



PERDUE  
HISTORY

1962 - 1982



A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
GORDON E. PERDUE HIGH SCHOOL

Those were critical years - 14 to 18 - when you became YOU and all your thoughts were focused on "how'm I doin'?" Perdue was a good environment for those years. The beautiful building in an elegant setting made it easy to be good.

In the late 1950's the Oakville Board of Education's request to build Thomas A. Blakelock as a composite school (embracing a threefold complete program of academic, commercial and technical education) was rejected by the Department of Education which felt that the cost of constructing, equipping, staffing, and maintaining this type of school could not be justified by the number of students in the area who would be interested. Until 1962, any Oakville student who desired a technical education had to commute to New Toronto.

In 1961, after Oakville's third high school - named after the Chairman of the Board, Gordon E. Perdue - had been planned, foundations were laid on the site well-known to us all now. Suddenly, Prince Philip announced the need for a massive program of expansion in technical education. In Canada, the Federal-Provincial Technical and Vocational Training Agreement was effected. Federal grants of 75% of construction and equipments costs for composite schools were made available. Three hundred such institutions were built in the following six years! The Oakville Board sought and were granted permission from the Department of Education to change Perdue to a composite school.

The federal grants ushered in a new era of vocational education. The high quality of construction and equipment in the Oakville school was due in part to these funds as well as the constant vigilance of Mrs. Perdue, who watched over every stage of construction.



An Advisory Vocational Committee of local businessmen, chaired by Mr. Leonard Jones, was set up to advise the Board on the facilities and equipment best suited for the educational objectives to be achieved. These objectives can be summarized by a quotation from DR. C. W. Booth, Deputy Minister of Education, when he spoke at the official opening:

Knowledge for living and the skills for earning a living - that is the two-fold purpose of the composite school.

The Advisory Vocational Committee played an important role in the early stages, and were instrumental in the formation of strong links between Perdue and the business community.

The school opened right on time with 900 students in September, 1962. The capacity was listed at 1120 in:

- 18 regular classrooms
- 8 special classrooms
- 5 laboratories
- 2 drafting rooms
- 8 technical shops
- 2 occupational training rooms

The initial enrolment was made up of:

- 47% registered for the general academic course
- 33% registered for the technical course
- 20% registered for the business course

Included in the technical figure were the 2-year vocational students accommodated here until General Brock School opened in Burlington, and the business education figure includes the senior students who were transferred from Blakelock and Oakville-Trafalgar Schools for their twelfth year.

In addition to the regular school enrolment there were 44 students in the Federal-Provincial Adult Retraining course, and 918 registered night school students.



A few excerpts from a CHWO radio broadcast taped on the first day of classes in September, 1962, reflect the mixed community attitudes towards this innovation in education. A sense of daring experimentation and some fear of contamination were evident in the questions asked of several students by the CHWO interviewer:

"What part of the school are you going to be in?"

"Do you have any friends going to this school that are going to be in the other end of it?"

"Are you from Oakville too, Sandra? We like to locate everybody; we don't know whether there are a few students coming in from, say, Burlington and outlying areas and Port Credit."

"I guess you gave it a lot of thought before coming over here; and why did you choose this one as against Thomas Blakelock or Trafalgar High? Is it because of the area you're in?"

"Did you choose this school of your own volition? Why?"

In the same broadcast, the Technical Director was asked:

"First of all, sir, could you give us just a little bit of your background in the field of education, please?"

"And has there, to your knowledge, ever been a female student enrolled in a department such as this?"

Asked of the Principal:

"What are the qualifications for the teachers, and what type of training have they had to go through?"

"What are the students prepared for upon graduation?"



Being centrally located and equipped for technical, vocational and business courses, Perdue has been used extensively by the community. Night School enrolment has at times exceeded 1400 students. Other organizations such as the YMCA and the Oakville Recreation Committee also make regular use of the facilities.

