

*From  
Grammar School to the*



*G.C.V.I.*



Aerial View of G.C.V.I. (Courtesy Tomlen Photography).

*With My Story*

*And The History Behind It All*

*Compiled by  
Marion E. Campbell, nee Angst  
2015*

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*Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute*  
*Evolved from*  
*Wellington District Grammar School*

- 1827** – The first school was opened in a lean-to built onto John Galt's first home, *The Priory*. Education was not compulsory at the time.
- 1829** – The first stone building in Guelph was erected near Galt's home. It served as a single-room district school, meeting house, and Sunday school. It was known as the **Stone School** located south of the CNR tracks, and was ultimately abandoned in **1854**. A grammar school in those days was known as a private school.
- 1845** – The first Wellington District Grammar School was located on Waterloo Road, with Arthur Cole Verner (1841-1847) as its first teacher (see photo on page 18).
- 1847** – On September 6<sup>th</sup>, four acres of land fronting on Paisley Street had been purchased for a New School to be built.
- 1850** – Wellington County Grammar School was built.
- 1854** – Guelph County Grammar School was constructed of Guelph's grey limestone on the Paisley Street property, between both Arnold and Yorkshire Street. The property had a stream running through it with the Yorkshire corner low and swampy. The Grammar School consisted of two classrooms where only boys could attend. This created a demand for private schools for girls.
- 1866** – The first year girls were admitted to the Grammar School.
- 1871** – The Guelph County Grammar School was renamed the Guelph County High School.
- 1874** – The school was once again renamed, now as the Guelph High School.
- 1879** – The plan of an addition was drawn up for the Guelph High School by John Hall Jr. housing two classrooms with a large assembly hall situated above. Outdoor privies were built, and these were used until **1906**.

In **1880**, teacher Captain Walter Clark a former Crimean War Veteran, founded the Highland Cadet Corps, the first school Cadet Corps in Canada, at the Guelph High School. The Corps consisted of only boys, and each owned his own uniform ordered specially from Glasgow. The uniform was most distinctive: a Royal Stuart tartan, black velvet tunic with white facing, kilt, tartan socks, white spats, sporrans, cairngorms, and a Kilmarnock bonnet wi' a toorie. My grandfather, Guy Thurtell (1872-1963), is shown in his Highland Cadet uniform (age 14) on page 2; his grandfather was Benjamin Thurtell, Guelph Township's first Reeve (1850-1853). Only one boy from each family was permitted to join the cadets because of the expense of the uniform. These highly trained cadets participated in exhibitions in several cities including Montreal, Stratford, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton, Woodstock, Elora, and Fergus. Demonstrations included bayonet drills, marching, and Indian club swinging. Captain Clark also formed and trained a girl's Cadet Corps in **1884** known as the Daughters of the Regiment. As a result the Colonel's methods were adopted by many of the teachers of Physical Training in other schools of the Province. Olive Campbell (1893-1910), aunt of Malcolm Campbell, my husband, was one of the girls who learned to use Indian clubs or dumbbells as we call them. An Indian club is a one pound dumbbell fashioned from hardwood turned on a lathe (17" high, 2½" at its widest point, and 1⅝" wide at the base (see picture on page 2). One was used in each hand, and are still owned and treasured by the family today.



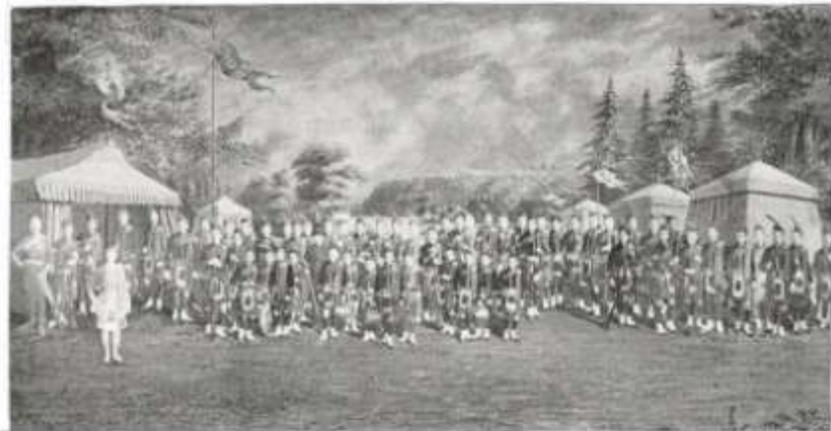
*Captain Walter Clark, about 1890. He organized the first school cadet corps in Canada.*



**Guy Thurtell**



**George H. Thurtell**



*The Highland Cadets, Guelph Collegiate Institute, photographed in 1887. The smaller boys in the front rank are the Band, composed of boys from Central School. Captain Clark appears twice in this picture—at extreme left in dress uniform and fourth from left in Highland uniform.*



*Collegiate with Drill Shed and outside toilets — 1886.*



*Daughters of the Regiment — 1888*

In **1886**, Captain Clark and students raised money from their exhibitions to help finance building and equipping a new gymnasium, which was built behind the school toward Liverpool Street in **1887**. The gymnasium was a damp, unheated wooden structure with windows up near the ceiling and lacking bleachers. The addition qualified the Guelph High School to be designated as the Guelph Collegiate Institute (G.C.I.), serving as an assembly hall. The gym was used until **1960**. Captain Clark was a drill instructor at the school for 30 years - he was a great showman, the best public relations man the school ever had.

**1887-1906** – The building remained unchanged.

**1891** – The Truancy or Compulsory Attendance Act was enforced, requiring all of age to go to high school.

In **1906**, a new wing had been added to the school, expanding it by 6 rooms. A new entrance was formed leaving the entrance next Arnold Street for the boys on the left and for the girls on the right. Both entrances went up several steps from the sidewalk through separate doors, set back in out of the weather.

