

Robert Emberson (2013)



Robert Emberson is a music educator and musician who, as an instrumental music teacher at John F. Ross Collegiate and Centennial Collegiate, passed on his love of music to a grateful generation of students. Centennial's famous "Music Knights" youth concert band, founded under his guidance, has brought more than 100 awards to the school from music festivals across the province.

Bob has been more than just a teacher to those who studied under him. He was always a friend and mentor, using humour and a sense of 'play' to keep his students engaged and inspired and he was known for making learning a fun and light experience. Bob is proud that in all his career no student was ever sent to the office and 7:30 am practices always had a full attendance, even on snow days!

Born in 1934 and raised in a musical Guelph family, Bob followed a great Royal City Brass Band tradition. He had his first lesson on the trombone in 1946 from fellow Wall of Fame Member and local legend Ted Denver, who became a major influence on his musical style and career path. Bob was a professional trombone player with a number of orchestras before becoming a full-time teacher in the 1960's.

Outside of school Bob was director of music for many organizations including the Ontario Youth Music Camp, the K-W Musical Productions and the Galt Kiltie Band. He helped shape the public School Board's music curriculum, and gave career guidance as Vice-President of the Central Ontario Musician's Association.

Bob Emberson's passion and enthusiasm for band music have helped to shape Guelph's cultural identity as a city of music.