

FOUNDATION NEWS

NORTH TORONTO COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / JUNE 2023



Maytime Melodies celebrates 75th anniversary

Two-night festival showcases musical achievement of students and alumni

More than 100 former students returned to the NTCI stage to celebrate this year's 75th anniversary of Maytime Melodies.

Four alumni ensembles, conducted by former NTCI music teachers, performed to packed houses on May 11 and 12, joining current students in a lively pair of concerts that marked a significant milestone in the school's history.

The Thursday concert kicked off with a trio of songs brilliantly performed by the alumni choir, conducted by Camilla Rayman Bricknell, a vocal music teacher at NTCI from 2000 to 2007 and the current head of music at Riverdale CI. The group performed "Cantique de Jean Racine" by Gabriel Fauré and "All Too Soon" by Stephen Hatfield, before ending with Eric Whitacre's "Sing Gently."

Later that evening, the alumni symphonic band took to the stage, conducted by former NTCI strings, band, and English teacher Joel McNaughton. The ensemble performed two pieces: "Pancake Bay from the Lake Superior Suite" by Cait Nishimura and "Fall Fair" by Godfrey Ridout.

The second night of Maytime Melodies began with the alumni symphony orchestra, led by Michael Ferguson, former head of music and vice principal at NTCI. The group delivered a thrilling performance of "The Overture to the Tsar's Bride" by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

Immediately following intermission came the alumni stage band and conductor Liz Monteith, who taught band, vocal music, and music production at NTCI between 1994 and 2021. They performed rousing arrangements of "Birdland" by Josef Zawinul and "Children of Sanchez" by Chuck Mangione.



The alumni orchestra performs under the direction of Michael Ferguson, former head of music and vice principal, at Maytime Melodies.

ensembles over the years. The collection was organized and curated by Lorraine Clarkson ('71), Brian Maltman ('71), and Nancy Nourse ('70).

Dozens of alumni from all generations along with current and former staff also gathered for a pre-concert reception on both nights, organized by Clarkson in the staff room. Many recent alumni who graduated during COVID noted how this reunion concert offered a sense of closure given that the pandemic cancelled two iterations of Maytime Melodies in 2020 and 2021.

That was a sentiment shared by Monteith, who didn't have the opportunity to perform at a final Maytime Melodies before retiring in 2021.

"What (this anniversary celebration) really meant to me was two things: one, a chance to reconnect with grads and with the other conductors," she said. "And two, this was my chance to perform with an NTCI group (for the first time) at Maytime since everything had just been stolen away because of COVID."

The vast majority of those in the alumni stage band were Monteith's former students, she said, adding that it was special to share that moment with them. The positive reaction has Monteith considering establishing a drop-in music ensemble for alumni who want to stay connected with the community.

"It's in my brain, and I'll just let it simmer. Then we'll see what happens next year," she said.

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Outside the auditorium before and after the concerts, current and former students shared memories of NTCI's timeless musical traditions. Nine memory boards filled with pictures depicting decades of music at NTCI were on display in the school commons, along with an exhibit of old music uniforms worn by various

Supporting our school

From the Chair

Greetings from the NTCI Foundation.

We are pleased to see the school slowly returning to the pre-pandemic times. We commend principal Dr. Jane Lee, the dedicated and talented teaching staff, and the resilient students for their coping skills.

The NTCI Foundation consists of 16 grads (ranging from 1964-2022!) and former staff, the principal, and two current students reps. It was established in 1987 as a result of the school’s successful 75th anniversary celebration. Our mission is to preserve the rich heritage and reputation of NTCI by engaging alumni, supporting NTCI students and educational activities, and conserving archives.

This year we continued with our student Dragons’ Den presentations that resulted in funding of \$6000 among a wide variety of NTCI clubs and organizations. The Foundation continues to be impressed with the quality of the student presentations and the wide variety of opportunities open to NTCI students.

At Commencement this year we will once again fund seven scholarship awards. After two very successful Speaker Series events, we sponsored another event that was received very well.

I’d also like to take a moment and thank Stephanie Jones for serving as treasurer for the last five years. Our board benefited from Stephanie’s professionalism, expertise, as well as her positive energy and personality. She is stepping down this year, and we wish her well. We also thank Brian Maltman, who is serving as acting treasurer in the interim, in addition to all the work that he does as Foundation secretary.

In order to maintain our mandate, we rely on the generous support of alumni. Now more than ever we rely on your generosity. Your contributions continue to make a meaningful difference in the quality of life for our NTCI students.

Hail! North Toronto.

—Ron Wakelin (’64), Chair

A fond farewell to our outgoing treasurer

This spring we say thank you and farewell to our Treasurer for the last five years, Stephanie (Atkinson) Jones (’09).

Stephanie transitioned our investments into a properly balanced and self-administered portfolio. An accountant with Canada’s largest bank, she brought a professional level of financial skill to the oversight of the Foundation’s nest egg. As treasurer, Stephanie guided the board’s financial ship and helped lead us with one of our most rewarding functions: giving away money.

We anticipate welcoming a new treasurer soon.

