



South Collegiate Alumni Association

Spring 2017

LIONS' PRIDE



Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae

SOUTH FOOTBALL... A Proud Tradition Since 1928

by Pete Telford (staff, 1978-98)

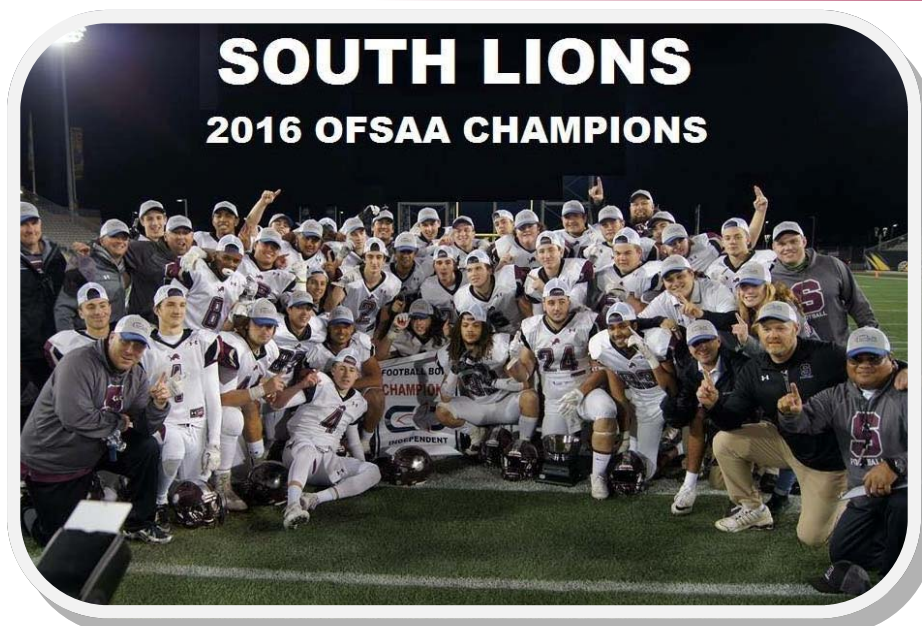
When the 2016 Senior Lions Football Team won the WOOSA championship (after an undefeated season!) a lot of people sat up and took notice. When they topped that off with a blowout win in Hamilton, for the OFSSA title, heads were turned across the Province. The *Old South Village Pub* on Wortley put a congratulatory message on their patio sign and *Source For Sports* on Wharnccliffe did the same. Then, on December 5th, when the final Canadian High School Football rankings were announced, *South* was ranked the 6th best team in the province and the 12th best in the country. An impressive feat!

Adding further to these laurels, Lions Coach Mike Stenning received the *Riddell/Jeff Hale Ontario High School Coach of the Year Award* in January.

This year's successes may mark the historical "high point" for *South* Football, but there have been very few low points.

While scores of schools in Ontario have dropped their football programs, the Lions have remained strongly competitive season after season. Now one of the smaller schools in London, *South* saw its oldest rival, the Central Golden Ghosts, drop their Junior level football program in 2016.

While several factors undoubtedly come



into play to explain *South's* football success, when you look back over the 88 years of football at the school, it becomes clear that COACHING has always played a very important role.

Raw Beginnings:

H.B. ("Dinny") Dinsmore, the coach of all boys' sports when *South* first opened, wrote the following account of "The First year of Football at LSCI" for the 1929 yearbook:

"Fifty-seven – Hike !" Away they went, some in one direction and some in another. No one knew very much of what it was all about but they were certainly willing to learn. They did their best and although they were few in numbers they were at least willing to risk the bumps and bruises which are a part of the game, in order that *South* might have a Senior Football Team.

"Hip! Hike" Away went the Juniors in more directions than the Seniors because they had more in their squad. They too stuck to their game and before the season was over we had a very creditable team, one of which we are proud.... The juniors certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Freeman for his untiring efforts on their behalf. This is his first year of teaching and I am sure we are very fortunate to have a man on our staff who is so interested and capable of the work for which he has been chosen.

