



Neal Irwin Steps Down from NTCI Foundation

**You can take the boy out of the school,
but you can't take the school out of the boy!**



Neal A. Irwin 1950
The Class of 1921 Scholarship in
Mathematics and Science,
Victoria College

When Neal Irwin graduated from NT in 1950, he could never have predicted that he would return to his alma mater fifty years later to chair the North Toronto Foundation and lead it through its most challenging and interesting times. Neal joined the Board in 2000, became co-chair in 2003 and from 2009 served as chair for three years. During that time, he patiently shepherded us through the challenges associated with moving to the new school and planning the 100th Reunion in 2012.

Neal provided a very strong voice for the Foundation and alumni on the Design Team, a committee composed of TDSB personnel, NT staff, parents, students and alumni working with the architects to shape the new school. He strongly advocated for the creation of the Heritage Courtyard to preserve the spirit and architectural features of the old building, and spearheaded the Red and Grey Campaign, which raised over \$300,000—money that was dedicated to furnishing the Heritage Room, providing the playing-field scoreboard and turf, and upgrading display areas and the archives.

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At the same time, Neal worked diligently to organize the 100th Reunion; that planning process took over four years. He played a key role in establishing the committees, finding volunteers and dealing with the financial issues.

Neal's skills in these areas were developed at an early age. His father was the editor of *Maclean's* magazine, and Neal grew up with a wonderful background in the exchange of ideas and the exercise of imagination, but with a very pragmatic bent. Postwar Canada offered exciting opportunities for a dedicated young man, and Neal seems to have taken every advantage of what was on offer. He studied hard at NT, played the violin, was active in student life and graduated with the Victoria College Class of 1921 Scholarship in Mathematics and Science. Wanting to broaden his scope, he took social and philosophy studies at Victoria College in his first year, then switched to engineering physics and graduated in 1955. The next few years were varied: two years on a fellowship with English Electric in the U.K.; a job with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., designing the Bruce Nuclear Power station; then a switch in focus—the new field of computer programming and traffic research. At KCS Neal worked with the recently developed mainframe computers, designing forecasting models to improve urban transportation. A new subsidiary was formed, and soon he was working for Traffic Research Corporation, which sent him

off to New York in 1960 to open a branch there. He returned to Toronto in 1965, working for TRC as a consultant in city planning, urban policy and transportation. In 1974, he and an architect colleague formed IBI Group, focusing on urban development with other like-minded partners. The firm grew rapidly, expanded into the rest of Canada and the U.S. and is today a highly respected international company. Neal was managing director for about thirty years and continues to consult with them to this day. Carol, his wife of almost 50 years, died a few years ago, but he still enjoys the company of his four children and his grandchildren.

After 14 years of giving generously of his time and experience, Neal has resigned from the North Toronto Foundation, which has benefited greatly from his business, managerial and personal skills and—most importantly—his exceptional level of commitment to the school. It is due in large part to him that we have a new school that honours its heritage and that the 100th Reunion was a success. It was entirely fitting that, when he stepped down as chair of the Foundation in 2012, NT students presented him with the John “Coach” Taylor Award, in appreciation of his dedication and passion for NT. His generous spirit and inclusiveness continue to be deeply felt by everyone on the Foundation, and we wish him only the very best for the future.

Carole Whelan Retires from Foundation

One of the school's most significant contributors is retiring from the NT Foundation after 14 years. Carole Whelan, who played key roles in NT's 90th and 100th Reunions, was a steadfast and active member of the Foundation and an effective liaison between the current students of the school and the alumni.

Carole started her tenure at NT in 1984; over the years, she coached badminton, organized the GAA and played significant roles on the executive of the TSSWAA, including president twice.

But her greatest achievement was reaching her students and stimulating their curiosity in the classroom. Carole engaged her history and anthropology students by passing on her passion for learning. One of her former students, Anne Chamberlain, now head of Girls' Phys. Ed. at NT, describes Carole as “a fantastic role model for students, a mentor for teachers, a true professional, and a good friend who is always looking for a good laugh.”

And that love of a good laugh meant that Carole often pulled pranks and practical jokes on her colleagues, hiding her devious side behind her innocent-looking face!

Even though she will no longer attend Foundation meetings, we hope that Carole will continue to be involved with school events and functions. Thank you, Carole, for your leadership, contributions, genuine caring and tireless efforts to make North Toronto such a dynamic educational institution. You are an example for us all to emulate. Congratulations and thanks!





