



*Celebrating*  
**25 YEARS** OF SOUTHRIDGE

THIS YEAR, OUR COMMUNITY IS CELEBRATING THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHRIDGE, MARKING A 25-YEAR-LONG TRADITION OF DEVELOPING STUDENTS WITH STRONG MINDS AND GOOD HEARTS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

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#### A Message from Drew Stephens, Head of School

Celebrating 25 Years of Southridge provides us with the valuable opportunity to express appreciation for the commitment of so many people during the early years of our school's history, while also dreaming about a future of possibilities for Southridge.

The foundational principles that were put into place at Southridge in the early years have created a close and connected community, and they have had an enduring impact on hundreds of our graduates. Learning and living in a light-hearted place of serious purpose, where there are no locks on lockers, where knowledge and goodness go hand-in-hand, and where people are known and cared for generates conditions where alumni flourish after leaving the school.

There is so much to look forward to throughout the course of our 25th year. Celebrating our milestones, recognizing our past, and welcoming the future will blend together in a light-hearted atmosphere that is distinctly Southridge. I am looking forward to feeling the positive energy generated in our community as we come together over the coming months to remember the stories that sparked our guiding principles and that continue to shed light on our way forward.

*Great schools* are measured  
not by the accomplishments of  
their students, but by the  
*lives* led by their alumni.

Drew Stephens, Head of School

## Greetings from Southridge School Alumni Association!



Erin McDonald

We are pleased to share the fall | winter 2019 issue of the Southridge Alumni News. This edition features great stories about two of your fellow Alumni, Elaine Van (Class of 2006) and Brooke Page (Class of 2003), as well as important information about our upcoming 'Throwback' Christmas Feast and a link to some recent Alumni news and updates. We hope you enjoy reading it!

The Southridge Alumni News is just one way for you to stay connected to the Southridge community. If you have not already done so, I also encourage you to follow Southridge on social media, especially the Southridge Alumni [Facebook](#) Page and on [Instagram](#) where we post upcoming alumni events, alumni association news and fun photos of our alumni from 'back in the day'. As well, be sure to check your email throughout the year for important messages and announcements from the school.



Cassidy Fu

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Cassidy Fu (Class of 2018), who worked as the Alumni Research Assistant this summer. Cassidy was able to connect with more than 250 alumni over the summer and her work was very valuable in recruiting mentors for the launch of the ASK (Alumni Sharing Knowledge) Program. Thank you Cassidy for strengthening our alumni community and for your enthusiasm for the Alumni Association—it's truly appreciated!

If you have news to share, questions to ask, or would like to provide us with some feedback/story ideas, please contact us anytime. We hope you will stay in touch and that we will see you at an alumni event soon!

Sincerely,

Erin McDonald  
Alumni Relations Coordinator



Saturday, December 21, 2019

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Southridge Senior School, Alan Brown Great Hall

Featuring Entertainment by:

**Wes BARKER**  
**Comedy Stunt Magician**

As Seen  
On:



A Locally-Sourced  
Deluxe Christmas  
Buffet served by:

**SAGE**  
DINING SERVICES®

Click [HERE](#) to purchase your tickets today!

### *Tickets*

Ticket Cost:	Alumni	\$10.00
	Alumni Guest*	\$25.00

Ticket price includes two complimentary drink tickets and the Christmas Buffet

### *Heads or Tails Game*

Game Token:	Per Play**	\$10.00
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Play in our Heads or Tails game for a chance to win a prize!

*Can't wait to see you there! Plan to visit our 25th Anniversary Pop-up Shop to purchase commemorative swag! (cash/credit/cheques accepted)*



## Alumni to Student Mentorship Program Launch

The Southridge School Alumni Association is very excited to announce the new alumni to student mentorship program *ASK (Alumni Sharing Knowledge)* which launched in September!



For years, Southridge students have expressed an eagerness to learn from our alumni, and are thrilled to partner with the school's Post-Secondary Guidance and Career Education department to develop the *ASK Program*. The *ASK Program* enables alumni to share their professional and personal expertise with current students that will help prepare them for a successful future while also leaving a lasting impact on the school community. As a team, we want to ensure our students feel prepared for life beyond Southridge after graduating from the Senior School.

