



- Mennonite Conference of Ontario delegates named the new high school Rockway Mennonite School, after the nearby Rockery in the east end of Kitchener, Ontario (Aug '45).
- Rockway opened in September 1945 with 38 students (27 in Grade 9 and 11 in Grade 10) and in 1953 we were up to 127!

*When the science lab and kitchen were completed, we finally started having all our classes in the renovated barn! (Feb '47)*

*At first the girls' dorm rooms were upstairs. Boys stayed with local families but ate at the school.*

- Students squeezed into the main floor classrooms until the barn was ready. The school needed more space so in '54 the first addition was built. The "West Wing" is still in use today.

*Our full-time faculty in 1946-47: Harold Groh (our first Principal 1945-1956) and teachers Ella Cressman and Salome Bauman (our first teacher and third Principal 1960-1962, described as the "soul of Rockway" during her 2 decades at Rockway).*



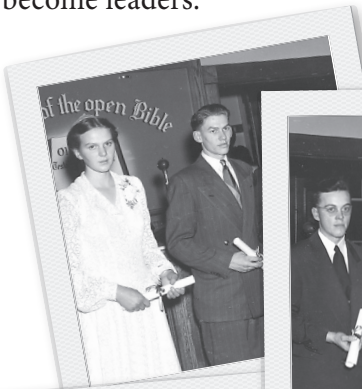
**February 1945:** While war raged in Europe, Mennonite Conference of Ontario delegates approved the creation of a local Mennonite High School and sang the first song of Rockway: *Lead Me On*. Seven months later, the first students of Rockway began their studies.

**February 2020:** We celebrate the legacy and impact of 75 years and over 4,000 Alumni by connecting with our shared Rockway experiences. Today, we honour our Founders as we faithfully carry on their mission in a diverse and evolving global environment.

**ROCKWAY  
CELEBRATES  
75 YEARS of  
FAITHFUL  
EDUCATION &  
ALUMNI**

• **Beyond Academic Learning**

A high academic standard was established early at Rockway. We also learned to serve our local and global community as practical expressions of our Anabaptist values. We gained confidence to share our gifts and become leaders.



*The Class of 1948  
Rockway's first graduates*



*Christmas Food Drive  
Sharing with our neighbours*

**CONNECT**

*Thank you for reading and connecting. Our shared Rockway experiences and interests are what brings us together across the miles and years. While we each have unique memories, Rockway families have all, in some way, been shaped by this small independent school.*



*Go Flames!*



*Alumni Sports Challenge  
Friendly competition*



*Hanging Together  
literally!*

• **Character on the Court**

Since 1968, our athletes have been learning to win (and lose) with grace. This is the legacy of Roger Stover, our first coach, who mentored many of our current and retired coaches. Our fans support us whether we haven't won in weeks or have just won the provincial championships!

*"My experience at Rockway taught me to be a better human being."  
- Chanel Cressman '04  
Rockway Board Member*

Our beloved apple tree came down in 1992 to make space for the new addition, but lives on, thanks to Maynard Bauman, as bowls and a lamp (watch for these at Rockway events).

*Thank You!*

Serving Principals: ARTHUR BYER, 1962-1963; GEORGE BECHTEL, 1966-1968; DAVID KROEK



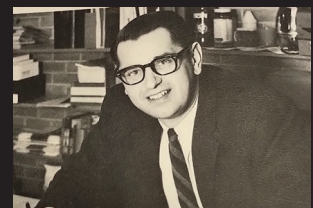
**ROSS BENDER**  
Principal, 1956-1960



**CLIFFORD SNIDER**  
Principal, 1963-1966



1954



**LEWIS WEBER**  
Principal, 1968-1971



**WILLIAM**  
Principal, 1972-

• **Music and Art Enriched our Experiences**

Singing four-part harmony in chapel. Going on church choir tours. Art trips with our teacher, Karen Scott Booth. Preparing for choir and instrumental concerts with music teaching legend, Robert L. Shantz. Art trips, school plays, and musicals – at Rockway, we didn't have to choose. We could participate in everything!

