



## South Collegiate Alumni Association

Fall 2020

# LIONS' PRIDE

*Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae*



## A STORY GROWS WITH THE HELP OF A DUTCH CONNECTION

by Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)

(Note: This article first appeared in the November issue of the *Wortley Villager*)

It's now more than three years since the SCAA published **Knowing No Defeat**, a memorial tribute to the 57 alumni who lost their lives in military service during World War II. Of the 300 copies printed, only a handful remain to be sold. As gratifying as this sales success is, the most rewarding result of our efforts has been in terms of the human responses, which we are still continuing to receive.

On August 28th, I received an email from Cathy Wood, Managing Editor of the *Wortley Villager*, after she saw a post on the Facebook Group "If You Grew Up In London, Ontario, You Will Remember When...". This post, written by a young man in the Netherlands, Jesse Verkruyssen, began with "*Hi Canadians! I have a question for you.*" Having heard stories from his grandparents about how bad the war was, Jesse said he had "*always wanted to somehow thank the men who fought for our freedom*", so decided to "adopt" two WW II war graves. One of the graves that Jesse assumed the care of belonged to **Leonard Albert Stock**, a 19-year-old Canadian soldier from London, who died in 1941 and was buried in Eindhoven Cemetery, near Woensel. Although he had access to Leonard's war records, he had little information about Leonard's family and wanted to learn more. Hence his question to Canadians reading his post, hoping that someone might be able to help him track down any of Leonard's relatives, so he could tell them that "*there is a Dutch fellow still taking care of his grave*".

Cathy's hunch that Leonard might have been one of South's 57 war dead was correct and I immediately replied to Jesse's post and arranged to send him a copy of Leonard's profile from our book. I wasn't sure I could help him locate any family members, but I clearly underestimated the popularity and power of Facebook groups, because Jesse's post garnered more than 300 responses in the space of just a few days, most of them simply wanting to thank Jesse for what he was doing. As most Canadians probably know, the Dutch have never forgotten the role played by Canadian soldiers in liberating their country in the months following D-Day, and their appreciation has taken many forms, including the meticulous care of war graves in Dutch cemeteries.

Other responses were more personal in nature, including one from a woman whose 96-year-old mother had lived down the street from the Stock family when they lived on Front Street before the 1937 flood. Even more amazing, responses came from four different family members, whose grandmother, Fanny Ellen (Stock) Hazeltine was Leonard's aunt, his father's sister. Fanny and her husband, Thomas Hazeltine, also lived on Front Street with their three children, Horace, Thomas (Tom) & Margaret (Peggy).

While all three of Fanny's children have passed away, five of her grandchildren are still alive and four of these second cousins shared information with Jesse.

Mary Jane Venus remembers going with her father (Thomas) to visit Leonard's father, who had a greenhouse in his back yard. The photo at the top of page 2 shows her at her great uncle Albert's, circa 1960.



Leonard Albert Stock (1922 –1941)

Her cousin, Janet Jesson, mentioned that her mother (Margaret) had known that the Dutch were looking after Leonard's grave after the war and that it was wonderful that this care was still continuing.

Janet's sister, Carol Deschenes, scanned a couple of old family photos for Jesse, one of which I have included here.

Jackie (Hazeltine) Van Wiechen ('82), a South grad and the youngest of Horace's three daughters, admitted that she hadn't even been aware that her grandmother had a brother living in London and was pleased to receive a copy of Leonard's profile and learn more about him.

Following his communications with these four cousins, Jesse posted an update with the new information he had learned. Leonard's only sibling, Sybil, was born in 1916, in Rushden, Northamptonshire, England, during WW I. Sometime after the war, Leonard's parents, Albert James Stock and Emily Elizabeth (Thorneycroft) emigrated to Canada and were living at 101 Front Street, east of Wellington, when Leonard was born January 5, 1922. After the 1937 flood washed away all the homes on this section of Front Street, the Stock family relocated to a home at 59 Raymond Avenue and the Hazeltine family moved to a home on Wellington Road. Both families continued to attend Christ Church Anglican on Wellington.

Jesse was also excited to learn that Leonard's sister Sybil had married a man named Louis Henry Snyder and they had had two children, Mary Elizabeth and Paul Snyder. Unfortunately, no contact information was available, but Jesse indicated that he is still hoping to find a way to contact Leonard's niece and nephew, his two closest family members.

As noted in our two-page profile, which can be read in full on the alumni website [www.southalumni.ca](http://www.southalumni.ca), Leonard attended Tecumseh PS and then South Collegiate. After graduating in 1940, he joined the RCAF and trained as an Observer. In the spring of 1941, he arrived in England and was assigned to 102 Squadron of the RAF. Unfortunately, just a little more than three months later, on Sept. 7, 1941, his plane was shot down over the Dutch-German border, killing Leonard and all his crewmates.

To conclude, I want to thank Cathy Wood for her support, as well as Jesse Verkruyssen and Leonard's four second cousins, Mary Jane, Janet, Carol and Jackie. It has been wonderful to communicate with Jesse and to see the response that his Facebook post elicited. It has also been wonderful to add to our knowledge of this young South alumni to whom we paid tribute in our book.

