

**EDWARD JOHNSON**  
**1878 - 1959**

Edward Johnson was born August 22, 1878 in Guelph, Ontario. He became one of the most successful tenors of his time. At an early age, Mr. Johnson became used to success, and his musical talent was recognized when he was only seven years old. In 1885, following his father's Exhibition Park band performance, Johnson was heard mimicking another tenor and he impressed friends and family enough to be taken seriously. Soon after, he received vocal training from choir conductors in churches.

While he was a student at GCVI from 1894 to 1898, he was captain of both soccer and hockey teams. The silver cup he won for Indian Club Swinging (1895) is on display in the GCVI Archives. He believed that physical fitness was important for his career in music. Edward Johnson continued to sing with small shows and bands in the Guelph area.

His musical career eventually led him to London, England where he sang with Winnipeg contralto, Edith Miller. He received high praise from critics and it was suggested he continue his career in New York City. At age twenty-one, Mr. Johnson sang at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. His fame spread quickly and he took vocal training in Italy under the great master, Vincent Lombardi. Johnson had a long and successful career as the most acclaimed tenor of his time in both Europe and North America. Later, he became manager of the Metropolitan Opera.

Edward Johnson died on April 20, 1959 in Guelph, at age 80. The Edward Johnson Music Foundation is an enduring legacy to Guelph and Canada.

Richard Woodward  
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