

AARFP History and Background Information

In the late 1940's and 1950's

- The Alberta Recreation Executives Association was formed (very few municipalities had established Recreation Boards and even fewer had professional Recreation and Parks staff).
- The few facilities that did exist were located in the larger centers.

1950's and 1960's

- There was a gradual growth in the development of facilities.
- In the early 1960's the Alberta Government recognized the need for community recreation services and provided grants to communities for facility development.

1973

- The provincial government's major Cultural Recreation Grant Program was put in place.
- This program provided \$100.00 per capita over 10 years (based on the highest population of each municipality).
- The increase in facilities and the level of sophistication in new facilities resulted in an increase in the number of people employed in work related to facility operation and maintenance.

In the 1970's

- The ARPA attempted to meet the needs of facility managers but it was the Recreation and Parks administrations who tended to represent the communities at ARPA - not facility staff.
- People from Alberta started to attend meetings in British Columbia (B.C. Recreation Facility Association).

1976 (April)

- A meeting was held in Central Alberta inviting facility staff from Central Alberta and a consultant from Alberta Recreation and Parks.
- This meeting initiated 2 objectives:
 - To form a provincial association for facility operators with workable zones within the association.
 - To form an association of facility operators within their area and continue to promote provincial organization.
- It was suggested that such an association be a specialized recreation oriented body, closely related to the ARPA. A commitment was made at that time to work closely with ARPA and the Areas and Facilities Planning section of Alberta, Recreation and Parks.
- The group decided to operate under the wing of the B.C. Association until Alberta formed its own association.

- The groups objectives included:
 - provide courses and seminars in co-operation with Alberta Recreation and Parks.
 - exchange information of an administrative or technical nature.
 - improve lines of communication between recreation personnel.
 - provide input into the planning and design of recreation facilities and municipalities and organizations.
 - promote the continued and extended use of recreation facilities through proper management.

1977 (October)

- 25 people got together at the ARPA Conference (Lethbridge).
- There was a consensus that a separate organization should be formed to accommodate the needs of facility personnel.

1977 (November)

- A Steering Committee met to:
 - compile a list of all facility people.
 - prepare and circulate a questionnaire to determine interest for a possible fall workshop.

1978 (September)

- Edmonton became the location for the first workshop.
- This workshop included the preparation and approval of a Constitution and Bylaws.
- The first Board of Directors was elected.
- The Associates initially became involved in this workshop.

1979 (May)

- The Second workshop was held in Red Deer.
- The Associations specific accomplishments (within the past year) included:
 - clearly stated Objectives.
 - preliminary Policies and Procedures.
 - establishment and attainment of short-term goals.
- As well:
 - sponsorship to successful conferences.
 - establishment of a newsletter.
 - circulation of resource materials to members and others.
 - establishment of good relations the Alberta Government (Recreation and Parks), the B.C. Recreation Facilities Association and the ARPA.
 - design of a logo and utilization of the logo on stationery and lapel pins.

1980 (April)

- Don Moore recommended the dissolution of the Alberta Zone as a zone of the B.C. Association.
- The Alberta Association had:
 - 157 individual members
 - 15 associate members
 - 20 municipal members

1989

- The Association had over:
 - 500 individual members
 - 24 associate members
 - 22 municipal members
- The designation for municipal membership was eliminated.

1990

- A new logo was adopted.
- The informal name of the Association was shortened to Recreation Facility Personnel.
- The Association membership was:
 - 600 individual members
 - 50 associate members

1991

- The Association membership was:
 - 730 individual members
 - 47 associate members
- Development of courses included:
 - Revision of the Sportsfields course to a Parks and Sportsfields format.
 - Development of Foremanship Level I a (1991 and 1992) course.

1992

- The William Metcalfe Award was introduced at the 15th annual conference in Edmonton.

1993

- The Park & Sportsfield Operator Course award was implemented.

1994

- Development of the Code of Ethics for Associate members.
- Development of business plan for FASA.

1995

- Development of the Association Home Page.
 - Instructor evaluations were conducted by an independent consultant.

1996

- The association became totally responsible for all course administration.
- Decided to try offering Level II Arena as 3-day course instead of 4 days.

1997

- Piloted Pool Operator Level I & II combined.

1998

- Hired Technical Director to ease the load on the Education Rep.
- Hired Office Administrator to assist with increasing registrations in the office.

2000

- Began promoting courses in the UK and the US and other provinces. Conference was held in Jasper, Alberta in conjunction with RFABC.
- Thirty-four courses were run with a total of 372 students trained.

2001

- An agreement was struck with RFABC. They would use our course material and pay our association a royalty.
- We began to expand our courses to take in curling rinks.
- Special courses began to become a regular part of our operation

2002

- Courses in the North West Territories were struck.
- Our Cadre climbed to 34 instructors to accommodate the new courses.


2003

- Talks with Lethbridge Community College begin on certification in their diploma program.
- Western Certification continues with other provinces.
- The logo for the association was changed to a more provincial looking logo.
- Introduced the Parks and Sportsfield Level II Course at the Drumheller Conference.

2004

- Long time Executive Director Margaret Lounds retires.
- The office was reorganized with the positions of Technical Director and Executive Director Positions were made into one position. The office Administrator took on some extra duties and an administrative assistant was hired to help with office duties.
- A Building Maintenance Stream was introduced with a Level 1 Course.

2005

- The office was relocated to a recreation complex. This was done to allow for training to be done in house and for a better environment for the staff and members. Fifty courses were held and over 40 special courses.
 - A grant was received from the Government to allow us to build a working pool model to be used for training.
 - Final conversion of our data base to the CLASS system.
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2006

- The Building Maintenance Stream was expanded to include a Level 2 Course, as well as a Custodial Course.

2008

- RFP has an annual membership of over 1000 people for the first time with 1364 people signing up. We also have over 1000 people participate in our courses.
- First Educational Symposium is run in the summer, giving people a chance to attend multiple courses in a short period of time in one location. 50-60 participants attended.

2009

- RFP moves out of Calgary and in to Cochrane.
- A complete review and update is started on all courses and expected to be completed in 2010.

2010

- We host members from similar associations in the western provinces and territories at the annual Western Canadian Recreation Facilities Council (CRFC) meeting.
- We switch to an online version of our publication Leisure Lines

2011

- The first annual Skip Hayden Memorial Golf Tournament is held at the end of summer in Olds. 44 People participated in this event.
- New website launched with an online membership management component.

2012

- Larry Golby steps down as Executive Director. He finishes the year in a Technical Director Contract, coordinating the updates of the education material.
- Kim Snell takes on the role of Executive Director.
- In June, RFP host the other provincial and territorial associations in Canmore at the annual Canadian Recreation Facility Council meeting.
- In August, due to the province needing the land our office was on for construction, we moved to a new location, on the adjacent property.

In Summary:

The founders believed that the major aim of the Association was to provide opportunities for the growth and development of recreation facility staff, thereby providing a more effective and efficient service to Alberta communities. They also believed that the Association could be the major communication link between the Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel, members of the Association, government agencies and the communities they serve.