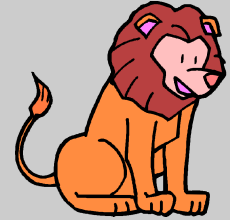


South Secondary School Alumni Association Spring 2008



LIONS' PRIDE

Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae



To Helm and Back...

by Sandy Ross ('79)

Our principles – where are they now? No wait, that's 'principals': the leaders at the helm of South's hallowed halls. Sadly, the first three (T.S.H. "Tish" Graham, Claude McCallum and Don Freeman) are deceased, as well as Garnett Rogers, who passed away three months ago (See item on page 8). Through this series, in future issues, I'd like to update you on the lives of South's other ten principals during the last 40 years. Where to start? Let's go back to the psychedelic 60's – cool, Mann (Robert) – then time warp to John Thorpe in the 90's.

I came to South as **Bob Mann (1966-73)** passed the reins to Howard Capes. So, I was a stranger e-mailing him, yet he replied with receptive, enthusiastic, unbridled verbosity. Hmm. Was this fellow the type Dad would have fondly called, 'quite a character'? What can I say of Bob's summary write-up, except... how charmingly comprehensive. I jest, because he himself quipped, "I try to be brief, but any colleague will tell you, that's nearly impossible". So, after a wee edit, I offer you his own words...

As Vice-Principal then Principal at South (1966-73), I found an undeniable spirit that was productive of creativity, a unique, constantly growing affection for those who shared the experience with you. One couldn't help but grow and learn in its enriching, exciting atmosphere. Particularly, I recall outstanding musicals and dramas. From *Sap and Syrup*, for Can-



ada's centennial, to Broadway shows (*Bye Bye Birdie*, *Oh What A Lovely War*, *Anything Goes*), and endlessly creative programs and toga parties by an indefatigable Latin teacher— living history, dressed as in Roman times... such ideas flowed as life through the school. South was even a source of innovative curriculum for the whole school system, with Film Production and Creative Dance. For me, the highlight was our band's trip to Europe. That 25-day tour was the kettle in which was brewed some of the best stories of my life, steeped from the interplay between staff and students enjoying the treats of the old world.

That era ended with my 1973 promotion to Superintendent of Operations at London's Board of Education. But, missing the young people, I returned to principalship at Oakridge (1975-81) – enjoyable, although a different spirit, more of competitiveness and winning. In 1981, I transferred to Wheable, where I'd taught in the 60's. After leading them through their 25th anniversary, I asked to head London's largest,

most diversified high school, Beal, where I was Principal from 1983 until retiring from the public system in 1987.

Two decades into retirement, I've taught teaching practice at Western and set up a company (Creative Leadership Research Inc.), evaluating apprenticeship programs, restructuring educational administrations and advising boards on management issues. I've also written two leadership books. The second, *The Measure of a Leader*, was just completed for publishing in 2007. Other, more personal interests are still in the works, despite my advancing age. To me, retirement's just a word to describe a different pursuit – a reflection of the same unrelenting spirit South shares.

Bob welcomes your "hello" at 519-951-0888 or rimann@sympatico.ca.

Newer to retirement ranks is **John Thorpe**, South's principal from **1989 to 1993**, who kindly shared this snapshot of life since.

In 1993, after four years at South, I was transferred to Clarke Road S.S. as Principal – five years highlighted by a \$14 million renovation. Following amalgamation and the creation of the Thames Valley District School Board in 1998, I was appointed Superintendent of Education for the Banting, Oakridge, Saunders Community of Schools. In 2001, I became Exec. Superintendent of H.R. and, in 2005, Exec. Superintendent of School Operations. Although I officially retired in August,

(Continued on page 2)



the Board welcomed its new Director in December 2007.

My years at South were a career highlight as I learned the role of 'Principal' in a great school, with a fine staff and student body which enjoyed important community support. My ties with the school remained strong as our three daughters all graduated from South (Jocelyn in '96, Hilary in '98, and Dinah in 2000).

Today, I enjoy my leisure time with my wife, Wendy, who herself recently left the world of academia, retiring in 2007 as Vice-Principal of Sir Frederick Banting S.S.

John can be reached at 519-850-9977, ibmthorpe@gmail.com.

An ironic footnote: Coincidentally in 1971, paths intersected at South when John was a student teacher with Fraser Boa and Ian Underhill, and Bob was Principal. Sharing a love of teaching English, John and Bob remained career-long friends.

Sandy Ross is marking the 15th birthday for her company – *Word's Worth* – crafting communication to help you "get the word out and get your Word's Worth".

www.SandyRoss.ca (519-472-5322)

2007, after 36 years in public education, I served as Acting Director of Education until

FALL HOMECOMING – October 11, 2008

South's first "Homecoming" (Oct. 13/07) was such a success, attracting over 1,000 people, including grads from as far back as the 1930's, that we have decided to sponsor a similar event this fall. Once again, there will be a double-header football game on the new *James Giffen Field* and a volleyball game in the gym. New this year will be a coffeehouse-styled "Social Hour" in the cafeteria, following the athletic events.

