



Musings

Spring 2009

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From the Malvern Red and Black Society

c/o Malvern Collegiate Institute, 55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 3E

President's Report at the MRBS AGM by Vandra Masemann

When I was elected in November 2007, two other new members who joined the Executive were Adele Ashby as Vice-President and Robert Watson as Member-at-Large. They have assisted us very ably with their work during what has turned out to be a very busy year. Our worries that the MRBS did not have enough person-power to sustain itself were unfounded as a renewed core group rose to carry on the society for another term. Moreover, in response to our appeal for funds, we have received donations from members to enable us to remain solvent. The sale of souvenirs also brought in some revenue. Many thanks go to all our donors and, of course, to our Treasurer, Len Nanjad. [For his 2008 report, please see the MRBS website.]

Our major emphasis this year has been, in keeping with our motto "*Keeping Malvernites in Touch.*" We organized a very successful Early Malvernites Reunion in May 2008 at the school which over 80 Malvernites attended from the 1930s and 40s. David Hayne ('38) gave an excellent keynote speech at this event. Students in Media Arts and History classes recorded the event digitally and also interviewed Early Malvernites. Then in September another very successful 1950s/60s reunion

organized by Rod Tennyson and Bob Watson was held called "Rock and Roll Meets Peace and Love," (see report below), attended by over 250 at the Balmy Beach Club. These two events increased the traffic on our web emails quite considerably over last year's totals.

Our publishing reached new heights this year as Adele Ashby took over the function of *Musings* Editor. We published a Spring and Fall version of the *Musings* and also a special edition of the *Musings* for each reunion, with memories contributed by Malvernites who responded to our call for reminiscences. All of these publications as well as the Minutes of our meetings are posted on the MRBS website. The *Musings* were also sent out by email, as was the annual Onward Malvern Foundation Appeal letter, which was included in its paper form with the Fall 2008 *Musings*. Russell Pulkys, a Malvernite who is attending McMaster University, is still keeping our website updated. Many thanks, to him.

Our communication with members has been ably carried out by Sonya Munro's and Donna Halliday's efforts. Donna maintains our database in impeccable order and produces the professional-looking envelopes for our mailings, as well as printed material for our events. Sonya follows up on donations and inquiries and keeps our correspondence

up to date. Bob Watson keeps tabs on our webmail and our phone line, and forwards all the emails to the right person.

Work continued as usual on the Malvern archives. The material is now stored in acid-proof boxes, and the work of cataloguing continues. We were also able to provide archival resources and information for teachers and Malvernites on request. Some Malvern students are going to visit the graves of Malvernites from World War II in Normandy in the spring of 2009, (see below), and we are assisting with archival resources. We have also been able to provide posters and other material for events and curriculum development.

We participated as usual at the Malvern Commencement and gave our annual \$100 award to a student who has exemplified the values of community spirit of Malvern. Sonya Munro represented us and participated in the Awards ceremony. She has also given an annual award in memory of her boyfriend, Johnny Johnson, who was killed over Burma in World War II. (See the Beach-Riverdale Mirror for Friday November 7, 2008: <http://insidetoronto.com/article/58926> (Editor's note: Vandra gave the Commencement address. See below.)

We are presenting a formal motion to change the MRBS Constitution as follows:

“Quorum, for meeting of members, for the transaction of business of any meeting of the members, shall consist of four (4) directors and as many members as are present (replaces twenty (20)).” We will also vote to fill the three positions available: Treasurer, and two Members-at-Large. We have

two volunteers to fill the latter positions and will accept any other nominations. [This motion was carried. The new Members-at-Large are Madeleine Bacon and Sandra Burk.]

We have two new initiatives that are just beginning. The first is the work being done by Shanta Nathwani and Sandra Burk to reach out to more Malvernites via the electronic media. They are working with Facebook pages and Classmates.com to encourage more Malvernites to get and stay in touch via the computer. Shanta Nathwani will present a report on her work so far.