"Dinny" and **Don Freeman** went on to coach *South's* football teams for the next 20 years. During that time the Seniors won seven Championships (1930, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1938, 1941 & 1949) and the Juniors won nine (1931, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1941 & 1946).

Continued on page 2

Although other area high schools tried to challenge for football supremacy (*Beck Collegiate, Beal Technical School, St Thomas Collegiate, Sarnia Collegiate, De La Salle* (fore-runner of CCH) it was *South* who dominated through the 1930s and 40s.

The following extracts from servicemen's letters sent from the battlefield during World War II to their old coach, Don Freeman, are evidence of the emotional impact he had on his players.

"I certainly appreciate yours and Mr. Dinsmore's kindness when Dad passed away. Mother was very pleased to think you remembered an old pupil well enough to be interested . . ."

Ernest Grove, July 10, 1941

"In closing may I ask you to remember me to Mrs. Freeman, and convey my regards to the rest of the Staff whom I once looked upon as tyrants, but now as friends who know more than I once gave them credit for . . ."

Ross Anderson, Aug 11, 1941

"How is everything, Mr. Freeman ?

And how is "Dinny"? Remember me to him, and to all the staff who might remember me. It's been some time since I left Old South – but my memories of my daily visits there are very fresh . . ."

Ray Law, Dec 7, 1941 (Note: Ray Law, pictured above (bottom row, 2nd from the left) was killed in action in December, 1942.)

"I was very pleased to hear from you, and I was specially interested in the school news sheet . . . So, the old South teams are still in there pitching; well, there is only one thing I can say – the old spirit has certainly not been broken and I doubt if it ever will . . ." **Ted Turner, July 1943**

In 1946, Don Freeman was elevated to Vice-Principal and in 1947, a young, star player from the Freeman/Dinsmore teams –

Ernie McTavish – arrived back on the scene at *South* as a beginning teacher. McTavish proceeded to carry out the high standards of his mentors as a coach, and he guided *South Juniors* to the 1946 London Championship, then went on to coach Senior championship teams in 1949 and 1955. This continuous thread of *South* coaches carried on until 1960, when McTavish left *South* to take up a string of administrative positions with the London Board of Education.

Bob Heighway ('56) was a key player on Coach McTavish's 1955 championship team, and remembers how his coach worked to instill positive qualities in his players:

"Coach McTavish (the players all called him Mr. Mac), a real gentleman himself, did not want his players to swear on the field. At practices, an errant swear-word earned a player the punishment of 5 laps of the field. These laps were done AFTER PRACTICE, and Coach McTavish stuck around, to make sure they all got done. We got the message!

Mr. Mac coached from a humanistic point of view, treating everyone the same. He always tried to get every player into the game, and he never hollered or picked on anyone."

Changing of the Guard:

Rapid expansion of high schools in the 1960s ushered in large numbers of new teachers, and thus new coaches, to London schools. *South* football welcomed several who were to carry on the high standards created before them – **Ray Johnson, Terry Roberts, Hank Betkus, Kuyler Hauch, Glenn MacDonald, Rea Clark, Kerry Benson** and **Werner Koenen**, who couldn't help but be inspired by what were by now "traditions of *South* Football". Injecting continuity was the return of a player from the McTavish-years teams – **Ted Hessel ('53)**, who as new Head of Physical Education was in a position to ensure that *South* never relinquished its position of football leadership.

1970s star at *South*, **John Glassford ('72)**, who went on to play several seasons in the CFL – speaks highly of the coaches who gave him his start:

"Football coaches Rea Clark, Glenn MacDonald, Kuyler Hauch, Track coach Don Young, Basketball coach Wil Rice – I have great memories of all five men, lessons taught and learned and their commitment to elevating sports at South. I am proud to say that I consider each man to be a close friend."

