



Musings

Spring 2011

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

President's Message

Vandra Masemann

**SEE 40s/50s/60s REUNION NOTICE
FOR MAY 14, 2011 ON PAGE 6!!**

A great deal has happened at Malvern since our last *Musings* was published in September 2010. We put out our appeal to you for donations to the Malvern C.I. War Memorial Restoration campaign, and funds started to slowly trickle in. We had planned to hold a Comedy Show in support of this campaign, but we had to cancel it because of slow ticket sales. In October, we were wondering if this campaign would take off, and with the November media coverage just before Remembrance Day, it did. We received coverage from the CBC and CTV television news shows, and from the *Toronto Star*, *Beach Metro News*, and the *Scarborough Mirror*. I have written a separate update on the campaign so that you will know the relevant facts if anyone raises the subject in conversation. Needless to say, we are very relieved that this restoration project will be going ahead this spring and summer.

It was a busy fall. In October, Malvern held another very successful Spirit Day at Birchmount Park. Then in November, the MRBS held our Annual General Meeting where we elected a new Member-at-Large and 1980s Decade Representative, William Pace. Welcome to the MRBS, William! Our Treasurer



also reported that we were fiscally sound, thanks to funds from the sale of theatre tickets and Vintage Wear, and donations from MRBS members. We also launched our campaign to sell Malvern Vintage Wear again, and the rugby shirts were, as usual, a popular item. If we get enough inquiries, we will do it again next year, so please let us know if you are interested.

November was the busiest month at Malvern. The Remembrance Day event was devoted to the World War I soldiers and the Malvern War Memorial. Several alumni attended the ceremony, as well as Mr. Chris Commins, the nephew of one of the "Boys of Malvern" on our statue. Malvern also participated in a Canada-wide project in which the World War I soldiers' names were projected for students to view as a virtual memorial. The intense media coverage before and during that week made an extra special atmosphere at Malvern. Then Malvern Commencement took place right after that, with Mathew Jocelyn, the Artistic and General Director of Canadian Stage and a Malvernite, who gave a truly inspiring keynote speech.

The Onward Malvern Foundation met on a regular basis and has given out

grants to renovate the pool to help make the pool more attractive to permit holders (e.g., more change stalls) from monies raised in 2009, to the MRBS for the archives cupboards, and to the school for meeting various needs in sports, music and a new girls' boxing club. The entire body of funds raised for the War Memorial restoration will be paid into the MRBS account, for our Treasurer, Evan J. Butchers, to administer the project funds.

Now we are looking forward to the 40s/50s/60s Reunion to be held on 14 May 2011 at the Balmy Beach Club. If you plan to attend, please see the green registration sheet enclosed for those years. Or put it on your fridge so that it is not mislaid! Or get it online from our website. As usual, I conclude by thanking all of the MRBS members who donate and contribute to the ongoing activities of the Society. These donations help to keep Malvernites in touch, and as you can see from the foregoing account, they contribute increasingly to the quality of life at Malvern today. The MRBS has grown from being a strictly alumni association to being an integral part of the school life.

Request for Volunteers:

1. As noted above, the MRBS has a new member-at-large, William Pace. We have an opening for a second one that we were unable to fill at our Annual General Meeting.
2. Is anyone interested in volunteering to serve on the Onward Malvern Foundation Board?
3. Is anyone interested in volunteering for technical support, e.g., scanning, digitizing?
4. Anyone who has changed home or email address, please notify us.

Please email us at redandblack@malverncollegiate.com.

Cenotaph research project now in full swing

The search is on for information about the 25 men named on the Malvern cenotaph.

In preparation for the rededication of the memorial in November, Malvern parent David Fuller is researching the stories of the former students who were honoured by the community when the cenotaph was first dedicated in 1922. In particular, we are looking for anyone who is related to the men so she/he can help with information and pictures, and receive an invitation to the event, which is planned for 4 November 2011.



Some of the men's stories have already been well documented, such as those of Capt. William K.

Commins, uncle of local resident Chris Commins, who was seen in the CBC Television report on the restoration campaign in November. Other relatives of the men have been found by members of the committee, including Pvt. **Wilfred J. Jones** and the Sisley brothers: Second-Lieutenant **Arthur "Bud" Sisley (above)** and Second-Lieutenant **Donovan L. Sisley**, who were both members of the Royal Flying Corps.