The timing of our 2nd Homecoming (Thanksgiving Weekend) coincides with the school's annual Convocation (Thurs. Oct. 9th). With the 2008 grads already coming home for that, this year's Homecoming should be a busy and exciting event...

PLAN TO ATTEND!

Clarification: The term "Homecoming" has been used to distinguish this event from our periodic, large-scale Reunions, the next of which will not be held until 2013 (South's 85th Anniversary). On the other hand, the SCAA recognizes that individual classes may wish to hold their own "milestone" reunions. We have assisted with and reported on a number of these successful class gatherings and encourage other classes to consider organizing similar events. We would love to see the class of 1938 mark its 70th anniversary with some kind of celebration, not to mention all those other grad years ending in '8'.

Alumni wishing to organize individual class reunions may decide to use the October Homecoming as a suitable date around which to plan their own events: restaurant, tour or hotel bookings, etc. If interested, please get in touch with us soon. (contact@southalumni.ca or 519-432-5671) The SCAA possesses a number of guidelines on [How to Organize a Class Reunion](#), but the key element is having a small, committed committee of class members to make it go.

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE ALUMNI WEBSITE



"THE HAIRCUT"...

To encourage and show his support for their fundraising efforts, principal Schneider agreed to let the members of the **Social Justice Committee** shave

off his beard and moustache (grown for his role in *Fiddler on the Roof*), as well as the hair on his head, if they could raise \$1,500 for their campaign. Well, the students raised over \$2000, so on March 7th, at 2 PM, South students gathered in the auditorium to witness "The Haircut!"



SPRING CONCERT



April 11, 2008

7:30 pm

in the South Auditorium

The Music Department is putting on a concert in support of the work of the Social Justice Committee.

INTRODUCING... SOUTH'S NEW PRINCIPAL

by **Andrea (Fewster) Manias ('70)**, SCAA director and current South staff member

South has a new principal! After six years at the helm, Mrs. Barb Sonier has departed from South to take on her new position as Superintendent. She was much loved during her time here and will be missed, but the South community welcomes Mr. Larry Schneider as its fifteenth principal.

Mr. Schneider grew up and went to school in the Listowel area. He attended Queen's University in Kingston for his undergraduate and teacher education and the University of Western Ontario for his Masters degree in Education. He began his teaching career in 1981 in Chapleau, in Northern Ontario, then moved to West Elgin Secondary School in 1984. Mr. Schneider served as an English

teacher, department head, and curriculum coordinator for the Elgin County Board of Education before becoming a Vice-Principal in 1987. Currently living in Rodney with wife Gwen and their three children, he has most recently been principal at WESS.

An avid lover of music, he sings with Fanshawe Chorus London, his church choir, and several other groups. As an actor, Mr. Schneider has performed in over two dozen plays locally, mostly in the musical theater genre and most recently in *Fiddler on the Roof* - in the title role of Tevye.

Our new principal has been very impressed with the staff, students, community and the varied, strong programs at South. He is a strong supporter of the arts, athletics, and academic excellence. Just as Mr. Schneider has enjoyed his first months at South, getting to know many



Principal Schneider (before "The Haircut")

students and staff, they have welcomed him into the South family.

Editor's Note: *Principal Schneider has agreed to "kick off" this year's AGM with a short talk "A new principal's impressions of South after 3 months on the job."*

Come and meet South's new chief administrator on May 7/08, at 7 PM in Room 102.

NEW REASON FOR SCHOOL PRIDE - Social Justice Committee

South's newest student group is the Social Justice Committee. We started as a small group of 8 students who went to "The Year of We" Social Justice rally in Toronto on Oct. 19/07. Being in a crowd of 8000 young people, listening to amazing speaker after amazing speaker, helped us to realize that we have the potential to make a difference in the world TODAY. We became committed to forming a group at South with the same passion and desire to make a difference.

Our objective was clear: we wanted to help make South students aware of the issues. We weren't interested in charity but rather social justice, in making real changes directed at the root causes of the problems we had heard about. We also wanted to work on something big, so we picked the project of building a school in Sierra Leone, Africa, through Free the Children. Our goal is to raise enough money (about \$10,000) to accomplish this.

Why a school in Sierra Leone? Sierra Leone is a country in West Africa, home to 5.3 million people. Its people are currently trying to rebuild after a brutal civil war (1991 – 2002) that resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and the displacement of more than 2 million people (more than one-third of the population). The last UN peacekeepers withdrew in December 2005, leaving full responsibility for security with domestic forces.

As result of the civil war, many schools were destroyed. Children in Sierra Leone want to go to school, but don't have enough money or have no school to attend. We want to help these children by building a safe school for them to learn.

