

The EARLY YEARS

By: Ruth Tupe

The aged brick walls and the antique architecture of this school tell a story of tradition and pride over the past 120 years. Georgetown District High School has undergone many changes throughout the decades; renovations, students, teachers, and principals, but one thing truly remains: the rebel pride we have inside.

Originally named Chapel Street School, GDHS was founded as a small school in Georgetown. The first day of classes were held on January 10, 1887, with 69 students and 2 teachers. Eventually the school expanded and purchased the property where GDHS now stands. Edward J. Lennox, who was a renowned architect, designed Caesars Loma, Old City Hall, King Edward Hotel, and Massey Hall was appointed to design the new building of GDHS.

Major renovations were made by the 1950's, with additional East and West wings. Unfortunately, the school burned down in 1959 and

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Rebellious Spirit: 120 Years of Excellence



the building was completely demolished and rebuilt. The changes made during the 1960's dramatically transformed the school and that was the last major renovation. It explains why the hallways and classrooms feel like a time warp, bringing us back into the 60's even though we live in the new millenia.

The old yearbooks of GDHS were appropriately nicknamed "The Challenge" during the mid 1900's, reflecting the many activities and events that were held at the school. An annual school event called BAZAAR, much like Insmifest today, was used to be held in the Cafetorium, with elected prom kings and queens. Semesters never used to exist, instead, 8 courses were taken throughout the entire year.

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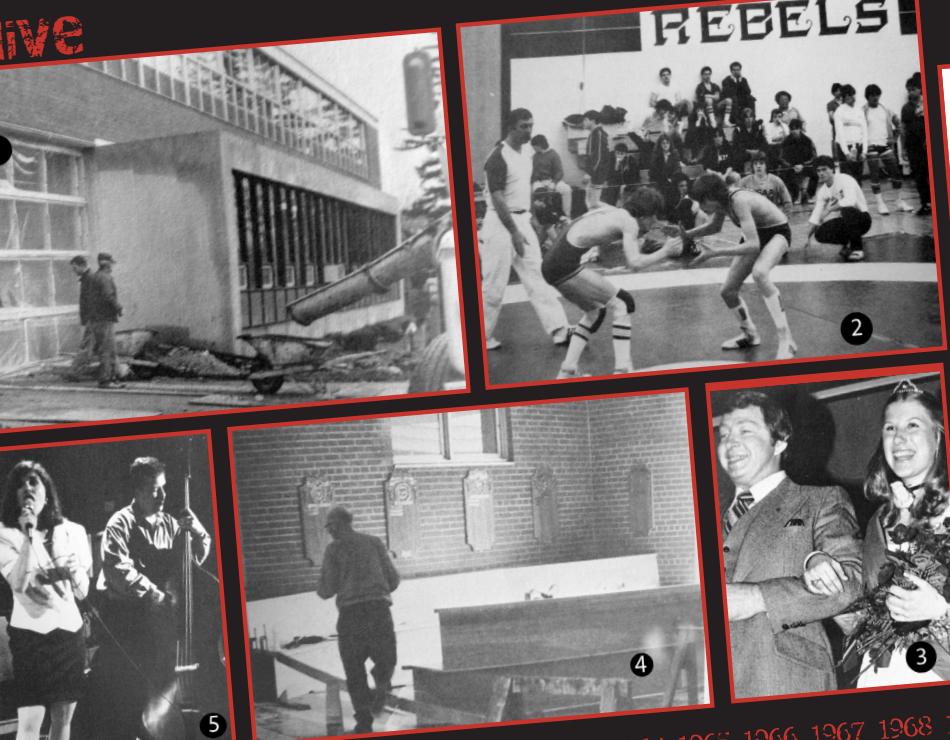
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Things have not changed all that much from 1887 to 2007. GDHS still represents the rebellious spirit. It is the ability to stand against all odds, the determination to excel, and the conviction to achieve greatness.

Some traditions have survived us all, such as the Annual Teacher's Play. Some notable Teachers' plays include Beverly Hills 90210, Titanic, Harry Potter, Dallas, and Dynasty. Musical, Musical and dramatic productions have always been a highlight; from Anne of Green Gables to last year's Moonbreaker's production, both traditional and modern stories have come to entertain audiences. GDHS has continually qualified for OFSAA for many sports and even held OFSAA for Cross Country in 1984.

GDHS has had its share of the spotlight, with celebrity appearances, TV debuts, and past students becoming celebrities themselves. The school was involved in making a commercial for the provincial elections in 1985. An aerial photo was taken of the staff and students all dressed in white and clustered together to create a gigantic trillium. Gordie Howe has visited the school along with a number of famous musical groups during their time. Max Webster, Honeymoon Suite, Kim Mitchell, Glass Tiger, and Tom Cochrane, Bryan Lewis, a former student, became a referee in the NHL and Bob Goldham became a professional NHL player and helped the Leafs win the 1942 Stanley Cup, and went on to win 4 more in his career.

This rebellious spirit has not only driven us to succeed but more importantly, it has united the students, staff, and the administration into a close-knit community. This



- ① The school building today
- ② Wrestling team in 1983. GDHS used to have a championship wrestling programme
- ③ 1978 Snow King & Queen, an old tradition at GDHS
- ④ Foyer under construction in 1974
- ⑤ A music spring concert in 1992
- ⑥ Remodelling the school in 1967
- ⑦ Mr. Keast & Mr. Newcome, also a former GDHS student, picture taken in 2000
- ⑧ School cafeteria in 1973, the tables are the same as today!