



Foundation News

The Voice of NTCI Alumni

When North Toronto Collegiate Institute celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2012, it will have a new building to match its proud academic record and school spirit. Construction of the new NTCI is scheduled for the spring of 2006, and will be completed during the 2007–2008 school year.



It's official! New NTCI to be built

The building project will be complex, and will involve a number of stakeholders. To help cover the \$34 million cost of the new NTCI building, the school site will also include a second high school of 500 students from another coterminous school board, and some form of private development, most likely residential in nature.

The project design team, to be made up of students, staff, administration, alumni, and local residents, will begin work later this spring.

Why a new school building?

Faced with a badly deteriorating structure, the TDSB made the decision to rebuild NTCI rather than renovate for two primary reasons – cost and location. Before any kind of renovations could even be considered, the building had to be brought up to current safety standards – a process with an estimated cost of \$18 million.

Although the prohibitive cost of repairing the structure

nearly closed NTCI, the school's proximity to the Yonge subway line places it in a prime position to accommodate the increased demand from students in other areas of the city, especially since the number of eligible students in NTCI's own catchment area has been declining in recent years.

NTCI's excellent reputation, its attractiveness to out-of-district students, and its prime location have led to what is certain to become a unique redevelopment project.

Why the public/private partnership?

Under the Ontario government's education funding formula, the TDSB is not given money to build new schools. Therefore, the board must sell property or enter into partnerships with other public institutions and private developers to raise capital funds for building.

While one partner – a second school board with overlapping jurisdiction – is confirmed, the private development partner has not yet been chosen.

The 90th anniversary reunion was a huge success.

Read all about it on page 4

How do retired NTCI teachers stay in touch?

Find out on page 6

We found the owner of the rediscovered 1942 student diary.

Details on back cover

Photo: © Matthew Fox



Boarding on the north face of the school protects staff and students from falling brickwork

The Board has also met with the city’s Parking Authority to discuss moving the adjacent parking lot to a parking garage under the school. It is hoped that the current parking lot can be incorporated into the school site, allowing NTCI to expand the size of its footprint on the land.

Planning for the new building is only in the preliminary stages, but as the process of rebuilding NTCI continues, there will be many exciting developments in the coming months and years.

Design team will be key to success

The Design Team for the new NTCI will begin its preliminary work in the Fall of 2003, and will be made up of students, staff, administration, alumni, and local residents. Here are three of the key players:

Sheila Penny

- Executive Superintendent for Facility Services at the TDSB since May 2002 – responsible for anything to do with the facilities of the 557 schools
- 10 years as a design architect with Moriyama & Teshima, the Toronto-based Canadian architecture firm
- Previous architectural project experience includes working on the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, the North York Civic Centre, and Owen Public School with Moriyama & Teshima Architects, as well as acting as a Board representative on numerous schools across the TDSB, including Glen Park Public School, McKee Elementary School, Earl Haig Secondary School, and Gateway Public School

Shelley Laskin

- TDSB Trustee for Ward 11 (St. Paul’s)
- Second term on the TDSB, serving previously as trustee for Ward 14 (North Toronto)
- The community advocate at the decision-making table
- Passed a motion for an inclusive design team, bringing together representatives from students, staff, administration, local residents and alumni

Ashley Waltman

- Principal of North Toronto Collegiate Institute since Sept. 1999
- Lead contact for NTCI project, involved in all aspects of the design and planning process
- Began teaching career in 1974 at East York Collegiate and Leaside High School – became Vice-Principal at D.A. Morrison Junior High School in 1991 and Vice-Principal at Marc Garneau Collegiate in 1995

Alumni have a role in the NTCI building project

The NTCI Foundation will be actively involved in the planning process for the new NTCI. And we want to hear from you. In the donation/comment portion of the cover letter you received with your newsletter, you’ll find space to provide your input. We’re looking for answers to one key question: How can we best ensure that North Toronto’s many traditions of excellence are transferred from the old building to the new? Please mail back your response in the return envelope provided.

Here’s what we know

- The new NTCI will have a student capacity of 1,200 students.
- Some of the funding for the project will come from private development on the school site. The projected budget for the new NTCI is \$34 million, with \$14 million coming from the TDSB, \$10 from the coterminous school board, and \$10 million from private development.
- While the private developer partner has not yet been chosen, the development will not be retail or industrial, as this is considered to be inconsistent with the site’s primary purpose as an education facility. This leaves some form of residential development as the most likely scenario.
- The TDSB will be negotiating with the Toronto Parking Authority to incorporate the parking lot just west of the school on Roehampton Avenue in an attempt to enlarge the school site.
- The existing NTCI building will be fully operational during the period of construction.
- Three of the key priorities for this project are
 - (1) ensuring the new site and buildings meet the program needs of students,
 - (2) providing a safe environment for students and staff during the construction period, and
 - (3) maximizing the site’s green space.

