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Extracurricular activities are flourishing at North Toronto this year. Virtually every sport, musical group and club that is imaginable is in operation. This provides growth and leadership opportunities for our students. All of this would not be possible without the dedication and energy of our large cadre of coaches and staff advisors. It is hoped that there is an amicable resolution to the ongoing discussions between the Ministry of Education and the Boards and teachers that will allow our staff sufficient time to continue to provide these important learning opportunities for our students.

Academic excellence continues at North Toronto as we implement the new curricula that are being mandated by the Ministry of Education. This has involved much work for our teachers in devising new assessment strategies and in preparing our students so that they can be successful in completing the work. The Grade 9 curriculum is in place, and despite very tight timelines, it seems to be working to the benefit of our students. The Grade 10 courses will be in place for next September. In spite of the extremely short timelines that are afforded for development, I am confident that our program of studies will be relevant and challenging to our students.

Just as our graduating students move on, so do our staff. A large number of staff retired last year, and a similar number will be leaving at the end of the current academic year. We are most fortunate to have had some wonderful new people join our faculty. It has allowed us to continue to provide the outstanding programming for which North Toronto is known. In February, we had 469 students submit on-time applications for 250 Grade 9 positions open next year, meaning that over 200 students who wish to attend North Toronto cannot be accommodated. As you are aware, students and parents are attracted, not only by the strong tradition of excellence, but also because of the vibrant learning atmosphere that exists today. North Toronto Collegiate Institute is renowned for its challenging and rigorous academic program as well as a strong music and extracurricular focus. The challenge is to maintain and enhance that excellence while preparing our students to succeed in the Information Age. I value the contribution of the North Toronto Collegiate Foundation and each alumni member in achieving that end.

Ashley Waltman

## Retirements

Hard on the heels of Ian Waldron's retirement in January, at least nine more members of the teaching staff will retire in June of this year. We send best wishes to Doug Beckett (Head of Men's Physical and Health Education), Jane Kennedy (Classics), Alina Matus (Head of History), Marion McCron (Head of Library), Elizabeth Mowat (Head of Moderns), Christa Naylor (Moderns), Nursel Oran (Head of Chemistry), Bob Schmidt (Guidance Services) and George Terrett (Moderns).

## Thanks to Dr. John Fowler, Chair of the Advisory Board

My earliest recollection of John Fowler goes back to September, 1946, when his memorable career at NTCI began! I can still see him as he sat quietly half-way back in the middle row of his Grade 9 class. It wasn't long before I realized that he was a highly intelligent student, an excellent athlete, and a fine musician. He and John McKellar, another member of the class of 1946, are still good friends; both have been brilliantly successful.

My most vivid memory of John Fowler goes back to a chilly, damp, November day in 1950 at Varsity Stadium, when the North Toronto team (with John Fowler as quarterback and John McKellar an exceedingly valuable lineman) won the Junior Football Championship of the City of Toronto. A memorable, if water-soaked event!

During the war years, John had been too young to enlist, but later he was attached to HMCS York as a member of UNTD (University Naval Training Division). When he completed his ophthalmological studies, he was appointed to

the medical staff of the University of Toronto at Sunnybrook Hospital, where he continues to lecture and treat patients.

His devoted and delightful wife, Brenda, and gifted musical son, Charlie, also deserve our heartfelt thanks; they have made it possible for John to give generously of his time and talent to the school, in addition to the demands of his practice.

A good chairman must know his agenda, must know his team members, must be able to control time, and must demonstrate self-control. Our retiring chairman possessed these fine qualities in no small measure. He certainly lived up to our motto: Labor omnia vincit! In his case, it has been not only labor, but inspiration and encouragement throughout his term of office.

Betty Bealey  
(Class of '31 and beloved teacher for many years)

Our congratulations and best wishes to Nancy (Caldecott) Sutherland (Class of '61) as she assumes the role of Chair from John.

## Eric Skeoch/Wendy McQueen

Recently retired Principal Eric Skeoch and his wife Judy are now living in a century farmhouse in the small community of Ravenna, near Collingwood.

Retired Vice-Principal Wendy McQueen is restoring a century home in Cobourg.

## Your Dollars at Work



Jay Nathwani is the current Editor of Graffiti, North Toronto's award-winning newspaper.

The Foundation's generous support this year has helped the Debating Club, Graffiti, and the entire student body.

In the fall term, the Foundation provided financial assistance to the Debating Club.

This funding made the difference in allowing two students, Jessica Palter and myself, to attend the Canadian High School Debating Championship, where we represented both the school and the province in nation-

wide competition. I found the tournament to be invaluable preparation for my participation in the World High School Debating Championships in February. It was a significant learning experience for both Jessica and I, and we very much appreciated the Foundation support which made possible this exciting opportunity.

Graffiti has again had its life made easier this year by the Foundation. Your grant was used to underwrite the entire cost of the printing of this year's first edition of the paper. Because of such generous support, Graffiti was able to publish this issue in colour! Working with colour was a new learning experience for the entire staff, and this certainly made my time as Editor more interesting. The new look of the paper was greeted with real enthusiasm by our student and community readers.

Graffiti has also benefited from the Foundation grant that made possible the schools's purchase of a digital camera. The camera has already saved Graffiti money on photo development costs, and it promises to reduce significantly future costs as well as making the entire process of putting photos into the paper less time-intensive and complicated. Needless to say, the editors of the Pentagon and the RAG are also pleased with the possibilities of this new technology.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to the Foundation on behalf of Jessica, the Graffiti Editorial Board and, indeed, the student body for your generosity. Your continued sup-

port helps students to gain valuable extra-curricular experience and allows student organizations to continue to fulfil their potential.

