



South Collegiate Alumni Association Fall 2015



LIONS' PRIDE

Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae



A "DIAMOND" REUNION FOR CLASSES OF '55 & '56



by Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)

By all accounts, the 60th Reunion of the classes of 1955 and 1956 (Sept. 18 to 20) was a resounding success.

"Electrifying", "awesome", "absolutely wonderful", "exhausting and exciting", "life-enhancing", "every detail exquisite", "a renaissance", "fun, fun, fun!"

These are just a few of the very positive comments made by attendees to organizing committee member, **Betty Ann (Hill) Brown**, when she asked them to describe how they felt about the reunion.

Forty-five members of the two classes pre-registered for the event, along with several spouses and guests, which brought the total in attendance close to sixty. Given the fact that these South alumni are all in their late 70's and came from as far away as Kingston, Ottawa, Halifax and Vancouver, not to mention one alumna, **Bev (Veitch) Agolini**, who travelled all the way from Luxembourg, one has to ask what made this reunion such a success.

To answer that question, committee chair **Hugh Saunders** suggests you have to go back more than two years, when **Dorothy (Cole) Woolley** and **Gloria (Todoroff) Norrie** put a notice in the Fall 2013 issue to determine if there was sufficient interest to hold a 60th reunion. After class members responded favourably, the next step was to form an organizing committee. Fortunately, seven equally enthusiastic classmates volunteered and the serious planning began...

In my opinion, a strong organizing committee is the key to planning any successful event and the nine people who organized this reunion deserve a lot of credit for their efforts over the past two years. The **Memorabilia Room**, a big hit with all attendees, is perhaps the best example of what dedication and hard work can accomplish. When it came to putting together the displays for the room, they didn't have much to start with. The material in the SCAA's Archives room at the school for the 1955-56 school years was limited, and the lack of yearbooks made the task even more challenging. **Tom Orchard, Bob Christie** and **Evelyn (Leeson) Williams** took on the challenge, however, and after scouring their own memorabilia and soliciting material from their classmates, put together an impressive display of items to help attendees enjoy their trip down memory lane: old photos, newspaper clippings and artefacts, including old textbooks, school sweaters and old football jackets.

Other highlights of the weekend included a bus trip and tour of **Museum London** on Saturday morning, followed by a catered lunch in the **South Atrium**. South principal, **Catherine Major**, was in attendance and gave what Dorothy Woolley described as *"an enthusiastic talk which re-kindled our school spirit."* On Saturday evening, a celebratory reception and dinner was held at the refurbished

Idlewyld Inn, where a number of attendees were staying. The next day, many enjoyed Sunday brunch at the **Delta Armories**. Guests, **Pete Telford** and **Knute Dohnberg**, past and present **SCAA Presidents**, were each asked to say a few words and were thanked for their support and assistance to make *"the reunion the success it was"*.

Looking back, **Hugh Saunders** feels one of the main reasons for the event's success was *"the continual connection we had with the attendees throughout the process and the concentration regarding the detail that was kept throughout the weekend.... I think most came to meet old friends they hadn't seen for some time. They also felt that we were putting on a good show. If I may say, we did it with class and met the needs and desires of the attendees."*

But let's give the final word to **Dorothy Woolley**, where talk of the class reunion first began: *"What a great 60th reunion! What a privilege to be part of the South Family. Thanks for the memories."*

(more photos on page 2)

"DIAMOND" REUNION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Back Row (L to R): Bob Christie '55, Gloria (Todoroff) Norrie '55, Hugh Saunders '55, Dorothy (Cole) Woolley '55, Tom Orchard '55.
Front Row, (L to R): Nancy Jane (Holmes) Coups '56, Betty Ann (Hill) Brown '56, Evelyn (Leeson) Williams '55, Gay (Clarke) Chambers '56.





