



## Welcome to our MDAA Spring 2017 Newsletter!

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### MD 85th Celebration Summary

November 4th & 5th were busy days for MDAA board hosts, alumni and students. Some memorable events:

The **DOUGS Talks** were quite the hit! A sincere thanks to all the speakers for sharing their passions with us all.



**Jack Lowther**, 87, former unforgettable MD teacher then principal, packed the MDSS library with former students, staff and some parents who enjoyed his funny and heartfelt walk down memory lane in his years at MD.

[YouTube](#)

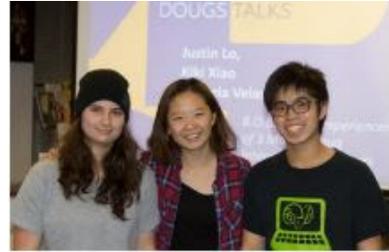
**Bernie Kidd**, current Athletic Director at MD, interviewed the amazing **Stan Gill** about his record 34 years teaching at MD mainly in track and field. Stan's students & later fellow colleagues, **John Howe** and **Darryl Hooker** added stories to Stan's musings. [YouTube](#)



**Lizzy Blundon '05**, a PhD candidate, spoke about her passion: consciousness and specifically her research into consciousness at the end of life.

Lizzy's talk with some case studies. [YouTube](#)

**International students** currently at MD, **Justin Lo, Kiki Xiao** and **Daniela Velasquez** talked about their personal experiences attending MD so far away from their homes. [YouTube](#)



**Dave Cowen** '84, Butchart Gardens General Manager, spoke of his many life and business experiences and how the art of collaboration has supported him in his many endeavours. His personal stories gave examples of how that worked in the real world and how good discussion and attentive listening are a big part of collaboration. [YouTube](#)

**Rick Green**, '67, a geophysicist, spoke about and showed his experiences in the field, mainly in BC, but also from the Arctic to the Southern States and abroad. Rocks, seismic records, earthquakes and more.



Also **Shawn Boulding**, our current MD principal, spoke about Technology in the Classroom - pros and some cons. [YouTube](#)

**Rob Wager**, '78 class, VIU prof, spoke of his extensive research with GMO's. [YouTube](#)

**John Sumner**, MD teacher and some of his students talked about the successful new Aviation and Design program at MD.

Moe [YouTube](#) Daniela [YouTube](#) Megan [YouTube](#)

**Stef Barber**, '02, spoke about becoming a parathlete and her journey. [YouTube](#)

**John Wilson**, '84, owner of Wilson Transportation, talked about giving back to the community.

**Alec Krawciw**, student, shared about science fairs and one of his winning projects about Graphene.

**Doug Bertram** '80, marine biologist and conservationist, spoke of his passion and

research in the Marine birds in the Salish Sea, particularly his Marbled Murrelet recovery program.

Thanks again to our talented MD students, staff and alumni for sharing their passions, and to all you who came and enjoyed their DOUGS Talks. You can find all of the DOUGS Talks on the MDA website [click here](#)

**The MD Student and Alumni Art Displays** showed such talents as did the successful and fun **Battles of the Brushes** events. All three rounds of Battle art works were auctioned off as well.



Thanks to the student & alumni artists who created art in this exciting event and to those who came, voted and purchased the finished art work. Congrats, **Elaine Kao**, '06, our final contest winner!



**Musical entertainment** was our MD jazz band & concert band, [MD string sextet](#) and our Alumni band with some singing by **Steph Macpherson** as well. The MD musical theatre cast performed a dance to advertise their Cinderella musical happening this April. Tickets available at the school during lunch times.



Much reminiscing took place at the **Sports Displays**. And our Silent Auction items were vast and brought some funds for our Alumni Student Bursaries too, as did your purchases of a brass plaques for our bleachers with your name & grad year on it.



Check our website if you want to buy one, under Alumni Sales.

Walking down **Memory Lane** by the decades in the Alumni Displays hall was an engaging time with many conversations and comments. Fads & Fashions, Music & Movies as well as student & staff photos of all kinds were there for the reminiscing.



Great poster boards for our Archives, reunion classes can borrow them for their events.

Also the RAMSHACK CANTEEN was selling student-made goodies and refreshments & some students put on a POETRY CAFÉ as well and a good time was had by all!

Our thanks to all the participating alumni, staff and students who helped create and execute our event, particularly the band, strings, dance, leadership and tech team students. Also we greatly appreciated the Opening Ceremonies guests, **MPElizabeth May**, Saanich Mayor **Richard Atwell** and School Trustee **Dianne McNally** for their words to us all. And thank you to all who attended our school's 85th birthday celebration. What a fine way to gather our MD students, staff, alumni and community in honour of our school!

Thanks to some crowd-funding at our 85th Celebration and our MDAA board, we were able to contribute partial funding toward a new performance piano that the MD Music Dept needed and now owns. \$1,538!

To view many more interesting photos from our 85th Celebration events via a slide show, go to our [MDAA website](#). Thanks for the several photographers who kindly submitted your pictures for all to enjoy (credits at the end of slide show). Such special memories were made!