Mixed-use development site can work

For Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, located in the Yonge and Sheppard area of Toronto, the idea of school site sharing space with a commercial development is nothing new.

The grades 7 to 12 school opened its doors in Sept. 1990, and shares parking facilities with the condo development next door.

The school is actually built above the condo parking garage, but the school/condo relationship has been a harmonious one since the beginning. Principal John Malloy says that, beyond exchanging Christmas baskets once a year, the two buildings lead very happy and independent existences.



Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, with the condominium that shares the school site.

A once-in-a-lifetime project

Ashley Waltman has been principal of NTCI since September, 1999, but the next few years will undoubtedly be the most challenging and exciting of his career. We asked Ashley a number of questions about plans for the new NTCI.



Why will students want to come to the new NTCI?

We had 562 grade nine applicants this year, just to come to an old dingy building! NTCI has a long tradition of academic excellence, an incredible music program, great extra-curricular activities, and a spirited, positive atmosphere. The new building will provide a state-of-the-art learning environment where students can excel, without being hindered by the limitations that the current building places on us. For example, we have one of the smallest libraries in the district, but we can look forward to more space and more books in the new building.

NTCI has many traditions, and a strong alumni association. How do you plan to continue these traditions in the new building?

The building has a lot of personal history for a lot of people, and it would be ideal to fix the current structure, but it's just not possible. We don't know what the new building will look like, but it is very important that we incorporate our history into the new building. There are many ways we can do this

– from transferring honour boards, to retaining the unique shape of the exterior windows. But this is one of the areas in which we'll want feedback from alumni.

What disruptions do you anticipate during the building process, and in 2007–2008, when the school opens?

The impact to students will be fairly minimal. Some parents are concerned that noise levels will be disruptive during the construction phase, but we've had several additions over the years and levels were not overly disruptive then. We will also lose our field for about two or three years, but we hope to have more green space, including a full-sized track, once construction is completed.

How will the new building influence the learning environment at NTCI?

NTCI has been a wonderful learning environment for 91 years. We're looking forward to taking the excellent educational standards of NTCI and allowing them to flourish under a new roof. A good school is not the bricks and mortar – it's the academic and cultural life that matter. Incorporating NTCI's rich academic traditions into the new building is a major priority.

What are some of the key features that you would like to see in the new school?

There are many exciting possibilities for the new building. Larger classrooms, a bigger library, better science labs, computer labs that are in synch with new and emerging technology, a more spacious gymnasium, and a great auditorium for our music program are all features I would like to see incorporated in the new NTCI.

Here's what we don't know

- We don't know whether NTCI and the second high school will share facilities. It is important that both NTCI and the second high school have distinct and unique identities. This will be confirmed through the design team process.
- We don't know what facilities the new school will have. Swimming pools are no longer funded by the TDSB, so the chances of a pool being part of the development are slim.
- The possibility for a full sized football field and track exists, but is by no means a certainty.
- We don't know where on the school site the new building (or buildings) will be located.



Crumbling window ledges. The estimated cost of bringing NTCI up to current safety standards is \$18 million



what a blast!

2002 Reunion draws 1,800 back to NTCI

They came from Hong Kong, Tel Aviv, Scotland, and the Yukon – representing the class of 1928 right through to the present day.

Over 1,800 grads, former staff, and their families visited the school on May 4, 2002 to celebrate NTCI's 90th anniversary.

Here are the highlights:

- The decades most widely represented were those of the 50s and 60s, but with a surprisingly high number of grads from the 30s and 40s
- Strong attendance from the 70s and 80s also confirms that “younger grads” are now reaching their nostalgia years. The Class of 1979 evening event at the Redwood Grille attracted 100 classmates – and over 200 grads of all ages attended the 1980s party at Mosquito Moe’s
- Over 70 former staff members attended the special teachers’ reception at the school
- About 200 grads made music part of the reunion experience by attending Maytime Melodies on the Thursday and Friday nights before the reunion

Top: One of the “decade rooms” – a great place to meet friends, and look over scrapbooks, photos, and memorabilia
Below: A familiar scene: clusters of grads and former staff talking old times

Millie Brown (widow of Hal Brown) talks to former staff at the teachers’ reception.