Students at South have taken this project into their hearts. The support has been extraordinary, with over 60 individuals involved. These include students from every grade and from all different backgrounds. We have had bake sales, candy kabob sales, a gift card fundraiser and have designed and ordered committee T-shirts. We organized an assembly where two students spoke about their experiences as refugees who escaped from countries in Africa. On February 29/08, 100 students participated in a day long **Vow of Silence**, in recognition of all the children in the world who don't have a voice. This campaign raised close to \$1,000.

The "**Hair Razing**" Campaign, our latest fundraising effort, is the result of a generous offer by principal Schneider. (See "**The Haircut**", text and photos on page 2.)

To date, we have raised a total of about \$4,000 and we have only just begun. We are in the planning stages of a number of new initiatives, so that our goal of \$10,000 is reached by June.

It is a delight to see the students at South passionate about the idea that they can make a difference in the world, that they can be the leaders of today and that **WE can be more rewarding than ME!**

by **Anita Watkins**, teacher advisor to the new Social Justice Committee.

Two Special Archival Projects

by Bob Johnston ('56) and Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)

As many of you know, the Alumni Association is the custodian of South's archival material, some of which dates back to the very beginning of the school's history. Included in this material is the trowel used to lay the 1928 cornerstone of the building, as well as photographs of this event ... some eighty years ago.

This material is stored in room 210, which former principal, Barb Sonier, very kindly made available to the SCAA. The small, seminar-sized "office" on the second floor not only houses the school archives but also provides meeting space for the SCAA executive.

Restoration of Student Council Photos:

One of the associated responsibilities of the SCAA is the preservation of items of archival value that may be subject to deterioration over time. For example, many of the photographs of past student councils, which have adorned the walls of the school cafeteria for many years, are now badly faded, damaged by light exposure. **Dan Knight ('07)**, last year's student president, has volunteered to assist the SCAA with the project of restoring these photos. At the February executive meeting he provided some quotes for this work, which will include re-framing and labelling, as well as the restoration of the photographs. The decision was made to have Stan C. Reade, a well-respected local photo and video business, complete the restoration work.

Film to DVD:



In the fall '06 issue of *Lions' Pride*, we reported on a Film Archives Project that the SCAA had undertaken. Thanks to the assistance of **Samantha (Straughan) Abel ('80)**, hundreds of student-made films (1970's to early 1980's) from the film course taught by Fraser Boa and Norm Hargreaves were sorted and labelled by title and/or filmmaker's name. The metal cans containing all of these films are now stored in room 210. Unfortunately, given the 16 mm format and fragile condition of these films, they are not really suitable for public showing. To preserve the material and to make it more accessible to interested alumni, the SCAA executive decided to investigate the cost involved in converting them to DVD format. While not all of these films have the archival value to warrant the expense involved, the SCAA believes it is a worthwhile project to have the best of those films converted. Fortunately, the SCAA has had some welcome financial assistance in getting this project off the ground. The **Class of '56**, who generously presented a cheque to the SCAA for \$500, following their "Golden Anniversary" reunion last year, agreed that their funds be used to support this film project. A start has been made, and we are delighted to report that to date the following three DVD's have been produced:

- 1) **To Jessie with Luv** (a tribute to Jessie MacFarlane on the occasion of her retirement in 1968)
- 2) **A Castleless King** (a student-scripted film with a cast featuring Marion Woodman and with musical direction by Diane Leah.)
- 3) **South Veterans** (based on material from 1946 *South Oracle* and letters exchanged by former South students and their teacher/coach, Don Freeman, during World War II)

Once duplicates of the original DVD's have been made, they may be loaned out for alumni use.

The SCAA wishes to thank the Class of '56 for their financial support, and invites other classes or individual alumni to "keep the ball rolling" by donating funds to be used for this worthwhile archival project.

(Editor's Note: Alumni will have the opportunity to view the new DVD of To Jessie with Luv at the upcoming AGM on May 7/08. Also, watch for updates on both of these projects in future issues.)

SOUTH ARCHIVES... Donation Request

As noted above, the Alumni Association administers a large collection of archival material, including photos, newspaper articles, programs, old uniforms, trophies, audio and video materials – in short, anything that pertains to the history of the school and school life.

One of the most important holdings is a set of **South Yearbooks**, dating back to the 1927 issue. However, **WE ARE MISSING A FEW YEARBOOKS** and it is vital that we fill in these missing issues. **Can you help?**

We have no yearbook for **1937, 1970 or 1974**. We have only one damaged copy from **1967, 1983 and 1985**. If you have one of these yearbooks and would be willing to donate it, you would be doing a great service to the SCAA and to the school. Please contact Pete Telford (contact@southalumni.ca or 519-452-2860).