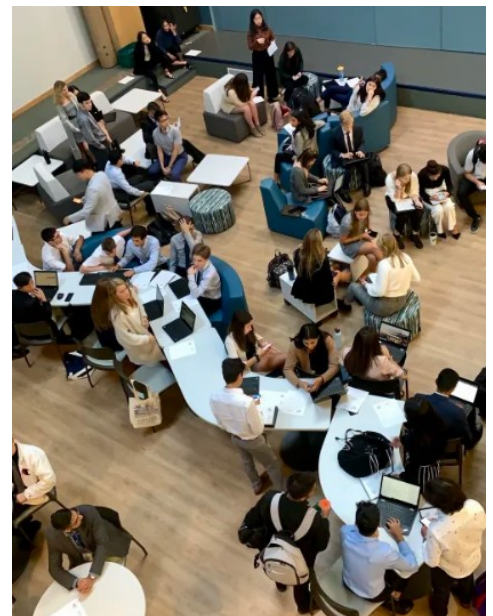
Throughout Grade 11, students (mentees) will have an opportunity to build a connection with an assigned Southridge Alumni Mentor as part of the program. During the year, mentors (alumni) and mentees will have a minimum of six meetings and/or conversations that will help with career and education research. After each conversation, students will write a short report/reflection that will be posted in their myBlueprint portfolio.

As alumni, we believe that mentoring promotes healthy and positive relationships between mentees and mentors, which in turn builds a stronger and more connected community. Research has shown that mentoring activities promote self-esteem, confidence, and social appropriateness, which are qualities we want to help current students build as they enter their senior years at Southridge and life beyond our school!

On behalf of the Alumni Association, we want to thank the community for allowing us the opportunity to support the success of current students. Together, we can make sure Southridge students get the most out of their post-secondary education by connecting with our alumni network.

*Written by the Mentorship Committee*

*Alexandra Pintea, Kristin Hazzard, Ian Tang, Cory To, and Erin Salh*



## Career Day – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Speaker Panel

Every fall, Senior School students participate in Leadership Experience Week activities. The Grade 11 and 12 students attend “Career Day” for their kick-off event. Each year, we invite guests to tell their stories to our senior students to assist them as they investigate career and education pathways.

This past September, our Career Day focused on inviting alumni back to school. In a wonderful year of 25th anniversary celebrations, we were thrilled to welcome back 25 alumni who not only shared where life’s journey has taken them, but also participated in the launch of our new mentorship program, ASK (Alumni Sharing Knowledge).





## From Digital Marketing to Developing a Soda Pop Company



Elaine Van (Class of '06) grew up in Langley, and started attending Southridge in Grade 6 graduating in 2006. After graduation, she completed a Bachelor of Commerce at McMaster. Once finished, she decided there was no better time to fulfill her dream of moving to London, England.

In London, she worked in digital marketing and pivoted to a role involving workforce planning software licensing renewals. While working full time, Elaine was always trying business ventures on the side. She loved the idea of one day having her own business. One day at a restaurant in Germany, drinking a local German cola, she had the idea to create a Canadian-made soda pop. But it wasn't enough to just

make a new brand - she wondered if she could also make it with at least half the sugar? After doing more research she made the bold decision to quit her job, move back to Canada and start manufacturing a healthier soda pop.

Once she was back in Surrey, she jumped in with both feet. She had to learn how to manufacture a product from scratch while keeping the sugar content low, and price reasonable enough that local restaurants could stock it. After hundreds of test batches and many moments of uncertainty and frustration, she found the delicious recipe to create a cola and lemonade. "Getting food service outlets on board was a challenge, but once you get your first customer, you know you can do it again; you just have to be persistent."

Her goal is to make Canoe Cola a national brand. She's had a great first summer winning local food service outlets as well as encouraging responses from customers at farmers markets throughout the Lower Mainland.

Written by Alexandra Pinteá

### Advice from Elaine:

"If you know you want to do something, don't wait; life is short and the 'perfect moment' probably doesn't exist! Just try it and be prepared to learn."



### Creating a Meaningful Network

After graduation, Brooke Pagé (Class of '03) was your classic, busy urban Vancouver woman about to start her dream job as an internet marketing manager and was enjoying city-life and exploring the world with her boyfriend Evan.

## WAGS of SCI

wives and girlfriends of spinal cord injury

Brooke's world took a significant shift on May 28, 2014, when Evan, a construction site superintendent, was at a job helping to build a new school and 3,500 pounds of unsecured wood flooring fell on his head, smashing his helmet and leaving him paralyzed. "It was a total freak accident," Pagé said. As a couple, they embraced this life-challenge together, marrying in 2016; however as time went on, Brooke felt the need to find other women who she could relate to as she supported her husband through this journey.

