



# Musings

Fall 2012

---

From the Malvern Red and Black Society

Malvern Collegiate Institute, 55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 3E4

(416) 393-8683

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

---



## Malvern students walk through war trenches at Vimy Ridge

### The following is an essay written by a Malvern student, Will Pearson.

The sacrifice that soldiers make when they die for our freedom is one that can never be truly repaid. That people are willing to lay down their lives in defence of their country is something that cannot be taken for granted. Soldiers' reasons for enlisting are likely to be as individual as each one. They might not even be fully understood by them, only that they are compelled to do so for one reason or another.

**In 2013, Malvern will celebrate its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Join us in celebrating at a Reunion to be held on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May at the school.**

**Late-breaking news – Malvern Red and Black Day will be on October 5 this year. If you want to see Malvern sports teams playing and revive your school spirit, call Lesley Gage at 416 393-1480 X20031.**

The sacrifice of the individual soldier is as meaningful as the aggregate sacrifice of millions of Canadians who died in various wars in the past one hundred years. War is never pleasant, and it is fortunate that, other than for our merchant marine and our harbours, we would not have had to fight a war at home.

Vimy Ridge is both far from and near to Canada. It is a massive hill. The monument is visible from great distances not just because of its immense size but also because of the strategic value of the ridge due to its size. Imagining a hill as a gigantic battlefield marred with trenches is hard. Thousands of Canadians crawling through tunnels to emerge in the middle of artillery, machine gun fire, and the sounds of war is similarly hard to picture. The scale of the battle must have been on the same scale as the hill. The sacrifice that many Canadians made that day in defence of Canada, Britain, and the whole British Empire is just awe-inspiring.

Walking through trenches was just as eye-opening as seeing the size of the Ridge. Reading a description does not compare to walking between the puddle-filled mud holes kept together by bits of metal and barbed wire. The trenches go side to side but also up and down, and it can be hard to get oriented because, ultimately, it was a network, and no man's land could have been as close as a couple of metres. The back walls were, of course, mud in case of a retreat, and the front ones, metal, so that if the enemy got into the trenches it would have a hard time retreating.

I was careful not to step in the puddles in the trenches because I was probably there for less than an hour. As a soldier in a trench though, it is unlikely that I would have cared. Being in a mud hole for days on end means that it is inevitable that the water would be a threat. The cold would have stopped being so bad after a while; it would eventually be numbing rather than biting.

Walking through Warrington Quarry, I took many photos. There was tic tac toe on a brick wall. The soldiers used a deep well for drinking water and buckets for latrines. Easter runs on a

19-year cycle, and we were there on the sixth Easter Monday 9 April since the battle. The setup was exactly as it was all those Easter Mondays ago, and I was impressed that even living in a cave waiting for battle, these were individual people, not numbers in a history book. They had to make time for Easter and prayer before they climbed to ground level. Walking around underground added a real human element to the visit.

Walking in the dugout at the Passchendaele museum was similar. I had to duck and wonder if the boys in these tunnels were generally younger than I am or just rather short or both. I walked through and saw beds that looked like they would be O.K. with a mattress on them.

We stood during the Vimy ceremony in the wind and the rain and the cold. The only thing missing were the muddy trenches. People chose between huddling together for warmth and staying underneath their separate umbrellas to stay dry. For the soldiers, the rain must have been like the mud and cold, unavoidable and everywhere. At least we could pick one to avoid most of; we weren't soaked through and frozen. There were thousands at the ceremony, but we, for the most part, trickled in from the far side of the monument single file. I thought about whether this was how the soldiers moved. Were they ever aware of where they were going beyond a simple place name and to follow the soldier in front of them?

Most of all, throughout the trip, I thought about whether I could have been a soldier in the trenches. What we got was the thinnest slice of what it may have been like. I could extrapolate from our tiny slice and get a picture slanted toward "Of course I could have been a soldier" or "Wow! I can't imagine myself in these conditions at all," and the truth is likely somewhere in between. The soldiers were to some extent self-selected, but once in Europe they had very little choice in their conditions. We experienced what they experienced for a few hours if that and then escaped to the comfort of our hotel. I'm sure most of us could have been soldiers in the trenches. Most of us

would have been and more likely than not have grinned and borne it rather than risk a post-desertion execution. After long enough in the trenches, I might have even forgotten what it was like not to be soaked to the bone and covered in mud.

I am grateful for the sacrifices that every single Canadian has made in war time, whether on the home front or abroad. I am grateful for every single Canadian, alive, wounded, or dead, who has served in our armed forces. The actions of these Canadians have probably shaped the world more than the actions of any other group of Canadians. Without their service, the last one hundred years would not have been the same, in subtle ways, impossible to precisely nail down. Each war Canada has been in has had repercussions not just for Canada and the area directly affected by fighting but the whole world.

