



Foundation News

The Voice of NTCI Alumni

Bring it on HOME!

2002 marks the 90th anniversary of NTCI. On May 4, 2002, we're opening the doors and inviting alumni of all ages to celebrate

Want to get involved in the 90th? Let us know!

Reunions can never happen without the time and commitment of volunteers. So if you're interested in helping with any aspect of the reunion—from contacting grads from your year as a "year captain," to donating supplies such as soft drinks and snacks, to helping us at the event—please let us know. Check the volunteer box under "Additional Information" on your registration form.

Help us find NTCI grads and former staff

If you know any NTCI grads or former staff who you don't think are on our mailing list, or who have recently moved, please let us know! You can email us at ntcifoundation@yahoo.com, or provide us with the information on the "Missing Grad" section of your registration form.

Yes, we admit it—she's showing her age. Chips of original brick are falling to the sidewalk with increasing regularity. The auditorium could use a few new seats. And the boy's washrooms still have a certain turn-of-the-19th-century charm.

But don't let the cosmetics fool you. North Toronto Collegiate still teems with the energy of 1,200 students who keep the Red & Grey spirit alive. And the building's creaky foundations will really be rocking on Saturday, May 4, 2002, when we invite all former NTCI students and staff to "bring it on home" to celebrate the school's 90th anniversary.

Unlike the school's 75th anniversary in 1987, which was a weekend-long affair with events at different locations, the Red & Grey 90th is a one-day school-based celebration, with the focus on reconnecting with classmates and teachers and reliving old times.

One of the features of the event will be a series of "decade rooms"—with photos and displays—allowing alumni to easily find classmates of their particular vintage. And since the event will be held primarily during the day, groups from individual grad years will be able to organize their own mini-reunions in the evening, from events as elaborate as formal dinners, to drinks and good times at a local watering hole.

Lights, camera, action!

No NTCI reunion would be complete without a performance of some kind, and the Red & Grey 90th is no exception. The 2002 Alumni Revue promises to be a wonderful, wild and unpredictable 60-minute show put on by former alumni and staff. There will be two shows, 3:30 P.M. and 5:30 P.M., in order to accommodate as many alumni as possible.

Former teachers and staff will also be out in full force, as a Teacher's Brunch will start the day off with food and refreshments. And don't worry about remembering

names. Name tags—for both teachers and alumni—are an essential part of any reunion, and yours will be waiting for you at the school door when you arrive.

It will be a memorable day for everyone, and it represents the only NTCI reunion scheduled for the next ten years—until the magical 100th. So don't miss your chance to reconnect. Register now by mailing in the enclosed registration form, and we'll see you in May, 2002!

Check out the numbers from 1987!

Here are some statistics from NTCI's 75th anniversary reunion in 1987:

- 900 grads and guests attended the Athletic Night at Casa Loma
- 2,700 were entertained at the Melodies and Memories concert at Roy Thomson Hall
- 3,000 enjoyed the gala dinner and celebrations at the Harbour Castle
- 2,300 attended the Open House at NTCI.

Don't miss out on the 90th. Register today!

Go online to see who's going!

When you register for the Red & Grey 90th, your name will be automatically posted on the 90th reunion web page, at www.ntci.on.ca. You'll be able to click on your grad year to see the names of former classmates and staff who have signed up to attend. Even better—provide us with your email address, and classmates can simply click on your name to send you a quick note. It's a great way to organize a grad year mini-reunion for the night of May 4, 2002, after activities at the school have wrapped up.

You can check out the school web site any time, but the 90th anniversary registration lists will be posted in the fall of 2001, once the initial registrations have been processed.

Ashley Waltman began his teaching career in 1974, teaching science at East York Collegiate and Leaside High School, and earning his Masters of Science and Masters of Education degrees along the way. In 1991, he became Vice Principal of D.A. Morrison Junior High School, then took on the same role at Marc Garneau Collegiate (formerly Overlea Collegiate) in 1995.

He came to NTCI as principal in 1999, after the retirement of Eric Skeoch. We interviewed Ashley for this article on February 22, 2001.

Q: Past principals of NTCI have faced challenges which were unique to their era. What do you identify as the key challenges in your tenure so far?

