



## MAIL BOX...

Letters and e-mails from alumni



### SPRING ISSUE FOSTERS FOND MEMORIES...

That was a very well written and newsy Newsletter. The note mentioning the Westminster ice rink reminds me that my father as Fire Chief at Westminster started a rink on what is now the parking lot for the Red Cross blood clinic. That was where my brother Keith and I honed our skills to play for Ernie McTavish and the *South* Lions.

**Ted Hessel ('53 & Staff, 1971-76)**

### IN APPRECIATION...

I enjoy *Lions' Pride* and appreciate the effort of so many people who keep the spirit of South alive for alumni. Thanks for newsletter and congratulations on a great job.

**Nancy Johnson ('66)**

## The story of a 1960 South Football Jacket...

### Background Info:

Last year, alumnus **Alan Merkley ('71)** contacted SCAA president **Knute Dohnberg ('65)** about a 1960 *South* Football jacket he had in his possession. It was a leather jacket bearing #52 and it was in mint condition. Alan had no idea who the original owner was so he gave it to Knute for our Archives Room at the school.

### How Alan acquired it... in his own words:

*I acquired the jacket in Spring 2014 while working for Frank Toso Floor and Wall Tiling Company. I was at a nice 1960's era split level home in the Old Hunt Road area of London doing the tear out and prep work for a foyer area reno. The retired couple who lived there stayed home through the day as we worked and were most amiable. I simply got talking to them about all the changes London had gone through over the past few decades and we talked about our upbringings. I mentioned I grew up in the south end of London and went to **South**. The gentleman disappeared to the basement and after several minutes came up and handed me a near perfect condition leather 1960-61 London Conference football jacket from my alma mater. I was amazed!*

*He said I could keep the jacket and that it had belonged to a long ago friend of his. After several years of the jacket hanging unused in my closet, I considered donating it to Goodwill but hated to abandon it to an unknown destination. The pride of that first owner spoke to me. Our school alumni organization came to mind. Could they somehow incorporate it into their archives? Luckily, after a few phone calls and some planning, I handed the jacket over to Knute Dohnberg at the front doors of South in November of last year. A fitting ending place for a historic piece of South sports memorabilia.*

### Solving the mystery of the jacket's owner:

The simplest way to identify the owner would have been to find a photo of the 1960 football team and see who was wearing #52. Unfortunately, since the jacket is from the period when there were no yearbooks (1947-64), that proved to be impossible. So we went back to Alan, hoping he could locate the gentleman who had given him the jacket to see if he could learn anything more. His search was successful...

*I was able to get the address of the couple. The gentleman's name is Don Smith. He did not grow up in London but did play football in his youth. He explained to me the jacket was given to him sometime in the early seventies by a work related companion named **MIKE EWART**. He wasn't certain about the exact circumstances surrounding the jacket being given to him. Don said he only wore the coat a few times when doing outside yard work and then retired it to a closet.*

Although Don lost touch with Mike some time ago, he thought Mike had moved somewhere on Manitoulin Island several years ago. Don also said he thought Mike may have attended Waterloo Lutheran University after graduating from *South*.

### What else we have learned about Mike Ewart:

Once we had a name, we were able to locate Mike in the school records. He lived at 61 *Victor Street* and attended *South* for 6 years, from 1958 until he graduated in 1964, which means he would now be in his early 70's. He had an older brother Greg who graduated in 1958. Researching the internet, we discovered that Mike had indeed attended Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfrid Laurier) and had played football there, winning the OIFC Championship in 1966-67.

But that, unfortunately, is where our knowledge ends. There is only one living alumni with the surname Ewart in our database - **Donna (Westman) Ewart ('69)** - but there is no evidence to indicate that they are related. And so, the story must end here, for the time being anyway. Perhaps, however, some of our alumni readers can help us put a few more pieces of the puzzle into place....



## SUCCESSFUL REUNION LEADS TO THE PUBLICATION OF A CLASS YEARBOOK

**Editor's Note:** As you may remember, the classes of '55 and '56 held a very successful reunion in September 2015. One of the most impressive features was their **Memorabilia Room**, which contained a wonderful collection of photos, newspaper clippings and a variety of other artefacts pertaining to their years at *South*. Their efforts were particularly impressive given the lack of yearbooks and other archival material from that era at the school. Following the reunion, the SCAA encouraged the organizing committee to consider creating their own **1955 Yearbook** using the materials they had gathered. Two key members of the memorabilia team, **Tom & Joyce Orchard**, agreed to head up the project and last spring the first 25 copies were printed.