The other is a project to raise funds by the sale of vintage Malvern athletic wear. Madeleine (Poole) Bacon ('62) has helped us by photographing examples that were shown at the AGM.

[Please fill in our survey included with this mailing or on the web link

<http://spss-voc.com/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll?I.Proj ect=MALVERN2&i.test=1>].

My last task is to thank all of those who have helped to make this a very successful year, the Executive members whom I have named in this report and the many other volunteers who have helped at our events: former Malvernites, the Principal, Line Pinard, the Malvern office staff, the custodial staff, the teachers and the present day students. We feel as if we really have become part of the present life of the school as well as that past bygone time when we were at Malvern as students.

<p>WANTED: a Malvernite to volunteer as MRBS Treasurer. If you are that person, please phone 416 393 8683, or email us at redandblack@malverncollegiate.com</p>
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The following is the Commencement speech given by the MRBS President, Vandra Masemann in November 2008.

MEMORIES OF MALVERN
Vandra Masemann

Madame Principal, honoured guests, staff, students and family members,

I was asked by Line Pinard to say something tonight about my experiences at Malvern and its impact on my life, as well as to wish you well as you graduate tonight. When I left Malvern in 1962, I was so glad to leave. I said that I would never live in the Beach again, but I would go and see what the wider world had to offer. It seemed like a restricted life, in a rather tightly bound community, with many more rules than it has today. What I was surprised to discover over all these years is that I may have left Malvern, but it has never left me. I know that the same thing will happen to you. I can tell from talking to Malvern graduates as far back as the 1920s that their years at Malvern made an indelible impression on them and on their lives. They recall their teachers, the curriculum, the football games, the Malvern Band, the dances, and even the butter tarts served in the cafeteria. Those pillars of Malvern life -- sports, arts and music, extracurricular activities and finally academics -- form the basis of memories they can summon in an instant. Memories of Malvern are also inextricably bound up with life in the Beach: the lake, the boardwalk, the hills, the Balmy Beach Club, skating, and hockey, and many other activities that Malvernites have enjoyed and that remain the same.

I was a student at Malvern from 1957 to 1962. It was a different world then. Everyone we knew still talked about the Second World War. People got really upset on Remembrance Day. There were far fewer cars on the streets, and most roads in Toronto had no parking meters at all. I remember seeing the newspaper headlines when Josef Stalin and Winston Churchill died, and later after I had left Malvern when John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King were killed. There was a great emphasis on social conformity in the 1950s, and I personally was really glad when things let up in the 1960s. We at Malvern were never allowed to wear jeans though. And girls had permission to wear pants only on football days. People actually got dressed up to go shopping at Simpson's or Eaton's on a Saturday.

I think the most notable differences between our lives at Malvern then and now were technological. In those days, there were no photocopy machines or computers. We copied every single note down by hand in every single class for five years. I am pleased to say that my biology notes were used by my own five daughters when they went to high school all those years later. Of course we did not realise that we were living in the pre-computer age. We still used standard textbooks that we bought from Randall's on Kingston Road, and we thought we were being very adventurous to use any curriculum resources outside of books. We had no access to the kinds of masses of information that we can get now via the Internet.

The similarities of our lives and yours were in the classroom and the teachers. I can still walk around the halls of Malvern and see exactly the same

classrooms as I was in. I can tell that the atmosphere in the halls and classrooms is the same. The Commencement ceremony tonight is almost the same although some of the awards have different names. The feeling on Remembrance Day is the same. Those of us who have become re-acquainted with the school through our work in the archives call this enduring feeling “the spirit of Malvern.” It does not have to do only with sports championships, cheerleading, and overt displays of partisanship. It is a feeling that was identified in the Malvern *Muses* in the 1920s and 30s that this school had a certain academic reputation, a growing reputation in music and the arts, certainly a historic set of sports achievements, a groundedness in the Beach community and lastly a reputation for knowing how to have a really good time, whether officially sanctioned or not.