Former staff strut their stuff at "The Show"
Top: The glories of yesteryear were on display everywhere

- 1,200 grads and former staff were entertained by two performances of "The Show," produced by former staff members Ian Waldron (1979–2000) and Leslie Maher (1989–2001)
- \$20,000 was raised for the NTCI Foundation, which supports scholarships for current students, special school projects, as well as alumni events.

Thanks to all grads who attended, and to the dozens of volunteers, current staff and students who worked behind the scenes to ensure the event went smoothly. And a special thank you to Reunion Co-Chairs Carole Whelan (current staff) and Vicky Zeltins (Class of 1985) for making it all happen.

The tribute to Hal Brown (staff 1946–1983), who died in January, 2002, just a few months before the reunion. Hal continued to coach track at NTCI until 2000, 17 years after his retirement.



Any plans for 2012? Be sure to keep in touch

NTCI's centennial celebration in 2012 will be the reunion to end all reunions, but we can't invite you unless we can find you!

Be sure to keep your address and other contact information up-to-date by letting us know of any changes. You can keep in touch by emailing us at ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca, or writing us (the old-fashioned way) at NTCI Foundation, 70 Roehampton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1R2.

Buddy, can you spare a yearbook?

NTCI archivist and former teacher Nancy Baines is looking for copies of the following yearbooks to complete the school archives. Unfortunately, some may have gone missing at the 90th anniversary reunion.

Please contact Nancy at 416-393-9180 if you can spare a yearbook from any of the following years:

- 1924 Howler
- 1949 Red & Grey
- 1950 to 1955 Pentagons
- 1959, 1960, and 1963 Pentagons
- 1974 to 1978 Pentagons
- 1980 to 1984 Pentagons
- 1988, 1997, and 1998 Pentagons

A tribute to Cam Gray

By Ian Macdonald (Class of 1948)
NTCI Foundation, Advisory Board Member

Many graduates of N.T.C.I. will be saddened to learn of the death of Cam Gray (Class of 1962) on February 12, 2003, in North Bay.

An outstanding footballer at North Toronto, Cam had a deep affection for the school. I have no hesitation in saying that, without his drive and determination, our memorable 75th Anniversary Celebrations would not have taken place in 1987. I well recall Cam's visit to my home one day in 1985 to explain his ideas for a grand reunion to embrace academic, athletic and musical memories of NTCI. Would I assist? Who could say no. He encouraged a wonderful team of volunteers to play a part although he himself never sought centre stage. During the preparations, he was also in the midst of a move to North Bay; as a result, his personal sacrifices were many.

Cam was also determined that the 75th Anniversary Celebrations should leave a legacy in the form of the present NTCI Foundation which represents an abiding recognition of his efforts, along with those of so many other graduates of North Toronto. I know that all who knew Cam will join in expressing our profound sympathy to his family.

Where retired teachers roam

By Pippa Wysong (Class of 1979)

As he got closer to retirement, John Carter felt that something was missing in the old staffroom at NTCI. It was the faces of the people who had worked at the school when he had started there. A new order had arrived, and many of the old guard had retired and left the classrooms and the hallways of good old North Toronto.

Carter has found all those faces again at a series of lunches, or “moveable feasts” as some of the regulars call them. The luncheons are held anywhere from four to six times a year, and the location changes each time – not that it’s a secret society or anything. Rather, it’s

strong, and it’s as though the group has come home.

From small beginnings

The lunches weren’t always this big. In fact, they started out with only three people. Back in 1989, John Hill, Lynn McMurray, and Bob Lightfoot started to meet on their own. The first lunches weren’t fancy at all.

“We went to a small Vietnamese restaurant on Spadina,” Hill recounts. In fact, they met for lunch four times there over a two-year period, and eventually decided to try other eating places. They invited Pat Commins to

of teaching. It was a balance between keeping order, maintaining interest, and still covering curriculum,” McMurray adds.

Susan Brown concurs, adding that “in the 1970s, it was individual-driven, based on programming for each individual student. From the late 1980s to late 1990s, the curriculum was more content-driven, and there was a shift to open-ended guidelines. And then, from about 1998, it’s been assessment-driven, with a focus on student performance,” she said.

Working through these changes as a staff while maintaining full commitment



Dick Coles, Jim Doyle, Ken Gray

Maggie Bates, Jean Vale, Lynn McMurray

Barbara Tangney, Susan Brown, Gerald Dunlevie, Grace Diez

an attitude of “Oh! Let’s try eating at this place next time.”

