

GDHS COMMENCEMENT '87

THE VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS - 1987
By TOM WILSON
Herald Special

Teachers, Honoured Guests, Parents, and Graduating Class of 1987: Here we are, our last official high school function. When I started high school, there were two thoughts on my mind: the first,

"This school is huge!" and the other, "I can't wait to get out of here!" Well, the school doesn't seem so big anymore, and I'm kind of sorry to be leaving. When I look around at everyone, and see where

we are now, I realize that the past five years have changed all of us. And I know that after we leave tonight, there will be more changes as we go our separate ways. But no matter what we do, no matter where we go, or who we become, we will always be G.D.H.S. students, and we will always carry those precious high school memories.

In grade nine, high school was an overwhelming proposition. These were the days when you had to

watch for senior students who would gladly give you directions to anywhere but where you wanted to go, and those teachers who amused themselves by chasing us out of restricted halls. Even the timetables were set up to work against us. Did you ever notice that all your classes were at opposite ends of the school? But being an ankle-biter wasn't really as bad as all that.

Realizing that there was more to high school than classes and homework, we began to involve ourselves in extra-curricular activities: school teams, clubs, and students' council. There were also plays and musicals, like Camelot and The Pirates of Penzance. It was when we got involved that we really became part of the school. At first, it was only a small part, but as the years went by, each September we would return, a little more mature, and a little more important, and ready to play a larger role in the student body.

With that new maturity came change, and a new sense of who we were. In grades nine and ten most of us were going through our "heavy metal days" when the common attire seemed to be blue jeans and black t-shirts. But as we grew, circles of friends changed and new groups emerged. This was always most evident right here in the cafe. There were also changes that took place outside the school, not necessarily in opinions and attitudes but in lifestyles. Most of us learned to drive a car during our high school years. Suddenly, whole new methods of transportation were opened up to us: no more walking to and from school, take the car! And after school, give your friends a ride home - all 50 of them.

It was also about this time that we got our first jobs: usually minimum wage in some fast-food restaurant along Highway 7. Now, I often wonder what masochistic tendencies led me to even think about working in one of those places.

I know that when we look back on Georgetown District High School there will always be so many fond memories: not things like the quadratic formula or one of Hamlet's soliloquies, but the significant events that we'll remember - like a T.V. commercial, where 400 kids in white track suits, dragged off to the middle of nowhere to stand in the shape of a trillium, and all the director could say was, "I know you're cold but smile, and pretend that you're having fun in front of the camera!"

Perhaps the most memorable events came under that favourite heading, "This is not a school function," an innocent-sounding phrase that for some unknown reason makes the average warped teenager do crazy things; these were those unforgettable events like the Formal, the Killington trips, and the ski trips to Killington and Mont Ste. Anne.

But I do have one more memory. You may have been bothered by it, too. Do the grade nines really get shorter every year, or is that just my imagination?

Now, all that is over. What

comes next? For most of us, college or university, where we will learn to be happy with C's rather than A's, and learn that staying up all night to do homework is natural. From there it is out into the real world, the working world. Doubtless, some of the graduates here tonight are going to do very well out there, and when we read about how rich and famous you've become, we will, probably, all of a sudden, remember how close we were as high school friends.

But even if none of us becomes famous, I know that twenty or thirty years from now I'll be cleaning out a closet or something and I'll come across the old '86-'87 Yearbook. Then I'll probably sit down for a good three hours looking

through all the old pictures...the teams, the clubs; I'll reread all the old grad comments and laugh at all the inside jokes; and then I'll start to think about those things not in the Yearbook: the memories, the events, but most of all the people - the teachers who were always helpful and tried to make the classes more fun, even though we wouldn't have admitted as much at the time, and all of you, the students. It's been you who made these last five years really special; and I'd like to thank all of you, the 100th Graduating Class of Georgetown District High School, because you made high school what it was, and I've had a great time.



The following students (some of whom may be absent from this picture above) were special award winners at the Georgetown high school commencement '87 Friday. They are: Peter Kovacs, Ian Matsuura, Elizabeth Gibbs, Chris Harris, Greg Mackenzie, Martha Armstrong, Michelle Barnard, Mike Hulsall, Jacinta Halovanic, Stephanie Wagstaffe, Nancy Mustard, Brian Marshall, Gillian Johnston, Maureen Draszal, Chris Barrager, Janet Micklethwaite, Liz Jackson, Jeff Amato, Suzanne Parker, Jim Clark, Janice Jickling.

Michelle Haarsma, Raymond Tsui, Debbie Pentesco, Kerl Dryden, Kelly Stern, Stephanie Sieber, Lois Galvao, Peter Rasanen, Naomi Matsuura, Peter Bray, Kevin Brisley, Dave Chatten, Glen Hopkins, Jeff Duncan, Nina Fear, Rhonda Lennie, Mike Treffry, Rona Yardley, Stephanie Green, Renee Sheepstra, Mark Covert, Rick Barnes, Mandy Dean, Charlie Gibbs, Jim Wallace, Levanie Hunsley, Brenda James, Tina Dine, Tunde Otto, Linda Wenham, Monique Tobin.



The following students (some of whom may be absent from this picture above) received Ontario Scholarships for attaining an 80 per cent or better average in honor graduation level courses: Martha Armstrong, Kelly Brown, Susan Campbell, Janice Curtis, Simon Evans, Pat K. Freestone, Elizabeth Gibbs, Robin Gibson, Laura Groskorth, Michelle Haarsma, Jacinta Halovanic, Michael Hulsall, Brenda Haarsma, Sandra Heaton, Jennifer Henwood, Clare Hockley, Kenneth Irwin, Andrew Isank, Lisabeth Jackson, Janice Jickling, Peter Kovacs.

Lisa Litchford, Greg Mackenzie, James Manning, Brian Marshall, Ian Matsuura, Kenneth McDermot, Colleen Mulder, Lala Munro, Janice Murray, Nancy Mustard, Deborah Pentesco, Jessie Hamantarsingh, Ashley Richards, David Rumsey, Jeffrey Sholdice, Stephanie Sieber, Andrew Soward, Jamie Spiller, Edwin Stanley, Jana Steele, Kelly Stern, Robert Sun, Leslie Takahashi, Monique Tobin, Stephanie Wagstaffe, Christian Wassermann, Linda Wenham, Thomas Wilson.

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