



Musings

"Keeping Malvernites in Touch"

Fall 2023

From the Malvern Red and Black Society

Website: www.malverncollegiate.com

Email: redandblack@malverncollegiate.com

Facebook: MRBS - Malvern Red and Black Society

Instagram address: [@malvernredandblacksociety](https://www.instagram.com/malvernredandblacksociety)

NOTICE TO MALVERNITES!

If this is a paper copy of the *Musings*, we need to hear from you!

If you have no access to email and need to receive the paper copy, please contact our database manager, Dianne Renwick, at 416-770-4024 to confirm your wish to receive it, or send us a letter at MRBS at the address on page 2. We no longer have the funds to mail a large number of paper copies. If you can switch to email, please email us at redandblack@malverncollegiate.com with your current email address, full name (including maiden name in brackets), and year of graduation. If you need to receive the paper copy, we will not desert you!

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Call for Submissions of Reunion Pictures

We would be delighted to receive as many Reunion MCI 120 photos as you are willing to send us. Please send your own pics or those from the Photo Booths, with names identified and "MCI 120" photos on the subject line, to redandblack@malverncollegiate.com. By sending them to us, you are granting permission for us to use them for publicity for MRBS goals.

MASTHEAD

***THE MUSINGS* Fall 2023**

c/o Malvern Collegiate Institute
55 Malvern Avenue
Toronto ON
Canada
M4C 3E4

Newsletter of the Malvern Red and Black Society,
normally published in the Spring and the Fall.

Editors:
Sandra Burk and Vandra Masemann
Email: redandblack@malverncollegiate.com

President: Randy Deffett
Vice President: Sandra Burk
Treasurer: Bob Watson
Recording Secretary: vacant
Members at Large: Dianne (Renwick) Chadwick,
Astrid Neuland, Ila Vaculik,

Archives Committee Chair: Vandra Masemann
Database Manager: Dianne Renwick
In Memoriam Page: Paul Warner
Decade Members:
1903-1945 Rep. and Service Personnel: David
Fuller
1940s: vacant
1950s: Rod Tennyson
1960s: Bob Watson
1970s: Sandra Burk
1980s: Astrid Neuland
1990s: Raj Sharma
2000s: vacant

This publication is supported entirely by the
donations of the MRBS members. See
www.malverncollegiate.com for details and page 8
in this *Musings*.

CALL FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

On behalf of the Malvern Red and Black Society,
we invite all of our members to attend our Annual
General Meeting via the Internet on November 4,
2023 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. We hope you have
all been safe and healthy, and wish all of you a
good year. The MRBS Annual Report will be
available as a separate file, so that you can have it
with you if you attend the meeting.

There are two steps in advance of the meeting.
Please do not wait until five minutes before the
meeting in case you encounter any hitches. We
need you to email us at:

redandblack@malverncollegiate.com to say
you wish to attend the meeting. We will then
contact you closer to the meeting to give you the
Zoom link.

We are calling for nominations (and/or nominate
yourself) for officers for the following positions:

- Recording Secretary - 3-year term
- 2 Members at Large - 3-year term

Please email any nominations, including self-
nominations to
redandblack@malverncollegiate.com. Thank you.

For non-Internet people: You will also be able to
register by calling Dianne Renwick at 416-770 -
4024. You may then obtain the Zoom phone
numbers for the Nov.4 meeting.

MALVERN WEAR FOR SALE

Check out our MCI 120 gear this year! Go
to our website and look for The Malvern
Shop on the top banner. Or enter this
online: **[malverncollegiate.com/mrbs-
shop](http://malverncollegiate.com/mrbs-shop)**. We offer caps with monogram,
hoodies and 1/4 zip sweatshirts with
crests, T-shirts, tote bags, and coffee mugs.
Rugby shirts with crests are also available.
We deliver to addresses in close postal
codes in the East End or will denote a
pickup spot. For all others, postage is
calculated in the cost.

