



Foundation News

The Voice of NTCI Alumni



NTCI friendships

More reasons than ever to reconnect

Maybe it was the 90th anniversary reunion in 2002. Or the news that the old school was coming down, and a new one built in its place. Or maybe people are just looking for a personal reconnection after years of voicemail and email.

Whatever the reason, we've noticed lately a lot of grassroots interest in reconnecting among NTCI grads and former staff. And that's where the NTCI Foundation can help.

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Update on the building of the new NTCI. See [page 3](#)

We profile past student leaders throughout the decades on [page 5](#)

Do you remember the 1944 Senior Football City Champions? See [page 8](#)

We can help you reconnect

One of the missions of the Foundation is to keep in touch with former NTCI students and staff and to help individual alumni connect with each other. While personal privacy concerns prevent us from providing public access to the alumni database, we're working to make it easier for you to reconnect. Here's what we'll be undertaking in the months (and years) ahead:

- **Establish year captains:** With the building of the new NTCI over the next few years, there will be a number of events and campaigns that will involve alumni. We're currently working to establish a year captain to act as main contact for each NTCI grad class, so you'll have a contact person for your year.
- **Organize 100th anniversary of NTCI:** If you thought the 90th anniversary reunion was a hoot, what until the 100th in 2012! Yes, it's seven years away, but we're already working to ensure we launch NTCI's second century in style. Between now and 2012, we'll be making a concerted effort to increase our alumni list, and to maintain contact with the over 8,000 grads and former staff who are currently on the list.
- **Maintain alumni web site:** The web is becoming an increasingly important information source – and we want to ensure that the alumni section of the NTCI website at www.ntci.on.ca has information you can use to maintain your high school connections. We currently maintain the alumni email database from the 90th anniversary reunion and we post the current and past issues of this newsletter on the site.

In addition, we recently set up an Alumni Message Board on the alumni section of the website. If you are promoting a reunion, or are trying to locate an old friend, you can post your message on the Message Board by sending an email request to us at ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca.

Two easy ways to help us stay connected

A prime mission of the Foundation is to keep in touch with former NTCI students and staff and to help individual alumni stay connected with each other. You can help us do this in two ways:

- **Provide us with your email address.** Email is not only the most efficient way to find alumni and stay in touch, it's also the most cost-effective. Please help us expand our alumni email database. At the bottom of the insert to this newsletter, you'll find an email address request form. Please complete the form and send it back to us in the self-addressed envelope provided. Or simply email us your information at ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca.
- **Help us with a donation.** Even as a volunteer organization, we have fixed costs that require ongoing funding, from the annual commencement awards and scholarships we provide to the mailing of this newsletter. Our only source of funding is the generosity of NTCI alumni. Your tax-receiptable donation is both needed and appreciated.

Two ways to make your tax-receiptable donation

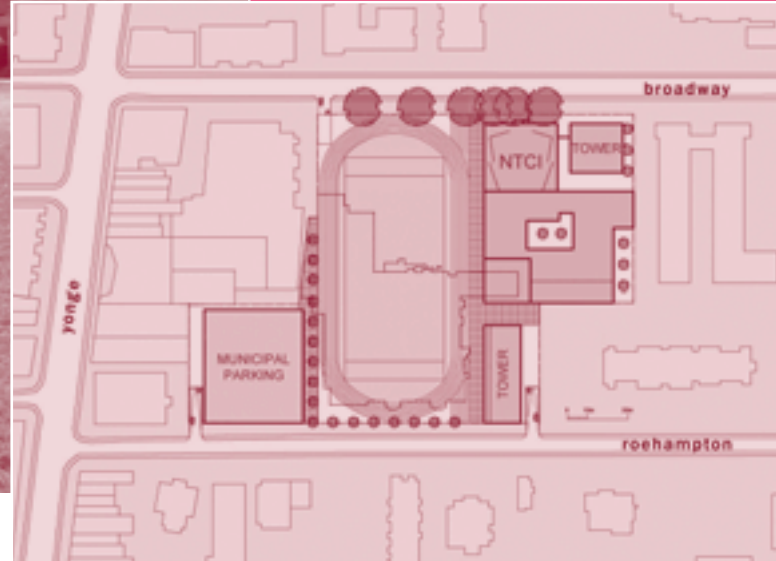
- **Instant tax receipt when you donate online.** On the alumni section of www.ntci.on.ca, click on the "Make a donation" link, and you can make a secure, online donation to the NTCI Foundation. It's the easiest way to give, and a tax-receipt is emailed to you instantly. There is no waiting for the receipt you need when you file your tax return.
- **Enclosed donation form.** If you prefer to donate by mail, you'll find a donation form at the bottom of the insert to this newsletter. Please complete the form and mail it along with your cheque in the self-addressed envelope provided.