**Eva's G.C.I pin.** My mother Eva Frances Thurtell, and her siblings Harriett Ada Thurtell and George Harland Thurtell all attended the G.C.I., along with my siblings Charlotte and George Angst. Mother attended G.C.I. **circa 1916-1921** and depending on the season, drove the horse and buggy or cutter, in from the farm on the West End Road (now Silvercreek Parkway). She tied her horse in the barn behind her grandmother's house on Emma Street, off



Dublin and walked to the Collegiate. I am sure her sister and brother did the same in turn.

The girl's art teacher, Miss Adelaide McGinness, was a beautiful floral watercolorist and her paintings are proudly hung in family homes. Fleming was her married name. All through our lives my mother was forever quoting poetry and she could spell aloud any word you gave her anytime. I recently found the following quote in one of her books "The Lady of The Lake" by Sir Walter Scott. On the back page she had written a note, Memory Work 3 stanzas of introduction. Also, on the back page of the same book was the name of her art teacher and address, Miss A. McGinness c/o Mr. Aldrich 323 Woolwich Street and Eva F. Thurtell IIB G.C.I. My mother died June 1983 and was quoting poetry up until the day she died, it was so beautiful.

Soon after **1920**, the school faced the problem of having enough space to house the ever-growing student population. The G.C.I. was ultimately torn down and the present building was erected, once again changing the name from the Guelph Collegiate Institute to Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute (G.C.V.I.).

**1922** – a corner stone was laid for a "new" school.

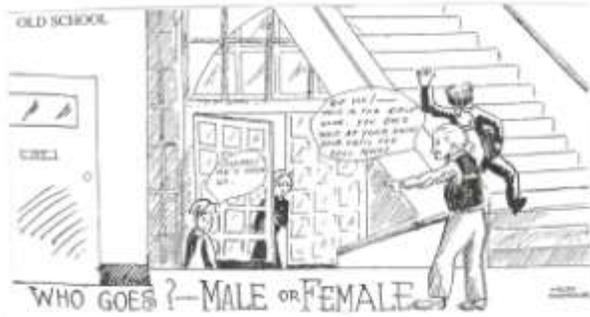
**1923** – The New School was built on the ground formerly occupied by the cedar swamp and creek, which flowed under Waterloo Avenue and eventually emptied into the Speed River. *Of interest to the history of the creek – the water coming through the Campbell farm from right to left across the Kitchener Highway looking west, was one and the same that caused all the expense and changes at the G.C.V.I.* (photo page 4). There was a 60' x 24' swimming pool in the basement of the newly built school, with an "open" auditorium situated above, on what was the main floor. The auditorium had a surrounding balcony and a skylight in the roof. Eventually the pool was permanently drained because it leaked, and the area was turned into storage space and a cadet rifle range.



John F. Ross, from portrait by Kenneth Forbes, 1923-1945



EDWARD JOHNSON  
1845-1900  
The man who made  
GUELPH  
Musically Famous



FRED C. RICHARDSON, B.A. & LL.B.  
Principal, 1945-1955  
Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute



WHO CAN BE MORE DOTTED  
TO A NAG-VOL THAN  
"DAVE" BENTLEY SLOPEY  
© Dr. D. Chickering 1914-1987



© Dr. D. Chickering 1914-1987



Collegiate Vocational Institute, Guelph, Ontario.  
The old collegiate is still on the left.

**1931** –The library of the G.C.V.I. was opened and books began to fill the shelves through donations. The most noteworthy being, from the family of the late John McCrea and also are grateful to Mrs. C.R. Crowe.

**1931** – Principal and staff took a voluntary pay cut because of the Great Depression.

**1946** – A passage way was built connecting the **1923** building with the original **1906** limestone structure.

**1959** – The old limestone school (**1879** with **1906** addition) was torn down to make room for a new wing. The old gym was taken apart and sold to be erected on a large property in Nichol Township.

**1960** – The old Guelph Collegiate on Paisley was demolished. It stood on the west side of the current property (see photos on page 6). A new addition with classrooms, a cafeteria and double gym was opened. (see pictures below)

**1962** – A new commercial wing was added and a main office, as well the library expanded.

**1969** – The swimming pool area was converted to the library, and the guidance office moved to the former library upstairs.

“Now they call the **1923** brick building (corner of Paisley and Yorkshire Streets) the Old School and the brick addition (corner of Paisley and Arnold Streets) the New School that was opened in **1963** and that is another story for another time.” - Wendy Darroch



View of GCVI when I attended in 1944



Ex-Cpl. John McCrea, M.D.

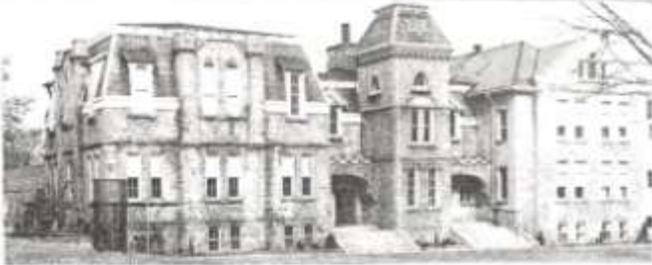


Liverpool and Arnold Street corner following demolition



Yorkshire and Liverpool Street following demolition  
Outdoor study area and basketball courts are presently here

*All That's Left of the OLD SCHOOL  
is it's bell and the NEW SCHOOL*



"THE OLD ORDER CHANGES"



Old GCI School Belfry  
Bell Tower &  
Weather Vane



1962 Demolition of old Building



- the bell from 1879 -



GEORGE GORRELYN AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE  
Opened September, 1923

*G.C.V.I.*  
*My Memories of the Old School -*  
*September 1944*

My Classmates Marian McGee, Bob Bould, Tom Bould (2014), Don Herron (1987), and myself, Marion Angst, graduated from Grade 8, S.S. #4 Nichol Township Public School in Wellington County. We went to Fergus District High School for two days to try our entrance exams and received our Certificates in the mail dated July 14, 1944. We all headed for Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute early in September. At that time, it was mandatory to go to high school. I boarded on Woolwich Street with my grandparents and walked home for lunch at noon hour and back. I had left a one-room school to enter a scary new world in Guelph!

