

NOVEMBER  
2012

ISSUE 4

# Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2012

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

## SCHUMACHER FOUNDATION THE LINK TO MR. SCHUMACHER

Lesley Blanchard has never lived in Schumacher. But that doesn't mean the town hasn't been on her mind. Lesley is the Director of the Schumacher Foundation, and along with her brothers, Carter and Hunter Finnell, foundation trustees, the three are living links between our community and Frederick W. Schumacher.

To help understand the relationships between Mr. Schumacher, the foundation and herself, Lesley has provided a family tree of sorts. She explains, "Frederick W. Schumacher, was my great-grandfather, and he started the Foundation in the early 1950's. Maribel S. Finnell, was the daughter of Mr. Schumacher, mother of Michael and Patricia, and grandmother to the three of us. Michael H. Finnell, my father, was the previous director of the foundation. Patricia F. Kulha, my aunt, was a previous foundation trustee. I am the current Director of the Schumacher Foundation and my brothers are the two trustees."

As it relates to the town, Lesley visited Schumacher twice, and was impressed with the people, the community spirit and the great admiration shown towards her great-grandfather. "One thing that has always struck me when I spoke with people in Schumacher. He (Mr. Schumacher) was like this mythical figure - bigger than life. And he'd be happy to know that his generous spirit continues to positively affect the people and the community."

The Foundation's contributions to the community of Schumacher are well known - annual Christmas gifts for the children, student scholarships, support of community initiatives like the school playground upgrade, Camp Bickell renovations, funding for SACHA to present 100th anniversary celebrations, and a documentary film and website about the town. But, it's not so well known that the Foundation spreads its generosity between four communities to which Frederick W. Schumacher had a close connection. The Island of Fehmarn, in northern Germany where Mr. Schumacher was born; Waco, Texas, the place where he first arrived in the United States; Columbus, Ohio where he worked, settled and raised his family; and Schumacher, Ontario, the community he helped build and was named after.

Even though Lesley Blanchard is related to Mr. Schumacher, she only met him once as a tiny child because he died shortly after she was born. No matter, she says, his legacy still lives on in the small town in Northern Ontario and because of that she fondly recalls a visit to the town years ago for a Schumacher Homecoming event. "By virtue of the fact that I was related to Mr. Schumacher, people wanted to meet me and that was so special. I was truly impressed with the community and their level of connectiveness to my great-grandfather, his contributions to the community, and their fondness for him. It's that spirit which the Schumacher



Lesley Blanchard, Director of Schumacher Foundation

Foundation has tried to foster and carry on over the years" she says.

If it's the people who make the town, then it is those with a charitable spirit that make it shine. Thanks to the Schumacher Foundation and their spirit of generosity over the last 100 years, Schumacher still has a diamond-in-the-rough quality, which allows the community to shine in the City with the Heart of Gold.

**Bridget Yard is studying journalism at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB.**

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# SCHUMACHER HAS RICH SPORTS HISTORY INCLUDING WOMEN



Schumacher Pearl Lake Hotel Junior Giants, Women's Fastball Team, circa 1980's

Schumacher has a rich history of producing talented hockey players, outstanding baseball players and the occasional football star. The Mahovlich brothers Frank and Peter, Eric Vail and Jimmy Mair all made their marks in professional hockey.

In the 40s and 50s the local mines actually recruited soccer, hockey and baseball players to come north and play for their teams. This is how my Father found his way north to play soccer for the McIntyre mines team and secure permanent employment. He along with guys like Alex Mair, Willie Rodgers and Rod Fraser all played for the black, white and gold.

Many fastball teams such as the Schumacher Merchants and Pearl Lake Giants won numerous provincial championships during their heyday in the 70s and 80s. But not all of the stars were of the male species.

During the 1980's I had the pleasure of playing softball for the Pearl Lake Junior Giants named after the men's team. This ladies fastball team was formidable to say the least. We were sponsored by the Pearl Lake Hotel as were the men's team. The Pearl as it was known in those days was the only bar on the north side of First avenue. The other six were on the south

side. Gail and Butch Demers who were originally from Windsor owned the hotel and were huge ball fans.

That year we won the Timmins Ladies Softball League regular season winning 11 games in a 12 game season and then won the championship beating Chenier Motors. Next up was Kapuskasing, which we defeated in a best of three two games straight. A trip to North Bay was next in line for us to tangle with the local championship winners. We lost the Northern Softball Association series 2-1.

