Hey Gryphons! Enjoy the beauty of your campus while walking for wellness! In case you don’t know the origin of the Gryphon, the bronze statue marking one of the main boundaries of the Campus, is the mythical keeper of knowledge and namesake of University of Guelph sports teams. The creature has the head, talons and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. The Gryphon corner is a hot spot for taking photos for students, faculty, staff and visitors alike.
The cannon has officially been relocated three times. It has been the subject of many pranks over the years. It has been reported to have been moved to its current location in 1972 by engineering students during the construction of the University Centre, and has also travelled to rival universities. Rumor has it that it may also have been hoisted to a roof top location, and it is said to not be a coincidence that it is pointed at the fourth floor of the UC! Old Jeremiah was last fired in 1913, but is now filled with concrete.

The cannon was originally placed on campus as a tribute to WW I student-veterans. During the 1970s, Old Jeremiah was briefly relocated to Johnston Green.
Named for an early Ontario Agriculture College (OAC) educator, Charles Zavitz, Zavitz Hall, above, has been slated for demolition several times but each time an uproar from campus students and staff staved off its demise.

Raithby House: George Raithby (1901-1981) Professor, Department of Animal Husbandry was the last college farmer to live in the stone house (on left) built in 1882, as a private residence with his family. Not only was Raithby an inventive researcher, but he was also an internationally recognized cattle judge and coached the OAC cattle judging team for 16 years. During his time with the OAC, he was instrumental in establishing the animal breeding lab.
Built in 1906 as a livestock judging pavilion, the Bull Ring has seen many uses through the years. The building was designed in a circular shape to have a calming and path encouraging effect on livestock. The building seems to have a calming effect on people as well as a conveniently located meeting place, pub and coffee house. The cozy atmosphere, the yummy food – what’s not to love about the hippest coffee shop and eatery on campus? With live music nearly every afternoon, and open mic night every Wednesday, its an extremely unique building and landmark.
Blackwood Hall: Named for William Cameron Blackwood, an early and well loved engineering instructor at the Ontario Agriculture College.
[https://www.uoguelph.ca/oac/140faces/william-cameron-blackwood](https://www.uoguelph.ca/oac/140faces/william-cameron-blackwood)

“Let me be known as a man and friend of the students, not as a scientist.” – William Blackwood

One of our lesser known and under-rated buildings on campus. Built in 1906, it was a center piece on campus in its day. In the 1980’s it was said to harbour spiritual activity. The attic is home to some timeless signatures from the workers who built it and maybe still visit from time to time… Note the president’s carriage house on the left of the photo, it was moved in the 1930’s to the current Alumni house location.
Blackwood was a “teaching engineer” who led the Ontario Agricultural College’s Physics Department through times of transition.

Blackwood’s years at OAC coincided with the growing acceptance of the gasoline tractor as a machine, which complemented, but did not yet replace, the horse.

His knowledge of machinery on the farm coupled with his personality and skill as an instructor, attracted many regular and short course students.

During the early days, Blackwood Hall was used as a location to teach Agricultural Engineering (mechanics, welding and blacksmithing), and was reportedly used for training troops during World War II.
Chemistry and Gymnasium Buildings: Two spectacular buildings were lost to make way for the “new” Arts building, the MacKinnon Building, during the late 1960’s. What might have been, and what great compliments they were to Johnston, Creelman and Massey Halls.

The chemistry building was torn down in approximately 1966 to allow space for the MacKinnon Building, and the Gymnasium survived until 1973. Look in the MacKinnon courtyard for a remnant of the Gym!

In the early days campus fires were a constant scare. Prior to the implementation of a wide spread central utilities system, fireplaces and massive coal fired furnaces were used to heat many buildings. Note the massive chimneys in the pictures. Old brick-lined tunnels from the early 1900’s still exist below the central campus, along side new and modern tunnels. The early campus pioneers were way ahead of their time, district heating and cooling is currently in vogue, we have used it since 1906!
Massey Hall: Built as OAC’s first library and signature building by Philanthropist Vincent Massey in 1904.
It was during a chance meeting on a Toronto streetcar that OAC President James Mills met Walter Massey (1864-1901) and sought funds from him for buildings required for the growth of OAC, since funding was not available from the provincial government. Coincidentally, three months later on another streetcar, Massey sat next to Mills and announced his family’s decision to provide funds to the school; specifically to build a library. Three months after laying the cornerstone for the building on August 14, 1901, Massey died of typhoid fever. The family’s gift is considered the first private money ever donated to OAC and the first sizeable amount given unconditionally in the Dominion of Canada.

The 1909 post card above says MacDonald hall, it is in fact Massey and proves the fact that stress for students is not just a modern reality. When the current library was built, the books were slid with a chute from the top floor of Massey, through a window and into the first floor of the “new” library.