If you or someone you know is related to the men, please contact David Fuller at 416-429-3043 or by e-mail at david_fuller@live.ca. You can find the [list of names](#) on the MRBS Website.

There are many exciting stories that have already been rediscovered. Four of the men, for example, were decorated for bravery in the field. There are three

winners of the Military Cross (for officers) and one recipient of the Military Medal (for other ranks). The first student from Malvern to enlist was **Cecil P. Annis**, who became a Lance Corporal with the 35th Canadian Infantry Battalion and was severely wounded in 1917. He returned home with plans to continue his final year of studies, but died at his home in West Hill on 18 September 1918, just before the war ended. The first Malvern grad to die in the war was Flight Sub-Lieutenant **Gordon Ezra Duke**, who joined the Royal Naval Air Service in August 1915 and who was killed in a flying accident in England on 10 January 1916. The last Malvern man of the group to die was Gunner **William J. Hird** of the 53rd Battery, Canadian Field Artillery. After being wounded in the field, he contracted tuberculosis in hospital and died at the army sanatorium in Calgary on 23 February 1921.

While the research into the 1914-1918 Honour Roll continues, there is also news about research into the names of the men on the 1939-1945 Honour Roll. An archive of photographs from the *Toronto Telegram*, now on deposit at the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections at York University, contains pictures of many Malvern men who are



not to be found in the "big book" of photos in the MRBS archive. Among them is former student **Stanley Cleworth (above)**, who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force to fly Hurricane fighters and was killed in a training accident near Carlisle, England, on 27 December 1943.

Update on the Malvern C.I. War Memorial Restoration Campaign by Vandra Masemann

In this spring issue of the *Musings*, I am writing to update you on our successful campaign this past fall and winter to raise funds to restore the War Memorial at Malvern Collegiate. It is hard to express how very grateful we are that the cenotaph really will be repaired and restored at last. We also want to give you an update on the plans for restoration and the proposed ceremony to unveil the renewed cenotaph.

For those of you who attended Malvern in the years up to 1987, the statue was on a base on the ground in front of Malvern's main door. After the new library was added to the front of the school, the statue was raised on a plinth above the ground level. The damage that occurred to the sword and the hand happened quite soon after the relocation of the statue. Contrary to some recent media reports, there has not been ongoing vandalism from later generations of Malvern students. The surface of the granite and the names of the Malvernites who died in World War I have been affected by years of weather. The base also needs some stabilizing. Present Malvern C.I. students are proud of the statue and also want it restored.

After the Centennial Reunion in 2003, there was increasing pressure from alumni to restore the statue and make the front of the school more presentable. Several donations came in over the past seven years, which have been carefully safeguarded. Arnie Williamson, a Malvern parent, kept up the pressure, and he was in contact with Maria Minna, the MP for the Beaches, who helped to get the grant proposal through the

system right up until December 2010. But the most recent impetus for the campaign came from the *Toronto Sun* in April 2010, which pressured the Toronto District School Board to get the statue restored. The then TDSB Chair, Bruce Davis, paid for a consultant's report to be done, and our campaign was launched in May 2010 with a Committee composed of the major constituents of the school community as well as Sheila Cary-Meagher, our TDSB trustee and Greg McKinnon, Manager of the TSSB Archives. The first major cheque was presented by Mr. Dan Coldwell of PACE Credit Union for \$10,000.

By September, alumni donations were coming in at an increasing rate after our *Musings* went out with the appeal to all of you. One of the earliest donations was from the Jones family, in memory of Wilfred Jones, whose name is on the statue and whose brother Edward Jones taught mathematics at Malvern for many years (1938-1969). The media coverage before Remembrance Day linked us with the family of William Commins, whose name is also one of those on the statue. They very kindly made a donation in his memory to the fund. Then the Maintenance, Construction, and Skilled Trades Council met and voted to give the fund \$9000. Our latest financial report shows a total of over \$30,000 from 80 donors, mainly alumni but also parents and community people. This total shows wonderful community support for this project. Our grant proposal for \$14,000 to Veterans' Affairs Canada went through the technical process of evaluation and was approved by the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, Jean-Pierre Blackburn, in early January. The Toronto District School Board will be making up the remaining funds up to around \$50,000 with repairs

to the base of the statue. Many thanks to all these Malvernites and friends of Malvern!

