



Musings

Spring 2010

www.malverncollegiate.com

"Keeping Malvernites in Touch"

From the Malvern Red and Black Society

c/o Malvern Collegiate Institute, 55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 3E4



Malvern's Band marching in the Beaches Easter Parade 2010

Rod Tennyson: Malvern's Own Rocket Scientist helps in Apollo 13 Crisis

A desperate phone call forty years ago propelled a Malvern alumnus, Rod Tennyson (class of 1956), and his colleagues at the University of Toronto's Institute for Aerospace Studies into heroic status. On 16 April 1970, a cry for help came from Grumman Aerospace, an Apollo 13 contractor. On its way to the moon, an oxygen tank on the Apollo 13 had exploded. Before the Apollo 13 could re-enter Earth's

atmosphere, the crew would have to climb back into their original capsule because the lunar lander did not have a heat shield and could not withstand re-entry. It would have to be detached from the capsule. The thrusters that would normally perform the separation were gone after the explosion. NASA believed that the oxygen in the airlock between the two sections might provide a substitute, but at what pressure?

Grumman called in the experts in aerodynamics and shockwaves at the University of Toronto, including Malvern's own Rod Tennyson, who was an aerospace structures specialist.

They had four hours to determine the right amount of pressure. They were told not to worry because a variety of opinions were being solicited; however, what they did not know at the time was that NASA relied solely on their numbers. Rod performed the structural calculations to make sure that the frame could withstand the explosive loading. Too little pressure, and the lunar module might hit the astronauts' capsule; too much, and the shockwave could damage its entry hatch. Their calculations were performed with slide rules, a chalk board, and what was known then about explosive forces. They offered their solution by phone, and the next morning, the crew of the Apollo 13 successfully carried out the separation.

On Tuesday, 9 April, the Institute for Aerospace Studies was given a Canadian Air & Space Pioneer Award from the Canadian Air & Space Museum to honour the men who helped to save Apollo 13.



Rod Tennyson's PhD graduation photo

Message from the President, Vandra Masemann

It will certainly have been spring-like for some time in Toronto by the time you read this issue of the Spring 2010 *Musings*. Your Executive has been busy this past winter in various ways. We also have some requests to make of you.

The Report from our Annual General Meeting has been posted on our MRBS website for some time. I reported on the main happenings for 2009 in my message in the Fall 2009 *Musings*. So I will just recap - our activities since last fall.

We had a good turnout for the October 16th Malvern Spirit Day at Birchmount Park. Several alumni showed up suitably attired in red and black. In addition, many Malvern students were wearing Malvern Vintage scarves. Our Annual General Meeting in November was better attended than previously, but we would like to see still more Malvernites this year. Our major efforts last fall were devoted to the Vintage Wear sales, and orders were filled in time for Christmas. The striped rugby shirts and scarves were the big hits, and we plan to offer them again this year. The letterman sweaters were just too expensive to offer as they are now directed to an elite private school market in the U.S.

The Save-the-Pool campaign was a success, but we still need to make sure that the Malvern Pool has enough permit revenue. It can even be rented for birthday parties, etc. Please call the Malvern Community Hotline at (416) 393-8683 for all the contact numbers for the pool. You can also leave messages

there for the MRBS at that number. The line is checked regularly. We received \$1200 in donations from MRBS members to secure our Archives, literally, by affixing lockable doors to the shelves, but we still need twice that at least to get the project underway. Thank you very much to all our loyal donors. We also suggest that anyone who feels so minded can donate \$20 per year to keep the *Musings* going. Although all donations now must be made out to the OMF with MRBS on the memo line if you wish a tax receipt, we still get the money for our various projects. If you do not need a tax receipt, please feel free to send us the donation directly and designate its intended use if you wish. See page 8 for details.

We hear that the 1984 class had a very successful reunion in April at the Highland Yacht Club in Scarborough. We also hear that another 1950s/60s Reunion is being planned for May 2011. Please let Rod Tennyson or Robert Watson know if you want to join the Planning Committee at rctennyson@aol.com or 1960s@malverncollegiate.com

Now for our other requests:

1. Is anyone interested in volunteering as the MRBS Honorary Solicitor? We need the occasional legal opinion, and our previous volunteers have finished their stint.
2. Does anyone have a computer desk to donate to the Archives, one of the older wooden ones that are fairly narrow?
3. Is anyone interested in volunteering for technical support, e.g., scanning, digitizing?
4. As always, will anyone who has changed address or email address, please notify us?

