



South Collegiate Alumni Association

Fall 2025

LIONS' PRIDE

Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae



HONOURING ONE OF SOUTH'S WAR DEAD: RAYMOND LAW



As many of you know, the SCAA published **Knowing No Defeat** to honour the 57 South alumni who lost their lives in World War II. Since 2018, the *Wortley Villager* has published the story of one of these men in every November issue. Given that many of you have not had the opportunity to read these stories, I thought we should include one in this fall's issue - the sad but touching story of Ray Law. (C. Weir)

RAYMOND LAW (1919-1942)

In the years following World War I, the Salvation Army operated a home for orphan children in south London – first at 640 *Emery Street*, and in the 1930's at 55 *Beaconsfield Avenue*. **Raymond Ingham Law** was one of those children, born in the UK, but sent to Canada after being orphaned at a very young age. Because of the location of the homes, the children attended the nearby *Tecumseh Public School*, and for those who continued on, *South Collegiate*.

Life at the orphanage home was a busy one. There were chores lists, which included washing dishes, mowing the lawn, making beds, doing laundry, cleaning washrooms and floors, plus any repairs and odd jobs needed around the home. The boys living at the Home, or the "Home Kids" as they were nicknamed, looked up to Raymond, and Ray looked after them, walking them to and from school. Students say that they remember Ray always had to walk everywhere he went, regardless of the weather, because he couldn't afford a bicycle like all the other kids. All this left little time for outside activities, but Ray had some athletic talent and at *South* he found a place as Flying Wing on the Junior Rugby teams of 1936 and 1937. This brought him under the tutelage of coach Don Freeman and later, during his military service, Ray continued a written correspondence with Don.



1936 JUNIOR RUGBY CHAMPS

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 (L to R): D. Smith, D. Maidens, S. Buchanan, **H. Millard**, C. Dunn, **W. Darling**, W. Olmsted, K. Welch
Front Row: W. Boyce, **R. Law**, L. Ramer, R. McIntyre, R. Brown, **P. Mason**, C. Boyce

Editor's Note: The 7 names in bold in the photo are all alumni who died in the war. One can only imagine the huge sense of loss Don Freeman, who spent his entire career at South (1929-64), must have felt. (continued on page 1)

When Ray turned 18, in the fall of 1937, the Salvation Army could no longer support him, so he was forced to leave school. He got a job working in downtown London at *Smallman & Ingram's* department store (later Simpson's, on the SW corner of Richmond and Dundas). He luckily found boarding homes along Beaconsfield until 1941, when he married a girl named Mary and moved into the *Wallace Apartments* at 131 Wharncliffe Road S. Never having been able to travel, the prospect of joining one of Canada's services when war broke out may have appealed to Ray Law as an adventure of a lifetime. He enlisted in the *Royal Canadian Air Force* on January 29, 1941.



After basic training, at *Yorkton, Saskatchewan* and later at *Debert, Nova Scotia*, Ray won his wings as a Wireless Operator Air Gunner and earned the rank of Pilot Officer. His squadron, the *Canadian Home War Establishment (HWE) Squadron* was tasked with anti-submarine duty over the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the ocean around Nova Scotia. By 1942, he moved to *RCAF Ferry Command*, flying new aircraft from American and Canadian factories to bases in the United Kingdom. In the latter part of that year, Ray was transferred to 119 Squadron of *Coastal Command* – based at Lough Erne in Northern Ireland. This group flew the *Short Sunderland ("Flying Boat")* aircraft, attacking German submarines and protecting allied ships in the Battle of the Atlantic.



(Short) Sunderland "Flying Boat"

While on an anti-sub mission on December 14, 1942, Raymond's 4-man crew never returned to base. He has no known grave, but an *SOS* was received giving their position southwest of the Scilly Isles, off the English coast in the Bay of Biscay. **Raymond Law** is commemorated on Panel 100 of the *Runnymede War Memorial* in the south of England, where 9 other lost South alumni are also honoured, along with more than 20,000 Allied airmen whose bodies were never found.

