



South Collegiate Alumni Association

Spring 2018

LIONS' PRIDE



Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae

SOUTH HOCKEY... A Coach's Memories

by Wilf Fryday (staff, 1954-67)

This is a hockey story. Over the decades, football has reigned supreme at South, especially the last few years, with great teams and several championships. These have been well chronicled here in *Lions' Pride*. But there have been highlights in other sports as well. This story is about hockey and a particular time in Lion Hockey history, the late 50s and early 60s. It is not about me, however, but about a group of talented and purposeful young men. Nevertheless, I must begin our story with how I got involved in the programme, which illustrates one great characteristic about this group of young men....

In September 1954, I walked through the doors of South Collegiate... my first day as a teacher of geography and science. I did not get the job because of my teaching prowess, which was still to be tested. That year, soccer was being introduced as a new sport at the school and a coach was needed. I had played high school soccer in Windsor and Mustang soccer at UWO. This came out in my interview with the principal Claude McCallum and I got the job.

That first soccer season began and progressed well. Along with my full academic load, I had also agreed to coach badminton in the spring.

As the hockey season approached, however, I was accosted in the hall one day by a group of young students who had a strange request. In the previous season, Jim Watts had coached the junior team, but after the senior coach moved to Toronto, Jim was "promoted" to the senior position for the 1954 - '55 season. That meant, however, that there

was no one to coach the junior team.

The students who stopped me that day were the nucleus of what would be the junior team that year. But they needed a coach, or no team. I don't know why they approached me. I had played a little high school hockey, but mostly at the far end of the bench. After making some futile excuses about my academic and coaching load, I declined the request. A few days later, there they were again, outside my door, same guys with the same request, a little more earnestness in their voices. I was so impressed by this group of young men, so bonded together in the quest to stay together as a team, that I felt I had to accept.

Fortunately for me, these kids were accomplished hockey players, and more importantly, an excellent team. Their success was due to their ability, not to my coaching. If memory serves, we won the junior championship in at least two of the next three years.

1957-58... A Special Season

In the spring of 1957, following my third year coaching the junior team, Jim Watts left South and I was asked to coach the senior team. Fortunately, most of the junior players moved up with me, so the team roster was much the same. We finished the '57-'58 season undefeated and beat Medway two straight in the city finals, South's first senior hockey championship in 10 years. Three Lions were named to the First All-Star Team (**Gerry Snowden**, **Jim Smithurst** and team captain, **Ray Ross**), one to the second team (**Scott Ritchie**), while goalie **Bob Thompson** received "Honourable Mention", along with **Al McTavish**, **Ric Thomson** and **Ken MacMaster**.

It was now on to WOSSA, against the Chatham Collegiate Greenshirts in a two game total goals format. The first game, on March 9th, was in Chatham. We were not too far into the game when a pattern emerged. Unfairly biased officiating by the Chatham referee, who called nothing against the home team, resulted in a slaughter. By the third period, after being slashed and cross-checked at will, some of our players could hardly hold their sticks. At one point, I considered pulling the team off the ice, but they were determined to play on. We lost 10-2.

The second game, at the "Old Barn" at Queen's Park (now the Western Fair District), was properly called. Chatham started the same rough tactics, but this time they ended up in the penalty box. We won that game 7-5, but lost 15-9 on the two-game total. As WOSSA finalists, however, we still qualified to go to OFSAA, the provincial championships, to be held March 28 & 29, in Weston.

The series with Chatham finished in early March, which meant that we had a 2 ½ week layoff, a long time between games. We tried to find ice time for practising, but in 1958, spring/summer ice was rare. Our only practice, prior to going to OFSAA, was at "The Barn" on slushy ice, just before they took the ice out. We tried dry land training to keep in shape, but hockey muscles need ice.

The OFSAA competition involved a 2-game knock out format. Our first game was against Toronto Leaside, OFSAA winner for the previous two years. As we took to the ice, our lack of practice time showed. We could barely skate and were soon overwhelmed. As the score mounted, it got so bad that Leaside

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stopped advancing the puck out of their end and played tag with it. We were soundly trounced.

The following day, we skated onto the ice for game 2. The game started out much the same as the first one and we were soon behind. Midway through the game, however, our boys began to get their skating legs back. With a valiant comeback effort, we closed the gap, but fell short by a few goals. Even though we lost, by the end of the game we felt like a hockey team again. We headed home to London, quiet but proud of what we had accomplished under very difficult circumstances.