One of Massey Hall’s most popular features was the student coffee house, which was dug out of the basement in just three evenings by OAC, OVC and Macdonald College students. Home to the University’s library until 1968, Massey Hall now functions as a meeting place for students in the drama program.
Moreton Lodge/Administration Building/Johnston Hall: Perhaps the most iconic building on campus and often the “go-to” building for photos as a U of G landmark. Moreton Lodge originally stood in this spot, the portico was the original entrance way to Moreton lodge. The “house” was the original farm house on campus, home of Frederick Stone, for whom Stone road is named, and from whom the Ontario government purchased land to establish OAC.
Moreton Lodge was not equipped with modern services and was torn down to make way for the construction of the modern day Johnston Hall. Johnston Hall is named for William Johnston, OAC principal from 1876-1879.  
https://www.uoguelph.ca/oac/140faces/william-johnston  
https://www.uoguelph.ca/historicaltour/pl_johnston.html?height=400&width=570  
Johnston Hall was built in 1930 for the then astronomical sum of $1 million. The clock tower contains a spiral stair case to both service the clock and to provide roof access on the clock tower. Many early OAC and OVC alumni have written their names in the tower as a lasting memory of themselves.
Creelman Hall: Built in 1912 as a dining and dance hall for the early OAC and MacDonald Institute students, it is still faithfully serving its purpose today. George Creelman was an early principal of OAC. Many weddings, high school proms and university events have graced Creelman in the past 100 years. Occupational health and safety has come a long way as well....
The President’s House dates back to the 1880’s, but was actually built at the present day site of Creelman Hall. Early campus founders felt that it was in the wrong spot, so the most obvious solution was to move the house!

With the aid of capstan drives and horses, the house was moved across what is now College Avenue. It is one of the most well preserved 1880’s houses to be found.

George Irving Christie (1928-1947) was the first President to occupy the house; previous to him, Presidents lived in an apartment in Johnston Hall. Mordechai Rozanski was the last President to occupy the house in 2003. The beautiful grounds surrounding the house make an ideal setting for official University functions.
Macdonald Institute and Macdonald Hall: Both Mac Hall above and Mac Institute below were intended to support the “domestic sciences.” Our new chancellor, Martha Billes, speaks fondly of being a “Mac Girl.”
MacDonald Consolidated School, now the Art Gallery of Guelph, was built in the early 1900’s when the consolidated school concept was in its infancy. The Gallery is home to the U of G’s extensive art collection. The MacDonald family provided for both the construction and to have Guelph children brought by horse and carriage or street car to the school. Apparently William MacDonald was unimpressed when he arrived to view the school. He took one look from his carriage, left and never returned.

A favourite sculpture among many at the Art Gallery created by Carl Skelton and installed in 1999, is the Canadiana / Begging Bear, posed with one inviting arm outstretched – an artistic metaphor for our native animals’ need for protection and our encroachment on the environment. The 7½-foot-tall sculpture has also become a beloved icon to Guelph residents. The bear can often be seen decorated or dressed up, making it a must-see for passersby.
War Memorial Hall: Built in the 1920's as a memorial to 109 OAC students and faculty killed in WW I. Sadly, another 80 names were added to commemorate those killed in WW II. Legend has it there was a controversy around the proposed location; it was settled in the cover of darkness when students cut down a stand of Norway spruce and started digging to make room for the foundation of the building. Built of Georgetown limestone, War Memorial Hall opened in June 1924.
The Dawn Redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides): This is not just another tree! Although fossil records exist in North America, it was thought to be long extinct. Rediscovered in China in the 1940’s, an expedition in 1948 recovered seeds and a seedling was later provided to the Ontario Agriculture College. The tree is planted to the left and front of War Memorial Hall. A similar story is unfolding about the Vimy Oaks, with several seedlings making their way to the main campus.
The J. D. MacLachlan Building, above, was named for J.D. MacLachlan, an early campus professor. The Reynolds Building, below, was named for John Benson Reynolds who was instrumental in bringing physics to everyday early farm life. He championed soil analysis, tile drainage and short courses to improve the skill set of pioneer era farmers. Reynolds Walk is now lined with a canopy of locust trees shading pedestrians and anyone enjoying the grassy landscape on Johnston Green during spring, summer and fall.
In 1922 the Dairy Science building opened for teaching and research in dairy manufacturing including condensed and powdered milk, and ice cream (produced since 1908). Early research in this field was prompted by food safety issues, and undoubtedly saved lives. Until the 1960’s this building was surrounded by barns, livestock paddocks, and crop test plots. Times have changed but the building is well preserved with its beautiful original cupola. On the main floor wall of the Dairy Science building (now known as Food Science) are three large historical outlines describing how it began as the Ontario Experimental Farm Creamery in 1884.
The Rutherford Conservatory and Gardens: Together they make one of the most tranquil and beautiful spaces on campus. U of G grounds staff are developing award winning landscapes in this area. The University of Guelph hosted many festive outdoor events in 2017 requiring intensive preparation by the Grounds Department workers. Work has included expansion of the gardens and specimen plantings, installation of plant identification signage, and provision of numerous benches in sitting areas adjacent to the bus loop.