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### President's message -



Hello again, MD alumni and Happy Spring! We continue in our school's 85th year of operation. Thanks for those who came and enjoyed our school's celebration November 4th and 5th. A big thank you to all the 85th Celebrations Committee members and the seven subcommittees. Also thanks to the participating MD alumni, staff and students. The events were enriched by their time and talents assisting in our board's endeavours. The summary and photos above give you a glimpse of the amazing time it was for all who supported the event.

Next up - do mark your calendar to come to our MDAA Annual General Meeting Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 7 pm. Bring a friend. We need three more alumni directors on our board as well. Come check us out and join the fun!

Also, please complete our brief survey at the end of this newsletter to let us know your thoughts. Look forward to hearing from you.

Wendy Gedney  
MDAA President

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### **Principal's Message -**



Dear Alumni,

On behalf of all the staff and students at Mount Douglas we would like to thank-you for your ongoing support of our school. In my role as principal, I frequently come across the school's alumni who are eager to share their fond memories of our school. These memories inevitably involve the many wonderful relationships that were created and have endured the many years. It is these relationships that create a common connection to the Mount Doug community and for that, we are grateful.

Last evening the school hosted our annual talent show. Over thirty students danced, sang or performed to a wonderfully appreciative crowd. It is always a highlight for me to see our students perform in front of one another, and I continue to find myself in awe of the talented students we have the privilege to work with. As part of the show, we also had a glimpse of April's Musical Theatre performance of Cinderella. This play will be performed in its entirety the last week of April. Please see the school's website for details and ticket information.

With Spring Break upon us, we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break. This time of year is very busy with graduation just around the corner. For our Grade 12 students, the excitement of graduation is often tempered with the reality of what to do post-graduation. For the rest of our population, we are seeing the culmination to yet another incredibly busy year and look forward to celebrating our successes as the school year quickly passes by.

Thank-you once again for being part of our community and for supporting our school and students.

Shawn Boulding  
Principal

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### **MDAA BURSARY NEWS -**

Our first MDAA Academic Bursary was given at last June's MD Awards ceremony. Congratulations to winner, Neha Saxena!

I spoke with Neha... she shared...

**Where are you pursuing your post secondary education, Neha, and in what area?**

*I'm in first year at University of Victoria in Pre-Social Work.*

**What are some favourite classes there this year?**

*I'm enjoying my Psychology and Sociology classes and also my Greek & Roman Studies course too.*

**What area did your MDAA Academic bursary go toward?**

*Textbooks - they are SO expensive. Thank you, MDAA!*

**Looking back, what were some of your favourite subjects and teachers at MDSS?**

*I was in the Challenge Program and I liked Mr. Meldrum's Socials and Criminology classes. I also enjoyed Mr. Johnson's Math and Science classes. He was funny and passionate about his subject and would help me after school when needed.*

**What was a highlight event that you remember best from MD?**

*I loved the Immigration Project we did in Mr Meldrum's class and all of us sharing them at the end. There were such creativity and learning in that assignment.*

**In any spare time you have, what do you do?**

*I liked my drafting classes at MD too and continue to take pleasure in drawing.*

**Looking forward, where do you see your education taking you in the future?**

*I want to be a social worker and help others in need.*

Thanks, Neha and all the best to you in your studies!

interview by Wendy Gedney

\* Our two **bursaries** are funded by you, our MD alumni. Contributions are easy to make on our secure MDAA website under Please Donate. Go to [moundougalumni.com](http://moundougalumni.com). You will be sent an official tax receipt for your donation. Thanks for your support for the MD students. \*

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## **Gone but Not Forgotten**

Since our Fall '16 newsletter, these are the MD Alumni that we are aware have died:

Neil Muth '77 class d. Nov. '16

Richard (Dick) Gill '56 class - d. Dec. '16

Brian Lamb '62 class - d. Jan. '17

(Les)lie Shields '74 class - d. Feb. '17

Please let us know if there are others. We place them on our MDAA website under their class year with their obituaries if available.

Email: [obiteditor@moundougalumni.com](mailto:obiteditor@moundougalumni.com)

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## **Spotlight on MD's oldest living Alum -**

**Virginia Todd Griffin** attended Mt Doug High School from September 1933 until



June 1937. Her class would be having their 80th reunion this year. She is now in her 97th year and has lived a full life. We met with her in her home to talk about it.



**How many students were in your graduating class, Virginia?**

*Four in our commercial class and fourteen in the general class so eighteen grads in 1937.*

**What was a memorable time for you at MD?**

*I had a great four years at MD but when I graduated in 1937, it wasn't that happy for me as I loved school and learning and did well and had many good friends. On the last day of school, we all came to the gym and the principal, Mr. Bailey, handed each of us our diplomas. As I left the school, I remember feeling I had nothing to look forward to now. There was high unemployment, the Depression and the winds of war were looming.*

**Did you partake in any extra-curricular activities at MD?**

*Because the school was only two years old when I came in 1933, no clubs had been established yet. However there were both school and inter-school sports. The three area high schools, Mt Newton, Mt View & Mt Doug, competed for baseball, tennis and ping pong and running, and I successfully participated in all of these.*