A few days later, however, a Free Press sports writer described the “debacle” of South’s performance, castigating us as a team, me as a coach, and London high school hockey in general, a story of “futility”, according to him. Much of his argument centred around the whole controversy of Junior versus high school hockey. In many school districts, Junior B players were allowed to play school hockey. Some in the Toronto area even played “A” hockey, but not in the London system. If a player had played or practised with a “B” team, they became ineligible. The Free Press writer argued that with Junior B players playing in other jurisdictions, we had no business wasting time and money going beyond our city.

The most upsetting thing about this whole experience is that no one from the Free Press had ever contacted our coaching staff or any player on the team for background information on what actually transpired. After our lengthy layoff, we knew we had little chance of competing fairly with teams who had been playing and practising continuously prior to OFSAA. But no effort was made to find out all the details and the result was that a very good, in fact a great team, was belittled and besmirched.

As part of this overall controversy, there was much discussion about the main purpose of high school sports. At one meeting of city coaches, I shared my feelings that success should be measured in other ways than just winning, that high school sports were important as a learning tool for school and for life. The focus, therefore, should be on the overall educational process, rather than on developing top athletes. Not every coach agreed with me, but I remained firm in my convictions in this regard.

1958-59 Season: We had another great year, beating Medway in an overtime “photo finish” to capture our 2nd straight city title. This win was not without some controversy, however, as I have explained in some additional material posted on the alumni website. **Ray Ross** and **Jim Smithurst** were once again named to the city’s 1st All- Star team. At WOSSA we faced Chatham again and lost in a hard fought, well-refereed series. That year only one team went on to OFSAA, so our season was over.

After up to 5 years together and 4 city championships, most of this group moved on to Junior B, to university teams or to follow other pursuits. But the grit and determination of earlier years had been passed on to future teams, even though the skill level may have diminished. As my time at South drew to a close, the Lions had made the Conference playoffs in 10 or 11 straight years, perhaps a record, certainly a memorable period in Lion hockey history.

EDITOR’S NOTES: Wilf Fryday left South for a sabbatical year in June 1967. On returning to London, he spent time at Westminster (2 years), Saunders (10 years) and Central (1 year), before capping off a 33-year teaching career at Laurier (1981-87). Outside the classroom, Wilf cheered on his three children in sports and leadership roles at Lucas. After coaching at Central in 1980-81, he gave up skating and active participation in hockey. 15 years ago, however, he purchased new skates to help coach his grandson’s team. After that, the skates were packed away for several years, until this past holiday season, when they were pulled out for a family skate. He found, however, that approaching his 88th birthday, his “skating muscles” were gone and he needed the help of his great granddaughter in her stroller to navigate the ice. He thought it was probably time to quit for good.

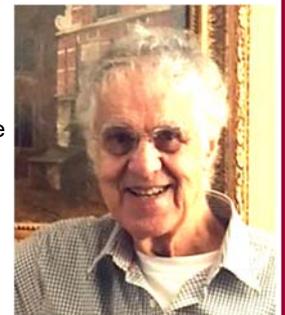
Online there is a list of the OFSAA Hockey winners dating back to 1948. 1958 was South’s first appearance and despite their loss, they should be recognized for their success in getting there. Not only did they have to play against tough teams stacked with Junior B players like Leaside and Weston (who went on to win OFSAA for 4 straight years, 1958- 61), but all high schools, large or small, played in the same league. It wasn’t until 2001 that schools were divided into two leagues: A/AA and AAA/AAAA. The OFSAA rules have also been changed, making students who play in any OHA league beyond Junior D ineligible to play high school hockey. These changes made it a more level playing field, giving smaller schools like South a far better chance of succeeding. They did just that, winning OFSAA gold in 2014 and 2015 (acknowledged in the Spring 2014 and 2015 issues), the only times during coach **Ian Martin’s** 22 years with the team that they had qualified for OFSAA, but he remains hopeful for a return trip....

(Our apologies to Wilf and the 1958 team, since our newsletter write-up claimed 2014 was South’s first trip to OFSAA.)



CELEBRATING THE 1958 CONFERENCE WIN

Team Roster: B. Thompson (goal); R. Mason (sub-goal)
Forwards: B. MacMaster, K. Macmaster, R. Ross, C. Ross, B. Duke, S. Ritchie, G. Snowden, M. LaChapelle, R. Thomson & R. Radcliffe
Defence: J. Smithurst, T. Trecarten, C. Ritchie & A. McTavish



THE LEGACY CONTINUES...

by Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)

In the 12 ½ years that I have been editing *Lions' Pride*, we have received a lot of support from alumni, by way of sponsorship money and appreciative letters and emails. Last fall's issue, however, with its cover article on **Fraser Boa** and South's Film Course, resulted in more alumni donations and written responses than ever before. It was an excellent article and as editor and writer of much of the content, it was very gratifying to see other alumni contributing material. So, thanks again to **Janice Mann ('72)** for her wonderful article, as well as to **Chris Aikenhead ('71)** and **Cam Tingley ('72)** for their assistance.

