

LION'S PRIDE

Fall 2003 Newsletter

Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae

Our 75th Anniversary Extravaganza

By Ian Underhill (Staff 1969-1994)

I distinctly remember a phone call back in February of 2001 from a person I used to consider a friend. He asked me whether I would consider "helping out" with South's 75th Reunion, which was about two years away. He assured me that there would not be much involved and I quite naively agreed to lend a hand. By May of 2001, I was Chair of the Reunion. How that came about remains to this day a mystery to me. I recount this story as a warning to all of you: if you get a call about eight years from now asking if you can "help out" with the 85th, have your wits about you!

The saving grace in all of this was the incredible group of volunteers who formed the 75th Reunion Committee. Through two years of meetings, frequently characterized by moments of high tension, this group remained dedicated and cheerful. We managed always to reach acceptable compromises (with only minor bodily injuries) and people simply went off and did their assigned tasks.

From our perspective, the 75th was a success and we have been encouraged by the many notes and e-mails and newspaper letters stating what a good time everyone had. I must admit that the weekend was a bit of a blur for me – a state I cannot attribute to over-indulgence – and what stands out now are the wonderful memories:

- That great group from the late 40's and early 50's who were already lining up two hours before opening time on Friday

- That incredible school show, including the great third act, that made all of us realize again how much talent has come through this school
- The guys from the football team still slinging beer cases into the truck at 2:00 a.m. and doing so with a smile!
- The tears when the World War Two Veteran finally got his high school diploma after sixty years
- The sharing I saw in the Writers' Room as authors read and listened and talked
- The crush of people in the Gym on Friday night that was so reminiscent of School Dances (except that the alcohol was legal this time!)
- The great volleyball on Saturday morning, illustrating yet another area in which South students have excelled
- The amazing sight of over 2,000 people at the Progress Building, that hangar of a building transformed to a magical site by a lot of hard work
- The Church service that brought together so many individuals in a feeling of love and commonality
- Finally, the return of so many teachers – at least one well into her nineties – all of us agreeing that South was a great place to teach.

Are there things we should have done differently? Yes, of course. In an undertaking of this size, there are bound to be. The group photos have presented problems that we are addressing. Trying to use the arena as well as the school on the Friday night was probably a mistake. Better to squeeze people into the Gym and Cafeteria than to spend the evening



South Principal Barb Sonier presents 1943 grad Bob Lawrence with his High School Diploma, sixty years after World War II.

attempting to coerce the crowd to move over to the arena, an undertaking at which I failed completely. We have made notes of hundreds of suggestions and will pass these on to the group planning the 85th to be held in 2013.

We are disappointed that the Scholarship Fund did not reach our goal of \$75,000, but we are keeping the drive going till the end of 2003. (There is still time for your graduating year to reach the \$1000 mark!) [see page 4]

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South's 75th Anniversary Extravaganza

(...continued from page 1)

We are, on the other hand, delighted that we turned a profit of over \$20,000, money which has been turned over to the South Alumni Association to be used for its ongoing work in supporting Alumni and current student projects. We are delighted as well that so many Alumni had such a good time.

I want to close with one final memory. On Saturday afternoon, I stopped for a moment in the Athletic Hall of Fame corridor and spoke to an elderly gentleman who was looking at team pictures from South's past. He had tears running down his face as he said to me "There aren't many of us left from that team, but what a great group of guys they were. I probably won't make the next one but I'm just so glad that I was here today in a school that meant so much to me."

Amen, and see you at the 85th!!

Making South Roar!

By Marilyn [Matthews] Elgie ('62)

Here's to you, London South Collegiate, the mortar and bricks foundation, the recollections of teachers past and present, the echoes of students within your walls — the rich traditions. Here's to you, organizers of a weekend filled with memories that made South ROAR! Thank you for providing opportunities — decade rooms, volleyball games, stage productions, dinner/dance, interdominational church service, and more — opportunities to relive our years at South Collegiate and once again wonder about the life principles gained within your walls.

Friends, neighbours, families reflected, and for one short moment renewed and strengthened bonds of community to return home from a 75th reunion enveloped by the spirit of the Garnet and Grey. Congratulations organizers on a job well done!

Still Flying High...

Sandra [Stannard] Dixon ('59)

My husband and I had an absolutely wonderful time at South last Saturday. In fact, I'm still 'flying high' as I recall conversations, etc. of old friends from South Days....

It just kept getting better, from the minute we picked up our 'no hassle' registration package and were pleasantly greeted, to the end of the evening at the Progress Building. You people thought of everything! We were so busy meeting and greeting in the decade rooms that we almost forgot to get lunch in the cafeteria. The show was very good and kudos go to the younger version of we Southies. They did a great job of capturing our past. Really enjoyed that 'pit band'.

Dinner at the Progress Building was very tasty, and give yourselves credit for managing to feed that large number of people with minimal lines or delay....