HOME COMING 2015...

and the grand re-opening of the **James Giffen Memorial Football Field**

It was the Homecoming that looked like it might not even happen. The normal date – the Friday of Thanksgiving weekend, the day after South’s commencement - was out. The grass on the newly reconstructed field was still not ready to be played on. (You may remember that the field had serious drainage problems following the original work and it took a lawsuit before the TVDSB agreed to get the work redone properly, with the oversight of sports field experts.) There was also work to be done upgrading the electronic scoreboard and installing the new field signage, once again paid for by South’s incredibly generous benefactor, **Matt Giffen ('85)**. But thanks in particular to the determination and perseverance of **SCAA President Knute Dohnberg ('65)** and South alumna and football parent, **Heidi (Huber) Hamber ('87)**, Homecoming did happen... on Thursday October 22. Despite the earlier game times (1:00 PM for the junior game and 3:30 for the senior game), which understandably resulted in fewer spectators, it was a wonderful event. The weather was amazingly pleasant for late October. The parents of all the graduating senior players were in attendance to welcome their sons as they ran onto the field carrying their newly presented souvenir jerseys. Most importantly, Matt Giffen was able to be there to re-dedicate the field in honour of his late father, accompanied by his family. As **SCAA Vice-President, Lynne Hevey ('74)** said in an email thank you to Matt, *“What a perfect afternoon. You could tell by your speech how much your Alma Mater still means to you. We all appreciate your perseverance, time, effort and money to get the field to the level you originally expected it to be. It was extra special that your mom, wife and three daughters were able to join you.”*

And to top off the day... both South teams handily beat their opponents: the Saunders Sabres, the juniors winning 49 to 6 and the seniors 43 to 2. So one of the smallest schools in the city beats the teams from one of the largest, playing for the first time on its fine new field with its beautiful new signage. Pretty hard to beat that for Lions’ pride!



(L to R): Heidi Hamber ('87), Matt Giffen ('85) & Knute Dohnberg ('65)



NEW SOUTH FIELD SIGNAGE
 Left: New sign on the back of the electronic scoreboard, facing Belgrave
 Below: New sign on the wall of the upper parking lot, facing the field





HONOURING SOUTH'S VETS... PAST AND PRESENT



Editor's Note: Last March I had an enjoyable dinner at the home of **Stephen & Kit Brodsky** in Sydney, BC. While in BC, I also contacted alumnus **Peter Giles**, who lives in Comox. Both men had long military careers, Stephen in the Army and Peter in the Air Force. As we approach Remembrance Day, it seemed appropriate to acknowledge, not just those South alumni who served in World War II, but those who have served our country in the post-war period. To that end, I asked Stephen and Peter to write something about their lives and careers to share with fellow South alumni. Our thanks to both of them for their willing co-operation.

Gabriel W.S. ("Steve") Brodsky (1951)

In 1949, as an under-aged 15-year old South student, I joined a Reserve Army regiment, the Canadian Fusiliers. Evenings at the Dundas St. Armouries soon usurped homework hours. At 18, I joined the Regular Army, and by 1953, when I married **Katie Wright ('52)** in Calgary, I was a paratrooper in the Mobile Striking Force for defence of Canada's arctic.

In 1959, Kit and I and our two daughters sailed for West Germany when my battalion became part of NATO. The Cold War was at its height, and NATO was poised for World War 3, especially with the advent of the Berlin Wall and the Cuba missile crisis. Four years later, with the battalion's repatriation to Picton, ON., we moved to the village of Bloomfield, where Kit's encouragement launched me on post-secondary studies. A BA (Queen's), MA (University of Victoria), and PhD (University of York, UK) followed over the next 25 years.

In 1964, my unit deployed to Cyprus, where the newly independent Greek Cypriot majority, seeking *Enosis* (union) with Greece, was strongly opposed by the ethnic Turkish minority. As many of you remember, a vicious civil war ensued, followed by a UN brokered cease fire, enforced by UN troops. My work was in Battalion Intelligence.