75th Anniversary Award Winner: Sarah Hoy

This award, created in 2003 to commemorate South's 75th Anniversary, has honoured 22 staff members since then, individuals who have "*contributed significantly to making South a quality school.*" This year's winner is **Sarah Hoy**. Since her arrival at South in 2022, Sarah has worked hard to revive and invigorate the school's Music program. The concert band, which had shrunk to a small ensemble, was expanded and has performed in community events and further afield, such as Canada's Wonderland Trills & Thrills festival. The band has also competed and won medals at multiple Kiwanis Festivals, including a gold medal last spring. In addition, Sarah brought back the choir which has helped support school musicals, and reinstated Coffee House events that bring together musical, poetic and comedy acts. Plus, to make her musical programming more inclusive, she involves the Workplace Experience and Developmental classes. Sarah has also added to the Music program by creating a Band Repertoire credit and a Grade 12 Guitar credit for the first time in recent history. Another of Sarah's admirable innovations is the Banding Together program, which brings Grade 7 & 8 students from South's feeder schools to play together at South and receive musical tutelage with community educators. As her nominator concluded, Sarah's talent, hard work and organization have made her a more than worthy recipient of this award.





ALUMNI IN THE NEWS....

Ethan Martin ('18)... Aspiring Doctor and Varsity Football Athlete

In last spring's issue, Ethan's father, Dave Martin, was recognized for his contributions to South during his 15 years of volunteering in the school's Rugby, Football and Basketball programs. This fall, Ethan, South's former star quarterback and 3-time winner of the Bob Gooder Award as London's top high school football senior, was in the news, following an interview with CTV News reporter, Brent Lale. (Oct. 29, 2025)

In the fall of 2019, Ethan left London to pursue an undergraduate degree in health sciences at Queen's University, where he was also a member of the Queen's Gaels football team for three years. Two years ago, however, he decided to return home to enroll at Western's medical school.

After thinking his football playing days were probably over, Ethan was convinced to join the Mustangs this season. For three months this fall, he spent close to 12 hours a day at Western, balancing his time between the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and Alumni Stadium. One can only imagine the self-discipline, determination and organizational skills required to maintain a schedule like that. As Brent Lale concluded: *"Martin isn't the first football player to balance medical school and football, but it is rare because it takes a special individual to do both."* When asked about having to follow 5 to 8 hours a day at Schulich with another 5 or 6 at the stadium, Ethan's reply was *"I wouldn't trade it in for anything."*

Although soft tissue injuries unfortunately derailed his season after the first four games, we can heartily commend his efforts as a future doctor and proud South alumnus.



Medical student, Ethan Martin, in action

Ethan Hickey's ('19) Film *Falsehood* Premieres at the Forest City Film Festival

Locally based film director and writer, Ethan Hickey, premiered his third feature film at the Forest City Film Festival in October. ***Falsehood***, believed to be the most expensive film ever shot in London, with a budget of over a million dollars, was described as a science-fiction thriller *"set in a future where humanity's memories have been transformed into government-regulated transactional products"*. As Ethan himself explained, in a world where people have the ability to access the memories of everyone who has ever lived, the question becomes *"How much money would someone be willing to pay to know something?"* And equally important, what do they plan to do with that knowledge...?

The film was shot during July 2024, and except for one day in Port Stanley, was shot entirely in London. One scene involved shutting down a section of Dundas Street for a riot scene with about 100 extras. Given his personal goal to *"champion local filmmaking"*, being able to shoot films in his hometown and *"bring it to life on the big screen"*, is very rewarding.

Burden, Ethan's first professional project, was also shot in London in 2021. This indie drama, which won the "Audience Choice Award" at the Forest City Film Festival in 2022, has sold both domestically and internationally.



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His 2nd feature film, ***Older Every Day***, also sold domestically and internationally and won “Best Feature” at the New York International Film Festival.

Final Note: As some of you may remember, Ethan was the youngest alumnus to have a profile created for South’s 100th. As noted then, his passion for storytelling began at a very young age. He apparently uploaded his first video on YouTube when he was just 8 years old. In high school, he was “*always making films for projects*” and founded 5 Star Idiot Productions in 2016, when he was still at South. He went on to Western where he earned a B.A. in Film in 2023. Clearly, Ethan is an alumnus with a special calling and one South can be proud of. (C. Weir)

Exciting New Project Proposal: Secure Bicycle & Scooter Storage Cage

Last spring, South alumnus, **Andrew McClenaghan ('97)**, contacted the SCAA regarding a proposal to construct a secure Bicycle & Scooter Cage at South. Since then, following discussions with South principal, **Richard Tamminga**, as well as consultation with the TVDSB, Andrew has formalized the proposal and developed detailed plans for consideration.