My school day began as I headed for the locker with key in hand. At 8:45 a.m. the bell would ring and we would go to our homeroom and to our seats, sitting in alphabetical order. I became class monitor. To console some of my fears on my first day at G.C.V.I., mother told me I would likely see two girls with braids in Grade IX. And to be sure, there they were, Margaret Cleghorn and Flora Henderson in my room. Miss Carleton was our teacher, and our room was IXA General. I sat in the first seat, and therefore answered the door when anyone knocked. The next bell sounded at 9:00 a.m. and our day was started as we sang “God Save the King”, led by form teacher Miss Carleton.

Our first class was French with Miss Carleton. Behind her desk was a long wall with blackboards from where she taught French. In no time we were saying “parlez-vous francais?” I am sure I will like French! After 30 minutes the bell goes and Miss Carleton leaves for her next class and in swings Mr. Ferguson for history. We say “good morning” and our history lesson starts. A half hour later the bell goes again and we are all ready for a spare. At the end of this period we girls go over to the G.C.V.I. in two lines, with half in the direction of Miss Freeman’s room for sewing class. She started them making a fabric envelope to hold a perfectly folded apron from printed cotton, which would be made in a later lesson. The rest of us proceeded to Miss Crays’ for cooking. One particular day we made prune whip I remember, we ate it, Yuk, did the dishes, and tidied up. We then lined up and went back to pick up the sewers to go to the Old School for Geography with Miss Smith. When the bell went I was ready for lunch, and headed home.

The boys in Grade IX from the three classrooms would take their Industrial Classes of machine shop and woodworking over in the New School. We used to run to and from the New School when changing classes, and if it was cold or raining we didn’t take time to stop for a coat.

Back at it again by 1:30 p.m. for two periods of Art with Miss Carscadden in the Science room – now this was more my thing. Next period is mathematics with Mr. McNaughton teaching, following that was Literature with Miss Carscadden in her own room. At 3:45 p.m. we again headed home. I did my homework after supper, then relaxed in the living room with my grandparents in front of the upright radio and away to bed for a good night’s sleep to be ready for another round at the G.C.V.I. tomorrow and make some new friends. I think I am fitting in.

Next day on the way to school coming up Norwich Street hill from over the Speed River might

GUELPH COLLEGIATE-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE



GRADE -9A-TEACHERS



M. Carleton



D.E. Ward



E. Smith



R. Freeman



H. Carscadden



D.H. Ferguson



E. Craig



I. Coates



J. McLaughlin



W. Humphries



Mrs. L. Long  
Librarian



Mr. Taylor  
Janitor

be Marion Daymond to walk with or Betty Beesley. Or, if at the right time, on Suffolk Street I could find Roberta Grundy coming out of her home. Others I got to know too, but I must stick to Grade IX chums for now.

Miss Cowie was our Physical Training teacher. We would play basketball in the gym behind the Old School. Acrobatic stunts were practiced by Audrey Checkley, and tumbling by sixteen other Grade IXA girls in the gym for the **1945** Commencement program. The baseball diamond was in the north corner of the yard where Yorkshire and Liverpool Streets cross. My grandfather, mother, her siblings and I all took Physical Training in the same gymnasium, quite some years apart.

Downstairs, below the boy's area we could go for school supplies. Miss Margaret Clark had been hired by the Board of Education to look after our needs before nine, and for a short time during noon hour or after school. Mr. Taylor who had been janitor for nineteen years was affectionately called "Pussy Foot". He would always appear when least expected and with a loud shout would put you in your place!

There were only four other rooms in the Old School: the boys were in IXB, IXD, and IXE and another room of girls IXC. Altogether there were 217 students, 92 girls and 125 boys. We girls wore a navy blue tunic with three box pleats front and back, dark bloomers, long black stockings, a white blouse, dark shoes for assemblies and white runners for P. T. Some girls shortened their tunics on the way to school by tightening their sash so it bloused out above the waist. Boys wore dark trousers and a white shirt with the same attire required for Commencement. My husband, Malcolm Campbell, attended the G.C.V.I. and often spoke about how the country boys with good grades were excused in June from writing exams if needed at home to help in the fields.



**1944 GIRLS AND BOYS CLASSROOMS**  
**GRADE IX A, B, C, D, & E**

**IX A**

*Editor - Josephine Boyd.*

Marion Angst, Elnore Antoine, Betty Bentsley, Betty Bessem, Patricia Bett, Margaret Black, Shirley Boyce, Josephine Boyd, Louise Bryant, Marion Brydon, Shirley Burns, Faye Carroll, Dorothy Carter, Nancy Chart, Audrey Checkley, Miriam Chipchase, Margaret Cleg-horn, Muriel Clow, Betty Colehouse, Shirley Cook, Lois Cunningham, June Davies, Audrey Davidson, Margaret Day, Eleanor Daymond, Joan Dolby, Gwen Dougherty, Freda Elliott, Pauline Elsley, Helen Emberson, Barbara Farr, Jean Frank, Helen Gettas, Nancy Goetz, Roberta Grundy, Barbara Guthrie, Marion Hall, Ann Hamilton, Margaret Hamilton, Joan Harvey, Flora Henderson, Alice Henry, Shirley Jones, Barbara Leggett.