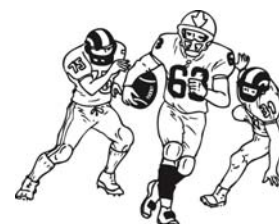


1936 JUNIOR RUGBY TEAM - City Champions

Back Row (L to R): D. Westman (manager), G. Tuffin, J. Ponsford, M. Maylor, H. Dickson, W. Ticknor, W. Kearns, C. Parsons, A. Moulden, T. Wooley & **Don Freeman** (coach)

Middle Row: D. Smith, D. Maidens, S. Buchanan, H. Millard, C. Dunn, W. Darling, W. Olmsted & K. Welch

Bottom Row: W. Boyce, Ray Law, L. Ramer, R. McIntyre, R. Brown, P. Mason & C. Boyce



The Partnerships:

Good fortune, or good management? Probably a little of both forged some long-term coaching partnerships that steered *South* football in the right direction through the 80s and 90s. Hank Betkus and Glenn MacDonald got together to pilot the Senior program, while a team of Junior coaches was fashioned by **Bill Pollard**, along with **Bill Cockburn** and **Bruce Tuck**, that was to last for 20 years. Suitable honours accrued, first for the 1984 Seniors who won *South's* first city championship since 1955, then for the Juniors, who won back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999.

A collaborative model, putting Junior and Senior football teams on a single developmental path using common strategies, offensive and defensive formations, and a consistent philosophy, was hatched by veteran Junior coach Bill Pollard and new Senior coach **Chris Marcus** when Marcus came on staff in 1989. This concept continued seamlessly into the 21st century and paid big dividends when the powerhouse Juniors of 1998-99 moved up to Senior and in 2001 garnered *South's* first Senior championship in 17 years (and a trip to the OFSSA Western Bowl at Toronto's Skydome).

Vaughn Martin ('05), who starred with the *South Lions* before moving up to play for the *Western Mustangs*, and who was later drafted into the NFL by the *San Diego Chargers*, gave this account of his coach at *South*, Chris Marcus:

"I wouldn't be here (in the NFL) without him. Not only is he a great football coach, but he's a great man. I can only hope to become the man that he is."

A New Dynasty:

Careful planning and preparation for coaching succession followed these on-field successes. **Joe Robinson** and former *South* player **Todd Gamble ('95)** took the reins of the Junior team, winning city championships in 2014 and 2015, while newcomer **Mike Stenning (2002 - present)** became the Senior coach – a combination that has been in place ever since (now into their 15th year together). Few high schools anywhere can boast this degree of consistency in their football program.

Coach Marcus himself perhaps captured the spirit of *South Lions* football best in an inspirational appeal to his players in 2001:

"Develop a burning desire. Let your dream motivate you to action. Then, believe in yourself; if you can think it you can do it. And remember – never, never give up. Success comes to those who are persistent."

And what does the future hold for *South* Football? Given current demographics and our rapidly changing world, it's hard to be certain of anything. With such a proud tradition behind them, however, it seems pretty certain that no one involved in the program has any intention of "giving up". Hopefully, we can look forward to many more years of high calibre football on *James A. Giffen Memorial Field*.



Coach Chris Marcus with Vaughn Martin
(playing for the Western Mustangs)



Current quarterback **Ethan Martin** with former quarterback and *South* benefactor, **Matt Giffen ('85)**

Post-season Awards: Ethan won the *Goooder Award*, as the top football player in the TVDSB, as well as the *Anderson Award* for being not only an outstanding football player but also an excellent student and citizen of the community.



MAIL BOX... Letters and e-mails from alumni



1940 GRAD HAS FOND MEMORIES...

Thanks for the Fall 2016 *Lions' Pride*. As a grad of 1940, I fondly recall our football and Sadie Hawkins dances (and the gals). Greetings to my old friends! Now a resident in a retirement home, I find your publication especially resonates for me! I was fortunate enough to have married Mary Price, a South grad of 1941. (deceased 2012)

Editor's Note: We weren't aware of Mary's passing until we received Bob's letter, so it wasn't acknowledged on our "In Memoriam" page at the time it occurred. We offer our belated condolences.)