After we receive approval to start, the work will begin on the statue when the ice melts this spring. As the statue will not be moved, a working fence will be erected around it and the work on the surface will be done *in situ*. The hand and the sword will be carved and worked on inside a workshop off site as will the new letters for the names. It is considered certain that all the work can be finished by the end of the summer or early fall. We are also hoping to install a security camera and light to showcase the statue and prevent harm. That Phase 2 will require funds above and beyond the amount raised for the restoration itself.

The Committee had set 11.11.11 as the date for the rededication of the statue. However, on discussion we realised that all the relevant guests might be busy elsewhere, so we have fixed Friday November 4, 2011 as the date, all being well. We want to recreate the ceremony of the 1922 photo when the statue was originally unveiled. So we are hoping to get the Lieutenant Governor to attend and other relevant guests. Further details will be announced later.

You can see that this campaign has meant a great deal to all of us, and we know from the many heartfelt notes that have accompanied many donations that donors feel a real connection to Malvern and to the statue of Emmanuel Hahn's. They wrote written about their relatives in World War I and World War II, as well as their memories or their parents' memories of attending Malvern. One person wrote of her childhood memories of Emmanuel Hahn himself. We are moved by these accounts, and we are so glad that we can at last rectify the

damage that has detracted from the beauty of the statue and its iconic significance as a cenotaph.

Lorne H. Clarke, Principal of M.C.I. from 1938-1947

Lorne H. Clarke was a popular educational leader, mathematician, physical trainer, builder, and creator of new departments and ideas, who championed the rights and options of Malvern students, who sponsored the importance of music involving orchestras and choirs. He transferred from Jarvis C. I., where he had taught mathematics, to Malvern to assume the same teaching position in 1914. He assumed the supervision of the newly formed boy's athletic society that same year. Mr. Clarke was named head of the mathematics department in 1931. He became vice-principal under Principal W.E. Hanna in 1935 with the retirement of Mr. Carl A. Lehmann. During this time, he oversaw the establishment of the school cadet corps and the formation of gymnastics teams.

Mr. Clarke became principal in 1938. He immediately began bringing about changes in the school's curriculum and purpose. He was at the helm (1931-1947) when Malvern saw its second great spurt in growth to 1,500 students and 50 teachers. The large east wing was constructed and opened in 1939. A commercial department commenced that same year. Then came World War II, which saw 1,100 graduates and students join up along with 13 teachers. Mr. Clarke set up a student war effort committee, which was run independently of his office. A new guidance department was created in 1941, and the next year saw a public health nurse on

duty each day at the school. Students were increasingly provided with a wider choice of subjects. Music was given more backing, and gradually large choirs were developed. The school's athletic triumphs abounded, highlighted by three senior rugby championships and a junior title as well. By 1946, there were 15 student organizations functioning. Mr. Clarke actively supported and promoted full-scale productions including the school orchestra, choirs, and both boy's and girl's athletic groups

He believed that any student obtaining 50% in their subjects should be permitted to go on to the next grade. He also stated that any student who demonstrated a desire for a high school graduation certificate should be able to obtain one. The school board found that Malvern's scholastic standings were

below both the city and province levels. Students were found to be missing classes and school days. Both of these problems were attributed to Mr. Clarke's relaxed standards. The board voted to terminate him. Amazingly, the students got together and threatened to strike if he were dismissed. At a rally in Pantry Park, on a chilly March morning, 75% of Malvern students agreed to strike. Even many parents supported their sons and daughters in this precedent-setting venture. Mr. Clarke, although appreciative of their support, asked them to stand down. He endeavoured to work out a solution with the board, but that effort failed. He resigned and thus ended a 33-year career with the Toronto Board of Education.

Malvern alumni, staff, and students are eligible to purchase discount tickets to Dancap theatrical productions! An added bonus is that a portion of each ticket sold will benefit the Malvern Red & Black Society. Right now you can save up to \$19 per ticket for *South Pacific* at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. For information or to order tickets, visit www.dancaptickets.com/malvern, or www.dancaptickets.com and enter promo code "malvern." Or you can call Dancap at 416-644-3665 and quote the promotional code.