**Miss I. Cowie**  
**P.T. Teacher**

**IX A Schedule**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
D. Sc.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
D. Sc.	Geog.	Hist.	Hist.	Hist.
D. Sc.	Geog.	Spare	Sc.	Music
Spare	Lit.	D. Sc.	P.T.	Sc.
Lit.	Sc.	Geog.	Ed Guid.	Sc.
P.T.	P.T.	Art	Art	Lit.
J.B.T.	Comp.	Art	Lit.	Health
Health	Hist.	Math	Math	J.B.T.
Comp.	Math.	Lit.	Comp.	Math

**IX B**

*Editor - Jack Hamilton.*

Frank Ailsop, John Artuse, Phelps Bell, Ron Bell, Bob Bird, Jack Bojski, Bell Boat, Jim Bryden, Ed Burnell, Paul Buchanan, Ernest Carter, Lorne Chapitis, Joe Cooks, Jim Cooke, Doug Dingman, Ken Dunn, Bob Dunnell, Howard Dunk, Jim Edmonds, Ron Elliott, Louis Enchin, Maldwin Evans, Ralph Farley, Bob Flack, Don Fuller, Ken Guthrie, Bob Goden, Bill Gould, Paul Gustar, Jack Hamilton, Don Harvey, Doug Harrison, Bill Hewitt, Jim Hannan, Tom Hicks, Bob Jamieson, Lowell Jackson, Paul Keating, Jack Kirvan, Ralph Kirchen, David Koch, Jack Redwood.



**We wore tunics!**  
**Artist**  
**Sarah Mayes**

**IX C**

*Editor - Joyce Cowper.*

Joyce Cowper, Junis Houlding, Mary Keith, Peggy Kendrick, Norma Kennedy, Loreen Kingsote, Beverley Kopas, Roma Levoque, Catherine Longstaff, Nancy Lorne, Nancy Lowe, Joan Malthy, Vivienne Marriott, Doris McConnell, Marian McGee, Ruth McGillivray, Muriel McLeod, Joyce McMillan, Pauline Millie, Dorothy Moffatt, Mary Morgan, Betty Moukperian, Marilyn Oaks, Margaret Parker, June Pevitt, Doreen Pfaff, Kathleen Piper, Vera Place, Elizabeth Raithby, Bernice Reed, Ida Richmond, Catherine Ritchie, Shirley Rudd, Sheila Sanderson, Helen Singular, Audrey Soper, Jean Spears, Betty Stevenson, Joan Thatcher, Shirley Thomasson, Irene Tilley, Marvis Ward, Pat Watkins, Winnifred Wells, Audrey Wilson, Patricia Wolfenber, Betty Young, Alice Sugamori.

**IX D**

*Editor - Fred Wright.*

Allister Begg, John Bornafeld, William Bradbeer, Dominic Cardillo, George Chapman, Douglas Corrigan, Nicholas DiCarlo, Hugh Drew-Brook, Max Farrelly, Michael Franchetto, John Hewer, Edward Krouse, Angelo Longo, Grant Love, Mickey Matsubayashi, Thomas McCarthy, Fred Milton, Kenneth Moore, John Mowat, Grant Nichols, Lawrence Nickason, Lionel O'Connell, Roy Oye, Ronald Patterson, William Pettifer, George Philips, Richard Pagani, Natalino Pagnan, Samuel Reek, Stewart Rennie, Richard Richardson, Burton Robertson, Douglas Robinson, Bryce Rubinke, Frank Saep, Robert Stowe, William Taylor, John Thomson, Abraham Topp, Harry Turanski, William Westerns, Robert Whiteside, Arthur Wolfond, Fred Wright.

**IX E**

*Editor - Donald Searle.*

William Kaempf, Kenneth Lennie, Jack Lorhan, Alec Markey, Donald Marshall, Robert McCartney, Jack McGarry, Ray McCoy, Peter McKeon, Malcolm MacKinnon, Douglas McPherson, John Meadows, William Moore, Sydney Mountford, Robert Muller, John Murley, Kenneth Nairn, Garnet Norrish, Ralph Orlich, Willard Rudd, Ross Sacco, Gerard Schinck, Donald Searle, Keith Seensey, Douglas Smith, Charles Sorbars, Fred Thomas, Richard Thomasson, Kenneth Trowbridge, Donald Tastardini, Arthur Valiquette, Donald Veroni, Jack Vorvis, Ronald Wagg, Stephen, Washkarak, Harvey Whetstone, Alan Wigood, Bill Whittle, Lino Zadro.



*The OLD SCHOOL in 1944  
the girls entered on the right  
and the boys on the left.*