### **President's Report – Adele Ashby**

Despite the usual summer doldrums, the Malvern Red and Black Society Executive members have been working hard on a number of fronts. Vandra Masemann, our Vice-President, who looks after the War Memorial and its garden, the Archives, the Website, and the Onward Malvern Committees, will bring you up-to-date on their activities in her report below. I also serve as Board Secretary and as *Musings* Editor. Lately, my energies have been also been directed toward the Malvern 110 Reunion Committee, which I co-chair with fellow board member, Rod Tennyson.

The reunion, which celebrates the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our school, will take place on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 of May, 2013. We invite you to join us in celebrating our school's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday. We have been kept busy setting up registration forms, task lists, volunteer recruitment, and much more. One of our goals has been to create, for the first time, online registration and payment options for those of you who prefer electronic to paper. We now have Facebook and Twitter presence and have long had an email edition of our *Musings*, which we use to communicate with those of you who

prefer online access, in keeping with our motto of "Keeping Malvernites in touch." We will, of course, continue to provide hard copy for those who do not. We are launching our new website, which will be much more interactive and searchable than our previous one. You will also be able to register electronically for the **Malvern110 Reunion** if you wish at **[www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca)**. The registration form will permit you to choose whether you wish to have a box lunch with several choices. It will also be possible to sign up early for activities such as neighbourhood walks and a history lecture at the Beaches Library. Early registration will give us a clearer sense of the numbers we need to prepare for. As noted above, we are recruiting volunteers. We will need a great many to assist us with the set-up prior to the reunion weekend, the running of events during the reunion, and the take-down afterwards. If you are interested, please contact us by email at [redandblack@malverncollegiate.com](mailto:redandblack@malverncollegiate.com) or by phone on our hotline at (416) 393-8683. We do not expect anyone to give up the opportunity to attend reunion events by volunteering a lot of time, but even the commitment of a couple of hours will make a huge difference to our overall success if enough people do so.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held this year at Malvern on Saturday 3 November 2012 starting at 1:00 p.m. All MRBS members are welcome to participate.

We are delighted to announce that one of our Executive Board members, Irene Hubel, has been awarded a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

In the late spring, the MRBS joined the OMF in subsidizing a student group that went to France to visit war graves. It is your donations to the MRBS that permit us to continue building our Archives, repairing the War Memorial, preserving the Malvern pool, and much, much more, and we invite you either to contribute whether this is your first time or to continue to do so using the form at the end of this issue.

**The Malvern 110 Reunion hard copy registration form is enclosed in this mailing. We urge you to complete and return it or to use the electronic version on our website and Facebook page.**

**CALL FOR PHOTOS, MEMORIES OF MALVERN, AND MEMORABILIA for the Reunion! Please email us at [redandblack@malverncollegiate.com](mailto:redandblack@malverncollegiate.com) or mail items to the school at 55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto M4E 3E4, clearly marked for the MRBS. We plan to scan memorabilia items and return them, unless they are to be donated to the Malvern Archives. Please indicate your wishes clearly. Thank you very much!**

### **Vice-President's Report – Vandra Masemann**

As you can see from the report of the current President, my colleague Adele Ashby, she and I have retained some of our earlier tasks for reasons of continuity. This past academic year has been for the MRBS one of the most productive and satisfying years to date. We are really beginning to feel as if we are fulfilling our purpose of supporting the school and bringing Malvernites together. For some of us, it has been ten years of constant effort since before the Centennial in 2003, and we are pleased to see the fruits of our labour. However, without new volunteers to run for office and to help with our work, we will not be able to carry on for another ten years. So please consider offering your services as a member of the Executive, as a Decade Co-ordinator (80s, 90s, 2000s, 2010s needed!), or as a Committee member. If these roles are too time-consuming, please help us out with the Reunion next May!

I will just review some of our work briefly here as we have a great deal to put into this issue. Last fall we had a very successful fund-raising for the Malvern Cenotaph. The restoration was

followed by the rededication last 4 November, shortly thereafter followed by an incident of vandalism. Malvernites rallied to raise money for the repairs and security, and that work is now complete. If you are ever around in the evening, do drive by and see the statue bathed in the light of the illuminations. The Beach Garden Society then contacted us and offered to help plant the new gardens in front of the school to help improve the landscape. Again, donations were received, and the first two gardens were planted in May. Attentive neighbours, parents, and students cared for the gardens all summer.