Class of '65 Fifty-Year Reunion Weekend

In the lead-up to NTCI's 100th, a number of us from the Class of '65 got together and hatched plans to attend the celebrations as a group—which we did. So it was a natural progression for us to then plan a 50-year reunion celebration for 2015, gathering emails from any source we could access.

Our efforts came to fruition on the last weekend of April, and we began our reunion on the Friday with a tour of the “new” school, led by Principal Joel Gorenkoff. This was followed by a pub night just down the street at the Duke of Kent. We were pleased that our teachers Mr. Neal and Mr. Nicholson joined us for these events! Name tags with our grad photos and first names in LARGE PRINT were a big help as we reconnected, many for the first time in 50 years.

On the Saturday, 58 of us headed to a classmate's farm in Erin for a terrific day of sharing by our authors and entertainers, and of just enjoying catching up. How wonderful that Mr. Huntington, remembered by many as our “mad scientist,” was able to join us there! Several of us stayed over at local B&B's in the Erin area, and ten of us gathered for breakfast the next morning to finish off our weekend of fun.

Many of us have commented on how our years at NT, and our many excellent teachers, were really crucial to our future success, even if we weren't aware of it at the time. Great photos have been shared on YouTube and Flickr, and we are already talking about the next gathering—but not waiting 50 years this time!

If you wish to have the links to these or want to be added to our distribution list (if, for instance, you are a '65 Grad we have missed), please contact Janice (White) Gillespie at janicegillespie@rogers.com.

Maytime Melodies fanfare, 1969.
Jenny is on the bottom left.

And the Band Plays On...

Thanks to the initiative and talents of NT alumna Jennifer (Jenny) Peace ('71), Ontario's City of Burlington is now home to a New Horizons Band—a musical group for mature adults who have always wanted to play a band instrument and for those who once played and want to again.

Jenny was bitten by the music bug in Bud Hill's music class, where she chose the trumpet and, never one to pass on a challenge, stuck to it—determined, to quote Bud, not to “play like a girl.” At Queen's University, she started out as an English major but switched to music education after spending most of first year hanging around the music building. Now retired from an illustrious teaching career with the Halton District School Board, Jenny continues to pursue her love of music as a performer in the Oakville Symphony (and other groups) and as Clarkson Music Theatre's music director. Through her commitment to music education and lifelong learning, she connected with the New Horizons International Music Association (<http://newhorizonsmusic.org/concept-and-philosophy/>). Inspired by their inclusive philosophy that “every person has musical potential that can be developed,” Jenny brought the program to Burlington in 2012.

In January 2015, she and her 26-member band were featured in an article in the Hamilton Spectator (<http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5295921-it-s-never-too-late-to-join-the-band/>), and since then more budding musicians have joined to swell the ranks. For Jenny, the reward is “seeing people accomplish something they thought they couldn't do” and sharing her passion for music—a passion that began at NTCI.



The NTCI Foundation: All about Us

Who We Are

The NTCI Foundation is an advisory board of about 25 members—comprising alumni, retired staff, student representatives and the current principal—who meet at the school six times a year with the goal, outlined in our mission statement, of preserving “the rich heritage and reputation of NTCI as a fine example of public education by supporting current students through scholarships and grants; promoting and encouraging alumni events; and facilitating ongoing communication between and among alumni and the school.”

Scholarships

We fund several scholarship prizes (see page 8 for a complete list), which are awarded at Commencement to reward academic and extra-curricular achievement. This past year, Co-Chair Ron Wakelin had the pleasure of presenting the Sifton Trophy, which he himself had won fifty years prior!

Here Be Dragons

Throughout the school year, our activity grants support worthwhile student projects that cannot be funded from normal school resources. The Foundation contributes funds toward such things as the publication of the school newspaper, *Graffiti*, and the Remembrance Day assembly. Most recently, the Foundation gave funds toward the music trip to Copenhagen. Student groups apply for these grants in person in Dragon’s Den-like sessions. (We are the friendliest dragons you could ever hope to meet!). It is a delight and an inspiration for us to meet these enterprising, imaginative and talented students and to allocate funds toward helping them achieve their goals.

Preserving Our Heritage

We take our heritage preservation mandate seriously, not only maintaining an archive in which the school’s wealth of photographs, yearbooks and assorted memorabilia is collected, preserved, restored and catalogued, but also ensuring that a rotating selection of these are displayed in cases throughout the school so that current students can connect with NT’s great heritage. In 2013, the Foundation also funded the athletic banners that now hang in the school gym—a tie that binds the alumni achievements with the school’s current athletes.

