

Wall of Fame Speech - Conrad Milne

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Bob Hohenadel and the members of the G.C.V.I. Alumni Committee for this great honour. I am truly humbled!

When I entered these hallowed halls 63 years ago I never dreamt that one day I would be standing up here receiving such an honour. My biggest concern at that time was whether I would be academically eligible for playing football in the fall, let alone graduating from Grade 13. Academics were not my strong suit! Only God in His infinite wisdom knew, and I give Him the praise and glory for enabling me to achieve the successes that occurred in my lifetime culminating in this award. Of the awards I have been privileged to receive over my career, this one I will treasure the most. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

I would also like to thank Principal Julie Prendergast for her kind invitation to this 2012 Commencement, along with Tanya Drimmie for her assistance in all the correspondence leading up to this night. Last but not least, thanks to the young ladies, Shelene Douglas and Katelyn Stephenson, who wrote the write-up for this award.

I would like to thank my wife Mary for all her support over our 54 years of marriage, as she was certainly a constant source of encouragement as I strived towards my goals and dreams. Unfortunately Mary was not able to join me tonight as she is still recovering from her cancer treatments. I do wish to thank my daughter Debbie from near-by London, for her loving support and encouragement. I would also like to thank my two best friends for coming tonight to share in my celebration. My older brother Jim, was a former G.C.V.I. grad and one who I always tried to emulate in sports. Jim later became the Head of the Commercial Department at J.F. Ross Collegiate. Welcome also to his wife Dorothy. My other best friend, Bill Scott and his wife Donna, are also G.C.V.I. grads. Many of you may remember that Bill was also a former principal of G.C.V.I. and later Superintendent of Schools.

I would also like to congratulate the 2012 Graduates who we honour tonight. Congratulations on your successful completion of your academic studies here at G.C.V.I. This is an important first step, and I wish you all a continuation of this success in the years that lie ahead.

I would also like to congratulate the many proud parents here tonight for all their encouragement and support leading to the success of their children. You deserve to be proud!

As you have heard, I have been very much involved in sports, and I attribute much of my personal success to the influences that sport has played in my life. I started out playing hockey and baseball on teams that represented the City of Guelph, and followed up at G.C.V.I. playing football as a quarterback both here and later at McMaster University along with my good friend Bill Scott.

It has often been said that sport is a mirror of life, and I truly believe this to be true. The attributes that I have learned and developed from sport in order to be successful

certainly carried over into my personal life. To excel in sports an athlete must be totally dedicated, to be very committed, and to persevere often under very stressful and discouraging conditions. You have heard the many clichés in sports such as “winners never quit, and quitters never win,” or “when the going gets tough, the tough get going!” These are the attributes that everyone needs to be successful in life. You who are graduating tonight will face many trials and tribulations in the years that lie ahead, whether in your academic pursuits or achieving success in your chosen occupation or profession. In my sport psychology lectures that I will once again be presenting to the coaches and athletes in Bahrain in the Persian Gulf later this month, I always stress the importance of setting goals that are realistic, achievable, and measurable, but I also add “don’t be afraid to dream!” We all are aware that many games have been won in the last second, the last at bat or with the last shot, because the players never gave up and never quit!

In closing I would like to leave you with a quote from my favourite English philosopher, Bond, James Bond 007, who said, “Never say Never!” and I would like to add, “don’t be afraid to dream!”

Thank you again for this priceless award, and may God bless you all!