In 1966, Board member Doug Wood made a film of Perdue operations to show as an example of composite school program and facilities. This film was shown to administration and elementary schools in the Oakville system, to other administrations (such as Sudbury), and to the Ontario Trustees Council.

In 1970 the Resource Centre, a large group instruction area (the Green Room), and the music room were added.

#### Principals

George Pew	1962-1964
Victor Swirzon	1964-1975
William Fisher	1975-1980
James Baker	1980-

#### Vice-Principals

Victor Swirzon	1962-1964
Peter Mudry	1964-1969
Robert Langlois	1969-1973
Lynn McLaren	1973-1976
Donald Baker	1976-1979
Bryce Leggatt	1979-1981
Larry Zavitz	1981-



## "BACK FLASHING"

Flashing back through twenty Flashbacks gives one a startling impression of the prolific enterprise of Perdue. Let this list conjure in your mind visions of the fun, the excitement, the anxiety, the hard work, the pageantry, the glory of those superhuman efforts that sparked the highlights of life here in the PANTHER CAGE:

The Dances - Kiss Me You Fool! Danceathon, "Dynamics", Googie (65), Sadie Hawkins, Beenie Hop, Frosh Kosh, Cupid Caper, Tea Dances, Black Maria, Homestead, Bermudas, The Crux, Mariposa Belle Party.

Drama - Shaken Shakespeare, Hamlet, The Back Porch, Charley's Aunt, Fathers' Run to Mars, See How They Run, Little Women, Great Expectations, Wuthering Heights.

Events - Miles for Millions, The African Orphan, Parade Floats, Tag Days, Blood Bank, Women's Day, Ice Carving, Sculpture Show, Bath Tub Races, Car Washes, Raffles, Banana Fest, Pumpkin Carving, Spirit Week, Dog Patch Days (Marryin' Sam), Slave Auctions, Open House, Garage Sale, Ice Carnival, Photo Contest, Variety Shows, The Parks Equipment, Geodesic Dome.

Visitors - Pauline McGibbon, Steel Bank, Jack Dempsey, U.S. Bands and Choirs, Harlem Diplomats, Tramp Champs, RCAF Bank.

Sports - Judo, Mr. Universe, Horse Show, Health Fair, Girls' Soccer, Rasslin', Teachers' Runathon, Cheer Leaders, Golf, Ski Trips, Girls' Powder Puff Football, Gym Teams.



PERDUE'S FIRST  
VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

by Valerie Wakeman

Thank you, Mr. Pew, Mr. Chairman, honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen, fellow students.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be the voice of the graduating class this evening. I only hope that I may do justice to this great honour which has been bestowed upon me.

In my six years of attending high school, I can honestly say, and I am sure most of you will agree, that this year has been one of the most memorable and exciting of our high school careers. It has been one which we shall never forget or regret. It was a year in which every day someone would ask, "Well, I wonder what's going to happen today?" There was always an air of excitement in the school and never to my knowledge a dull moment. A year which held many fond memories, some good ones, and some others, of course, but nevertheless, memories we'll never forget.

I know the commercial graduates will remember the uh....fun, shall I say, we had with the dictating devices. And, of course those four-minute mile races we did each day to be the first to grab one of our beloved machines. But all through the complaints, arguments, and tears, and there were complaints, arguments and tears, we got our tapes finished.

One group in the school I'm sure no one can forget is the organization of the prefects, lovingly known as perfects or defects. Each day we'd gallantly take our stand at the doors keeping a wary eye open for people trying to sneak their lunches out, oh so discreetly, with jackets and purses bulging at the seams.

Can anyone forget that football game played in the pouring rain, uniforms so muddy and wet you couldn't tell one team from another? What fun we cheerleaders



had, vainly trying to make graceful jumps in our big long rain coats. Although our football team didn't make SOSSA, we still had fun and lots of school spirit, considering at times loyalties were split between O.T.H.S. and Blakelock. But as time goes on, these two personalities will blend and mix and become deep-rooted as one strong personality - Perdue High, a personality that will grow and grow and become one of the strongest in the community.