2022 award winners

Betty Bealey Laureateship in English*: **Sofia Savchyn**
Brennand Science Award for Physics: **Benjamin Boyd**
Brian J. Pearson Scholarship Award: **Olivia Mar**
Cameron Gray Memorial Award: **Adam Pralat**
Canadian Federation of University Women Memorial Award: **Maryanna Barkas**
Canadian Federation of University Women North Toronto Award: **Kiana Sharifi**
Carter Prize for Computer Science: **Jonah Tang**
David J. Tyrrell Award for Vocal Music: **Sofia Savchyn**
Dr. Myron Tarshis Music Award: **Justin Lee**
Fine Award in Social Sciences: **Dongen Gray**
George K. Rogers Memorial Awards for Service and Citizenship: **Noah Black, Abigail Crawford, Holly Gomes, Emelia Grossman, Sarisha Panday, Maria Perez, Abigail Shin, Amanda Wilson**
Gibbons Prize in French: **Cameron Anderson**
Gibson Prize for Mathematics: **Andrew Han**
Governor General’s Academic Medal: **Kiana Sharifi**
Hal Brown “Triple A” Award*: **Daisy Kaiser**
Jack Dow Music Scholarship: **Iva-Mari Miskulin**
The Jane Kennedy Prize for Studies in Latin and English: **Elena Prescott**
The Kerr Trophy for Leadership*: **Jack Vanek**
The Kruszynsky Prize in Business: **Eden Dejong**
Lieutenant Governor’s Community Award: **Jack Vanek**
Lynn MacGillivray Scholarship in English: **Kiana Sharifi**
Mike Cherry Memorial Award: **Kiara Distin**
North Toronto Collegiate Biology Award: **Athena Cheng**
North Toronto Collegiate Classics Award: **Iva-Mari Miskulin**
North Toronto Collegiate Dramatic Arts Award: **Naz Cokisler**
North Toronto Collegiate Foundation Centennial Scholarship*: **Kiara Distin**
North Toronto Collegiate Geography Award: **Lauren Nebesky**
North Toronto Collegiate Global Education Award: **Simone Bellengler**
North Toronto Collegiate Health & Physical Education: **Jack Vanek, Claire Knapman**
North Toronto Collegiate History Award: **Angela Krstic**
North Toronto Collegiate Kinesiology Award: **Lee Ashley Keshet**
North Toronto Collegiate Modern Languages Award: **Kristen Kyone**
North Toronto Collegiate Scholarship Award (Bronze): **Kiana Sharifi**
North Toronto Collegiate Scholarship Award (Gold): **Jonah Tang**
North Toronto Collegiate Scholarship Award (Silver): **Alex Chen**
North Toronto Collegiate Spanish Award: **Prisha Ghai**
North Toronto Commemorative Award: **Simone Bellengler, Blaize Exeter, Ava Ireland, Alyssa Pather**
OSSTF District 12-Jim McQueen Excellence in Education Award: **Angela Krstic**
Principal’s Award for Student Leadership: **Maryanna Barkas, Jack Vanek**
R.R.H. (Bud) Page Valedictory Prize*: **Jack Vanek**
Rob Crombie Memorial Scholarship: **Ava Ireland, Bianca Miclaus**
The Robert O’Connell Memorial Chemistry Award: **Elena Prescott**
The Sam Baker Dramatic Arts Award*: **Moriah Lewin**
The Sifton Trophy for Citizenship*: **Justin Lee**
The Sandra Urie Guggino Award for Mathematics, Physics and English: **Maria Cruceat**
TSSWAA Scholarship: **Sian Huang**
Waldron Prize for Publication: **Elena Prescott**
Waltman Scholarship: **Felicia Yao**
W.J. Houston Scholarship: **Alex Chen, Bridget Kim**

*Commencement awards with an asterisk are sponsored by the Foundation.

Speakers Series raises money for Wellness Fund

A Governor General Award-winning playwright and actor; a pioneering Canadian conductor who founded the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir; one of the country’s most celebrated oboeists; and a Grammy Award-winning cellist.

Karen Hines, Ivars Taurins, Sarah Jeffrey, and Dorothy Lawson were featured at the Foundation’s latest Speaker Series event, “The Art of Making Art.” The notable alumni in classical music and the performing arts joined *Toronto Star* journalist and arts critic moderator Joshua Chong (’20) for an invigorating discussion about their careers and the industry.

All ticket proceeds from this event went towards the Foundation’s Wellness Fund. Developed with the NTCI Guidance Department in response to Canada’s ballooning youth mental health crisis, this fund supports student mental health and wellness initiatives at the school.

Will you join our board as treasurer?

Looking for a way to give back to NTCI? We need a new treasurer. If you are an NTCI grad with the skills to oversee our finances, this is the position for you.

We are a registered charitable organization that supports students and programs at NTCI. We do that through various fundraising initiatives, the management of alumni endowment funds, and issuing grants to support graduation awards and numerous student activities, both curricular and extra-curricular.

Our Advisory Board is made up of 19 volunteers including 16 alumni, the school principal, and two student representatives. We meet on Monday evenings six times per year in September, November, January, March, May, and June, and for one to two “Dragons’ Den” events.

If you are interested in joining our board as treasurer, please contact our chair, Ron Wakelin, at rwakelin@utschools.ca.

Students and Foundation board members at this spring’s Dragons’ Den.



Dragons’ Den funds nine student initiatives this year

Each year, students from NTCI’s clubs and teams have an opportunity to address the Foundation and ask for funding. Dubbed “NTCI’s Dragons’ Den,” this is a bi-annual event, where students make formal presentations to the members of the board in hopes of securing some money for their clubs.