**No matter how you choose to donate,
the NTCI Foundation appreciates your support!**





Left: Principal Ashley Waltman gets ready for the big dig on the site of the new NTCl
Below: Site plan for the new NTCl



New NTCl to open no later than Fall 2009

As the *Foundation News* went to press, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) was just weeks away from selecting the developer/architect team that will design and construct the new NTCl school building and neighbouring condominium towers.

This process started on July 30, 2004 when the TDSB asked interested developers to submit a formal proposal for the development of the school and the two condominium towers on land that will be severed from the existing school site (the current school parking lot and a small parcel of land on the north-east corner of the property).

The TDSB received ten responses. A series of follow-up questions narrowed the field down to five potential candidates, and then finally to three candidates for interviews in January

of this year. The interview process was conducted by a 16-person selection committee, which included school principal Ashley Waltman. The winning bid is expected to be announced in June.

While construction of the new school could begin as early as the spring of 2006, the most likely construction start times are the fall of 2006 or the spring of 2007. But no matter when construction starts, the developer agreement specifies that the school must open no later than the fall of 2009 – three years before the school's 100th anniversary in 2012.

Quick facts about the new NTCl

- The school will have the first new concert hall/auditorium built by a Toronto school board in 45 years, along with new music practice and storage rooms. Could this be Toronto's first "on-Broadway" theatre facility?
- All parking will be underground, providing space for a regulation-size track and playing field running north-south between Broadway and Roehampton
- The library will be built on two floors, expanding from the present 1,400 square feet (smallest library in the TDSB) to 4,000 square feet. It will be able to house almost double the number of books, with a substantial increase in the number of computers as well.

Penny for her thoughts?

Sheila Penny spent 10 years as a design architect with Moriyama & Teshima, the Toronto-based Canadian architecture firm. Her previous architectural project experience includes working on the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, and the North York Civic Centre. Now with the Toronto District School Board, she's responsible for the project that has captured the imagination of many of us – the building of the new NTCI.



By Pippa Wysong

Sheila Penny is no stranger to rebuilding, fixing and maintaining schools. As the executive superintendent for facility services for the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), she oversees the well-being of 558 schools.

Those schools are “all in various stages of maintenance. They all have different needs,” she told NT Foundation News.

She works with a staff of over 3,000 in facility services, doing everything from the small to the large when it comes to dealing with the physical structure of schools.

“We’re charged with any design issues, construction, maintenance, care taking, planning, energy management, standards, compliance. Anything to do with a school facility falls under the jurisdiction of facility services. We provide the container and teachers provide the content,” she said.

NTCI on Broadway

NTCI is one of the larger projects around these days because the building is to be replaced, and condominium towers will be placed on a part of the property. Penny is sensitive to what needs to go into a new building because of her original training as an architect.

Prior to coming to the TDSB, Penny worked for the former North York Board Of Education in a similar capacity. In fact, one of the projects she was involved in was the rebuilding of Earl Haig Secondary School in North York, a school that was highlighted recently in Maclean’s magazine.

Over time, and with the experience brought in by people from the different school boards via amalgamation, the TDSB has been refining the processes behind rebuilding schools. One of those refinements is the inclusion of a wider variety of stakeholders.

“Since amalgamation, we’ve been working through a process of what we call local school-community design teams that are fully engaged in the design of every major project that we do. We do better projects when we consult with the people who will be using the buildings and the neighbours in the communities they sit within,” she said.

Local residents inside

Each project brings its own set of experiences and new ideas, and NTCI is no exception. Penny says she learns something new with each project.