Thanks also to Cam for reviewing all the student-made films we have in our archives collection (representing many of the several hundred made during the decade the course ran). The result of his work was the 90-minute compilation of films and film clips shown at last November's **Film Night**. As one of those people in attendance, I can attest to Cam's success in making it a very entertaining evening. When asked to share his feelings about the film project, Cam responded...

I had a blast going through all those films. In many cases the film inside the can had nothing to do with the label, so I enjoyed the suspense of picking up each new can and wondering what was really inside. It was a bit of an archaeology dig, and indeed it was thrilling when I would uncover something interesting. A lot of my friends and neighbours in Toronto were fascinated that I was involved in this project with my high school. And of course anything to do with "film" has a certain intrigue, now that it's considered archaic.

Many thanks to Pete Telford for proposing this project in the first place! It was a great opportunity for me to give back something to South. And I enjoyed watching people at the film night reacting to seeing themselves or someone they know on screen.

During my years at South (1961-66), there were no Dance or Film courses. Even Theatre Arts didn't exist as a course. I was, however, fortunate to have Fraser Boa as an English teacher for two years, in grade 11 and 13, and like most of my classmates, I appreciated how lucky I was to have such a dynamic and innovative teacher. Three of these classmates were among the alumni who sent responses to the article on Fraser. E-mails from **Tim Leah ('66)** and **Ian McKercher ('65)** have been shared in the "Mail Box" section on page 5, while **Ernest Tucker's ('66)** letter has been reproduced below.

Thank you for all the time and care you devote to *Lions' Pride*; it is much appreciated. I particularly enjoyed the article "The Legacy of Fraser Boa and the Film Course at South". However, as many of us know, Fraser was a man of many interests, constantly evolving. He taught me for two years while he made the transition from Phys Ed teacher to English teacher. I had him for both subjects, meaning that Fraser and I were in class together twice a day, every day, for two years. To say he was an influence would be a gross understatement; after 45 years of teaching High School English, I still find myself trying to emulate Fraser's approaches.

Of course, Fraser's transitions did not end when he left South for the Revue Cinema; subsequently, he became a Jungian analyst in Toronto. To my surprise, a colleague in 1989 loaned me a paper by Fraser discussing the Jungian background to Steinbeck's *East of Eden*; ever since, I have relied heavily on Jungian aspects of Robertson Davies' *Fifth Business*. Long after I last saw Fraser, he continues to be a major influence in my career and in my daily life.

It seems clear from these letters and emails that Fraser was a popular teacher and inspirational mentor, regardless of the subject being taught. That being said, I think it's important to acknowledge how meaningful and influential the courses in film, dance and theatre arts, initiated in the late 1960's, have been in the life experiences of South students over the years. Their impact must be seen as a hugely powerful endorsement for the value of Arts courses in the high school curriculum.

In last fall's article we learned that both Chris and Cam went on to forge successful careers working in the film industry, while Janice earned her PhD in Art History and became a university professor. There are many more alumni who were also inspired by their experiences at South to pursue careers in the Arts. Three of the guest Choreographers for South's **Dance Night** last January are alumnae. **Dana Hambly ('10)** is now a dance instructor at O.N.E. Dance Centre and a faculty member at The Dance Movement and North London Dance Centre. **Sydney McManus ('12)**, now living in Montreal, is both a dance artist and a freelance visual artist and designer. **Alysha Wood ('16)**, an alumna of both the Dance and Musical Theatre programs at South, trained competitively for many years with Dance Extreme and is now in her second year of the Dance program at York University.

Laura Robinson ('75), an alumna of South's Film and Theatre Arts courses (and attendee at last November's Film Night), has enjoyed a successful and varied career as an actress, singer-songwriter, producer and entrepreneur. In the mid-80's, she was a regular on the CBS series *Night Heat* and also guest-starred on several popular shows like *Frasier* and *Cheers*. She was the producer/creator of the Emmy winning TV game show, *Celebrity Name Game*. In addition to that, Laura has achieved success as an inventor and an author. In 2009 she was a guest author for the book *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Count your Blessings*. Prior to that, Laura co-invented the hugely popular board game *Balderdash*. More recently, Laura founded her own production company **Out & About Productions** in 2010. Although based in Toronto, the company continues to operate an office in Los Angeles, where Laura lived for many years.



