

**FEBRUARY
2012**

ISSUE 1

Spirit Of
SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912-2012

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO



Aerial view of the town of Schumacher with the public school and large playground in the foreground, ca. 1940. TMNEC

**HAPPY 100TH
SCHUMACHER!**

March 1st, 1912 to 2012

FEBRUARY 2012



WHY I AM PROUD TO SAY I LIVE IN SCHUMACHER?

I am proud to say I live in Schumacher. I was born here and have spent most of my 50 odd years in this town I call home. My grandfather moved here from Cochrane in 1916 and never left. My parents raised us here...my siblings still live here. I have lived on almost every street in this little hamlet....my parents could never afford to buy a home and we moved whenever a landlord raised the rent to a point where it became too much of a burden on a gold miners salary.

We were finally fortunate to rent from an elderly Croatian couple Luca Budak and his wife for 20 years. The third floor two bedroom apartment on Birch Street was hot in the summer and cold in the winter, but it's where I grew up. The Hannigans lived on the second floor and our landlord on the main floor. I have fond memories of friends like Ken Murdoch, Joanne Salomone, Duilio De Pol and Brenda Corbeil who lived on that block and the fun we had living across from the school yard. It was the centre of our universe.

Whether it was hockey in winter, baseball and soccer in summer or football in the fall, there was always a game going on at the school yard and anyone could join in. It didn't matter if you were male or female, little or big....anyone could play. There was a pecking order... little kids got stuck in net most of the time, but you didn't care. You knew your turn would come to play forward and shoot frozen tennis balls at someone else.

It became very obvious to me at an early age that Schumacher was a special place to live. A variety of



A photo of Campbell Clan Members L to R Gord, Betty, Heather.

nationalities were represented in our little town each taking pride in what they represented and all worked hard to maintain their homes and gardens. I learned to speak a little Croatian from my Yugoslavian neighbours and Italian from the Italian ones. We celebrated our differences and all the various flags flying at the entrance to Schumacher reflect this.

Where else could you walk down the street and have everyone recognize you? This sometimes was a detriment if you got into mischief your parents would know what you did before you got home... and when you got home look out! Neighbours knew who your parents were or knew whose little sister or brother you were.

There was a curfew for those under the age of 16. The fire horn situated on top of the fire hall would sound at 9 p.m. sharp and you had to be off the street. Local police would actually remind you that you had to be home if you mistimed your playtime.

To prepare for the July 1st fireman's tournament our volunteer fire department would set up targets on the street near the fire hall twice a week in May and June and practice hitting them with powerful hoses drenching every kid who was standing behind them.

My parents never owned a car. They bought their groceries at Consumer's Co Op on the corner of Second and Cedar, bought pharmaceuticals from Wilson's Drug Store and hardware items from Schumacher Hardware on First Avenue or Grant's Hardware Store on Cedar Street. My Dad got his hair cut at Luigi's as did my brother, nephews and son. We girls went to Kay's Beauty Salon.

They supported local restaurants like Sagan's Grill also known as Johnny's. You could actually get sundaes to go there as long as you brought the dishes back the next day. If they needed to travel to the

big town of Timmins we hopped on a Schumacher Bus Line bus or as we affectionately called them a "Dwyer Flyer."

Attending Schumacher Public School was also a privilege as it had some of the most dedicated teachers I have ever met. Principal Art Murphy would lead us in a Friday morning singsong where we were exposed to all kinds of music. Christmas was an especially happy time for the kids at SPS as Mr. Schumacher gave Christmas presents to every kid who lived in Schumacher. A tradition that continues to this day through the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department and the generosity of Mr. Schumacher's great grand daughter, Lesley Blanchard.

Thanks to the benevolence of McIntyre Porcupine Mines owner JP Bickell and mine manager Dick Ennis, growing up in Schumacher allowed my family and me to enjoy one of the best recreational parks and first class sports facility.... the McIntyre Park and Community Centre. Miners were awarded coupons for working safely that could be redeemed for anything that was offered at The Mac...

skating, bowling, hockey, even meals at the coffee shop.