Change is always difficult, and there's been a lot of it lately. The new funding formula has been extremely tough on Toronto area schools—and created all sorts of issues for us. The increased workload on teachers has been difficult, along with the labour situation that's hit every level of education in the province, not just high schools. And during all of this, we're reducing high school from a five-year program to four. The Grade 9s and 10s are in a four-year program, the upper grades are in a five-year program. 2003 will be a watershed year. The Grade 12s and what alumni know as the Grade 13s (OAC students) will graduate at the same time.

Q: Have you noticed any changes in the goals and behaviours of students during your career?

Certainly the media that the kids are exposed to have changed, which creates different behaviours. I mean, when I went to school, the typical family on TV was *Leave it to Beaver*. Today it's the *Simpsons*. And you can certainly see changes in the type of language that's used. As a student, it was considered horrific if someone swore in front of a teacher. Today, it's still a problem, but the shock factor isn't there in the same way.

In terms of goals, I'm sure every student who's passed through the school has wanted to do well, but I think this generation is operating in a more competitive environment, and there's a lot of pressure on kids to do well academically. And they do it. The students here are unquestionably the best of any other school I've been at. They're extremely motivated to do well, very positive, and very supportive of the teachers. We still have 85% to 90% going directly to university when they graduate.

Q: Only 74 students from the NTCI school district applied for admission to Grade 9 last year, with the majority of applications coming from out of district. Should alumni be worried about the school's future?

Challenge and change for NTCl leader



No—I think the outlook for the school is very positive, but the area is changing. The school's academic and music standards have always been a magnet for out-of-district applications—so that's not a surprise. In-district, the demographics have been changing more to young singles and seniors in recent years, and fewer families with teenage kids. And because there's a fairly high level of family disposable income in the area, the recent turmoil in public education has driven some to the private schools. But we're at 124.7% of capacity right now, so the school is really thriving.



Q: Financial support for a publicly-funded high school—like the support being sought by the NTCl Foundation—is perceived as a low priority for some alumni, especially given the relatively high family incomes in the area. Shouldn't taxpayers and NTCl parents be funding school programs?



Let's be clear—taxpayers and parents are supporting the vast majority of school programs. But the funding squeeze has meant that there's simply no money left in the system, and more and more costs are being downloaded on the schools—from telephones to printing. So it's the extras that get cut. If you think back to your own high school days, your strongest memories and growth experiences likely took place after school hours—editing the yearbook, running in the city finals, performing at Kiwanis, playing a basketball or volleyball tournament, you name it. Those are the things at risk, and that's where the alumni can help.



It's no longer just universities and colleges that need support from their alumni. High schools need it too, and it can make a huge difference for the kids today. We get a lot of donations in the \$25 to \$100 range from alumni. Believe me, with the size of our alumni base, those donations can really add up.

Q: With a building that's almost 90 years old, there are rumours that NTCl will be torn down and completely rebuilt. Do you see this happening in the near future?

Both Riverdale and Forest Hill Collegiate were rebuilt, and apparently we were next on the list for major work before the school board amalgamation took place. But they just haven't put the money in the place. We're finally seeing some structural repair work being done, but the school really is crumbling in places. At the moment, there's just no more money in the system to undertake a complete overhaul. But if we ever do get the go ahead to rebuild, I've been assured that we'll still be located at the same Broadway/Roehampton site, even though we sit on a pretty expensive piece of real estate. There's simply too much community and alumni support for the current school location.

*Poetry rarely breeds overnight success, and Toronto poet and North Toronto Collegiate graduate Chris Chambers is no exception, perfecting his work for 15 years before publishing his first full collection of poetry, **Lake Where No One Swims** (Pedlar Press, 1999).*



Still, to the reading public, the buzz around Chambers' work has blossomed quickly, and his name is suddenly everywhere in Canadian poetry circles. It began with the publication of *Wild Mouse*, co-written with fellow author Derek McCormack, which was shortlisted for the 1999 Toronto Book Award. From performing a few poetry readings here and there, Chambers now finds himself participating in dozens of readings each year, from his recent reading at the prestigious Double Hook Book Shop in Montreal in April, to the Prince Edward

his "obnoxious teenage tone" and helping him get the hang of sentence structure. But the hours of support she provided were just as important.