***“TO YOU WE THROW THE TORCH;
BE YOURS TO HOLD IT HIGH”***

by Randy Deffett, class of 1977

**Time to Grow Our Membership
&
Ensure Organizational Continuity**

Your MRBS enjoyed great success in 2023 to grow our registered membership to over 1580 members. Separately, our social media presence has grown substantially: we now have 1800+ Facebook and 139 Instagram subscribers. Alumni are following us! We will continue to focus our activities on what is important to you (from our 2022 alumni survey) and to provide the channels of communication that you prefer. We aim to increase our membership by 200 members annually. We work hard for all alumni.

What will be critical to grow membership and ensure organizational continuity? We must expand membership class year distribution. Since we started in 2003, our core support has come from the 1940-1969 class members and they provided the majority of our financial donations. We are immensely grateful! As we progress into 2023-24 and beyond, we are working hard to grow MRBS membership from the 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s decades.

We know that alumni of 1970 and younger are at various life stages (school, career, family, grandkids, retirement, caring for aging parents) so the MRBS may not get their attention right now. The success of our MCI120 Reunion (hosted together with MCI on May 13th) gives us great confidence that ‘younger’ alumni MRBS membership will continue to grow:

- 70+ MCI students helped at the Reunion, working enthusiastically with our most senior alumni.
- Student volunteers showed appreciation for MCI history.
- 800+ alumni attended the Malvern Open House.
- Great participation at MRBS Pub Night venues from all decades:
 - 1940-69 = 141 attendees
 - 1970s = 301 attendees
 - 1980 to Now = 278 attendees.

People are interested in the MRBS and MCI!

To ensure organizational continuity, it is very important to have a broad spectrum of Class Years participating on our MRBS Executive and committees, to have a continuous flow of volunteers participating. We are achieving this. On MRBS Executive and committees, 10 members are from the class years 1940-1969 and 7 members from 1970 to Now - a good distribution. Our two most recent Executive and Committee volunteers graduated in 1985 and 1992. The future looks bright!

Volunteers Needed

Your MRBS always welcomes new blood.

Join us for what you want to do and what time you can give. Everybody is welcome.

We need volunteers for Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Members at Large, and Website development and administration

MARK YOUR MRBS CALENDAR

Sat. Nov. 4, 2023- Annual General Meeting at 1:00pm via Zoom. See you there!

REPORT ON MALVERN C.I. 120th ANNIVERSARY REUNION AND OPEN HOUSE

by Randy Deffett

Your MRBS and the MCI administration hosted a hugely successful MCI 120 Reunion on Saturday May 13, 2023. Why an event now? Your biggest priorities from our alumni survey were: provide alumni news (87% of respondents) and social events (67%). MCI Principal, Sandy Kaskens, was restoring the historical photograph collection, and MCI had just reopened to present day students and alumni. Time for a Reunion!

Attendance was amazing: 800+ people attended the school Open House and 720+ alumni attended the four MRBS pub social events during the evening. People reunited with old friends and teachers. Attendees complimented the graduation class hallway photograph displays, decade rooms, the Archives Room, and of course, the auditorium Teacher Recognition ceremony and alumni/student band performance (40+ alumni music playing with students). This is just a sample.

My two best memories reflect our MRBS goal: 'Keeping Malvernites in Touch'. As I walked around the school I was impressed many times to see current students welcoming alumni of all ages. The oldest alumni and youngest of students were sharing stories, memories and enjoying each other's company. Secondly, I saw alumni at MCI and our pub night events chatting and laughing. The minute they met, the years had vanished. We will always be Malvernites.

With the pandemic school shutdown (finally) over, the Reunion planning allowed us to rekindle the historically close relationship among alumni, administration and current students. We were one team. 70+ MCI student volunteers helped us to prepare and to welcome attendees. 18+ MRBS volunteers planned for months and 20+ additional alumni helped on the big day. MCI staff were enthusiastic, in particular, Nickie Lewis and Michael Falla. To everyone who helped make the MCI 120 Reunion (Open House and MRBS pub events) the huge success it was, I am so very grateful for your contributions, great or small. Thank you.