It makes me feel so sorry that all the Grads couldn't have been there to benefit from such 'warm fuzzies' that the reunion brought. It sort of gave new meaning to our lives — how in the personal triumphs and struggles of life we have a commonality with all those others from our classes, and how we really haven't changed that much, just gotten better (well, for the most part!). We all owe so much to those wonderful and dedicated teachers who led us through our adolescence and helped give direction to our lives.

Once again, a huge thank-you to your committee for the hours you put in to make this reunion such a success. We really appreciated it.

Check this out!

By Andrew McClenaghan ('97)

In February 2003, the South Collegiate Alumni Association with help from Andrew McClenaghan ('97) of Echidna Solutions Corp. (www.echidna.ca) launched the South Alumni site. (www.southalumni.ca)

The site's main objective was to create a centralized space on the Internet that South Alumni from across the globe could navigate to in order to find out what was going on at their former high school. The site features the latest news and dates about all things South. The semi-annual *Lion's Pride* newsletter will also reside on the website, which will reduce distribution costs immensely.

Another key feature of the website is the South Alumni Online Registry.

Although the South Collegiate Alumni Association has extensive records on South Alumni, it is difficult for them to keep this information up to date as Alumni are always on the move. The online registry allows Alumni to create a user name and password and enter their address information, and more importantly their e-mail address, into the official records. Once registered, Alumni can search through the records online to find friends and then send them an e-mail to catch up. Privacy of e-mail addresses is ensured as the recipient's e-mail address is always hidden. There are almost 500 Alumni currently registered. Register and look someone up today!

If you have any suggestions for the website please send an email to contact@southalumni.ca.

Mentoring Program

By Cinzia [Malacaria] Marino ('87)

How many of us are actually in the careers we thought we would be in when we graduated from High School, and later University? I am willing to guess, not many, myself included.

I thought I would be in Law; instead I and my brother are part owners in a successful family business. I have gained invaluable knowledge in the world of business through trial and error. However, had someone spoken to me about small businesses, customer relations or marketing in high school, I may have not needed to go through quite as much trial and error. I could have taken the appropriate courses in my post-secondary education and realized earlier that this was something I may enjoy.

We have a vast base of knowledge and experience within our Alumni, and I for one would like to start to contribute or at least offer some assistance to the high school students currently enrolled at South.

Many may have no idea what career they would like to pursue but, by talking to past Alumni in various fields, they can start to explore their options long before

they need to choose their post-secondary paths.

Out of this desire to help guide or inform students currently at South, the Mentorship Committee was created. It is our mandate to bring co-op programs, information nights, and in-school presentations to the students throughout the year. Of course, we need past Alumni to help with this program.

Benefits for South's Alumni

Association: long term loyalty and membership by bringing value added services to its current and past student members.

Benefits for the Mentor: increased awareness, appreciation and support of their individual profession and skill sets.

Benefits for the Student: compressed learning curve by observing the mentor's experiences since leaving South.

This clearly is a win/win/win scenario. If you are interested in joining this committee your help would be very much appreciated. Please contact Cinzia Marino at autostrada@sympatico.ca, or call the school and let them know you are interested.

Thank you in advance for your input and/or participation.

WANTED by the Newsletter Committee

- Favourite memories of teachers, events, and people from South — anything that sticks out in your mind.
- Comments, thoughts, pictures, etc. relating to the 75th Reunion (please note that we cannot return pictures).

- Let us know what you're up to! We would like to start a "What's New" column to announce Alumni births, marriages, promotions, etc. This column will be for you (the Alumni) to let others know what is going on in your life!

Upcoming Events

Alumni Association Executive Meeting

Wednesday November 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Atrium

South's Commencement

11 October 2003 @ 10:00 a.m. for Grade 12 and @ 2:30 p.m. for O.A.C.

South Awards Night

23 October 2003

20th Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament

6 December 2003 from 9:30-5:00 in the South Gym. To play on the men's or women's team, contact Pete Telford at (519) 432-5671 or email petetelford@sympatico.ca

Fees are Due

As with everything else these days, SCAA finances are tight. If you wish to be guaranteed (Canada Post willing) a paper copy of this newsletter, please be sure to send your \$10 Alumni Association membership fee using the form on the back of this newsletter. A reminder that fees are due in September *each year!*

Damaged Photos

Some of the reunion "class photos" that were mailed arrived damaged. If this happened to you please contact Steve McNeil, c/o South Secondary School (address on Page 4). A new photo will be sent at no cost to you. We apologize for this inconvenience.

\$75,000 by 75

By Pete Telford (Staff '78-'98)

The *Alumni Association*, at its Annual General Meeting, decided to extend the drive to raise \$75,000 to the end of the current year (December 2003). Although 19 classes have surpassed the \$1,000 per class needed to finance a proper Scholarship and Bursary awards program for *South*, several Grad Years have not managed to get their donation campaigns off the ground.

The classes who have reached the goal are: 1937, 1938, 1939, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1953, 1956, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1973, 1981, 1985, and Staff.

We would be delighted to see several classes which are well below the \$500 mark fire up their efforts before year's end: 1941, 1942, 1954, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1963, 1964, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1989, and the classes from the 1990's!

