

The Voice of NTCI Alumni

NORTH
TORONTO
COLLEGIATE
INSTITUTE



ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2007

Foundation News

NTCI's music program scores a **touchdown**

The story of how Jack Dow helped integrate music into the regular school curriculum > Page 3



Get to know NTCI's new principal, Joel Gorenkoff.
Page 5

Dig through the archives with Nancy Baines.
Page 6

Learn more about "The Republic of North Toronto".
Page 7

Get ready for 2012!

NTCI will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2012. Like the 75th, this will be a big party. If you are interested in being a part of the organizing committee, please contact Carole Whelan at 416-393-9180 or go to ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca

Seeking Campaign Director

Dedicated NTCI grad sought for part-time services as Campaign Director to organize and administer a planned fundraising campaign. An honorarium will be paid. If interested, please contact the NTCI Foundation, c/o Nancy Sutherland, at 416-481-8603 for more details.

Thinking of donating to NTCI? Here's a tax-effective way to give

If you're considering a donation to the NTCI Foundation, there's a tax-effective donation option you may not have considered — a direct gift of stock that you own.

Whether you're looking to help us carry on our ongoing alumni outreach, fund special school projects, or preserve our shared heritage as part of the new NTCI building, a donation of stock directly offers a couple of important benefits:

- **No capital gains tax**

When you sell a stock that has increased in value, you must typically include 50% of any capital gain (the increase in the value of the stock) as part of your taxable income. When you donate stock directly to a charity such as the NTCI Foundation, you pay no capital gains taxes on the increased value.

- **Full charitable tax credit**

Just like a cash donation, when you donate stock, you receive a charitable receipt for the full value of the stock at the time of the donation.

No taxes payable, and full value for your donation.

It's a win-win for both you and NTCI. To find out how you can help NTCI with a stock donation, please send an e-mail to ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca

NTCI Grads in the News

Joan Donaldson

(Class of 1964)

We are sad to report the passing of well-known journalist Joan Donaldson. She is best known as the founder of CBC Newsworld, which hit the airwaves in the summer of 1989. It was then Canada's only cable news service, and was the second to air in North America after CNN. That same year, *Chatelaine* named her one of the country's most powerful women. Donaldson worked for a couple of Toronto radio stations after graduating from NTCI, joining the CBC in 1967. She covered the October Crisis in 1970 and put in a five year stint covering the war in Vietnam for CTV, returning to the CBC in 1984. Now one of Canada's most respected journalists, she was promoted to head Regional Programming for CBC TV News and three years later she began the creation of Newsworld. Her brainchild continues to set the standard for news in Canada and is well respected throughout the world. Unfortunately, she was struck by a cyclist in late 1990, receiving severe head injuries from which she never fully recovered. She passed away in Victoria last fall.

Rebecca Jenkins

(Class of 1977)

Well known singer/songwriter and actor, Ms. Jenkins most recently starred in the TV movie *Past Sins*. Currently, she has finished an album of jazz standards which was released April 8 and is recording an album of original music scheduled for release later in the fall.

Jennifer Noble

(Class of 1979)

Also a singer and songwriter of note, Ms. Noble currently performs with her band *Feast of Friends* and released a single in 2005.

The NTCI Marching Band proudly shows off the new uniforms acquired this year.



Music at North Toronto

"Music plays a vital role in education. It is our belief that music education develops creativity, concentration, memory skills, personal enjoyment and a life-long appreciation for the arts.

It brings cultures together and provides an opportunity for self-expression."

— So reads the opening preamble on the Toronto District School Board's Web site.

As anybody who has heard of NTCI knows, the music program is an integral part of the school, bringing NTCI much praise and respect. What I was not aware of is how important the North Toronto music program, and its first director, Jack Dow, were to music education in Ontario. Until 1946, all music programs in Ontario were extra curricular. Although many schools had choirs, quartets and even bands, funding for them came from outside the school and there were no teachers formally qualified in music. Mainly through the efforts of Jack Dow and his supporters, NTCI became the first school in the province to teach music as part of the regular school curriculum.