We learned to swim at the Schumacher Lion's Club pool on the highway. The Lion's Sportsman show was also an event which we looked forward to every year. Camp Bickell was a regular vacation spot for me first as a camper and later as an employee. The friends I made during those summers are still in my life today and highly valued.

Where else but Schumacher could you have over eight drinking hotel establishments to choose from?

Who can forget the many successful Schumacher Day fastball tournaments when people travelled from near and far for the celebrations? Even today, every five years former residents come from all around the world to celebrate the Schumacher Homecoming Reunion and share with others what it meant to call Schumacher, Ontario their home.

Mining towns are not supposed to last 100 years...when the gold runs out...people leave town to seek employment elsewhere. This

has happened here to a degree, but dedicated cores of families stayed and continue to work at making Schumacher a great place to live.

We still enjoy using The Mac. Schumacher Public is a top notch educational facility. The Croatian Hall is still available for parties and socials and the Schumacher Day minor hockey system is second to none in the area. The Lions Club and Fire Department are still providing valuable service to the community and people.

Growing up in Schumacher gave me a sense of belonging and comaradery. I knew who I was and what was expected of me. I felt safe knowing my neighbours. We celebrated successes together and stood by each other in times of hardship.

Yes things have changed, but this little town still stands proud one hundred years after becoming Schumacher. A mixture of old residents and new working together will guarantee that Schumacher continues to stand tall for many more years. Plus we have the newly established SACHA and the SPIRIT OF SCHUMACHER community newsletter to help us promote and learn more about our art, culture and heritage.

*So let's be proud of Schumacher and celebrate the past **100 years** while looking forward to a **100 MORE!***

**Heather(Campbell) Swietek,
SOS Editor**



Looking west on First Avenue in the 1950s. TMNEC

SCHUMACHER LIVES

A DOCUMENTARY FILM AND INTERACTIVE WEBSITE PROJECT

Hi, I'm Bridget Yard.

As a student of journalism at St. Thomas University in New Brunswick, I'm always looking for the next story. No subject has been so close to me or so intriguing as the story of my hometown - Schumacher, Ontario. Living in Fredericton has given me a new perspective on the town I grew up in, and the chance to examine it from afar. Now that I will be directing a documentary film about our town, it's hard to think of a better story to tell, because the story of Schumacher is one that needs to be told.

My interest in Schumacher was piqued by the stories told to me by my relatives, and by my own memories of a town that, sadly, no longer exists in the same way as when I was a small child. I want to find out more about this place and the people who have lived here. I want to know why this community was so tightly-knit and culturally vibrant? I want to know what has changed and why? And what might the future of Schumacher be?

The SCHUMCHER LIVES film and website project is very close to me as it marks my first foray into documentary filmmaking, and the subject is so timely and personal. The miners, business owners, homemakers, sports heroes, and local residents, past and present

are the only people who can truly tell the story of our town. So it will be the diverse and vibrant people of Schumacher who will be at the heart of this project and I'm looking forward to meeting and interviewing community members during the research & filming process.

Since April 2011, I have been working with a filmmaker originally from Schumacher, Lloyd Salomone, to produce the SCHUMACHER LIVES film and website. Taylor Salomone and Brandon Theriault, high school students from Schumacher, will also be involved as film crew doing camera, sound, editing and technical support. So as to capture the 100th anniversary celebrations, we expect to complete the film by the Fall of 2013.

I would like to give a big thank you to the following people and organizations who have made in-kind and financial contributions to the SCHUMACHER LIVES film project - Lou Battochio, Brian Getty & the Board of Schumacher Day Inc.; Lesley Blanchard at the Schumacher Foundation; Mayor Tom Laughren and City of Timmins Council & Staff; and Karen Bachmann & staff at the Timmins Museum & National Exhibition Centre. Plus the many other people, organizations, government agencies and businesses who will participate and contribute to this very worth while and important project.