5. If you plan to order any rugby shirts or scarves or to respond to any of our other requests, please phone, write or email us at redandblack@malverncollegiate.com.

Halperin story finally comes to light for his long-lost daughter

by David Fuller

One of the great pleasures in researching Malvern's past is getting messages from out of the blue that lead to a once-in-a-lifetime moment. I received one of those just recently from Paulette Harolde of California, the daughter of Malvern grad William "Bill" Lionel Halperin (Class of 1932), one of the 103 people on the Honour Roll 1939-1945.



The Halperin family included Solomon, his wife Fanny and their children: Clara, Benny, Israel, and Bill (left). Like his brother Israel who also attended Malvern, Bill was a gifted math student and graduated from the University of Toronto to become a professor at Winnipeg's University of Manitoba. He married Kathleen Dixon and they had two daughters, Margaret (now Paulette) and Carolyn. Bill joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940 and taught math at a school for navigators. Then he transferred to 45 Air Transport Group (formerly Ferry Command) and went to Montreal to join the crew of a B-25 Mitchell bomber being delivered to England. It was his first overseas flight – and his last. The twin-engine plane left Gander, Newfoundland, on Nov. 5, 1943 headed for a stopover in Reykjavik, Iceland, but never arrived. Bill and three fellow

crewmembers were lost without a trace over the ocean sometime on 6 November.

Paulette, who was adopted at age five when her mother could not look after her, grew up knowing very little of her father. Then she found a message I had left for her on Ancestry.ca and wrote asking what I could tell her. Fortunately, I had already received his RCAF records from Ottawa and could tell her the whole story. He is also mentioned in the book *Ocean Bridge*, a history of Ferry Command.

“I am so happy that, not only am I learning about my family, but I can now answer my children’s questions about their heritage and even more important, my grandson will know the type of people he is descended from,” she said in one of her messages.

If you or anyone you know can help provide information on the members of Malvern’s Honour Rolls, either 1914-1918 or 1939-1945, please contact David at david_fuller@sympatico.ca.

Malvern C.I. Sports Teams’ Accomplishments

It has been another remarkable year for our sports teams.

In swimming, Malvern was City Champion for its Overall Team and for the Overall Girls’ Team, Regional Champions for its Overall Team, Open Girls, Senior, Junior, and Overall Girls’, and Junior Boys’ Teams, and the Overall Team was third overall in the OFSAA. Our Paulina Bond was also a *Toronto Star* Athlete of the Week.

In Junior Girls’ Volleyball, Malvern was City Champion and Regional Champion and the Captain, Abi Moody, was named a *Toronto Star* Athlete of the Week.

In hockey, Malvern was Regional Champion in Boys’ Hockey Tier I and Regional Finalist in Girls’ Hockey Tier II.

Our congratulations go out to all of them for their splendid efforts.

In Memoriam.

Ruth Estelle (Wachter) Thorne (1914-2010) was only 15 when she graduated from Malvern as Valedictorian in 1930. She had to have special dispensation to go to university from which she graduated at 19. Both her daughter and granddaughter went to Malvern. Ruth was the co-author with Barbara Myrvold of *The Beach in Pictures 1793-1932*.

Vera Evelyn Holmes (1909-2010) was in her 101st year. She was a dedicated modern languages teacher at Malvern from 1951-71 and was known as “Frau Holmes” to her students.

Mary Elizabeth Baker (nee Norris, 1906-2010), Malvern’s oldest graduate, passed away peacefully at 104. She attended MCI from 1920-1924. She was President of the Maids of Malvern and wrote articles for the first *Muse*. In the 20s, some of her classmates would have been the Ashbridge sisters, the McCarthy and Beer families, Jack Kent Cooke, Ed Jones, and Yip Foster, and so on. The Norris family lived in a house owned by Sir Henry Pellatt called Quatre Winds. She played on one of the first female ice hockey teams in the Beach. Perhaps, inspired by her friends, Doris McCarthy and Helen Sewell (nee Sanderson), Mary Elizabeth became an

accomplished watercolourist in her later years. Mary Elizabeth attended Malvern's Centennial celebrations in 2003 with her daughter. She married her childhood sweetheart, George Baker, who was Commander of the Cadet Corps and coached the girls' basketball team. They had two children, six grandchildren and 11 great-grand children.

