

**A Glimpse of the Past**



George Reed and the members of his Literary Society, 1911. This wonderful photo was provided by Ian McClelland, whose grandmother, Myrtle Armstrong, stands to the far right. Mr. Reid, of course, sits in the front, surrounded by a number of North Toronto's earliest students.

I'm sure that most of us at one time or another reflect back on the good (and not so good) times we had during the five or, for some of us, the six years we spent at good old NTCI. On the other hand, we very seldom, if ever, think about the man who started it all, the school's founder, George H. Reed. According to his obituary in the Evening Telegram newspaper, Reed was born in Belleville, Ontario on May 10, 1859. As a child, he moved with his parents to Kincardine where he attended public and high schools. Upon graduation, Reed came to



The original North Toronto High School was built to the design of architect Forsey Page.

**The Brief Story of George H. Reed, the Founder of NTCI**

Toronto and attended the University of Toronto from which he received a degree in Paedagogy, the science of teaching.

In the years that followed, Reed taught at schools in Napanee and Bradford before being assigned a position at the Markham High School.

In 1910, two years before the community was to be annexed by the City of Toronto, the fast-growing Town of North Toronto found itself in need of a school where the local

children could continue their post-primary school education. Reed learned of the town's requirement and, using his powers of persuasion, was able to convince the local officials that he was the person to get that new high school up and running. In late 1910, the new North Toronto High School's first five students began attending George Reed's classes in a small room on the second floor of the old Town Hall at the northwest corner of Yonge Street and Montgomery Avenue.

By April of the following year, the enrolment had jumped to 30 pupils and the town school board hired a second teacher to assist Reed. As the year drew to a close, town officials realized that the school, which by now occupied the entire top floor of the Town Hall and had four teachers on staff, had outgrown its original home. On October 2, 1911, the school board empowered two of its officials (one being the chairman J.W. Brownlow for whom Brownlow Avenue is

named) to search out a site for a new school building. Six months passed and, at the board meeting held on May 6, 1912, the sum of \$50,000 was approved for the acquisition of three properties fronting on Broadway Avenue and owned by Messrs. Maguire, Rennie and McKinley, with the major portion of that amount earmarked for the erection of a two-storey, five-room high school building "to the design of Toronto architect Forsey Page" to be erected "as far to the south on these properties as possible." This latter instruction accounts for the school's large playing field lying adjacent to Broadway Avenue.

Unfortunately for the officials and other civic dignitaries, December 2, 1912, the day the cornerstone of the new North Toronto High School was to be tapped into place, and a mere 13 days before the town would become a part of the City of Toronto, dawned wet and dreary. As a result, the obligatory ceremonies were delayed by two days. Several months would pass before the first classes were able to cross a muddy Yonge Street from the old Town Hall and open their books in George Reed's new high school.

George H. Reed died on December 19, 1931, and is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The name of his beloved high school is proudly listed on his headstone.



Mike Filey (Class of '61)

**Class Reunions**

Seventy-five graduates, their spouses, and special guest Betty Bealey celebrated the Golden Anniversary of the NT Class of '49 at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club in September.



Aileen (McCrae) and Don Waters with Devon (White) and Marv Green at the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations of the Class of '49.

The Class of '89 partied at the Acrobat Club in November. Some 200 former students and staff guests (including Carole Whelan and Brian Johnston) toasted the tenth anniversary of their graduation. We are told that the revelry lasted well into the early hours and included a hastily added opportunity for a Sunday brunch!

Interested in planning or hosting a gathering for your former classmates? The new century and the new millenium provide the perfect opportunity! Let the Foundation know if we can help with names and addresses. Contact Jessica Escott who works to keep our mailing lists up to date (752-3241).

**Timely Tidbits & Terrific Trivia**

Our Senior and Junior Strings, Chamber Strings, Symphonic Band, Junior Band, Choirs and other smaller ensembles participated in a total of 21 classes at this year's Kiwanis Music Festival. They placed first, second or third in all classes save one, a tribute to the hard work that more than 300 performers and their teachers devote to music on a daily basis. The Orchestra, with three first place finishes, appeared in the Festival of the Stars at the Ford Centre and the Sounds of Toronto at Massey Hall.

This year's three-day edition of Maytime Melodies was the 54<sup>th</sup> series of con-

certs to showcase the long tradition of musical excellence at the school.

Did you know that Danny Russell will enter his 28<sup>th</sup> season as football coach this fall? During his time as coach, Danny's teams have appeared in 9 championship games and have been City Champs three times.