Finally, please email me if you have any questions about the film project at bridgetyard@gmail.com



A photo of Bridget Yard

THE EARLY DAYS OF CAMP BICKELL

Growing up in Schumacher had many advantages. During the winter we had amazing facilities offered at The Mac. We could skate, bowl, play basketball, curl or learn the finer points of gymnastics or folk dancing.

But in summer our thoughts turned to Camp Bickell on Chapman Lake. For decades, summer at Camp Bickell was an integral part of every child that

grew up in Schumacher. First you were a camper and then if you were lucky you were hired on as a camp counsellor.

Camp Bickell, located between Timmins and Iroquois Falls is entering its 73rd year of continuous operation and over the past decade has grown into a modern outdoor recreation facility. But the early days of Camp Bickell were quite humble and remarkable.



A photo of the Camp Bickell Sign

Join us in celebrating
the 100th Anniversary
of Schumacher



Gilles Bisson
MPP/député

Timmins-James Bay
Timmins-Baie James

Timmins - 705-268-6400 | Kapuskasing - 705-335-6400
gbisson@ndp.on.ca

In 1939 Percy Boyce the principal of Schumacher Public School took a bunch of boys on an outdoor camping trip. He convinced Charlie Kanerna the school janitor to let him pitch a few tent tarps on his cottage lot. Unfortunately it rained heavily making the camping trip a miserable experience for the young boys.

Hearing the plight of these campers, Dick Innes, manager of the McIntyre Mine decided to investigate if more proper accommodations could be provided. At the time the mine had several surplus buildings and so these were moved and erected on Kanerna's lot.

But Dick Innes went one step further and looked into the availability of a lakeside lot and found one for purchase on Chapman Lake. He approached mine owner Jack Bickell who in three days personally authorized funding and support for a permanent recreational facility and making Camp Bickell a reality.

Since these early days thousands of boys and girls from Schumacher and the greater Timmins area have attended Camp Bickell. Today the JP Bickell Outdoor Centre provides a positive recreational experience for children and adults from all walks of life.

CELEBRATE MR. SCHUMACHER DAYS ON MARCH 1ST & 2ND

In exchange for a new train station and townsite, Frederick W. Schumacher requested that Aura Lake, Ontario be changed to Schumacher. That request was granted on March 1st 1912 by Jack Englehart, Commissioner of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railroad. In honour of

Mr. Schumacher and all that he has contributed to the people and community over the last 100 years, the first annual **MR. SCHUMACHER DAYS** will be held featuring a Miners Night Walk on Thursday March 1st and the Spirit of Schumacher Social on Friday March 2nd.



Frederick W. Schumacher portrait by Kenneth Forbes

MINERS NIGHT WALK ON THURSDAY MARCH 1ST

Before automobiles started to become popular, thousands of men and women walked to work at the Hollinger, McIntyre and Dome gold mines. To celebrate and commemorate their contribution to the Porcupine mining camp, SACHA (Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association) and TMNEC (Timmins Museum & National Exhibition Centre) are proud to co-present the first annual Miner's Night Walk on Thursday, March 1st at the McIntyre Community Building.

The purpose of the Miner's Night Walk is to bring people and communities closer together and to experience what thousands of mine workers had to do on a daily basis

over many decades, no matter what the weather was. It's a family event where participants are invited to bring a flash light, lunch pail and hard hat, to recreate the daily ritual that mine workers under took every day - walking to work.

The Miner's Night Walk event will begin at the Frederick W. Schumacher Ballroom at The Mac starting at 6pm. Then at 7pm all participants will begin to walk to the McIntyre Mine headframe and back to the ballroom with their flashlights beaming, lunch pail in hand and a hard hat on.

The Miner's Night Walk event will feature 100 years of music played by DJ Graham Reid and

a 50 / 50 draw. Plus there will be a Cash Bar and complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate and a giant birthday cake served up by Boogys Food Service to celebrate the first annual Mr. Schumacher Days and the 100th anniversary of Schumacher (March 1, 1912 to 2012) and City of Timmins.

