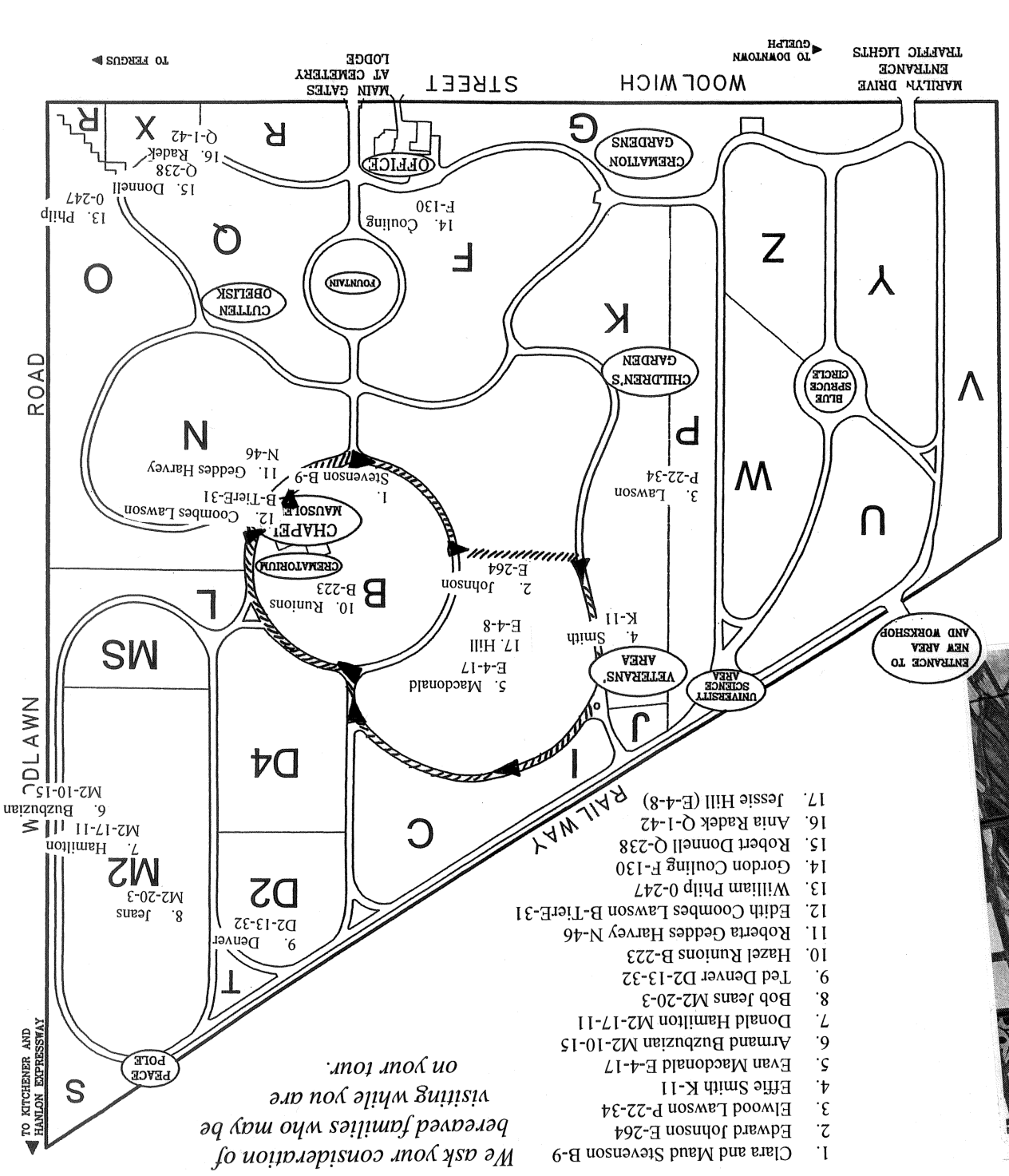
STAINED GLASS- IN THE WOODLAWN CHAPEL

The stained glass in the Woodlawn Chapel, restored in 1994 at a cost of $7500.00, was originally designed and assembled by James Blomfield (1872-1951) a glass artist who ranked one of the top two in Canada in c1895-c1930. James and his brother, Charles, pioneered the craft of leaded glass art in British Columbia in the 1890's. James received training in Europe and much of his work can be found in prestigious buildings throughout Canada and the United States. James moved to Toronto in 1920 where he lived out his life concentrating mainly on fine art, scenes and landscapes. He did occasional glasswork for the Luxfer Studios in Toronto and it is believed he contracted for the Woodlawn Mausoleum windows at that time. The cost, for the large window in the chapel and the two large windows in the wings, was a mere $923.00 – considered a bargain even in those days. The words below the angel in the chapel window are paraphrased from Revelations according to John, the last judgement. Chapter 21 verse 4. *"there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, nor shall there be any more pain"*. Blomfield's niece tells us the artist always carefully and crafully hid his initials JB somewhere in his work. As yet, we have not been able to find them.