Financial requests are welcomed from all student-led groups that support the arts, athletics, or student well-being. The Foundation hopes to support as many students as possible through our financial contributions, and it is important that a large number of students will benefit from the support.

Over the years, the Foundation has helped send students on outreach trips, supported in-school workshops, and helped fund the annual Remembrance Day assembly. This year, the presentations were a refreshing reminder of the rich diversity at the school, in terms of the opportunities open to NTCI students.

Members of the Foundation Board were delighted to reconnect with students at its Dragons’ Den in October. This year, the Foundation heard from five groups: the Clay Club, the Robotics Club, the Website team, the Forensic Club, and PALS, a peer mentoring group. Each gave an impressive presentation, and all were awarded funds. In total, the Foundation dispersed \$3,000, which is just one of the ways that we support NTCI students during the school year.

In March, we heard from six groups who each gave thoughtful and creative presentations, outlining their financial needs, as well as an explanation of how these funds would be beneficial to the wider student body.

The Outers Club delivered their first-ever presentation to the Foundation, with a request to fund their club, which aims to bring together ESL students who are new to the school. Through outdoor activities such as winter camping and cross-country ski days, students come together outside of school to help strengthen their relationship in the community and with nature. Funds given by the Foundation will go towards equipment for camping trips that can be used for years to come.

Graffiti, the school’s newspaper, is printed four times a year and a copy is made available to as many students as possible. The goal of the newspaper is to create content “for students, by students.” Articles appeal to the student body and reflect their interests. In the TDSB, NTCI remains the only high school with a newspaper of this size. This year, the Foundation gave *Graffiti* \$1000 to help cover the cost of printing the paper.

The Prom Committee was looking for financial support towards grad gifts and treats sold at Prom. The Foundation agreed to help sponsor their candy table at the event. Likewise, the Red and Grey Day club was looking for money to help mount their annual event. The Foundation gave money towards spirit gear, which will promote school spirit amongst students at the school.

From the archives

Pangs of nostalgia with a wave of appreciation for office staff

Whenever I come across an unfamiliar photo taken at NTCI in the early years, I experience a pang of nostalgia. Those earnest faces of the students and staff who walked the halls of the old school, living lives, are now long gone. There is also excitement for what the photo will tell me about NTCI in years gone by.

I came across such an undated photo last spring.

It was sent to me by Pegi Rappaport, and belonged to her Great Aunt Hilda Elizabeth Carruthers, who, according to Rappaport, “had a Bachelor of Education, but after teaching at the Ontario Ladies College in Whitby, decided to move to NTCI and worked in the office with Colonel Wood for 34 years, until she retired in 1957.”

Rappaport continued that, “The classroom was not for her, but she ran a tight ship in the office, by all accounts. No teacher or student in her office did swear, afraid that St. Nicholas might be there.”

Apparently she also possessed a green thumb: “she had a fern in her office in a planter on the wall. Fifty years later, it was still going strong in her apartment.”

According to her great niece, after she retired, she assisted Colonel Wood in planning the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Queen’s Own Rifles at the Armouries in 1960.

This short biography made me think of all the office staff I have known at NTCI: Mary Moore, Fern Michaels, Susan Montgomery,



An undated photo from NTCI’s early years featuring Hilda Elizabeth Carruthers and other staff members. Carruthers—with curly hair—is in the second row, second female from the left.

Lucy Kennedy, Donna Ijima, Josie Curcio, Emila Brittain, Leslie Britton, and many others.

They were the oil that kept the school machine working: ordering supplies, keeping records, scolding late students and neglectful staff, dealing with parent phone calls, assisting ill students, and encouraging us all to do a better job.

I gather Hilda Carruthers was that sort of woman.

The photo itself shows a formally posed NTCI staff taken in the early part of the last century. We do not know the year it was taken. These were the people who dealt daily with the students, either in the classroom or the office, dedicated to assisting young NTCI students to achieve their perhaps unrecognized goals.

What a small group! So young! It is such a treat to see this charming photograph of the staff of years long gone by! If you can date this photo by clothing, grooming, or hairstyle, I would welcome your input.

—Nancy Baines, NTCI Foundation Archivist

Do you recognize anyone in this picture?

I wrote in this space before about slaying a very particular dragon: identifying and cataloging an extensive number of posed and casual pictures, taken by former members of Pentagon staff from the 1960s to the 1990s. The snapshots have no mention of year, team, or the context of the pictures.

You can read more about this project on the Foundation website at <https://bit.ly/NTCIarchive>.

In the meantime, we’ve started to publish these photos in the hope that you can help. If you recognize anyone in these photos, please let us know! Email us at ntcifoundation@ntci.on.ca and put *For the archives* in the subject line.

—Nancy Baines, NTCI Foundation Archivist

This picture was taken sometime between 1960 and 2000, likely in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Can you tell us more?



Labour of love tracks NTCI’s music program decade by decade

The first six Memory Boards were created by Lorraine Clarkson (’71) in 1996 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Maytime Melodies.

Displayed at the alumni concert at Roy Thomson Hall along with uniforms worn by the members of different groups over the years, the “decade by decade” snapshot provided 50th Anniversary concert-goers with musical memories that caused more than one attendee to become teary eyed! Following the concert, Lorraine took the uniforms home, and the boards were carefully transported back to the music storeroom in the basement of the old school where they patiently waited for another appearance.

