

**AUGUST
2012**

ISSUE 3

Spirit Of
SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2012

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

OLD SCHUMACHER HIGH ENGULFED IN FLAMES

Early in the morning on Friday July 6th, 2012, a fire broke out at the old Schumacher High School.
Below are photos taken of the fire and ruins.



AUGUST 2012



SPENDING SUMMER AT CAMP BICKELL WAS FUN



Growing up in Schumacher offered kids a wide variety of things to do year round. One activity that most kids in Schumacher and the surrounding area took part in every summer was heading to Camp Bickell for 10 days of camping. Back in the old days the cost of sending a kid to Bickell was a dollar a day...yes you read right...one dollar. Every parent in Schumacher and South Porcupine jumped at the opportunity to get a little break from all us angels.

Camp Bickell located on Chapman Lake about 40 kilometers east of Schumacher, is in its 73rd year and still going strong. It has changed a bit from when I was a camper. Our community centre was just a larger version of the cabins where we went to have sing songs and have people put on skits or play an instrument for our entertainment. Today the lodge is valued at half a million dollars and is a state of the art building with everything a camper would need including a big screen television and air conditioning.

I was nine years old when I first got on the yellow school bus to head down to camp. The applications were circulated through the schools and a medical report had to be filled out to see if you could go to camp. I lived in fear that Dr. Hope would find something wrong with me and I would not be allowed to go. That fear was unfounded because I always passed the physical. We didn't have medical personnel on site back then but Anson General Hospital in Iroquois Falls was 10 minutes away in case of emergency. Camp Bickell today employs a full time nurse for all camps.

The camps I went to were all female with all boys' camps following the girl's ones. Each of the seven cabins had room for 11 campers and one counsellor. Today the cabins sleep 20 per side and indoor plumbing. We used to bathe in the lake and if any of our clothes got wet, we hung them on the railing outside our cabins and hoped it didn't rain until they dried. Today the facility has a fully equipped shower building and washers and dryers.

My counsellors in those early days included Dorothy Miner whom we called Dot, Sue Pecore and Pricilla McLellan all quality people who became surrogate mothers to us in the cabin. Every year Janet Shanks, Judy Chenier, Marg Delost, Sandra Baker and Connie Fournier were my bunkmates.

The food was varied and nutritious but also included the fun stuff too like hot dogs and hamburgers. Cooks like Winnie Sullivan and Josephine Ivancic always made sure we had lots of food. My favourite cook was Irene Guacci who made the best pies ever...and was a good friend of my Mom so she kept an eye out for me.

The Golden Egg hunt was a highlight of the camp and consisted of a series of clues which led each team around the camp looking for the Golden Egg (a rock painted gold) and bragging rights.

Sunday was visiting day and we took part in a water regatta and again competed against other teams in swimming and canoeing events all for the pleasure of the visiting parents and

family members who line the railing at the top of the swim area. One particular event which was a favorite for all was jousting in which two people manned a canoe one steering and the other standing on the seat with a long bamboo pole with a boxing glove tied to it. The point was to knock the guy in the other canoe into the water.

I learned to swim at Camp Bickell while my brother Joe was lifeguard. I also learned to canoe and row a boat. There were lessons in first aid, nature and life saving, all for a dollar a day. Later when I was employed there we were paid three dollars a day. The staff I had the pleasure of working with included Randy, Donny, Danny Chuck, Priscilla and Rosemary McLellan from South Porcupine as well as Pat Stanlake, Joanne Salomone, Cathy Buchar, Diane Markusic, Jane McDonald, Mary and Annie Kolich, Ethel Smith, Brenda Corbeil, Cyndee Barrette and Helen Woitwicz just to name a few.

We worked hard but had fun too...including carrying the story of Poopchuck a former resident of a demolished house on the property. He had apparently killed his wife and buried her under cabin six and haunted the camp. It was a great way to keep kids in their cabins at night and it is still part of Bickell folklore. I still have former campers tell me how much fun they had attending Camp Bickell....and now their grand kids are going and although things have changed...these kids are making memories that will last a lifetime.

Heather (Campbell) Swietek,
SOS Editor

MARIA ST. AUBIN

COLOURFUL, QUIRKY & YOUTHFUL?

Maria St. Aubin is a familiar face to many in Schumacher. Her mother's family, the Pupich clan, is a fixture of the community. She grew up within the walls of Schumacher Public School. She runs through Schumacher daily to get exercise. If none of this rings a bell, it's likely you've spotted Maria in your travels because she is colourful and stands out.