After returning to Canada in 2003, Laura made sure her two children, Jack and Julia, received the kind of arts education that she had so valued herself (Etobicoke School of the Arts and Karen Kain Middle School of the Arts).

Proud wife and mother, talented artist and successful entrepreneur... Laura continues to love what she does: being her own boss and making a career "selling laughter and family togetherness all over the world."

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After speaking to Laura at Film Night, I asked her to share some of her feelings about the evening as well as her experiences as a student at South....

Cam and everyone did such an excellent job on the Film Night! It was great to be there and see so many familiar faces both in the room and on the screen. I was in the comedic film "Oops", directed by my good friends and classmates, **Judie Teskey** and **Leigh Morrow**, playing alongside **Peter McGugan**, **Carol (Keys) Carroll**, **Jane Kershaw** and so many others. I just loved Theatre Arts and Dance at South with wonderful **Mary Hamilton** and all the school shows with the incomparable **Marion Woodman**. I won Marion's award in grade 13 and she encouraged me to go on to Theatre school. I'm not sure I would have pursued my fulfilling career in the arts without those influential and incredibly creative years at South. I'll always be grateful!

ALUMNI RECONNECT AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS!

In addition to all the positive feedback we received after the fall issue, there was another wonderful outcome: a mini-reunion of five South alumni, some of whom had lost touch after they left South and hadn't seen each other in over 40 years. Although my brother, **Michael Woods ('72)** had maintained contact with classmate **Janice Mann**, neither of them had kept in touch with **Cam Tingley**, **Marianne MacLeod ('73)** or **Dawn Obokata ('73)**. (Dawn also went on to enjoy a career in performance. She has been a member of Canadian Actors' Equity and ACTRA for over 25 years, including 6 years as National Vice-President of Equity, and says she "has no doubt that the influence of the wonderful teachers in theatre arts and film encouraged me to follow this direction".)

Recently, Michael discovered that he and Cam have lived in the same area of East York for many years, so when Janice said that she wanted to arrange a get together on her way to London for Christmas, Michael volunteered to host. Marianne and Dawn, whom Cam had maintained contact with, joined in to make this mini-reunion a happy group of five!



L to R: Michael Woods, Marianne MacLeod, Cam Tingley, Dawn Obokata & Janice Mann

Following this get together, Michael was encouraged to reflect upon his own memories of Fraser Boa:

Anyone who knew Fraser, or had him as a teacher, would certainly have memories of this unique, talented man. I took two courses with him: "Theatre Arts" and "Film Arts". I liked Fraser a lot, although I wouldn't have been able to identify why back then. With time, I have realized that he appealed to my passion for unique, creative and highly intelligent individuals.

I have two memories of Fraser that have really stuck with me. The first one is from a rehearsal of *Oh What a Lovely War*, the school show when I was in grade 11. We had been having a particularly long and grueling rehearsal of a large cast scene, but couldn't seem to get it right. When we finally did and the rehearsal was over, Fraser took me aside and said, "I just have to say, you were a joy to watch up there. You were always in character, you never broke once, and you showed such enthusiasm." Such words of praise from Fraser were so special and unexpected that I didn't know what to say. I just thanked him and told him, "I was enjoying myself". He replied, "It showed". Recalling that wonderful moment helped get me through some tougher times in later high school years.

The other memory is from grade 13, when everyone was making plans for life after high school. I had decided to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather and become a dentist. I had received early acceptance from several universities into a science-heavy, pre-meds type of program and was on my way to becoming a dentist. When I told Fraser about my career plans, he paused for a moment, and then said, "Are you **really** sure that's what you want to do?" When I said that I was, he replied, "Then good luck to you." But the doubtful expression on his face hadn't changed and two days later, after much agonized self-reflection, I realized that being a dentist was **not** what I wanted to do with my life. After spending several days in the Guidance Office, searching through university catalogues for something that truly interested me, I finally found what I was looking for: the Interior Design program offered by the University of Manitoba. The rest, as they say, is history.

So, thank you, Fraser, for that long-ago compliment, but mostly for planting those seeds of doubt in my head. You made me stop and really think about the future that I wanted for myself, which allowed me to find a career that has given me a lifetime of delight.

Janice Mann also shared some of her thoughts...