The Alumni Community

Finally, we strive to give our alumni a sense of community. This newsletter and our website are aimed at keeping alumni connected with each other and with current students. Alumni events, such as Red and Grey Day, are great opportunities for alumni to experience the NTCI of today—as vibrant a school community as the one we so fondly remember!

You’re Just What We’re Looking For!

We would welcome your participation! Let us know if you can

- write copy for the newsletter
- help maintain our membership database/ mailing list
- help maintain our website
- lend a hand with the school archives
- bring fresh ideas about how we might better serve the school and our alumni

If you’re interested in helping out, let us know, using the subject line “Board Membership.”

Advisory Board Members 2014–2015

Paul Allen ('61)	Nicole Dowling ('91) (Co-Chair)	Mary Nishio ('77) (NT Staff '93–'94)
Nancy Baines (NT Staff '68–'01) (Archivist)	James Farr ('87) (Treasurer)	Andrew Ogilvie ('90)
Desmond Brett ('77)	Joel Gorenkoff (Current Principal)	Stan Pearl ('62)
Spencer Brown ('15) (Student Rep)	Barbara Kamieński ('71) (Editor)	Barbara Szelingier ('82)
Lisa Cain ('82) (Vice-Chair)	Heather Kelsall ('15) (Student Rep)	Kirsten Sixt ('83)
Lorraine Clarkson ('71)	Mark Kinoshita ('82) (NT Staff)	Lorne Smith (NT Staff '79–'12)
Caroline Conacher ('93)	Brian Maltman ('71) (Secretary)	Ron Wakelin ('64) (Co-Chair)
	Nancy McFadden ('70) (NT Staff '76–'81)	Carole Whelan (NT Staff '84–'09)



NT Athletics: Onward, Yet Onward!

The annual North Toronto Athletic Banquet was held on June 1 in celebration of a highly successful year. Many teams and individuals were recognized for their achievements—and this was a particularly fantastic year.

NT has become a real hockey power, with both male and

female teams winning the city championship and advancing to the provincial championships. For the males, it was their second visit to OFSAA in the past four years, while the females got by archrival Lawrence Park to advance to OFSAA for the first time in school history. Well done!

2014–2015 Highlights

- The field hockey team lost to Malvern in the city championship. Coach Brian Johnston has established a field hockey dynasty in the past 15 years, with several trips to OFSAA and perhaps the largest program in Toronto, with over 100 girls participating!
- Matt Vihant, a Grade 11 golfer, finished 5th at the provincial championships last fall. Could he be the next Jordan Spieth?
- The junior football team had their best year since moving into the new digs at NT, advancing to the city championship only to lose to our local rivals, Northern.
- As mentioned above, the boys' hockey team competed at OFSAA and finished with a 1-1-1 record in round-robin play, garnering a tie with St. Peters, who eventually finished with the bronze medal. Led by captain Aric Smith, the Norsemen played very well and almost made it to the round of eight. The girls' hockey team had a record of 1-3 in the round-robin competition, with a victory over

the #4 seed from Holy Cross. Their biggest loss was only 2-0; they were certainly competitive and represented the association and school very well.

- The boys' junior basketball team made it to the south regional finals, but lost to Harbord.
- Despite the lack of a swimming pool in the new facility, coach Anne Chamberlain has established a large boys' and girls' swim program that trains at Northern, Allenby and the North Toronto Community Centre. The team was well represented at both the city finals and OFSAA, with the best accomplishment by Agnes Lim, who won a silver medal in the 100-metre freestyle race!
- Ski coach and NT grad Mark Kinoshita ('82) had a strong contingent of skiers representing the school at OFSAA with the best team showing of 4th in Level 2 boys.
- Mark Harris organized a 30th reunion of the senior boys rugby team at NT in early May. Has it really been 30 years since NT won its first rugby title?

In Memoriam

Each year, the NTCI community is diminished by the loss of some of those for whom the school played a pivotal role. The Foundation relies on you to let us know about the passing of key alumni, so that their stories may be part of this newsletter.

Helen Coleman Heubi (née Allen), Class of '49

Helen Heubi, accomplished writer of light verse, prose essays, reviews, memoirs and humorous pieces, passed away peacefully at age 82 on June 11, 2013, from a stroke. A member of NT's choir at the first three Maytime Melodies, Helen pursued degrees in linguistics (U of T, 1953) and journalism (UWO, 1959) and from 2004 was a Board Certified Consulting Hypnotist and Instructor of the National Guild of Hypnotists (NGH). In her varied working life, she was a teacher of languages and vocal music, a highway traffic analyst, editor, translator, newspaper columnist and coach specializing in change (stress) management. The epitome of a lifelong learner, she earned a PhD at the age of 78 with her 2008 memoir, *Birch and Pine Whisper His Name: A Tribute to Sri Sathya Sai Baba*. In later life, she became an avid blogger! Helen valued her time at NT and enthusiastically performed with the alumni choir at Roy Thompson Hall at both the 50th Anniversary Maytime Melodies in 1996 and the Memories Forever concert celebrating NT's 100th Reunion in 2012.