SOUTH WOMEN ENJOY 40 YEAR REUNION DINNER



by Pamela (Duncan) Cook ('67)

On November 9, 2007 a small group of women, who graduated from South in 1967 (or '66) met at the Villa Cornelia restaurant in London to mark a major milestone - 40 years since high school. Thirteen women attended the dinner (See list below). Several brought recent family photos; others came with yearbooks. The restaurant provided us with the upper floor, which afforded the group the comfort of home in a private setting, creating an uninhibited atmosphere. The evening was filled with much talk and laughter as we got reacquainted and renewed old friendships. Everyone had such a relaxed and pleasant time that no one was eager to leave. In fact, we had to be ousted at the restaurant's closing time. There were several who wanted to attend, but due to prior commitments were unable to make it.

Miss Mayhew was travelling in Europe, Shelley Markland (Brown) was busy with a fundraiser and Marie Hayton (MacDonald) was vacationing with her husband. Pictures were taken throughout the evening, a few of which have been included here, along with some e-mail feedback received following the dinner. Several voiced the hope of making this an annual event. If interested, contact me at pamc@primus.ca.

Attendees: Alma (Wannacott) Scovil, Marion Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Linda (Cudney) Lalonde, Susan (Casey) Estabrook, Pamela (Duncan) Cook, Jeanne (Henderson) Quayle, Marg Miners, Wendy (Baker) Magrath, Joanne (Rueckwald) Smith, Margie (Alexander) Boss, Sharon (Holland) Link and Kathleen Chapman.



E-mail responses:

Pam, you did a great job on this event. Thanks for everything, especially choosing such a lovely setting and giving us that inspiring grace. It's delightful to see that so many high school chums are still looking great and getting a big kick out of life.

Marion Johnson

Thank you for taking the initiative to pull us together last evening. I haven't kept up with any of these people over the years, but for some reason I felt the desire to attend this reunion. Some had changed but most were so still so much themselves. Let's do it again. **Sue Estabrooks**

What a wonderful time it was connecting with all of you again!!! I'd love to see this happen once or twice a year, and wouldn't it be wonderful to add on more names??!! Thank you, Pamela, for doing all the work to initiate this.... and thank you for sending the great photos....Everyone still looks so good!!

Joanne (Rueckwald) Smith



Nancy Johnson, Alma Scovil & Kathleen Chapman



Joanne Smith & Sue Estabrooks

SOUTH'S BUILDERS CELEBRATE 135 YEARS

Hayman Construction (formerly Hayman and Sons), the company that built South in 1928, is 135 years old. Last fall (Nov. 12/07), it was featured in a 2-page article in the London Free Press's "Business Monday".

The Hayman family's connection to South did not end with its construction. Six family members are also South grads: **Bob ('46), George ('48), Don ('54) (deceased), Molly (Ware) ('60), Peter ('74) and Brian ('80)** (also a former Student Council President). Bob worked for the firm for 50 years, and since retiring has written a book detailing the company's history: ***John Hayman and Sons: the family and the firm for five generations***, (2003), available in the London Room, LPL.

Founded in 1872 by John Hayman, a bricklayer from Devonshire, England, the company was first located at the family home at Dundas and Ontario Streets. Today, headquarters are in a renovated heritage home on Wellington (near Pall Mall). Brian, Peter (George's sons) and Michael (Bob's son), great-great grandsons of the founder, now run the firm.

Specializing in commercial, industrial and institutional projects, the list of "Hayman's Handiwork" is impressive indeed. Prominent structures that they have built or helped to build include Labatt Breweries, Aeolian Hall, Ryerson, Lady Beck and Victoria schools, the Stork Club, One London Place, Thompson Arena and the Woodstock Toyota Assembly Plant.

One important key to the firm's survival, according to Brian, has been family harmony: *"I think it is about family values. We all get along and respect each other."* The decision to remain a modest, family-run company with "hands-on" owners is also very important, according to brother, Peter.

Whatever the reasons, South can be proud of its connection to the Hayman family. We wish them continued success.

IN LOCAL NEWS....



THOM McCLENAGHAN ('55) – Thom was one of eight Londoners named to the mayor's New Year's Honours List, 2008, for his contributions in the area of the Environment. Thom is a founding member and the driving force behind **Friends of the Coves, Sub-Watershed Inc.**, devoted to *"the protection, rehabilitation and stewardship of the Coves Sub-watershed."* (www.thecoves.ca)

Under Thom's leadership, the group developed a comprehensive plan, *"which was endorsed as a blueprint for rehabilitation by the City, Ministry of the Environment, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee and local landowners. As a result, the Friends have installed a butterfly garden, naturalized a former landfill area, established an interpretive site and trails, and launched educational programs to ensure the future vibrancy of the Coves in the heart of our city."*

Thom has also served on the City's Advisory Committee on the Environment. Last November, he was one of the featured speakers at the 14th annual A.D. Latorell Conservation Symposium in Alliston, ON. A retired school principal, Thom is the father of four adult children (including Andrew ('97), an SCAA director and our website manager) and grandfather of three.