Bob Aldis ('40)

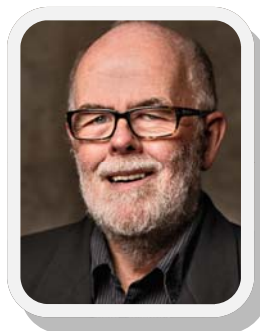
UPDATE ON 1960 SOUTH FOOTBALL JACKET...

Happened to read the story re Mike Ewart's football jacket (in last fall's issue). I remember Mike from our days at South and also his older brothers Greg and Gary. Gary was an outstanding football player at South and then at Western Ontario beginning in 1958. He was a starting DB on the 1959 National Championship team wearing jersey #74. I gave Gary a call and we had a good talk about those former years at South. Gary confirmed that Mike is a retired teacher now living on Manitoulin Island.

Ross Spettigue ('62)

(Editor's Note: We are now in the process of trying to contact Mike about his old Lions' football jacket. Watch for further updates.)

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS....



IAN McKERCHER ('65) whose 2nd novel, *The Incrementalist*, was published by Burnstown Publishing House last fall, will be in London next month. He has generously offered to give a short book talk at the SCAA Annual General Meeting on **May 9th** (See announcement page 8). A second reading (open to the general public) will take place at the **Landon Library** in Wortley Village on **May 11th at 7PM**. Hopefully there will be many interested alumni able to attend one of these readings.

Born and raised in Old South, Ian attended Wortley Road Public School, London Junior High and then South Collegiate, before leaving London in 1965 for Kingston and Queen's University. A retired English teacher, Ian has lived in Ottawa for most of his adult life.

Set in Ottawa in the 1930s, *The Incrementalist* picks up where *The Underling* left off, continuing the story of Frances McFadden, the resourceful young secretary who stumbles into a job at the brand new Bank of Canada. She's a delightful protagonist who overcomes a number of trials as the country careens towards world war.

Both novels have earned well-deserved praise. Since its publication last fall, reader response to *The Incrementalist* has been excellent. The average rating on www.goodreads.com is an impressive 4.5 out of 5.

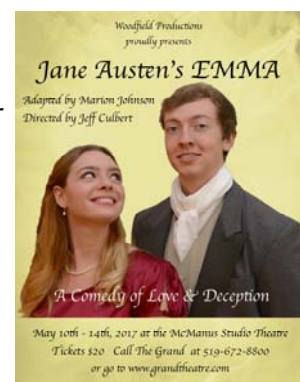
McKercher's novels chronicle Canadian history in a unique style that is both amusing and informative. Both novels, published in high quality trade paperback format, will be available for purchase at the London readings: \$20 each or both for \$35. They are also available online in several electronic formats, including Kindle and Kobo. For more information, check out Ian's website (www.ianmckercher.com) or contact him at ian.mckercher@opera.ncf.com.



MARION JOHNSON ('67), playwright as well as director of *Woodfield Productions*, is well-known to many Londoners for her stage adaptations of classic novels, especially the works of British writer, Jane Austen. Johnson became hooked on Austen's writing as an undergraduate, being captivated by Austen's penetrating psychology and biting satire: "*It's the human comedy, always presented in a good-humoured way and resolved with a conventional happy ending, that makes an Austen novel so delightful to translate to the stage.*"

Johnson's adaptation of Austen's *Emma* made its successful debut at the 2010 London Fringe, directed by fellow *South* alumnus Don Fleckser ('54). Fans will be pleased to know that the play has been revised and expanded, with the addition of the hilariously eccentric Mr Woodhouse as another character.

The production will play at the **Grand's McManus Stage** from **May 10 to 14, 2017**. Tickets \$20. Call the Grand at 519-672-8800 or visit www.grandtheatre.com.



SCHOOL NEWS ... Here and Now

Student Trip to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge (Apr. 9 - 12, 1917)

On April 6th, 14 students, accompanied by 3 staff members and one parent, left for France. On April 9th, they joined thousands of other students from across the country at the **Canadian National Vimy Memorial** to celebrate this historic Canadian victory and honour all those who fought and died. During their 10-day trip, the students also stayed in Paris, Amsterdam and Berlin, and visited some of Europe's most famous and interesting sites. What a wonderful experience for all involved!