Arthur Hudson, Class of '41

With the passing of 89-year-old Arthur Hudson on September 8, 2013, Canada lost a distinguished gentleman and illustrious member of the medical community. Like many NT graduates during the war years, Arthur put his post-secondary education on hold to serve with the RCAF, Transport Command as a navigator. At the end of the war, he became a medical student at the University of Toronto and went on to become an esteemed neurologist and a professor at the University of Western Ontario. His groundbreaking research into ALS led him to establish the ALS Society of Canada, now one of Canada's most influential research societies. We are most grateful to Jean, his wife of 57 years, for letting the Foundation know about the achievements and passing of this prominent Canadian and graduate of North Toronto.

Stewart (Stew) Passmore, NT Staff

"Classy, dapper, a real gentleman and an old-fashioned coach who demanded the most from his athletes"—words, penned by Lorne Smith, that aptly describe Stew Passmore, long-time member of the NT Staff. From the early 1970s until his retirement in 1989, Stew coached hockey and football and taught chemistry at NTCI. He loved working with kids! Outside of school he had a passion for golf, curling and in later years, a good game of bridge. Sadly, Stew Passmore passed away December 1, 2014, in his 83rd year.



WWII Pilot and NTCI Grad Honoured

Flying Officer Douglas Bain ('39) was killed in action on May 30, 1942, and posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in March 1944. The DFC, presented to his next-of-kin and long treasured by the Bain family, was recently donated to NTCI by his nephew (and NT alumnus) Don Norval for safekeeping. We are honouring that responsibility; both his Distinguished Flying Cross and military letter are on display in the main hall.

Flying Officer Bain, who served with the RCAF and became one of the Allied Forces' most outstanding pilots during the Second World War, was recognized during the school's 2013 Remembrance Day assembly. As Principal Joel Gorenkoff reported, Private Officer John Douglas Norman Bain left NTCI after his final year of high school to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces when war first broke out in 1939. He was formally enlisted on October 8, 1940, finished his training on February 11, 1941, and was then commissioned for the war effort.

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Celebrating Excellence: A New Home for Our Heritage Trophies

Do you remember the utter degradation of sitting in the Principal's office? Well, that is where our two most prestigious trophies, the Kerr and Sifton Trophies, have been collecting dust for the past three years. Their status as NT's most famous homeless is about to end—and you can help.

The Foundation is launching the Celebrating Excellence Campaign to not only build cases that will provide a suitably proud display for NT's many heritage trophies, but also help fund the scholarships that go with them. The goal is \$10,000. All contributors will be acknowledged in the spring 2016 newsletter. Anyone contributing over \$250, \$500 or \$1,000 will be acknowledged on a plaque mounted on the case itself.

Please send donations to:

NTCI Foundation
17 Broadway Avenue
Toronto, ON
M4P 1T7
Attention: Celebrating Excellence Fund

Board members Heather Kelsall and Nancy Gale McFadden—both Kerr Trophy winners—dust off the Kerr and Sifton Trophies in the Lost and Found niche earmarked as the future home of the trophy cases.



My School: A Student's Viewpoint

We all have our memories of life at North Toronto, and we thought you might like to hear about the kinds of memories that are being created at the school today. So we asked **Spencer Brown, Graffiti staffer, Foundation Student Rep and soon-to-be alumnus, to give us a student's-eye view**

Life at North Toronto is an ever-changing event, with new things appearing on the calendar each week. Although I never experienced life in the old building that stood where the new field is, the spirit in those halls has transferred to the new building, where I have spent the last four years of my life. High school has been an amazing experience for me and for the majority of my classmates.

What's made it so memorable aren't the subjects or books, but rather the remarkable things and people that I have been introduced to. Our school is bustling with exciting events and activities: we have forty-seven clubs and plenty of events running each week, all of which help contribute to the history of our school and our memories of it.

The 2014–2015 school year saw the likes of the Soda Pop Shop, Maytime Melodies, both music and athletic banquets, Charity Week, Red and Grey Day and the Remembrance Day assembly. We had a semi-formal for the first time in years, hosted the Sears high school drama festival and introduced Earth Week and Mental Health Awareness Week. Also new this year was Spirit Week, reminding students of the kind of spirit that is in our halls. And NT students were globetrotters, reaching Denmark on an exchange program, and France and Spain over the March break, with a music trip to Boston upcoming.