At our executive meeting on Nov. 5, Principal Tamminga opened the presentation with a broad overview of the plan. The secure, lockable cage would be constructed on the north side of the school adjacent to the administrative offices, greatly reducing the risk of theft or damage to bicycles and scooters during the school day. Given the growing demand for active transportation, it’s expected that many more students and staff, as well as visitors, would then feel comfortable riding such vehicles to school.



Andrew McClenaghan ('97)

His presentation was followed up with a more detailed description of the proposal by Andrew McClenaghan, emphasizing the rationale for such an installation, as well as outlining the Storage Cage features and quotes obtained for construction. An 8-foot ornamental iron fence would be constructed, inside of which would be 6 racks, with 48 slots for bicycles, as well as spots for scooters.

The SCAA members in attendance indicated their support for the project and given the legwork that Andrew has already put into developing this proposal, School Board approval appears to be assured. Of course, securing approval is just the first step. With an estimated cost of around \$30, 000, considerable effort must be put into exploring funding options before confirming the budget. While the SCAA will certainly be contributing, we cannot afford to fund the whole project, after paying for last spring’s wrap-around mural in the South gym. We hope we can encourage alumni who are interested and able, to consider contributing to this worthy project.

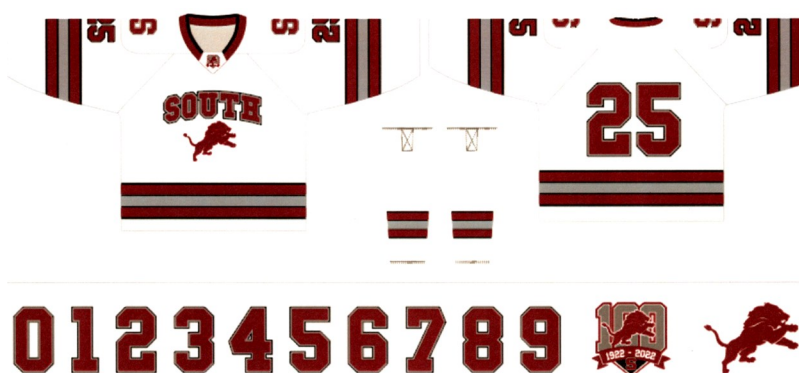
Final Note: Andrew was one of the alumni profiled for our 100th Anniversary celebrations. He has been featured in the “Alumni in the News” column several times over the years, most recently for his purchase of **The Bicycle Café**, 320 Thames St., in 2024. As an avid cyclist himself, he hopes that this project will encourage more cycling and promote healthier lifestyles, as well as reducing traffic congestion around the school & lowering carbon emissions. (C. Weir)



SCHOOL NEWS... HERE & NOW

New Uniforms for South's Hockey Team!

Due to the generosity of alumnus **Bruce Ling ('69)**, South's hockey team will be wearing beautiful new uniforms this season. The photo shows what the front and back of the new jerseys will look like, as well as the new hockey socks in the middle of the photo. The crest at the neckline on the front is the crest created to celebrate South's 100th (lower right). The SCAA wishes to join with the South Athletics Department in saying a huge thank you to Bruce!



Fall Sports News:

South's teams performed well again this fall. We may be small, but we can still shine brightly!

Tennis - TVRAA Mixed Doubles Champions

Cross Country - TVRAA Central Junior Girls Champions & 1 Individual runner to OFSAA

Football - Participating in the Limestone Invitational A/AA OFSAA Championships (Lost in Semi-Finals in league play)

Sr Girls Basketball - Lost in the Semi Finals.

Jr Girls Basketball - Lost in the Quarter Finals

Jr Boys Volleyball - TVRAA Champions. Headed to WOSSAA

Sr Boys Volleyball - TVRAA Champions. Headed to WOSSAA

Arts Department News:

The **Gr 9 Arts Package class** will be sharing their original production ***The Semi-Formal*** on **Dec. 17th** at 7:30pm. This original production is the culminating task for the rotating Arts Package course where students sing, dance, act, and create visual art. The performance is the second half of the **Arts Night** with the Music Dept. being featured in the first half. Admission: \$5.00 cash at the door. All are welcome.