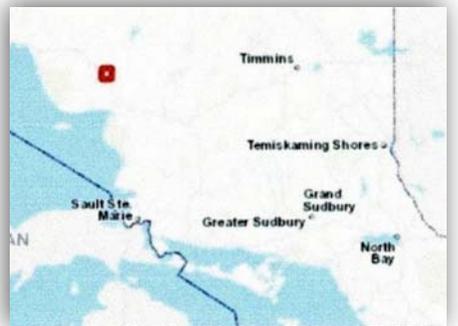


Leonard Stock (back right) with his parents, Albert and Emily, and his sister Sybil

## Another Exciting Addition to the Stories of Hugh Reilley and Bert Buchanan



In last November's cover article, we retold the story of Hugh William Reilley, following communications we had with his son Christopher in the UK. It was exciting to add to Hugh's story with the new photos and information that Chris shared. We now have another wonderful development to tell you about, as a result of the determined efforts of Paul Miller. Paul is a second cousin, the son of Herbert Miller, whose family home was at 186 Baseline Road. It was also the home where a young Hugh Reilley went to live after his mother died of TB. Although Herb was 3 years younger than Hugh, they were very close and Paul, who now lives in the Grand Bend area, grew up with stories his father told him about Hugh and his best friend Bert Buchanan. Paul felt strongly that these two men deserved some kind of lasting memorial, so made an application to the Ontario Geographic Names Board (OGNB), proposing that two unnamed Ontario lakes be named in their honour. The OGNB approved the application in Sept. 2019 and it was forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources for final approval. After a lengthy delay because of COVID 19, Paul finally got word that two neighbouring lakes in the Wawa district of Ontario, north of Lake Superior, would henceforth be know as **Lake Reilley** and **Lake Buchanan**. What a wonderful and fitting tribute to two best friends who set off for England together in the spring of 1939, joined the RAF and died just 3 months apart, Bert on July 9, 1940 and Hugh on Oct. 17, 1940. Our thanks and congratulations to Paul Miller for his efforts in achieving this very worthwhile goal!





**ONTARIO GEOGRAPHIC NAMES BOARD**  
PROPOSED NAME: REILLEY LAKE

Serial Number	OGNB Meeting	Minister Approval	MNRF District	Provincial Map	Federal Map
F/2019/023	161 – Sept. 12, 2019	May 26, 2020	Wawa	2016650053600	42 C 07

This document identifies Reilley Lake as the official name of the geographic feature in Ontario as described below. It was recommended by the Ontario Geographic Names Board per section 3(8) of the Ontario Geographic Names Act. The Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry approved this naming decision on May 26, 2020 under section 4 of the above Act.

## *An Alumna of Distinction: Landon Carter (Mackenzie) Pearson ('47)*

### **Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)**

Daughter-in-law of former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, Canadian Senator, Author, Child Advocate and Officer of the Order of Canada... Landon Pearson, who turns 90 years old this November, has lived an incredible life, marked by many impressive experiences and accomplishments. How many of you were aware that we had such a distinguished alumna among our midst?

**Younger Years:** Landon "grew up happily" in London where her father, Hugh Mackenzie, was the General Manager of Labatt's and her mother, Alice, was an artist. Having skipped three grades by the time she was 11, Landon graduated from South at age 16. The photo of the Oracle Editorial Staff, is from the 1946 yearbook. Landon is the middle row, 5th in from the left. While completing her BA in Philosophy and English at U of T, she met Geoffrey Pearson, son of Lester B. and they married in December 1951.



**Life as a Diplomat's Wife:** In 1952, Geoffrey joined the Department of External Affairs and accepted his first diplomatic post in Paris. Three of their five children were born there, during two different postings (Michael, Hilary & Katharine). Anne the middle child, was born in London, Ontario

and Patricia was born during a later posting to the embassy in Mexico City. Their third international placement was to the High Commission in New Delhi, India and the final one involved a move to Moscow, where Geoffrey served as Canada's ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1980-83. As busy as Landon was raising their five children and being a diplomat's wife, she spent time becoming proficient in French and Spanish and even learned to speak Russian. It was also during this time that she developed a passion for child advocacy, which became what she would call her most important legacy.

**Child Advocate:** In 1974, Landon co-founded **Children Learning for Living**, a prevention program in children's mental health. It operated through the Ottawa Board of Education until 1998. In 1979, she was appointed Vice-Chair of the **Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child**. From 1984 to 1990, she was President, then Chairperson of the **Canadian Council on Children and Youth**. From 1989 until 1994, when she was appointed to the Senate, she was Chair of the **Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children**.

**Author:** In 1990, at the age of 60, Landon published her first book: *Children of Glasnost*, drawing upon experiences and knowledge gained during her years in Moscow. In 2003, she published a selection of personal correspondence, *Letters from Moscow*, and in 2010, collaborated with Judy Finlay on *Tibacimowin: A Gathering of Stories*, a collection of some of the oral history stories of Ontario's First Nation Elders.

**Senator:** In 1994, Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, appointed Landon to the Canadian Senate. After a lifetime of volunteering, she joked that she got her "first regular pay cheque at the age of 64". In her life as a senator, her work as child advocate continued unabated. She became known as "the children's senator", focussing on sexual exploitation and violence, children's health and young people in trouble with the law. In 1996, she was named **Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs** and in 2002 served as the Prime Minister's Personal Representative at the Special Session on Children at the UN General Assembly. And finally, in 2005, she was one among 1000 women nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work on behalf of children with the global network, Peace Women Across the Globe. In November of 2005, Landon retired from the Senate, after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 75.