To contribute to the Fund, and qualify for a tax receipt for your donation, send a cheque payable to "Thames Valley District School Board" (and note in the memo section of the cheque "South Awards Fund, Class of 19__") to South Alumni Awards Fund, 371 Tecumseh Ave E, London, N6C 1T4.

And, thanks to those who have donated to the Fund since our last Newsletter (February, 2003): **1926-** Dorothy (Upshall) Richardson -in memoriam **1934-**Bob Gole **1936-**Dora (Dicks) McNeil, Marie Smibert **1937-** Wilfred Dicks **1938-**Hugh Millard-in memoriam **1939-**Helen (Calvert) Jones, George Aziz **1940-**Margaret (Glazier) McLachlin **1941-**Don Cram-in memoriam **1943-**Bob Lawrence, George Webber, Cuthbert Jones, Arlene (Logan) Cram, Irene (Jackson) Ferrier, Bill Wardle **1944-**Donald Marshall **1945-**Beverley (Stothers) Wethey **1946-** Jan (McKillop) Simpson, Vic Hall, Ernie Richards **1947-**Lily (Rimbault) Tetlow, Ken Smith **1948-**William Magee, Donna (Darling) Hall, Norene (McFalls) Martin, Irving Kirsh, Gwen McBurney **1949-**Barbara (Townshend) Ullerick **1950-**Barbara (Ramsay) Lee, John Martin, David Firth **1951-**Howard Erskine, Joanne (Holmes) Pettit **1952-**Sidney Kirsh, Eugene Farley, Elaine (Speiran) Hannah **1953-**Gladys (Birch) Tambling, Warren Squire, Barry Cunningham, Marion (Mitchell) Finch-in memoriam, Malcolm MacVicar, Sheila (Campbell) Newton, Margot (Freeman) Laird, Eileen (McCorquodale) Winnington-Ball, Bill Baldwin, Hugh Barr, James Bain, Bill Wood, Patricia (Mallett) Wood, Robert Cowan, Diane (Hill) Horlick, Ross Allan **1954-**Tom McClenaghan, Donna (Green) Hampson, Eleanore (Limon) Reynolds, Malcolm Kay, Bill Latham **1955-**Tom Orchard, Bob Scratch, Dorothy (Cole) Woolley, Beulah (Cornell) Frezell **1956-**Don Bere, Sharon (Stoneham) Bere, Mary Margaret

(Walker) Farrow, Douglas Orchard, John MacArthur, Paul MacKenzie, Bob Johnston **1958-**Carol Cott **1959-**Sandra (Stannard) Dixon **1960-**Sandy (Scott) Jamieson, Kelly Jones, Mary Margaret (Harding) Moir **1961-**Janet (Richardson) Jones **1962-**Ellen (Rice) Jaaku, Andres Jaaku, Edithe (Ernestons) Lynch, Marilyn (Matthews) Elgie, Graham Millson, Margaret (MacVicar) Highton **1965-**Barb (Meek) Urquhart, Knute Dohnberg **1966-**Charlene (Atkins) Lovett, Jacquie (Ferris) Downing, Ron Hinton, David Mulcaster, Anne Rockey, Lynne (Geary) Banfield, Cheryl (Bowern) Palmer, Judith (Thrasher) Cooke **1967-**Don Letton, Janet (Harding) Ward, Dan Davies **1968-**Jane Irwin **1969-**Donna (Jay) McBain **1970-**Andrea (Fewster) Manias **1971-**Linda (DuTrizak) Fletcher, Sue (Pope) Smythe, Cathy (Osborne) Rice, Larry Haskell, Alan Merkley **1974-**Andrea (Bell) Faulds **1977-**Simone (Gibson) Reynolds **1978-**Nancy Greene **1980-**Carolyn MacVicar **1981-**Roger Carp, Ian Clarke, Shaughn Russell **1982-**Jane (Cossar) Fischer **1983-**Tom Panabaker **1984-**Karen (Caddey) Keagy **1986-**Nataschja (Strybosch) Storzuk, John Calder **1987-**Tom Dalby, Stephanie (Cole) Tondeur, Jane Caskey **1988-**Jason Walker, Sarah Caskey **1990-**Nora (Cleary) Cuzzocrea, Erin McClenaghan **1992-**Alison Begley **1995-**James Granzio **Staff-**Eleanor Pearce, Graham Esler, Bill Hodgins, Wil Rice, Mary Lois Cooper, Julie Kyggsman, Barb Dalrymple, Harry Homer, Ron Reesor, Claude McCallum-in memoriam, Don Tremblay, Joanne Mayhew, Howard Capes

Count me in!

If you enjoy this newsletter, please help cover our costs. Join SCAA for just \$10.

Full Name		Maiden Name
Home Address		
City	Province/State	Postal/Zip Code
Home Phone		Email
Graduating Year	Clubs while at South	

\$10 annual dues for a limited time. Please include a cheque made payable to the South Collegiate Alumni Association and mail to the address at right. **Thank-you!**

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