After returning from Cyprus, I trained as a Ranger with the US Army and was posted to the Canadian Forces Officer Candidate School at CFB Chilliwack, BC. In 1972, I was sent to Royal Roads Military College, in Victoria, as a Squadron Commander, later assuming the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of English.

In 1978, I served as a field station commander with a UN military observer group in Kashmir, a region claimed by both India and Pakistan. After three bloody wars, the Cease Fire Line, brokered by the UN in 1948, had shifted hardly at all. The group's mandate was to report Cease Fire violations and those duties took me from the hot plains of Punjab to the world's highest manned defences on the Karakorums' frozen ridges.

Following my return to Canada in 1978, I was posted to the Canadian Forces Staff School, training junior officers in staff duties. In 1980, I was posted back to Royal Roads, where I resumed duties as Assistant Professor of English. Retiring from the Army in 1983, I returned as a civilian Special Lecturer in English, where I continued to teach until 1991. Kit and I now make our home in Sidney BC, defying time's "Cosmic Jester" and pursuing my love of research and writing, publishing books and journal articles.

Editor's Final Note: Infantry paratrooper, UN Peacekeeper, college professor and prolific writer of scholarly articles and novels... quite an impressive career, I'd say.



Peter Giles (1951)

The post war years, 1945 through 1951, were a special time for me at South CI. There were so many good teachers who were demanding but completely involved in student activities. "**Dinny**" **Dinsmore** ran an air cadet organization, **Steve Byles** had the orchestra, "**Spats**" **McGuire** had the Glee Club, **Ernie McTavish**, **Bert Beattie** and **Paul Burd** spent countless hours devoted to hockey, basketball and football, while **Jessie MacFarlane** and **Miss Hardy** did the same for the girls. The absolute football highlight for me was our trip in 1950 to the Red Feather Tournament at CNE Stadium in Toronto. **Larry Dalton ('52)** and I were 'platoon' quarterbacks and **Wells Whitton ('51)** scored the only touchdown of the game before 21,000 fans as we defeated Malvern Collegiate 6 to 3.

Many of us also chose our life partners at South: **Henry and Marjlyn (Radcliffe) Knowles**, **Don and Joan (Wright) Liddiard**, **Ted and Libby (Reilly) Hessel**, **Steve and Kit (Wright) Brodsky** to name only a few. And of course, I finally won **Joy (Firth)**, who followed me all across Canada, England, Scotland and Germany until we finally chose Vancouver Island to retire. Unfortunately, I lost Joy to Alzheimer's in 2010, after nearly 55 years together.

I had joined the RCAF Reserve at Crumlin in 1951, and although I had taught elementary school for a while, I really wanted to learn to fly. So I pursued a year long military pilot training programme in Alberta and Manitoba to earn my wings and become a jet pilot. Upon graduation, I married Joy, by now a teacher at Mountsfield, and over the ensuing years, she raised our four children almost single handedly while I was flying all over the world, either chasing Soviet submarines, flying VIP's to exotic places or attending any number of courses to further my military career. Joy also taught at several different schools in Ontario, Quebec and BC. Our children had the broadening experience of attending schools in England, Scotland and Germany.

South Collegiate will always be special because it really gave me a start on a very rewarding military career and also gave me a wonderful wife and mother in Joy.



SCHOOL NEWS ...

South Honours New Grads: Commencement 2015



The annual South Commencement celebration took place on October 8, 2015. Once again, alumna **Andrea (Fewster) Manias ('70) (staff, 1976-09)** attended on behalf on the South Collegiate Alumni Association to bring greetings to our newest members. **Gabriella Schoettle** was recruited to be the SCAA representative for the class of 2015. Graduates were informed about the role of the SCAA and were encouraged to follow the example of the classes of 1955/56 who recently held their 60th anniversary reunion - and to imagine having theirs in 2075!