Jack Dow, a native of Dutton, Ontario, was born in 1913 and remained there until completing high school. There was minimal music instruction available in the upper school in those days, so he indulged in his passion in the local church choir and in the Dutton Citizen's Band. He also received violin and piano lessons, but said in an interview that he

was lazy and didn't practice, something he later regretted. Laziness and poor practice habits were not traits he was to allow his future students.

He then graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a BA in general arts, paying his way by playing in a dance band. He also played in the UWO band and orchestra, both of which were conducted by Don Wright, who was well respected both for leadership and musical arranging. They struck up a friendship that lasted through the decades, one that heavily influenced the younger man's decision to take up teaching as a profession.

Obtaining his teaching certificate a year later, Dow tried teaching music in elementary school but quickly tired of this and took a job teaching English, business practice and music appreciation at the Ottawa Technical School. While there, he organized and led a large girl's choir, and got married.



1948: These hard working performers could now receive full school credit for their efforts.

In 1939, he moved to Northern Secondary where he taught and also played trumpet, and wrote arrangements. In addition, he started a mixed choir which quickly gained notoriety for their talents. After the war, Dow was recruited by then NTCI principal Bill Houston to create a music program which would become part of the curriculum. Dow approached the project with mixed feelings, although he was given great encouragement by education consultant Martin Clenhall and Superintendent Charlie Robb.

The choir looked promising; students called to a choir practice on Dow's second day packed the auditorium. Even with the band, things progressed quickly, and the fledgling group played at commencement in November with some 15 participants. As a way for gaining support for the program and to allow the students to show off their newly acquired abilities, Dow came up the idea for Maytime Melodies, which has been

presented without interruption for the past 60 years. The name, incidentally, was suggested by well known English teacher Betty Bealey.

The following September, grade 9 students were offered a choice of band or strings, however, the school was not well equipped with instruments and Dow appealed to parents and others living around the school to search their attics for usable pieces. A number of offerings, mostly violins, arrived in various states of repair and the best of these were put into service. Enthusiasm for the program was high and many students had to be turned away.

The success of the program, the first to offer music as a full credit, was embraced by the Toronto Board and then the Ontario Ministry of Education and Dow and his students toured the province, showing off their abilities. Maytime Melodies quickly outgrew NTCI's small hall and was moved to Northern's much more spacious facility until the new

auditorium was erected in 1956. Dow led the NTCI music program until 1958 when he was appointed assistant director of music for the city. He took over as director in 1971, retiring five years later.

He left an enormous legacy. Music was soon added as an official part of the curriculum across the province. Jack Dow's initial foundation of high standards and hard work has been maintained throughout the decades at North Toronto resulting in huge success for the orchestra, bands, choirs and individuals who have represented our school and the many students who have enjoyed subsequent musical careers. Hundreds more NTCI grads continue to play or sing, joining amateur ensembles or merely entertaining themselves. A great many former students report personally or in on-line bios how much they enjoyed their experience and remain involved in music.

1952: The band again, with new uniforms. Note the Majorettes in the foreground and the cheerleaders to the right of the French horn in the centre.



Meeting the New Principal

By Joel Gorenkoff

I was thrilled to learn that the Board had approved my transfer to North Toronto last spring. Retiring Principal Ashley Waltman did a wonderful job making me feel welcome and helping me to make the transition from my last school to North Toronto. Ashley is extremely proud of NT and continues to serve as a valued resource. I have worked as a teacher and Department Head of Biology, Chemistry and Science at schools such as Newtonbrook, CALC, and Ursula Franklin Academy. My first administrative role was at Bloor CI where I was a Vice-Principal. After that I served as Principal at George Harvey CI. Over the years, I have worked with many gifted members of staff in all these schools and contributed to the development of various enrichment, Advanced Placement and cyberstudies programs. Strong partnerships with community, business, parents and alumni are key in all of this.