TO:  
Rockway's  
Alumni & Friends  
Canada & Beyond

PS. We'd love to hear your  
stories! Share online!  
rockway.ca



Raising our Voices  
choir concerts & Church tours



First All-School Musical  
Sound of Music (1996)



Spirit of the Season  
Christmas Concert



Cultural Exchanges  
Learning about others & ourselves



Spiritual Emphasis Week  
Connecting values & community



Food & Fellowship  
with Rockway cookies & "pile on!"

Favourite Chapel Songs over the Years  
- My Soul Cries Out  
- 606 (of course!)  
- Heart with Loving Heart United  
- All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name  
- Any song from "Life Songs"  
- Guide My Feet  
What were some of your favourites?

Students from different  
parts of the world  
broadened the scope of  
our small, rural, Anglo,  
Mennonite Reality"  
- Louise Wideman '80

• **Expanding Our World**

International and exchange students brought the world to us and our teachers led us on cross-cultural adventures near and far. We are grateful that former Principal Bert Lobe and retired Assistant Principal Dennis Wikerd created these formational opportunities. We learned it takes effort to understand each other and create a welcoming space. Understanding and peace starts with us.

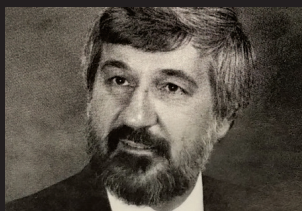
Principal (Acting Principal) 1982-1983; BETSY PETKER, 2010-2012; DENNIS WIKERD (Interim Principal) 1996, 2009, 2012



BERT LOBE  
Principal, 1982-1983



1979



ALBERT C. LOBE  
Principal, 1989-1996



TERRY SCHELLENBERG  
Principal, 1996-2009



1992

# CREATE COMMUNITY

What does it mean to be a Mennonite school in a diverse and evolving global environment?

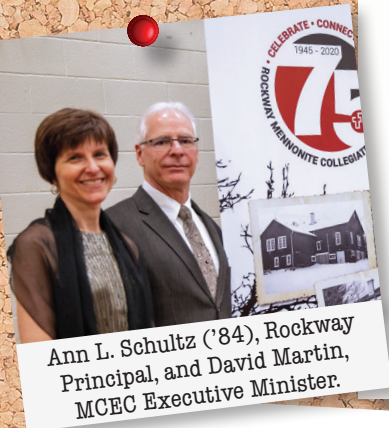
*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Colossians 3:14

A SMALL SCHOOL FOR A **BIG WORLD**

Grade 7 - 12 in 2019/2020

TOTAL STUDENTS: 292  
Mennonite students: 115  
Domestic students: 112  
International students: 65  
Tuition-assisted students: 66  
Faculty and Staff: 65



Ann L. Schultz ('84), Rockway Principal, and David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister.

## 75 *candles* FOR 75 YEARS

Daughter of Rockway's first Principal, Harold Groh; first student newspaper editor ('45); Alumna ('49); faculty ('60-'62); and, supporter. Mary Groh's roots run deep with Rockway. These roots inspired Mary to think about our school and the future of the Church.

Her gift, coupled with an initial Diversity Award grant from Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC), opened up Rockway's doors to more students from MCEC first-generation Canadian congregations.

At Rockway's Founders' Day Chapel 2020, David Martin, Executive Director of MCEC, announced an additional \$250,000 grant to fulfill the promise of a full Rockway education to these students.

In celebration, Rockway has launched **75 candles FOR 75 YEARS**, a year-long \$270,000 fundraising campaign for tuition assistance for students from MCEC congregations. Each birthday candle represents a student receiving tuition assistance.

Just as in 1945, our community is coming together to share the gift of an Anabaptist Mennonite education. Visit [www.rockway.ca](http://www.rockway.ca) to learn how you can light a candle for a student's bright future.

### LEAD US ON

Learn more about Rockway's first 50 years by reading Sam Steiner's book, "Lead Us On: a History of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate 1945-1995".



Mary Groh

*I was challenged to make my faith a vital part of my understanding of global and local issues.*  
- Lead Us On (page 291)



### ROCKWAY'S MISSION

As a Christian educational community within the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate integrates sound academic learning with growth in character and faith, together with a passion for peacemaking and service to God and all creation.



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Principal: Ann L. Schultz '84

Charitable Number: 119122091RR0001



#Rockway75

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Discover Rockway  
November 5,  
2020