New Native Studies Course

Introduced in semester 2, **Expressing Aboriginal Cultures** examines Aboriginal cultures in Canada through an exploration of a variety of art forms created by First Nations artists - painting, sculpture, storytelling, dance and music.

On **June 7th**, the students in this course will be working with two other school groups to run an **Aboriginal Gathering** to celebrate Aboriginal culture through food, music and dance.

An interesting Footnote: *South* is ranked 9th in the TVDSB with respect to the number of self-identified First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. There is now an **FNMI South Council** that meets every Wednesday at lunch to discuss FNMI issues.

Grade 12 Dance Show - May 31

Following the Musical Theatre program's very successful production of *Fosse* in January, South's senior dance class is busy getting ready for the final dance show of the year on **May 31st at 7:30 PM**.

Sports Update

Senior Boys Volleyball—TVDSB AA Champions

World Sledge Hockey Championships: Mackenzie Spong played on the Canadian team which won the silver medal

South's Relay for Life - June 2

On June 2nd, *South* will be hosting its 4th Annual Relay for Life in support of cancer research. Relay is a 12hr event where teams of students walk our track to show their commitment to the fight against cancer. Students are encouraged to create or join teams (approx. 10 people) and raise money to help us reach our goal of \$25,000. We are sending a special invitation out to cancer survivors; anyone who has been touched by cancer is welcome to join us in this celebration of life and walk the survivor lap. Any donations and/or sponsorship connections would be greatly appreciated and help to make this year's event even better!

Join us on June 2nd from 5:00pm to 8:00pm for the Opening Ceremonies, as well as a BBQ, Silent Auction, and participation in the relay walk.

Please contact Tara Baldacchino, t.baldacchino@tvdsb.on.ca, for more information.

Beautification Project

Since Doriana Rosati assumed the role of South's principal, there have been many positive changes. One of these is the formation of several different staff committees, designed to solicit and utilize staff input in the school planning process. One of the committees set up last fall was the **Beautification Committee**, whose task it was to brainstorm ideas for enhancing both the interior and exterior of the school in ways that all involved - students, staff, parents and alumni - would find appealing and attractive. Following several discussions, the committee put together a power point presentation to explain and illustrate the ideas they had come up with. This presentation has already been shown at a successful Grade 8 Parents Night as well as to the staff and representatives from the SCAA. While it must be recognized that there are time and financial constraints that will determine the "if, when and how" of the implementation process, the SCAA wants to applaud the committee for their initiative and will contribute in whatever way we can to help bring some of these exciting ideas to fruition.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 1967... 50 years later!

Our 50th high school reunion happens only once in a lifetime and with Canada's 150th it could be extra special. Some of our classmates have expressed an interest in trying to organize something for possibly the Fall of 2017, maybe something that ties in with a football homecoming or maybe something completely separate.

If anyone from the class of '67 has any ideas, thoughts or suggestions, we would ask that you contact class rep **Steve Waller** (who is always looking for an excuse to have a party) at (613) 968-4671 or stephen.waller036@sympatico.ca.



IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth (Betty) (Isaacs) Haddow ('42) passed away peacefully at Marian Villa on Feb. 23, 2017, in her 93rd year. Beloved wife of the late John Walker Haddow. Dear mother of **John Haddow ('69)** and his wife **Debbie (Cowen) ('71)** of London, **Robert Haddow ('71)** (Denise) of Burlington and **Julie Zacharopoulos (Ike)** of Calgary. Proud Grandmother of four and great grandmother of two. Predeceased by her brother **Frederick Isaacs ('46)** and his wife Sydney. Betty was the golf and curling secretary for 35 years at the Highland Country Club.