The championship game featured a couple of questionable calls by the umpire including an interference call that went against one of our base runners. My uncle George Roberts who lived in North Bay at the time was at the game and was evicted from the ball park for voicing his opinion a little too strongly.

We had three of the best female pitchers in the area. Benjie Duthie could throw smoke and Joanne Plamondon and Natalie Ivancic had more junk than you could shake a stick at. Jim Mair the number one pitcher with the Giants worked with our pitchers and actually showed Ivancic how to throw a change up which was practically unheard of in ladies softball. Add to

that line up the likes of Sue Asselin, Glenna Hughes, Lynn Wallace, Cathy Wurster and Marion Wolfe and we had a pretty good thing going on.

We travelled almost every weekend in the summer to various tournaments in Kirkland Lake, Kap and Sudbury paying our own hotel and travel expenses while the Pearl Lake Hotel paid our entry fee. We got to the All Ontario Softball Championship in Toronto the final year I played and were beaten by a team who I am pretty sure would not have passed a test for steroids or testosterone.

Sadly many of us went our own ways and fastball became slow pitch. Sports were always big in Schumacher and not just for the guys. Being a women athlete was another integral part of growing up in Schumacher.

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





## LETTER TO THE EDITOR – FROM BRUCE PAYNE

Hi Heather and the rest of the contributors to the Spirit of Schumacher Newsletter. My name is Bruce Payne. I am an adopted Schumacherite. I came to Schumacher at the age of 20 to teach school. Mr. Boyce assigned me to teach grade 8 boys. This was a new experience for me as I had never experienced segregated classes for boys and girls. I had four wonderful years and am happy to report that 60 years later, the boys are still my friends. I recently exchanged emails with Jr. Bettiol and learned that we are sharing Arizona sun about 20 miles apart and hope to get together this winter. Lloyd Miller and Gord Lessard live in Huntsville so I see them regularly.

When I came to Schumacher I had some insight into what I was getting into, as the year before I taught in Garson with Marjorie Wharton. She sold me on Schumacher Public School and then ran off to Fort William to find an old boyfriend. She left me in the care of Pat Dobson, Millie Verbik, Sheila Moran, Nancy McNeil and Alice Scullion. What a gang. They didn't call them the icebergs for nothing....I loved them all.

The Croatian community made me feel welcome. I will never forget my first Croatian wedding....what a party. When I joined the Croatian bowling league they changed my name to Paynevic so I would feel more at home. My adoption was complete when I married Marjorie Wharton on August 16, 1951. We are celebrating 61 years this year with three children, seven grandchildren and three great grand children. Plus all my grade eight boys.

I coached Frank Mahovlich and Pat Hannigan in grade 8 so I modestly take some of the credit for their National Hockey League successes. I did make a prediction for Frank that came back to haunt me. One Wednesday morning in math class Frank was talking to a classmate across the aisle. I stopped

and asked him what could be more important than math. He explained that he was reminding his friend John to pick him up for practice on Saturday morning. I told him that he would never amount to anything if all he ever thought about was hockey. Years later when the Chicago Black Hawks offered him a million dollars Marjorie reminded me of my astute observation.

In 1950 I shared an apartment on First Avenue with Joe Gaydos and Stan Sinclair surveyors at the Hollinger Mine. They usually went to work at 7:30 and woke me up before they left. One particular morning they left earlier to catch an early cage and I slept in. At 9 a.m. the boys came in and found no teacher. Being the well trained group they were, half went to Mr. MacDonnell's room for shop. The other half carried on with their assignments.

A casual comment in shop class initiated a search for me but was unsuccessful. Brian Grant was dispatched to my apartment; he was police material even then. There was no answer at the door, but my boots were outside the door, which suggested a problem. A key was obtained from the landlord and at 10:30am I was rudely awakened by a sergeant with the Tisdale Police who thought I should get up and go to work. The boys didn't give me a hard time but there were a lot of smiles in the room. A number of months later when it was our turn to present the Friday assembly...the class had to sing a song and one of the smart guys with a good memory suggested "Oh how I hate to get up in the morning."

I left teaching to go to law school in 1953 but didn't leave Schumacher completely, as native son Rino Bragagnolo was a classmate of mine at Osgood Hall. I had a part time job selling tickets at Maple Leaf Gardens so I could follow Frank Mahovlic and Pat Hannigan through Junior A.

