



# Musings

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**From the Malvern Red and Black Society c/o Malvern Collegiate Institute,  
55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 3E4**

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## **Girls and Women in Sports – Paula Warder**

Last 11 November was Malvern's Commencement as well as being Remembrance Day. The guest speaker of the event was Paula Fletcher, Malvern alumna, who in 2011 was given an award at the Canadian National Exhibition - the prestigious C.N.E. Medallion for outstanding contributions to sports at the C.N.E. The Malvern Red and Black Society is always pleased when one of our own is chosen, and we thought we would share her speech with you. Here it is, followed by a short biography.

"Let me begin by saying that never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would be standing here before any graduating class. The year I graduated, our ceremony was held at Monarch Park as a result of the year-long renovations in which this auditorium was completely turned around.

Tonight, I have been asked to share some of my recollections about the sporting life at Malvern in the 60s. Before arriving at Malvern, I had attended a six-room elementary school, north of the tracks above the Danforth between Main Street and Dawes Road. We didn't have a gym or even a basement playroom. However, we did play interschool volleyball--on an outside court. We always had an annual track and field meet, and the best athletes went on to represent our school at the annual district games at Greenwood Park. Our Home and School Association made sure that all of our athletes had school sweaters with our name proudly emblazoned on them.

Imagine my disappointment when I arrived at Malvern and there were no track and field

opportunities available for our female students! We were expected to be cheerleaders for the boys' team and our star athlete, Bruce Kidd, who went on to represent Canada at the Olympics. In true Malvern spirit, I was pleased to do this but at the same time so jealous that our female athletes were not able to participate alongside of him. It was many years after I left Malvern that track and field was finally offered to girls.

At Coleman Avenue, we had a skating rink maintained by our school caretaker during his lunch hour. Many of the girls mucked in with the boys after school and played hockey until the lights came on. The girls had no equipment, just a stick and figure skates. There was no hockey for females then in elementary or secondary schools or in any city rink. In hind sight, I wish now that I had the gumption of one Abby Hoffman who decided to play on a boys' team at the age of eight. When it was discovered that she was a girl, she was no longer allowed to play. What a role model she became for women's sports, as she went on to compete at four Olympiads including Montreal where she was our flag bearer--the first female to be afforded the honour. Most of you will realize just how far women's hockey has progressed since Abby first rocked the boat. We have won Gold at three Olympiads and several World Championships.

In the 60s in particular, women were viewed as lesser athletes and were not given an equal portion of the athletic pie in terms of facilities, coaching, equipment, and sponsorship. This was certainly true at Malvern. We paid the same

athletic fee as the boys. However, there wasn't much of that fee invested towards our female athletes.

The girls didn't have fancy team uniforms for any sport. We were forced to wear those dreadful blue romper suits to represent Malvern at interschool competitions in volley and basketball. Our swim teams fared even worse with those ridiculous, all-revealing cotton tank suits.

During my last two years at Malvern, we existed in a major construction zone. Our gym classes were held in portables where the physical education staff tried their best to provide alternative curriculum options. I distinctly remember standing beside a desk with 25 other girls trying to learn the intricacies of dancing the hula! I hated it. But I appreciated their efforts to keep us fit during those difficult times.

My biggest disappointment at Malvern occurred when I realized that softball was not available--even as a house-league option. I was devastated that I wouldn't be able to represent my school in my favourite sport. Many of you may know that some of the best softball ever played in Canada was played at Kew Beach. In fact, the first Canadian team to ever win the World Championships was the 1949 team sponsored by Tip Top Tailors. Several former Malvernites were on this team: Lenny Gaull, Pete Glen, and Art Upper. It would be another 22 years before the Richmond Hill Dynes won the Worlds in Manila. I believe that Steve Wood, a former Malvern history teacher, knew many of these players and went on to coach many of Malvern's female softball players to championships.

Other Malvernites played in the prestigious Beaches Womens' League over its 30-year existence. Sherrin Funeral Homes sponsored teams over the years, and many girls remember travelling to games in their hearse. In the 1940s, female softball teams played games during the winter months at the C.N.E. Coliseum for our Canadian troops who were stationed there during the war. Can you imagine playing softball in the Ricoh Ice Palace?

For 25 years, I played in the East Toronto Ladies League at Coxwell Stadium where Monarch Park Collegiate is today. The calibre of fastball played there was very high. Many of my colleagues have been inducted into Canada's Fastball Hall of Fame for their contributions. Until the late 70s, each province would send their champions to participate in the Canadian championships. Today, Canada's National Team is composed of all-stars from across the country--many of whom have attended American Colleges on athletic scholarships. Women's fastball reached its pinnacle when it was first accepted as an exhibition sport in the Olympics. Canada was always a strong Olympic contender but we'll never have the opportunity to win gold now that it has been de-commissioned as an Olympic Sport.

