



# Musings

March/2006

[www.malverncollegiate.com](http://www.malverncollegiate.com)

*From the Malvern Red and Black Society*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Membership has its rewards. Thanks to the large size of our Society, we are able to make available to you the benefits of a group insurance program. We have entered into a home and auto insurance sponsorship agreement with Johnson Incorporated. Established in 1880, this Canadian insurer is well-known for providing insurance products for preferred associations like ours. You can find out more about Johnson Inc. at [www.johnson.ca](http://www.johnson.ca). Marketing materials will be sent for your information. To assure, the privacy of your personal information is always protected. Nobody from Johnson Inc. will contact you unless you request it. If you contact them and complete a quotation, a financial donation will be made to our Society. Should you then buy a policy, there will be further support provided. Such assistance will allow us to continue to 'Keep Malvernites in Touch'.

Calling Malvernites from the 1950s and the Class of 1960! **Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2006 12noon-6:00pm** will be our first 1950s Rock and Roll Reunion. Stroll on down to the Balmy Beach Club, meet old friends and enjoy MCI's rock & roll band and singers. For information **and to register**, call the MRBS Hotline (416-393-8683) or email us at [malvernreunion@yahoo.ca](mailto:malvernreunion@yahoo.ca).

**Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 1:00pm to 3:30pm.** Join us again at the BBC for our Annual General Meeting. Give your opinions and ideas directly to our volunteer executive.

Think that these activities, sponsorships and the *Musings* just happen? Think again. Thanks to the efforts of your fellow Malvernites from 1938 to 2008 you get to enjoy these benefits of membership. We still need volunteers in these areas:

- accountant & auditor
- lawyer
- advertising coordinator
- desktop publishing
- database administration
- mentors &/or speakers

To contribute some of your time, or for information, call the Hotline or email us at [redandblack@malverncollegiate.com](mailto:redandblack@malverncollegiate.com).

Randy Deffett, Class 1977

**MCI Souvenirs...**They are going fast!! Head to our website [www.malverncollegiate.com](http://www.malverncollegiate.com) to see what deals we have. Order your souvenir today to avoid disappointment!!!

## **WHAT'S NEW AT MALVERN**

### **Students are having a great time in Costa Rica**

A group of Malvern students are in Costa Rica right now, enjoying their time as part of an international exchange. All students are being hosted by families in the San José area. During the day, they attend classes at Saint Mary School, or visit places in the area and farther afield in the country. So far, they have seen things like downtown San José, Arenal volcano, La Fortuna waterfall, and a lot of the countryside as they have wound through the mountains.



### **Malvern gets a new Mural!**

This mural, located just outside Room 207 was developed from a line drawing left behind by Miles Hopper last year. With some modifications by Mr. Matthews, the original face was divided up into multiple shapes, inspired by the cubist style. A number of grade 10 students worked on the mural during spare time they made by finishing their in-class assignment early. A relatively limited palette was chosen to unify the piece and distinguish it from the background. It is hoped that this work will inspire more wall art and a greater respect for our immediate environment.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Gathering of Malvernites ...November 5, 2006** at the Balmy Beach Club from 1:00 – 3:30....come and connect with old friends and express your point of view to the MRBS at our second Annual General Meeting. Come and have your say and make a difference!

**1950's Decade....** Calling all Malvernites from the 1950's and the Class of 1960, your decade co-ordinator Rod Tenneyson and his crew have planned a great 1950's Rock and Roll Reunion for your decade to be held at the Balmy Beach Club on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 6:00. Stroll on down to the BBC, meet old friends and enjoy MCI's own rock& roll band and singers. For information and to register, call the MRBS Hotline (416-393-8683) or email us at [malvernreunion@yahoo.ca](mailto:malvernreunion@yahoo.ca).

**Music Concert at MCI!.....**On Saturday, April 22, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 22, 2006, George McRae, beloved retired Music Teacher for Malvern, will lead past and present MCI students in a free public concert in Malvern's auditorium. For information, please contact Cynthia Hucks at 705-742 2562 or email [jhucks@nexicom.net](mailto:jhucks@nexicom.net); if you are an Alumnae of George McRae and would like to perform and rehearse with us. Please meet there no later than 9:15 a.m. Thank you!

