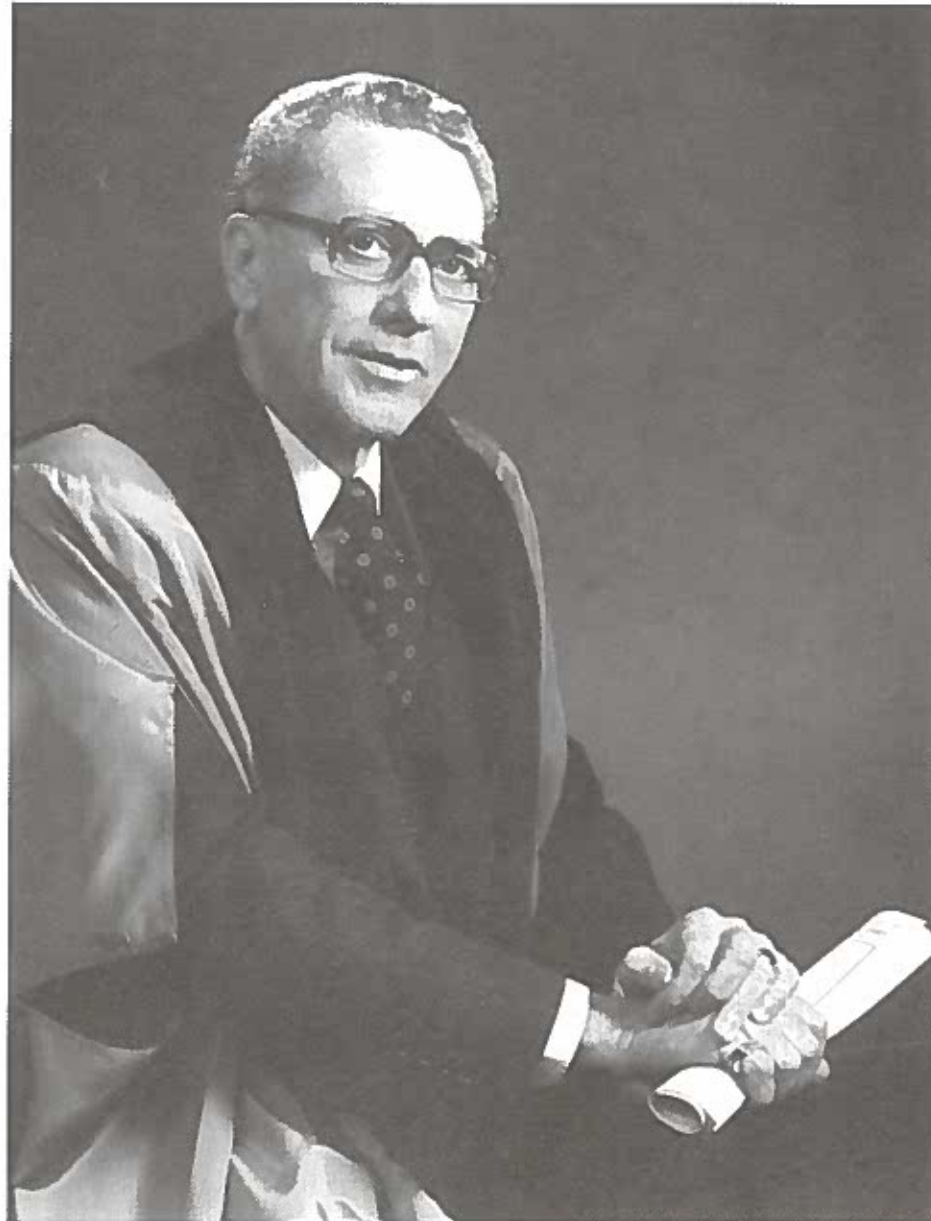


# JOHN MORTON PORTER

## *Education and Arts*



Inducted: 2005  
Years at GCI & VS:  
1935 - 1937, 1938 - 1940

John Porter was born in Galt on May 30, 1921. He was the only son of Mary Ure Morton and John Porter, who had arrived in Galt from Scotland in 1911. Jack, as he was known, attended GCI from 1935-1937. He left school after grade 11 to take a job with the Galt Reporter but decided to return to school the following September. Jack was the student president and valedictorian of the 1939 grade 12 graduating class at GCI.

In 1940 Jack enrolled in McMaster University. Jack was student president in 1944 and was very active in music, starring in the production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. He graduated in honours history, winning the Chancellor's medal as the top graduating student at McMaster for 1944.

Jack was an officer in the Canadian Officers Training Corp while at university and after graduating he joined the Canadian Armed Forces, attending Officers Training School in Brockville. After the war ended in August 1945, he entered a Masters program in History at the University of Toronto.

Jack had decided to become a high school teacher. While he finished his Masters in History and Economics he also attended the Ontario College of Education (O.C.E.) in 1946. Jack received his Masters in 1947 and graduated from O.C.E. the same year. He married Anna McCrae in August 1947. They had three children, Janet, Bruce and David.

Jack commenced his teaching career at North Toronto Collegiate, where he taught history, geography, economics, music, English and guidance from 1947 to 1956. In 1950 Jack was awarded the Canadian Geographic Society Fellowship for summer graduate work in geography at McGill University. For six summers after that, he directed Toronto Board of Education summer student Canadian tours, sponsored by Eaton's. Jack was also Principal of Night School of English and Citizenship for New Canadians in Toronto from 1954 – 1957.

In 1956 Jack left North Toronto to become Head of the Department of History and Economics at Western Technical-Commercial School, where he taught for the year

1956-57. In 1957 he was hired as the Principal of Downsview Secondary School, a position he held until 1961 when he became the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools for the North York Board of Education. In 1963, Jack returned home to Galt as the Director of Education for the Galt Board of Education, while also serving as Superintendent of Secondary Schools.

After four very successful years in Galt, Jack was asked to become the founding President of Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology, one of the newly formed colleges in Ontario. Though sad to leave Galt, he could not resist this unique challenge. He served as President of Sheridan from 1967 to 1981. During Jack's tenure as president, Sheridan College grew from a small college to the third largest college in Ontario with 6 campuses and thousands of students. Jack was instrumental in the development of the Animation Program that is now world famous and he created a niche for Sheridan in the Visual and Creative Arts programs. His love of music and performance arts inspired the creation of the successful Theatre and Performing Arts Program. These programs remain Sheridan's flagship programs.

In 1978, "in recognition of signal contributions which have served to stimulate and enrich education in the province of Ontario" Jack was bestowed the title of Fellow of The Institute for Studies in Education by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

In the process of establishing Sheridan's animation program, and as a board member of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority for a number of years, Jack developed an interest in computer animation. On retiring from Sheridan in 1981, Jack became President of Omnibus Computer Graphics, a leading innovator in computer animation at the time.

Jack died of pancreatic cancer after a short period of illness on July 9, 1983.

Janet Gambell  
for  
John M. Porter