The Carleton University commerce major can often be seen waitressing at the McIntyre Coffee Shop wearing the pale blue uniform and a shiny gold headscarf. During her time at O'Gorman High School, she was known to add colourful accents to her uniform. On "casual days," it was common to see the red-head sporting a Kurt Cobain t-shirt, despite the fact that Nirvana's front man died when Maria was only 3 years old.

The 20-year-old has trouble describing herself, "I'm quirky, maybe. I guess I'd say I'm pretty eccentric, but quirky sounds better," she laughs.

Maria lives and works in Schumacher during the summer, but her ties to the community are deep. Her cherished "Babi," (grandmother,) the late Mrs Danica Pupich, helped to raise her as a strong Croatian woman, which she attributes to living in Schumacher. The effervescent youth even talks of opening a unique business someday, located - where else? - in Schumacher.

"I've thought of opening up a bakery with my cousin. It would incorporate grandmotherly desserts from around the world." Maria often recreates recipes from her youth, taken from her grandmother's cookbook. The effect the older woman had on Maria is obvious. St. Aubin has the quick wit and sarcasm of her Croatian relatives, with the kind spirit it takes to prosper in a small town like Schumacher.

Baking and fashion flair aren't her only interests, though. "I really love hockey, it would be my number one passion for sure," she says. She would never boast, but the Montreal

Canadiens super fan can rattle off statistics from the team dating back decades. Her sharp tongue whips out biting remarks at the smallest slight to her beloved Habs. She works at the right place for a hockey fan. Her part-time job at The Mac's coffee shop allows her a daily dose of hockey trivia. The walls of the building are steeped in history, most of which she's already familiar with.

When asked how she likes to spend her time, St. Aubin replies in true Maria fashion: "I love baking, working out, running. I like to spend time with my family. We watch TV, yell, fight...the usual stuff." It's nothing but the usual stuff for this colourful and truly unique - or quirky- young woman.

Bridget Yard

is a journalism student at St. Thomas University in Fredericton



Maria St. Aubin at a Croatian lamb roast

LOU BATTOCHIO

YOU CAN'T TAKE SCHUMACHER OUT OF THE BOY!

It's often said that you can take the boy out of Schumacher, but you can never take Schumacher out of the boy. But one cannot talk of Schumacher and what it means to be from here without mentioning the name Battocchio.

Fondly referred to as the "Mayor of Schumacher," Lou Battocchio has been involved with the community he loves all his life. He was born March 28, 1927 in a tiny house on Second Avenue (now known as Dwyer), where he and his parents and siblings lived. He attended Schumacher Public School and Schumacher High School. "I was around when they were building the high school," said Battocchio. He notes the recent fire which destroyed the old high school and board of education building was a great loss, "It was a great building, lots of history to it."

Battocchio attended Queens University and North Bay Normal School from 1947-1951 receiving his teaching certificate in 1966.

He then acquired his permanent supervisors certificate in physical education and health education in 1967. He taught physical education in nine different schools including the old Central School in Timmins. He was an educator for a total of 32 years before retiring.

Lou has always taken an active interest in the community. He was on the Timmins Public School Board for 16 years and then Timmins Board of Education for another 6 as physical education supervisor. Lou has served on the Timmins Housing Authority as chairman and was vice chair with the Timmins Non Profit Housing from 1991-2010. Battocchio has not forgotten his Italian roots and had served as president of the Porcupine Dante club from 1987 to 1991.

Besides serving on various boards in the area, Lou also took an interest in politics and served as councillor for Tisdale Township from 1970-72. He then represented Schumacher or Ward 3 on the City of Timmins municipal council from 1975 to 2000, after

amalgamation. During his tenure with Timmins City council he also served on numerous municipal boards.

His involvement in the community of Schumacher doesn't stop at the educational or municipal politics level however. He currently is president of Schumacher Minor Hockey Association and has been since 1980. "I will hold that position as long as they let me," he says. He originally got involved in 1955. He is also on the board of directors for Camp Bickell starting in 1980 to present, and has been involved in organizing all eight Schumacher Homecoming Reunion events. He also was a major influence in getting the sculpture of Sandy McIntyre and mural and sculpture of F. W. Schumacher which adorn Laham's Hill and the McIntyre Arena.