Indeed, the NTCI project led to a first for the Board. For the first time ratepayers were consulted on a project. More than that, when it came to the NTCI project, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Board and the ratepayers.

“We actually came to an agreement with the local ratepayers’ association representative as to what they could support in terms of residential development on the site. That’s been very instrumental in helping set the early stages of the project. We hadn’t formalized an understanding with the community in an agreement, and this is the first time that we’ve done that,” she said.

In the end, the new NT will be a building that will have had the input of parents, students, teachers, alumni, administrators, trustees, superintendents, ratepayers and other stakeholders.

And just what will the students of NTCI end up with?

“They’ll end up with an amazing school facility that they will have been instrumental in helping us shape as we move through the design process,” she said.

Your NTCl student leaders – Where are they now?

Our school has produced a number of alumni who have gone on to become Canadian leaders – in the arts, sciences, business, and politics. But many of these individuals, plus a number of others, were also exceptional student leaders who put their heart and soul into the school during their time at NTCl – the student council presidents, Kerr and Sifton trophy winners, athletes of the year, and class valedictorians.

Where are our former student leaders today? In this issue, we highlight three of the leaders from the two most recently completed alumni decades, the 1980s and 1990s. We'll profile student leaders from other decades in upcoming issues.



Michael Ward

(Class of '86)

*President of the Student Council
and winner of the Sifton Trophy*

What is your fondest memory of NT?

One memory that resonates is singing the school song after events in the auditorium – I still remember the words. And I loved training with the cross-country running team at Sherwood Park during those crisp, sunny fall afternoons.

And your funniest experience?

Delivering my student council election speech in the auditorium in May, 1985. To the horror of the staff and the delight of the students, I wore shorts, knee socks, a t-shirt, a tuxedo jacket, and a red bow tie – and promised the moon.

What's the one accomplishment in high school you're most proud of?

When I walked out of the school on my last day of Grade 13, after five years of growth and tumult, I was still friends with some of the same people I walked in with on the first day of Grade 9, although I had also made many new friends. To be awarded the Sifton Trophy by my fellow graduates was an added bonus.

What have you been up to since you graduated from NT?

I attended Western for undergrad and U of T law school. Since then, I've practised corporate law at a couple of Toronto firms and spent four years working at an international firm in London, England. London was wonderful, and my stint there allowed me to travel throughout Europe. My brother David (Class of '84) and my sister Paige (Class of '89) are both lawyers, but at least we have different specialties!

What are your plans for the future?

I hope my future is full of surprises, and that I retain some of the idealism that we all had as students at NT.



Sunny Kwon

(Class of '91)

*Class Valedictorian
and winner of the Kerr Trophy*

What is your fondest memory of NT?

The antics of some of the teachers! They would flail their arms, jump on tables, raise their voices dramatically, even demand pushups. It's amazing, really, what they did to grab our attention. I don't mean to make fun of them or belittle them in any way. On the contrary, I think that this was very much a part of their commitment to us.

What was your funniest experience as a student at NT?

Sleeping in and missing half my biology exam – the funny part was that I didn't get up until 2 in the afternoon, which was when the exam started. I jumped out of bed and broke all records for my normal 45-minute trek to school. I can still recall my friend shaking his head once the exam was over, remarking that I "looked like hell." You'd think that I'd look better, after getting so much sleep!

If you were to rewind your life and go back to high school, what would you do differently, knowing what you know now?

High school was an awkward and somewhat difficult time for me. I was so worried about keeping up appearances, and being and doing what people expected of me. If I were to do it all over again, I would open up more and get beyond the "labels" so that people could get to know me, and I could get to know them, better.

What have you been up to since you graduated from NT?

I spent four years in undergraduate studies at McMaster, and then three years in law school at Queens. Seven years of school sounds like a long time, but those years seemed to just fly by. For almost five years now, I have been working as counsel at the Ministry of the Attorney General.

What are your plans for the future?

I would like to lead a healthy, active life, surrounded by family and friends. I would love to find an object, or a purpose, upon which to focus my energy and talent (whatever that might be), but if that doesn't happen, I am quite content to continue on my current path.

Continued on next page



Joanna (Leech) Thiessen

(Class of '96)

*President of the Student Council,
Class Valedictorian,
and winner of the Kerr Trophy*

What is your fondest memory of NT?