ROY MCDONALD ('57) - Yep, Roy's in the news again! On the front page of LFP's "Entertainment Today" section (Mar. 7/08), an article entitled "Tracking elusive Roy" described Fanshawe film student Joshua Kish's efforts to find Roy, in order to make a short documentary "about a Londoner who makes a difference." The 7-minute film, completed for an assignment and entitled simply **Roy** was shown at the Rainbow Cinema on March 9th as part of the London Canadian Film Festival. After several meetings, Kish said he gained Roy's trust and was able to shoot much of the interview at McDonald's home. He believes Roy was a worthy subject: *"He seems to make people happy. He improves the city in small ways."*

DALE HENDERSON ('65) - Anyone who attended South in the early 60's will no doubt remember Dale as the talented drummer who played in all of the school's bands. Now the retired engineer and former bandleader has taken on a huge new musical project: the conversion of the old IMAX theatre (Western Fair grounds) into the **London City Music Theatre**. London's newest cultural venue will be a 600-seat theatre suitable for all types of musical entertainment, from stage musicals and operas, to orchestral concerts and rock and roll acts. According to a LFP article last fall, the LCMT should be ready to open this spring. Congratulations, Dale, on bringing a dream to reality.

SHELLEY (BROWN) MARKLAND ('65) – Shelley is the executive director of **Wellspring London**, a cancer support center (www.wellspring.ca/london-and-region). Established seven years ago, Wellspring runs twenty different support programs, free of charge, to people with cancer and their families. The facility has four staff and 85 trained volunteers, all of whom have either had cancer themselves or cared for someone with it. The problem is that with cancer numbers increasing and the demand for services growing every year, the facility at 231 Hyman St. has become too small. In a recent LFP article entitled "Wellspring desperate for new digs", Shelley said that they are willing to lease, purchase or build a new facility, but they need to make a decision ASAP because their current lease expires within a year. Wellspring depends on community support, surviving without any government funding, because they don't want to become *"a political football...vulnerable to political shifts of funding priorities."*

DIANE LEAH ('70) – Last fall the Grand welcomed back two former Londoners: UWO grad and Broadway star, Louise Pitre, and pianist and composer (and South grad!), Diane Leah. Both were performing in the Grand's production of *Could You Wait*. In an article entitled "Precocious Leah always a star" (LFP, Nov. 4/07), James Reaney shared some memories of his former elementary school classmate: *"Diane was a terrific pianist when I first met her more than 45 years ago."* So impressive was her talent, that professional musician, John Noubarian, agreed to take her on as a student, even though he *"didn't teach privately."* Actively involved in musical activities throughout her years at South, Diane's first appearances at the Grand were in material directed by South teacher, Fraser Boa (*The Hostage*, 1969 and *Beyond the Fringe*, 1970). After studying music at U of T and McGill, Leah embarked on a musical career that has seen her playing gigs in Toronto bars, as well as in the pit for some of the city's big musicals. She is the music director at Toronto's Metropolitan Community Church, directing its choir in a major Christmas Eve service each year at Roy Thompson Hall. She is also involved with Toronto's Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts and is musical director for long-time friend, Louise Pitre.

PAUL BRIGHT ('97) – Gallery owner, Paul Bright, was featured in an article last fall (Oct. 3/07) by Ben Benedict for his column "City Living" in *The Londoner*. **Community Outreach Gallery**, at 101 Stanley Street, is actually Paul's third gallery. (He was only 19 when he opened his first.) This one is different, however. Paul describes it as a *"working gallery"*, with a name that truly reflects *"what we're doing, trying to reach out to what people are doing elsewhere and bringing it here."* He defends his choice to devote the gallery to avante garde art forms: *"In the last 10 years, since this art form has come into the mainstream, people have tried to label it graffiti, skateboard or punk, but that's just part of the culture....A lot of it looks fun, silly or lowbrow, but there's a lot more depth than that."*



MAIL BOX...



Letters and e-mails from alumni

WONDERFUL MEMORIES FROM A 1937 GRAD

I've meant to do this for some time, but have not been able to write lately. (Please cut me a bit of slack, as I'm now into my 90th year.)

I was the person who volunteered the services of Wesley-Knox ladies to put on the luncheon for the class of '56 reunion (in Sept. '06). Several of us were old South grads and we all had a lot of fun.

I want to congratulate all the people who put out such a very distinguished publication as your (our) *Lions' Pride*. I've worked on such things myself and know how much time and hard work it takes! It was a splendid job—each one of them.

Many moons ago, I had the honour of being one of the neighbourhood "kids", 4 1/2 to 5 years old, recruited as guinea pigs for the first class of kindergarten teachers at the Normal School. I lived for many years at 63 Ridout St. S. and my mom was delighted to let me go for a short period each morning. So was I delighted—all those big stairs and new toys and milk and McCormick's cookies. This has brought back so many wonderful memories of my younger days. Thank you very much.

