

C1-08-1

**THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION: GRASS ROOTS ADVOCATES
FOR NATIONAL CHANGE**

S.E. Markham (Acadia University, Canada)

The Canadian National Parks Association began in 1923 as an advocacy group with strong ties to the Alpine Club of Canada which attempted to protect a national park in the Rocky Mountains against development and resource extraction. However, when its first issue was resolved, the group changed its mandate to promote recreation in the out of doors. The organization through its executive, individual members and member organizations worked throughout the 1930's to promote government involvement in recreation citing the various benefits to individual and community health and using as its model the German "out into the open" movement. In the late 1930's the mandate changed again to promote recreational travel with issues of parks, highways and the preservation of scenery. The CNPA limped through the war years, again picked up its interest in active outdoor recreation, then disappeared after 1952. This study includes the investigation of Canadian National Parks Association materials to show its view of recreation, the role of its Executive Secretary, W.J.S. Walker, the makeup of its membership, the impact of the membership on the Association's policies and the influences of the Association on the development of national recreation and physical activity services in Canada.