When I think back to my NT days, one of the things I remember most fondly is how multicultural the school was. I grew up in a fairly “waspy” neighbourhood, and attending a high school full of people of all different colours and backgrounds was an invaluable experience. I remember diversity being embraced at North Toronto – it didn’t matter what you looked like, you joined the clubs you wanted to join, and it seemed that everyone just sort of mixed and mingled.

What was your funniest experience as a student at NT?

Playing hockey! With absolutely zero prior experience and very limited skating skills, Julia Porter and I could never stay upright, hold a stick, and maneuver a puck at the same time. During a game that we were winning by quite a margin, the coach actually let us on the ice together. Well, our moment had come: we skated in tandem towards our opponent's net, the puck steady on my stick...the pass to Juls, and she one-timed it right into the goal! We were so shocked! We fell to the ice, laughing and crying at the same time! What a scene!

What’s the one accomplishment in high school you’re most proud of?

At the time, a lot of what I did in high school seemed important, but armed with a more “big-picture” perspective on life, I wonder if I actually had a long-term impact on anyone or anything! I do feel good about Leadership 2000, the conference I co-organized which brought together young women from all over Toronto to discuss our role as leaders of tomorrow.

I hope that the small-group sessions (led by female leaders in our community) inspired and encouraged the young women who attended. I must say that the friendships I made in high school have remained a very important part of my life. They are blessings rather than “accomplishments.”

What have you been up to since you graduated from NT?

After an honours degree in biology from the University of Guelph, I embarked on an incredible adventure to Africa with my husband Brook. In Madagascar, we worked as volunteers on an education project, delivering solar-powered and wind-up radios to small villages all over the country. We backpacked through Malawi, Zambia, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. We were married on Table Mountain outside of Capetown.

I am currently in my third year at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine. During the summers, I have been working at Paul Newman’s summer camp in Connecticut for children with chronic blood-related diseases.

What are your plans for the future?

Certainly my future will involve more international travel and volunteer work. I would like to start a wellness centre to practice naturopathic medicine in a team environment. Brook and I would like to raise a family outside of the “big city.” I hope always to be an active member of my community and to be a force of positive change in the world.

Help us find the student leaders of yesteryear!

We want to profile student leaders from other decades – the 1930s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s – but we need your help in finding them.

If you were a student leader (student council president, valedictorian, Kerr or Sifton Trophy winner) from the past, or know of another student leader that we could profile, please email us at ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca, or write us at:

NTCI Foundation
70 Roehampton Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1R2

Today's NTCl

You graduated from NTCl decades ago. Things were different back then. The mud on Yonge Street was a difficult slog on early spring days, there was neither transportation nor a sandwich shop called Subway, and if you were late for cadets again, you'd surely get a caning.

If you're feeling a little behind the times, here are a few statistics that provide a snapshot of today's NTCl – and can help bring you up to date. It's clear that the tradition of excellence at NTCl is as strong today as ever. But whether you graduated from NTCl 15 years ago or 50, there's one certainty we all share – change of some kind is inevitable.