THE ARTISANS

1. Clara and Maud Stevenson B-9
2. Edward Johnson E-264
3. Elwood Lawson P-22-34
4. Effie Smith K-11
5. Evan Macdonald E-4-17
6. Armand Buzbuzian M2-10-15
7. Donald Hamilton M2-17-11
8. Bob Jeans M2-20-3
9. Ted Denver D2-13-32
10. Hazel Runions B-223
11. Roberta Geddes Harvey N-46
12. Edith Coombes Lawson B-TierE-31
13. William Philip 0-247
14. Gordon Couling F-130
15. Robert Donnell Q-238
16. Ania Radek Q-1-42
17. Jessie Hill (E-4-8)

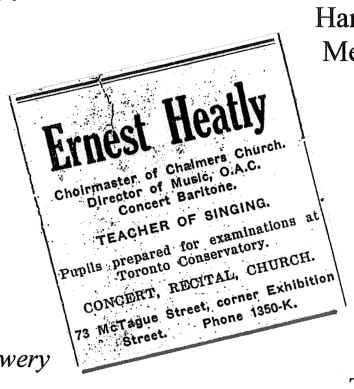
We ask your consideration of bereaved families who may be visiting while you are on your tour.



The City of Music

Many know Guelph as the City of Music, and for good reason! Here is a list, in no particular order, of bands and choirs that came to our attention. We feel sure that many of the members of these groups rest in Woodlawn. We applaud their efforts and the wonderful gift of music they shared with the people of their time.

Sunley's Band-
Perhaps Guelph's oldest.
They played for Lord Elgin in 1849.
Alexander Emslie's Band
Guelph Hobo Band
Guelph Pipe Band
Organized by Jimmy Hill
Dyson's Silver Cornet Band
Artillery Band
(Bob) Jean's Nighthawks
The Union Band
Highland Pipe Band
The Silvercreek Band
They practiced at the Silvercreek Brewery (Sleeman's)
Robinson's Family Band
The Bell Piano & Organ Band
The members wore helmets with an eye-catching bright red plume on top
Guelph Girls and Boys Band
Guelph Police Boys Band
The Juvenile Orange Flute Band
Sartorio's Sons of Italy-
Edward Johnson was a member
Merv Hines and his Orchestra
Guelph Concert Band-
Founded in 1878
Guelph Veterans' Trumpet Band
Guelph Air Cadet Band
Sea Cadet Band
The Y's Men's Boys and Girls Band
The Les King Teenage Orchestra

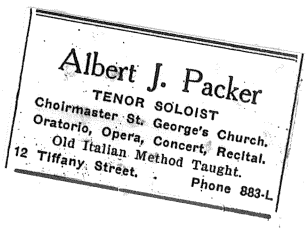


The Hal Davis Orchestra
Bill Howe and his Orchestra
The Bob Martin Orchestra
Dalt Gibson and his Orchestra
The Music Makers
The Memory Lane Orchestra
Royal Canadian Legion Bugle Band
The11th Field Regiment Trumpet Band
Guelph Royalaires
The Fortunes Quartet
The Don Singular Orchestra
Ron Radcliffe and his Orchestra
Harvey Smith and his Orchestra
Merv Tolton and his Orchestra
The Velvetones
The Starlites
The Eric Page Quartet
The Doug Guy Quintette
The Over the Hill Gang
The Glen Street Trio
The Old Tyme Fiddlers
The Persian Market
The Twilites
The Salvation Army Band

Choirs

Dublin Street U.C. Senior Choir
Guelph Male Choir
The Overtones
The Meistersingers
Guelph Youth Singers
Guelph Chamber Choir

This list is by no means complete. Our toes tap and our fingers snap in honour of all the vocalists, songwriters and musicians who have made music here since Galt and his entourage camped in the bush that was to be Guelph and sang campfire songs.



THE ARTISANS

PAINTERS. AUTHORS. VOCALISTS & MAGICIANS

Woodlawn
MEMORIAL PARK

THIS IS THE 17TH IN A SERIES OF INTERESTING WALKING TOURS IN HISTORIC WOODLAWN MEMORIAL PARK

Tour created by Ceska Brennan and Charlotte Mackie with information from the Mackie Collection, old newspapers, Woodlawn Cemetery documents and The Bands of Guelph by Bob Hamilton.

"Life is a glorious cycle of song".