Battocchio has served as co chair of Schumacher Day Inc from 1972 to 1994. This is an organization which raises money for sports in Schumacher. "We used to have one of the biggest fastball tournaments

in Ontario and teams from around the province would come to Schumacher to compete. People would come home for that event and the big dance we hosted every year. That was a huge fund raiser for us" he said. He is particularly proud of the fact that he has helped the community raise over \$250,000 for minor sports in Schumacher as well as \$50,000 for scholarships for Schumacher graduates going to college or university.

His contributions to Schumacher and the city have not gone unnoticed and are numerous. One that stands out is the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal presented to him by Governor General Adrian Clarkson. He has also received the Ontario Hockey Federation Order of Merit Award in 2007 and awards from Hockey Canada as well. In 2008 Timmins Mayor Tom Laughren, another Schumacher boy, awarded Lou the City of Timmins Certificate for outstanding contribution to the city and the list of awards and accomplishments goes on.

When asked why he has been involved in so many aspects of the city of Timmins and Schumacher he smiles and says "It keeps me out of trouble." There are a lot of fantastic people who are involved in these organizations that work well together and get things done," he said. He feels that especially in the hockey world the three local Timmins area hockey associations have to work together. "It is about providing a place for all kids to play hockey," he said.

When the 85 year old takes a look around Schumacher he feels the frustration that a lot of members of the community feel.

"It's definitely not the same as it was 30 years ago. There are lots of factors social and economic that dictates changes," he said, "but I have to be optimistic that we can turn things around."

Battocchio noted that when he was alderman for the city he would walk the street and if he saw garbage on the street or any other issue he would approach the homeowner and try to fix the situation. Encouraging that person to take pride in their homes and be proud of where they lived. "It's different today because a lot of the new people don't have a strong connection to the town." he said.

Lou feels the first major split in the Schumacher community happened in the 60s when a new Catholic based school, St Francis of Assisi, was built. "I didn't think a separate school was necessary" he said. The second issue that he feels took away from the sense of community was when students were allowed to attend any school in the city. "There are kids that live in Schumacher, but don't attend school in Schumacher, so that sense of community is not there" he said.

Battocchio and his wife of 58 years Cecile, continue to make their home in Schumacher on Croatia and have raised their two boys, Dino and Bruno here. Bruno has made his home in Schumacher while Dino is in the United States, and both of their sons are involved in coaching, a fact to which they are really proud of. He praises his wife for her patience over the years because according to him, he was never home. "I was always out doing something; she kept things going at home. I would never have been able to be involved in so many

things if it wasn't for her support" he said.

When previously asked about why he stays so involved Lou Battocchio joked that it kept him out of trouble, however there is more to it than that. The kindness and generosity of Frederick W. Schumacher when I was in school, and the fact that he, through the Schumacher Foundation, gave Christmas gifts to every child in Schumacher and continues to do so today was truly inspiring. He was a man who gave time and time again and through his foundation continues to do so today." he said. Battocchio recognized back then that this was the type of man he wanted to be. One that gives back to his community, something that he continues to do to this very day.

As said before you can take the boy out of Schumacher but you can't take Schumacher out of the boy. Lou Battocchio is one boy who never left and Schumacher is a better place because of that.



Lou Battocchio, Long Time Schumacher Resident



SCHUMACHER LIVES FILM & WEBSITE REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY INPUT

If there's one thing we learned over the past year of filming, Schumacher's spirit is alive and well!

The appropriately-named Schumacher Lives film and website project is slowly gaining momentum. You may have noticed our camera crew filming in the community since August 2011, and again this summer at various Schumacher Fire Department, Lion's Club, Public School, Minor Hockey, Curling Club, SACHA events, and at the Rotary Ribfest, filming the Canada Day fireworks which soared over our community's most recognizable landmark - the McIntyre Mine headframe. With many more events still to be filmed.

The McIntyre Community Building has become something of a second home to our film crew. It's only after covering so many events at the arena, curling club, ballroom, auditorium, Lions Centre and surrounding park land that one truly appreciates what this Schumacher treasure brings to the community and City of Timmins.

We have also begun to research, interview and film citizens of Schumacher, old and new. These interviews include chats with Mayor Tom Laughren who grew up in Schumacher, Louise Nightingale-Smith who wrote several books about our community, and even Lesley Blanchard, our namesake's Mr. Schumacher's great-granddaughter, and Director of the Schumacher Foundation.

As well, some of the funding associated with the Schumacher Lives interactive website will be transferred to SACHA, so the history of the community can be kept in perpetuity on their Spirit of Schumacher website, once its up and running later this year. So, if you have creative and technical skills at designing and developing websites and would like to assist, please send us an email, we would love to hear from you.

