Project: Find Professor Peepre

HHNS...we have a problem...we have lost Professor Peepre.

Professor Alex “Sass” Peepre was a champion of physical activity at the University of Guelph since the late 1950’s. Dr. Peepre was a professor in the Department of Human Kinetics in the School of Physical Education at the University of Guelph working closely alongside Dr. John Powell back in the 60’s, which created the foundation for our Human Kinetics program in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences today. He was the "Father" of Orienteering in Ontario in Canada and set up orienteering programs internationally. His contributions to physical education, outdoor activities and coaching spanned volleyball, alpine and nordic skiing, gymnastics, rhythmical gymnastics and track and field. He reached out to the local, provincial, national and international community to spread his passion for physical activity and outdoor education. Inducted as a “Builder” into the Gryphons Club Hall of Fame in 1985, he planted the roots of the importance of lifestyle in the maintenance of health that our department continues to champion today.

Currently, there is a scholarship in his honour in our Department put together by his family and friends. So, why am I telling you this, well, I recently became aware that there was also a plaque dedicated to him, the plaque is mounted on a rock, and we don’t know where the rock is. He was a big deal…and we lost him!!!! A little embarrassing that we have lost the “Father” of orienteering!!! So, this is where you come in, for the first phase of Project: Find Professor Peepre - Phase 1: The Peepre Reclamation

Here is what we know: A CBS Alumni has seen the plaque recently and said,

“...it was hard to find and heavily overgrown...it's located next to the then ski hill which this Prof loved and was involved in encouraging students to use...the ski hill isn't used anymore...it's located behind OVC...”
I have no idea where this is but, indeed, Professor Peepre loved to ski. I found this entry in Vol. 16, Issue 47 of the News Bulletin at the University of Guelph in 1972, so I think he’s in the Dairy Bush!!! I am not sure the extent of the Dairy Bush in 1972, but it helps us narrow down the area.

So Faculty, Staff and Students of HHNS….your mission….if you choose to accept it….is to find Professor Peepre.

Step 1: Form a search party (don’t go alone, we don’t want to lose you as well!!)
Step 2: Head out to find Dr. Peepre.
Step 3: Take pictures along the way to document your heroic quest.
Step 4: Find Dr. Peepre’s memorial plaque.
Step 5: Take a selfie of your search party and the plaque.
Step 6: E-mail me the picture (cmurrant@uoguelph.ca).
Step 7: I will buy a round of drinks for the first team to e-mail me a picture of them and the plaque. We will go to the grad lounge where we will sing songs of your glory and heroism and reveal the location of the stone.

Have Fun and be safe!!!!

Coral Murrrant
Chair of the Department of Huma Health and Nutrition Sciences.

Picture of Prof. Peepre and Dr. Bengt Saltin from Vol 15 issue 47, of the News Bulletin at the University of Guelph in 1971.