1. All six daughters of Isabella and William Stevenson sang in Guelph choirs. Maud (1870-1950) was known around the world for her concert work. She was known as "Guelph's sweet voiced singer". A soprano with magnificent range, Maud was able to sing the most difficult classical selections and Scottish ballads with equal ease. Maude married William Pentelow. A tireless volunteer, her picture still hangs in the Guelph Humane society's office in recognition of the hours of work she gave to that organization. *(C-1-9)*

Clara Stevenson, (1859-1947), was known for her musical contributions in her hometown and in New York state where she lived with her first husband C.Harrington. In Guelph, her second husband, publisher J.W.Lyon, donated a park to the city (Lyon Park). The city named Clara Street, off Grange, in her honour. *(B-9)*

"Dear God, Thank you for thinking up Eddie Johnson, when you were making tenors"

2. Edward Johnson (1878-1959). Deems Taylor, co-writer of the Opera, The King's Henchman, wrote the above words in a card he passed to the tenor. Eddie Johnson, as he was affectionately known, met and married Beatrice "Bebe" D'Arneiro, an accomplished musician and master of several languages. In Italy, Johnson sung under the name Eduardo di Giovanni. He spoke Italian fluently and the couple lived in Florence, Italy. Through his performances and fame, he was assumed Sicilian. Few knew otherwise. Johnson was considered one of the great masters of his age. Bebe died and was buried in Florence in 1919. Johnson returned to North America and joined the Chicago Opera Company in 1920. He became a principal member of the Metropolitan Opera Company of New York in 1922. In 1935, he became the Manager. He returned to Canada in 1950 and was chair of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto for many years. Johnson died in Guelph, in 1959, while attending a performance of the Canadian Ballet at Memorial Gardens. (E-264).

"Never touched hard liquor, never puffed on a cigarette nor went to a motion picture show".

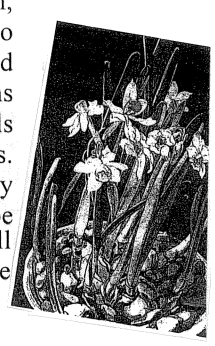
3. A descendent of slaves, Elwood Lawson (1905-1976) was born in Guelph. He joined the Salvation Army in 1913 and was a member for more than half a century. Lawson lost half of two fingers on his left hand, a result of a gun accident at age 17, and he suffered from arthritis but that didn't stop him from his music. He played the horn with his right hand at the same time he played piano with his left. Lawson loved to sing. He sang bass in the Salvation Army Songster Brigade and played piano in the band. Lawson said music was a lifelong enjoyment. His favourite songs were hymns. He sometimes re arranged the words to suit his thoughts as he played. Herb, his brother, was a well-known Guelph pianist. *(P-22-34)*

"Surrealism has its points but everybody understands a rose."E. Smith

4. Born Gertrude Euphemia Smith, "Effie" was an internationally renowned artist. (1867-1960). Before the First World War, Smith practiced the art of China painting. The dye materials she required from Europe were not manufactured during the war and she turned to oil and watercolour painting. Flowers became her passion. By 1952, she had completed more than 1500 paintings. Former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and George Drew, former High Commissioner for Canada, were among those who owned one of her florals. She also painted for Hallmark cards. Effie was an early member of the original Guelph Painters Group (eventually merged with other groups to form the Guelph Creative Arts Association still operating today). *(K-11)*

"If your mind is not on your painting, it will be no good."

5. Evan Macdonald (1905-1972) was born and lived in Guelph. He studied at the Toronto College of Art then at the Royal Academy in London, England. In 1929, during the depression, he returned to Canada to work in Toronto illustrating books and magazines. Although he loved painting nature, scenes and landscapes, he was recognized for his skills in portrait work. He accepted a commission for portraits of leading people in the field of agriculture and his work hangs in the Agricultural Hall of Fame on the CNE grounds in Toronto. Seagrams of Canada commissioned him, along with other noted Canadian artists, to paint a series of Canadian cities. He painted many portraits of prominent Canadians including professors, presidents, principals and officials of schools and universities. Macdonald paid careful attention to every detail of his work. He believed that to be worthwhile a painting must have the full attention and careful consideration of the artist. *(E-4-17)*



Art is silent Poetry

6. Armand Buzbuzian, (1950-1977) Metal artist, sculptor. *(M2-10-15)*

A picture tells a thousand words.