Robert "Bob" Howard Lake ('47) passed away peacefully at Mount Hope Centre on Dec. 7, 2016, in his 87th year. Beloved husband of Frances (Campbell) Lake and the late Marion (Ritter) Lake (2000). Dear father of David Lake (Jacqueline) and Denise Wearing (Andrew). Step-father of Tracie Wilson (Rob) and Terrie Ann Fagan (Michael). Cherished "G-pa" of three and step-grandfather of four.



Jean Marie (Gray) Beverly ('48) passed away May 18, 2016, at Parkwood Hospital age 86. Dear mother of Anne Repath and Carling (Alice) Beverly. Proud Grandma of four and great grandmother of three. Survived by sisters **Audrey Small ('48)**, Norma Henry and Shirley Livingston. An educator by profession, Jean taught with the London Public School Board for 32 years. During this time she was a primary classroom teacher, remedial reading teacher and learning resource consultant. An avid gardener, Jean took up water colour painting after retirement. She also worked on the history books of London Township and Delaware Westminister Township. *"Her determined, resourceful, independent nature provided a positive role model for those she touched."*

Rose Lenore Harding ('50) passed away peacefully at University Hospital on Jan. 2, 2017 and is lovingly remembered by her many cousins. She was a member of the Salvation Army London Citadel for over 60 years and Metropolitan United Church. Prior to retirement, she was employed at Eaton's, Rowland Hill and Pro Hardware. Rose Lenore played the coronet in the London All Girls Band, then

the London East Boys and Girls Band and the New Horizon Band at Western University. She was also a Cub Leader for 20 years.

Sue (Brown) Mennill ('58) passed away with family at her side on Dec. 10, 2016 at St. Joseph's Hospice, London, in her 78th year. Loving mother of Steven (Vanessa) and Laura (Denis Desjardins), grandmother of Thomas and Catherine and sister of Maurine Eggers and Jim (Nancy) Brown. Also missed by many nieces and nephews. Sue was an active member of Wesley-Knox United Church, and honoured as a lifetime member of the Board. One neighbor and friend posted she would *"never forget her hearty laugh and seeing her working on the lawn and garden in front of her house."*



Mary Margaret (McKinlay) Sumner ('58) passed away Jan. 20, 2017 in her 77th year, after a nine year struggle with neuroendocrine cancer. Beloved wife of **Jim Sumner ('58)** for 55 years, and devoted and loving mother of **Martha Nickoli ('85)** (Wayne) and **Dave Sumner ('87)**. Cherished grandmother of Patrick & James Nickoli. Dear sister of Carol Leeson, Sylvia McKinlay both of B.C., **Barry McKinlay ('58)** (Myrna) of Tillsonburg and **David McKinlay ('77)** (Lori) of Sarnia. Dear sister-in-law of Charlie (Wendy) Sumner, Linda Brighton and **Judy Sumner ('68)**. A former teacher with the TVDSB, Mary's last assignment was as an ESL teacher at Princess Elizabeth P.S. Described as *"a kind and caring person"*, *"a wonderful lady"*, Mary will be greatly missed by her family and friends.



Susan (Gorringe) Ouseley ('66) passed away after a long illness on Oct. 31, 2016. Beloved mom, sister and Grandma, Sue is missed and loved by her 3 children **Christa ('91)**, **Kathy ('93)** and Deryk, her sister **Janet (Gorringe) Sybrandy ('65)** and her grandchildren

Emily, Gracie and Clara. In the 1980's, as a single mother of three, Sue returned to school part-time, earning a sociology degree from King's College UWO, followed by a M.Ed., specializing in counselling and guidance. Working with the London and Middlesex Branch of the CMHA, she spearheaded a project that resulted in the creation of *Can-Voice*, a community based *"organization for the education and empowerment of consumers and survivors of the mental health system"*. As executive director of Can-Voice, Sue was, according to one colleague, *"an unsung hero to countless individuals"*. Another colleague praised her creativity and concern for helping others: *"The world has lost a good soul."*

John Douglas (Jack) Beattie ('68) (staff, 1984-2001) died peacefully surrounded by his family on Jan. 22, 2017, in Midland, Ontario. Beloved father of Sarah (Mike), Libby (Randy), and John David, and adored "Bumpa" of Mya, Ashlyn, Enzo, and Kingston. Jack is also survived by his sister **Rev. Dr. Anne Beattie-Stokes ('67)**, his brother **Dr. Rob Beattie ('69)** (Jan). Jack was a terrific father, grandfather and brother, as well as a much-loved teacher of English and Theatre Arts at Laurier and South.