Perdue has been, still is, and will be in the future, a school of which we can all be truly proud. Not only from the viewpoint of appearance, but from the wide variety of courses which are being offered in day school as well as at night school. I was in the school last Thursday evening, and I had no idea of the great number of people who come to our school each Tuesday and Thursday night to increase their knowledge, begin their high school education, or to learn the English language, for instance. All this can be found here. It not only made me proud of our school, but of our teachers, our school board, and our community for giving these people the opportunity of partaking in one of our most valued gifts - Education.

Those of us who have completed our formal education here, and are now out in the business world, know what a wonderful experience it is working. An experience we wouldn't now be enjoying had it not been for this year. At this time on behalf of the graduating class, I would like to thank each and every teacher for a job well done, and I think they deserve a warm round of applause right now!



## GRADUATION

November 18, 1963

Gordon E. Perdue's first Graduation was held on Friday, November 18, 1963, at 8 p.m. The Graduation exercises opened with an invocation by the Rev. George D. Watt, B.A., B.D.

Mr. Gordon E. Perdue addressed the graduates and advised them to work hard so that they would be successful.

The speaker was Professor C. H. Stern, M.A., B.D., Ph.D., who is Professor of Classics at McMaster University. He introduced his speech by congratulating Perdue on choosing McMaster colours. He compared the growth of the student by his parents, the loading of the cargo by his teacher, but the sailing and bringing to port must be done by the student himself.

The graduating class consisted of seventy-nine students who were receiving their secondary school graduation diplomas. Sixteen students received the five option diploma, while the rest received the four option diploma. William Agnew received the English prize, Leslie Fenton the French prize, and John Holmes received the History prize. Many other prizes and bursaries were awarded.

The valedictory was given by Valerie Wakeman, a graduate of the one year special Commercial Course. She told, with humour, of the events of the past year and closed her speech after advising the grade twelves to go on and complete grade thirteen, as she had done.

This year's commencement was a very worthwhile experience. As graduation should be one of the goals of all high school students, we say congratulations to graduates of 1962-63.

Andrea Studd



## VALEDICTORIANS

Valerie Wakeman	1963
Leslie Fenton	1964
Sandra Roch	1965
Richard Purdy	1966
David Munro	1967
James Hockin	1968
Ursula Kleer	1969
Terrence Field	1970
Bonnie Ferris	1971
John Gallow	1972
Daniel McNeil	1973
John Manzara	1974
William McKelvie	1975
David Keffer	1976
Dessa Dragicevic	1977
Ronald Wessels	1978
William Merlevede	1979
Jay Dragicevic	1980
Dina Giulioni	1981



## YEARBOOK EDITORS

Roberta Chambers	1963-1964
Jim Grey	1964-1965
Roger Sanders and Al Pomfret	1965-1966
Colin John	1966-1967
Brian McCreery	1967-1968
Beth Cardwell and Reg Powers	1968-1969
Brian O'Keefe	1970-1971
Dan McNeil	1971-1972
George Warbeck	1972-1973
Mike Green	1973-1974
Brian Jaffray	1974-1975
Cynthia Brooke	1975-1976
Kathy Funston	1976-1977
Rohn Solecki	1977-1978
Ritch Solecki and Alison Dovenor	1978-1979
Shelley DaCosta	1979-1980
Gail Meissner	1980-1981
Carolyn Spriggs and Mark Joron	1981-1982

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

Bill Agnew	1962-1963
Ted Griffiths	1963-1964
Roger Sanders	1964-1965
Glen Cauterman	1965-1966
Don Watt	1966-1967
Burke Denison	1967-1968
Sue Johnston	1968-1969
Peter Bath	1969-1970
David Kirk	1970-1971
Andy Lubinsky	1971-1972
Steve Tomkins	1972-1973
Helen Edwards	1973-1974
Heidi Cartner	1974-1975
Ian Turnbull	1975-1976
Nancy Olive	1976-1977
Anna Esposito	1977-1978
Jim La Rue	1978-1979
John Sant	1979-1980
Joe D'Aurizio	1980-1981
Ed Medeiros	1981-1982



-2-

These teachers taught at Perdue some time between 1962 and 1982. How many do you remember? Those marked with an asterisk are on staff at present.

