

*The Voice of NTCI Alumni*

NORTH  
TORONTO  
COLLEGIATE  
INSTITUTE



ALUMNI  
NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

# Foundation News



## **A real field at last!**

For the first time since the music wing was built, truncating the field, NT has a regulation size football field and the students and staff no longer have to endure the teasing from those attending the “home away from home” down the street at Northern. For those of you receiving the paper copy, the end-zones are bright NT red.

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# Gala Night



# Roy Thomson Hall Concert



# Athletic Night



# Open House

Principals, former and current:  
Eric Skeogh, Ashley Waltman  
& Joel Gorenkoff.



Opening Ceremony in the  
Auditorium, belting out  
"Hail North Toronto!"



Former staffers Bill Sherk  
and Desmond Ottley



# Launching Our Second Century

Left: 100th Anniversary Chair, Nicole Dowling, addresses the crowd at the opening ceremony

Right: NT mascot attends the Open House



After three long years of planning, the NTCI 100th Anniversary festivities have come and gone, and what a celebration it was! After a lengthy publicity campaign through newsletters, mass emails and social media, the weekend kicked off with Athletic Night at Spirale on May 10th. A spirited gathering of almost 300 former athletes and coaches spent the evening enjoying one another's company and reliving both the joys of victory and the agonies of defeat.

May 11th saw 72 golfers tackle the North Course of Angus Glen — it may be the home of the 2007 Canadian Open but was no match for our contingent of Norsemen! A beautiful spring day, great food and a beer sponsor made for a wonderful day out on the links.

Later that day, over 1200 people attended at Roy Thomson Hall for the one-time performance of Memories Forever — a Maytime Melodies-style concert featuring hundreds of alumni musicians and chorus members, including numerous guest

conductors. The evening featured all the greatest hits of an NT concert, right down to closing the place down with the school song, as well as a specially-commissioned medley. These are the moments to remember.

May 12th saw an early start as past and present staff gathered for breakfast before the Opening Ceremonies and Open House. While there were 1200 people registered to attend, it felt like thousands of people were touring the new building, enjoying the decade rooms and demonstrations

arranged by our current crop of students, viewing the art exhibition and browsing through the memorabilia available for sale. In particular, copies of our book "Celebrating a Century" were flying off the tables!

The weekend came to an end Saturday evening with an event that was a century in the making — the Centennial Gala at the Liberty Grand. This elegant venue was the scene of a dinner-dance for 700 former staff and students — new friendships were formed and old ones rekindled over an evening of delicious food and the lilt of music from our alumni musicians and DJ. Given the astounding support for and participation in the weekend, it is safe to say that the spirit of North Toronto is alive and well!

## See you at the 125th...

Nicole Papadopoulos Dowling, (NT '91) Chair, NTCI 100th Anniversary

# 100th Anniversary Committee

The 100th anniversary events were all amazing successes. There were memories shared, old friends reunited and new friends made. Thanks to all the volunteers who spent untold hours making this all happen.

Here are the people on the overall 100th anniversary committee, most of whom started in this 3 years ago, who oversaw everything (and of course there were dozens more people who were involved at various levels who deserve kudos too).

## Foundation Chair:

Neal Irwin (NT '50)

## 100th Anniversary Chair:

Nicole Dowling (NT '91)

## Book:

Nancy McFadden (NT '70) (Retired Teacher)

Nancy (Fee) Baines (Retired Teacher)

Ron Wakelin (NT '64)

## Gala:

Lisa Cain (NT '82)

## Open House:

Joel Gorenkoff (NT Principal)

## Finances:

Tim Gibson (Retired Teacher)

## Music:

Brian Maltman (NT '71)

Cat (Cunningham) MacPherson (NT '82)

Al Cunningham (NT '60)

## Memorabilia:

Carole Whelan (Retired Teacher)

Margaret Anne Cutler (NT '61)

## Sports:

Lorne Smith (Teacher)

Jamie Farr (NT '87)

## Communications:

Pippa Wyson (NT '79)

Paul Allen (NT '61)

Lisa Cain (NT '82)

Mark Kinoshita (NT Teacher)

# Board Chair Neal Irwin Retires

After nine years at the helm of the NT Alumni Advisory Board, Neal Irwin is stepping down and we on the Board feel that his extraordinary contribution should not go unheralded. Coincidentally, Neal became Co-chair of the Board at the start of what became the busiest period in this organization's lengthy history.

Two of the most important events in NT history came about within months of each other; the building of the new school and the 100th Anniversary celebrations, both requiring considerable input from the Advisory Board. On top of that, it was decided to bring out electronic versions of both the annual newsletter and the periodic mailings, which necessitated a complete overhaul of the database.