Dougal John Ferguson ('74) passed away peacefully, after a brief illness at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital on Nov. 17, 2016. Dougal, of Ailsa Craig and formerly London, was 63. Survived by sister-in-law, **Alison (Goad) Ferguson ('68)**, nephew John Allan Ferguson and niece Kelly-Anne Ferguson. Predeceased by his parents, Allan and **Margaret (Oram) Ferguson ('41)** and brother **James "Jim" Ferguson ('68)**. Dick Duff, Buffalo Sabres and Detroit Tigers have lost their most loyal supporter!

Madison Gough ('15) passed away Nov. 1, 2016, age 19. After graduating with honours from South, Maddy took welding and electrical classes at Beal, before deciding to continue her education at the University of Guelph. Madison will be remembered for *"her tender, kind heart, her passion for acceptance of difference, her love of nature, her appreciation of music, her curious, reflective approach to the world, and her love of fun."*



IN MEMORIAM (continued)

Francis Donald Carson (staff 1958-64) died peacefully at London's University Hospital on Jan. 19, 2017 in his 91st year. Beloved husband of Henriette of London, father of Magdalene of Ottawa and Philip of Calgary and grandfather of Alexander and Nathalie. Born in Massachusetts, Francis served in the military in 1945 and 1946 before travelling to France where he attended the University of Toulouse. After earning a Master's degree in history from St. Andrews University in Scotland, Francis returned to the United States. Realizing he could not accept the racial segregation and political atmosphere there, he moved to Canada in 1954 and began a career as a high school history teacher. He served as Vice Principal at *South* from 1958-64. Later he became a director of academic programs at Fanshawe College. A man of culture and education, Francis was fluent in French and in later life he became proficient in Italian, Spanish and German. His breadth of knowledge included classical music and jazz, science, politics, history, auto repair and archaeology, volunteering at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology for nearly 30 years after he retired.

Dorothy Isabel (Colpitts) Brown (staff 1978-84) passed away peacefully at McCormick Home on Feb. 21, 2017, aged 98. Cherished mother of **Leslie Brown ('64)** (Robert Lewin), **Heather Lemon ('65) (Richard) ('65)**, **Shelley Markland ('67)**, **Pam MacGinnis ('71)** (Peter) and **Paul Brown ('73)** (Sandie Tario). Beloved granny of ten and great-granny of eleven. *"Do all the good things that you can, to all the people that you can, in all the ways that you can"*. Dorothy's own words say everything about how she lived her life. A woman of great inner strength, fortitude and resilience, Dorothy had to find her own way from the time she was orphaned at age 11. Self-supporting by age 17, she married Russell Brown in Moncton in 1941. After his return from overseas war duty, they started a family



and in 1951, moved from NB to London. Dorothy worked as a secretary for the London Board of Education for 25 years. She was also an active member of Beta Sigma Phi, First Baptist Church and the Home and School Association, a volunteer for a crisis hotline and a 9-year volunteer with the London Regional Cancer Centre. At age 70, Dorothy began what was to become a 10-year project: a comprehensive family history intended to "knit together our lost pieces". Dorothy's family remember her most vividly as *"the loving mother and granny who found the time and energy to bake and cook from scratch, sew our clothes and our doll wardrobes, host large family gatherings, attend parent/teacher nights, provide an open door to anyone in need of a bed, a hot meal and a shoulder to lean on"*. She held her family to old-fashioned values and principles of hard work, integrity and responsibility, encouraging her family *"to always do and be their best, never hurt others, and to love and help each other"*.