Meanwhile our monthly activities continued in the Archives. We are still cataloguing the holdings, but there is enough done so that the process of putting the records on electronic files can begin. We will be able to use the software that the TDSB is acquiring for this purpose. Our really good news is that we have been able to get the new archival cupboards made over the summer by Ferdi Held, Malvern grad and Program Lead Hand of the Fix-it Shop at David and Mary Thompson C.I. and Gilbert Drane, Shop Supervisor of the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program at Westview Centennial C.I., and two TDSB Summer Students, Steven Truong and Bing Li.

Finally, as a Board member of the Onward Malvern Foundation, I have been pleased to see how parents' and alumni donations have been used to help the MRBS and also the school itself. This year a small Malvern Catalogue is being sent out to parents and to MRBS members to encourage them to donate for items sorely needed at the school. The OMF also provides the MRBS with our tax receipts, so whether you are donating to help the school or the MRBS specifically, please make cheques out to the OMF. If the MRBS is your chosen destination, please so indicate on the memo line. Many thanks to all who have donated this year so that we have been able to complete all of our projects. Now we invite you to the 110<sup>th</sup> Reunion to celebrate another decade in the life of a great school!

## **MRBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday November 3 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Room 110 at the school.**

**Please enter from the centre door in the North parking lot.**

**We need nominations for Decade Coordinators for the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s. Feel free to self-nominate!**

## **In Memoriam**

### **Duncan Green**

On Sunday 13 May 2012, Mother's Day, the Malvern community lost a distinguished member. Duncan Green, after 85 very rich years, died. Born in Swansea, Toronto, he attended University College at the University of Toronto and developed a love of the stage, which led him to the Fringe Festival, London's Globe Theatre, and Brooklyn's BAM Theater. His career at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) included teaching English as HumberSide C.I., serving as Principal at Malvern, Director of the TDSB, and Assistant Deputy Minister of Education for Ontario. See [www.hcialumni.org](http://www.hcialumni.org).

### **Glenn Cochrane**

On Sunday 10 June, a Beach active supporter and volunteer, Glenn Cochrane, 84, died. Born in Hamilton, he began his career as a newspaper man at the *Hamilton Spectator*. In 1968, he moved to television, and became a contributor to CTV's World Beat News. After moving to the Beach where he lived for over 40 years, he became a columnist for the *Beach Metro News*. His contributions to life in the Beach were many. To name a few: raising funds for Senior Link, serving as Grand Marshall for the Easter Parade, emceeing the Lion's Christmas Tree Lighting in Kew Gardens, helping save the Leuty Lifeguard Station, and much, much more. He received a number of honours including the 125<sup>th</sup> Canada Jubilee Medal and the Queen's Jubilee Medal, and was named 2002 Beach Citizen of the Year.

### **David Bain**

In July 2012, David Bain, 71 died at 71 in a car accident while travelling in Utah to see his grandson play rugby. He grew up in the Beach and attended school at Williamson Road and Malvern C.I. He went on the University of Toronto and became a teacher with the TDSB for 36 years. After retirement, he and his wife organized Lawn Bowling Tours, which took them around the world to more than 25 countries. See [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com).

## **The Beaches Fastball Leagues**

### **By Paula Warder**

The Beaches Fastball Leagues are two of the oldest leagues in Toronto (possibly in Canada) beginning in the early Twenties. I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the past of the Glory Days of these two leagues.

Many Malvernites have fond memories of fastball games played at Kew Beach over several decades. Some may have watched their grandmothers play on teams like Popular's, Rexall's, Simpson's, Crofton's and Glen Stewart's. During the war years, many female players played indoors during the winter at the CNE Coliseum to entertain the troops who were stationed there for basic training. The Crofton's club were semi-finalists in the 1945 ASA Championships held in Chicago. This achievement was the closest a Canadian Women's team came to winning a major international competition. In those days, women's softball games drew 3,000-4,000 spectators and often outdrew the men's leagues.

Many women from the Beach also played in the equally well-known Sunnyside League. In the 1950s, both Sunnyside and the Beaches Ladies League disbanded, leaving the East Toronto Ladies Softball League still operating at Coxwell Stadium where Monarch Park Collegiate is located now.

Mabel Robb, the mother of Donna Halliday, an executive member of the Red and Black Society, played center field for Sherrin's Funeral Home for many years. Mabel remembered being

driven to some games in the hearse, and Donna remembers being the team mascot at age three and wearing a uniform in the team photos.