One of the items on my bucket list is to write a book about the history of women's softball in Toronto. For the past 10 years, I have been interviewing former players and borrowing their scrapbooks to gather information for the C.N.E.'s annual ceremony in which we honour players of the past. **If any of you have grandmothers or great-grandmothers who played in the Beach or at Sunnyside, please help me tell their story.**

Much has changed at Malvern over the past 50 years, especially for female students who have been able to participate in so many sporting activities unheard of in my day. They have graduated to sport specific uniforms for hockey, rugby, softball, etc. They have brought many city and provincial championships to Malvern.

Tonight as you begin the next part of your journey, I encourage you to remain active and keep fit. As you pursue your dreams, I challenge you to think ahead to the year 2028. What might you be doing? Some of you might be raising the next generation of Malvernites. Some of you might give back to Malvern by joining the Malvern Red and Black Society, but I really hope that most of you will be planning and participating in Malvern's 125<sup>th</sup>. I'll be there. Will you?"

Paula Warder attended Malvern from 1960-1966. During that time, she participated in many inter-

school sports as well as serving on the executive of the GAA eventually becoming the president. In 1965, she was awarded the Female Athlete of the Year Award. In her final year, she was elected vice-president of the Student Council. For four years, Paula played French horn in the band.

More recently, she was a member of Malvern's Centennial Planning Committee and was instrumental in researching much of the historical information that was gathered for the event. She particularly enjoyed her role as Master of the Opening Ceremonies. Currently, she is a member of the Red and Black Society.

After graduating from Malvern, Paula attended the Toronto Teachers' College and began her career as an elementary teacher of children with special needs in Toronto's inner city schools. She is extremely proud of the trip she organized for her 10 year-old special-needs students to England for three weeks. That was the first and last time elementary students travelled internationally in the history of the Toronto School Board. During her 32-year career, she coached many teams, officiated at city finals, helped organize numerous track and field meets and served on the executive of the Public School Girls' Athletic Association.

This summer, Paula was awarded the prestigious C.N.E. Medallion for outstanding contributions to sports at the C.N.E. She was an outstanding catcher and batting champion for many years in the Ontario Ladies' Senior Fastball League.

When she retired in 2000, she moved to Beaverton where she chaired its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and the restoration of its cenotaph this summer. Paula attended our War Memorial ceremony November 4, 2011.

### **A word from the President – Adele Ashby**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Malvern Red and Black Society in November, I was elected president of the society, having been vice-president for the preceding four years. I am a Malvern alumna (class of 1966), a graduate of the University of Toronto with a doctorate, and have returned to university, York this time, to enroll once again as an undergraduate. (What a difference 40 years makes to the experience!) As

well as acting as president, I will continue my on-going commitments as MRBS recording secretary and *Musings* editor.

For the next year and a bit, the MRBS will be focused on the planning and organization of our 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 11, 2013. This is a massive undertaking that will require a great deal of volunteer help. We will need volunteers at the decade level and for more general tasks. I encourage all of our readers to consider what it is that they could do to make our 110<sup>th</sup> as successful as our Centennial in 2003 and to get in touch with us by mail, email, or phone.

### **Malvern C.I. 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion**

The Malvern Red and Black Society wishes to announce its all-decades reunion to be held on Saturday 11 May 2013 to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our school. The reunion will be held at the school, and individual decade groups are also planning events for Friday and Sunday. We will need volunteers for a variety of activities such as planning, registration, parking, and so on. If you are interested, please contact us by phone with messages – 416-393-8683, by email – [redandblack@malverncollegiate.com](mailto:redandblack@malverncollegiate.com) by mail – The Malvern Red and Black Society, 55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4E 3E4, or on Facebook – the Malvern Red and Black Society page.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist in decade-related activities, please contact your Decade Co-ordinator from the list that follows:

1930s/40s Sonya Munro – 1940s@malverncollegiate.com  
1950s Rod Tennyson – 1950s@malverncollegiate.com  
1960s Bob Watson – 1960s@malverncollegiate.com  
1970s Sandra Burk – 1970s@malverncollegiate.com  
1980s William Pace – 1980s@malverncollegiate.com  
1990s Shanta Nathwani – 1990s@malverncollegiate.com  
2000s – volunteer needed

We are also interested in what you would like to see in terms of programming. Any suggestions are welcome. Please forward suggestions to the contact points above.