I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the wonderful teachers we had at Malvern. I have discovered only when compiling the staff list for our book that we had teachers in the 1950s who had been hired in the 1920s and 30s. Their lessons are some of those that have never left me. I have published articles and books and evaluated manuscript for journals, and every day I use the rule of grammar and style that we were taught at Malvern. There is nothing more important than being able to express oneself in writing and speaking. The teaching of other languages at Malvern was also of a very high standard. Malvern has the distinction of having had the first female head of a mathematics department in Toronto schools, Jessie Muirhead, and although she was before my time, we girls at

Malvern had never heard of math-phobia among our sex. Time is running short here to enumerate the impact of the other subjects. I suppose the fact that my husband and I both went to Malvern has helped to keep these memories green. We can still imitate our Latin teacher conjugating verbs.

But my final words go to you all as members of the graduating class. Malvern has always sent its graduates far out into the world. We have many files of the achievements of illustrious Malvernites in our archives. You now join over one hundred years of Malvern graduates making your mark on the world. You have a rich legacy. May you all reach the goals you have set for yourself and some other that you do not even know about yet. I give you my best wishes for success in your future life on whatever terms you choose to define it as you are now part of the second century of Malvern’s history. Thank you.

Memorial to Dr. David Hayne, class of 1938

On 20 November, 2008, Malvern lost one of its most distinguished alumni. Dr. David Hayne passed away of heart failure at the Markham Stouffville Hospital. His association with Malvern was life-long. In May 2008, he offered a fascinating glimpse into life at Malvern in the 20s, 30s, and 40s at the Early Malvernites Reunion. He had also been asked to serve as Malvern’s Commencement speaker in November but declined because of ill health.

His many contributions to the school and to the wider world began at an early age. He was valedictorian in 1938 and went

on to obtain first a B.A. in Modern Languages at the University of Toronto in 1942 and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in French at the University of Ottawa in 1944 and 1945.

While still a student, he qualified as a Second Lieutenant in 1941, and from 1942 to 1945 served as a cryptanalyst (code breaker), decrypting messages for military intelligence. After the war ended, he could have chosen a number of different careers as an architect, accountant, mechanic or forester. He drew up his own house plans and built his beloved house in Claremont where he lived for over 30 years. He nurtured over 10,000 trees on his 30-acre property.

However, he chose to join the faculty of the University of Toronto in 1945, where he served as Lecturer, Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor of French. In addition, he was Registrar at University College and Visiting Professor at the University of British Columbia. In 1985, he became Emeritus Professor. His students included Adrienne Clarkson, who, as Governor General, presented him with the Order of Canada in 2000. He was also awarded the Centennial Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee, and the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medals. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Ottawa. He served as President of the Ontario Modern Language Teachers Association, the University of Toronto Faculty Club, and the Bibliographical Society of Canada, and as editor of the *University of Toronto Quarterly*, the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, and the Royal Society of Canada. His publications included over 200 books, articles,

bibliographies, and book reviews, chiefly concerned with Quebec literature and comparative (French and English) Canadian literature.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Madge Niven, with whom he raised three children.

He will be much missed by the Malvern Red and Black Society Executive, on which he served as 20s and 30s decade co-ordinator, the whole Malvern community, and many in the world at large.

1950s/1960s Reunion: “Rock and Roll Meets Peace and Love”

On 27 September of last year, an overflow group of former Malvernites met at the Balmy Beach Club (BBC). A wonderful time was had by all. Even the weather co-operated sufficiently to allow many attendees to move to the patio to share reminiscences with fellow students and teachers. The Malvern Dance Combo and Choir entertained us with tunes and songs from the 1960s and 1950s. Five current cheerleaders from MCI led us in resounding cheers. Former cheerleaders came forward and joined those from today in a fitting salute to Malvern. Speeches were kept to a minimum as conversations, together with light snacks and refreshments, were the order of the afternoon. Posters, photographs and memorabilia, some brought by alumni, some provided by BBC, with most coming from the Malvern archives, were studied and enjoyed by many of those gathered. Several fun-loving folks got up and danced to the music risking sore muscles and backs in the days ahead. People purchased souvenirs from the Malvern

Red & Black Society (MRBS) supplies, and many donated funds to assist MRBS in publishing *Musings* such as this one and all of the other work that MRBS does annually. The outpouring of support was gratifying, helpful and much appreciated. Volunteers helped MRBS set up for the day and with the clean-up several hours later. Photographs were taken and posted on our website. In all, it was a marvelous and memorable occasion.