That opportunity came at the 60th Maytime Melodies when alumni were invited to return to the school to perform several numbers with current students. When the boards were resurrected, they required a little bit of TLC to put them right and, with the help of an NTCI teacher who researched the content, Lorraine put together a board covering the next 10 years. (Being a true pack rat, she still had the templates and materials used to make the original boards.) The seven boards were on display at the school on both nights of the 60th along with the uniforms.

Following the concert, the boards were once again packed up and, with the plans for the new school in place, they took up temporary residence in the archives area of the old school. Miraculously and thanks to NTCI archivist Nancy Baines, the boards made the move to the new school relatively unscathed and were temporarily housed in the Heritage Room.

Their next appearance came in 2012 when Lorraine, along



with several other alumni, unpacked,

inspected, and repaired the boards so that they could once again be displayed at Roy Thomson Hall for the alumni concert, Memories Forever, celebrating NTCI’s 100th anniversary. Once again, another board was added to bring the school’s musical story up to date.

Following the big event at Roy Thomson Hall, the boards and uniforms were transported back to the school, where they were displayed in the music room on Saturday, May 12 for the 100th Anniversary Open House.

At that point the eight boards and the uniforms were carefully packed away with instructions to open them for the 75th Anniversary of Maytime Melodies in 2021. Fast forward to 2023 and the boards, some a little the worse for wear, were pulled out of storage again, albeit two years later than anticipated thanks to COVID.

Once again, Lorraine and longtime friends, Brian Maltman (’71) and Nancy Nourse (’70), took on a labour of love to repair and update the existing boards and research events from 2012 to 2023 to add a ninth board to bring the display up to date.

After being on display at the 75th Maytime Melodies, the boards and the set of uniforms will be carefully packed up and tucked away until the next time . . . perhaps the 100th? However, by that time, it’s quite likely that the intrepid trio behind putting the display together this round will be passing the torch to others who also cherish the lifelong impact music at NTCI has made on their lives.

Cello donated in memory of NTCI alum

Late last year, Michael Martin donated a very special cello, bow, and case to NTCI in memory of his wife, Barbara Kamienski (’71), a much-loved alumna of the school and Advisory Board member who passed away in 2019.

Michael met Barbara in Germany, where she played French horn in several orchestras. Coming to Canada in 1999 was a return home for Barbara and a new adventure for Michael. Their son Peter is also an NTCI grad.

Michael recalls how Barbara credited her career as a professional musician to her music education at NTCI and the skills she

gained at the school. She was deeply involved with the Memories Forever concert, and part of the school’s 100th anniversary celebrations. She played alongside many of her colleagues from NT and edited the concert programme.

Michael related that Barbara’s time on the NTCI Foundation Advisory Board—reconnecting with old friends and giving back to the school that “launched” her—meant a lot to his wife.

The cello, made in the early 1900s, has a lovely sound. It will offer a special experience for aspiring cellists at the school and serve as a reminder of a heart-felt gift in honour of an NTCI grad.

Right: Mark Kinoshita in 2002. Far right: Nancy Rough at Red & Grey Day with alumni and assistant curriculum leaders Anne Chamberlain, who attended NT in the late 80s, and Jenny Hayden ('90).



Principal's year in review

What an incredibly exciting and busy year this has been at NTCI!

It was wonderful to be able to have in-person NTCI Foundation meetings in the Heritage Room again. Furthermore, both Dragons' Den events were held in-person at the school. In the first semester, the Foundation supported various clubs, the school website, and PALs. In the second semester, further funding was allocated to more clubs, Graffiti, prom, and Red & Grey Day.

We had two fabulous evenings to celebrate our 75th Maytime Melodies on May 11 and 12, with more than 100 alumni performing in various ensembles. Thank you so much for all the continued support and presence provided by our incredible alumni!

There were two out of country trips during the March Break: one to London and the other to Spain and France. And, the Foundation helped support a YMCA Youth Exchange with an Indigenous group from Winnipeg.

Donations collected for NTCI's charity of choice this year, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, totalled over \$10,000, demonstrating the generous, giving nature of the NTCI community.

We continue to enjoy Red & Grey Day, music performances from our various music groups, including our marching band and a senior strings concert with a special guest performance by TSO concertmaster Jonathan Crow.

We had so many sports teams and intramurals, with our Alpine Boys and Overall Combined Skiing becoming City Champions this year, along with participation in numerous contests and competitions, excursions, and extracurricular activities.

This year, we say a fond farewell to retiring staff Joel Gardner, Mark Kinoshita, Annamaria Mazzaferro, and Nancy Rough. Thanks for all that you have brought to our school community.

Lastly, we will hold Commencement for one of the largest graduating years at NTCI: nearly 400 graduates will walk across the stage in their gowns, hats, and tassels. What a fabulous end to the 2022-2023 school year!

—Dr. Jane A Lee

Acknowledging our hosts

We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and the Inuit peoples.

—Official Toronto District School Board Land Acknowledgement

Fond farewell to retiring staff

Mark Kinoshita

Mark Kinoshita ('82) is a valued member of the Foundation Board, who is also an NTCI alumni and soon to be retired staff member.

He taught at Bloor Collegiate Institute for 10 years where he coached the cricket team. He met his wife, now-retired NTCI music teacher Elizabeth Monteith, there, and joined her at NTCI in '98 as the head of physics.