"It was a weekly paper," says Chambers, "so we met each Tuesday over the course of the year. I wasn't even a student of hers, but we'd spend hours going over copy and story ideas."

Tangney remembers the times well. "He was a real delight to work with. Looking back, I can really see it as part of his apprenticeship. He put a tremendous amount into that paper."

me. It was totally unexpected, and turned out to be a very special afternoon."

While Chambers remembers the thrill of sharing his poetry with his teacher mentor, he also remembers a slightly rockier start to the relationship. "He kicked me out of the classroom on the very first day of class," says Chambers. "I didn't do much acting up after that."

Today, poetry is the main focus in his life, and his distinctive and accessible poetic voice is winning praise from many quarters—from fellow Canadian poet Dennis Lee to the Tragically Hip's Gord



Chris Chambers —

The

poetic

side of NTCI

County Authors' Festival in June.

And he recognizes his time at North Toronto—from 1977 to 1982—as being a major influence on his craft. Two teachers in particular were important mentors—Ian Waldron, his Grade 13 English teacher, and Barbara Tangney, who was the staff advisor for the student weekly newspaper, *The Red & Grey*, which Chambers headed up in his final year.

Chambers credits Tangney, who taught at the school from 1974 to 1998, as the first to really help him hone his craft, in particular, challenging him on

Chambers also found Ian Waldron's love of literature to be inspirational. "His class just clicked with me. It was a real turning point."

The relationship seemed to click for Waldron as well, who served as both Head of English and Vice-Principal during his tenure at NTCI from 1979 to 2000.

"I'll never forget coming out of my classroom at the end of the school year—a couple of years after Chris had graduated—and seeing him waiting outside the door. He had a green file folder of poetry he wanted to share with

Downie. And while his work with the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association keeps him busy on weekdays, he lives for his writing time.

"It took 15 years for the first collection," Chambers notes. "I don't plan on taking as long with the next one."

You can reach Chris Chambers through his publisher at feralgrt@interlog.com. *Lake Where No One Swims* and *Wild Mouse* (Pedlar Press, 1999) are available at Canadian bookstores. *Lake Where No One Swims* is also available online at www.poets.ca/pshstore.

Realizing Toronto

*This memory turns up the same wistful dreaming feeling every time.
Turns up the summer of '72 or '73, me sitting on the bump of the bucket backseat
coming home to Toronto in the Perkins' Corolla after a weekend in the country,
driving west on the 401 around Bowmanville.*

*Turns out I go back there regularly, to that night, that car trip,
so often I find it remarkable – well, enough that I would remark on it.
Some nights' dreams stay with you like a blood stain.
They fade, but remain. They sear upon first recollection,*

*as events unfold again for the first time, then again, almost as clear
perhaps with some newly-remembered detail
to keep the conscious vaguely interested in the unconscious –
turn out the lights – close your eyes – fall asleep, yes...*

*But to escape last night's dream some days is impossible:
the unconscious branding its mark on the conscious.
This memory's like this – it persists – so I take it apart
in my imagination. The night true love dawned on me.*

*Sexy Wendy Perkins sits beside me – age of nine – sister of my friend.
I figure it has to do with driving home, the end of August, realizing Toronto
is home. Being driven there by a neighbour.
I scan through my memory wondering why*

*this resonating night, why the frequency?
And I'm in the deli buying salami and a song
comes on the oldies station they play there.
It's **Summer Breeze**. Seals and Crofts. Croft?*

*I hear that song clear as was that long ago night of clouds
in my memory. **Summer Breeze** from Mr. Perkins'
Corolla. Same station. 1050 CHUM.
Dawn of love all right.*

From *Lake Where No One Swims*. Reprinted with kind permission from Pedlar Press.

The arts at NTCI— Former students making a splash

Grads from the 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s may not be aware of what more recent NTCI alumni have been up to in the arts and media. Here are a few former students from the 70s, 80s and 90s you may recognize.