**Some highlights in your life since you graduated from MD 80 years ago?**

*I got married and my husband, Norm, joined the air force as the war broke out. We had the opportunity to leave Victoria and move to several towns on the Prairies (McLeod, Medicine Hat then Calgary) where our first child, Sharon, was born. Later we moved back to the island, and the war was over so we bought, under the Veteran's Land Act, an acre of land and built where I still reside. Then our son, Greg, was born a few years later. I worked for Boys Scouts of Canada, UVic, then as secretary in the Dean's office for Bob Wallace then to UVic personnel. We enjoyed travelling, for example, across Canada and Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Europe. As well, I felt much pleasure volunteering for several charities for many years.*

**What are your hobbies/interests at 96?**

*Gardening, sewing, and an interest in music have always been pleasures in my life.*

**What advice do you have for current students of MD?**

*Apply yourself, have a goal and strive to attain as much education as you can in the area of your goal and your passion. Remember also to challenge yourself in your life.*

**A closing statement from Virginia...**

*I'm a survivor... I beat cancer twice, have two new knees, overcame arthritis, and appendicitis last Christmas. I have and will continue to make every moment count the best I can and I find joy in living in the present.*

- interview by **Vendela Byrne '16** (one of our youngest alums) and **Wendy Gedney '67**

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## Mount Doug FUN FACTS - Did you know?

After examining the class registers in our Archives from 1931 - 1956, and then turning to the school annuals/yearbooks up to June 2016, we can ask: did you know that **we have had over 20,800 student alumni** pass through the doors of Mount Douglas Secondary School?

Also, **how many staff (who are also alumni) do you think have taught at our school** since its opening in September 1931? Answer: 616. Were you close? Some loved teaching our MD students so much, they stayed on for as many as 34 years! Do you remember any of these staff members?

- \*Stan Gill - MD's longest serving staff member - 1963-1997 - 34 years
- \*Dave Barker - 1972 - 2005 - 33 years
- \*Monty Fulton - 1970 - 2003 - 33 years
- \*George Urquhart - 1961 - 1994 - 33 years
- \*Jim Muir - 1945 - 1977 - longest serving vice principal - 33 years
- \*Colin Quail - 1972 - 1994 - 32 years
- \*Bill Conconi - 1971 - 2002 - 31 years
- \*Eric Forster - MD's longest serving principal -1939 - 1969 - 30 years
- \*Bill McGavin - 1976 - 2005 - 29 years ...

Many others served for 20-29 years ... dedicated professionals. It definitely says something about Mount Doug and its attraction and retention of staff members.

Student populations have varied annually from its opening numbers of 65 in September 1931, to a current enrollment of more than 1,100 students at Mount Doug this year.

Graduating class numbers have really changed over the years as well:

The smallest class was 1945 - 14 graduates  
The largest class was 1977 - 610 grads!

The average in the last ten years have been in the mid 200's, now that the school is back to four grades (9-12) as it was when it first opened.

submitted by Wendy Gedney

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## MD REUNIONS for 2017

So far we are aware of these reunion happening this summer. Do check the MDAA website under Reunions Current for details.

- Class of '47 - 70th Reunion - details email Pat Emery Young at: [docbob1@shaw.ca](mailto:docbob1@shaw.ca)
- Class of '57 - 60th Reunion
- Class of '60 - 57th Reunion - details see website
- Class of '67 - 50th Reunion - details see website
- Class of '77 - 40th Reunion
- Class of '87 - 30th Reunion - details see website

Let us know if there are others & our webmaster can add them to our website for all

to view.

Email: [webmaster@mountdoug alumni.com](mailto:webmaster@mountdoug alumni.com)

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## Easy Reminders

If you have any information for our Newsletter, drop our committee a line at [newsletter@mountdoug alumni.com](mailto:newsletter@mountdoug alumni.com)

Encourage family and friends of Mount Doug student and staff past and present to sign up to the Alumni website. It's easy, quick and free! We want to reach as many alumni as possible to receive our newsletter twice a year and keep up to date with school and alumni happenings.

Visit our website [mountdoug alumni.com](http://mountdoug alumni.com) and click on Join Us or Join the Alumni

Remember to let us know if you'd like your business listed on our website. It's free! Simply email us at: [businesslist@mountdoug alumni.com](mailto:businesslist@mountdoug alumni.com) and we will post it on our website; great free advertising for your company! Welcome to the latest additions from: Greg Arnott, David Levinson & Christopher Baur. Check them out!!

You are invited to our **MDAA Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 7 pm in the MD Library. Are you interested in giving back to your school and having some fun too? Being a board member could be for you and/or come see what our latest plans are. Bring an alum family member or friend along too. We hope to see you there!

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**SURVEY** - please give us your feedback to these 3 simple questions on Survey Monkey.

Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NM66JJJ>

Thanks for your participation.

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## Thank you to our MDAA Spring '17 Newsletter Committee:

JoAnn Talbot Clar ('80) Wendy Vantreight Gedney ('67) Paula Johanson ('78) & Christine Thate ('77) and guest contributor, Vendela Byrne ('16) and proof-reader, Dianne Gillespie