So come out with family and friends to get a bit of fresh air and exercise while having fun sharing our mining heritage. Admission is free, with non-perishable donations being accepted for the local food bank. The Miner's Night Walk is also supported by the Schumacher Lions Club, City of Timmins and Gold Corp Inc.

SPIRIT OF SCHUMACHER SOCIAL ON MARCH 2ND



The Croatian Hall, the cultural base for the Croatian population, also welcomed a variety of community functions, school concerts and plays, banquets and dances *Zora (Maletich) Chenier*

The Croatian Hall Society and the Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association will be co-presenting the 1st annual Spirit of Schumacher Social on Friday March 2nd, 2012, with help from the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department.

This event is part of the first annual Mr Schumacher Days, which will officially kick off a year of community activities and events to celebrate Schumacher's 100th Anniversary. It's a "must attend" event for anyone who has lived, worked and associated with the community of Schumacher over the last 100 years.

The Spirit of Schumacher Social will begin at 7pm and go until 1am at the Croatian Hall in Schumacher. The evening will feature over 100 years of music with DJ Graham Reid spinning some "Oldie Goldies" from the 1920's to 1960's until 10 pm, followed by Mark Chenier's band "Big Deal" playing live contemporary music until closing.

A 100th Anniversary Schumacher birthday cake will be provided by Marc Duciaume of Boogy's Food Service. Complimentary refreshments and light appetizers will be served along with a cash bar. Door prizes will also be given out during the evening.

And to get into a festive mood, everyone attending is being asked to bring some of their "old Schumacher photographs" for a show and tell with family, friends and neighbors in attendance.

Plus, the film crew for the SCHUMACHER LIVES documentary film & interactive website will be onsite capturing all the festivities. So mark the evening of Friday March 2nd in your calendar and get the gang out to celebrate 100 years at the Spirit of Schumacher Social!

Admission is \$10 per person. Only 200 tickets will be available and sold at the McIntyre Coffee Shop.

SCHUMACHER LIONS CLUB

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1935

As a result of Vernon Lachance, a representative of Lions International, in 1935 a small group of men from Schumacher came together to form the first Lions Club north of North Bay. The first meeting of the Schumacher Lions Club took place on Feb. 3, 1935 at the Recreational Hotel (later known as the Plaza Hotel razed by fire in the 1970's). The club was chartered with 24 members and Dr. Roy Weston was elected the first president, with the SLC receiving its charter from Lions International on May 22, 1935 at the Croatian Hall.

It's charter marked the expansion of Lionism into the north and since 1941 the Schumacher Lions Club has met weekly at the McIntyre Community Building. In 1977-78 the SLC spent two years converting the old Mac bowling alley into the Lions Centre which hosts its meetings and has become a very active community centre for Schumacher.

The Lions International motto is "We Serve" and since 1935 the Schumacher Lions Club has proudly served the people and community of Schumacher and greater Timmins. SLC accomplishments have been huge - assisting people in need, undertaking and supporting a wide variety of local and international projects, presenting events that raise thousands of dollars and help bring the community together - all in an effort to improve the quality of life for those in its service area.



The Schumacher Lions Club Swimming Pool

From the beginning, projects that benefited children and the community were special to the Schumacher Lions Club. In 1936 the SLC introduced tuberculin testing at Schumacher Public School and before the Porcupine Health Unit was created in 1944, professional medical members of the club administered serum to the public.

It was fears of children swimming in unsafe and unsupervised lakes and rivers that lead the Schumacher Lions Club to undertake their biggest project in 1937 - the building, maintenance and operations of a public outdoor swimming pool. Then, as part of a 1967 Centennial Project, the SLC raised funds to build a year round indoor swimming pool facility which was handed over to the City of Timmins in 1975. But with a new swimming pool facility being built in Timmins, the Centennial pool was handed back to the SLC in 1984 and dismantled for economical

reasons with the property being sold to a motel chain.