But what we really seek is community input to help make the film and website a reality. We are looking for historical archival footage and photos. So, if you've been holding on to old 8mm film or slides of days long past, or have photos of your family, businesses, churches, schools or community events taking place in Schumacher over the last 100 years, please let us know, as we'd love to take a look at them, to see if they are appropriate for the film and website.

Similarly, if there is someone you know that captures the essence of Schumacher and can tell a meaningful story on-camera, please put us in touch with them, as we would love to chat with them – young and old. So, don't be shy and get in touch with us because the Schumacher Lives film and website is a work in progress about you and the community you live(d) in. The goal is to try and capture the essence of our community, from its exciting origins, to amalgamation, right up to now. We hope that with your help, the documentary film and interactive website can profile and reflect the Spirit of Schumacher – past, present and future.

To all those who have already helped with filming, funding, and the all-important contribution of time, we give you the utmost thanks. Please direct your questions and inquiries to Bridget Yard, film director: **705-267-3907** or **bridgetyard@gmail.com**



July 7, 1956, Wedding at St. Alphonsus Chuch. Lena Flora (left), Mary Iannarelli (bride), Pietro Flora (right), from Archie Flora's (groom) 8mm home movie footage





NOTICE: GOLDCORP HOLLINGER PROJECT VIPOND ROAD RE-OPENS

On Monday, July 16th, Goldcorp Porcupine Gold Mines, announced the re-opening of Vipond Road. The new overpass structure, inspected and approved by the City of Timmins Public Works and Engineering Departments, will allow heavy equipment to travel between the Hollinger open pit and the Goldcorp milling complex on the Dome property without interfering with local traffic. Goldcorp Porcupine Gold Mines requests that public traffic proceed in a normal fashion and respect all posted signage such as speed limits and pedestrian lanes.

Background

Various options were considered when evaluating the transportation of ore and waste from the Hollinger open pit to the Dome Mill for processing. The final decision was to construct a 5 km haul road connecting the two properties and eliminating any interaction with local traffic.

Preparation and construction on this project began in December 2011, and has since consisted of clearing and construction of the road itself as well as the construction of a bypass over Vipond Road and another over Gold Mine Road. A temporary bypass was created on Gold Mine Road to allow through traffic during construction, and Vipond Road was temporarily closed. Vipond will be re-opened by this summer.

The haul road, which is 30 meters wide will allow for two 785 (model) haul trucks to pass, and crossings will be limited to single lane traffic, with 35 meter long culverts for local traffic.



Vipond Road overpass

Would you
gamble away your
most valuable
possession?

Then why play roulette when selling or buying your home?

CHOOSE
EXPERIENCE,
KNOWLEDGE
&
A PROVEN
TRACK RECORD.



ROYAL LEPAGE
Northern Realty Leaders

PERRY RINALDO

Sales Representative
705-360-7000
perryrinaldo@royallepage.ca



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2012
SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO - THE MEETING PLACE!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

AUTUMN 2012
*SCHUMACHER 100TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION*

The Schumacher Arts, Culture, Heritage Association has been offered funding from the Schumacher Foundation and Goldcorp to present a 100th anniversary celebration for the community of Schumacher. Event planning is still ongoing, but SACHA plans to announce a Fall date and details for this community celebration sometime in September.

Once announced, SACHA hopes the community will help volunteer and come out to celebrate our cultural heritage with family and friends this autumn.



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) version of the SOS newsletter is free by subscribing via email to subscribe@spiritofschumacher.ca. 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 **705-267-6959**; 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, P0N 1G0; Email: info@spiritofschumacher.ca.

**To receive a free digital copy of the
SPIRIT OF SCHUMACHER,
email us at: subscribe@spiritofschumacher.ca**



**CHECK OUT
OUR NEWLY
RENOVATED
OUTDOOR PATIO!**

Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights
8pm - 1am with campfire

**VOTED TIMMINS FAVOURITE
KARAOKE PLACE**

Friday & Saturday nights at 10pm

Monday 5pm-1am
Closed Tuesday & Wednesday
Thursday 5pm - 11pm
Friday 5pm - 2am
Saturday 8pm - 2am
Sunday 5pm - 1am



MEET YOU AT THE RANCH!



ADVERTISING INFO

If you would like to promote your business, an event, wish the community of Schumacher or someone you know a happy birthday or anniversary, or have a memorial for a loved one, then please send an email to

info@spiritofschumacher.ca
and we will forward you the SOS advertising rate card.