He resurrected the ski team in '98, eventually becoming the Toronto District School Board ski racing convenor. As sports were returning to the TDSB in 2022, he pulled together a short race series for any interested high schools. Only three schools participated—all Midtown schools. It became jokingly known as the "Midtown Cup," and was topped off with candy bar awards.

This year, he was very happy to be able to run a full TDSB ski race series as the convenor. His NTCI racers have enjoyed many successful city and OFSAA championships. This year they were proud to bring home the City Ski Racing Overall Championship—a first for Mark and NTCI.

His Robotics teams have similarly been as competitive. He founded the NTCI Delta Tech Robotics team in 2001 and has spent many a long afternoon and evening with his students as they worked on their robots. His retirement plans include supply teaching, skiing, working with the NTCI Foundation, continuing his love of learning, and spending quality time with his wife and family.

Nancy Rough

Nancy Rough brought her fun, positive, and practical teaching to NTCI in 1995.

She taught in the geography and business departments and co-founded the school's co-op programme. In 2005 she moved into the physical education department and in 2011 she became assistant curriculum leader of athletics, in charge of all extra-curricular sports, gym facilities, and the NTCI Athletic Association.

She coached field hockey, rugby, softball, and volleyball, and was always ready to help other coaches with their teams. Apart from being an amazing teacher, coach, and mentor to many, she has played a huge role in "keeping alive the spirit of NTCI."

She has worked tirelessly and creatively to keep athletic programmes running and has been key to keeping that great tradition of Red & Grey Day going year after year. She now looks forward to sharing travel and outdoor adventures with her husband.



The concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Jonathan Crow, performs Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with the senior strings under the direction of teacher Brian Rice on April 27.

Still semestered but with activities in full swing

The 2022-23 school year brought us one step further away from our lives spent in front of a Zoom call. Without a single day online, exams also returned while we still remained in a semestered school year.

Sports were brought back to full capacity, with the return of teams like ice hockey and rugby, and notable wins at OFSAA for the alpine ski team, the swim team, and the ultimate frisbee team. The annual tradition of the Broadway Bowl between NTCI and Northern Secondary School returned for the first time since 2019. The girls won 7-3 but the boys walked away with a devastating loss—we'll get 'em next year. Our Senior Boys' Basketball team won The Great Western Round-Up Invitationals tournament. Intramurals made their return with badminton, floor hockey, dodgeball, and basketball being open to all NTCI students.

The 2022-23 school year also saw the return of Fall Fare for the first time since 2019 and marked the 75th anniversary of Maytime Melodies. Student art and small musical ensembles were on display at Soda Pop Shop this year after a three-year hiatus. The Drama Club also performed *Clue*, among many other small performances, including student-written plays.

This past May, the symphonic and concert bands headed down to Niagara to compete at MusicFest nationals, and the senior strings played Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* alongside Toronto Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Jonathan Crow.

We also brought back major events such as Wellness Week, Earth Week, and Charity Week; this year the NTCI community raised over \$11,000 for the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture.

Graffiti, our student-published newspaper, was running strong. It published four amazing issues this year that tackled issues from safety on the TTC to NTCI students' favourite lunch spots.

NTCI students put their public speaking skills and ideas on display at this year's TEDx conference, hosted right in the school's auditorium with speakers from all grades sharing their empowering stories and ideas.

NTCI students also participated in the YMCA cultural exchange program, hosting Indigenous students from Winnipeg. On May 4, we held our annual Red & Grey Day where NTCI students donned red and grey to support our sports teams including Track and Field, Girls' Rugby, Girls' Soccer, Girls' and Boys' Volleyball, Boys' Basketball, and Ultimate Frisbee.

To wrap up the year, prom took place at Palais Royale on May 25, and was an exciting and fun night for our graduating seniors.

—Charlie Carter and Leila Schrenk (student reps)



The Alpine Boys and Overall Combined Skiing teams were City Champions this year.



Alumni news

NTCI alumni reconnect to celebrate and reminisce

Classes of 1970–1972

The graduating classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972 gathered in person at the Granite Brewery last fall.

Approximately 20 NTCI alumni met in October for a 50-year reunion. When attendees gathered for a group photo, someone started singing the school song. Everyone joined in, remembering the words and singing in tune, impressing other guests at the restaurant.

Some of the grads said that it was a bit of a shock to realize they had known each other for more than 50 years, but they added that it was one that came with an equal measure of gratitude. They shared that they all still recognize each other by their smiles, and there were plenty of those at the reunion.

The reunion was to include another special event at the school that day. Eighteen grads had signed up to attend a class and see what had changed over the last 50 years. They signed up for music, art, English, civics, history, geography, math, physics, and French. Grads were to visit the school's staff room at NT to meet staff and Principal Dr. Jane Lee, as well as see a collection of archives from their time at North Toronto. Unfortunately, this part of the reunion had to be canceled as the school was closed due to the labour dispute.

A big thank you to Foundation Board members Lorraine Clarkson and Brian Maltman for organizing the reunion, Nancy Baines for supplying yearbooks and other items from the early 1970s, Ron Wakelin for greeting attendees and being the “banker,” and Dr. Lee for enthusiastically helping to set up school and class visits.



Class of 1973

A warm greeting and a hug at a class reunion can wipe out past insecurities, rivalries, and bad reputations, or anything that made you nervous to show up.