She found Elena Pauly and chatted with her on Instagram, and after learning that they lived just two blocks apart in Vancouver, would regularly get together for yoga and coffee. After finding support in each other, the two friends decided to grow their community so other women with partners who sustained spinal cord injuries could find support. They started Wives and Girlfriends of Spinal Cord Injury, or WAGS of SCI for short., which began as an [Instagram account](#) that would coordinate in-person meet-ups around Vancouver.

Within only two years, they have expanded with a [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [YouTube videos](#), where they celebrate couples living with spinal cord injuries, and provide resources for other women to openly discuss the daily challenges of supporting people with spinal cord injuries.

"It started with the goal to just connect with other ladies in Vancouver," Pagé said. "Our friends don't get it. Our families don't get it. We just wanted to help others who were in a similar situation."

The support group now has 10 international ambassadors across the United States and one ambassador in South Africa. The women provide outreach and support to others in their area, and organize events and meet-ups to connect women. Brooke has helped create a very meaningful network, which women and men have collectively said helped with their own journeys.

Brooke, in partnership with Elena, has been able to channel her professional experience to help support the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation with content development and regularly supports the organization with social media strategy and runs the discussion forum to help others.



### Advice from Brooke:

*"I feel so fortunate to be able to use my education and experience while helping others. It's very rewarding knowing you're making a real difference in the lives of others, while also helping to change stigmas and break barriers. You never know where life can take you, and embracing challenges with perseverance and hope can take you as far as you want to go!"*

## Meet the Newest Alumni - 2019 Graduates



**Harrison French '19**

What school are you attending, and what program are you studying?

I am attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. I am in the B.S. Aeronautical Science program with a specialty in fixed wing flight. So far, Embry-Riddle has treated me very well! It's an amazing place to be, with almost every student on campus interested in flight.

What profession do you hope to have after graduating?

After graduating Embry-Riddle, I plan to become a commercial airline pilot, and I hope to return to Canada. As most pilots do, I will probably start at a smaller company and slowly work my way up to a major carrier in Canada.

What about the future makes you excited?

I am very excited to represent our country as a pilot. Air Canada's slogan is "Fly the Flag", and it makes me very proud to know I will be doing that one day. Most of all, I am looking forward to meeting people onboard my flights and receiving the satisfaction of bringing people together all around the world.



**Amadea de Wit '19**

What school are you attending, and what program are you studying?

I am attending Simon Fraser University and am studying Mechatronic Systems Engineering (it is a mixture of mechanical and electronics engineering - combining into a form of robotic engineering)!

What profession do you hope to have after graduating?

After graduation, I hope to be a Mechatronics Systems Engineer who specializes in exoskeletons and robotic limbs.

What about the future makes you excited?

Robotics is the future of technology! I am excited to be working in the area of robotics as it will give me the opportunity to innovate cutting-edge technologies that will not only push the technology sector forward to major breakthroughs, but will also give me an opportunity to make a positive impact on other people and the environment. Being an engineer is such an empowering career because it gives you the skills and knowledge to build whatever you can dream up, and to use what you innovate to make a positive impact on the people and world around you.



## Southridge is donating up to \$40K in special one-time-only Community Grant Program



On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, we launched our Country Fair Community Grant Program. Through this initiative, we are donating proceeds from the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Fair, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, to local non-profits as a “thank you” to the community for their support over the past 25 years.

Registered charities in Surrey, White Rock, Langley, and Delta are all welcome to apply. Grants awarded will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. A selection committee will meet in early 2020 and the selected charities will be announced in March 2020.

Members of the Southridge community are invited to share the Country Fair Community Grant with anyone they know associated with organizations that meet the criteria and would benefit from the funds.

The deadline to apply is December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 4:00 pm. To learn more about this Grant Program, or to view the application, please visit: [www.southridge.ca/community/community-grant-program](http://www.southridge.ca/community/community-grant-program).

If you have any questions about the Community Grant Program, please contact Ashley Davies at [adavies@southridge.bc.ca](mailto:adavies@southridge.bc.ca) or 604-542-5367.



*Now Accepting  
Applications Until  
December 6!*

### Mark your calendars!

#### Alumni Association AGM



April 22, 2020 - 7:00 pm  
Southridge School Alan Brown Great Hall

#### Class of 2010 - 10 Year Reunion



May 9, 2020 - 8:00 pm  
Location: TBD

#### Alumni Basketball/Volleyball Tournament and BBQ



May 9, 2020 - 11:00 am  
Southridge School

#### Coast to Coast Pub Night



July 16, 2020 - 6:00 pm  
Location: TBD

<https://www.southridge.ca/alumni/upcoming-events-reunions>