High school is a place where students and staff should “work hard *and* play hard”. As well as working towards high academics, I support a multi-faceted and exciting extra-curricular program for students. Having students who are connected to their school in some positive way (or even better, in many ways) will be more successful in the long-term.

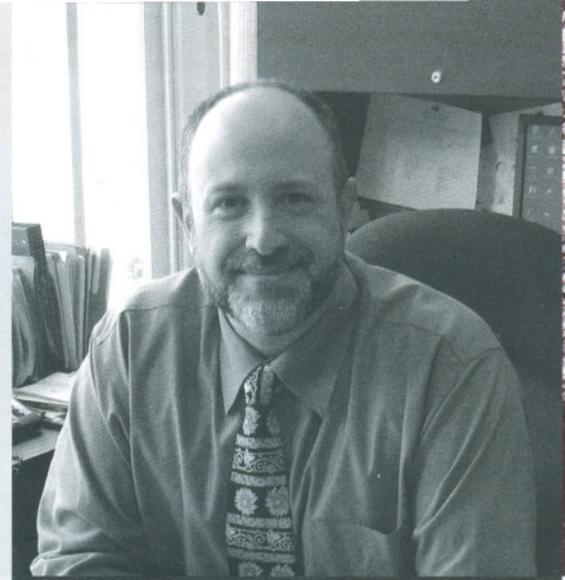
My high school was North York’s Newtonbrook Secondary School which, coincidentally, is *another* red and grey school. At the University of Toronto I completed a BSc in Zoology, a BEd in Secondary Science Education and my MEd in Curriculum. I consider myself a “lifelong learner” and welcome opportunities for personal growth. I am currently on the Continuing Education faculty at the University of Toronto (OISE) and enjoy delivering the Principals’ Qualification Program to aspiring leaders.

Of course, my own family, which includes two children (a son currently in grade 6 and a daughter in grade 10) keeps me in tune with teens not only during the day at school, but at home.

When I met with Student Council Executive and School Council Chairs with Principal Waltman last spring, I asked them what (as the incoming Principal) the most important thing was to keep in mind. They all said keep the Spirit of NT alive. I am impressed at the passion, commitment and spirit that everyone connected to NT has for this school. This is the first school I’ve worked at where traditions – such as the wearing of red and grey, or learning and singing the school song – is held in such high regard. I *will* help keep the spirit of NT alive!

There are always many challenges we face in education but the greatest challenge we face as stakeholders of NT is the new building (the *new* North Toronto CI). We are all anticipating the beginning of construction in October 2007. Staff, parents, students and alumni – along with teams of architects, developers and TDSB staff – have been working hard to plan for a building that will make us all proud. I am extremely excited that in a new, state-of-the-art building, students will continue to participate in exemplary curricular and extra-curricular programs while continuing the school’s long tradition of excellence.

I am very thankful to have the opportunity to be North Toronto’s new Principal.



High school is a place where students and staff should “work hard *and* play hard”. As well as working towards high academics, I support a multi-faceted and exciting extra-curricular program for students.

Filing cabinets filled with pictures, programs, newspaper articles and other memorabilia.



History at NTCI

By Nancy Baines



1917 to 2007: A lot has changed in the past 90 years — Yonge St. looking north towards Eglinton Ave.

Deep in the bowels of NTCI lies a cramped and dusty room full of treasure, a remarkable trove of archival records of the 97 years of life at North Toronto. When I'm working there, I notice that most students pass by daily, taking a shortcut to the weight room or the library, without a clue to the rich heritage beyond one innocuous door, not even knowing or caring what an archive is. But their attitude changes remarkably, once their interest is peaked. They see me burrowing away in there and ask me what I'm doing. They become very keen when they see the old photos and artefacts. "It's so cool!" they say. And it is cool!

There are several filing cabinets bulging with pictures, programs, newspaper articles and other memorabilia arranged chronologically. There are also music, sports and the 1920s club collections.

