



RAYMOND DRAKE

- A Halifax native, Mr. Drake was hired by the Coverdale Parish Recreation Commission in 1965 as the first full-time Director of Parks and Recreation of the Tri-Village communities of Bridgedale, Gunningsville, and Riverview Heights.
- Founder and chairman of the CANUSA Games (1969), an international cultural, social, and athletic exchange with the municipality of Brewer, Maine. Over 25 years, the two communities alternated hosting the games.
- Instrumental in starting up and developing many sports and recreational activities. Created the first "Recreation Week" (1966) to celebrate the Coverdale Recreation Department's programs, the teen centre, and the community volunteers.
- Created the playground leadership instruction courses (1966) for ages 14+ to prepare for summer employment and volunteer opportunities.
- Provided leadership in securing funds and creating community partnerships to create new community recreational assets such as Patricia Park (1967), Lion Ken Gabbey Community Pool (1970), Byron Dobson Arena (1971), and neighbourhood playgrounds: Wentworth Tennis Courts (1966), Manchester Park (1971) and Hawthorne Park (1971).
- Lead and sought out public consultation on the community's first inclusive 10 year recreation plan (1970).
- Member of the committee that hosted 300 delegates to the 24th annual Canadian Parks and Recreation National Conference in Moncton (1969).
- Under his leadership, the community hosted over one hundred Canadian youth at the first National Teen Conference on Municipal Recreation (1970).
- Municipal recreation representative on the newly formed provincial Federation on Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (1970).
- Leading member of local and provincial committees that advocated for the use of school facilities for recreation and community programs.
- Founding member and President of the Municipal Parks and Recreation Directors Society for the Atlantic Provinces.
- Elected Atlantic Regional Director of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association.
- Worked towards linking the Public Leisure Council of New Brunswick (now Recreation NB) as the provincial affiliate to the national organization.
- Elected President of the Recreation Institute of Canada.
- Elected as the Chairman of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association annual convention organizing committee.
- Transitioned to the private sector (1972), running a consulting business and selling recreational playground equipment.

INDUCTED TO THE RIVERVIEW SPORTS WALL OF FAME 2023.