The MRBS wishes to express its thanks to William Plouffe, Constance Purser, and Marvene Vanwyck, and all of those who contributed funds anonymously at the 50s and 60s Reunion so that the MRBS can continue its work on your behalf.

The MRBS's intrepid Corresponding Secretary and Tracker of Lost Malvernites, Sonya Munro reports her latest exploit in the following:

IS HARVEY FARR REALLY A MALVERNITE?

For all the years since 1941 I have thought that Harvey Farr was the first Malvernite to join up. I remember that year when he came walking through the halls (looking for an old friend) with his brand new air force uniform on, the first one I had seen up close. As a fifteen-year old, I was so impressed, and the gossip was that he had been the first one from school to join the RCAF.

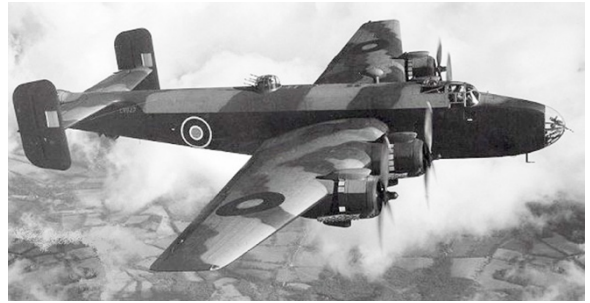
Since then, through mutual friends, we met several times but not enough to really talk about the past. Recently I tracked him down to a retirement home on Markham Road to ask him about that moment and his history in the RCAF for our Malvernites after Malvern project. I heard that in 1942 he got his wings in Yorkton SK, was a test pilot at Suffield Alberta at Chemical and Bacteriology Warfare Testing, and then he qualified to fly 14 different types of aircraft. Afterwards he entered Mosquito training and went overseas in 1944 to the 418 Squadron RCAF and flew over Europe on many a sortie. He was finally discharged on October 24, 1945, six years to the day of service. A very impressive CV.

He used to live near Woodbine and Norway and originally went to Danforth TS for two years, then Central TS to take the aeronautical course for two years, where he received his junior matriculation. He came to Malvern to get his senior matriculation so he could go to university and train as a pilot, fulfilling his life's ambition. I asked him, "What year did you graduate from Malvern? He just laughed and said, "I only went to Malvern for three weeks. I started in September 1939 when I was 18. War was declared, and I joined up in October because I could train as a pilot in the air force."

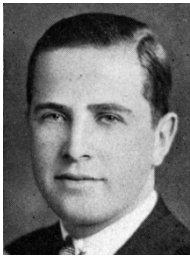
Can we claim him as a Malvernite? Did other Malvernites join the forces before that? If you know, please let us know so that we can update our archives.

Class trip to Normandy cemetery will honour three men on the Malvern Collegiate Honour Roll, 1939-1945

He didn't know it at the time, but early in the morning of 6 June 1944, RCAF Sgt. Morris Murray was on his way to help two fellow alumni of Malvern Collegiate Institute, Acting Cpl. Cameron Jones and Cpl. Howard Kidd, who were at sea, waiting to land on the beaches of Normandy with troops of the Canadian Infantry Corps. In a Halifax Mk III that took off from its base at Holme-on-Spalding Moor in Yorkshire, England at 2:30 a.m., Navigator Murray was helping guide the bomber to its target, a coastal gun battery at Mont Fleury just west of Juno Beach. It was D-Day and all three men were taking part in the greatest invasion in history and, sadly, were on their way to their final resting place in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. In March, students from Malvern will return to Normandy to honour them.