*What Tom and Joyce have done in their preparation of the yearbook brings into focus what the reunion was about and what those years at South meant to all of us. The fact that the school now has two copies, one for the library and another for the SCAA archives, also means a lot to all of us. No longer will the history of South end at 1946 and begin again at 1965. I also hope that our reunion will assist other classes when they wish to have their reunion. The book is a perfect example of what can come out of such a reunion.*

*Each Sunday our two children and their two children come to our house for dinner. After I received the book I sat down with our grandchildren to show them pictures of their Papa when he was slightly older than they are. As they were leaving Duncan, age 9, exclaimed to his sister Abigail, age 11, "Papa was an athlete!" I was no longer just that old guy they had to visit on Sundays. It is a great book, put together with great care and I hope it adds to what South is all about. (Reunion Chair, **Hugh Saunders**)*

Note: A copy of this Yearbook can be ordered by contacting the Alumni Association. ([contact@southalumni.ca](mailto:contact@southalumni.ca))

## RECENT BOOKS by ALUMNI AUTHORS

### **The Incrementalist**

**Ian McKercher's ('65)** second novel has just been published by Burnstown Publishing House. ([burnstownpublishing.com](http://burnstownpublishing.com)) The novel, a sequel to *The Underling*, picks up the story of Frances McFadden in September 1939, as the young secretary finds herself "propelled into the top echelon at the Bank of Canada as it faces the crushing weight of helping to finance World War II." Further complications impact her personal life when she becomes involved in "covert duties that the Official Secrets Act prevents her from revealing." (Editor's Note: If you haven't had the chance to read *The Underling*, Ian has donated 3 copies to the London Public Library, as well as one to *South's* library. To purchase a copy of either book, email Ian at [ian.mckercher@opera.ncf.ca](mailto:ian.mckercher@opera.ncf.ca).)

### **Old South Tales... Historical Stories of Wortley Village & Old South London**

Although not a *South* alumnus, Jean Ramer is married to one- SCAA director, **Ken Ramer ('70)** and is the mother of two more - Michael ('01) and Melanie ('03). Jean's wonderful book, a compilation of 40 of the best stories originally published in *Old South News* can now be purchased at Tuckey Home Hardware, Westland Gallery or through the website: [www.oldsouthtales.com](http://www.oldsouthtales.com).

### **Three Artists: William Kurelek, Jack Chambers & Greg Curnoe**

London writer **Herman Goodden's ('72)** newest book, his 10th, has just been published. It focuses on the lives, work and legacy of three widely acclaimed Canadian artists, two of whom were Londoners. Called "a superb collection of essays" by Brian Meehan, executive director of Museum London, a number of book signings have been planned over the next month, including a reading at Landon Library on Dec. 7 at 7PM.

### **The Void** (an update)

This Sci-Fi thriller, mentioned in last spring's issue (written by *South* geography teacher, **Timothy S. Johnston**), has received a lot of positive recognition. One reviewer called it "his favourite science fiction book of 2015." It has also been shortlisted for both the 2016 Cygnus and the 2016 Epic Awards. The two earlier novels in the "The Tanner Sequence", *The Furnace* and *The Freezer*, have also done very well. For more details, check out Tim's website: [www.timothysjohnston.com](http://www.timothysjohnston.com).

### **Upcoming Publications...**

In last spring's issue I told you about a booklet in the works entitled **Knowing No Defeat**, which tells the stories of the 57 *South* alumni who lost their lives in military service during World War II. Unfortunately, it won't be ready for publication this year, but should be completed for mid-2017. Look for more details in next spring's issue. In the meantime, I invite you to take a minute to remember not only the 57 men listed below, but also the 777 other alumni who served but were fortunate enough to return home. It may be past Remembrance Day, but it's never too late to acknowledge their courage and sacrifices.

ANDERSON, John	DICKSON, Harry	HOWARTH, Harry	MORRISON, Gilbert	STOCK, Leonard
BLAKE, Vernon	DRUMMOND, Stuart	HUTCHINSON, Ted	NAVIN, Donald	SUMMERS, John
BUCHANAN, Robert	GILLESPIE, Edward	KEARNS, William	NELSON, Gerald	THOMAS, Lloyd
CAMERON, Donald	GOODFELLOW, James	LAW, Raymond	NORFOLK, Kenney	TRIPP, Herbert
CASEY, John	GREGORY, Harold	LAWLER, Wilfred	PARTRIDGE, James	WICKHAM, Walter
CHAPMAN, Frank	GUEST, Earlton	LITTLE, Kingsley	PATTISON, Kit	WILCOX, Robert
COATES, Keith	HARDY, Robert	LITTLEFORD, Edward	PURSER, John	WOODCOCK, Alexander
COWING, Lloyd	HARTRY, William	LOFT, Robert	REILLY, Hugh	WOOLEY, Tom
CRONE, Robert	HILL, Harold	MASON, Peter	SHANNON, Roland	WYATT, William
DARG, George	HILL, Roland	McALPINE, Douglas	SHAW, Kingsley	
DARLING, William	HOLTZE, John	McMEHEN, John	SKINNER, Bert	
DIBB, Hartley	HOOPER, Donald	MILLARD, Hugh	SMITH, Wilfred	