We have a large number of councils and groups, including the Student Council, North Toronto's Environmental Action Team (NEAT), the Art Council, Music Council, Gay Straight Alliance, the Pentagon (school yearbook) and Graffiti (school newspaper). And, as if that weren't enough, we have something to pique everyone's interest: there's the Debate Club, DECA (National Business Organization), Spanish Club, Tea-Drinking Club, Robotics Club, Engineering Club, Biology Club and Drama Club—to name just a few.

There are so many clubs and events that I can't possibly mention them all or convey how important they all are to life at NT. Suffice it to say that these events, clubs and activities all contribute positively and help define our school as a school that stands above others. I am very thankful to call NT my school!

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His military records contain the following description:

One night Flying Officer Bain piloted an aircraft to attack Aachen along the western tip of Germany. While over the target area, his bomber was seriously damaged when engaged by an enemy fighter. Despite this, Flying Officer Bain made several determined runs over his target. On the return flight, two more enemy fighters were encountered but Flying Officer Bain outmaneuvered them. By superb airmanship and great tenacity he succeeded in flying the crippled bomber home. He displayed commendable courage and a fine fighting spirit in circumstances of great difficulty.

Flying Officer Bain, awarded the DFC for this and his 37 other successful sorties during the war effort, is buried at the Canadian War Cemetery in Noord-Brabant, Holland.

We Get Letters — Ron Wakelin

One of the joys of being co-chair of The NT Foundation is receiving notes and letters from alumni. The communications help us reconnect with former students of the school and put into perspective the impact of what we are doing. Often I will open our meetings by reading the letters, and the Board members certainly take note of, and are encouraged by, the messages.

At the January Board meeting, I read two letters, from graduates of very different eras. One was from Trent Erickson, a 2014 grad now attending University of King's College in Halifax. I had the honour of presenting him with the Sifton Trophy at Commencement and told him that I had been presented with the same award exactly fifty years earlier. His letter verbalized the positive effect we have on those we serve and the legacy we all share.

The second letter was from Dr. Richard Van Praagh (’48), whose newsy, ten-page letter outlined his exceptional life after graduation from NT, a life that included a career as a pediatric cardiologist and embryologist at Boston Children's Hospital, the publication of many medical papers and, even in his retirement years, collaboration on a non-fiction book. He wrote, “You must sometimes wonder, whatever happened to all of our graduates? This is an attempt to give you some understanding of what I've been doing (and still am doing),” and he ended his letter by saying, “Each of us has a story. This is a glimpse at mine. NTCI was a great beginning.”

Thank you for keeping in touch. We encourage you to reach out to us and fellow grads with personal information and perspectives on what the North Toronto Experience meant to you.

Going, Going ... Green!

We've done it! In the cover letter of last year's newsletter, we announced that in 2015 we would be moving to an electronic form, mailing paper copies of the newsletter only to those of you specifically requesting them. This has significantly reduced the number of copies we have to print and enables the Foundation to use more of your donations for student awards and activities rather than postage. If you have received a paper copy and would be willing to switch to the digital format, just drop us a line.

Contact Us

We're always happy to hear from you. Whether you've held an alumni event, have an NT anecdote to share, or simply want to let us know how you're doing, send us your news and pictures. And if you've moved or changed your email, please let us know.

NTCI Foundation
17 Broadway Avenue
Toronto, ON
M4P 1T7

OR ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca

NTCI on the Worldwide Web

Visit the school website at www.ntci.on.ca. While you're there, click on **Alumni** to visit the NTCI Foundation page for photos, access to past newsletters and info about alumni events.

Red and Grey Day

And don't forget to check the school website, or call the school at 416-393-9180, for details about this year's Red and Grey Day, likely to be held in mid-October. This annual celebration of NT's school spirit, with school teams in the gym and on the field, is a great chance for alumni to connect with today's NT!

Scholarship Winners

R.R.H. (Bud) Page Valedictory Prize: Edmund Park
Sifton Trophy for Young Men: Trent Erickson
Kerr Trophy for Young Women: Hannah Karpinski
Hal Brown “Triple A” Award: Jake Humphrey
Betty Bealey Laureateship in English Award: Hannah Karpinski
Senator Keith Davey Award: Fay Asimakopoulos
NTCI Foundation Centennial Scholarship: Sayako Suzuki