Miss Dorothy Abbs  
Mr. Don Allan  
Miss Anderson  
Mr. Glen Austen  
Miss D. Austring  
Mrs. Marjorie Bailey  
Mr. Don Baker  
Mr. Jim Baker\*  
Mr. Balm - deceased  
Mr. Keith Beacock  
Mr. L. Bebensee  
Miss N. Beckley  
Mr. J. B. Belanger  
Mr. R. Bell  
Mrs. Holly Bick-Wolfish\*  
Mr. Howard Black\*  
Miss Sheila Bluett  
Mr. Harold Brathwaite  
Mrs. Ruth Brathwaite (Thoni)\*  
Mr. Earl Brewster  
Miss Pat Brooks (D'Orsay)  
Mr. H. Brown  
Mr. Brownston  
Mr. Jim Burchatzki\*  
Mr. D. Burley  
Miss Clair Carew  
Mr. Carey  
Mr. Archie Carmichael  
Mrs. Freyda Carmichael (Jamieson)  
Miss Linda Chamberlain  
Miss J. Chambers  
Miss Charron  
Mr. Hugh Childs  
Mr. R. Clement  
Mr. Bob Connolly  
Mr. Fred Cook\*  
Miss Aline Cool  
Mr. Bob Corman

Miss Jane Coryell  
Mr. Bob Couldridge  
Mr. Henry Courtney  
Mr. J. Crook  
Mr. Gary Dacosta\*  
Mr. John Danesi  
Mrs. Norma Darling  
Mr. E. Dewald - deceased  
Mrs. E. Dewald  
Mr. Emilio Di Tomasso  
Mr. Dave Donat  
Mrs. Dawn Doyle  
Mr. D. N. Duravetz  
Mr. John Eadie\*  
Mr. Robert Echenback  
Mr. Bill Edwards  
Mr. Ken Elliot\*  
Mr. Ellison  
Mr. Vern Erickson  
Mr. Walter Fadyna  
Miss Liz Farrell  
Mrs. Pauline Ferenci  
Mr. John Ferris  
Mr. Bill Fisher  
Miss Lillian Fothergill  
Mrs. Pat Forsyth  
Mrs. Margaret Fouts (Hilmer)  
Mr. T. W. Fox  
Mr. D. E. Fraser  
Mr. Lloyd Fulford\*  
Mr. Aldo Garbui  
Mr. R. Gatenby  
Mr. Paul Gavan\*  
Mr. Ed Gietz  
Mr. Tom Gibbs  
Mr. Joe Golini\*  
Mrs. Shirley Golini  
Mrs. Noreen Granger  
Miss Florence Grant  
Mrs. Dorothy Green\*  
Mr. Art Grierson\*



Mrs. Lynn Grinbergs\*  
Mr. Tony Gvora  
Mrs. Pat Haines\*  
Miss Zoie Hall (Tegler)  
Mr. Bernie Harris\*  
Mr. Stephen Harris  
Mrs. Marion Harron  
Mr. C. Hartleib  
Mr. Tom Haynes  
Mr. J. C. Hawes  
Mr. Al Hebert\*  
Mr. Tom Henderson  
Ms. Anne Hendry  
Mrs. Sheryl Hennebry\*  
Mr. Bob Higgins  
Mr. Reinhold Hildebrandt\*  
Mr. Al Hofman  
Miss Anita Hofmans\*  
Mrs. Judy Hoogland\*  
Miss Cheryl Howarth\*  
Miss Howey  
Mrs. Marjorie Hoicka  
Mr. D. Hunter  
Miss Hazel Huntington  
Miss Joan Hyson  
Mr. S. N. Johnson  
Mrs. Pat Jordan  
Mr. Peter Kechn  
Mr. Donald Kennedy  
Mr. Bill King  
Miss Heather King\*  
Mr. Ron Kissick  
Mr. Hank Klacza\*  
Mrs. Klein  
Mr. Walter Lane  
Mr. Roger Lang  
Miss Susan Langford  
Mr. Robert Langlois  
Miss Margaret Leak\*  
Mrs. E. K. Leard  
Miss Linda Ledermueller