– By the numbers

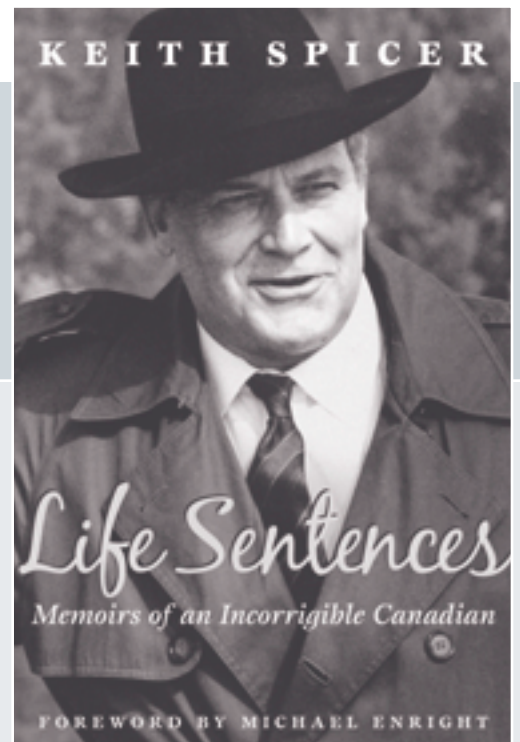
Number of experienced teachers who applied for a teaching position at NTCl in 2004:	121
Number of vacant teaching positions available:	3
Number of principals NTCl has had in its 93 year history:	8
Shortest serving term of a principal: (and counting, by current Principal Ashley Waltman)	6 years
Number of Grade 8 students applying for admission to NTCl for the 2005-06 school year:	398
Number of Grade 8 students accepted for Grade 9 in 2005-06:	245
Number of Grade 8 applicants who live in the NTCl district:	69
Number of different junior high and senior public schools that next year's Grade 9 class will come from:	33
Percentage of current NTCl Grade 9 students who read religious or spiritual writings on a weekly basis:	12
Percentage of current NTCl Grade 9 students who go online to use the web, email or chat on a weekly basis:	84
Percentage of Toronto District School Board grade 10 students who passed the 2005 Ontario Secondary Schools Literary Test:	76
Percentage of NTCl grade 10 students who passed the test:	98
Ranking of NTCl among TDSB high schools based on 2005 test results:	1



NTCl grad relishes spice of life

Keith Spicer (NTCl grad of 1952) has had an extraordinary career, including stints as Canada's first commissioner of official languages, CRTC chairman, prominent French and English TV host, syndicated columnist, and editor of the Ottawa Citizen.

His new book, *Life Sentences*, is a personal account of his life, including a few snippets from his early years at NTCl. Our congratulations to Keith on a lifetime of accomplishments, and a wonderful book for all to share.





Back Row (left to right):
John Walcot, Peter Whyte, Frank Ruhl,
Bev Johnston, Ed Ounjian, Jim Howarth,
Peter Cranston, Gord MacKendrick,
Frank Clifton

Front Row (left to right):
Al Crawford, Don Hunt, Doug Harcourt,
Drew Allin, Jack MacRae, Jim Hubbard

Football glory of 1944 – sixty years later

Inspired by Al Crawford's motto – "the older we get, the better we used to be" – fifteen members of NTCI's City Champion Senior Football Team of 1944 gathered on September 28, 2004 for a reunion, posing for what they cheerfully describe as a "survivor's photo."

It was clear from the invitation sent to the remaining team members that age hadn't diminished the group's sense of humour and camaraderie. The reunion time was set for 11:30 am, "allowing plenty of time to get home for your afternoon nap."

The team has been meeting annually for years, but the 60th was indeed a special event. Congratulations again to our city champions of 1944, both for their talented play on the field, and their ability to keep the NTCI spirit alive 60 years later.

Advisory Board Members 2004-2005

Nancy Baines (Retired Staff)
Desmond Brett ('77)
Bill Clark ('52)
Lorraine Clarkson ('71)
Nelson Eng ('92)
Mike Filey ('61)
John Fowler ('51)
Andy Georgiades ('92)
Bill Hammond (Retired Staff)
Neal Irwin ('50)
Cathie Lowes ('69)
Beth Montgomery ('79)
Andrew Ogilvie ('90)
Paul Raff ('86)
Janet Russell ('81)
Paul Russell ('79)
Nancy (Caldecott) Sutherland ('61)
Ashley Waltman (Current Principal)
Carole Whelan (Current Staff)
Mary Kay (Hartman) Winter ('61)
Pippa Wysong ('79)
Vicky Zeltins ('85)

Organizing a reunion? Try the NTCI Alumni Message Board

If you're organizing an NTCI-related reunion, a great way to advertise the event and keep people up-to-date is by posting a message on the Alumni Message Board at www.ntci.on.ca.

To post a message on the Message Board, you can send your posting request to us by email at ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca. You can also post any updates as your event draws nearer.

To view the Message Board, just choose "Alumni" from the NTCI home page navigation bar, then click on the Message Board link.

Moving? Changing your email? Let us know!

To continue receiving this newsletter, as well as timely information on reunions and alumni events, you need to tell us how to reach you if you move or change your email address. You can keep us up-to-date by emailing us at ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca, or writing us at:

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