**2006 to Present:** On June 2, 2006, International Children's Day, **The Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights** officially opened in Ottawa. Director of the Centre until 2010, Landon continues to serve as its Chair, which operates in affiliation with Carleton University.

2008 was a year marked by both high honour and deep personal loss. Landon's husband Geoffrey passed away on March 18, 2008 and their daughter Katharine died just a few months later on May 24th. The year also brought one of her greatest honours, when she was made an **Officer of the Order of Canada**.

As I said at the beginning, Landon Carter Pearson has led a remarkable life and her legacy will be an impressive one, marked by her passionate "interest in humanity" and her commitment to trying to improve the lives of children and families around the world. A true alumna of distinction!



## Another Alumnus of Distinction...

### Dr. Adalsteinn (“Steini”) Brown (’88)

At this point in time, as the world is still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Brown holds a particularly important position: **Dean of the University of Toronto’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health**. The U of T school, founded in 1927 and then revitalized and renamed in 2008, has since grown to be the largest cluster of public health scholars in Canada.

Dr. Brown became Dean of the DLSPH in July, 2018, after serving as Interim Dean the previous year, during which he “focused on administrative and operational improvements, and secured new funding for research and other activities at the School”.

Prior to his role as Dean, Dr. Brown served as the **Director of the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation** at the DLSPH. His research specialty was “performance measurement in health systems and the use of evidence and data in public policy” with the goal of improving health care quality and systems strategy. His work in this field resulted in him being named one of Canada’s “Top 40 Under 40” in 2003. It also led to work with the **Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care**, including a stint as Assistant Deputy Minister. He has also served as Assistant Deputy Minister in the **Ministry of Research and Innovation**.

Without question, Steini Brown has achieved incredible success in his chosen field, and when you look at the years leading up to that success, it seems all but inevitable. He demonstrated his academic prowess shortly after arriving at South, in the classroom as well as a member of the Reach for the Top team. In his graduating year, he was also a member of the Student Council. Following an undergraduate degree in government from Harvard, Brown was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and did his doctorate at Oxford, where he graduated “summa cum laude”.

Returning to the present, Dr. Brown’s important role during this current pandemic has been quite evident. As a consultant/advisor to the Ontario government he has made statements on both television and radio and was one of the people listed as providing details on the recent decision to implement modified Stage 2 restrictions in Toronto, Ottawa and Peel. Personally, I am comforted thinking that this brilliant South alumnus is contributing his expertise to Ontario’s current public health policies.



1986-87 Reach for the Top team

L to R: Jamie Millard, Steini Brown, Astrid Jurgensen, Kristen Hales & Brian Edmonds

## GRADE 9 CHALLENGE - “WELCOME TO SCI “ (sponsored by the *South Collegiate Alumni Association*)

When the students returned to school in September, grade 9 students were given a sheet of paper with the heading shown above. The quiz, created by SCAA past-president, Pete Telford, consists of a list of twenty-six questions, designed to encourage South’s grade 9 students to learn more about their new school. The instructions given to the students included the following statements:

Answers must be submitted by: November 13 (2020)

Submit your answers, properly numbered, to the Secretary in the Main Office; in cases of a tie, early submission will be rewarded.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

Many of the questions are quite challenging and we doubt any students will be able to find all the answers. The hope is that there is enough interest, that the majority will at least make an effort to find out as much information as they can. In case any alumni are interested, the first six questions on the quiz are listed below. If you know the answers and want to submit them to us, please do.

- 1) What SCI grad played on Canada’s Olympic Basketball Team?
- 2) What are the words to the South School Song?
- 3) Why are South teams called the “Lions”?
- 4) Interpret the mural on the front wall of the school.
- 5) What SCI grad was chosen MVP in a Grey Cup Game?
- 6) What SCI grad was an All-Star and Most Outstanding Canadian in the CFL?



# SCHOOL NEWS ... Here and Now

## South 2020 Award Winners

Because of the Covid pandemic, this fall's Commencement will be a virtual event. While that no doubt will take away from the evening's excitement, it certainly can't take away from the incredible scholastic achievements of the 2020 graduates. An amazing 27 students are recipients of **Alumni Academic Awards** for earning an average of at least 90%. One of those students, **Charlotte Motuzas**, also won the SCAA sponsored **Gold Scholar of the Year Award**. Charlotte, the daughter of South alumni **Susan Farrell ('89)** and **Andre Motuzas ('88)** also won one of the highly prestigious Schulich Leader Awards (See note below). Unfortunately, last spring's school closure prevented the awarding of the **South Anniversary Award**, which is voted on by the graduating students.