Speaking of longevity, "Hal" Brown has recently embarked upon his 54<sup>th</sup> year of coaching at NT! His early morning arrivals on the backfield and his commitment to the rigours and rhythms of training continue to be an inspiration to our young track and field athletes.

**Help Us Keep You Up to Date!**

If you have received this mailing in some indirect way, we would be more than happy to correct your mailing address in our alumni files. In fact, we are quite anxious to update our files because we really want to keep in touch with you! We are also keen to learn about your latest adventures. Keep us posted about new family, new jobs, new

hobbies, new travels – in short, the new you! Send your change of address and your personal news to

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**Foundation Advisory Board**

Hugh Alexander	'49	John Fowler	'51
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Mike Filey	'61	Ashley Waltman	principal



Spring 2000



**From "The Office"**



Ashley Waltman, photographed with the new digital camera, is the new Principal of North Toronto

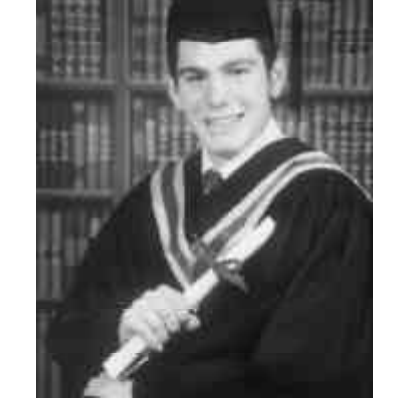
both D.A. Morrison Junior High School and Marc Gameau Collegiate before coming to North Toronto.

After being at North Toronto Collegiate for the past seven months, I can understand the affinity that alumni hold for this institution. The building is bustling with productive energy. The learning that takes place and relationships that are formed in this enriching environment last a lifetime.

It has been a distinct pleasure working with the executive of the North Toronto Collegiate Foundation. The sense of history, tradition, and continuity that they provide is very important to an administrator new to both the school and the former board. At November's 86<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises, I had the pleasure of witnessing 198 proud young adults receive their diplomas from North Toronto C.I. Approximately ninety percent of these students have continued their studies at the university level. More than fifty percent of the graduates received Ontario Scholarships in recognition of having achieved at least eighty percent in their OAC studies. Some of our very best scholars and citizens received awards from the Foundation (the Senator Keith Davey, Betty Bealey, and Hal Brown Awards, the Kerr and Sifton Trophies, and the R.H.H. Page Valedictory Prize) and from endowment funds recognizing the achievements and contributions of past leaders of the school (George Reed, W. J. Houston, Jack Dow, Clarence Brennand, Dr. George Klinck, Douglas Lumb, Tim and Helen Gibson, Lynn MacGillivray, Mary James, and Gladys Lewis). The new recipients of these awards recognize the history and tradition of academic and extracurricular excellence that is North Toronto Collegiate.

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**The Current Scene**



Doug is the current President of the Student Council. He has recently been named a winner of the Chancellor's Scholarship at Queen's University.

What a wonderful school year this has been! The fall began with an enthusiastic Welcome Back Assembly and Lawn Party, and the spirit never faltered: Red and Grey Day, semi-formal dances, Charity Week, and a host of successful extra-curricular initiatives.

North Toronto continues to foster school spirit with the annual Red and Grey Day. This event celebrates the strong athletic and extra-curricular accomplishments of the school. Homeforms are judged on the creativity of their room decoration, their red and grey clothing, and their singing of the school song. Winners are announced at a midday pep rally featuring the fall athletic program, music and skits, lots of wacky costumes, and enough cheering to raise the roof of the auditorium. The student body marches to Northern behind our very own NT Marching Band for the annual Red and Grey football match. Naturally, we won the game again this year!

Charity Week occurred in late January and was a huge success. Our charity this year was Camp Chrysalis, a camp for children infected with HIV.

Not only was it an opportunity to display our school spirit once again, but we raised \$14,000. This amount will allow 28 children and their families to benefit from this camp. Some of the highlights of Charity Week included a student/teacher floor hockey game, a council/administration pie eating contest, a

teacher auction, and gladiator.

During the year, NT also demonstrated its prowess in interscholastic activities. A member of our debating team, Jay Nathwani, represented Canada at the World Debating Championships. In female athletics, our field hockey, ice hockey and basketball teams won city championships. In male athletics, our football team played in the city championship, and our volleyball and ice hockey teams reached the semi-final round. As the spring season commences, there is promise of further success.

As always, North Toronto has been a lively and spirited school throughout the year. The dynamic combination of enthusiastic students, dedicated staff, and supportive administrators guarantees that this trend will continue.

Douglas Wright (Class of 2000)