I almost got back up north to practice law in 1957 when I met with Greg Evans in Toronto. He made me an offer to join the firm and operate his Kapuskasing office. Unfortunately the day I met Greg in Toronto, the temperature in Kap was -28. Marjorie was spoiled by the southern Ontario winters and we ended up in Niagara Falls, where funny enough, we were snowed in our house for three day in January 1958. Greg became Chief Justice of Ontario and was responsible for my appointment to the Ontario Court of Justice in Guelph in 1985. Greg's son John was my regional senior judge when I transferred to Barrie and Huntsville in 1991.

I only missed two Schumacher Homecoming's as they conflicted with Huntsville's High School reunions. On one occasion I met Lesley Blanchard, Mr. Schumacher's great-granddaughter. Schumacher is a very unique place. I treasured my time there. The people of Schumacher and the staff and students of Schumacher Public School have a very special place in my heart. Happy 100th.

**Bruce Payne, QC, BA Juris Doctor  
Retired Justice, Ontario Court of  
Justice 1985-2003**

## DO YOU HAVE A SCHUMACHER EXPERIENCE?

Then write down your story and email [hmswietek@msn.com](mailto:hmswietek@msn.com) or mail it to **SACHA c/o PO Box 58, Schumacher, Ontario, P0N 1G0**. It just might appear in the Spirit of Schumacher community newsletter.



## SCHUMACHER HOTEL IS HOME TO LESLIE ANNE DUPUIS

Leslie Anne Dupuis wants people to know that JJ's Ranch in the Schumacher Hotel is not your average place. Dupuis, who manages the facility for her recently retired parents, notes that JJs has evolved into more of a celebration center than a bar. "We host birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, theme parties and staff parties," she said.

The bar located on Father Costello Drive is one of two hotels remaining in Schumacher that once had at least eight hotels if not more. The other remaining bar is the Grandview Hotel also on Father Costello Drive. Dupuis parents purchased the Schumacher Hotel on December 12, 1986 and renamed it JJs after her brother. That day her life changed forever. "We went from having a fairly normal family life with regular meal times to owning a bar and night club, so things changed quite a bit." She said.

Leslie Anne was a child of 10 when her parents purchased the hotel and she quickly became involved in the day to day operations of the facility. "We would hold all our family celebrations there

and everyone would get up on stage and sing," she said. Dupuis has had a successful singing career and despite having scaled back in the last couple of years, she is still recording and travelling with her band.

As the manager of JJ's Ranch she spends countless hours developing new ideas for it. In the past she has promoted Elvis nights, karaoke and brought in tribute bands like CCR. "We try to listen to what our customers want and appeal to different crowds." She said. JJ's has hosted beach volleyball and ball hockey tournaments.

The bar also has an outdoor patio that features a fire pit. "This was really popular, especially for people who don't have cottages or an opportunity to go camping." She said. "It was also popular with smokers who were able to stay with their friends as opposed to having to leave the party to have a smoke."

People from across the city approach her with ideas for events and she is more than willing to give new ideas a chance.

"We are always willing to try something different," she said. She is currently accepting reservations for staff parties and Christmas celebrations. "We can host private parties or ones that are open to everyone," she said.

Besides promoting her business, Dupuis and her family are well known for their work within the community. "We raise funds for various charities in the community. Right now we are looking to do something for the Good Samaritan Inn." She said. "If the community needs help, we help them." Dupuis is proud of the fact she grew up in Schumacher although currently living in Timmins she is comfortable wherever.

The business section of Schumacher has changed in the last 25 years but JJs Ranch in the Schumacher Hotel has remained a fixture thanks to the hard work and dedication of Leslie Anne and the Dupuis family and from the support of the community they call home.



Leslie Anne Dupuis and her band members

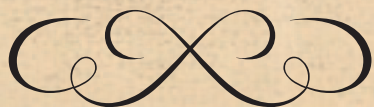
### BUY LOCAL

There are over 80 enterprises with postal addresses in Schumacher, so please support locally owned enterprises. For example: Boogies Catering (Mac Coffee Shop), Grandview Hotel, JJ's Ranch, John Delost Construction, John's Neon Signs, Master Carpets, Northern Towing, OK Tire, Porcupine Canvas, Pro Tackle, Schumacher Lions Club, Trophy Shop.

*Email*

**[info@spiritofschumacher.ca](mailto:info@spiritofschumacher.ca)**  
to have your Schumacher enterprise listed or advertised in the SOS newsletter.