One of the wonderful consequences of having reminisced about Fraser Boa for the fall *Lions' Pride* was the delightful reunion described above. With the exception of Michael, I hadn't seen the others in about forty years, but it was astonishing how quickly we reconnected. Of course, our common past and our fond and often very funny memories of Fraser and our high school years gave us a common ground. We all agreed we had an exceptional educational experience at South that had a profound impact on the direction of all our lives. Now that we are retired from our professions or moving quickly in that direction, we have the help of hindsight to see how Fraser's influence played out in what we chose to do with our lives. The lesson that I learned from Fraser which, I will always treasure is that the process is often more interesting than actually reaching the goal. For me, this has led to an interesting life so far and I hope it holds true until the end.

One Final Note: There is a family legacy worth mentioning as well. Fraser's grandson, **Connor Boa**, son of daughter Shelley, has been making a name for himself in local theatre productions for the past few years. Google his name to find out more.



MAIL BOX...

Letters and e-mails from alumni



A DELIGHTFUL READ

Just finished a delightful read of the Fall 2017 edition of *Lion's Pride*. I particularly liked the article on Fraser Boa. I never had him for English, but he directed *Tea House of the August Moon* during my last year at South, and I was in it (Captain McLean) along with Jamie Sutherland (Captain Fisby) and Robin May (Colonel Purdy). Sue Cornell was in the show too, but I don't remember her role. Fraser was a wonderful director and got lots out of us.

I also remember Miss Gorman in the library, and was sorry to hear that Bruce Ashdown passed away, as he was my English teacher for two years - did a great job and led me into English teaching.

Ian McKercher ('65)

A REMARKABLE TEACHER

I want to compliment Connie and other *Lions' Pride* contributors on a great *Fall 2017* edition. The piece on Fraser Boa was particularly enjoyable. I remember participating in one of his summer projects in 1970. I can't recall much detail about the subject of the film, but I do remember a scene in which I was being drowned by another person, shot in several takes in my parents' backyard pool. I never did see the final cut but heard it was "interesting". Fraser was a superb English teacher as well as athletics coach. He truly made Shakespeare come alive for his students. I recall to this day one class (the day after a televised Detroit Red Wings game) in which he spoke most eloquently of the talents and character of Gordie Howe. I last saw Fraser in 1977 during lunch hour near my office on St Clair Ave in Toronto where he spoke about his experience at the Carl Jung Institute. He was truly a remarkable teacher and human being.

Tim Leah ('66)



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS....

MIKE MURPHY ('67) has had rowing in his blood for a long time. He competed as a student athlete at Western and later as a member of the Canadian Men's National Team at the 1970 world championships and the '71 Pan Am Games. In 1985, he was instrumental in the establishment of the training centre at Fanshawe Lake, home to the Women's National Rowing Team for the past 32 years and "*one of the great success stories in Canadian sport*", according to many. A member of the board of **Rowing Canada** since 1986, Mike served three terms as president, until retiring in 2014. Now he is the president of the London Rowing Society, which works with Western University and the London-Middlesex Rowing Club to operate the Fanshawe Lake facility.

Last September, Rowing Canada announced that it was going to centralize its national training programs and move the women's teams to Victoria to join the men. This decision, which took Murphy and many others by surprise, was met with strong resistance not only from rowers but also from rowing executives, who worked for years to make the London facility successful. As a result, the planned move was delayed for further evaluation. The fight, according to Murphy will carry on. "*In my opinion, this is worth fighting for. We will continue to fight to keep the London centre open indefinitely...*"

JOHN GERRY ('73) was triply honoured at this year's **Brickenden Awards** ceremony. Both productions mounted by Calithumpian Theatre Company, which Gerry co-founded in 2016, won awards. *Fun Home* was named best musical, while Gerry was honoured as outstanding director. *Red*, also directed by Gerry, won the award for best drama, as well as awards for lighting design and set design. The most prestigious honour Gerry received that night, however, was the **Chris Doty Award****, given to recognize his contribution to theatre in London. Art Fidler, one of London's best-known theatre educators, praised Gerry: "*He's been a real gift to the community. He's one of those people who is always giving the credit to others, always talking about 'we' and never 'I,' which is why people love to work with him.*"

** This award is named after South alumnus, **Chris Doty ('85)**, a talented historian, playwright and filmmaker, who passed away in 2006. Doty, who was also the resident critic for the Theatre in London website, helped establish the Brickenden Awards in 2002 to "*celebrate and acknowledge excellence in independent theatre in London*".



RICHARD THOMPSON ('84) who starred for the *London Majors* from 1988-98 has been named to the list of the **Intercounty Baseball League's 100 Greatest Players**. The List was announced in February 2018 as part of the celebration of the League's 100th year. The players named were feted at a banquet at the *Crowne Plaza* in Kitchener on February 24.