Handley Page Halifax Mk. III



Murray (left), whose brother Alan and sister Gladys also went to Malvern, graduated in 1933 and went on to get his B.Comm. at the University of Toronto in 1939 before landing a job as a costing clerk for the tool department at the John Inglis Co. The plant was converted to war production in 1937 making Bren guns for the British Army.

On signing up with the RCAF in June 1942, and marrying his girl Fern a few weeks later, Murray decided he would like to become what was then known as an air observer. His interviewers agreed, noting Murray was a confident, sincere, intelligent, and courageous recruit who was also cautious and organized, just the man, they said, for the job. So, after his initial air force training he was sent to No. 7 Air Observer's School in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba and by the summer of 1943 qualified as a navigator. After a two-week furlough home, he left for England to begin another 10 months of training at airfields in Yorkshire, England and Morayshire in northern Scotland, before joining 76 Squadron on 14 May 1944, just three weeks before D-Day.

After flying their first two "ops" (operational flights) against radio towers and rail yards on June 2 and 3, the crew of Halifax LW638, along with other 11 planes, were assigned to bomb the guns at Mont Fleury. After successfully guiding his crew to the target, Murray's war ended when his plane was hit by flak and crashed into the orchard of local resident M. Guddville, a few kilometres inland near Graye-sur-mer. All on board were killed. Murray and his Royal Air Force crewmates were buried in the orchard; he was later re-interred at Beny-sur-mer along with Kidd and Jones, who fell during the Battle of Normandy.

Just promoted to acting corporal with the 7th Reconnaissance Regiment, 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars, Jones was the driver in a tank crew helping guard the exits from the beaches on D-Day. He was killed in action on July 9. Kidd, who died the day before, fought with the Highland Light Infantry of Canada and died in the town of

Buron, just southwest of Caen, along with 261 others in a battle that came to be known as “Bloody Buron.” Both their stories will be told in a future issue of *Musings*.

This March, 65 years later, Malvern students will travel to Normandy again as part of an exchange trip that began with a visit from their French hosts last October. During their stay near Le Havre with students from the district high school in Goderville, the Malvern group will travel to the cemetery, and learn more about the Allied invasion at the D-Day museum in Arromanches-les-Bains.

The students plan to do a live wire broadcast of the memorial they are organizing for the three men. **If you wish to know more about it or help us with a financial contribution to pay for some of the expenses please contact Dany Lamontagne at Malvern at 416-393-1480 ext. 20036 or send a cheque payable to Malvern CI, Ref.: French Exchange 2008-2009.**

There are many exciting stories behind the list of 102 men and one woman on Malvern’s Second World War Honour Roll. If you served during the war or know a Malvern student who did, please contact David Fuller at 416-423-0423 or david_fuller@sympatico.ca.

By David Fuller

Once more the Language Department at Malvern has organized a student exchange with a school in France. Students from France visited us last October for 10 days and we are now preparing to travel to Normandy during the March Break. On 10 March, we are planning to accompany our partners to the Canadian Memorial site of Arromanches where many Canadian soldiers died on D-Day. We are hoping to get a live wire with a history class to do a short presentation when we will be at the Reviere cemetery near Bény-sur-mer to honour three ex-Malvernites buried there.

Mr. Fuller, a parent of one of the students accompanying us has done research to identify and locate these heroes, formerly from our Collegiate, and the students are looking forward to being there. If you wish to know more about it or help us with a financial contribution to pay for some of the expenses please contact Mr. Lamontagne at Malvern at 416 393-1480 ext. 20036 or send a cheque payable to Malvern C.I.. Please note: “French Exchange 2008-2009” on the memo line.

We regret to announce the death on 11 January 2009 of Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) LACHLAN BRUCE MACQUARRIE in Peterborough, Ontario. Born in Toronto on 11 February 1925, he attended Malvern CI before enlisting in the RCAF in 1943. He had a distinguished career in social work in Canada and Hong Kong. His memoirs, “To Hong Kong and Back: Memoirs of a Peripatetic Social Worker” have been donated to the Malvern CI library.