Aileen (Lyon) Symington ('37)

ARTICLE HONOURING JACK COUPS

Congratulations on the great newsletter, *Lions'*

Pride, Fall ('07) Edition, which I have recently read on-line. You have covered a lot of items in this well put together publication. I was particularly interested in the story and pictures of Nancy Coups and her presentation of a Memorial Trophy in honour of her husband Jack. He was a wonderful and enthusiastic member of our church congregation, St. John the Evangelist (Anglican) London and we are supportive of Nancy as she adjusts to her new life style following the death of Jack.

Bob Hayman ('46)

Editor's Notes:

1) Bob, who is editor of his church's parish newsletter, "The Banner", requested permission to include our story on the trophy presentation in their December issue. The article and one photo were included, with credit being given to *Lions' Pride*. (stjohnslondon.ca)

2) See "In Local News" on page 5 for an item on Hayman Construction, celebrating 135 years as a family owned business in London. Bob has written a book (2003) on the history of the family and the firm.

SOME SAD PASSINGS

I received the Fall '07 *Lions' Pride* and read with sadness of the passing of **Tom Abel, Dick Wilson** (whom I looked up to as a junior) and **Keith Hessel** (with whom I had the pleasure of being a fellow team member). I also have good memories of **Ron White** and **Bill McDonald**, both of whom I knew and

again admired as a junior. Whoever knew **Herb Dinsmore** would never forget him, as he was one of a kind.

I was pleased to learn that **Ted Hessel** is still involved in South activities, as Ted was a junior during Keith's all star year, and I can remember Ted coming up to the Seniors and following in his big brother's footsteps.

For years I have been trying to find out what happened to my old friend **Jim Rose ('51)**. If anyone knows, please inform me at mcglogan@execulink.com, or fax 519-578-6222.

Bob McGlogan ('51)

BEING READY" ... A VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED AT SOUTH

I really enjoyed getting the fall '07 issue of *Lions' Pride*. The newsletter is the true reflection of the pride felt by all those who went to South over the past eighty years.

My years at South in the 1950's certainly did not set any academic records. They did, however, give me a chance to participate in several sports, including golf, hockey and football. On the other hand, I probably have good knees today because of the time spent as a "bit" player, warming benches at Labatt Park and various local arenas. I was, however, privileged to have been a member of these teams, and especially to have met Mr. "Mac" (**Ernie McTavish**).

I can still hear Ernie telling us to "be ready" for Friday's football game because **Jim**

Sumner's ('58) knee was in bad shape from the previous game. I can still remember sitting in my homeroom class that week, just across from Dr. Sumner's house. On Monday, I saw Jim barely make it across the street to school. On Tuesday, it was the same. On Wednesday, Jim had just a bit of a limp, and by Thursday he was able to make it to practice and "walk through" the drills. I was there, too, in Jim's spot, going through the plays with **Dave Richards ('56), Bob Norris ('56), Jack Coups ('56), Bob Heighway ('57)** and many others.

At the Friday noon meeting, Mr. "Mac" told me that "ol" Jim was going to start, but to "be ready" because he might not be able to finish the game! Jim did finish that game, however... and the next... Jim always finished the games... and I was always ready!

I shared this story with Mr. "Mac" before he died, and also with Jim several years ago. I think "being ready" was a lesson that has helped me over the years in a lot of situations.

Keep up the great work on the newsletter and in the other Alumni projects.

Jamie Henderson ('56)

BRINGING BACK FOND MEMORIES

I enjoy reading the newsletter, especially the Homecoming events. It brings back fond memories of my time at South.

Lou Fowler (staff, 1971-92)

More letters and e-mails from alumni...

STORY SUGGESTION

Thanks to the note in the last issue ("Who's Where"), I have been in touch with some old friends, not just from SCI, but Mountsfield PS too.

This made me think of something you may want to pursue as a story. My mother, **Freda (Stuart) Crosby ('34)** attended South and so did her older brother, Reverend **Donald Stuart ('30)**. I know that there are still a few "oldies" like my mom (in her 90's) kicking around London South. Perhaps you could interview them on how SCI has

changed since the 1930's. I know that when I taught at Assumption College School in Windsor, we would periodically have articles written by past grads and they were always fascinating. We forget that what was once considered risqué, proper or fashionable, would seem funny or ominously strict, to people today...

Or you could do a series on families with an SCI tradition. Not only did my mom and uncle attend South (he helped write the school song), but my sister Joyce was a '59 grad. There are lots of families who have had three generations attend South. It would be interesting to work a story around them.

Any way, you're doing a great job.

Beth (Elizabeth Crosby) Boesen ('72)

Editor's Note: I hope to follow up on Beth's idea for an issue next year. We welcome other suggestions for future articles.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the fall issue. Ted and Ted's mom really enjoy reading the issues. Marion is a South graduate.

Julie McTavish

(Note: Ted McTavish was Vice Principal at South from 1993—97. His mother, Marion (Sutton) McTavish, is a member of the class of '41.)