The student population of South is lower than it has ever been, but the accomplishments of this graduating class match those of other years. Fifty-nine Ontario Scholarships were awarded for a minimum average of 80% and twenty-two of these received Alumni Awards for a minimum of 90%. The Carla Mills Cameron Award was presented to two winners: **Hannah Watson** and **Melissa Evans** and the Top Academic Awards were given to **Eva Bosnjak** and **Iulia Murariu**, with **Matthew Bourne** named Scholar of the Year. Valedictorian **Aidan Attema** entertained all with his address, as did Master of Ceremonies **Todd Gamble ('95) (current staff)**.

75th Anniversary Award Winner: Ian Martin

The SCAA presents the "75th Anniversary Award" each year to recognize a staff member who has contributed significantly to making South a quality school. This year's winner is a long-time staff member, nominated by students for making learning fun, and being "insanely good". Fellow staff members describe him as intelligent and wise, making great use of technology, being an excellent Science department head and coaching the hockey team to two A/AA OFSAA provincial championships. Graduates easily guessed that the winner was Ian Martin - Congratulations Marty!

Editor's Note: When Pete Telford and I went to his classroom, camera and plaque in hand, to take a photo for the newsletter, his grade 11 physics students all cheered. Clearly, a well earned award for a fine South teacher.



Ian Martin, Science Department Head
and
75th Anniversary Award Winner for 2015

ROSS SMIBERT: Honouring a Six-Decade 'Smilestone'

by Sandy Ross, ('79), www.sandyross.ca

He turned 88 the day I interviewed **Ross Smibert (1945)**, South grad and business owner. I knew we had to profile this remarkable alumnus because, when adding 'start up' year to our directory* listings of entrepreneurial alumni, I noticed Ross began **North Star Ice** over 60 years ago!

In 1945, newly graduated, Ross and South buddy, **Bill Aitken ('46)**, constructed the building. "We dug by hand, I made forms, we poured foundation." First operating it for dry cleaning, Ross added packaged ice as a spin-off in 1954. Allied Ice later became North Star Ice. Producing up to 135 tons daily, the company provides ice for a huge market. Most of us are probably familiar with the North Star logo marking the bags of ice we pour into coolers to keep refreshments frosty.

Still coming in most days, with not one but three desks he works from, Ross demonstrates a leadership that certainly inspires his company's five employees. Son, John, works alongside Ross. Being about the same age as North Star Ice, John's own retirement may be in a few years, but if Dad's legacy has influence, that's two to three decades too soon.



I want to work until I'm 100. They won't retire me, they'll bury me instead."



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS....

LARRY SCHNEIDER (Principal, 2007-11) has undertaken a new challenge, this time not in the field of education but as an ordained United Church minister. After filling in as a pulpit supply minister at a number of churches, Larry attended Emmanuel College at U of T to earn his Master of Divinity degree. A resident of Rodney, in Elgin county, Larry is now the minister at Dorchester United Church.



LISA SHACKELTON ('90) hosted her 5th consecutive “**Yoga Shack Gives Back**” event at Budweiser Gardens on July 19th. Wanting to add to the more than \$15,000 already raised for Women’s Community House, and also break its own record for London’s largest indoor yoga class, the event featured a free 60-minute class in the full arena. Check out Lisa’s website: www.yogashack.ca.

PAUL ROEDDING ('96), whose blog on South’s chimney swifts was the basis for the last spring’s cover story, has been in the news again, this time weighing in on the controversy surrounding the broken Springbank Dam. While some Londoners may miss the recreational benefits of the dammed river, the Nature Conservancy rightly argues that “*The natural flow patterns of a river become the heartbeat of an entire ecosystem*”. As a London nature photographer and birder who watches the river daily, Paul says the river’s improved health, due to the absence of a dam, is a key reason that increased numbers and types of waterfowl are being attracted to the Thames. Paul also made the news following a post (“**City Of London Shows Disregard For Species At Risk**”) after city workers used pesticide and mowed the milkweed in Greenway Park. Check out Paul’s blogs and superb photography: www.paulroeddingphotography.com.