**Memories of Malvern – we are revising our Centennial Book for the 110<sup>th</sup>! Send memories to archives@malverncollegiate.com!**

## E. Susan Davey in Memoriam



What follows is a letter from a group, The E. Susan Davey Memorial Fund, with an appeal for support. Susan was in my class at Malvern, and we encourage you to contribute (Editor's note).

Dear Friends of Susan Davey,

The first anniversary of the April 2011 passing of our good friend and colleague, Susan Davey, will soon be upon us. Many have felt her loss deeply and have expressed a great interest in creating a fitting tribute to her. As a result, a plan has evolved which may be of interest to you.

The E. Susan Davey Memorial Fund, a tribute to Susan's life as friend, teacher, principal, and mentor has been created at The Royal Conservatory, on Bloor Street, Toronto, ensuring that Susan's passion for education, music and the arts will be celebrated for generations to come.

It has been agreed that a seat in Koerner Hall, in the Telus Centre of The Royal Conservatory, will be named in Susan's honour, with a plaque attached for all to see in perpetuity. When Koerner Hall opened in 2009, Susan was thrilled with its beauty and acoustics, as well as its potential for exciting, diverse and excellent programming. In addition to the seat, it is hoped that through the generosity of her many friends, the E. Susan Davey Memorial Fund, on an annual basis, will have the potential to enable a Toronto District School Board school to be adopted, in Susan's name, to benefit from participation in Learning Through the Arts, a program so greatly valued by Susan for the richness of its teacher professional development, differentiated instruction and meaningful music and arts programming for students.

The immediate goal set for the Memorial Fund has been established as \$10,000. Donations have already started to make their way to the

Royal Conservatory. If you would be interested in participating in the building of this fund or are interested in further information, please contact Brian Quinn (416) 408-2824 ext. 457 or [brian.quinn@rcmusic.ca](mailto:brian.quinn@rcmusic.ca)

Cheques can be made to The Royal Conservatory of Music, E. Susan Davey Memorial Fund at The Royal Conservatory, 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON, M5S 1W2, Canada. A tax deductible receipt will be issued for donations of \$10 or more. Monthly giving can be accommodated. To set this up, Brian Quinn would need to know that you wish to make a monthly gift, the amount per month, and whether this will be by cheque or credit card.

### Malvern Photo Discovered in Edmonton

What follows is an extraordinary story, written by MRBS Archives Committee member, Bob Watson, that came out of a request for help from our archives.

It all started with an innocuous telephone call to our (then) President, Vandra Masemann. It was Jim Cramton from Edmonton calling, and he had before him one of those wide-width sports photos so popular in the 1930s and 1940s. The photo was of the 1947 Malvern Bantam Rugby Team, and it featured Aubrey Rhamey (Coach) and 21 eager young Malvernites. Now, Jim Cramton did not go to Malvern, but his curiosity had been awakened, so he called us (the now older MRBS members) to ask if we could identify any of the boys and if any now lived in Alberta. Vandra asked Donna Halliday and me from our team to find out and get back to Jim. Simple, right?

As you might expect, most of the names were not on our member list, but six could be, and I managed to contact one confirmed player on the team and the widow of another, but, none lived in Alberta. I contacted Jim and told him the news. Jim was pleased. Then he asked if we had noticed that one of the names was D. Getty. The answer was yes, but he is not on our list. Did we know who D. Getty was? He said that he was *the* Don Getty. Who is Don Getty, you may ask?

Don Getty was the 11<sup>th</sup> Premier of Alberta; he was in office from 1 November 1985 to 13 December 1992. Peter Lougheed came before him, and Ralph Klein after - all familiar names. But the mystery deepens. Don Getty was also the quarterback of the Edmonton Eskimos for nine seasons. For some of that time, he backed up the great Jackie Parker. Together with running backs, Johnny Bright and Normie Kwong, they won back to back Grey Cups in 1955 and 1956. And many of you may have guessed by now, he was a Canadian quarterback, a rarity in the CFL. His all-time passing yardage is third amongst Canadian quarterbacks.

The end of the mystery is that for at least one year, Don Getty attended Malvern and played rugby. His childhood was spent in Verdun, QC, Toronto, Ottawa, London, and Agincourt. By the time he got to London, he not only played football, but he was elected Student Council president. He studied business administration at the University of Western Ontario and was a football star as well.