Last word...I must recognize two people in particular: Sandy Kaskens, MCI Principal (now retired) and Ingrid Bubersky, MRBS Reunion Committee member. Many people worked hard, but their efforts were next level! Their long hours of work and teamwork with so many volunteers was much appreciated. Thank you.

Did we enjoy the Reunion? "YES"!



The Biography of Principal J. D. MacDonald (1978-1984) by Bob Watson

Mr. MacDonald was Principal of Malvern Collegiate from 1978-1984. As a Teacher, he taught math and physics in three schools: Riverdale, Humberside, and Lawrence Park Collegiate(s), all in Toronto. Here is an excerpt from an interview Bob Watson did with him.

"At Malvern, as Principal, he would talk with Department Heads and find out what was important to them. He would say what would you like to change and then attempt to bring about this change. He focused on improving morale of teachers. David was involved in the hiring of teachers, filling vacancies, and arranging transfers. He would meet with the Education Department to talk about teacher candidates. David would also attend OSSTF meetings with Principals from other schools. He talked with parents regularly and the Student Council about what can happen to better MCI."

Please go to www.malverncollegiate.com, "Archives" section, "Principals' Project" for more on the life and work of Mr. MacDonald and various other Principals. Volunteers to do more work for this project are welcome. We have had many Principals since 1903!



Our In Memoriam Page: Paul Warner

We thank Paul Warner for his continuing work on the *In Memoriam* Page which is the most popular page on our website. It contains the list of all deceased Malvernites we have learned of in these past 20 years. We post obituaries where possible and photographs in many cases. It is searchable by surname and maiden name. Please notify us of any Malvernites if you learn of their passing by emailing us at redandblack@malverncollegiate.com. Thank you.

MRBS - Organizational Progress

Introducing Principal Aaron Gotfryd....in his own words

Having grown up in the neighbourhood, I was very excited to learn that I had been placed at Malvern Collegiate Institute as Principal. Being a part of the Malvern community and finding ways to contribute and lend support to the many amazing things that are offered here matched up very well with my professional and personal interests. I believe that a learning environment which provides opportunities for all students to feel a sense of belonging, and in which they can be engaged, is integral to supporting their academic success. Malvern provides a tremendous number and variety of such opportunities. With my Bachelor's degree in Jazz, I must admit a special appreciation for the strong music program that has always existed here. As I look towards the years ahead I am full of excitement and appreciation for the opportunity to serve our students and to support them in attaining their dreams and goals.



Sandy Kaskens and Aaron Gotfryd

2023-2024 GOALS Malvern Red and Black Society

(July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)

#1 MEMBERSHIP GROWTH Add 200 members annually with more representation from the classes of 1980 - Now for organizational continuity.

#2 CONSOLIDATE MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Update and consolidate new information received from MCI 120 Reunion email & postal mail registrations.

#3 IMPROVE THE ONLINE EXPERIENCE

Modernize our website design and expand social media presence to attract 25% more online visits annually.

#4: IMPROVE FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY

Revenues and expenses follow our approved 1-year and 5-year financial budgets.

#5 LIAISON WITH NEW MCI ADMINISTRATION AND HOME-SCHOOL COUNCIL

Collaborate with and harmonize our MRBS goals with MCI administration and Home-School Council.

Letters from Malvernites to redandblack@malverncollegiate.com

Ken Naples, class of 1961, May 18, 2023

So glad to hear that there are people like yourself that are involved in staying in touch with our high school of which I am very proud to have attended!