# CHRISTMAS IN SCHUMACHER



Christmas is a special time of the year when: indoor and outdoor lights and decorations go up, family and friends get together to celebrate the season, people are generous and giving to others, and religious traditions and ceremonies are observed.

Schumacher has been especially blessed with the spirit of giving. In 1916, Frederick W. Schumacher gave Christmas gifts to all the children living in the community, and that tradition still carries on with the generosity of the Schumacher Foundation and Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department. Another tradition of giving is the Schumacher Lions Club Seniors Christmas Supper presented each year to acknowledge the contributions that long time residents of Schumacher have made to the community over the past 100 years.

This December SACHA will be starting a new tradition with a community event to bring people connected with Schumacher together in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. So, on behalf of the executive, board and volunteers of SACHA and the Spirit of Schumacher newsletter, we hope to see you, family and friends at the "Schumacher Christmas Meet & Mingle" on Sat. Dec. 22nd, 7pm @ Lions Centre, and we wish Schumacher, Ontario, a

**Very Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!**



Schumacher Lions Club Seniors Christmas Dinner photo



Schumacher Public School Choir at Seniors Christmas Supper



Mr. Schumacher Christmas Gifts for Children Organized by SVFD



# SACHA REACHES 1 YEAR MILESTONE

In the Spring of 2011, various community members were approached to see if they would like a documentary film and interactive website produced to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Schumacher. The response was positive, with discussions leading to Lesley Blanchard, Director of the Schumacher Foundation.

True to the spirit of Mr. Schumacher, Lesley not only offered foundation funding to help produce the film and website, she also offered some funds to present a 100th anniversary celebration. Unfortunately, existing community groups were not in a position to undertake such a celebration. So, what to do?

In October 2011, Timmins Mayor Tom Laughren, a Schumacher boy himself, hosted a community meeting to determine interest in establishing a new organization to promote the arts, culture and heritage of Schumacher. Afterwards, several people met and decided to form a new group.

On December 3, 2011, SACHA (Schumacher Arts, Culture, Heritage Association), with 7 board members, held its inaugural meeting with a mandate to enhance the wellbeing of Schumacher. Also in attendance was federal MP Charlie Angus and Coral Ethier, an official from the

Ontario ministry of culture, who offered the board some advice and encouragement.

The SACHA board knew that Schumacher suffered significantly from Ontario government and City of Timmins amalgamation policies that stripped the community of its vitality. Since the mid-1960's it has lost Schumacher High School, St. Francis of Assisi elementary school, and the future of Schumacher Public School may not be secure. The Schumacher Lions Club swimming pool was closed in favour of a new pool in Timmins. With the Highway 101 by-pass the old train station that Mr. Schumacher built was demolished and with it the loss of rail service and numerous retail businesses along First Avenue (Father Costello Drive). The McIntyre Park was completely destroyed by an Australian mining firm that went bankrupt, and now the Schumacher Lions Club is trying to revitalize it. Three churches closed, Trinity United, St. Chad's Anglican and after an unsuccessful plea to the Catholic Bishop, St. Alphonsus was lost. The closing of the McIntyre Community Centre is always a hot political topic. And recently a decision made by Timmins Minor Hockey Association, may prevent Schumacher from ever having Northern Ontario Hockey Association teams representing the community other than at the midget level.

With the social, cultural, spiritual, recreational, political and economic fabric of Schumacher being weakened, SACHA is focusing its activities on trying to reconnect people who have an association with Schumacher - past, present, future - to strengthen ties within and without the community. SACHA has and will continue to undertake activities that achieve this by:

Publishing quarterly, the Spirit of Schumacher community newsletter with a printed version going to every mail box household in Schumacher, and an electronic version distributed to over 2000 people via email.

Presenting events that bring the community together, including the 1st annual "Schumacher Christmas Meet & Mingle" this December and the 2nd annual "Mr. Schumacher Days" in March 2013.

Building working relationships with other groups, governments, businesses and foundations to promote Schumacher, which included establishing the Pearl Lake Waterfront Development Committee; and in 2013.

Designing and maintaining the SACHA ~ Spirit of Schumacher web and social media sites which will become an online hub for the community.