## *Facts from Here and There*

- At a meeting of the Board of Education, it was suggested buying an oil painting by Evan Macdonald an ex-student of GCVI. Board of Education, Hobby Show and Tea Dance proceeds were used to pay for its purchase. The scene depicted was in British Columbia.
- On October 11, **1925** in Robert Stewart's Red Book Vol. 2 states "The Board of Education adopt a resolution favoring no more appointments of married teachers in city schools."
- Miss Ella Sinclair had the original idea for a school magazine. The staff of the Acta Nostra was made up of students and teachers.
- "In **1929** the G.C.V.I. Crest was designed by a student and appeared first on the Acta Nostra cover that year" – from the G.C.V.I. Alumni Association quotes.
- The **1931** Acta Nostra gives its meaning as "All Our Doings" in Latin.
- In **1932** the length of the yearbook publication was reduced due to lack of finances stemming from the Great Depression. It was a difficult year.
- From **1934-1941** the Year Book was not published.
- In **1942** the Year Book was published.
- In **1944** eleven boys and fourteen girls graduated high school after passing their final exams.
- In **1944** Mr. A. M. Laird joined the staff as vice principal.
- In **1945** the Acta Nostra resumed being published.
- "Our advertisers are thanked for their assistance in making the Acta Nostras possible".
- In March **1945** Guelph Collegiate held a second Annual Hobby Show. Miss Helen Carscadden arranged the huge variety of exhibits. Miss Jennie Reid and Mr. Fred Dixon judged and awarded 4 prizes. This show was meant to encourage hobbies and knowledge of Art and Painting.
- "The first time in memory of the school the 'Green and White' brought home the W.O.S.S.A. **Championship**" – taken from the John F. Ross letter in the **1946** book.
- "In a school, such as the Guelph Collegiate which does not have a **Students' Council**, the school magazine can in certain respects substitute for the Council as the focal point of some student activities" - from Editorial by David A.R.Tolton **1946**.
- I myself didn't take part in **Field Days**, however **Basket Ball Games** were held in the Auditorium after 4 pm, and a crowd would gather in the gallery to watch and cheer, I too.
- **Rugby games** were after 4 pm. The boys in their attire would head to Exhibition Park over on London Road to the left. Many of us followed along with the cheerleaders (photos on page 9)

### *Some Commencement Scholarships:*

Scholarships awarded to deserving students over the years: The Durrant Cane, Laird Ring, Margaret Pigott Spelling Award, John McCrae, Sidney Acker, Frank James Cote Memorial Award and the James Davison Mathematics Scholarship. I couldn't begin to list them all.

Guelph families have produced so many famous graduates.

I recall students going to Maggie Pigott's room for a ½ hour after 4 pm for detention, did I?

Popular Sayings at the time included:

"O, you kid!", "Hubba! Hubba!", "May I?", "Jiggers!", "Kilroy was here"

**Poetry by IXA General Students**  
(winners in Acta Nostra contest)

**MY FIRST DAY AT THE G. C. V. I.**

*A nervous girl was I that day  
When to our school I made my way.  
To go alone I would not dare  
(Our thrills of fear we like to share).*

*So Sheila joined me down the street  
And Gwen and Mary we did meet.  
Adventure loomed so large ahead  
(We knew there was no need to dread.)*

*The crowd was rushing its way through,  
Many were strange, but some I knew.  
All looked so anxious to get started  
(With public school we'd surely parted.)*

*In the Assembly we did meet  
And sat at Mr. Ross's feet.  
So kindly to us all he spoke  
We felt our fear was just a joke.*

*He said that we success could win  
If to work hard we would begin;  
Then told of the activities  
And said we should take part in these.*

*Then to the old school we were bound;  
With lots of help our rooms we found.  
With dearest friends we found we'd parted  
(The alphabet is so cold-hearted).*

*The teachers came in one by one.  
Some were grave and some were fun;  
Some loosened up and told the name  
(We wished the rest would do the same.)*

*We wrote down names of books we'd study,  
And tried to figure how much money  
We'd have to spend to get them all  
(At times allowances seem quite small.)*

*The morning ended much too soon  
And to our homes we rushed at noon,  
Impatient for the next day when  
We all could hurry back again.  
Margaret Hamilton, IXA.*

**THE BROOK**

*Oh! Brook you on your way do go;  
O'er hill and dale you run,  
Through the morning's lovely glow,  
And 'neath the midday sun.*

*You ripple on so merrily,  
With ne'er the slightest care;  
You sing your song so happily,  
Without much time to spare.*

*Around you, brook, the grass grows  
green,  
And daisies sway quite soft;  
Rocks and marigolds are seen,  
And cattails swing aloft!*

—Joan Frank, IX-A.



Effie G. Smith



Greta M. Shutt



King George VI, 1939, Royal Canadian Mounted Police



KING GEORGE VI

**A DAY AT THE G.C.I.**

Nine o'clock and in they tumble,  
—One, two, three and all,  
Then I heard the teacher mumble  
Mr. Ross is in the hall.

We then all came to order,  
In French we sang the King,  
Miss Carleton announced another test,  
We worked 'till the bell did ring.

Our texture next was Geography,  
It began at 11 a.m.  
"See here," Miss Smith said, "Nancy,  
Were you talking to Gwen?"

We then marched in to room 3-A  
A bit of Maths, to learn,  
With Mr. McNaughton as teacher  
Our knowledge took a turn.

The four bell rang quite loudly;  
Another day was over;  
We made a dash to the cloak room  
And felt ourselves in clover.  
—Pauline Edley.

**RAMBLING WITH IX A**

We're the girls of 9A Form,  
And we've got personality,  
But teachers seem to think we're just  
A horrible reality.

There's June and Shirley who come late,  
And Frieda who leaves early,  
And just to add another fact,  
There's Pat whose hair is curly.

There's some of us whose tongues, it seems  
Are worked upon a swivel,  
Behind the teachers' backs we talk,  
Before them we are civil.

Our temperaments are various,  
While some are temperamental,  
And when this trait's displayed at school,  
The teachers think it's mental.

The keys of our lockers are lost or misplaced,  
The janitor then is called in;  
It must try his patience many a time,  
Yet he always turns up with a grin.

Our line in Assembly's a sight to behold  
We range from the short to the tall,  
We're blown down the aisle by the Orchestra's  
tone,  
It's a wonder we get there at all.

At sewing we're adept at pricking our thumbs,  
But at anything else, not so good!  
At cooking we scramble and mix up a mess,  
Our concoctions don't taste as they should.

At Physical Jerks, Joan and Audrey excel,  
And in Pyramids everyone stands  
On Roberta, who takes all their weight, and  
who is  
At the bottom when everyone lands.

