

Recollections of High Storrs published in a book

Former Grammar School boy Roger Gordon, who lives on Prince Edward Island in Newfoundland, has sent this story of his rise through the classrooms of High Storrs, now embodied in his autobiography "Starting to Frame".

I attended High Storrs Grammar School for Boys from 1954 to 1961. I went on to complete my B.Sc. and Ph.D in Zoology at Sheffield University, immigrated to Canada in 1969, where I fashioned a career as a postdoctoral fellow then university professor at three universities: Simon Fraser, Memorial Univ. Newfoundland, then University of Prince Edward Island. I was Dean of Science at UPEI. My specialty was entomology/ parasitology, with a focus on biological control of insect pests. Now retired (in PEI), I have had opportunity to reflect upon my childhood and have just published my memoir (<http://www.startingtoframe.com/>). My High Storrs years receive a fair amount of coverage in my book because in truth, they provided light relief from what developed into a troublesome domestic scene.

I was not a model student at HSGSB, though I performed well academically. I was a frequent visitor to George Mack's office and his caning stool. On one occasion, I was given 6 of the best for defacing my school cap so that it looked like that of a WW1 aircraft pilot, complete with ear flaps, then of all things, I committed the almighty sin of using my dinner money to buy fish and chips. What was wrong with that? According to George, it was the demeaning image of eating the national dish out of newspaper in the street. I was even part of the entourage that, on the last day of school in 1958, marched along Ringinglow Rd, heading toward Silverdale Secondary School - to do what, I wasn't sure. I enjoyed my years at HSGSB. Most teachers applied the strict disciplinary code then extant and largely accepted by society fairly. Among my favorite teachers were: Tom Haller, Joe Collier, Alf Ridler, "Pole" Robinson, and Sid Hoffman. In the following excerpt from my book, I summarise my feelings for the old place:

"... High Storrs provided a first-rate education, the likes of which one would have to pay for today. Alongside its strict code of behaviour, it evinced a no nonsense approach to its curriculum. Rigour, thoroughness, knowledgeable teachers and above all, good study habits were the hallmarks of what High Storrs had in abundance. Homework, which from the fourth form up amounted to as much as three hours per night, weekends included, was compulsory. Note taking in class was simply expected. A student staring into space would be brought to task. Science laboratories were carried out with meticulous attention to detail and we were taught how to write essays. Not only did we learn mathematical concepts, but also how to calculate. The nearest things we had to a calculator back then were a slide rule and a book of log tables and algebraic functions.."