Everywhere I meander in the world I seem to meet someone who attended Malvern. Like last summer, I attended the 50th anniversary of our Hockey team at Michigan Tech in which one of the players attended Malvern. His name was Eddie Caterer who played on two of five consecutive city championship teams from 1961 to 1962. Since Eddie is deceased, I made a short tribute to him at the Reunion after which a lady came up to me all teary-eyed and told me that she attended MCI a couple of years earlier than Eddie and I. I will never forget her saying that she thought we were the Best Athletes in the city!

Good to talk about our School, MCI! It's the Best! I hope the present day students feel the same way as we did! Go you Red & Black Knights! Keep up the Spirit!

Tim Podmore, son of Malvern teacher Mr. Podmore, June 22, 2023

Thanks very much for your kind words about my father. I know he enjoyed teaching and his time at Malvern. Dad taught History and Geography during his period at Malvern. He left Malvern for a two-year stint at the ROM on behalf of the Toronto Board of Education and then moved on to become Head of History at Oakwood C.I. until his retirement in 1979.

How Dad came to teach at Malvern is story in itself. We were travelling back to England in 1958 after living in Malaya (stopping in Ottawa with relatives). Malaya had just secured its independence from Britain, and the British subjects were given the option to relocate or start reporting to the new Malaysian government. My parents took a side trip to Toronto to meet a cousin of my mother, Leslie Kerr, who was the Principal at Malvern at the time. Upon learning of Dad's educational background - studying History and Geography at Oxford - and the fact that Dad was between jobs, Uncle Leslie recruited Dad to teach at Malvern despite the fact that he had no prior teaching experience.

While I was quite young during Dad's period at Malvern, I remember several events:

1. He performed as a judge in a student production of *Trial By Jury*.
2. One of his students was the Canadian Olympic runner Bruce Kidd. Bruce was offered a scholarship to Oxford (my Dad's alma mater) and asked for Dad's opinion on whether or not to accept the scholarship.
3. Dad had skating parties for one or more of his classes on our backyard rink.

Coincidentally, many years later, I shared a ski chalet in Collingwood with Sue Schlegel who also taught at Malvern (and/or perhaps was a student there), and I also met Andy Hemphill (another Malvern student) while skiing in Collingwood.

On several occasions, upon hearing my last name, people would mention that they had a teacher at Malvern by that name and would ask after him when I said he was my father, remembering him fondly.

Nan Weston, class of 1957, June 6, 2023

My husband and I attended the Reunion last month and I had a wonderful time travelling back in memory. Through you, I want to express my appreciation of all the hard work done by the Society, the Vice-Principal, the band, the many volunteers in the parking lot and in the school and everyone else who made it so memorable for me.

Meeting long-standing friends and viewing the excellent display in the 50's decade room was nostalgic. Such an event requires many hours of faithful work done by many. I appreciate it all and now can bask in the memory here in the West Coast in the State of Washington.

Donations and Registration

Please update your information on the Donation/Registration form here. Thank you.

Onward Malvern Foundation - Malvern Red and Black Society Donation/Registration Form

Express Consent to Receive OMF/MRBS emails and Permission to Post My Name on the OMF/MRBS Public Members' List

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

Member's Express Consent for Receiving Mailings

Signature: _____ Date: _____

However, you may opt out of having your name on the OMF/MRBS website by signing here:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Canada's anti-spam legislation is now in effect, and under it, the OMF/MRBS requires your express consent to send you electronic communications, which you give by signing. Without it, we cannot add your name to our email database or to our website Members' List. Thank you.

Financial Donations and Musings Subscriptions

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., MRBS, *Musings* Subscription, or Music, Athletics, Greatest Need, etc. and specify the amounts if there are several uses. You can also donate online to The Onward Malvern Foundation via the Canada Helps website at www.canadahelps.org.

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 OMF/MRBS at 55 Malvern Avenue, Toronto M4E 3E4.

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

Yes, I give my permission for the OMF/MRBS to post my name on its 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 or mail to the M.C.I. address above. Email is greatly encouraged, to reduce our mailing costs. OR you may register on our MRBS website at <https://malverncollegiate.com/become-a-member-2/>

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.