To go back to the beginning, the former rugby players I communicated with were Ron McBain and Valerie King on behalf of her late husband, John King. Valerie even had the same photo of the 1947 team and sent it to us. Ron McBain said "We had a good team that year and the following three years. No championships, only runners up thanks to Humberstone, which was way ahead of the football (rugby) league with a two-platoon system." Thanks to them and to Jim who started this all off. By the way, Jim Cramton has over 1000 books about the Canadian Football League. I suggested that he open up his own library.

## **Committee Reports**

### **1. The Onward Malvern Foundation by MRBS Vice-President Vandra Masemann**

This is the foundation that handles all the donations that come into the school for extra enrichment of the curriculum or expenses that cannot be paid for by the Toronto District School Board. It also issues tax receipts for the Malvern Red and Black Society. It is chaired by

Steve Thomas, a three times past Malvern parent who has been a volunteer basketball coach at Malvern for over two decades. The Treasurer is Daphne Field. Other members are the Principal, Line Pinard (*ex officio*), Past Treasurer Larry Smith, staff members Ethel Koumarelas, Dean Sasabuchi, and Doug Underwood, parents Lorie McCauley, Vicky Tsorlinis and Diane Wyman, '62 grad Vandra Masemann, and community member Leslie Rose. It holds meetings generally about four times a year to discuss fund-raising, plan special projects, get an accounting of funds raised, and decide on grants to project submitted by Malvern C.I. staff. In the past year it has granted funds for Malvern clubs, sports and band uniforms. It has also given a bursary to allow a Malvern student to travel to Vimy Ridge to attend the ceremonies there along with eleven other Malvern students and teacher, Catherine Hunnisett. Its latest project is the Malvern C.I. catalogue, which asks donors to select an item to pay for to support the school. Donations to Malvern can be made either by cheque to the OMF with the purpose specified on the memo line, or on the OMF web page on the Canada Helps website – [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) – with the item again specified in the memo box or ticked on the drop-down. All donations are gratefully accepted, and every cent goes to help the school.

### **2. The Archives Committee by Vandra Masemann**

We are pleased to say how much progress we are making with the Malvern Archives on the second floor at Malvern. The room used to be the workroom for the school library when Mr. Fletcher was the Librarian in the 50s and 60s. Our whole collection is in acid-free boxes (now more than 30) and has been manually catalogued. Now Donna Halliday is entering it as a database onto Excel sheets. The TDSB has just bought new archival software, Galleria, and our database can also be entered on it. Then it can be searched electronically. We are also scanning past copies of the *Malvern Muse* to post on our

website so that they can be perused on home computers.

We are making progress on the archival cupboards that we have been talking about for the last several years. We have just found out that we may be able to have a group of students at another high school build and install lockable cupboard doors for us as a project in their shop curriculum. Thanks to the Malvernites who have made donations for this purpose. We will be needing some more funds just to pay for the supplies for this project as the labour will all be supplied by staff and students.

Thanks to our Archives Committee members who have worked so diligently over so many years, Donna Halliday, Sonya Munro, Bob Watson, Warren Watson, and relative newcomer Irene Hubel.

### 3. War Memorial Update by **Vandra Masemann, Chair, Malvern C.I. War Memorial Restoration Committee**

We are pleased to report that the repairs to the Malvern War Memorial have been completed, as the TDSB signed off on the work in January. The base was reconfigured to prevent climbing on it, and the new lights, security cameras, and video channel equipment have been installed. We are very grateful to members of the school community who donated funds for this very expensive project, as well as to the TDSB. In fact, this phase of the work cost half as much again as the original restoration: \$22,000 as compared to the original \$44,000! The only task remaining is for the letters of the names to be re-attached in the spring. We called the past two months Phase 2 of the project.

We are also very happy that the Beach Garden Society has offered to work with us in restoring the landscaping and gardens in front of the school. The Malvern C.I. Garden Restoration Committee has been formed for that purpose, chaired by Science and Eco teacher Heather Farintosh and reporting to the principal, Line Pinard, with representatives from the Malvern Home and School, the Malvern Red and Black

Society, the Beach Garden Society, and the surrounding Malvern neighbourhood. We look forward to working together this spring on Phase 3 of the Malvern C.I. War Memorial Restoration project.

The one remaining item in this project that remains unresolved is identifying the perpetrators of the vandalism in the early hours of Sunday 6 November 2011. The most common question we are asked is "Have you found the kids that did this yet?" The unwillingness of those who did this to come forward is in stark contrast to the generosity and helpfulness of the many people who donated funds, time and energy to restore the statue and to make the front face of Malvern a sight to behold with pride. We do not understand how students or parents can keep this to themselves or how they plan to live with the guilt that these acts have surely engendered. For us, it is the only dark cloud hanging over what was a rewarding and respectful experience. We hope that this blot on Malvern's history is soon lifted.