## **Remembrance Day 2005 at Malvern C.I.**

November 11, 2005 was a very special day at Malvern: 2005 was the Year of the Veteran, and November 11 was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. To mark this anniversary, the Malvern Red and Black Society invited veterans and other senior alumni to spend the morning at Malvern. We were delighted that a number of Malvern grads and their family members responded to our invitation.

They arrived at the school during the first assembly for the junior grades and then the Remembrance Day Ceremony was repeated for the senior grades. As we entered the auditorium, the Malvern Band in full uniform was playing songs for the occasion. The Malvern Choir also sang. A very interesting historical overview done by Malvern students of Canada's role in the World Wars and in peace-keeping in many countries was presented via the wonders of Power Point technology so that all could see it on a huge screen. The speaker was Joe Ryan of the Royal Regiment of Canada who spoke to a hushed auditorium.

Then two Malvern students, Cayley Page and Perry Menzies, presented a short play based on the true WWII love story of MRBS's own Sonya Munro and her boyfriend Johnny Johnson, both of whom attended Malvern in the 1940's. In poignant vignettes, they presented the story of a young girl (18) and her boyfriend (21) who was killed in Burma in 1944. The presentation, which was based on real letters that they wrote to one another, had a profound effect on all who saw it. The ceremony ended with a long moment of remembrance.

The senior alumni who were in attendance then went to the Library and were partnered with and hosted by current Malvernites to view the displays set up by the Archive's committee and have lunch together. The alumni present that day were: June Wall and her daughter, Bill Givens, Harold Ferguson, Frank Eade, Hank Farintosh, Bob Burgener and his wife Jean, Arthur Bush and his wife, Jean Bennet, Betty Davis, Jane Huggins, and Sonya Munro and friend Murray Duncan, as well as MRBS President Randy Deffett and Archives Committee members who hosted the luncheon: Donna Halliday, Paula Warder, and Vandra Masemann. (We apologise for any missing names.) We regretted the absence of the late Donald Lush, who had intended to be present with his wife. Arne Williamson, a Malvern parent who has spearheaded the latest effort to restore the Malvern monument, also attended as our guest.

Those present were very pleased to see that the spirit of Malvern was still alive and well. The day's events were capped by the pleasure of watching coverage of a segment of the play and an interview with Sonya Munro on the CTV news that evening. (Her memories are also captured on the film shown last year on the CBC: *Canada at War in Colour*). A very special day indeed for Malvern...

We remind you all again that Malvern's War Memorial is going to be restored. If any of you wish to donate to the cause, please make out your cheques to the **Onward Malvern Foundation**, marking them for the **Malvern Monument** in the memo section. The school's address is **55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto M4E 3E4**.

## **Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

Malvermite, Mary Baker (nee Norris) celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at a party with family and friends at the Olivet Church on Burnathorpe Road in Etobicoke. Mary attended MCI's 100<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2003 and we were pleased to send her official greetings from The Red and Black Society on her centennial. She treasures the certificate along with the ones from The Queen, The Prime Minister and the Premier etc.

Mary Elizabeth Norris attended Malvern from 1920-1924 and lived in a house called Quatre Vents which was the summer home of Sir Henry Pellat before he moved into Casa Loma. She remembers mowing the lawn in his garden so she could play tennis. During the 1923-1924 school year, Mary was the president of the Maids of Malvern. That was the year in which the group became affiliated with the YWCA and Mary and other Malvern girls spent many summers at Camp Tapawingo. In the first *Muse*, published in 1924, Mary had a short story published called, "Our Schoolroom on a Rainy Day". The following year, she submitted an article entitled "My First Impressions of University".

Mrs. Baker was no doubt one of the first female hockey players in Toronto. She remembers borrowing a bright pink sweater and wearing it to all of her games. The team was sponsored by 5 gentlemen who were members of a church on Beech Ave. Wonder if she played against the famous Bobbie Rosenfeld, Canada's Female Athlete of the Half Century?