Christie Blatchford
—Columnist, National Post (1970)

David Kent
—Principal Timpanist, Toronto Symphony Orchestra (1973)

Ivars Taurins
—Conductor, Tafelmusik Chamber Choir (1974)

Rebecca Jenkins
—Actress (1978)

Andy Maize (1978) **Josh Finlayson** (1982)
—Founding members, Skydiggers

Keanu Reeves
—Actor (1978-1980)

Nick Colicos
—Actor (1980)

Yves Abel
—Conductor, L'Opera Francais de New York (1980)

Sasa Petricic
—Reporter, CBC News (1982)

Bernice Lum
—Cartoonist, Illustrator (1982)

Megan Follows
—Actress (1986)

Ben Carlson
—Actor (1988)

Camilla Gibb
—Novelist-Winner 2000 Toronto Book Award (1982-1986)

Scott Arnold
—Reporter, Global News (1990)

Know of other NTCI alumni working in the arts or media? Let us know, especially if you're one of them! Next issue will focus on sports, so information on athletes from any era is also appreciated.
ntcifoundation@yahoo.com.

Artist and NTCI grad appointed to Order of Canada

Last year, the Governor General announced new appointments to the Order of Canada for 2000. Included in that group was NTCI grad Ann (Goulding) Mortimer, class of 1952, as a Member of the Order of Canada. Ann was presented with the insignia of the Order on February 28, 2001, at Rideau Hall.

Ann is a ceramist of international standing, and has been a spokesperson for the arts and crafts movement in Canada for the last three decades. "I've been very fortunate—my work

has literally taken me all over the world," says Mortimer. "It's been very exciting."

The excitement—and the travel—has continued, with a recent two-month trip to China and Tibet as the only Canadian representative in a delegation of 20 international artists creating works for a new sculpture park.

Despite the international travel schedule, she knows where she'll be on May 4, 2002. "I'll definitely be attending the 90th reunion. We had a great time at the last one in '87."



Making the best of difficult times

The 2000 – 2001 school year will probably not rank as one of North Toronto’s finest. Like schools across Ontario, NTCI students, parents, and staff have been coping with the tensions of program and structural upheaval—tensions which one student describes as “the pain of a losing everything you used to enjoy about school.”

In Toronto, of course, provincial issues have been compounded by a series of lengthy contractual disputes with the still fledgling Toronto District School Board as teachers, clerical staff, custodial staff and support personnel attempt to find a road to the future.

Despite these issues, North Toronto has managed a fairly active and productive year to date. Even without organized leagues, the powerhouse which is girls’ basketball at NTCI did manage a schedule which led to yet another city championship—and the BAA/GAA leadership team has promoted a very successful series of house league activities during lunch and after school. On the music front, the department managed to continue its traditional rehearsal schedule all year and will mass its forces for another outstanding Maytime Melodies just as this publication goes to press.

The Student Council mounted a highly successful charity drive in January and February, amassing close to \$14,000 for this year’s charity, *Strings across the Sky*, an organization which fosters and promotes musical heritage among Inuit peoples in northern Canada. And trips to New York City, Costa Rica, and Spain have satisfied the wanderlust of NT travellers.

NTCI 2001

Passing the teaching torch

The past few years have been ones of change for the NTCI teaching corps, and the school will see the retirement of a number of “old-timers” on staff again this June. While there could be a few last minute retirement decisions in the waning days of retirement season, here are the teachers so far who have announced their plans to leave the profession after many years of outstanding service:

- Nancy Baines** Teacher of history for the past 33 years. Nancy will parallel her retirement with the graduation of her youngest son, Robert.
- Heather Cirulis** Head of Geography, recruited from Great Britain during the “golden years” of the former Toronto Board of Education, Heather will be stepping down after 32 years of teaching at NTCI.
- Leslie Maher** Teacher of English and director/producer of theatre extravaganzas over the years, Leslie will spend time in her retirement garden and in world travel.
- Dennis Pascoe** The latest eminence gris in a long line of eminences gris in the science department, Dennis will step down after spending the past 13 years at NTCI.
- Ron Sheppard** Teacher of geography and business studies, Ron will seek greener pastures at his country retreat in Haliburton.
- Faith Hughes** Member of the mathematics department since 1969, Faith moved a few years ago to Stayner, Ontario with her family, and continues to enjoy the cross-country skiing and hiking that the area provides.
- John Carter** Former Head of Mathematics, John has decided to retire for a second time, having returned part-time to teach computer science.