ANDREW MCCLENAGHAN ('97) founded Digital Echidna on his own in 2002. Now boasting 65 employees and with clients across Canada and the United States, the company has moved for the third time into new, bigger headquarters at 148 York Street. Last year they made the Profit 500 list of Canada's most profitable companies and more recently were nominated in the large business category for a London Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Award. Once again, our congratulations go out to Andrew!

SCHOOL NEWS ... Here and Now

Principal Doriana Rosati attended our January executive meeting and detailed a number of exciting initiatives being undertaken at the school.

Academics: New programming will include offering the **International Certificate**, an alternative to the International Baccalaureate (available at only one London high school). Visual Arts Head and South alumna **Jennifer (Cripps) Porowski ('99)** has been assigned an innovative "**Culture for Learning**" line, which involves a number of special activities centred around Student Leadership, including a Student Voice Conference, Inclusion and Cultural Proficiency, and School Safety. Room 214 has been designated "**The Inquiry Den**" to be used for a number of student enrichment activities.

Facility: The framed photos of all of South's former principals have been moved from the entrance lobby to the walls of the auditorium. There is a new colourful sign above the auditorium doors and the former Latin sign has been moved to the Latin room.

Athletics: South continues to demonstrate an impressive level of excellence. The senior football team had another great season, finishing 6-0 and going on to compete at OFSAA. Graduating quarterback, **Ethan Martin**, capped off his final season with the Lions in spectacular style. For the second year in succession, the Grade 12 student won the Bob Gooder trophy as high school football's most valuable player and the Greg Anderson Memorial trophy for academics at the annual high school awards ceremony. It was the first time a player has taken home both trophies two years in succession. During Martin's tenure, the Lions won four city championships in succession and were also the No. 1-ranked high school team in Canada. An exceptional student, Ethan has accepted an academic and athletic scholarship package from Guelph University, so will be playing for the Gryphons next year. Good luck in all your future endeavours, Ethan!

In other sports, the Junior and Senior Girls' basketball teams both qualified for the AA WOSSAA tournaments this year, as did both Boys' Volleyball teams. Siblings **Zoe & Evan Burke**, both long distance cross country runners, advanced to the OFSAA West Regionals this year.



Ethan with coach Mike Stenning

LION ON THE LOOSE

The graduating class of 1967 commissioned this painting of a lion and donated it to the school, to be hung in perpetuity in a place of prominence. Allegedly, the artist was Tony Urquhart**. Although now recognized as one of Canada's leading contemporary artists, he was not as well-known at that time, so his work was affordable to a high school group.

The Lion was hung on the west wall of the South gym, as pictured.

During a gym renovation in 1995-96 it was taken down while re-painting was undertaken, and it never reappeared. Several concerted searches have taken place in the years since then, but its whereabouts is still a mystery. The *Alumni Association* welcomes any clues that will help us restore this valuable piece of our history.



**Tony Urquhart came to London in 1960. He ran Western's McIntosh Art Gallery for four years, then stayed on in a teaching capacity until 1972.

Coming this Fall: A FABULOUS 50TH REUNION for the CLASS of 1968

You are invited to celebrate the Class of '68's 50th! Join us to reminisce with your youthful-in-spirit classmates! Renew old friendships and catch up with former class members. There will be a South Trivia Game, so mark your calendars for this once-in-a-lifetime event, **September 28-29, 2018**.



Starting Friday evening, we'll assemble in the Village Room at the Wortley Roadhouse at 7 p.m. for a meet and greet where food will be available as well as a cash bar. On Saturday (1-3 p.m.), we'll be gathering in the atrium at South for a tour of the school, including a display room of memorabilia. At 4 p.m. we'll move over to The River Room at Museum London, one of London's premier venues, with a fantastic view of the Forks of the Thames. A cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres will be followed by dinner with food stations at 6 p.m. and late night pizza, all catered by North Moore Catering. A cash bar will be open from 4 p.m. until 1 a.m.

We are hoping to see as many of you as possible, so please let other '68 grads know about this special event.

Replies and inquiries can be sent to **Joan (Foreht) Richardson** at jrbikette@gmail.com. Your prompt reply is greatly appreciated. A private Facebook page has also been set up for this event. To join, please submit your email to Joan.

Reunion Committee: Mike Henry, Mic Mayr, Joan Richardson, Martha Donnelly, Dan Leah, Lyn (Vize) Shilha & Judy Sumner

More reminiscing...