Mr. Jim Lees\*  
Mr. Bryce Leggatt  
Mrs. F. J. Leith  
Mr. M. J. Lewis  
Mrs. Gloria Lillie\*  
Mrs. Friedel Liptay  
Mr. Dan Logan  
Mr. Erik Lydestad  
Mr. Arthur Lyons  
Mr. J. C. MacKenzie  
Miss H. MacLachlan  
Mrs. Joanne MacPherson  
Mr. George Macrae\*  
Mrs. Rosemary Makhan  
Mr. George Malon  
Mr. Enio Manias\*  
Mr. Helmut Manzl  
Mrs. Pearl Martin\*  
Mrs. P. Mateas  
Miss Pauline McArthur  
Mr. Warren McBurney  
Mrs. Mary McClenahan  
Mr. D. G. McCrossan  
Mr. Dennis McKelvie  
Mr. Lyn McLaren  
Mrs. B. D. Mills  
Mr. Doug Minke  
Mr. George Mitchell\*  
Mr. Montgomery  
Miss Cindy Moore\*  
Mr. Keith Moore  
Mr. Tom Moore  
Miss Morden  
Mr. H. Morgan  
Mrs. Elizabeth Mowling  
Mr. Peter Mudry  
Miss Margaret Murphy\*  
Mr. Guy Muschett\*  
Mr. C. Nixon  
Mrs. Barbara Norman (Fickes)  
Mrs. Norry  
Miss Peg O'Hearn  
Miss Kay Ondrejicka



Mr. Bernie O'Neil  
Mr. George Otto  
Mrs. Diane Park\*  
Mrs. G. Patch  
Mr. W. A. Paul  
Mr. J. G. Peacock  
Mrs. Jan Perigo  
Mr. Peroff  
Mr. Perrins  
Mr. Udo Petersoo  
Mr. George Pew  
Mr. A. Picard - deceased  
Mr. George Plach\*  
Mr. Maris Polis\*  
Mrs. Carol Powadiuk\*  
Mrs. Kit Rankin (Shepherd)  
Miss Peggy Rankin  
Mr. R. R. Read  
Mr. Bill Riddell  
Mr. E. A. Robinson  
Mrs. J. Roe  
Mrs. Bonnie Rollo (Malcolm)  
Mr. Alan Ross\*  
Mrs. Jane Ross  
Miss Maggie Ross\*  
Mr. Paul Rozon  
Mrs. Salem  
Mr. Thomas Sales  
Mr. Faker Salie\*  
Mr. Sawadski  
Mrs. Claudia Sayers (Smart)\*  
Mr. Fred Schmidt\*  
Miss J. D. Schmidt  
Mr. David Scott\*  
Miss Joanna Scott (Benson)\*  
Mr. Jim Seaborn\*  
Mr. Harold Serebrin\*  
Mrs. Maria Seto (Da Costa)  
Miss Margaret Shepherd  
Mr. Harvey Sheppard  
Mr. Al Shine  
Mr. Del Simmons