George Baker, her childhood sweetheart and future husband, was also a Malvermite who coached the girls basketball teams and was Commander of the Malvern Cadet Corps. She has 2 children, Gregory and Linda, 6 grandchildren and at least 6 great grandchildren.

Mary is an artist who has some of her work in local galleries and she remembers visiting the McMichael Gallery in Kleinberg when another illustrious Malvernite Doris McCarthy was a guest artist. When Mary told Doris who she was, Doris gave her a big hug and they had a good time remembering their earlier days. Mary and Doris' older sister were chums at Malvern....

We are sad to announce the passing of one of our senior alumni Donald Lush on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at Scarborough Centenary Hospital. **Donald Robert Lush** was a World War 2 Veteran during which he was a Flight Lieutenant with the R.C.A.F.. Don served as a Hurricane Fighter Pilot in North Africa. He was a prisoner of war for four years in various camps in Poland and Germany after being shot down in the desert. Following the war, he became actively involved in his family's business – Supreme Aluminum Industries for 39 years. He enjoyed being in the outdoors, especially at his cottage on Stoney Lake. He was a long time member of the Scarborough Golf and Country Club, The Canadian P.O.W. Association, R.C.A.F Fighter Pilots Association and served many years as a volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society. He will be sadly missed by his family and also by his many MRBS friends.

### **Mighty Ship Malvern**

The captain, the crew and all hands  
Take this ship to may lands  
Dark seas and storms – Hide your fears!  
Bright course by stars this boat steers

Take the task, bend to the yoke  
Come to this school through any door  
Remember young friend what went before  
Look ahead, look ahead – look above

Compassion and truth bound by love  
All hands on deck, safe port in sight  
Stay the heading, give not to fright  
Help your mates, always lend a hand  
You will be called to take a stand

Onward Malvern by night and day  
Learn by deed you will find the way

Rick LeBer (Class of 1958)

### **MALVERNITES REMEMBER**

**Doreen Sharland** writes: **Memories of my varied associations with MCI I'd like to share with you....**

My actual student days (Matriculation and one year of Commercial), were during the war years, **1939-1945**. They were followed by a few years as secretary to the Vice-Principal, Milt Jewell. That was an interesting time for me as an 'Attendance' Secretary! Our attendance record was very poor! During the war years, Malvern was very busy with activities to raise money to outfit a canteen, among other efforts for the war overseas - lots of dances, drama, bands marching through the halls etc., leaving little time for classes. As a result there was a crackdown on absenteeism. I was to phone the homes of anyone not in class by 9 am. The problem for me was, in fact, many of my friends were finishing up on Grade 13 subjects. I heard later they waited for my call and then, after explaining their rehearsed reasons for not being at school, they all headed downtown together.

During my Grade 12 year, my friend Gowan Guest and I were Malvern Reps. on Simpson's Collegiate Club. This included regular meetings after school, Saturday and summer holiday employment, fashion shows etc. I had fun meeting the students from all the Toronto High Schools.

In 1996 my friend (Doreen Lowe) and her husband (Doug Chapman) organized a Dinner and Dance at Balmy Beach Canoe Club for those of us who had graduated 50 years ago. What a great time, meeting old friends, some of whom we hadn't seen since the school years."

After my marriage in 1949, four out of my five children ended up at M.C.I. While my youngest daughter, Mary, was there, I enrolled as a mature student in Mr. Ugarenko's Art classes for three years and received a Grade 13 diploma. I have lived in the Beach for all my 77 years and in my Glen Manor home for 45 years.

**Bonnie Smith Writes..**

I have a few very vivid memories of my time in the early 60 to mid 60s at Malvern, besides having great friends. One was the day President Kennedy was shot. Our grade 10 class was at the Royal Winter Fair when we got the news. We were all still in shock at the passing of Toronto Mayor Donald Summerville only two days earlier. The swimming pool at Woodbine Beach was named for the Mayor.

The second was holding air raid drills in the halls during the Cuban missile crisis. We all had to be prepared at any time to leave the class and take shelter in the hallways and basement.