JAMES MCINNES ('98), founder and CEO of Cyborg Trading Systems, a company that develops state-of-the-art automated trading systems for the financial services industry, has branched out into another quite different business: organic food. James, who has a degree in computer science from Western, says his new business developed out of “*a personal health journey*” and his frustration with the lack of accessibility to the kind of high quality, fresh and affordable produce he was looking for. **Globally Local**, an organic produce, home-delivery and pickup operation, is located on the site of the former Farmer Jack’s south of London. James says that the key to their success has been eliminating the middleman and buying in bulk directly from farmers and importers. (www.globallylocal.ca)



LACEY SMITH ('02) has accomplished a lot since completing a BFA (Hons.) in Performance Dance at Ryerson University. The founder and artistic director of Dasein Dance Theatre and School, who has been producing full-evening dance productions since 2007, is the co-founder and artistic director of **FLUX London Dance Festival**. Along with colleague and executive director, Bizz Varty, Lacey organized the 4-day festival, July 2-5, 2015. The outdoor festival featured performances by 13 different dance companies, individuals and troupes, a “Flash Mob”, a Community Dance Celebration, info sessions and workshops. Planning for the 2016 festival is already underway. For more info check the website: www.fluxdance.ca

BLAIR SCORGIE ('03) is a Registered Professional Planner and Urban Designer with the Toronto firm, Brook McLroy, one of the five finalists chosen in the “**Back to the River**” contest to determine who would win the right to redesign London’s downtown riverfront. Blair, whose father, Russ, was lead architect of the 1990’s revamp of Covent Garden Market, holds a Master of Architecture, specializing in Urban Design, from McGill University. As his firm’s urban designer, Blair said the project’s goal is to tie the riverfront into the downtown, “*to improve the connectivity to the river’s edge*”. Following the judging of the five finalists’ submissions, one firm will be chosen to “*fully create a vision for a revamped forks of the Thames*”.



DAN KNIGHT ('07) is now a full-time event planner. His company (www.day2knightevents.com), was started in 2009 as a part-time business while he continued to work in the non-profit sector. Now Dan devotes himself full-time to organizing all types of special events, while still giving back to the non-profit sector. 5% of his wedding package fees are donated to the charity of the couple’s choice.

And one more special announcement...

JACK DOIDGE ('34) turned 100 on Sept. 17th, 2015. After serving as a priest in London (at St. James Westminster Anglican Church), Winnipeg and elsewhere, Jack became rector of St. Matthias’ Westmount in 1962 and Archdeacon of Montreal, where he served until his retirement in 1983. At that time, Jack and his wife, Betty, returned to London. Betty passed away in 2013. Jack is a resident of Grand Wood Park. The SCAA proudly acknowledges its new centenarian.



MAIL BOX...

Letters and e-mails from alumni



FOND MEMORIES...

(Note: The SCAA received the following note last May from alumnus Bill Webb , informing us of his wife Roberta's passing)

Having been away since last September, I am catching up on 8 months of accumulated mail. The SCAA spring newsletter strangely had a Cheerleaders photo which included Robbie. She never ceases to amaze her family and friends!

My very kind and wise father was the Janitor/Stationary Engineer when Robbie and I both attended South. My dad, Jack Webb, knew Robbie before I did, as he opened her locker more than a few times due to a "forgotten locker key".

Bill Webb ('56)

IN APPRECIATION...

It (sponsorship cheque) is a small price to pay for all the fond memories that come from the *Lions' Pride*.... Congratulations to all whose efforts keep the spirit of the Garnet and Grey alive for the alumni.

John Kumpf ('59)

RECENT BOOKS by ALUMNI AUTHORS

The Crowning Day: An American Love Story

Brian G. Kellow (staff, 1991-2001), former English teacher and Department Head at South, published his novel last January on Amazon.com (in Kindle format). The novel concerns historical events of the 20th Century and reaches its climax over the issue of "The Rapture", an "End of Days" concept believed by many fundamentalist Christians.