And so we end our little lay;  
We're not a Burns or Bacon,  
With poetic license we've been free,  
If we are not mistaken.

## *Collegiate Activities circa 1944-1947*

I looked forward to and attended the Tea Dances starting after 4 p.m. for 2 hours, dancing to the G.C.V.I. Orchestra. Our chaperones were teachers, and they danced along with us in the Auditorium of the New School. Proceeds went to a good cause, such as the War Service Club.

Sometimes these kinds of events were held in the Old Gym, cold as it was in there. At 11 p.m. the evening would break up after refreshments consisting of sandwiches, hot dogs, cookies and chocolate milk.

Through the winter, tobogganing parties for 1½ hours would have been scheduled on College Hill, then to the YMCA for a dance and refreshments (corner of Quebec and Yarmouth Streets).

A 2 hour evening of skating at the Winter Fair Arena on Carden Street then to the YMCA for dancing and refreshments.

The Girls HI-Y Meetings were held at the YWCA. Also there, they met and knit garments for the Red Cross and as well sponsored Rugby Dances.

In 1946 Margaret Carleton led an Operetta Production of “El Bandido”, by the Glee Club, composed of 35 girls, which was a huge success.

Badminton resumed again after the War.

Mr. Herb Peachell led the G.C.V.I. Orchestra in **1946**, made up of 24 boys and 3 girls (photo on page 4).

There were five boys in the G.C.V.I. Army Cadets Pipe Band in **1946**, in full kilt and pipes. Pipe Major Wm. Flanigan of the Guelph Pipe Band was their director.



L - R. ( G.C.V.I XC 1945-1946 Miss J.A. Reid  
Picture taken on front steps of the GCVI  
Front Row - Margaret Proctor, Heien Duffield, Barbara Mowat, Barbara Oaks, Pat Watkins, absent (Coral Paddock).  
2<sup>nd</sup> Row - Beverley Kopas, Marg Cowley, Nancy Ogg, Alice Shoemaker, Nancy Loree.  
3rd Row - Miss J. Reid, Pat Linfoot, Gwen Biddle, Marion Angst, Shirley O'Connor, Pauline Millie.  
4<sup>th</sup> Row - Lorne Chaptis, Walter Radlowsky, Roy Lefnesko, Charles King, Alfred Hogg, Don Blyth, Peter Peloso.  
5<sup>th</sup> Row - Edward Kamps, Peter Jarvis, Jack Watson, Bill Bell, Bruce Walker, Mike and Pete McKeon, Al Gancher.



GUELPH COLLEGIATE AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE  
Opposite to photo. 1947

**D.H. Ferguson XA GEN. 1946-1947***Editor – Shirley M. Cook*

MARION ANGST is a clever girl with a needle and always has a twinkle in her eye. BETTY BEESLEY, besides doing school-work is greatly interested in knitting and art. BETTY BESSEM, our blonde Dutch girl, always has something to say. MARGARET BLACK is a good kid all around, and an excellent basketball forward. SHIRLEY BOYCE, with her pretty red-brown hair, is always ready for fun. JOSEPHINE BOYD is the most talented student of X-A form – not only in her school-work, but also in drawing and poster-making as well. LOUISE BRYANT, who is well liked by all, is always in the race to the top of the class. MARION BRYDON, although she is very quiet, is gaining success in the grade. SHIRLEY BURNS, who is continually found with Shirley Boyce and her fun, come from College Hill! FAYE CARROLL, whose specialties in schoolwork are Composition and French, also walked away with the Silver Cup for winning a spelling match in which all forms were represented. NANCY CHART is our dark-haired gal who shuffles in late every morning with a loud clanking of bangles. (Another good guard in basketball). AUDREY CHECKLEY, "une petite acrobate" who has performed at the annual "Commencement." In spite of her size she really gets around. MARIAM CHIPCHASE is our great Mathematical girl. How does she do it? MARGARET CLEGHORN takes sewing, and is very handy with a needle. MURIEL CLOW, (a very serious girl-sometimes!) is always figuring out Mr. Dixon's stars and moon phases. SHIRLEY COOK is our cute blonde form rep: Cookie's the kid who's always hep. LOIS CUNNINGHAM, who is always at the top of the class, is a popular lass with everyone. She is even a friend of the caretaker, Mr. Whetstone, although she broke the gym floor!! (Remember?). ELEANORE DAYMOND you'll be sure to find at social functions, (with??). JUNE DAVIES, who is one of the athletes of X-A, participates in all school sports, and is always found where there is fun. AUDREY DAVIDSON is a tall thin girl, who always seems to be changing her hair-do. JOAN DOLBY, the girl whom everyone envies for her "Able-Grables," plays forward on our basket-ball team. GWEN DOUGHERTY is our gal with the "dimples" who usually arrives just before last bell. FREDA ELLIOTT is an out-of-town lass, who also comes late. PAULINE ELSLEY, our cute sweater girl, with the adorable complexion, takes an active part in most school activities. HELEN EMBERSON is a mate for Miriam Chipchase. She is also excellent in Maths. BARBARA FARR is our "fair" girl with the lovely natural curls. JEAN FRANK, a quiet girl from the country, is lucky to reach our form by 9.15 a.m. HELEN GETTAS is another blonde, who, as yet, has never been able to master tumbling. NANCY GOETZ is our "giggle" girl who is always with Gwen at five to nine. LOUISE GROAT is very fond of sewing, but she also answers frequently in French and Maths. BARBARA GUTHRIE, a modest young lass, is one of our History Brains. MARION HALL, who is known to all as "Weiner", is a very good athlete. Next on our Xmas list is a "Comb" for Marion. ANN HAMILTON, who hails from the country, is never to be found late. MARGARET HAMILTON, who is not related to Ann, is clever in most subjects. FLORA HENDERSON, another country girl, is very intelligent and has a pleasant grin for everyone. ALICE HENRY is our nervous gal who cannot stand still when asked questions by Mr. Ferguson. Because of her height (?) she makes an excellent basketball guard. SHIRLEY JONES, who is an early bird, is still trying to combat her English subjects. BARBARA LEGGETT, our short little lass, is never found minus a giggle. GLENNA PARKER, who attracts Miss McCallum with her deep loud voice, usually knows her Latin. JUNE PEVITT, a new lass of our class, is always finding a way out of Miss Smith's Maths. MARJORIE McLENNAN is the latest addition to our class. Although she is always burning or cutting herself, she has a pleasant smile for all.