The **Drama Dept.** will be presenting **two 1-act plays** on **Jan. 7th** at 7:30pm in the South Auditorium. The first is a student directed production of an original script called ***The Outcast*** and the second is ***The List***. Both plays feature gr 9-12s in the Drama program. Admission: \$5.00 cash at the door. All are welcome.

The **South Dance Company** is presenting ***Fate in Motion***, the story of Romeo and Juliet. This full scale dance production explores Shakespeare's classic tale of two star-crossed lovers, destined for tragedy. The show will feature professional choreography in a variety of styles including Modern, Tap, Ballet, Hip-hop, Jazz, Acro, Pointe, and Lyrical. The show will run **Jan. 14-17th** at 7:30pm in the South Auditorium. Admission: \$10.00 cash at the door. All are welcome and we hope to see many alumni as this will be Mrs. Gamble's final SDC show.

School Yearbook: Thanks to the efforts of Staff Advisor, **Randy Rose**, a yearbook was published last spring, the first since 2013. The SCAA Executive happily purchased 3 copies for its Archives Room. Based on the student interest shown, it looks like there will be another yearbook produced this year as well.

SCHOOL NEWS... HERE & NOW *(continued from page 5)*

As noted in the spring issue, one of the initiatives begun with the appointment of **Richard Tamminga** as principal last spring was the introduction of a twice monthly newsletter posted on the school website, informing both students and parents of important news and events pertaining to life at South and the local area. These newsletters continue to be shared with the SCAA and we are pleased to be able to highlight some of the interesting information from the most recent ones.

Relay for Life—Excellence in Motion

South's annual Relay for Life last May raised an impressive \$72, 075.63! This money goes towards funding cancer research and providing patients and families with support and resources while they are undergoing treatment. Congratulations to all participants!



Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)

Omar Ghanie is the new Settlement Worker at South, part of the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre's SWIS Program. The Cross Cultural Learner Centre (CCLC) provides settlement assistance and other services to newcomers and minority groups in the London area. Its aim is to foster inclusivity, community involvement and cultural expression to both newcomers and Canadians.

Some of Omar's responsibilities within SWIS are:

- To meet with newcomer families to determine their needs.
- To provide settlement services to youth and families within the school.
- To provide referrals to newcomers based on their needs that facilitates access to the school and community resources
- To collaborate with teachers, parents, students and community organizations to build positive relationships.
- To increase newcomers' understanding of the educational system and parenting issues in a Canadian context.
- To connect newcomer youth and families to various programming and special events in the city

Multilingual Learners - Let's Talk Academics — Launch

Hosted by: The Multi-Lingo Club, Lion Leaders (SST), and SWIS Worker, Omar Ghanie. Let's Talk Academics is a student-led after school forum designed to help high-achieving students, including multilingual learners, move from strong achievement to excellence. The goal is to deepen subject knowledge and prepare for post-secondary programs by engaging in authentic, peer-driven dialogue.

"Best Buddies" is Back

Best Buddies started up again on October 29th at lunch in Room 205! It's a club that promotes friendship and inclusion between students with and without intellectual or developmental disabilities. A great way to meet new people, have fun, and help build a caring, inclusive school community. Everyone is welcome!

Grade 9 Science

Grade 9 science students began learning how to properly use compound microscopes. Midweek, the class ventured out to The Coves for a water sampling activity. Students collected samples from various locations, observing environmental conditions and recording field notes. Back in the lab, they analyzed their water samples under the microscopes. They identified a variety of microorganisms, including algae, protozoa, and possibly small invertebrates. The activity helped reinforce concepts of biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Just a few of the great new innovative and inclusive activities taking place at South. (C. Weir)

THE SCAA: PROUD OF ITS PAST BUT FACING AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

The **South Collegiate Alumni Association** was founded in 1999 to help *South* maintain a high standard of academic and athletic excellence through financial aid and advice, and to provide a formal structure for the ongoing development of relationships between all those who have been a part of *South Collegiate* throughout its history.

Over the past 26 years the members of the SCAA have been committed to meeting these goals and feel proud of what we have accomplished. Hopefully, after reading this summary, you will agree with us.

PUBLICATIONS:

Lions' Pride: The newsletter has been published twice a year in the spring and fall for over 20 years.

Prowl the Pride: The 32-page booklet outlining a self-guided walk in South's "hood", was created for the 85th Reunion in 2013.