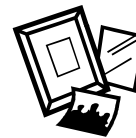
A FUNDRAISING FIRST

Thanks so much for the copy (of the fall newsletter) that you sent me in the mail! Our event (Canada's Scrapbooking Crop for Kids) raised about half of what was

expected...about \$20,000. We are pretty happy with that since it's the first year we have run the event. We are still waiting to hear final numbers across Canada as there were five other sites running events that weekend as well... We are all moms who have had kids go through those hospitals (Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto and Saint John).

Sarah (Groom) Hodgkinson ('92)

Editor's Note: See Fall '07, page 7, for an outline of Sarah's creative fundraising efforts to raise money for LHSC Children's Hospital.



WHO'S WHERE

Let us know where you are and what you are doing. E-mail your update to contact@southalumni.ca, or mail to SCAA, 371 Tecumseh Ave. E. London, ON, N6C 1T4.

Jack Tripp ('40), lives in Cambridge, ON and loves it. After graduation, he worked for Bell Canada for 9 months, before joining the R.C.A.F. in Sept. '41. He spent 4 1/2 years in the service, earning a "King's Commendation for valuable service in the air."

After his discharge, in Oct. '45, Jack returned to Bell, where he remained until his retirement in 1981. He has three grown children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Jack lives alone, as his wife, Doris, is now in a nursing home.

Jennifer Fagan ('86), a professional singer, dancer and actor, started teaching musical theatre classes last fall at London's Trinity United Church. The classes, held on Saturdays for three 9-week sessions during the year, are open to students from Grade 3 to 12.

All seven members of Jennifer's family are involved in music, including her father, Gerald (renowned conductor and artistic director of Fanshawe Chorus London, The Gerald Fagan Singers and the Concert Players Orchestra), her mother, Marlene, and three sisters and a brother... a local musical dynasty you might say.



Paul Estey ('90) and **Natasha Schleich** were married Oct. 13, 2007 in Kleinburg United Church. They are currently living in Toronto.

Dr. Daniel Mennill ('93), University of Windsor biology professor, has received \$100,000 for his work in developing new strategies for studying wild bird populations.



Mennill was recognized through the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation's Early Researcher Award Program for his study of vocal communication patterns in bird populations. These patterns play a vital role in how animals find partners and defend their territories.

Dan is the son of **Paul Mennill**, a South grad ('62) and a former principal (1986—89). His grandfather, **Del Mennill**, attended South for three years (1922-25) when it was still housed in the old Victoria PS building, and his uncle, **Dave Mennill**, was both a grad ('58) and a teacher ('90-93) at South.

Garnett Rogers



G. W. Rogers, principal at South from 1977 to 1983, died peacefully in his sleep on New Year's Day 2008. He is survived by his sons **Colin ('66)** and **Phillip ('72)** and 3 grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held Jan. 8th at the Longworth Retirement Village (London, ON), followed by a reception celebrating his life as a WW II veteran, Public Educator and "Bon Viveur."



IN MEMORIAM



Wil Rice (staff, 1965 – 76)

Described by LFP sports writer, Steve Coad, as “a giant among high school teacher-coaches,” Wil Rice, 89, passed away Jan. 25/08, after a brief illness. A History and Phys Ed teacher, Wil began his career in 1947 at Central, sharing an office with fellow McMaster grad, Bill Traut. Traut, a coaching legend himself, and a former London principal, has fond memories of his colleague and fellow coach: “There are people all across Canada that came under what I call ‘the Rice mystique.’ Wil was able to get a lot out of his kids and he gave them a lot of support.” Traut also remembers his friend’s sense of humour, his ability to be “quick with a quip.” Retired sports writer, Bob Gage, concurred, saying Rice was “the type of person the kids really liked being around. He was really fun-loving.”

In 1956, Wil moved to Beck, where he continued to coach basketball, football, volleyball and track and field. By the time he arrived at South in 1965, he was almost totally blind (the sight in one eye lost after an accident as a teenager, and the sight in the other lost after a detached retina in 1962.) Despite this apparent handicap (which son Brian said he never complained about), Wil continued his career as guidance counselor and coach at South until retiring in 1976.

Apart from his 30-year career as a teacher, Wil was a member of First Baptist Church for more than 60 years, and a member of the Middlesex Kiwanis Club for more than 25.

In assessing his father’s life, Brian said simply that his dad thoroughly enjoyed “a well-lived life. He had a lot of fun.” In addition to son **Brian (’71)**, Wil is survived by his wife Alma, daughters **Ellen (’62)** and **Lee Ann (’64)**, son **Stephen (’77)** and seven grandchildren.



Jim and wife Mary Jayne

Jim Collins (’59) died Nov. 6/ 07 at Norfolk General Hospital, after losing his year-long battle with a brain tumor. He was 66. Jim is survived by his wife **Mary Jayne (Blakeley) (’59)**, son Jeffrey, daughter Sarah and granddaughter, Avery Jayne.

Jim was the class rep of a class that still, after more than fifty years, calls itself “9C”. Retired from his career as a wildlife biologist, Jim was “Event Planner” for a reunion of this close-knit group in May 2005, an experience he described in the fall ‘05 issue as “one of the most satisfying things I have ever done.”