This time, it’s the fall of 2002, and the teachers are trying out the dining room at Osgoode Hall. The walls are covered with wood paneling, and shelves along two walls are full of thick law books.

There is definitely a schoolish feel to the place. Thirty retired NT teachers take up two, long tables along the back of the room. Gerald Dunlevie sits at the head of one table with Barbara Tangney and Grace Diez on either side. Other faces include John and Elaine Hill, Maggie Bates, Dick Cole, Nancy Baines, and Ian Waldron to name a few.

Even though the room is new to him, Carter looks around and says with a grin, “Now, this feels more like a real staff meeting.” The camaraderie is

come along. By ones and twos, the gang showing up for lunches got bigger and bigger.

“We were recreating the whole staffroom, person by person,” Hill said. Different venues were tried including Hart House at the University of Toronto, fancy restaurants, and even potlucks held at private homes.

Shop talk the norm

As you would expect, when this gang gets together, talk often turns to school, what it was like “back then” and now. A number of the group here saw close to four decades of changes at NT, from the psychedelic 1960s to the more electronic 1990s.

“In the last 10 years of my career, you had to really adjust your methods

to the traditions of NT kept these retirees on their toes, and they continue to revel in the collegiality which was fostered and developed in the staff room – and at scores of professional meetings – during those challenging years.

“We are all friends in the truest sense,” says Ian Waldron. “Two or three decades of professional investment have certainly paid personal dividends – and our lives have been immeasurably enriched by our shared experience.”

A new lunch is being organized for sometime in the spring. “It’ll be up at a farm. More of a pot-luck,” said Julie Pierce, who organized the Osgoode Hall event. With several more of the old timers joining the retirement ranks, it is certain to be just one more celebration in what has become a new NT tradition.

NTCI sports stars revisited

In the 2002 issue of Foundation News, we featured many NTCI athletes who carried on their athletic endeavors beyond their high school years. We asked you to tell us about other grads we may have missed. Based on your feedback, here's a sports update.

Bill Watters (NTCI staff 1966-1970) is currently assistant to the President of the Toronto Maple Leafs, and owner of the Toronto Rock lacrosse franchise. **Ric Konopka** (1969) played in the C.F.L. from 1974 to 1978 for the Toronto Argonauts, Calgary Stampeders, and Saskatchewan Rough Riders. **Roger Speller** (1977) played on the Team Canada national baseball team in 1981-1982.

Barry Bowerman (1967) represented Canada in swimming at the World Student Games in Turin, Italy in 1970. Peter Warren (1960) played in the C.F.L. from 1964 to 1967 for the Toronto Argonauts and Calgary Stampeders. **Beverly Wescott** (1944) was a Canadian badminton champion (doubles champion 1956, and singles finalist in 1955, 1956) and represented Canada in several international events.

Class of 1992 celebrates ten-year anniversary

It was déjà vu for North Toronto's Class of '92. Former students from the year's graduating class gathered at the landmark Rose & Crown pub just before Christmas to commemorate the tenth anniversary of their high-school Commencement.

The event, organized by Cornell Wright, Jalyn Bosley and Alyson Parker, attracted about 75 classmates, as well as several staff, including Ian Waldron, Grace Diez, Danny Russell, and Gerald Dunlevie. Former principal Eric Skeoch also joined the fun, welcoming the class with a toast that reminded the '92 grads of their shenanigans during the Science Centre semi-formal, which he assured them are still the subject of local North Toronto lore.



Former principal Eric Skeoch toasts the class of 1992 at the Rose and Crown.

NTCI veterans honoured and remembered

Remembrance Day is a commemorative date often underplayed in recent years at NTCI, but this year, November 11 was a day to remember for all staff and students.

The 2002 Remembrance Day Assembly was most definitely a powerful hour as nine NTCI veterans returned to the school. Students welcomed them with a very long and heartfelt standing ovation, with many moved to tears by a ceremony that included a presentation with photos and vignettes about some of the NT alumni who served in the Second World War.

Veterans who honoured the school with their presence were Jim Harvey, Fred & Stanley Heather, Bruce Heney, Don Paterson, Bud Rothschild, Lindsay Smith, Bev Westcott, and Jack Wilmot.



Back row from left: Carole Whelan (NTCI history department), Lindsay Smith (1940), Jim Harvey (1943), Bruce Heney (1943), Bev Westcott (1944), Kathie McConnachie (NTCI history department)
Front row from left: Ashley Waltman (NTCI principal), Fred Heather (1932), Stanley Heather (1943), Don Paterson (1942), Bud Rothschild (1938), Nancy Sutherland (NTCI Foundation, Advisory Board Chair).

