Blue and Gold

By Chris McGann

“Lux Numquam Desit” evermore,

Thy gold and blue we fling

Gold and blue or blue and gold, these are the official colours of Port Credit Secondary School. This is one of the first things a new student learns when enrolling at PCSS and yet it is something they will probably remember for the rest of their lives.

As long as there have been humans in organized groups and those humans possessed the ability to dye cloth, various groups through history have adopted and identified with specific colours. The Spartans of ancient Greece wore cloaks of red, the colour of blood, war and conflict which they considered their element. Imperial purple was the colour adopted by the rulers of the Roman Empire. It came to stand for power, authority and the right to rule – imperium. In the Middle Ages armies marched behind banners emblazoned with specific images and colours. These banners showed where the king or leader was and gave the knights and foot soldiers a rally point in the dust and confusion of battle. When muskets replaced spears British infantry units carried their regimental flags called ‘colours’ into battle for two hundred years. Losing a colour was the greatest humiliation a regiment could suffer. Finally, today the combination of specific images and colours gives us our national and provincial flags.

School colours are an extension of this identity system. They are part of the tribalism that is high school. Each institution’s colours are meant to represent all that is best about the school. They are the visual embodiment of the spirit of the school. The colours are there to remind students of past accomplishments and to inspire further success in the present and the future. They foster group identity and help build esprit d’ a corps. Also, school colours play to a very basic human emotion. Everyone wants to feel part of a group, especially a group that they can be proud of with a long history of success which they can share in by association.

According to what I was able to find out royal blue and gold were selected as Port Credit’s school colours in 1927. This was when the school transitioned from being a continuation school to becoming a high school. How the selections were made and why blue and gold specifically were chosen I could not clearly determine. One comment I read suggests that there was a competition that was settled with a student vote. Regardless of the method used these selections were a good choice.

Symbolically blue represents trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence, intelligence, truth and fidelity. Gold has always been the colour of winning and success. It stands for triumph, achievement, abundance, prosperity, wellbeing, sophistication and elegance. Together, the qualities which blue and gold represent are a good cross section of what a school could and should stand for.

My exposure to the blue and gold of Port Credit began when I was in grade six. A boy in my class, Robert McHenry, had an older brother, Don, who was a star athlete at PCSS. It seemed on a regular basis Robert would bring in newspaper clippings describing Don’s accomplishments on the track or football field. On one occasion he even brought in his brother’s football sweater. It was gold with blue numbers. I didn’t realize it at the time but I think from then on I wanted to be part of the blue and gold.

School colours will always mean different things to different people. Usually they mean as much or as little as an individual has or had invested in the life of their school. Very soon Port Credit Secondary School will be one hundred years old. I like to think that our blue and gold can represent all of the accumulated efforts and accomplishments of Port Credit’s students over the past century. That is something to be proud of and to celebrate.

In my mind’s eye I see the gold of football sweaters late on a cool, damp, cloudy, autumn afternoon. The game has just ended and the sweaters are muddy and grass stained. Players mingle with spectators and cheerleaders as they make their way toward the school. The faces of the players are soiled and sweat streaked with fatigue but most are smiling. They are heading to the change rooms and hot showers. Port Credit has won the game. I know in reality the outcome might be different but in my memory the blue and gold are triumphant, always triumphant.