THE MALVERN 40s - 50s – 60s DECADES REUNION

The reunion is on for Saturday 14 May 2011 from 12 noon till 5 p.m. at the **Balmy Beach Club**. We are anticipating a great turnout.

Our theme this year is "Musically Malvern," featuring the MCI senior dance band, led by Mike Falla (the new music head at Malvern) and as a special treat, an alumni band from those wonderful decades. Gord Moore is our "Alumni Reunion Band" co-ordinator, and also a member of this band. We are delighted to learn that the band will be under the direction of George McRae, and that

renowned jazz musician and Malvern graduate, Russ Little will be participating.

A special commemorative issue of the *Musings*, compiled by our MRBS Editor Adele Ashby, featuring stories and photos related to the music programme at Malvern, will be given to all registered attendees.

As you probably realize, organizing a reunion costs money. We want as many alumni to come and have fun meeting former colleagues and friends and enjoy the marvelous atmosphere at the BBC. However, we do rely on donations to support this reunion and urge alumni to consider sending the MRBS a donation to help defray our expenses, which include the increased rental

cost of the club and printing costs for the *Musings*.

Your Reunion Committee:

Rod Tennyson, Robert Watson, Evan J. Butchers, Donna Halliday, Adele Ashby, Sandra Bodfish and Gord Moore

In Memoriam

Death of Doris McCarthy, one of Malvern Collegiate's oldest and most illustrious graduates 1910-2010

We note with great sadness the death on 25 November 2010 of Doris McCarthy, class of 1926 at Malvern Collegiate Institute in Toronto's Beach neighbourhood. While she is known to the wider world as one of Canada's foremost landscape artists, she was a force in the life of the school in the 1920s. She was on the editorial staff of the school yearbook, the *Malvern Muse*, which dates back to 1924. Her mother was the Founding Secretary of the Malvern Home and School Club, the forerunner of the later Home and School Association and Parent Council. The handwritten reports from those early years are still stored in the archives of the school. Doris was in contact with the school throughout her life. She created the memorial book with illustrations and calligraphy in gold in honour of the soldiers who served and died in World War II. She was invited to speak to the graduates at Malvern Commencement when she was 94. She spoke without notes of all that she had learned at Malvern which had served her well during her whole life and finished to a standing ovation from the audience. She was a credit to the school and to all the institutions of Canadian society

Memories of Mary (McCleary) by her colleague Helen (Smyth) Travers-Griffin

Those who attended Malvern in the late 1940s, 50s and 60s will be saddened to learn of the death of Mary (McCleary) Allison on 20 January 2010. Mary taught girls' physical and health education, which in those days, was compulsory from Grades 9 to 13. She started her career at Lisgar Collegiate in Ottawa. She then came to Malvern where her sister, Joan, was on staff also teaching physical education. The sisters will be remembered for the Malvern girls' marching displays they presented at the CNE. When Joan left to follow a career in physiotherapy, Mary remained and eventually became head of Girls' Physical Education.

The 50s and 60s were the days of those hideous blue rompers, white socks, and white running shoes. No exotic runners then, and Miss McCleary held an inspection at the first of every month to make sure that the rompers were washed and ironed and that the shoes and socks were spotless. Mary loved teaching and always worked towards placing girls' athletics on an equal footing with boys'. She also loved her students. Although I am sure many thought her quite strict, she just wanted them to be the best they could be.

In the mid-60s, Mary married Myles Allison, a Barrie architect, and moved to a large farm near Barrie. She continued her career at a collegiate in Barrie, teaching art until retirement. When her husband died, Mary lived part of the year in Florida and part on her farm. Her health was failing in her last years, and she was cared for by her niece, Katie. She is survived by her sisters, Joan and Margaret and by Katie O'Connor. Mary loved to talk with me about her days at Malvern. She remembered many of us by name, both colleagues and students, and could clearly recall events of years gone by.

REGISTRATION PAGE

New Members' Registration Form

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

YES, I _____ (maiden name) _____ Class of _____ 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.

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 on the Musings masthead