To these seven, we add Julie Pearce, who speaks of “new adventures” after retirement as if she were beginning her career all over again (Julie left in January). And by now, you will have heard about last year’s post-press retirement of Bill Hammond, beloved teacher of mathematics and popular character on the NTCI scene for some 30 years.

A lot can change in 35 years, including the major intersection that's closest to NTCl. While the school itself remains essentially the same today, the photographs illustrate just how much the surrounding neighbourhood has changed. The two pictures shown on this page are part of the Mike Filey Collection.

Mike Filey is a popular Toronto historian, member of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and a former member of the Toronto Historical Board. He wanted to graduate from North Toronto in 1960, but was forced to stick around an extra year due to performance issues in Mr. McTaggart's math class. He finally graduated in 1961.

In addition to his regular column in the Toronto Sunday Sun, he is the author of more than a dozen books on Toronto history, including "Toronto, Then and Now" (Magic Light Publishing, 2000).

Mike's popular "The Way We Were" column in the Toronto Sunday Sun continues to be one of the paper's most popular features.

North-west corner of Yonge and Eglinton (2001). The recently renovated Yonge-Eglinton Centre mall dominates the intersection, with the Dominion store in the mall the only reminder of the location's earlier days.

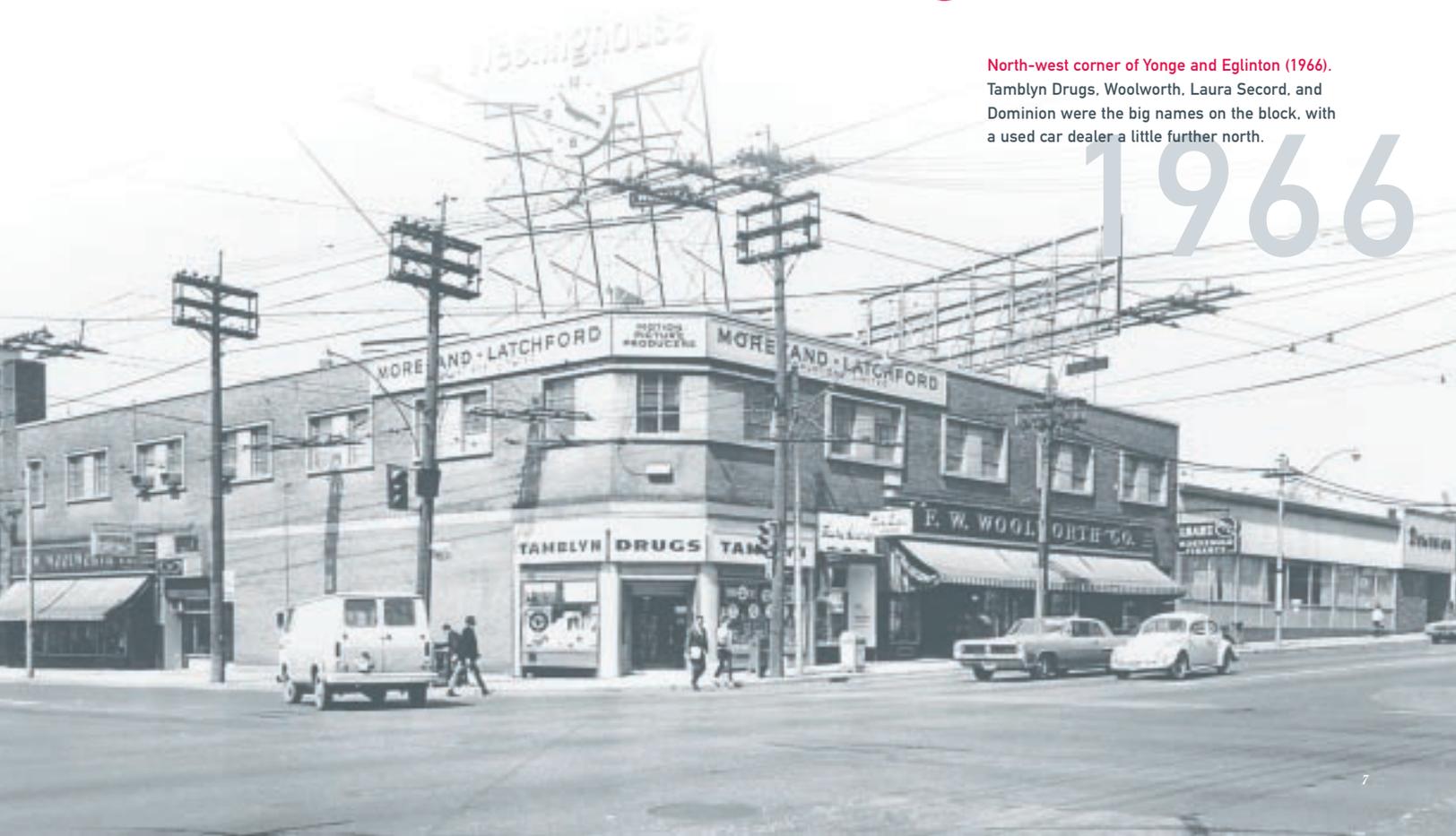
2001

CHANGE

in the neighbourhood

North-west corner of Yonge and Eglinton (1966). Tamblin Drugs, Woolworth, Laura Secord, and Dominion were the big names on the block, with a used car dealer a little further north.

1966



Five reasons to support the NTCI Foundation

Need a few reasons to support your former high school? Here are a few points to consider.

1

We help alumni reconnect

One of the mandates of the Foundation is to help NTCI grads stay in touch. The challenge? We need your help to do it.

The NTCI Foundation Advisory Board is 100% volunteer, with 22 individuals, almost all North Toronto grads, working hard on the Foundation's behalf. Still, there are costs we can't avoid. Printing and mailing newsletters, maintaining a database, planning and organizing reunions such as the Red & Grey 90th—the expenses can add up, even with the help of donated services and supplies. Your financial support ensures you'll remain connected to your high school *alma mater*.

2

Funding for extras is declining

Like all public schools, NTCI has a budget, with some flexibility in how funds are allocated. But there is little room for extras.