**After a year, SACHA is proud to serve the community and reflect the spirit of Schumacher. If you would like to join our organization as a volunteer board or committee member please contact Mark Chenier at 705-267-3937.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 2012 TO FEBRUARY 2013

*SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO - THE MEETING PLACE!*

### Schumacher Lions Club Craft & Gift Show

Nov. 9-11, 2012 | McIntyre Arena

### High School Funspiel (MCC)

Nov. 16, 2012 | McIntyre Curling Rink

### Goldrush Bonspiel (MCC)

Nov. 17, 2012 | McIntyre Curling Rink

### Dusty Baker Seniors Curling Bonspiel (New Horizons)

Nov. 20-21, 2012 | McIntyre Curling Rink

### 1st Annual House League Hockey Tourney (SDMHA)

Nov 23-25, 2012 | McIntyre Arena

### Stan Fowler CTV – Schumacher Lions Club Telethon

Dec. 1, 2012 | CTV Broadcast Centre

### Schumacher Lions Club Senior's Christmas Supper

Dec. 5, 2012 | Lions Centre @ THE MAC

### Panels & Pipes Smiling M Midget Hockey Tournament

Dec 7-9, 2012 | McIntyre Arena

### High School Christmas Classic Bonspiel (MCC)

Dec. 14, 2012 | McIntyre Curling Rink

### Mr. Schumacher Christmas Gifts for Kids (SVFD)

Dec 17, 2012 | Ballroom @ THE MAC

### Stan Fowler Christmas Telethon – Voucher Delivery (SLC)

Dec. 22, 2012 | City Wide

### Schumacher Christmas Meet & Mingle (SACHA)

Dec. 22, 2012 | Lions Centre @ THE MAC

### Merv Cauthers Bonspiel (MCC)

Dec. 26-31, 2012 | McIntyre Curling Rink

### Winter Classic Atom & Bantam Hockey Tournament

Jan 11-13, 2013 | McIntyre Arena

### Teachers Bonspiel (MCC)

Jan. 11-12, 2013 | McIntyre Curling Rink

### High School TICL Invitational Bonspiel (MCC)

Feb. 7-8, 2013 | McIntyre Curling Rink

### Winter Classic Pewee & Novice Hockey Tournament

Feb 15-17, 2013 | McIntyre Arena

### Sweetheart Bonspiel (MCC)

Feb. 16, 2012 | McIntyre Curling Rink

### Mushkegowuk Challenge Cup Hockey Tournament

Feb 22-24, 2013 | McIntyre Arena

### FALL 2012 UPDATE:

### SCHUMACHER DAY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Another hockey season is upon us. SDMHA currently has over 200 players registered, on 16 teams. While many of our players no longer come from Schumacher, the spirit lives on in the camaraderie and feeling of community on these teams. Teams will compete in the Local House league, with playoffs at the end of the season.

We continue to hold to our mandate to provide a safe, affordable hockey experience for our families so we keep children involved, physically active, safe and out of trouble. Thanks to all of our local sponsors and volunteers, we are able to continue doing this year after year.

SDMHA will be hosting the 1st Annual House League Tournament, for Novice & Atom teams. The tournament is scheduled for November 23-24-25. So stop by THE MAC and enjoy some of our younger players competing in a fun tournament.

**Brian Getty | VP/Treasurer | SDMHA**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:hmswietek@msn.com) or call **705-267-6959**;

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[info@spiritofschumacher.ca](mailto:info@spiritofschumacher.ca).

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



## 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](mailto:info@spiritofschumacher.ca)

and we will forward you the SOS advertising rate card.

1st Annual Schumacher

# Christmas MEET & MINGLE



The Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association is planning a new tradition in the community with the presentation of the first

## *"Schumacher Christmas Meet & Mingle."*

This is a free community event where families and friends with a connection to Schumacher can meet and mingle in a relaxed and casual atmosphere, to renew old friendships and get to know their neighbors.



Complimentary Refreshments  
(tea, coffee, hot chocolate)

Complimentary Christmas Baking  
(cookies, cake, squares)

Door Prizes, 50 / 50 Draw

Cash Bar & Seasonal Food Sold  
(meat pie, salads)

*"100 Years of Schumacher"*  
Digital Photo Exhibition



*Date:* Saturday December 22, 2012

*Time:* Drop By After 7pm

*Location:* Schumcher Lions Centre @ The Mac

*Sponsored by the SCHUMACHER FOUNDATION as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations.*

## UPCOMING - 100th ANNIVERSARY SCHUMACHER CELEBRATION

The 2nd Annual Mr. Schumacher Days scheduled for March 2013.  
Watch for details in the February 2013 Spirit of Schumacher community newsletter.