Countless others may have watched their grandfathers play with well-known Beach names like Ab Box, Lloyd Nourse, and Joe McNulty. Long-time teams in the Beaches Majors League teams were Peoples Credit Jewellers', Levy's, Robertson Motors', and The Tip Top Tailor Team of 1949. This was the first Canadian team to ever capture a World Championship. The four surviving members of this great team were still alive when the team was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 2010. Some members of this team were Lenny Gaul, Art Upper, and Bobby Porter, who were widely known in the Beach for their athletic abilities this team.

Brad Gaul, who is the son of Lenny Gaul, Tip Top's catcher, attended Malvern and played in the Beaches Major Fastball League as did slugger Craig Houston. They had both played on Malvern's championship hockey teams in the 60s.

The only other Canadian team to win a World Championship was the Richmond Hill Dynes who captured the crown in the Philippines in 1972. This team played in in the Beaches Fastball League at the same time as the Oshawa Tony's Dependable Caterers.

Annual benefit games against the Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey team were hosted to raise money for East General Hospital or Ted Reeve Arena.

The author of this article is willing to be corrected if I have made any errors. If you have old photos or newspaper articles which you would be willing to share please contact me at [paulawarder@gmail.com](mailto:paulawarder@gmail.com).

**We will be publishing a special issue of *Musings* for the Malvern 110 Reunion. We invite all Malvernites to submit recollections of their life at the school. We would like to see contributions for every decade. You may submit by snail or email.**



**Donna (Robb) Halliday as Team Mascot**

## **Paying our Respects to the only Malvernite from World War II buried in Sweden** **By Vandra Masemann**

I had to attend a meeting in Germany this past May, and we then travelled to other parts of Germany and Sweden. I asked David Fuller, our MRBS Historian, a Malvern parent, and now Decades Representative for the years 1903-1939, if there were any Malvernites from World War II buried in northern Germany or Sweden. There are several cemeteries where the remains of Commonwealth airmen from World War II and navy men from World War I are buried. One of them is near Hanover, and another smaller one is in Gothenburg, Sweden. We were able to visit the cemetery at Kvyberg, northeast of Gothenburg. Our aim was to visit the grave of the only Malvern airman buried in Sweden. We found the graves of six of the seven Canadians buried in the Commonwealth War Graves section of that cemetery and laid red roses at each of their graves. They lie in a beautiful section of the cemetery with a wall of rhododendrons on the cliff behind them. The names of the Canadians are as follows: William

Henry Bowler, John Parker Campbell, James Steven Jewett, John Duncan Cruickshank, Benjamin Victor, Lloyd Drucker, Edward Francis Monroe, and Donald Alexander Watson.

The Malvernite is William H. Bowler. He and the other two Canadians (Campbell and Jewett) died on 4 September 1942 when their plane crashed into the side of a mountain in Lapland as they were flying to Murmansk, Russia. The plane was not discovered until 1976 when the ice had melted enough to see the wreckage. The bodies were brought to Kvyberg and buried with the other Commonwealth airmen, soldiers, and seamen from World War I and II. The remains of the airmen were gathered from all over the North Sea area, and the remains of the sailors are from some famous sea battles in World War I, such as the Battle of Jutland. There is also a section not far away where the remains of the German soldiers lie.

If you would like other photographs or more information about these airmen or the graves, please email us at [redandblack@malverncollegiate.com](mailto:redandblack@malverncollegiate.com).



## Treasurer's Report – Evan J. Butchers

As your MRBS treasurer, I am pleased to report the following brief summary of our financial position as of our fiscal year end, 30 June 2012. Our bank balance is \$4,793.45. However, this balance will quickly diminish with the publication and mailing of this edition of the *Musings*, which will cost approximately \$1100, plus some repairs to the lettering on the War Memorial (approximately \$600) and the cost of the cupboards in the archives. We were able to continue with our annual award of \$100 to a Malvern student, Jesse Porter, at the school's commencement in November 2011 as well as to contribute substantially to the creation of Malvern War Memorial Garden at the school. In order to continue the work of the MRBS, we will once again rely heavily on the generosity of former Malvernites. Please consider a donation to the MRBS.

I will present a full detailed report to our members at our annual meeting scheduled for 3 November 2012.



**MALVERN RUGBY SHIRTS AVAILABLE.** If you would like to order a Malvern Rugby Shirt, sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL or XXXL, please email us at [redandblack@malverncollegiate.com](mailto:redandblack@malverncollegiate.com) or leave a message at 416 393-8683 for an order form. The cost is \$85 plus postage, with a surcharge for the sizes above XL.

## Malvern Red and Black Society Donation/Registration Form

### 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 M.C.I. address above. Email is greatly encouraged, to reduce our mailing costs. OR you may register on our new MRBS website at [www.malverncollegiate.com](http://www.malverncollegiate.com).**

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.*