH	Branksome Hall
BSS	Bishop Strachan School
CGIT	Canadian Girls in Training
CNR	Canadian National Railways
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railways
CSET	Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests
GBC	Glen Bernard Camp
GTR	Grand Trunk Railway
HC	Havergal College
MES	Margaret Eaton School
SAC	St. Andrew's College
TFR	Temagami Forest Reserve
TNOR	Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway
UCC	Upper Canada College
U of T	The University of Toronto
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association