During the Second World War, the Schumacher Lions Club served its country by selling bonds to aid in the war effort. With Schumacher being a small tight-knit community, the Lions developed a door-to-door blitz which has and still is used on occasion to successfully raise funds for worthwhile community projects. Seeing a Schumacher Lion on their doorstep gave the club a high profile and helped to keep its members close to the community and the concerns of residents.

But this is just a very small sample of what the Schumacher Lions Club has done to serve the community of Schumacher and greater Timmins since 1935.

This historical installment was researched & written by SLC Member, Joe Ferrari and will be the first of several in SOS.



SCHUMACHER LIONS CLUB

65TH ANNUAL SPORTSMAN SHOW AT THE SCHUMACHER ARENA AND CURLING RINK

Sat April 21
10am-8pm

Sun April 22
10am-5pm

COME OUT AND SEE THE NEW 2012 LINE UP OF BOATS, FISHING AND CAMPING GEAR AND A HOST OF OUTDOOR PRODUCTS. THERE IS SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



Back again year is the Northern Fan Expo featuring John Schneider the Original Bo Duke from Dukes of Hazard

Star Wars Storm Troopers and **MANY MORE**

We also have for the whole family: shows from **THE VERY POPULAR BIRD'S OF PREY**

DAILY ENTRY FEE:

Children, Students & Seniors - \$5

Adults - \$6

Family - \$16

Children 10 & Under FREE

(Must be accompanied by a parent/guardian)



SCHUMACHER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT A RUNNING HISTORY

As with many small towns, the local volunteer fire department is critical to the safety of the residents and their homes. The first Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department meeting was held on January 31, 1921. C. Juchs was appointed fire chief with W.C. Arnott as captain and J. Dillon and W. McKay as lieutenants.

According to the minutes of that first meeting there were eight fire fighters appointed and equipment ranged from rubber boots to wrenches, oil hats and rubber coats. The department in the early 1920s was kept busy with chimney fires. An average of 15 to 20 chimney fires were reported a year in those early days of Schumacher when most homes burned wood for heating and cooking purposes.

In the early years the Schumacher Fire Department

was part of the Cochrane District Firefighters Association which hosted yearly conventions and tournaments. Minutes from the early meetings mentioned the presentation of the Fireman's Ball which was held annually, with admission being \$2.00 for gentleman and free for ladies.

It was during a meeting in 1922 that the fire squad adopted maroon and white colours for its

uniform. In 1924 the department purchased a Lafrance fire truck and two members were permitted to live at the fire hall with the town paying their living expenses. With the arrival of the new truck S MacMillan was the appointed driver while W. Leck and M. MacMillan were assigned to operate the hydrants.

But since the 1920's, the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department has been proudly serving the people and community of Schumacher in many ways.

This historical installment was researched & written by SVFD Fire Chief, George Delich and will be the first of several in SOS.



SVFD July 1st Fireman's Tournament - L to R Unknown, Bill Hartling, Mac MacDonald, Art Corris (boy) - CA 1940's

ABOUT SACHA

SCHUMACHER ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

On December 3rd, 2011, a new Schumacher non-profit group met at The Mac to hold its first Board meeting. Known as SACHA (Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association), the mandate of the organization is "to educate and advance the public's understanding and appreciation of arts, culture and heritage, so as to enhance the social, spiritual, environmental and economic quality of life for the people of Schumacher and greater Timmins area."

The current Board of Directors for SACHA are:

Graham Reid (President), Mark Chenier (Vice President), Kathy Vukobratc (Treasurer), Lloyd Salomone (Secretary), Leslie Anne Dupuis, Debbie Laffin, and Brian Conley. SACHA's working committee's include: Events, Exhibits & Educational Programming; Built Heritage & Infrastructure; Advocacy & Fundraising; Promotions & Communications; and Human Resources & Nominations.