## South student wins \$80,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship

**Charlotte Motuzas ('20)** was "super excited" when she found out she had won a Schulich Leader Scholarship worth \$80,000. Initially in a state of disbelief, she wanted to write it down, and "look at it every 5 minutes to confirm that it's actually happening". Every year, 100 scholarships are given out across the country to students pursuing undergraduate degrees in one of the STEM disciplines: science, technology, engineering or math. Charlotte has chosen to stay in London and study physics at Western. In addition to being South's top scholar in 2020, Charlotte was a member of the student council, the DECA business club, Reach for the Top and the Robotics team during her time at South. **CONGRATULATIONS, CHARLOTTE!**

## South teacher and author profiled in Free Press article

Last June, arts reporter, Joe Belanger, wrote an article about South teacher/writer, **Timothy S. Johnston**. As mentioned in last fall's issue, Johnston is currently working on his second futuristic sci-fi trilogy, *The Rise Of Oceania*. He talked to Belanger about the importance of setting: "I like putting characters in unique situations and I want them to have emotional, harrowing experiences in unique and dangerous settings." Johnston believes the ocean setting is not only interesting but "relevant to issues we face today like climate change and population explosion". *The Savage Deepes*, the 2nd book in the trilogy, is available online and at major bookstores. Meanwhile, Johnston is hard at work on the 3rd installment: *Fatal Depth*.

## New Programs at South

**Second Developmental Classroom:** This new classroom is one of many vocational training programs for secondary school students with developmental disabilities in the Thames Valley District School Board. In the workplace experience class, students are taught vocational skills through practical classroom activities and work placement experiences. The purpose of this program is to provide assistance to students in developing age appropriate social skills and to provide practice for transferring acquired academic skills to vocational, independent living skills. One of the tasks this new class agreed to take on involved this very newsletter: folding, envelope stuffing and address label sticking. Thanks to all the members of the new DE class!

### ESL Class:

Our ESL program is off to a great start this year! The ESL program supports students whose first language is a language other than English or is a significantly different variety of English. Our students are learning both academic and social English. Our program supports students currently enrolled in an ESL class as well as students who have finished taking ESL classes.

## Forest City Youth Film Festival

This year, for the second time, the Forest City Film Festival (Oct. 17-25) included a youth component. After submissions from area secondary school students were pre-screened, 25 films were selected as finalists, five in each of five different categories (Animation, Documentary, Experimental, Narrative & Pitch). The films, screened virtually on Oct. 22, were from eight different high schools, including South. HB Beal had the largest number selected – 11, with one student having a film chosen in all five categories. South, however, was second with four films among the 25 finalists, pretty impressive for the smallest school represented! Three of South's chosen films were in the Animation category: *A Gathering on Main*, directed by Amber Farrugia, *A Change in Routine*, directed by Lucas McCreedy and *Walking on Water*, directed by Amanda Nicole Eimer. The fourth film selected was in the Documentary category: *Puzzled*, directed by Maximus Slabon. Congratulations to everyone involved in these film productions!



## Mike Stenning named OFSAA Male Coach of the Year!

This award is given out each year to one male and one female teacher-coach, decided on by the OFSAA Coaching Committee, through nominations by member associations. The coach chosen must have influenced the development of new coaches and have shown evidence of program building as well as encouraging athletes to give back to sport. Furthermore, the recipient's coaching style has proven to be ethical, demonstrated sportsmanship and contributed to the "education through school sport" philosophy. The award write-up included the following:

*Mike Stenning's impressive coaching resume includes coaching football, hockey and soccer at the high school level for over 25 years, the majority of them at South. Tennis and basketball players have also participated under his coaching tutelage for over 15 years. He has played a major role in the planning and hosting of several WOSSAA basketball, volleyball and soccer championships. Deemed a father figure to many young athletes, Mike creates a sense of community within the teams he oversees that is much greater than the win-loss record of the team. (Mike was also chosen as the SCAA's 75th Anniversary Award winner. See page 6)*

# ALUMNI IN THE NEWS....



**JAN (PATERSON) MARCUS ('79)** retired last June, after a 34-year career as a teacher and coach at Saunders SS. In addition to coaching track and field for more than 20 years, she was a formidable volleyball coach, leading Sabres girls' volleyball teams to the Ontario championship tournament 15 times and winning OFSAA gold in 1992 and 2019. As impressive as this record is, Jan insists she doesn't cherish those victories "as much as the people she's come to know". Jan, the wife of former South teacher and coach, **Chris Marcus (1989-2013)**, said her only regret was retiring without "a proper farewell". The closure of Ontario schools last March prevented her from being in the classroom with the kids until her last day, as she had wished to be.

**KINGSLEY GARDNER ('96)**, is the owner and president of Gardner Auctions. A fourth-generation London business, established in 1922, it has experienced unprecedented growth as a result of the huge surge in online shopping. Although Gardner has been working as a reseller for about 20 years, the growth of online sales has resulted in a lot more overstocked items and online returns. The reselling of these returned items now makes up about 90 per cent of Gardner's business. To accommodate this growth, Gardner acquired the former Sutherland's Furniture store at 1801 Dundas Street and now holds two auctions weekly in London and one in Sarnia, with estimated sales of about 3,000 items. (Additional notes: Kingsley's sisters also attended South: **Tiffany ('95)** and **Vanessa ('95)**. Tiffany is a two-times ladies world champion auctioneer.)

**ANDREW McCLENAGHAN ('97)**, founder and president of **Digital Echidna**, announced last July that the company had been sold to another local tech firm, **Northern Commerce**. After partnering since mid-June in an effort to go after larger, global clients, it became clear to both businesses that they needed to work together even more closely. Hence the agreed upon sale, which both insist will "resemble a merger, with all staff remaining and doing the work they always have done". The businesses, both past recipients of the London Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year Award, have combined under the Northern Commerce banner at their offices on York Street at Wellington Street. Now the largest digital agency in the city and region and one of the largest in Southwestern Ontario, both Andrew and Northern Commerce president, Michael DeLorenzi, are excited about their new opportunity to "make waves in the industry".