Classmate and friend, **Rosalyn (Murray) Graham**, who helped organize the ‘05 reunion, said one long-lasting benefit was the capturing of memories and biographical details in a souvenir book called *Garnet and Grayer*. Rosalyn has written a tribute to Jim (posted in its entirety on the alumni website) that includes excerpts from Jim’s “autobiography” in *Garnet and Grayer* that highlight his career and his sense of humor. Two of the most revealing and representative of these excerpts are included below:

“Life is a journey, not a destination. On my trip I have tended to avoid the main highways, and followed the back-roads, often the roads less travelled. As a result, the journey has been on occasion a little bumpy, but a whole lot more interesting.”

“When it became apparent that Mary Jayne and I were likely to be a couple, her Mother once said, ‘Mary Jayne...if you marry Jim, I

expect that life will seldom be dull.’ I have endeavoured to ensure I lived up to that expectation.”

After retiring from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Jim kept busy as a carpenter/handyman on behalf of friends and neighbors in Simcoe. Then a friend told him about the Creston Valley Wildlife Centre (in BC) and their search for a person with his talents to rehabilitate their organization. Jim couldn’t resist the challenge, and set off early in 2006 to tackle the problem with his usual enthusiasm (and his dog). After a productive spring, summer and fall, he came home, in November, intending to return the following spring. But then his brain tumor was diagnosed and his new battle began...

As Rosalyn concludes in her tribute, “Everyone who knew Jim will miss his energy, his wit, and his focus and his determination. The next reunion just won’t be the same...”

Don Hayman (’54), 73, passed away peacefully on Jan. 24/08. He enjoyed a lengthy career in the financial community, as president of Rollingwood Financial Consultants. He was also a member of the Executive Council of the Diocese of Huron, the Western Fair Board, Treasurer of the Gyro Club of London and a long-time member of the Kilwinning Lodge and the Mocha Shrine. Don is survived by his wife, Lenore, siblings **Bob (’46)**, **George (’48)** and **Molly (Ware) (’60)**, four children and eight grandchildren.

Sharon (Atkins) Ling (’65), 61, passed away Jan. 29/08 after a battle with cancer. Part of a 3-generation South family, Sharon will be sadly missed by her many friends and relatives. She is survived by her father, **Jack Atkins (’35)**, who still lives in the old family home at 348 Tecumseh, husband, **Bevan Ling (’65)**, a retired art teacher, sons **Ethan (’89)** and **Matt (’99)**, and brother-in-law, **Bruce (’69)**.

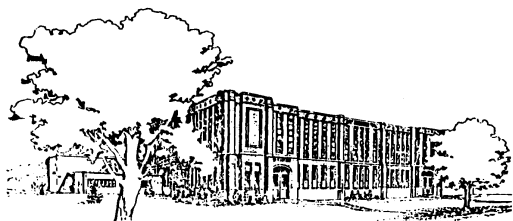
IN MEMORIAM (continued)

Barry Russell ('50), passed away recently (March/08) in Nova Scotia. (Details unavailable at time of printing)

Brian Naylor, who attended South from 1960-63, died suddenly on Feb. 25/08 in Ottawa, Ontario. He was 62, a beloved husband and father to wife, Brenda, and daughter, Michelle. His sister, South grad **Janet (Naylor) Gordon ('66)**, lives in Spruce Grove, Alberta. Brian enjoyed "a happy, full life," filled with the things he loved: travel, skiing, golf, guitar playing, computers and photography.

Brent Barrett ('71) passed away Oct. 21/06 in Toronto, Ontario. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Stavros (Steve) Plagianos, 74, passed away suddenly on Nov. 1/07. The avid restaurateur and dedicated soccer coach was the father of two, a son Chris, who lives in London, and a daughter, **Patty Papaspyridakos ('92)**, now living in Sparta, Greece. Stavros was a good friend of South Alumni through his restaurant, at 190 Wortley Rd. Originally called "The Boardroom" and later "Steve's Restaurant" (now "The Wortley Roadhouse", owned by South grad, Marty Verweel '69), this venue has, since its beginning in 1978-79, been a "social centre" for South staff and students.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wed. May 7, 2008
7-8:30 PM in Room 102**

All alumni are invited to attend.

The strength and the vitality of the organization depend on fresh and widespread input from alumni of all generations! Come join us for a review of the past year's activities and an outline of future projects and activities.

The meeting will open with a short talk by **South principal, Larry Schneider**: "A new principal's impressions of South after 3 months on the job." It will conclude with a showing of the recently restored film **To Jessie with Love**, a tribute to Jessie MacFarlane on her retirement in 1968.

A new executive will also be elected, for a 3-year term. Positions include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 Directors. Consider getting involved or nominate a former classmate. Discover for yourself that being part of the SCAA executive is a rewarding experience not an onerous task.

**Questions? Contact us at
contact@southalumni.ca**

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