The third was the principal stopping the boys in the hallway to tell them to tuck in their shirts and girls weren't allowed to wear pants or slacks. (We used to tuck them under our skirt in the winter) - what a difference from today's attire and anything goes rules.

## **Stephane Carret ('69) writes.....**

I attended Malvern from 1964 through 1969, and there was no better place to experience the Sixties than good ol' MCI.

Among my favourite memories are the years I spent in the music program, headed up by George McRae and assisted by Matti Sulev. (All the girls swooned at the sight of Mr. Sulev, I might add.) Once you went through Junior Band (earplugs, please) and Intermediate Band (less squeaking of reeds and honking of horns by then), you ultimately graduated into the Senior Band. The wearing of the kilt (although deemed uncool by non-musicians) brought a certain status that we all enjoyed, except those cold days we marched in the Santa Claus and Grey Cup parades. "Music Night", that 3-evening extravaganza each late May, was such a rush of adrenaline, both good and bad. Parents were always so proud. And, the band parties after the last performance were always so special.

The bus trips were an added bonus. In my time at Malvern, we went to Michigan (near the Indiana border) in 1968 and to Birmingham, Michigan (a Detroit suburb) in 1969. Attending classes with our American hosts were a real revelation, what with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and such fascinating classes like "citizenship" and "greenhouse". I also remember that we shocked the Yanks in Buchanan when we throttled them in a challenge softball match.

The very best memory, and best result, that I have about being in the Malvern Band is my relationship with one Beverley Baker, two years my junior and a terrific clarinetist (with great legs, I might add), whom I fell madly in love with in that final year. Believe it or not, we are still an item 34 years later, having been married now for almost 29 years. May 23rd is an anniversary date that we still celebrate as the date that we started going together (as a result of our band trip to Birmingham).

## **Now.....thoughts from one of Malvern's very first students to give you a glimpse of life at Malvern in its earliest days.....**

### **Dear Dead Days**

Source: Letter from Gayle Powell (Gaynor), first registered at East Toronto High School [Malvern C.I.]. 1903. Feb 22, 1954

September the second, 1903, ushered in a high school in New [East] Toronto.

Promptly, about thirty young girls and boys found their halting way to the newly appointed Principal, Mr. F.W. French. The first few to register, (in order of their signing up), were Gail Gaynor, Ruth B. White, Maggie Chandler, Mabel Weir, James Birrell, Davison Sutherland, Donald Hawkins, Edward Slein, Leslie Fallis and Wilfred Laurie.

The School was the most dilapidated old crock of a building that could be found in the village, it was in fact, an abandoned public school, The floors all humps, hollows and splinters. Truly, if one did not keep eyes front, one risked breaking a leg on them. There was no cloak room, pegs in the hallway sufficing for the pupils of the three forms. No locks or keys those days, we had nothing worth lifting anyway

We started with two teachers, Mr. F.W. French and Mr. F.H. Graham, That first week, Mr. French asked that those of Form III (there were about eleven of us), wishing to study Greek – this in addition mind you, to Latin, French, German and English – should raise their hands, Where upon five ambitious hands shot upward. We were going to get our money's worth. Didn't we have to pay \$35.00 per year on each for this education? And since that money was spent on neither fads of frills, (as innovations are termed today), not spent on beautification of buildings, it certainly was all spent on education, undiluted and we carried home, nightly, (in proof of this), eight or twelve books in our aching arms.

Incidentally, before the end of the month, only one pupil remained of the Greek class of five. (Methinks we might have been better employed concentrating on the English Language only, for all that some of us know, even yet, of that necessary subject.

The favourite punishment melted out by Mr. French, was the standing up of the culprit in the corner. Can you picture a girl about five and a half feet in height standing sweetly penitent? Of course not. And Mr. French was much relieved when the punished student resumed her seat.

The authorities presently decided we must have school colours. What for, we didn't know. We had no athletics, no social affairs, no opportunity to display them. Three pupils, elected by ballot, (one from each form), were given the honour of choosing the colours, They happened to be Tillie Fitzgerald, Form I, Edward Slein, Form II, and the writer of the little story, Form III.

