

Edward Denver (2002)

Ted Denver was born in Manchester, England in 1896 and came to Guelph with his family in 1907. An outstanding trumpeter, he was a member of several bands including the bands of the Salvation Army, the Guelph Musical Society and the Galt Kiltie band with whom he played for forty years. He enlisted in World War I and served as band sergeant and cornet soloist in the 34th Battalion.

From 1946 to 1954, Ted Denver was bandmaster of the Guelph Police Boys Band, which later became known as the Red Chevron Band. Practices took place in the Federal building on St. Georges Square, where Ted Denver was the janitor. His remarkable teaching ability and dedication produced a top-class band and many successful musicians. In addition, it fostered loyalty, friendship and a love of music in all members. With this band, he won the Bandmaster trophy on more than one occasion at Canada's biggest Band Festival at Waterloo.

Over the years other young people benefited from Ted Denver's instruction. These were the youth of the Sea Cadet band and the 11th Regiment Trumpet band, which later became the Canadian Champion Royalaires. He also assisted with music teaching in Erin District High School and in John F. Ross Collegiate Vocational Institute.



After his death, Ted Denver was described as “the city's most talented musician who in addition was endowed with the unusual ability to imbue young people with a spirit of faithfulness and love of beautiful music.” A more recent tribute comes from many members of the Guelph Police/Red Chevron Boys Band who forty two years after his death met to remember Ted Denver with affection and gratitude.