Knowing No Defeat: This 150-page book, published in 2017, profiles the lives of the 57 South alumni who lost their lives in military service during World War II.

EVENTS:

School Reunions: The SCAA organized South's 75th Anniversary Reunion in 2003, its 85th in 2013 and its 100th in 2022-23.

Homecoming: Seven successful fall Homecomings were organized, 2007 to 2011 and 2014 & 2015, all on Thanksgiving weekend.

Baldwin's Debut: A concert held February 24th, 2004 marked the unveiling of South's new Baldwin grand piano, purchased with the help of a donation from the SCAA.

AWARDS:

South Commencement Awards: Every year, the SCAA presents the *Scholar of the Year Award* and the *South Anniversary Award*, as well as alumni awards to all graduating students who achieve an average of 90%.

75th Anniversary Award: This award has been presented every year since 2004 to "a staff member who has contributed significantly to making South a quality school".

PROJECTS:

100 Years of Lions' Pride Profiles: 150 profiles were created for South's 100th to recognize alumni who had distinguished themselves in their post South lives.

Film Archives Project: Some of the old 16 mm student-made films from the 1970's & 80's were converted to DVD format, which culminated in a Film Night in November 2017.

Photo Digitization Project: Hundreds of photos in the school's archives were digitized and catalogued for safe storage and easy retrieval.

Getting Our Name Back: The SCAA successfully campaigned for the restoration of the school's original name: London South Collegiate Institute.

RECENTLY FUNDED ITEMS:

Team Tent: The SCAA funded the bulk of the cost of a large tent for use by South teams or during other school events.

Wrap Around Gym Mural: SCAA funded the mural with the proceeds from the 100th Anniversary Reunion.

So what does the future hold for the SCAA? As indicated previously, several current executive members are due to retire. Pete Telford has been part of the Association from the beginning and I have served almost as long and been writer/editor of the newsletter for 20 years. It's time to pass the torch, but who will be willing to pick it up? Will there be enough interest and commitment to keep things going? That doesn't necessarily mean maintaining the status quo. The organization can and should evolve with new ideas from new executive members. So please give this some serious consideration and let us know if you might be willing to join the executive at next May's AGM. (C. Weir)

UPDATE ON SCAA ACTIVITIES

GATHERING ON THE GREEN, SATURDAY, JUNE 7: Well over 50 South alumni stopped by our booth. Many names and contact data were gathered, and \$190 was collected in donations. It was agreed that we should continue to participate in the Gathering again in 2026.

COMMENCEMENT 2025: **Norma Evans (staff 2000-17)** represented the SCAA at the June event. Personal contact data was collected from all the students who attended and has been entered into our database. **Zachary Gates**, the 2025 Valedictorian, won our South Alumni Award (\$200); **Sophia Dencey** was presented with our Scholarship and Participation Award (\$200). Because final marks hadn't yet been calculated, the \$100 awards for students earning 90% or higher weren't given out at that time, but were forwarded to recipients during the summer.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Our congratulations to **Stacey Farr**, the staff rep on the SCAA for several years, who has been appointed Interim Athletic Director. Stacey, who is a coach as well as a Developmental Ed. teacher, keeps us up to date on what is happening at South and we appreciate her time serving on the SCAA.

IN MEMORIAM POSTS: Post # 14 is now on the alumni website: <https://southalumni.ca/in-memoriam/>. The names of those alumni are also listed on the Facebook page but not the obituary details. The passing of former staff members, however, are outlined on both the website and Facebook page.

ANNIVERSARY PROFILES POSTS: All alumni profiles from 1971 to 2019 have now been posted on both the alumni website and Facebook page. While we can't gauge the response on the website, it's clear that many alumni are following the posts on Facebook. In addition, select profiles are also being displayed in our snap frames outside the alumni office at the school, which the librarian has agreed to change periodically.



LIONS' PRIDE is published twice annually by the South Collegiate Alumni Association.
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Support the Alumni Association!

Although we are no longer mailing out the newsletter, any donation you send will be much appreciated, as we still have expenses and are committed to supporting a variety of worthwhile school projects, such as the student awards at Commencement, the purchase of the team tent (2024), the wrap around gym mural (2025) and the recently proposed Bicycle Cage.

Full Name

Maiden Name

Street Name and Number

City

Province/State

Postal/Zip Code

Home Phone

E-mail

Graduating year

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

THANK YOU!