## 75th Anniversary Award Winner: Mike Stenning

Ever since South's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion in 2003, the SCAA has presented a special award at the school's annual Commencement ceremony: the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award**, to "recognize a staff member who has contributed to making South a quality school". Unfortunately, due to the closure of Ontario schools last March, there was no June Commencement and there was also no way to distribute and gather nomination forms from the staff in order to determine the recipient. Rather than having to miss a year, the SCAA opted to choose this year's winner, based on nominations submitted in past years. When we examined the nominations we had on file, it was apparent there was no worthier candidate than **Mike Stenning**. One staff nomination, submitted in May 2016, included the following:

*What has Mike done for South? This is a long list... As SST (Student Success teacher), Mike helped many at risk kids. He is an advocate for kids and always goes the extra mile to help them, many of whom are the kids (tough and troubled) that others would not. As athletic director, Mike kept South athletics alive in a year when we lost so many coaches. What did he coach? Football, Hockey, Jr. Hockey, was Staff Advisor for Soccer and assisted with tennis and track, as well as supporting coaches and all teams at South. I don't think I have ever seen anyone who has done more for "all" kids at South than Mike. Mike is South!*



With such a glowing endorsement, how can there be any doubt that Mike Stenning is a worthy recipient. Adding to the above are Mike's contributions and accomplishments since then, which have included an OFSSA Football title in the fall of 2016 and a 6-0 season the following year. In 2019, Mike orchestrated the inaugural "United in Sport" event which raised over \$40,000 for the United Way. This year, he received his most prestigious honour to date: being named OFSSA Male Coach of the Year.

CAO (Coaches Association of Ontario) Executive Director, Jeremy Cross, offered the following praise: "Mike is a shining example of the positive impact coaches all across Ontario have on and off the field of play with their athletes and communities."

Mike humbly responded, "It is an honour to be recognized with this award. I am thankful for the opportunity I have to work with amazing kids. I am also grateful that I have been able to work with and be mentored by some outstanding coaches."

FINAL NOTE: The awards presentations, part of the 6th annual National Coaches Week, September 19-27, were hosted by two-time world champion and Olympian, Perdita Felicien and are available to watch at [www.coachesontario.ca/events/awards](http://www.coachesontario.ca/events/awards). Check it out. The video is well worth watching!

# IN MEMORIAM

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Given the number of alumni deaths, I have had to shorten many entries to fit into the space available. Full obituaries may be found online for those interested.)

**Carl WATSON ('45)** passed away at home, on June 25, 2020, at the age of 92. Predeceased by his wife Audrey (2011). Loving dad of Lynn Watson and Bob (Brenda) Watson. Proud grandfather of five and great-grandfather of two. Dear brother of **Meryl (Watson) Cox ('50)**, **Reg Watson ('55)**, **Wayne Watson ('61)**, the late Arlene and the late Stanley. Carl served as class rep for the Class of 1945 for a number of years.

**Doris (Skinner) LANGFORD ('45)** passed away Apr. 13, 2019, in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year. Beloved mother of six, grandmother of seven and great grandmother of two. Predeceased by all her siblings, including her brother Bert ('41), who was killed in France in August 1944. During her time at South, she was a co-president of the student council and a varsity athlete in several sports. She always spoke fondly of **Jessie MacFarlane**, the Women's Athletic Director at the time. She also spoke of the impact of World War II on South: "*All extracurricular work in our school became war effort undertakings*", such as food drives, knitting, letter writing and after school farm service work. After her marriage to Jack Langford in 1951, the family moved around Ontario, to Toronto, Kirkland Lake, Sudbury and then Ottawa. In 1996, Doris "retired" to the town of Wellington in Prince Edward County, where she enjoyed her final years.

**May Louise (Smith) PARKINSON ('46)** passed away at St. Joseph's Hospice on Aug. 17, 2020 in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year. Loving wife of the late Robert (Bob) Parkinson. Devoted mother of Bonnie (Keith) Lynes, Catherine (Gary) Connolly and Michael Parkinson. Proud grandma of six and great grandma of two. After graduating from Western, at the age of 19, May's varied career included a proofreader and linotype operator at the London Free Press, an Avon representative, and a member of the Ontario Board of Parole. Her passion for and commitment to education led her from the Home and School Association to more than 20 years as a trustee on the London Board of Education. She was also a lifetime member of the Rotary Club.

**Reverend June Louise (Ruse) ABEL ('49)** passed away on June 22, 2020, in her 90<sup>th</sup> year. Beloved wife of **Thomas ('47)** (d. 2007), loving mother of two and proud grandmother of four. Brother to **Robert Ruse ('58)** (Joan) of London, Ontario. Also survived by sisters-in-law, Margaret (Peggy) and Joyce Abel. Predeceased by brother-in-law **Richard Abel ('50)**. After devoting much of her life to raising her family, June began pursuing studies in theology at age 50, leading to her ordination as an Anglican Priest. She enjoyed a variety of rewarding placements throughout Southern Ontario. With her "*wonderful balance of intelligence, self-assurance, sensitivity, and warmth, she supported many through her focus on pastoral care*". She was also a patron of ballet and theatre, and together with Tom, was a supporter of Canada's National Ballet School for decades.