Mrs. Jan Simpson\*  
Mr. Harvey Singleton  
Miss Hazel Slavin  
Mr. Don Smith  
Mrs. Lyn Smith  
Mr. Bill Snyder  
Mrs. Irene Sotnyk (Sweleba)\*  
Mr. Doug Stainton  
Mr. John Stephens  
Mr. Jim Stokes\*  
Mr. Suessmuth  
Mr. K. Sury  
Mr. Victor Swirzon - deceased  
Mrs. Nancy Syer\*  
Mr. G. Szabo  
Mrs. Judy Szyiko  
Mrs. Tetler  
Mr. Brian Thrippleton  
Mrs. Darlene Throop-Friedman  
Mr. Wm. Trail  
Mr. Frank Tucker  
Miss Marg Turton  
Mrs. Tuttle  
Mrs. L. Vanderlaar  
Mrs. S. E. Van Every  
Miss Vezina  
Mr. David Wagman\*  
Mr. Art Walker  
Mr. Ed Walker\*  
Mrs. Pearl Walsh  
Mr. Michael Warden\*  
Mr. John Wegenast  
Miss Irmgarde Westerman  
Mr. Dan Wigle  
Mr. Willan  
Mr. M. Williams  
Mr. Ross Wilson\*  
Mr. Tom Wright  
Mrs. C. Yachetti  
Mrs. S. Young  
Mr. Larry Zavitz\*  
Miss Baiba Ziebergs



Our Cafeteria Staff might bring back memories. Which did you know?

Diane Baverstock  
 Jackie Bourne  
 Mary Constantino  
 Mrs. Cumming  
 Barbara Dowdle\*  
 Pat Elliott  
 Greta Gerrard  
 Mrs. Hall  
 Midge Hughes (Leahy)\*  
 Wilma Johnstone  
 Mrs. Lee  
 Rena Martin\*  
 Dot Mason  
 Frances Milford\*  
 Elsie Nekrashewicz\*  
 Chris Preskina  
 Eileen Roberts  
 Brenda Terpstra

\*On staff in 1982.

Do you remember the men who kept the building in good shape? Which of these did you know?

Mr. Harry Bailey  
 Mr. Reg Blakelock  
 Mr. Ron Blakelock  
 Mr. Eugene Bonner  
 Mr. John Bosch  
 Mr. Johann Brugmans  
 Mr. Bill Carr  
 Mr. Wilfred Cole  
 Mr. Franco Columbo  
 Mr. Lee Crouse  
 Mr. Pasquale Debellis\*  
 Mr. Raffaele Deluca  
 Mr. Gerard Fassel  
 Mr. John Gill  
 Mr. Roland Grenier\*  
 Mr. Rick Harris\*  
 Mr. Tom Henderson  
 Mr. Hughes  
 Mr. Nick Koncar  
 Mr. Axel Lindgard  
 Mr. Ron MacDonald  
 Mr. Les Martin\*  
 Mr. Neuherz  
 Mr. Frank Palumbo\*  
 Mr. John Pate  
 Mr. Simon Poole  
 Mr. Adam Schlachter  
 Mr. Bill Sellner\*  
 Mr. Jim Smith\*  
 Mr. John Soares  
 Mr. George Thompson  
 Mr. Ted Van Staveren  
 Mr. Mike Vukovich

\*On staff in 1982.



Can you picture any of these ladies who helped us in the front office?

Mrs. Blair  
 Mrs. Bennett  
 Mrs. Burgess\*  
 Mrs. Burton  
 Miss Campbell  
 Mrs. Cole  
 Mrs. Corbett  
 Mrs. Crealock  
 Miss Dickinson  
 Mrs. Flynn  
 Mrs. Gatrell\*  
 Mrs. Hodgson  
 Mrs. Kivell  
 Mrs. Koster\*  
 Mrs. Kuntz\*  
 Mrs. Lishman\*  
 Mrs. MacDonald\*  
 Miss Meredith  
 Miss Mozell  
 Mrs. O'Driscoll  
 Mrs. Papple  
 Miss Rattray  
 Mrs. Rivers  
 Miss Skilling (Elettrico)  
 Mrs. Stewart  
 Miss Townsley

\*On staff in 1982.