SACHA partners and works closely with other community groups, businesses and governments to serve the community and people of Schumacher. If interested in assisting SACHA as a volunteer, please contact one of our Board members or email us at sacha@spiritofschumacher.ca.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY TO MAY 2012 *SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO - THE MEETING PLACE!*

February 23 -26 ~ 2012 Northern Ontario Senior Men's Provincial Curling Championship presented by the McIntyre Curling Club @ The Mac. For more information call **360-1770** or visit <http://curlthemac.ca/>

March 1 ~ Miners' Night Walk Thursday March 1st, 6-9pm @Mac Ballroom. Bring lunch pail, flashlight and hard hat for a community walk to the McIntyre headframe at 7pm. Music, birthday cake, refreshments, cash bar. Free, family event.

March 1 ~ Celebrate Mr. Schumacher Days on Thursday March 1st with a Tribute to CCR. Live at JJ's Ranch, tickets \$15 on sale Feb. 1st only 150 available. Show starts at 9:30pm with DJ in between.
Come celebrate Schumacher's 100th.

March 2 ~ Spirit of Schumacher Social, 7pm to 1am, Thursday March 2nd @ Croatian Hall to celebrate 100th anniversary of Schumacher. DJ & live band, birthday cake, door pizes, cash bar. Only 200 tickets \$10 each sold @ Mac Coffee Shop.

March 2 - 4 ~ NOHA Tournament of Champions presented by Timmins Minor Hockey Association @ The Mac.

March 3 - 4 ~ Schumacher 100th Party. JJ's Ranch winter carnival patio party. Tribute & CD release for Grandma!

March 7 ~ Montreal Canadiens Alumni Charity Hockey Game to support prostate cancer research & awareness @ The Mac. Admission \$20, tickets at City Leisure Services or Canadian Cancer Society **264-7434 ext. 3743** for info.

March 9 -11 ~ NOHA Atom & Bantam D Tournament of Champions presented by Schumacher Minor Hockey Association @ The Mac.

March 11 ~ Porcupine Ski Runners annual 2012 Loppet ski celebration for club members and visiting x-country skiers. Across from Carium Road off Highway 101 in Schumacher. Contact Mary Anne Church at m-amartin@hotmail.com

March 22 - 24 ~ Ministry of Natural Resources Provincial Hockey Tournament with games @ The Mac.

April 12 ~ Nova Awards presented by Timmins Chamber of Commerce @ The Mac. For more info call **360-1900**.

April 17 - 18 ~ Northeastern Ontario Public Works Organization AGM & Trade Show @The Mac. Info **360-2600 ext. 5020**.

April 21 - 22 ~ 65th Annual Sportsmen Show presented by the Schumacher Lions Club @ The Mac. Info @ **363-8702**.

April 27 -29 ~ 2012 Home Show presented by Timmins Construction Association @ The Mac. For more information visit <http://www.tca-on.ca/>

April 28 ~ Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Croatian Hall (1932 - 2012) with an evening of Croatian food, music & dance. Special guest, Canada's Polka King & 3 time Grammy winner, Walter Ostenak. Sat. Feb. 28th, 6:30pm to 1am, \$35 / ticket or free to Croatian Hall Society members. Max. 180 tickets sold. Call Frank Sebalj at **264-7881** or **360-1466**.

May 16 -17 ~ The Big Event Northern Mines Expo presented by Canadian TradeEx Group @ The Mac. Info at **264-2251**.



CONTACT

The Spirit of Schumacher community newsletter is published quarterly (February, May, August, November) by SACHA (Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association), a not-for-profit organization. Printed newsletters are distributed free to all postal boxes in Schumacher and at local retail outlets. A digital (PDF) newsletter is free by downloading off the SACHA Facebook site or subscribe via email.

All proceeds from ad sales cover newsletter costs and promoting SACHA's various activities. Editorial Inquiries: Heather (Campbell) Swietek, email hmswietek@msn.com or call 705-267-6956; Advertising Inquiries: Lloyd Salomone, email lloyd_salomone@hotmail.com or call 506-459-2599; Design & Layout by BEN.D Graphics; **Mail:** SACHA c/o PO Box 58, Schumacher, Ontario, PON 1G0.
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 **GOLDCORP**
PORCUPINE GOLD MINES

Celebrating Schumacher's
100th Anniversary