Two babies are born in Cincinnati, Ohio shortly after the end of World War I. Rebecca Ormond is born to a Congregationalist Minister and his wife. Neil O'Brien is the son of an Irish immigrant labourer. *The Crowning Day* follows Rebecca and Neil through their adult lives as they confront the tumultuous events of the Twentieth Century. The lives of these two intersect with one another during World War II, The Viet Nam War, the Civil Rights Movement and Feminism. Their unusual love story involves a vast cast of characters involved with all aspects of American life before reaching its dramatic conclusion.



The Underling

Ian Mc Kercher's ('65) debut novel was published in 2012, by General Store Publishing House (www.gsph.com).

Ian, a retired high school English teacher who lives in Ottawa, started work on the novel in 1982, when he took a leave of absence to teach English in China. It wasn't until he retired in 2005, however, that he found the time to devote to finishing his novel for publication.

Back cover description:

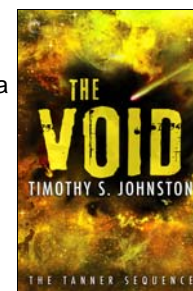
"Ottawa, Canada, 1934. 17-year old Frances McFadden is plucked from the tedium of school routine and the control of a domineering mother to work for the new Bank of Canada. Like many hard-working women of her generation, she comes to wield tremendous power without any of the trappings of authority.... In late August 1939, Frances is sent on a secret mission to Warsaw, where Polish gold reserves tempt a rapacious neighbour."

Editor's Note: The average online rating is 4.25 out of 5, but I can add my personal recommendation to that. Even though I have fond memories of Ian's great sense of humour, sitting behind him in **Mr. McCuaig's (staff, 1961-66)** Trig class in 1965, those memories have not biased my assessment of his novel. It is a very interesting and well written book which I can happily recommend to South alumni. The only issue I had was finding the book. The only retail copy I could find in the area was at a Chapters store in Sarnia. Trust me, it is too good a book not to be readily available in London. For more info, see Ian's website: www.ianmckercher.com.



The Void

Alumni who are Sci-Fi thriller fans might want to check out the most recent novel in "*The Tanner Sequence*", a series of three novels (so far) written by South geography teacher, **Timothy S. Johnston**. It's 2403 AD and CCF Homicide Investigator Kyle Tanner's assignment is to transport a notorious serial killer to Alpha Centauri. Not a particularly daunting task for the experienced investigator until the prisoner escapes and Tanner realizes he's been targeted by his own organization. The first two books in the sequence are *The Furnace* and *The Freezer*. For more details, check out Tim's website: timothyjohnston.com.



IN MEMORIAM

John Whitridge Murray ('37) passed away July 14, 2015, age 94. Survived by wife, Colleen Shepard and his children: Justice John C. Murray of Caledon, Ontario; Anne Messenger of Richmond, Va.; and Dr. Kenneth A. Murray of Winnipeg, Man. Also missed by his ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. John went to Wortley Road P.S. and South Collegiate, before finishing his high school education at Ridley College in St. Catharines. Later, as a scholarship student at Western, he excelled in math and physics. After graduation, John served in the Canadian Navy for four years (1941-45), then returned to London. He enjoyed a successful career with Labatt's, retiring as Vice-President in 1985. Also active in community affairs, John was a Director of the Physicians Services Inc. Foundation, which funds medical research in Ontario. He also served on the Board of Victoria Hospital (1981-85), was a life member of St. John's Masonic Lodge and a long-time member of St. John the Evangelist Church. Remembered for his great sense of humour, John was also a man of principle "who always wanted to do the right thing - whether at home or in business".