Jay Nathwani (Class of 2000)

**Spring Update:** At the spring meeting of the Advisory Board, your Foundation made a number of additional grants to student groups. The Girls Field Hockey Team will receive funding to attend invitational tournaments in Toronto and Montreal. The Boys Track and Field Team will travel to Brockville and Mansfield, Ohio with your support. Your sponsorship will enable two students to represent North Toronto at the DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, and another five will carry NT's banner to Houston, Texas, where they will compete in the North American Finals of the Computer Science League. The History Club will be able to send two students to a Canada-wide conference in Winnipeg. The NT Stage Crew will receive funding toward a new mixing board needed to meet the sound and lighting needs of our musical and dramatic productions in the school auditorium.

## Foundation Facts

- Our 1999 Appeal resulted in over 300 donors remitting over \$17,000. - **THANK YOU.**
- FoundatioNews is mailed to approximately 7000 alumni.
- The cost of each FoundatioNews issue is approximately \$7,500; almost half of which is postage!
- Our Capital Fund at December 31, 1999 stood at \$83,000.
- Grant applications are increasing as provincial funds no longer cover many of the school's expenses.
- YOUR DONATION (regardless of amount) will assist the school, help defray expenses or augment our capital fund.

Scholarships -	1987- 1990	\$10,500
	1991	7,350
	1992	3,650
	1993	5,100
	1994	6,100
	1995	10,450
	1996	24,850
	1997	15,550
	1998	10,100
	1999	8,850

## Ian Waldron Retires

An entrance way decked with colourful balloons, a dazzling hall complete with an ice sculpture surrounded by bottles of champagne, tables laden with tantalizing finger foods, a "this is your life" gallery, and a large gathering of enthusiastic guests of varying ages all dancing to the familiar strains of "golden oldies"! This was the scene at the Monte Cassino Hotel on the evening of January 28,

*For my part, I promise that I will forever remain a part of your chorus.*

2000, as 250 friends, former students and colleagues gathered with one purpose in mind: to pay tribute to Ian Waldron on the occasion of his retirement. Guests were treated to a host of amusing anecdotes as Ian was truly toasted and duly roasted during the formal program. However, in true Waldron fashion, the best was saved for last, as Ian stepped to the podium to voice his thanks and to share his reflections on his career in education. The following excerpts capture just a few of those special moments and will provide happy memories for many of our readers...

*I remember the NT auditorium: four versions of Collegiantics (one of which I spent with Vicky Zeltins, suspended high above the cage, trying to read intros in complete darkness); Babes in Arms, and poor Tobias Nussbaum, hanging from his knuckles from the light bar, thirty feet above the stage; a pair of Alices, and the stampepe for seats as the doors were opened for the Stage Band pre-show; and my own bizarre performances as Darth Waldron, as the Grinch, and as one of four delicious and delectable calling "birds" on the fourth day of Christmas.*

*I remember four very special summers and 24 March Breaks in Europe: climbing through blind fog and pouring rain to the summit of Mount Vesuvius; huddling for warmth during a snowstorm*

*amid the colossal monoliths of Stonehenge, and taking six students on the local bus to Delphi and sharing our seats with three live sheep.*

*I remember a glorious and musical April in Japan, travelling with the Orchestra and Stage Band on their concert tour to the Osaka World's Fair.*

*I remember darts, bridge (and the immaculate patience of Helen Gibson), night football, and varsity men's volleyball.*

*...but most of all, I remember my students. Over the years, you have been my inspiration and my joy. You were willing to fly high with me in that aerial labyrinth we created together. You were excited about the moral issues of the curtain contest and about the host of other social and ethical issues we explored. You willingly went along with my mania for a professional approach and my demand for a performance of polished perfection whenever we took to paper or to the stage.... Most of all, you brought your amazing vigour and your youthful idealism, your glamour and your magic, into my classrooms and you shared these generously and freely with your peers...*

*And this, inevitably, leads to "Fern Hill" and the wisdom of Dylan Thomas. You can say his lines along with me:*

*Oh, as I was young and easy in the mercy of his means*

*Time held me, green and dying,*

*Though I sang in my chains like the sea.*

*We were green together even as time was having his way with each of us. But we did sing together. We played together, we performed together, we learned together, we grew together. My wish, my prayer, for each of you, is that*

*you will, as the years unfold, as Time passes onwards, continue to sing in your chains, like the sea.*

*For my part, I promise that I will forever remain a part of your chorus.*

Ian came to North Toronto in the fall of 1979, having already taught at Riverdale Collegiate (his alma mater) and Danforth Technical School. As NT's "new" English teacher, Ian was relegated to the Science wing where he shared "Huck Finn with periodic tables and Lord Tennyson with Bunsen burners". Later, after a short sojourn on the third floor as a full fledged member of the English Department, Ian moved to the first floor where his talents were shared with the Classics Department. A return to the third floor, this time as Head of the English Department, marked what Ian described



as his "golden decade" with his last four years spent as one of NT's Vice Principals.

For those of you who fear that Ian may be left wondering what to do with his time, the members of the North Toronto Foundation are pleased to welcome him to our ranks. He is a most welcome addition to our Advisory Board.

Lorraine Clarkson  
(Class of '71)