Congratulations to Doris McCarthy, one of Malvern's most distinguished graduates, a pillar of the Canadian artistic community and a pioneer Canadian woman artist, who will be 100 on 7 July 2010. Her birthday celebrations will include people doing 100 acts of kindness and charity, leading up to the event. Lists of efforts can be posted on Doris' blog spot at <http://dorismccarthy100blogspot.com>. If any of our members wish to send birthday cards to Doris, they can be mailed care of the MRBS, and we will deliver them to her.

Special thanks to Russell Pulkys who has served as the *Musings* Webmaster until January of this year. Russell volunteered as a Malvern student and then carried on when he went off to university. He is now in his third year at Wilfrid Laurier, taking a Bachelor of Business Administration, and, as a co-op student works for a company called Sybase, where he does marketing, a career he hopes to pursue. We wish him the very best.

Elizabeth Ball, a Malvern alumna, who has made a donation to the Malvern Red and Black Society in memory of David Hayne, one of our most distinguished members, who died last year.

A Malvernite's Contribution to the Olympics

Clare Kravchenko-Kowaltschuk, a Malvern alumna, who now lives in Newmarket and who is a self-proclaimed Olympic fanatic, was chosen as one of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic torch bearers. She ran in Newmarket on 18 December 2009, despite a battle with aggressive, non-curable breast cancer that has spread to other parts of her body. We applaud her courage and determination and wish her well.

We are interested in including in our Archives and in *Musings* any stories based on documents that anyone may have that relate to Malvernites and the Olympics. If you have anything that you think might be of interest, please contact us by email. Don't forget that our much-admired Archives is always happy to receive donations (monetary, memorabilia, mini-biographies, and so on). We recently acquired items from Mr. Wood, Mr. Crozier, and Mr. Jones. Our thanks to the donors.

<p>Discount Ticket Offers for Shows! Malvern alumni, staff and students can purchase theatre tickets at great prices and benefit the Malvern Red and Black Society at the same time. You can now save up to 40% on tickets for <i>Jersey Boys</i>, and up to 15% on <i>Miss Saigon</i> and <i>South Pacific</i>. For tickets, go online to www.dancaptickets.com/malvern or call 416-644-3665 or toll-free 1-866-950-7469 and enter or quote the promo code "malvern."</p>
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**Interview with Duncan Green,
Malvern Principal 1965-1970 with
Vandra Masemann**

This article is the first in a series about former Principals of Malvern. The MRBS Archives Committee is researching the history of all the Malvern C.I. principals from 1903 (Mr. Cecil French) to the present (Ms. Line Pinard). These histories will be collected and stored in the Malvern Library and also posted on the MRBS website. I interviewed Duncan Green during lunch in the dining room of his retirement residence in Toronto's west end on August 28, 2009. Duncan Green was instrumental in introducing many changes to Malvern in the 1960s. This is the first instalment of the interview. We explored some of the memorable moments at Malvern in depth. If anyone knows a living Malvern Principal and would like to interview the person, or if you have any archival material, please contact us.

1. Where were you born and schooled?

I was born in Toronto and attended Swansea Public School and Runnymede CI. I went into Honour Law at the University of Toronto but joined the army in 1943. After the war, I took General Arts and majored in English. I liked theatre and was on the Varsity Track Team. I combined those interests and went to OCE (the Ontario College of Education) from 1949-50. I knew that "from the first day of practice teaching, I had found it [my vocation]!"

2. In what did you specialize and what did you teach? At what schools did

you teach before you came to Malvern?

Humberside, 1950-58, English teacher; North Toronto, 1958-1961; Assistant Head of English; Jarvis, 1961-1963; Head of English, Parkdale, 1963-1965; Principal at Malvern; 1965- 1970.

3. Were you Principal of any other school besides Malvern?

No.

4. What did you do after you left Malvern?

Superintendent of Academic Programs, Metropolitan School Board, 1970-1972; Associate Director, Toronto School Board, 1972-73; Director, Toronto School Board, 1973-1981; (1980-81 seconded by Ministry to chair review of secondary education); Director, Continuing Studies, University of Toronto, 1981-1983; Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, Ontario, 1983-88.

5. In what extra-curricular activities were you involved and on what outside activities did you spend time?

Extra-curricular activities were coaching (track and field and cross-country) and drama clubs. My interests are tennis, bridge, theatre, church, and above all reading.