Gwen (Woods) Miners ('40) passed away at Victoria Hospital, London, on May 14, 2015, age 92. Predeceased by her husband Stan "Mike" Miners and a son, Bob Miners. Loving mother of **Marg (Miners) Jackson ('65)** of Nanaimo, B.C. Proud grandmother of five and great-grandmother of four.



Arthur Frederick ("Fred") Penny ('47) passed away in Collingwood on Sept. 4, 2015, in his 90th year. Loving husband of **Barb (Mapletoft) ('47)** and dear father of six children: David, Kate, Paul, Jane, Su and Sarah. Also survived by fourteen grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren. Fred loved sailing, skiing, baseball and time at the cottage. He lived his life to the fullest: "Life is not a dress



rehearsal". Fred was the co-founder of the Etobicoke Girl's home, co-founder of the Blooddale Baseball League and co-founder of the Nancy Greene Ski Racing Program. A generous supporter of local charities, service groups and community, Fred also always found time for friends and family.

Harold Calvert ('49) (staff, 1984-86) passed away May 21, 2015 at the Dearness Home, London, in his 87th year. Predeceased by his wives, Alice "Betty" (Firby) and Doreen (Allen) MacLeod and by his sister, **Helen (Calvert) Jones ('39)**. Dear father of Brian Calvert of Fenwick, Donna Calvert of Ingersoll, Tom (Susan) Calvert of Ottawa, Ruth Ann (Dan) Murphy of London and Peter Calvert of Richmond, Virginia. Proud grandfather of eight and great grandfather of two. Harold's father was the long-time Biology teacher at South, **J.F. "Bugs" Calvert**, who taught science at South (1925-46).



Ruth Hyatt ('53) passed away Oct. 25, 2015, in Toronto at age 79. Survived by siblings **John Hyatt ('53)** and **Anne (Hyatt) Sinclair ('59)**. Dear aunt to **Peter Hyatt ('78)**, **Paul Hyatt ('80)**, **Tom Hyatt ('84)**, **Sheila (Hyatt) O'Connell ('86)**, Lisa Hyatt, Kelly Hyatt, Kristen Sinclair and Jillian Sinclair-Wolff. Ruth will also be fondly remembered by her many friends and colleagues at the Toronto District School Board.

Roberta (Heard) Webb ('59) passed away peacefully at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre on Jan. 2, 2015, in her 75th year. Beloved wife of **William A. (Bill) Webb ('56)** for more than 54 years. Dear mother of William and Robert, and grandmother of four, "Robbie" was a life-long learner and avid reader who shared her love of literature, travel, film and the arts with family and friends. "Her incredible generosity of spirit, deep desire to help others and boundless capacity to listen



were her finest characteristics." She successfully battled cancer a number of times and drew upon her experiences as a palliative care support volunteer to find peace in her final months. "Robbie" was most at home when relaxing at "Braeside", the family cottage in Bayfield, ON. and is buried in the Bayfield Cemetery.

Dianne (Whitmore) Bocking ('69) passed away suddenly but peacefully at the family cottage in Muskoka on June 26, 2015, at age 64. Beloved wife of **Dr. J Kenneth Bocking ('69)**. Loving mother of Andrew (Andrea), Steven (Candace) and Kathryn (Nathan Johnston) and proud grandmother of Bradley, Timothy and Cora. Dear sister of Lynne and sister-in-law of **Barbara (Bocking) Thompson ('64)**, **Bruce Bocking ('65)** (Elizabeth), **Alan Bocking ('71)** (Barb), **Don Bocking ('75)** (Anne) and **Bob Bocking ('76)** (Barb). Also missed by her circle of close friends. Dianne was an avid quilter in the Quilting Guild, an active member of the St. Thomas Curling Club, and a member of the University Women's Club for over 35 years. A graduate of the University of Western Ontario, she was the first dietician at University Hospital, later working for Home Care after moving to St. Thomas.