At the NTCI Class of '73 reunion, the 50 years between graduation and now showed on some faces, in some body shapes, and hair (or lack of it). But the eyes haven't changed, and neither have the smiles. All in all, the class of '73 has held up pretty well.

Many class members met every Friday night through COVID, although a larger number had begun meeting several times a year

for dinner after NTCI's 100th anniversary, after discovering that gathering with former classmates was like seeing extended family. Many share the same values, traditions, and the same memories; everyone understands each other. There's no posturing, no bragging, no judgment. Just a sense of home. Who knew that the strength of the bond woven at NTCI would endure so far beyond 1973.



Class of 1982

After missing our 40th anniversary of graduating high school in 2022 due to COVID, the class of 1982 jumped on the chance to celebrate its 60th birthdays together in 2023. Thirty-six classmates came out to The Rose and Crown on May 13 to celebrate.

What a great night it was. People came from near and far with one coming all the way from Portugal to join the festivities. The nicest part about reaching this age is that any pretenses are long gone. Everyone is genuinely happy to see each other and to reminisce about the good old days! Next up: our 50th anniversary since graduating taking place in 2032! Yikes.



Class of 2013

The Class of 2013 celebrated their 10 year reunion at the Granite Brewery on April 29. With a turnout of more than 70, delicious hors-d'œuvres, and some nostalgic tunes, alumni had a fantastic time reconnecting and reminiscing. What was to be an early evening affair carried on until 11 pm—a party for the memory books. Thank you to everyone who was able to make it out. Please keep in touch: northtoronto13@gmail.com or join our private LinkedIn group.



Left: Jalynn Bosley (far right) with former staff (from left to right) Nancy Baines, Carole Whelan, and Mary Ellen McNaught. Right: the group of 18 women who travelled to Bhutan.



Staff-student bond leads to trip of a lifetime

I don't think anyone in high school fully grasps the impact some of their teachers will have on them. You don't sit in grade 10 history and think, I will still be in touch with my teacher in 30 years. You definitely don't think you will ever travel across the world with them. At that time, I didn't even know I would start a business. It's wild how life continues to surprise you along the way.

In 2020, my outdoor experiential education company, ALIVE Outdoors, was celebrating its 20th anniversary. At the root of ALIVE is the belief that how well we know and understand ourselves determines the quality of our lives. We focus on using the outdoor classroom to help young people deepen their sense of self and develop essential life competencies required to be resilient, grounded, and engaged citizens.

While we had always dedicated our time and energy towards creating student-centred programs, our team wanted to do a few different things to mark ALIVE's 20th year. One of the things we planned was a women's expedition to the Kingdom of Bhutan, the small Himalayan country known for its 'high value, low volume' approach to tourism, as well as Gross National Happiness.

Some people know it as the first carbon negative country in the world. Even though less than 750,000 people live in the Kingdom, it's a place with endless lessons to offer and immense beauty to explore. There is a palpable, yet calm energy to the small Buddhist country. Monasteries and dzongs (fortresses) spot the forested, mountainous landscape. The local people have a generosity of spirit that feels sincerely genuine.

I had taken students there a few times, and I wanted to share it with friends. When I tossed out the idea through my network, it was clear that an amazing group of women, ranging from their mid-twenties to early eighties, were going to come together to share and learn, not only about Bhutan, but also from each other.

Of course, we all know what happened in 2020, hence our trip was delayed until March 2023. To have shared this experience with teachers who knew me in my early teens was incredibly special and something I will always hold dear. I wanted to be an educator partly because of the significant impact these women, and a handful of others had on me when I was younger. In many ways, this felt like a full circle moment where I could finally share some teachable moments with them.

To learn more about ALIVE Outdoors and see more photos from our trip please visit: <https://www.aliveoutdoors.com/womens-expedition-2023/>

—Jalynn Bosley ('92), Executive Director, Alive Outdoors

Thirty years ago, I watched Jalynn lead the GAA in many school events—sporting events, Athletic Banquet, Red & Grey, Pancake Breakfast, assemblies, fundraisers. She was a strong voice on the student council. Over many coffee dates since, I listened in awe as she laid out her solid and no-nonsense business vision for ALIVE Outdoors—as one that combined outdoor education with leadership and personal growth and development. Over the past few years, I saw her become more and more enchanted by the beauty, people and values of the small kingdom of Bhutan. I was thrilled when she invited Mary Ellen, Nancy, and me to join her Women's Trip to experience this very special place.

—Carole Whelan

We viewed the spectacular Himalayas, visited Buddhist temples, and hiked some awesome trails. But most wonderful of all, we shared the trip with 18 women of all ages, from all over the world, who knew and loved Jalynn: her leadership, love of nature, and devotion to education. What a wonderful experience!

—Nancy Baines

Our trip to Bhutan with Jalynn's female friends was an exhilarating event. Most of all, it was an opportunity to renew our friendship and see what an amazing group of young women she has mentored over the years through her company ALIVE Outdoors. What fun to travel those winding mountain roads, buoyed by arm exercises, stories, and the ensuing laughter.

—Mary Ellen McNaught

In Memoriam

Bud Andrew Begay (staff, 1983–98)

Former assistant head of history at North Toronto CI Bud Begay passed away September 22, 2022, and is remembered as a serious and dedicated teacher with a great love for debate and frank discussions around social and political matters.