**Marilyn Anne (Smith) KARLSON ('53)** and **Ross Edwin (Knute) Karlson ('55)**,



childhood sweethearts, passed away within three months of each other, after 61 years of marriage. Marilyn died on Apr. 9 and Ross on July 7, 2020, both in their 85<sup>th</sup> year. Cherished parents of three and loving grandparents of seven. Also survived by Marilyn's younger brother, **Richard Smith ('64)**, her sister-in-law **Brenda (Atkinson) Smith ('61)** and Ross's sister, Loreen Baker. Marilyn and Ross were long-standing members of the London Hunt Club and Greenhills Golf Club, where Marilyn enjoyed many years of recreational tennis. She also enjoyed downhill skiing, travel and family times at the cottage on Lake Huron. A talented artist, Marilyn volunteered a great deal of time and puppeteering talents to the May Court Club of London. Ross's friendships and associations reached far and wide. He was Past President and Director of the London & District Construction Association, past Director of the Ontario Road Builders' Association and past

Senior Vice President of Riverside Construction and TCG Materials Limited. A lover of every sport and a master of some, Ross was a "*fierce competitor*". He treasured his LSCI football memories.

**Gail (Nancekivell) STAPLETON ('55)**, age 82, passed away on Apr. 11, 2020 after a two year battle with several health issues. "*All who knew her were gifted with her presence and unwavering support... a very hard working and dependable woman whose smiles and laughs would light up a room.*" Gail is survived by her husband, Ken, her daughter, Laurie Stapleton, and granddaughter, Miranda Stapleton.

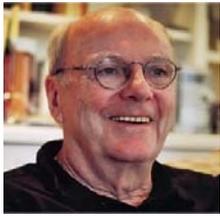
**Franklin Earl SINASAC ('55)**, age 83, passed away June 22, 2020 at University Hospital with his partner Bonnie by his side. Survived by his children Shari, Franklin, and **Lorissa ('96)** (Conor Walton) and grandchildren Jason and Alexis. Also missed by his six siblings: **Carolyn Ledgley ('51)**, Sandra Ravensberg, Dan (Joyce), Bob (Mary Anne) Steve (Rhoda) and Beth (Harry Zanin). As a Certified Accountant, Frank honed his entrepreneurial skills with several businesses including a local Dairy Queen. Frank will be remembered for his love of music, "*contagious smile, easy laughter and generous spirit*".

**Douglas (Doug) A. JONES ('57)** passed away at Markham Stouffville Hospital on Apr. 10, 2019, after a courageous battle with Glioblastoma.

Beloved husband of Susan and father of Karen (Pete Hencher) and Laurie (Derek Parker). Also survived by four grandchildren and two sisters, Marilyn and Janice. Doug had an extensive career in the communications industry. He worked at Motorola for thirty-three years and for five years was Vice President and Director of Canadian Land Mobile operations. He was also President and Chief Executive Officer of Sinclair Technologies for ten years. In 2003, he formed Douglas A. Jones Consulting Services to provide consulting and advisory services to the communications industry. This work included serving as a director of Baylin Technologies from 2013 until his retirement in 2018.



**David MENNILL ('58) (staff, 1990-93)**



passed away June 1, 2020, with his wife Barbara by his side. Dear father to Steve (Vanessa) and Laura (Denis), and proud grandfather to Thomas and

Catherine. He will also be dearly missed by brother **Paul ('62) (staff, 1986-89)** and sister-in-law Sandi, as well as nephew **Dan Mennill ('93)** and nieces Sally, Alison and Elizabeth. Pre-deceased by first wife, **Sue (Brown) ('58)**. Dave's father, **Del Mennill** also attended South, class of **1928**. A graduate of Western, Dave taught geography at Laurier, Saunders, and South. He loved to travel, so after retiring from teaching, he embarked on a second career as a travel guide and tour organizer. His love of building and design inspired him to build his own cottage and additions to his house, as well as many projects for others. For example, he volunteered his wood-working skills to restore and clean up the classic Honour Roll board just inside the front doors of South. Dave also loved his dogs and happened upon the world of dog showing with the first of eight adored English Setters, many of whom came to be Canadian and American champions.

**Lynne (Colbourne) TOMLINSON ('62)** passed away unexpectedly on June 22, 2020 at Victoria Hospital, London, in her 77th year. Beloved wife of **Michael Tomlinson ('61)**. Dear mother of Lisa Ancans (Graham), Kevin Tomlinson (Michelle) and Brent Tomlinson. Cherished Nana of Jeremy and Lucas Ancans, Tyler, Joelle and Alyssa Tomlinson and Connor and Maya Tomlinson. An avid shopper, Lynne loved spoiling her family with gifts. She also loved scrapbooking, quilting and gardening.

**Albert J. (Bert) HARDING ('64)**, age 74, passed away on Dec. 10, 2018, from



melanoma. After high school, he served two years with the military reserves and finished college in Windsor before joining the technical staff at Lakehead University. Bert is survived by his wife, Carol, two daughters, Amanda and Samantha and a granddaughter, Sylvia.

Also missed by his two sisters **Mary-Margaret ("Mickie") Moir ('61)** (Bob), Moir and **Janet Ward ('67)** (Tony). His

many community involvements included the CB-Radio Club, the Anglican Church, Scouts Canada, 55+ Centre, the Free Masons and the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists.