Thank you Nancy Sutherland!

Nancy Sutherland's (Class of 1961) three-year term as Chair of the NTCI Foundation's Advisory Board – the alumni association by any other name – comes to an end this June, 2003.

Not only did Nancy represent North Toronto alumni at a variety of school events (see the Remembrance Day photo above), but she was also an extraordinary leader who brought both professionalism and purpose to the day-to-day activities of the Board.

While Nancy will remain an Advisory Board member, the Chair position will pass to Neal Irwin (Class of 1950) and Carole Whelan (NTCI staff member since 1984).

On behalf of all alumni, thank you, Nancy, for your great work!

Owner of lost diary found

Remember the article in last year's newsletter about the recently discovered 1942 diary of NTCI student Joyce Venning? It was found by North Toronto resident Anthony Cesta when renovating his house at 132 Roselawn Avenue – but he was unable to locate the diary's owner.

Thanks to a *Foundation News* reader, Joyce was located, alive and well and living in Penetanguishene, and the diary was presented to her at NTCI in March of last year. Anyone who attended the 90th Anniversary Reunion will also recall that excerpts from the diary were featured in "The Show" that took place in the school auditorium.

For Joyce Venning (now Joyce Bray), it was a once-in-lifetime opportunity to get reacquainted with her 15-year-old self from so many years ago.

In her letter to the Foundation, Joyce stated that "the whole experience has been extremely rewarding. Lots of memories came back, and I had a lot of fun sharing them with relatives and friends, who think the whole diary story is a fascinating one, as do I. So thanks again for bringing to life this marvelous experience for all of us to share."

And thanks to you Joyce, for helping us uncover an interesting slice of NTCI history.



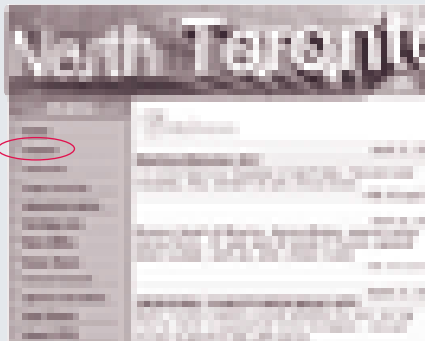
During her visit to the school in March 2002, Joyce is presented with her diary by NTCI student Maya Nathwani.

Top: Joyce in 1944 – front row in the white blouse.

Looking for a missing classmate?

If you want to locate an NTCI grad or former staff member you've lost touch with, here are some good places to start your search.

- **Check the alumni email database**, at www.ntci.on.ca. Just click on the "Alumni" link on the left navigation bar, then choose "Alumni email database" from the list of options. You will be prompted to enter a Username ("Alumni") and a Password ("Reunion"). You can send an email to any alumni name shown in blue simply by clicking on the name.
- **Check other alumni websites**, such as www.classmates.com. There are currently over 2,200 NTCI alumni registered on that site alone. It's free to register your name on the site, and free to check who else is registered, but you may have to pay a membership fee if you wish to contact someone through the website.
- **Send us a message**, by emailing ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca. You can ask for your message to be posted in a future issue of *Foundation News*. We plan on establishing a "Reconnection Page" for future issues.



Looking for news about the new NTCI? Visit www.ntci.on.ca

If you have internet access, be sure to check out the new features on the NTCI website. Of particular interest to alumni is the link to progress reports on the building of the new NTCI (click on "The New NTCI" on the left-side navigation bar).

Advisory Board Members 2002-2003

Hugh Alexander (1949)
Diana (Wishart) Cape (1980)
Bill Clark (1952)
Lorraine Clarkson (1971)
Sarah Eshelby (1983)
Mike Filey (1961)
John Fowler (1951)
Bill Hammond (Retired Staff)
Neal Irwin (1950)
Ian Macdonald (1948)
Beth Montgomery (1979)
Janet Russell (1981)
Paul Russell (1979)
John Selby (1948)
Nancy (Caldecott) Sutherland (1961)
Susan Thornburrow (1975)
Ian Waldron (Retired Staff)
Ashley Waltman (Current Principal)
Carole Whelan (Current Staff)
Mary Kay Winter (1961)
Cornell Wright (1992)
Vicky Zeltins (1985)

Looking for the latest student news and views?

Check out the online home of Graffiti, the student voice of NTCI, at www.graffitinews.com, or simply click on Graffiti on the left-side navigation bar on the NTCI home page.