Carolyn (McGregor) Greenway ('77) passed away at home, surrounded by her family, on August 14, 2014, after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. Sandra Carolyn "Cookie" Greenway, just 56 years old, is survived by her husband and best friend Mark and her four devoted children, Jeremy, Trevor, Rebecca (Brian) Cook, and Brent. Also missed by parents Gary and Libby McGregor, siblings **Kim (Ted) Froud ('76)**, **Kathryn (Bob) Destun ('81)**, and **Andrew (Martha) McGregor ('85)**, as well as many cherished nieces and nephews.

Kayla Demelo (2010) died suddenly, as the result of a tragic accident, on Aug. 28, 2015, age 23. She was killed along with her boyfriend when their motorcycle was hit by a pickup truck. Cherished daughter of Teresa and Americo Demelo and sister of Justin, "a beautiful young soul".

"STORYTELLING YOUR LIFE": Exciting New Program for Seniors



Sandy Ross ('79), former SCAA director and the creator/manager of SCAA's online Entrepreneurial Directory, describes herself as a "word smith and communications advisor". Sandy, who has run her own business, "Words Worth", since 1992, has embarked on an exciting new project: a story writing program for seniors.

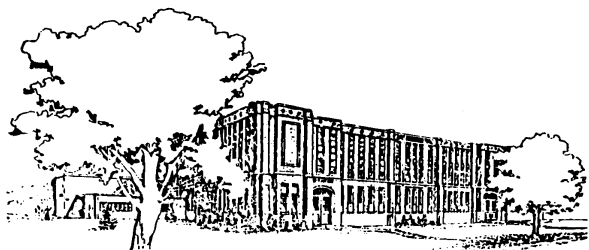
In the fall of 2014, she was asked by a London retirement residence to "inspire short stories by the older adults" for an upcoming open house. That workshop proved to be so successful that Sandy decided to offer workshops on a regular basis. She now facilitates small group workshops aimed at "junior boomers" (50+) (most recently on Oct. 17th at the Central Library) and residential programs for older seniors (some into their 90's). In an article in *The Londoner* last August, Sandy told reporter and fellow South grad **Jason Menard ('92)**, that she was "absolutely loving the people and their stories". The feeling seems to be mutual, since Sandy has received glowing praise from participants: "I felt her inspiration..." "Encouraging, informative, helpful, enthusiastic..." "Time flies in this class."

Acknowledging that not everyone is a born storyteller, Sandy stresses the importance of making the environment non-threatening. People are "invited" to share an experience or a memory but never pressured to participate if they choose not to. Knowing what questions to ask and how to ask them is also very important in encouraging people to open up.

Clearly passionate about the program, Sandy talked about its many benefits: "Socially, we need to feel connected... to share our humanity." This act of connecting is important not just for the participants, but also for their families and the community as a whole. For one thing, it helps to preserve stories that might otherwise be lost. These stories can also teach us a lot about ourselves: "We understand ourselves more deeply when we read or hear our elders' personal stories.... Their life stories, for good or bad, give context to our own."

Finally, there is compelling evidence that activities like this, that encourage self-expression and creativity, can improve overall mental and physical health. "Medical research suggests our creativity stays intact the longest of our faculties – the last light to go out. Crafting our stories helps keep that light on."

Our congratulations to Sandy on her success in developing such a worthwhile program! Check out her website for more information and watch for dates of upcoming workshops: www.sandyross.ca.



Directory of Entrepreneurial Alumni

Promote your business and support those owned by fellow South alumni listed in our [free directory](http://www.southalumni.ca/sites/pdfs/southalumni.ca/files/scaa-dir-entre.pdf) (<http://www.southalumni.ca/sites/pdfs/southalumni.ca/files/scaa-dir-entre.pdf>). As a contact, you may email [directory manager](mailto:scaa-dir@sandyross.ca) (scaa-dir@sandyross.ca) **Sandy Ross ('79)**, or call her at **519.871.word (9673)**.

Support the Alumni Association!

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