Ross Spettigue ('62) enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce with former South teacher **Barbara (Smith) Corbet (staff 1955-61)**, when he was visiting at the home of her son-in-law in Windsor last fall. Barbara, the daughter of the late esteemed Dr. Ivan Smith, was Ross's grade nine English teacher, but also taught French during her six years at South.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Frederick HAMMOND ('38)

passed away Feb. 22, 2018, at Parkwood Institute, age 97. Lovingly remembered by wife Lillian, brother **Jack ('38)** and daughter Dianne. Predeceased by his son, David (2017). Cherished grandfather of five and great-grandfather of 13. Soon after his marriage to Lillian in 1943, Tom was deployed overseas to serve with the Canadian Army. He spent almost three years in Europe and participated in the D-Day landings. After Tom returned home he was hired by London Life. A dedicated employee for 36 years, he was involved in many aspects of the company: catcher for the fastball team, president of the Men's Club, actor in the Players' Club, and chair of both the Charitable Association and London Life Retirees. He was also a loyal member of the Optimist Club of Byron (43 years) and a longtime volunteer for the Western Fair, Terry Fox Run and ESL programs in the city. Every November, he would share his WWII experiences with elementary school students and looked forward to standing with fellow veterans on Remembrance Day at the Victoria Park Cenotaph. A proud Londoner and a proud South alumnus, Tom was as generous with his time as he was with his stories and will be missed by many.



Marion (Sharpe) McKEE ('44) passed away Oct. 17, 2017. Predeceased by her husband James (Jim) McKee. Cherished mother of David (Carol) McKee and Kathy (Paul) Martinello. Devoted grandma of five and great grandmother of two. Also survived by brothers **Boyd ('46)** and Harold (Norma) and sister-in-law, Irene McKee.

Ronald WONNACOTT ('47) passed away Jan. 29, 2018 at University Hospital, London, age 87. Loving husband of **Eloise (Howlett) Wonnacott ('49)** and father of Doug (Debi) of Houston TX, Rob (Nathalie) of Calgary AB and Cathy Long (Greg) of Seattle WA. Also loved by 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Son of longtime South teacher, **Gordon Wonnacott (1929-67)** (deceased, 1994). Dear brother of Paul (Donna), **Tom ('53)**

(Elizabeth), **Joy Becker ('63)** (Lorne), and **Alma Scovil ('66)** (Peter).

Ron received a BA from UWO (1955), followed by an MA and PhD in Economics from Harvard. Most of his teaching career was at Western (1958 -1996). During his tenure, the Economics Department grew to become one of the top 40 in the world. He and his brother Paul also an Economics professor, collaborated on several publications, including *Free Trade between Canada and the United States: The Potential Economic Effects* (1967). This study helped revive the debate which culminated in the 1989 Canada-US free trade agreement. In the early 1990s, he was a strong supporter of the free-trade negotiations between Canada, the US and Mexico that subsequently led to NAFTA. With his other brother Tom, a Mathematics professor at Western, he published numerous books on statistics and econometrics, which have gone through many editions and been translated into 9 languages. In 2016, Dr. Wonnacott was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. Other prestigious positions included Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and President of the Canadian Economics Association.



Doris (Hansford) BIESENTHAL ('49)

passed away at McCormick Home, London, on Jan. 31, 2018, age 85. Devoted wife of Dr.

Robert Biesenthal and mother of **Heather Guild ('82)** (Iain). Dear grandmother of Emily, Nicholas, Jenny & Iain (Tara) and great-grandmother of Theo and Sunny. Dear sister of **Rev. Don Hansford ('49)** (Angie). Pre-deceased by her sister, Ruth Hansford and her brother, Ron Hansford. Doris enjoyed bridge, travelling, gardening, volunteering and her time at the family cottage.

Mary Elizabeth "Betty" (Taig) READ ('50) passed away Nov. 29, 2017, at St. Joseph's Hospice, London, age 86.



Beloved wife of **Robert A. "Bob" Read ('50)** and mother of Peggy Read of Burlington, Cathy Grasby & Craig Read, both of London. Loving grandmother of nine (Graham & Heidi Janson, Naomi Kuehnbaum, Erica Jewer, Luke & Paul Grasby and **Jessie ('11)**, **Adam ('14)** and **Cole Read**) and proud great-grandmother of four. Predeceased by her son David and sister Jean Gray. Betty had a long and rewarding career in the legal secretary field.