He was known for his unique blackboard notes; his few cryptic words scrawled on the board would end up being starred, circled, underlined, and crossed with arrows as he wove his way through his class explanations! No one could ever say that Mr. Begay’s class was dull! Nor was his life.

Born in Budapest in 1940, Bud escaped Hungary with his brother and father in 1956. His mother was to join them later but tragically, she was killed in her attempt to flee—an event that had a great impact on the 16 year old.

After their escape, Bud, his father, and brother landed in England and later emigrated to Winnipeg where he continued his schooling. A talented student, Bud pursued a Master’s degree in history and in 1965, left Winnipeg to settle in Toronto with his wife Linda.

A man of many interests, he loved to play chess, golf with his NTCI buddies, enjoy a game of squash, travel in Europe, and to read almost anything. Another of his passions was scuba diving in the Caribbean and he loved animals, especially dogs.

Described by a friend as “outspoken, opinionated, astute, and often stubborn, he took delight in intelligent discussion and could never stoop to being politically correct.” However, to those who knew him, he had a kind and gentle heart, was a true gentleman, and was totally devoted to his wife of 57 years, his three children, four grandchildren, and beloved dog.

Douglas Murray “Doug” Cain (‘53)

The passing of Doug Cain on September 2, 2022 at the age of 86 marked the passing of a patriarch as he was the first of three generations to call NTCI their alma mater.

Doug was born and raised in Toronto and lived on Roehampton Avenue. Perpetually young at heart, Doug combined music and athletics at NTCI; he played clarinet under the baton of Jack Dow and was on the football team coached by Hal Brown.

He spent his entire working career at the Workman’s Compensation Board, retiring in 1988. His two children, Lisa and Stephen followed in his footsteps by attending North Toronto CI, graduating in ’82 and ’84 respectively. Like her dad, Lisa played in the orchestra (under David Ford) and even had Hal Brown for history! The connection to NT continued when Lisa’s daughters Ariel and Emma Walker attended NT with Ariel graduating in ’19.

Passionate about politics, Doug enjoyed good discussions but

always smiled easily and possessed a joie de vivre that will be truly missed by all who knew him.

Mike Filey (‘61)

With the passing of well-known North Toronto CI alumnus Mike Filey on July 30, 2022, the school lost a dedicated supporter and the city bid farewell to its most passionate and knowledgeable exponent of Toronto’s past.

Born in Toronto in 1941, Mike grew up in the Bathurst and Bloor area close to Honest Ed’s. After completing grade 13 at North Toronto CI, he attended Ryerson Polytechnic Institute where he graduated from the chemical technology program.

He began his working career with a yearlong stint at Ontario Water Resources and then moved into event planning and public relations with the Canadian National Exhibition (five years) and Canada’s Wonderland (four years).

In the 70s, he began to pursue his true vocation as a Toronto historian. This led him to a career in journalism with the *Toronto Telegram* and later *The Sun* where he authored the popular column “The Way We Were.” His first book, *A Toronto Album: Glimpses of the City That Was* was published in 1970 and in the years to come, he authored more than two dozen more.

He had a weekly show on Zoomer radio 740 and was a regular guest on other local stations. He received the Jean Hibbert Memorial Award from the Etobicoke Historical Society in 2009 in recognition of his many publications and ongoing efforts to share his love of the city’s history with others.

Mike was part of the NTCI Foundation for a number of years offering advice on the heritage elements of the old school prior to the building of the new school, and was involved in the 75th and 100th anniversary celebrations. He was also a contributor to *Hail! North Toronto: Celebrating a Century*, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the school.

A car enthusiast, his pride and joy was the 1955 turquoise and white Pontiac given to him by his wife Yarmila—a vehicle that perhaps reminded him of his high school days at NTCI.

Samuel Robert “Bob” Huntington (staff, late ‘60s)

If you attended NTCI in the sixties, you should have no difficulty recalling “Mr. Huntington”—a most captivating science teacher. One never quite knew what would happen in his class and whether the period would be devoted to prescribed topics or a “doomsday” lecture about the state of the world and what we, as a new generation, were going to do about it. He was a passionate environmentalist long before it was fashionable.

Born in British Columbia on March 14, 1923, Bob was in his hundredth year when he passed away in Cambridge on June 21, 2022.

During the course of his long life, Bob followed several paths. Keenly interested in science, he was studying at the University of British Columbia when war broke out. His education took a pause as he joined the navy as an officer. After the war, he completed his science degree and continued his naval career where he was instrumental in building the University Naval Training Division.

His love of science led him to a career in education teaching at NTCI, Northern Secondary School, as well as North Park Collegiate in Brantford. When the Ontario Science Centre opened in 1969, he was recruited as the Centre’s Education Officer—a perfect position for someone who was passionate about education and the importance of science for young people.

Bob left behind a large extended family and a lasting legacy to all who were privileged to know him as a teacher, mentor and friend.

Robert Edward “Bob” Lightfoot (staff)

Longtime NT French and German teacher, Bob Lightfoot passed away February 8, 2023; he was in his 94th year. A kind and gentle person, Bob was very family oriented and always looked forward to the Lightfoot reunions that periodically took place.

In the classroom, he was patient and steadfast and would always go the extra mile for students who needed help, even doing some German to English translation for an NTCI alumnus when she was researching the history of the piccolo!

He is survived by his three loving children, three adored grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. In the words of his family, will be “fondly remembered and forever loved.”