"The Foundation provided the money to buy a digital camera for the school a couple of years ago," says Principal Ashley Waltman. "You wouldn't believe how much that camera is used. Could the school have purchased it? Sure, but I want to use the money to buy the computers we don't have."

Too many demands, too little money. The Foundation can help provide the financial support that allows the school to focus on its core needs.

3

We add value to the education experience

The Foundation does not fund textbook purchases, or provide funding that should come exclusively from parents or the kids themselves. Instead, we fund projects that fill a gap and enrich the education experience.

If there's a school trip, we can provide the funds for a small side trip that otherwise wouldn't happen. We can buy the computer that provides students with onsite internet access. We can help launch new student initiatives that would otherwise never begin for lack of funding. You know from your own high school experience—it's the stuff that happens outside of the classroom that you remember most. That's our focus.

4

Alumni support matters to kids

NTCI produces a booklet for Grade Eight students who must decide on a high school they want to attend. It's called "*Making the Choice—Grade Nine at North Toronto*." It outlines the strengths of the school and what it can offer students looking for a rich high school experience. The final strength described in the booklet is the school's support from its alumni through the NTCI Foundation. Why? Because tradition matters, and standards stay high when students know that more than 15,000 alumni care about what happens to their former school—and are willing to support the school long after their high school days are over. Your support **does** make a difference.

5

Educational gifts are charitable

Just like the financial assistance you may give to a former college or university, your donation to the North Toronto Foundation is a charitable gift. Receipts are provided for any donation of \$10 or more.

The NTCI Foundation has provided over \$100,000 in grants and scholarships since the last school reunion in 1987. The 90th anniversary reunion registration form has reserved a spot for your donation. We greatly appreciate any charitable gift you are able to make.

Keep us up to date!

We need your help in keeping our grad list updated. If you know of an NTCI grad or former staff member who we can add to our list, or want to change any of your personal information, let us know. You can email us anytime at ntcifoundation@yahoo.com or send a note to Jessica Escott, NTCI Foundation, 70 Roehampton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1R2

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