7. Donald Hamilton (1911-1991) photographer. Recorded approximately 150 stained glass windows from seven Guelph churches. He gave the set of valuable photos to the Guelph Historical Society. (M2-17-11)

"All the other arts are lonely- in ensemble music we share."- C.D. Bowen

8. Bob Jeans (1916-2000). When Bob clicked the beat at the Desert Inn in 1987, Guelph's musical legend was born. "Mr. Music" Bob Jeans, formed the Twilites, one of the most popular dance bands in Guelph's history. Recognized by their musical style and formal outfits, the band played fox trots, swing, polkas, waltzes and more in the tradition of the great dance bands throughout central Ontario. (M2-20-3)

"Everything you ever had, everything you ever lost. It's all there in a trumpet."- Petry

9.Ted Denver (1895-1960) generously gave his time and talents to the community as leader of the Guelph Police Boys' Band in the 1940's-50's. Ted was a teacher and father figure to most of the boys in the band. The Boys' band was formed "to keep the young wild bunch off the streets." Ted ran the band out of the old customs building on St. George's square where he was the janitor. His students practiced in a number of unoccupied rooms. A plaque honouring Denver and his wife Mildred stands on the Trans Canada Trail in Woodlawn Memorial Park. (D2-13-32)

"Art is not for the cultivated taste. It is to cultivate a taste" N. Giovanni.

10. Hazel Runions (1905-1998) Hazel Runions travelled throughout Ontario conducting workshops for student teachers and as an adjudicator for community art exhibitions and shows. She was primarily a painter and printmaker who specialized in silkscreen work. Runions was admired for her ability to create complex textures and for using a wide range of colours in her work. She sometimes added a second layer to her work by painting over the silkscreen print with oil paints. Born in London, Ontario, she came to Guelph in the early '40's after studying art in Mexico and the United States. (B-223)

"Any form of creativity is a power intensifying life". R.M. Brown

11. Roberta Geddes Harvey (1849-1930) Harvey became the St.George's organist in 1876. During her 50-year regime as organist, she wrote and played many musical compositions of her own. She was considered an accomplished musician, composer and conductor. To celebrate her 40th anniversary as organist, the entire morning service one week was of her own music. She had graduated in 1899 from Trinity University in Toronto with a Bachelor of Music degree. This was a great accomplishment for a woman of 50 and mother of five. Harvey taught music and voice. She held a warm spot in the hearts of many of the congregation who listened to her joyful music over the years. (N-46)

"Art is order born out of the chaos of everyday life." M. Sarton

12. Edith Grace Coombs Lawson (1890-1986). Born in Hamilton, Edith came to Guelph with her husband, James, also a writer and artist. Edith painted many flower studies and a variety of other topics but much of her work of note was of the north shore of Lake Superior. Large canvases, rugged masses, the strength and turbulence found in her paintings, similar in style to that of the Group of Seven, portrayed the open and direct nature of this prolific artist. Her use of Jewel tones was often mentioned and admired. She studied at the Ontario College of Art. (B-Tier E-31)

"Music is said to be the speech of Angels" – T. Carlyle

13. William Philp (1842-1925) For more than 60 years Philp was a musician and director of musical organizations in various parts of Canada and the United States. For several years, he was the choirmaster at the Dublin Street Methodist church, but for many more years, he was bandmaster for the Guelph Musical Society Band. This band was considered one of the best military bands in Canada. (0-247)

"Art is the signature of civilizations."-B. Sills

14. Gordon Couling (1913-1984) Couling trained at the Ontario College of Art. He was the founding Chair of the U of G Fine Art Department and a Professor at the University of Guelph. Couling may be best known for his stained glass windows installed in many buildings across Canada. He also created a large mural for the St. Joseph's Home for the Aged. Over his life, he compiled an inventory of the buildings in Guelph through hundreds of photographs and drawings in charcoal and crayon. More than 30,000 of his slides form a valuable record of the region's heritage. (F-130)

"The bells give people pause."

15. Robert Donnell (1910-1986). Donnell was one of the most famous bell ringers in the world. He became the carillonner and composer for St. George's Church in 1926. He was musical adviser and president of the Guild of Carrillonners of North America and he performed in many countries. Donnell was appointed Canada's Dominion Carillonner at the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in 1939. He was featured on several world broadcasts and played for the Message to the Commonwealth at Christmas. Donnell composed the music for Canada's official citizenship song "This Canada of Ours". (Q-238)

"Look into thy heart and write"-P. Sidney

16. Ania Radek (1926-2002) Writer, poet and artist. (Q-1-42).

17. Jessie Hill (1877-1972). Jessie Hill, a talented piano teacher, was one of the founding members of the Presto Club, a local musical group. Club members held popular concerts that attracted regular attendance of more than 300 people. Hill began teaching piano when she was 18. She taught at the Toronto conservatory of Music for 15 years and at the Branksome School for Girls. Students at the Branksome conservatory came from all over the world. Hill had studied her craft in France and in Canada. She was the sole Canadian delegate at the Anglo-American Music Convention in Switzerland in 1929. Hill and Edward Johnson were lifelong friends. (E-4-8)