Also remembering

Christopher Richard Austin (‘83), September 5, 2022
Murial Louise (Oram) Auwaerter (‘48), June 2, 2022
Christopher Jackson Clarke (‘74), July 12, 2022
Margaret (Margot) Morley (Broddy) Clarke (‘47), October 18, 2022
Pattie (Hart) Cleghorn (‘60), June 17, 2022
Richard Norman Cunningham (‘61), May 5, 2022
Lisbet (Svensen) Gorrie (‘56), October 24, 2022
John Hunter (‘56), October 15, 2022
Frances (Nancy) Elizabeth Howey (‘45), December 14, 2022
Mary Hardy (Martin) Knox (‘39), August 2, 2022
Ronald C. Leroy (‘65), March 23, 2023
Muriel Anne (Smart) Masson (‘44), May 23, 2022
Margaret Lilian (Winch) McMulkin ’40, March 16, 2023

Donald Archibald “Don” McNeill (staff 1962–82)

A lifelong learner, avid reader, and devoted chronicler of family events, Don McNeill, long time department head of classics at NTCI, left this world peacefully on April 9, 2023 at the age of 82.

An imposing figure with a wicked sense of humour, Don brought his passion for learning to the classroom and to the annual “March Break” archeological tours to Italy and Greece that he organized.

Former student, Mark Maitman ’71, staff, ’80-’92, recalls that Don was the author of “the toughest exam I ever had to write”—the grade 13 Latin exam! There was no question that Don had very high standards and, as Mark recalled, “his small group of Latin nerds reveled in the challenge.” When Mark joined the teaching staff at NTCI, he recalls how important Don was as a colleague and how influential he was in his own career.

Born in Simcoe, Ontario, Don attended Victoria College at U of T (B.A., M.Ed.) and later, McMaster University (M.A. in Classics). In addition to his 20 years of teaching, primarily at NTCI, Don held a number of administrative positions in the Toronto Board of Education and was a seasonal lecturer at Queen’s University and the University of Toronto.

In 1982, he decided to switch careers and became a full time student in the Faculty of Law at U of T graduating with a Juris Doctor degree. He practiced law in Toronto for a number of years before moving to Wasaga Beach where his wife, Jo-Anne, grew up. At the time, he was the sole legal practitioner in Wasaga and loved the variety the position offered him.

Always proud of his Scottish heritage, Don leaves behind his wife of 60 years, his two children, two grandchildren, his sister, and many cherished friends who will all “miss him beyond measure.”

Robert Nicholson (staff), March 15, 2023
Doreen Norris Ogilvie (‘51), December 16, 2022
Robert Douglas (Doug) Pearson (‘49), June 12, 2022
Timothy Porter (‘68), March 19, 2023
Karen Peterson-Bowden (‘80), January 6, 2023
Timothy Porter (‘58), March 19, 2023
Todd Michael Reynolds (‘62), March 25, 2023
Amy Elizabeth (Betty) Rowe (‘40), March 9, 2023
James Lincoln Rowney (‘53), June 9, 2022
Stanley J. Shortt (‘51), February 15, 2023
Marilyn Jean Turner (‘53), June 30, 2022
Gloria Louise (Walton-Bell) Van Zant (‘57), April 22, 2022
Eva Doreen Wilson (‘44), November 8, 2022

The NTCI Foundation

The NTCI Foundation is committed to preserving the rich heritage and reputation of North Toronto Collegiate Institute as a fine example of public education. Led by an advisory board of 19 alumni, retired staff, student representatives, and the current principal, the Foundation supports current students with scholarships and grants, promotes alumni events, and facilitates communication between alumni and the school.

Advisory Board members 2022–2023:

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Lisa Cain ('82) (Vice Chair)
Charlie Carter ('23) (Student rep)
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About Foundation News

Foundation News is the North Toronto Collegiate Institute Alumni Newsletter. It features stories about NT students and staff (past and present), as well as information about the Foundation and its activities.

Foundation News is typically published once a year in June and mailed to alumni who specifically request a paper copy, emailed to our subscriber list, and distributed to that year's graduating class at their graduation ceremony. The 2023 graduation ceremony will be held in person at the end of June, and we wish our 2023 grads much success as they embark on their adventures.

Are you a writer? Do you have a story to tell?

We want to hear from you!

We're looking for writers who can pick up one or two stories a year for inclusion in our email updates, on our website, and in our annual newsletter. We're keen to produce more alumni profiles, cover school events, and uncover NT's history. You don't need to have formal reporting or writing experience, just a passion for NT.

Are you an entrepreneur, launching an art show, publishing a book, receiving an award, or celebrating a milestone? Tell us your stories, your successes, and your latest news.

Email us at abrissenden72@gmail.com, and put *For the newsletter* in the subject line.

Contact us

Let us know if you've moved or changed your email, want to make a donation, or are interested in joining the advisory board.

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The school's website is <https://www.northtorontoci.ca/>. While you're there, click on *Alumni* to visit the NTCI Foundation website for alumni news and photos, past newsletters, event listings, and a link to our Foundation video. You can also follow us under North Toronto Collegiate Institute Alumni on Facebook and LinkedIn.

New this year: NTCI has an official school page on LinkedIn, so you can now add NTCI as a school or work experience to your profile page. Update your profile today, so we can grow our online community.



NTCI Website



NTCI Alumni Website



NTCI Facebook Group



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