6. Briefly describe some of your more memorable school experiences at Malvern.

The renovation was the most vivid. There was also the introduction of the credit system, which heightened my respect for the staff, and the contacts

with staff that still persist: Hilda Dymott, Fred Yamamoto, Harry Miller, Muir Sumner, Jim Collins.

7. What would you consider the highlights of your career?

Being a teacher at Humberside, Principal at Malvern, Director in the Toronto School Board and Chair of the Secondary Education Review.

8. What are you memories of teachers under your leadership?

There were many teachers who inspired me: Muir Sumner, George McRae, Bob Rowland, Maureen Mogan, Hilda Dymott come to mind Two wonderful vice-principals: Jim Robbins (a very fine man who died suddenly in 1967 -- I think). Almost all of Malvern attended his funeral from Metropolitan United Church and Jim Hogarth (later Principal, who died just last year 2008). Several teachers whose dedication to the school and the community was outstanding: Roy Wood, "Red" Gilmour, Charlie Chambers, Fred Warren, Ed Jones. (I am missing some, but I am working from the top of my head).

9. How do you remember your students generally over the years?

Realizing that I was privileged to teach in what would be regarded as easy schools to teach in, I recall them as intelligent (in spite of occasional lapses), keen to test the "truths" of former generation and to explore the increasing

amount of freedom that comes with growing older, energetic. I always tried to remind myself that at least some of the students that I was teaching were more intelligent than I.

10. What have you been doing since?

The first two years were spent tending my wife (she died in 1990) and recovering from a back operation. Shortly after, a private firm sought me out to assist them with contracts for educational matters in various locations, and for the next ten years I worked at various times in Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Swaziland. At the same time I was appointed for five years, (1990-1995) to the first board of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. I also served as arbitrator for a couple of the disputes that arose out of the extension of funding to the separate schools, and was a member of the School Board Reduction Task Force, the report of which was the basis for the present school board organization. All that stuff ended about 2000, and since I have been more than ever involved with my six grandchildren and my church.

11. Is there a phrase or saying that best describes your life in education?

I use a short poem by the Canadian poet, Raymond Souster:

*Still grabbing at that golden ring?
The ride's the thing!*

If you saw the article in the Toronto Sun (23 April 2010) or want to help us restore the Malvern Monument, we would like to hear from you. While the Toronto District School Board has stated that they plan to restore it, we are sure that community help will be needed. We have been trying to get some movement on this since the early 2000's. Some earlier donations are still waiting to be spent on this project.

Permission to Post My Name on the MRBS Public Members' List

YES, I _____ (maiden name) _____ Class _____ or teacher/staff /other _____ give my permission for the Malvern Red and Black Society to include my name and class year/teacher status/other status only, on the MRBS website members' list. No other personal information will be divulged, without obtaining my further permission. All personal information will be subject to the MRBS Privacy policy. If I am replying by email, I permit the MRBS to use this email as legal proof of my giving permission.

Member's Signature: _____

Date: _____

No reply means that you DO NOT give us permission to post your name on our Members' List.

2. Financial Donations

a. If you want a tax receipt, please make out your cheque to the OMF, and put the intended use or beneficiary on the memo line, e.g. Music, Athletics, MRBS, etc. and specify the amounts if there are several uses.

b. If you do not need a tax receipt, then feel free to make out cheques directly to the MRBS with the intended use on the memo line.

c. In all cases, please mail the cheque to the MRBS at 55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto M4E 3E4 so that we can record it as coming from an MRBS member. We will then forward all cheques to the OMF for receipting. We then receive the funds from them on a regular basis.

Please enclose a note with your donation, stating your preference:

Yes, I give my permission for the MRBS to post my name on their website, in acknowledgement of my donation.

No, I wish to keep my donation confidential.

3. New Members' Registration Form

Please include all information requested and email to redandblack@malverncollegiate.com or mail to the MCI address above. Email is greatly encouraged, to reduce our mailing costs.

First Name:

Last Name:

Maiden Name:

Class Year:

Are/were you a teacher at Malvern? Yes No Other Status (e.g. parent, staff):

Mailing Address (with postal/zip code):

Province /State & Country:

Email Address:

Phone number (with area code):

NOTICE: Use of any personal information is subject to the MRBS Privacy Policy. You can correct or remove your information by replying to our mailing address or email address above.