After much deliberation, assisted by Mr. French, we give you the red, black and red, (or is it black, red and black) ribbon you so proudly (we hope) display today.

[If you would like to read the rest of the letter and other interesting information about our Malvern, you may purchase a Malvern Centennial book for \$15.00 on our website at [www.malverncollegiate.com](http://www.malverncollegiate.com)]

## To Every Malvern Student of the 1950's

Here's an event you won't want to miss!!

It's the very first Malvern reunion to be held for a single decade only—the 1950s, that fabulous time of the best rock and roll ever, jukeboxes, jive and jitterbug. And, of course, classes at Malvern.

This means that if you attended Malvern Collegiate Institute during the period from 1950 to 1960 this reunion is just for you!

There will be an open cash bar and nibbles. Photo boards (bring along any of your old snapshots) will be set up, along with a message board for contacting old friends.

And best of all you'll hear the **Malvern 50's Dance Combo**, composed of Sr. Dance Band & Jazz Choir members. Recognize any of these songs they'll be playing and singing?

*Shake, Rattle and Roll*

*Why do Fools Fall in Love?*

*My Special Angel*

*Jailhouse Rock*

*Blueberry Hill*

*Rock Around the Clock*

and many more

If you haven't registered yet, please do so by fax or email. Many of your classmates have already done so and we're hoping that you will attend as well. And tell all your Malvern friends so that they can sign up. Partners are most welcome as well.

Here are the important details:

**Who:** Anyone who attended Malvern from 1950 to 1960, plus partner or friend.

**When:** Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6 p.m.

**Where:** The Balmy Beach Club (A map is attached.)

**Cost:** Free! (Donations to the Malvern Red and Black Society are welcome.)

**To register** please fax 416 352-5368 or email [malvernreunion@yahoo.ca](mailto:malvernreunion@yahoo.ca)

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the Balmy Beach Club.

Your Malvern Reunion Committee :

Rod Tennyson, Chair

Jean (Kernick) McCormack

Paul and Wendy (Lawson) Truscott

Norm Sutherland,

Martha (Wade) Wall

Go south on Willow (7 streets past Wineva on south side of Queen, follow around corner to foot of Beech (one way north))



## **You can help put the M.C.I. Concert Band**

### ***“Back on the streets”!***

Dear Malvern Parents / Alumni,

As you are probably aware, it has been many years since Malvern C.I. has run a marching band program. The Malvern Marching Band, once a mainstay of events such as the Beaches *Easter Parade* and the Toronto *Santa Claus Parade*, and an important symbol of the Malvern C.I. presence in the Beaches community, has not paraded since the early nineties.

The Malvern Music Department, now in the second year of a re-building initiative, feels that our student numbers and enthusiasm have reached a point where a marching band is again a possibility, and in fact our goal for 2006 is to put the Malvern Concert Band back in this year's Queen Street *Easter Parade*.

To accomplish this we will need to replace and re-furbish much of the old marching equipment, including all of the marching percussion, the Drum Major's mace and baldric, instrument lyres, and some uniform items such as hats. The total cost of this equipment has been estimated at 2500 to \$3500. Furthermore, we have been informed that this sum of money is simply not available in the current school budget, and that we will have to depend on donations to fund our initiative.

It with this in mind that we are appealing to the Malvern community to help support what we feel will be a very worthwhile project, one that will both restore an important tradition, and at the same time re-vitalize Malvern's image in the community at large.

Please donate whatever you can afford. Some parents, alumni, and friends of the school will be able to send \$100, \$200, \$500 or more. Others will send \$25 - \$50. It's up to you.

Please make your cheque payable to the *Toronto District School Board – Malvern Marching Band Fund*. You can drop it off at the school office, send it via a student, or mail it to the *Malvern Marching Band, 55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 3E4*.

Any money raised in excess of our marching band goal will go towards the on-going efforts to re-furbish and replace our stock of band uniforms. (We currently have 57 band members in the famous Malvern kilt and tunic, and are looking to greater numbers for next year!)

Thank-you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at one of our musical events soon!

Sincerely,

Mr. Bill Mighton  
Music Department  
416-393-1480