**James Thomas ROBINS ('65)** passed away on Feb. 22, 2020 in Las Vegas, Nevada, following a stroke. There was no published obituary, but he was remembered on Facebook as *"an amazing father and grandfather"* by his children Scott, Steve and Alecia.

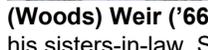
**Lucinda (Cindy) MOORE ('66)** passed away in London on Aug. 27, 2020, at the age of 72, after a battle with cancer. Born in Dauphin, Manitoba, Cindy had lived in London for most of her life. Survived by her sister **Dr. Jennifer Moore ('72)** of Burnaby, BC and her brother **Grant Moore ('74)** of Mississauga.

**Kathleen Ann CHAPMAN ('66)** passed



away on Aug. 28, 2020. She will be dearly missed by her husband Brian Parsons, daughters Christina (Tyler) and Alanna (Chris), her four grandsons and her sisters Mandy (Pete) and Joan. Called to the bar in 1976, Kathleen was only the second woman to practice family law in London, Ontario. A tireless advocate for vulnerable communities, she was particularly passionate about supporting low-income families and mothers and children in violent situations. In 1983, she founded The Family Mediation Centre to reduce the trauma inflicted on families during the long legal process. By 2011, she was responsible for mediation services in almost half of all family courts in Ontario through which thousands of families found support. Kathleen *"approached every day as a new adventure"*, and is remembered for her *"infectiously positive spirit, never-ending energy and big heart"*.

**Michael David WOODS ('72)** passed away June 5, 2020 at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, age 66, following a stroke. Loved and deeply missed by his husband, Alan Barber, his sister and brother-in-law, **Connie**



**(Woods) Weir ('66)**(Doug) of London and his sisters-in-law, Sue Woods of Sarnia, and Janice and Kathy Barber of London.

Predeceased by his brother **Gary Woods ('63)** (d. 2012). Michael moved to Toronto after earning a Bachelor of Interior Design at the University of Manitoba and spent most of his career with POI Business Interiors. A member of ARIDO, and IDC, he was also a Certified Sustainable Building Advisor and a member of the Canadian Green Building Council. Michael enjoyed many creative pursuits: furniture design, weaving, sewing, gourmet cooking and horticulture. He also had a lifelong love of live theatre, a passion that dates back to his years at South, and his involvement in plays such as *Oh, What a Lovely War* and *Anything Goes*.

**Charles "Chuck" MARIANIK ('86)** passed away at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, PA on Oct. 2, 2020 in his 55th year. Cherished son of Charles and Rosemary Marianik, husband of Wei (Zhang) and loving father of Chuckie and Lily. After spending the first 24 years of his life in London, Chuck moved to New Jersey, where he lived for the next 27 years, before moving to Pocono Lake, PA three years ago. Most of Chuck's career was spent with Partner Technologies, a leading expert in transformer technology. For 24 years, he travelled the world for PTI as International VP of Sales. Described as *"thoughtful, loyal, generous and dependable"*, Chuck *"was always there to listen and to lend a hand"*.

**Kara Brooke McFARLEN ('96)** passed



away peacefully in her sleep Aug. 8, 2020. She was an outstanding student during her years at South, both academically and athletically. After attending both the University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe

College, Kara embarked on a career with the Ministry of the Solicitor General as a probation and parole officer, where she worked tirelessly to help those less fortunate. She *"had a passion for life that was infectious. She was loved by a wide circle of friends, greatly respected by all those in her profession and was known for her incredible generosity and wit."* Deeply missed by her long-time partner Tim Assing, her parents Brydon and Judy McFarlen, and her sister, **Lauren McFarlen**.

*In Memoriam*



## MAIL BOX...

### Letters and e-mails from alumni



#### **PRAISE FOR SPRING 2020 LIONS' PRIDE**

Thank you for the latest issue of the newsletter. It just gets better and better!  
In response to your plea for more writers... perhaps inviting readers to provide images from days of yore would compliment *Lions' Pride* too, including pics from Acta Meridiana, the Freeps, and personal mementoes.

**Bill Culp ('66)**

**AND MORE PRAISE...** Congratulations on your excellent *Lions' Pride*, received April 2020! Once again, an interesting, well researched, well written newsletter for South Collegiate Grads. I do appreciate all your time, energy and talent. Only dedicated commitment could account for this publication. Thanks especially for the news and background on Don Fleckser and Robert Bell, for the astounding article on former principal Larry Schneider (well after my time...) for the In Memoriams, and the Alumni News.

**Catherine Charlton ('63)**

I just read the latest *Lions' Pride* and strongly admire both the effort involved putting everything together and also how each and every article is wonderful reading. I do receive many compliments on the *Lions' Pride* from many of the former students at South. Congratulations also on your contributions to the SCAA above and beyond the *Pride*.

**Ross Spettigue ('62)**

#### **THANKS FOR THE PROFILE ARTICLE** (current issue)

How kind of you to put together this profile. I thoroughly enjoy *Lions' Pride* because every issue reminds me one way or another of the two best years of my adolescence (1945-47). The teachers were great and I had fun as a cheerleader! Also, you might be interested to know that both of my brothers, who were older than me, were also graduates of South. Michael (Mackenzie) went on to become Canada's first Superintendent of Financial Institutions, Hugh, who is still alive, is a distinguished painter and teacher.