Early on, it was decided that we should raise around \$300,000 to ensure creation of appropriate memorabilia in the new school as well as preservation of the historical items the Advisory Board already had responsibility for. This includes all of the display cases, the various paintings in the library and elsewhere, the lists of alumni who fought in the wars and the grads who received scholarships. Committees were struck to oversee the building of the Memorial Courtyard and the Heritage Room, along with the storage room for memorabilia.

Getting things done with a volunteer board is always a challenge because there is such a mix of backgrounds and level of experience. Neal, whose background is in engineering, was terrific in terms of keeping track of everything the board was responsible for. He gave gentle nudges to make sure tasks were completed, and managed to gain the respect of everyone who worked with him.

When it came to light that the budget for the new field did not include money for the end-zone decorations of the logo at mid-field, the Board elected to appropriate the required cash and have the spectacular red additions made to the end zones and a new logo installed.

As Chair, Neal had to oversee all of the committees, liaise with the school and Board staff, the architects and builder's representatives, attend all of the various meetings and Alumni functions and make sure everybody stepped up to the plate in a diplomatic a fashion as possible, even with last minute emergencies. For the two dozen or so Board members, this was an enormous amount of work and I'm pleased to report that Neal made it seem, not only possible, but that we could have fun accomplishing it.

Four years on we can look back at great successes, no disasters and an enduring legacy that staff and students can be proud of in the decades to come and we primarily have Neal to thank for this. Amazingly, thanks to the generosity of over 500 donors, our fundraising efforts surpassed the original goal by \$20,000.

The Heritage Courtyard is a wonderful space for students to hang out while maintaining a suitable tribute to the old school and those who donated towards the heritage projects.

**Thank you from all of us, Neal, and may we continue to enjoy your participation.**

## Your Skills and Interests — just what we're looking for!

The NTCI Foundation has an Advisory Board of 25 members that meets at the school about six times each year. In addition to providing general guidance at Board meetings, our members bring a variety of skills in helping with many different Foundation-related activities. In the coming year, we will need to replenish our Board with about three new members. We would like to hear from you if can:

- Serve as Foundation Treasurer starting in 2013
- Write copy for the annual newsletter
- Help us maintain our membership database/ mailing list
- Help maintain our Web site, to make it a compelling and up-to-date source of information
- Lend a hand with the School Archives
- Think outside the box in considering what else we might do to serve the school and our alumni

### Interested in helping out? Please let us know:

Email us at [ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca](mailto:ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca) and put "Board Membership" in the subject line.

## Scholarship Winners

In addition to funding worthwhile projects that cannot be financed from normal school resources, the NTCI foundation also funds several scholarships that are awarded at Commencement to reward academic and extra curricular achievement. Here are the award winners from last fall's Commencement ceremony:

The R.R.H. (Bud) Page Valedictory Prize: **Robbie Grant**

The Sifton Trophy for Young Men: **Zachary Bader-Shamai**

The Kerr Trophy for Young Women: **Amy Kikuchi**

The Hal Brown "Triple A" Award: **Henno Einola**

The Betty Bealey Laureateship in English Award: **Rebecca Jacobs**

The Senator Keith Davey Award: **Angalee Nadesalingam**

**Foundation News** — The official NTCI Alumni newsletter

**Editor:** Desmond Brett

**Editorial Board:** Neal Irwin, Carole Whelan, Ron Wakelin, Nicole Dowling

**Design:** Derek Wessinger

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## Advisory Board Members 2012-2013

Paul Allen ('61)

Nancy Baines (NT Staff '68-'91) (Archivist)

Beatrix Berczi ('00) (Treasurer)

Desmond Brett ('77) (Editor)

Lisa Cain ('82) (Vice Chair)

Lorraine Clarkson ('71)

Al Crawford ('46)

Nicole Dowling ('91) (Co-chair)

James Farr ('87)

Mike Filey ('61)

Joel Gorenkoff (Current Principal)

Neal Irwin ('50) (Past Chair)

Barbara Kamienski ('71)

Brian Maltman ('71) (Secretary)

Nancy McFadden ('70, NT Staff '76-'91)

Mary Nishio ('77, NT Staff '93-'94)

Andrew Ogilvie ('90)

Desmond Ottley (NT Staff '71-'92)

Stan Pearl ('62)

Paul Raff ('86)

Estelle Sirman ('52)

Kirsten Sixt ('83)

Lorne Smith (NT Staff '79-'12)

Ron Wakelin ('64) (Co-chair)

Carole Whelan (NT Staff '84-'09)

## Moving? Changing your email?

To continue receiving this newsletter, as well as timely information on reunions and alumni events, you need to tell us how to reach you. Please keep us up to date by emailing us at [ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca](mailto:ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca) or writing us at:

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