**We will be creating more displays for each decade for the upcoming Reunion, Malvern C.I. at 110, on 11 May 2013. We need more volunteers to help with that mammoth task. Perhaps you might like to spend some time with convivial fellow Malvernites who meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 10 until 4 (time is flexible). Please contact us at [archives@malverncollegiate.com](mailto:archives@malverncollegiate.com). We need you!**

#### **Books by Malvernites**

Thake, Richard. *Sir Seth Thistlethwaite & the Soothsayer's Shoes, Book One*. Softcover, 142 pages, \$8.95 in Canada, ISBN 978-1-897349-93-9. Hardcover, \$15.95 in Canada, ISBN 978-1-897349-92-2.

First in a series of illustrated adventure books for boys, published by Owlkids Books. It's like *Alice in Wonderland* for boys, aged 7 to 12. Highly imaginative, fun to read for parents and children alike. Available at most bookstores throughout Canada and the United States.



*Sir Seth Thistlethwaite & the Kingdom of the Caves, Book Two.*

Wherein our two heroes find themselves in a lost kingdom deep under the surface of the Earth. Also available at most bookstores throughout Canada and the United States.

Softcover, 158 pages: \$8.95 in Canada, ISBN 978-1-926818-95-5. Hardcover: \$15.95 in Canada, ISBN-978-1-926818-94-8.

*Sir Seth Meets Betty the Yeti, Book Three.*

Available spring 2012.

Wherein our two heroes come face-to-face with a ferocious yeti -- or is she? For complete details, visit Sir Seth at: [www.richardthake.com](http://www.richardthake.com)

### Special Book Fund Raiser

John Peaker, who grew up in the Beach and attended Malvern has penned a new book entitled, *The Wayward Life And Times of a Dipsy Doodle Dandy*.

The book offers a compendium of hilarious, bawdy and altogether amusing stories of the Beach boys and former Malvernites during the golden years of Rock and Roll in the 1950s and 1960s. The book received 4.0 out of 5 stars in a review from Charles Ashbacher, a Top 50 Reviewer.

John will donate \$3.00 to the MRBS for every book purchased. Send a cheque for \$12.95

Late-breaking news: Did you know that one of the stars of TV Ontario's special series to celebrate Canada's Water Week, *Water Brothers*, broadcast March 19-25, went to Malvern? Alex Mifflin, one half of the Water Brothers with his brother Tyler and Director of Research at SK Film, took a water journey around the globe to examine important water-related issues. See the video on [ww3.tvo.org/video](http://ww3.tvo.org/video).

For regular updates on plans for the **Malvern C.I. 110th Anniversary Reunion**, the restoration of the Garden, and the Archives Cupboards, please join the group on our Facebook page, **Malvern Red and Black Society**.

We welcome donations of cheques for the restoration of the Garden. Please contact us at [redandblack@malverncollegiate.com](mailto:redandblack@malverncollegiate.com) about the list of specific plants we will be planting.

We also will need to pay for the wood for the work on the Archives cupboards.

Finally we always appreciate \$20 to support the Musings. Thank you to all who have supported our ongoing activities. We would not be here today if you had not sent us your contributions.

payable to John Peaker, 11 Grand Vista Crescent, RR # 6, Mount Forest ON, NOG 2L0. Please note the word "fundraiser" on the bottom of the cheque.

### Memories of Glenn Gould

My sister and I were in Malvern for a short period of time that coincided with Glenn Gould's time as a student there. My mother offered this really interesting memory of him. Glenn would take frequent, almost daily, walks with his dog along Glen Manor ravine. This path would take him right past our house at 175 Hammersmith Drive. My mother was frequently out working in the yard when he went by, and they had conversations about his dog and about music. Our family was heavily involved in music, and my mother was a music lover. There came a day when Glenn walked by without his dog, looking very forlorn. He came up to mother and just fell into her arms sobbing. The dog had just died. That event was not the end of his walks along Glen Manor ravine nor the end of their conversations. In fact, they became close friends. Our family is still Glenn Gould fans. Thank you for allowing me to share this memory. **Celia Davis, Worland, Wyoming, U.S.A.**

**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.**

**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.

**New Members' Registration Form**

**Please include all information requested and email to [redandblack@malverncollegiate.com](mailto: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.