We have all the old scholarship photos that used to hang in the foyer. We have Miss Bealey's text of Hamlet, with all the annotations, cartoons of Molly Moore and Syd Reynolds, a 1950s cheerleader costume, leather football jackets, scholarship pins, Maytime Melodies records, scrapbooks, World War II letters and notices, a good collection of yearbooks and many other artefacts.

One of our best treasures is the video copy of all Colin Farmers movies from the 1920s to the 1950s. We had the originals transferred to a digital format

but these desperately need to be properly edited and arranged in some logical order. This is a skill I do not have. If there is someone out there who has editing skill – this is a project for you!

Some of the archival material has been properly looked after, but the job is a big one. The photos and other items must be identified (who, what, when, where) and that is sometimes difficult to do with any precision. Then they need to be stored in an appropriate way. I am slowly making some headway. If anyone would like to volunteer one day a month to help, it would be greatly appreciated. I do on-the-job training and welcome the company.

The fun and rewarding aspects of the job of archivist are the memories that jump



New Building Update

The new school is to be completed no later than September 2010. The city has granted the use of the address 17 Broadway Ave., the original address of NTCI. Tridel has opened a presentation centre on Broadway Ave. near the school and encourages NTCI alumni to come and look. Their name for the condo development, with towers at 25 Broadway Ave. and 70 Roehampton Ave., is "The Republic of North Toronto".

Knowing that the alumni would like to stay informed during the redevelopment process, Tridel has developed a "Web forum" featuring community updates and information. You are invited to visit www.tridel.com and simply click on "The Republic" link, visible on the home page. There you will find information covering the original public tender request for proposal, architectural and planning details, school history, specifics on EcoSchool environmental initiatives, condominium and school renderings, a neighbourhood video and a variety of other topics pertaining to how this new community is envisioned to unfold.

out – the feeling of precious youth and energy of the students of days gone by. How fleeting it all is. That's why it is so important to keep a rich and well-documented archive.

We are very lucky at North Toronto, that over the years various staff members have kept this record and many people have donated materials. The plans for the Heritage Room and Archives in the new school will ensure that this tradition is kept alive well into the 21st century.

Anyone holding memorabilia of any sort, who would like to send it to the school archives, please do so. We welcome any interest in our collection.



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 need to replenish our Board with about five new members. We would like to hear from you if can:

- Be creative in helping us plan for NTCI's 100th
- 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: E-mail to ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca and put Board Membership in the subject line.

Scholarship Winners

In addition to finding 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: **Veiko Parming**

The Sifton Trophy for Young Men: **Veiko Parming**

The Kerr Trophy for Young women: **Jennifer Bok**

The Hal Brown "Triple A" Award: **Stephanie Dorsch**

The Betty Bealey Laureateship in English Award: **Golnaz Nayerahmadi**

The Senator Keith Davey- Award: **Gideon Kalman-Lamb**

Advisory Board Members 2006-2007

Nancy Baines (Retired Staff)
Beatrix Berdzi ('00)
Desmond Brett ('77)
Lorraine Clarkson ('71)
Mike Filey ('61)
Joel Gorenkoff (Current Principal)
Bill Hammond (Retired Staff)
Neal Irwin ('50) (Co-chair)
Nick Levitt ('90)
Hon. Doug Lewis ('57)
Andrew Ogilvie ('90)
Stan Pearl ('61)
Paul Raff ('86)
Janet Russell ('81)
Estelle Sirman ('51)
Ron Wakelin ('64)
Carole Whelan (Current Staff) (Co-chair)
Ron Wakelin (Retired Staff)
Jim Williamson ('87)
Pippa Wysong ('79)
Vicky Zeltins ('85)

Moving? Changing your e-mail?

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 e-mailing us at ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca or writing us at:

NTCI Foundation
70 Roehampton Ave.
Toronto, ON M4P 1R2