**Geo. Hindley XID GEN. 1947***Editor – Jack Vorvis*

Marion Angst, Barry Blair, Kathleen Bridgeman, James Briggs, Nancy Chart, Marion Daymond, Ruth Dyson, Evelyn Elliot, Betty Erskine, Donald Fletcher, Joan Frank, Alistair Gancher, Phyllis Gray, James Hannan, Lowell Jackson, Nancy Loree, Marian McGee, Michael McKeon, Peter McKeon, Muriel McLeod, Frederick Milton, Ronald Mitchell, Mary Morgan, Peter Peloso, Elizabeth Raithby, Sheila Sanderson, William Scanlon, Margaret Sherwood, Marlene Smith, Audrey Soper, Marilyn Sproule, Geraldine Steels, Robert Sutherland, William Taylor, Nino Tedesco, Merle Tischler, Jack Vorvis, Bruce Walker, Patricia Watkins, Charles Weatherston.

WE WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF:  
Gerry Steeles didn't know her Latin;  
Liz Raithby, our Athletic rep, beat the bell;  
Ron Mitchell came to school two days in a row;  
Muriel McLeod got a locker of her own;  
Nancy Chart couldn't find him;  
Nancy Loree could open her locker without Marg's help;  
Lowell Jackson didn't "forget" to do his homework;  
Joan Frank stopped to catch her breath;  
Marion Angst wasn't there to answer the door;  
Nino Tedesco came without his gum (nerves you know);

HOW WOULD WE RECOGNIZE:  
Ruth Dyson without one of those size 40 sweaters?  
Bill Taylor without that green shirt?  
Fred Milton without that "jumbo comb"?  
Jim Hannan without that red, black and white sweater?  
Charlie Weatherston "sans" red plaid shirt?  
Mike McKeon without that big Irish grin?

WE WONDER WHY:  
Audrey Soper has such an interest in Fergus;  
Grant Nichols decided to transfer to a "good form";  
Bob Sutherland is always pulling down his sweater and gazing out the window;  
Phyllis Gray has such an interest in XII Tech.

PERSONALITIES:  
MARILYN SPROULE – The piano artist of ward XID. BARRY BLAIR – We wonder why we seem to recognize that face in Ted William's orchestra. KATHLEEN BRIDGEMAN – She's one of our Glee Club warblers. JIM BRIGGS – Jimmie secured himself a position on the school basketball team. MARIAN DAYMOND – the "petite jeune fille" of XID. DON FLETCHER – The lad who is always ready to leave the room. EVELYN ELLIOTT – the girl with the Lauren Bacall voice. AL GANCHER – Another lad who made the basketball team (note the brush cut). BETTY ERSKINE – the girl who always has her Latin done (except the last sentence). PETE MCKEON – A tall red-head who also made the basketball team. MARY MORGAN – "Gork" mightn't know her Latin, but just turn her loose with a basketball! PETE PELOSO – The guy the fellows depend on for the solution to that's Algebra problem. MARIAN MCGEE – We wonder where she gets all that basketball energy. BILL SCANLON – "Willie" is XID's artist and is always drawing cartoons about our form. SHEILA SANDERSON – "Sandy" is a cheerleader – always ready to howl. MARG SHERWOOD – the "south paw" who really knows how to swing that baseball bat. BRUCE WALKER – the guy who likes to "swing it" on the trumpet. PAT WATKINS – Trix never misses a trick on the basketball floor. MARLENE SMITH – XID is proud of the way "Windy" leads our line down the assembly hall (even though it is early in the morning). JAKE VORVIS – Jake is always ready with an answer not stated in any textbook. He also made the basketball team. MERLE TISCHLER – The girl who claims the softball goes right through the bat. Keep trying, Merle!

## Story of the Author, Marion Campbell (Angst)

Occasionally if I had a coin, would go the Royal Dairy for an ice cream at noon hour. Friday nights I did my homework at the Guelph Public Library at the corner of Norfolk and Paisley Streets. I waited there with 2 Loretta girls to get a ride home to the farm with a neighbour when he finished work. We all lived halfway to Elora.

After my education at G.C.V.I., my marriage, children and passing time, I became interested in sketching homes and schools in pen and ink, researching their history, and later painting in oils and acrylics. I also took lessons in photography. I remember not being good at history, and am now told that I am an “Archivist, Historian, and Genealogist.” Sewing, millinery, cake decorating, flower arranging, Guelph Township Horticulture, and I also taught 4H Homemaking classes. This has been a big part of my farm life. Historical scrap books have been a fascination for years. Our Marden Librarian asked if I’d show my art in the spring of 2012. What a thrill!

Over the years I have kept in touch with many of my school friends. The 160<sup>th</sup> G.C.V.I. Reunion in 2014 brought back past friends and “memories”. Following this years’ **Reunion Dinner** of the 40’s & 50’s May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, I am arranging another **After Glow Lunch** at noon on the 23rd.