**Landon (Mackenzie) Pearson ('47)**

## Staff Passings

**Paul BURD (staff, 1947-57)** passed away June 28, 2020, in his 96<sup>th</sup> year. Survived by his wife of 73 years, Jean, three children (Peggy Howorth, David Burd and Brenda Burd) and four grandchildren. After graduating from Queen's University and getting his teaching certificate, Paul married Jean and began a 34-year career in education. His first position was at South, where he spent 10 years teaching Phys Ed and Latin and coaching various sports teams. He also taught at Wheable before upgrading his qualifications and becoming a vice principal at Clarke Road SS. In 1970, Paul and his family left London, moving to Picton where he served as principal of Prince Edward Collegiate until he retired in 1981. Then, in 2006, at age 82, Paul and his wife moved to Sidney, B.C. to enjoy their remaining years, which allowed Paul to indulge his love of golf on an almost year-round basis. His daughter Peggy recalls that after one particularly wet round she heard him happily and proudly proclaim that he and his golf mates were "true mudders". Peggy concluded, "*Dad's was a life well lived. His strong character, generous nature and sense of community were an inspiration to us all.*"



EDITOR'S NOTE: We were alerted to Paul Burd's passing by Sharon Lunau, who has been friends with Paul's daughter Peggy since their days at Oakridge. Her email to the SCAA included the following comments: "*Although none of Mr. Burd's family have lived in London for many years, he has stayed emotionally attached to South Lions. Because I still live in London whenever something appears about South's storied history and its alumni, I have passed the news to Peggy to share with her father which he has quite enjoyed.*"

I had the pleasure of meeting Paul in the fall of 2014, when my husband and I enjoyed a cross country odyssey in our RV. When we were on Vancouver Island we were invited to dinner at the Sidney home of **Stephen Brodsky ('51)** and his wife, **Kit (Wright) ('52)**. Having reconnected with Paul previously, they invited him too and we had a lovely evening, sharing South memories.

**Cheryl BALLANTYNE (staff, 1992-93)** passed away Sept.3rd, 2020, at L.H.S.C after a long battle with metastatic breast cancer. Her family mourns the loss of "*a wonderful wife, grandma, aunt, sister-in-law and friend.*" Cheryl is survived by her husband Steve, beloved grandchildren Elizabeth and Jack, and her step-son Michael Moore (Brooke) of St. Thomas. She will also be missed by the whole Ballantyne Clan, as well as many cousins and friends in Muskoka.

An outstanding athlete in high school and at the University of Guelph, Cheryl was a valued coach and educator with the London District School Board and then the TVDSB. Her smile and community service with the Dorchester IODE will be missed.

**LeeAnne BRIGHTON (staff, 1986-87)** passed away peacefully at 69, after a long illness. Survived by her siblings John, Sue (Chris), Barbie (John) and several nieces, nephew and great nephews. LeeAnne was a talented artist and graduated from Camberwell School of the Arts in London, England. She spent only one year at South before transferring to HB Beal. A Beal alumna, she spent the rest of her career there, teaching her craft. "*She loved her students and they admired and respected her.*"

## UPDATE ON SCAA ACTIVITIES

**WHO KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING?** How many of us have thought or said something to that effect in the past 8 ½ months? I'm willing to bet the majority of us have. While there is always an element of mystery in what the future holds, never before have so many of us felt so anxious and uncertain about what may lie ahead. What we do know is that the challenge of dealing with the covid-19 pandemic is likely to continue for some time, far longer than most of us ever imagined it would 8 ½ months ago.

The first SCAA executive meeting since last January took place on October 14<sup>th</sup> – a virtual Zoom meeting. In all likelihood, it may remain the only way we can meet for the rest of this school year. With school access largely restricted to staff and students, many of the SCAA's activities, plans and projects have been altered or put on hold, but we are determined to carry on as best we can.

The SCAA was established 22 years ago. One executive member, Pete Telford, has been involved since its inception. I have been on the executive since 2001... 19 years, the last 15 of which have been as newsletter editor. But regardless of the time served, I'm sure that every member of the current executive believes that the organization has value and should continue to exist and be supported, for a variety of reasons, including the following...

**SOUTH'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** South Collegiate, as an educational institution, turns 100 in September 2022. That's when the first classes began in the old Victoria Public School on Askin Street. Like everything else, planning for this has been delayed by Covid, but I believe all alumni will agree with me that it is a very important milestone that needs to be celebrated. It will take a large contingent of alumni to ensure the success of this Anniversary event, whatever it may be, so we are asking you to consider how you might be able to contribute, either to the planning process or its execution.

**SCAA EXECUTIVE:** We also need you to consider another important way of helping the SCAA. With only a couple of exceptions, most of the current executive is "of an age" and we know that the strength and longevity of this organization is going to depend on some younger alumni being willing to assume positions of responsibility. Both the president and vice-president plan to "retire" at this spring's AGM (virtual or otherwise), so we will be needing to find willing volunteers to fill those positions. If those positions are too daunting, we always have room for additional directors. **PLEASE GIVE THIS SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT!**

If you think you may be interested, or at least interested in getting some more information,  
please email us at [contact@southalumni.ca](mailto:contact@southalumni.ca)



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