Roy Stanley (Stan) PEDERSEN ('53) of Hudson, Quebec, passed away peacefully on June 15, 2017, age 83, with his family by his side. Survived by his wife June, and four children - Jennifer (Greg), Karen Sawatzky (Andy), Andrew (Maria) and Jim (Pam). Also survived by his sister **Eileen (Pedersen) Hartigan ('47)** of Chatham, New Jersey, USA, and 8 grandchildren.

Roy McDonald ('56) died peacefully in his sleep on Feb 21, 2018, age 80, in the house he lived in all his life. Described by friends as a "very kind, gentle soul", he was a uniquely eccentric individual - a writer, philosopher and published poet, whose penchant for sharing music and poetry outside Joe Kool's earned him the unofficial title 'The Mayor of Richmond Row.' London playwright Jason Rip, who wrote a play about McDonald's life (*Beard: A Few Moments in the Life of Roy McDonald*), described him as a "legendary figure" who "loved to rub elbows with people in the streets... like the greeter for the City of London, always willing to have conversations with anyone who happened to meet him. I think that was his great gift to the city." (Many more tributes to Roy may be read online.)



John BARBER ('63) passed away unexpectedly Feb. 3, 2018, age 76, at the Dearness Home, London. Brother of **Ted Barber ('63)** and brother-in-law of the late Gina Barber. John will be missed by his many extended family members. John travelled in Europe and enjoyed many winters spent in Florida. A Contract Bridge Life Master when he was a teenager, in his 20's, he built and sold his own computers and installed networks.

UPDATE ON SCAA ACTIVITIES

Gathering on the Green: Saturday June 2nd

Once again, the SCAA will have a booth at the "G on the G", one of Wortley Village's most popular neighbourhood events. It's a fun day and a great way to promote the Association. Hope to see some of you "on the Green"!

New SCAA Directors:

We are delighted to announce that at next month's AGM, we will be nominating **Kyle Hollis ('03)** and **Norma Evans (staff, 2000-17)** to fill two director vacancies. Kyle, who has been brainstorming with former director, **Mike Bloxam**, on how to update the alumni website, reported at the February meeting that the basic framework for the new website is done, with a hoped for launch date of this spring. Kyle will be taking over a number of website related tasks, including uploading material such as the newsletter. Norma, a recently retired teacher and last fall's 75th Anniversary Award Winner, will also be a wonderful addition to the SCAA Executive. Welcome to you both!

2018 Priorities:

- Launch of a new alumni website
- Work on alumni database, especially updating of information with the help of class reps
- Support for Class of 1968, in planning their 50th Anniversary Reunion
- Display of alumni materials on the 2nd floor (The school's Beautification Committee has asked the SCAA to take responsibility for photos in a section of the second floor. The goal is to have this task completed for the AGM.)
- Investigating possible future projects: Once printing costs for *Knowing No Defeat* have been covered and the rest of the books have been sold, the SCAA hopes to be in a position to be able to take on some new, larger projects. In the meantime, we provide support wherever we can. For example, at our February meeting, we voted to provide some financial assistance for the First Robotics Team, as the students prepared for their first two competitions.

UPDATE: *Knowing No Defeat*

Fewer than 70 copies remain!

Available at Tuckey Home Hardware
or through the SCAA.
(contact@southalumni.ca)
150 pages, full colour - \$25



A big thank you to **Dave Tuckey ('82)** for helping us sell our books. As many of you know, he is a dedicated supporter of the Old South Community and a loyal alumnus of South.

There is a book shelf in his store "*Local Authors, Local Stories*" with several titles, including three books by **Herman Goodden ('72)** and *Old South Tales* by honorary alumna, **Jean Ramer**, as well as *Knowing No Defeat*.

SCAA's Annual General Meeting

Wed. May 9, 2018 - 7 PM
(in the Atrium)

All interested alumni welcome!



Support the Alumni Association!

If you enjoy this newsletter and enjoy logging on to the alumni website, help us defray some of the costs.

Become a sponsor for just \$20 a year.

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SCAA PRESIDENT: Knute Dohnberg

EDITOR & GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Connie Weir

SCAA

c/o South Collegiate Institute
371 Tecumseh Avenue East
London, Ontario
N6C 1T4

Tel. (519) 452-2860
Fax (519) 452-2879

E-mail: contact@southalumni.ca

Website: www.southalumni.ca

Full Name _____

Maiden Name _____

Street Name and Number _____

City _____

Province/State _____

Postal/Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

Graduating year _____

Send cheques, payable to the South Collegiate Alumni Association, to the mailing address in the box on the left or make donations online with e-transfers.

THANK YOU!