

Stories on the Leadership Road - One

An Early Leadership and Management Lesson

My first leadership lesson took place in Bronx Park Elementary School gymnasium in LaSalle, Québec. I had just finished leading a Gra-Y youth program with about 20 kids who were a few years younger than I was. Gordon Rowe, the very wise Extension Secretary from the Southwestern YMCA had come to see how I was doing. After giving me a few words of encouragement and suggesting that I read the Gra-Y Leadership Handbook that he gave me, Gordon said, “Ted, when you are leading a game that the kids are really enjoying – remember always stop it at its peak – that way they will be sure to want to play it again. And, oh yes, don’t forget to collect the nickel for the plasticine.”

Little did I realize at that time that Gordon’s advice to me emphasized both the leadership and management aspects of leadership expertise –fun programs that people enjoy and the money to support them! And, my developing leadership expertise journey was underway.