S.S.#4 Nichol/My Public School



Sunday School



Longtime resident offers library art show



Carnegie Library 1905-1964



Highland kilt



After Glow Reunion 2014



Cousins Coral & Blanche Paddock  
Marion Angst centre

### *Quotes from "High Schools of Guelph by Greta Shutt":*

- “This was the school whose graduates carried the fame of Guelph far and wide. This was where the tradition of educational excellence was nurtured.”
- “Because we cannot tell the future, we are trying to prepare you to live your lives in a world that we will never see, and so we cannot know if we have done well or ill. Many of you are sons and daughters, and grandsons and granddaughters of G.C.V.I. students. It is only to be expected that such continuity tends to develop a tradition of scholarship.”
- “The curriculum of the **1880-90’s** served John McCrae well. From it he learned the techniques of studying so that his career at University was notable as was his later work in medicine!”
- “Guelph has given the world three Rhodes Scholars, Kenneth Macalister and Edward Jolliffe and James Farley.”
- Miss Effie Smith was among some of the G.C.I.’s oldest graduates, Miss R. Stewart, and Mrs. H. Howitt.

### *Quotes and facts from other sources:*

- “This first special event at the G.C.I. of which there is any record was a gathering in celebration of Guelph’s seventy-fifth birthday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1902” - found as a clipping in the Howitt scrapbook. Mr. Thomas Laidlaw read his poem, *The felling of the first tree in Guelph*. His works can be seen at the Guelph Public Library.
- “Remember, you will get out of your school here only what you put into it” - **John F. Ross**
- “It is not always the most brilliant student who develops into the most successful man or woman” - **James Davison**
- “Were Mr. Davison to give the recipe for the elixir of youth, he would advise that to achieve longevity do not worry, or hurry; seek to do duties well without cheers, remembering that the greatest interest is youth and that kindness is the greatest happiness” - Mail and Empire of April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1929, as seen in Acta Nostra.
- Frederick A. Verner became one of the world’s most noted painters. His paintings of Canadian scenes are masterpieces. He is the son of Arthur Cole Verner, B.A. T.C.D., the first teacher and Head Master of the Wellington District Grammar School opened about **1841**.

### *Relatives of mine who attended the schools GCI and GCVI were:*

My grandfather Guy Thurtell mentioned in the Cadet Corps, my mother Eva F. Thurtell who graduated in the 20s and went on to Nurses Training, her sister Harriett and brother George attended in the 20s. My siblings Charlotte and George in the 40s and my maternal first cousins were 40s 50s attendees and it was later for my first cousins once removed.

My husband Malcolm Campbell attended as did his father James, uncle Hibbert and his aunt Olive (mentioned earlier) and as well in this family there are my son and daughter, and my granddaughters mentioned above who were there when I needed a hand with this story.

*From Grammar School to GCVI*



Sketch of the first Wellington District Grammar School by Henry W. Paterson.



The Guelph Collegiate Institute, with 1906 addition, now part of the G.C.V.I.



The Guelph Collegiate Institute, built in 1875, with addition and modern tower (shown in 1906 and 1910). The school right of photo was built in 1875. The window and lot at left of the 1906 extension can be seen at extreme right.



**Old GCI School Bell Tower & Weather Vane**



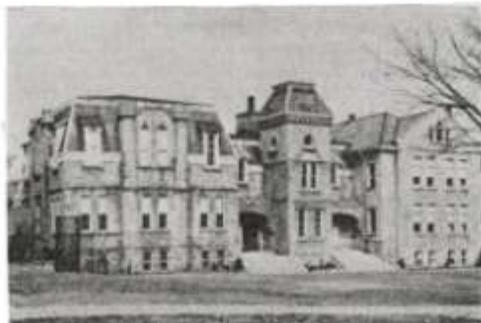
*Paisley Street — 1908*



*Collegiate with Drill Shed and outside toilets — 1886.*



Guelph Collegiate Institute c.1915  
Guelph, Wellington County, Ontario



*With 1906 addition — 1950 — Torn down about 1960.*





## *Resources*

1. G.C.V.I. Alumni Association
2. G.C.I. - Nov 27 1878
3. History of Guelph 1827-1927 - Leo A. Johnson
4. The High Schools of Guelph -- Greta M. Shutt
5. Acta Nostra G.C.V.I. Collection – Courtesy of Robert Seim
6. Acta Nostra G.C.V.I. 1948 -- Woodlawn Memorial Park Archives, Guelph, ON
7. A Picture History of Guelph 1827-1977 Vol. 1 - Robert Alan Maclean Stewart
8. Photo collection from Fran (Brohman) Fairfull (Class of 1950)
9. Roving photographers – David Koch & Bill Scanlon
10. Various findings on the internet
11. Photo collection from Lenore Fisher

### *Monuments* - Woodlawn Memorial Park Block N – 2 OGS recordings

1. In Memorium Lt. Col. W. Clark (May 16, 1838-Aug. 21, 1921) and his wife Catherine Aird (Nov. 29, 1847- May 16, 1902)
2. ROSS - In loving memory of JOHN FRANCIS ROSS (1884-1946)

### *Encouragement from:*

1. Wendy (Dickieson) Darroch - GCVI Archivist and Office Co-ordinator, GCVI Class of 1974
2. Charlotte (Angst) Mackie – Woodlawn Memorial Park Archivist, Genealogist, and Historian, GCVI Class of 1949
3. Robert D. Seim, PH.D. C. Psych., Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of Waterloo, former teacher at S. S. #4, Guelph Township School, GCVI Class of 1954
4. Rebecca Mayes, GCVI Class of 2010 and Sarah Mayes, GCVI Class of 2012
5. Lenore Fisher, GCVI Class of 1954

\*A special thanks to Charlotte Mackie and Rebecca Mayes for their assistance in writing and editing my book and making it all come together\*