Revisiting the Legacy of Don Freeman (staff, 1929-64)

When I began grade 9 in Sept. 1961, Don Freeman had just become principal. I had no idea then who Mr. Freeman was or what he had contributed to *South* since arriving as a young teacher in 1929. He was simply the principal, pleasant enough when he spoke at school assemblies, but also someone you wished to avoid on an individual basis, since being sent to the principal's office was hardly something to look forward to. Like most young teens, I never gave a thought to the man beyond his current position at the school. I didn't know that he had been a highly revered football and basketball coach for more than twenty years or that several of his former students corresponded with him regularly while serving overseas in World War II. I didn't know that he not only worked in Old South but also lived there and had three children, all of whom went to *South*: Margot (Freeman) Laird ('53), Jean (Freeman) Paton ('54) and Bill Freeman ('54). In 2003, while overseeing the "Writers' Room" event at the 75th Reunion, I did have the privilege of meeting Don's son Bill. (Update: Bill, a writer and author who lives in Toronto, published his 18th book in 2015, a non-fiction book entitled *The New Urban Agenda*.)

I regret that I didn't have an appreciation for Don Freeman's years of dedicated service to the *South* community when I was a self-preoccupied teenager. I certainly do now. Some things really do improve with age.

Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)

Update on publication of *KNOWING NO DEFEAT*...

It's been a year since I first mentioned the book that will tell the stories of the 57 *South* alumni who lost their lives in military service during World War II. Although it has taken more time to complete than originally anticipated, I am as excited about the project now as when I first started working on it. Although there is still some additional written material to complete, the final editing of the profiles section has already begun, so I feel confident that the book will be ready for publication by the end of the summer. I originally planned to include one of the completed profiles in this issue to hopefully "whet" alumni appetites prior to publication, but given the lack of space, the profile will instead be posted on the alumni website (www.southalumni.ca). I urge alumni to have a look at this sample profile and if you think you might be interested in purchasing a copy when it is available, please let us know. (contact@southalumni.ca)

Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)

KNOWING NO DEFEAT

The 57 men of London South Collegiate
who gave their lives in World War II



UPDATE ON SCAA ACTIVITIES



How to donate with E-transfers:

You can now donate to the Alumni Association through e-transfers.

Send contributions to DONATESCAA@gmail.com, naming the recipient as South Collegiate Alumni Association. For a security question, use "What is South's mascot?" (Answer is "LION")

Gathering on the Green: Saturday June 3rd

Once again, the SCAA will have a booth at the "G on the G", one of Wortley Village's most popular neighbourhood events, held every June on the grounds of the old Normal School. It's a fun day, so be sure to stop by our booth if you can.

SCAA Directors Needed:

We have 3 vacancies to fill at next month's AGM. Many of the 8 returning members have served a number of terms and as committed as we are, we would truly welcome some "new blood", some fresh thoughts and ideas about the role of the SCAA and some possible new directions, projects and activities. So consider volunteering. No experience required... Contact SCAA President, Knute Dohnberg at (519) 670-6021 or knute@primus.ca for more information.

Student Award Plaques:

A five-year period of neglect has been remedied through the initiative of the Alumni Association. Name plaques identifying award winners at the annual Commencement ceremonies had not been up-dated on the Awards Boards in the school halls since 2011. Over 150 new name plates are now in place, honouring Subject Award winners and General Scholarship Award recipients.

SCAA's Annual General Meeting

Tues. May 9, 2017 - 7 PM (in the Atrium)

Alumnus and author **Ian McKercher ('65)** will start the meeting off with a book talk

(See page 4 for more details)

Also on the agenda: South's new **Beautification Project** ... some exciting plans being made

All interested alumni welcome!

Directory of Entrepreneurial Alumni

We are currently taking a poll of those alumni who have been listed in the directory to determine if they have derived sufficient benefit to warrant its continuation. Based on the feedback we receive, a decision on the directory's future will be made at May's AGM.

LIONS' PRIDE is published twice annually by the South Collegiate Alumni Association. Content copyright @ 2017.

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

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.

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. (See above)
THANK YOU!