

MAY
2013
ISSUE 6

Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2013

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

LOUISE NIGHTINGALE SMITH RECEIVES THE SPIRIT OF SCHUMACHER AWARD FROM SACHA



On **March 1, 2013**, the 101st anniversary of Schumacher, SACHA handed out the first ever Spirit of Schumacher Award to Louise Nightingale Smith who wrote two books about the community (*Frederick W. Schumacher: Portrait of a Renaissance Man*, *Schumacher: Voices from the Goldfields*).

Photo: Front L to R are: Mira Buchar, clay and mixed media artist and creator of the SOS Award; Louise Nightingale Smith, recipient of the SOS Award. Back L to R are: Rob Knox and Graham Reid, SACHA board members.

THE MAKING OF THE SOS AWARD

The following photos show a few creative and technical processes that Mira Buchar used to make the Spirit of Schumacher Award.



TAKE A WALK IN THE MCINTYRE PARK



McIntyre Park Aerial View, ca 1950's

The other day mining companies were setting up for the annual Big Event mining show taking place at the McIntyre Arena and parking lot and my daughter and I with our four dogs took a walk down to the Mac to kill two birds with one stone.

First of all we wanted to check out the displays before the event actually opened and second of all our dogs needed a good run and the park is an excellent place for this to happen. The parking lots and streets in behind the curling club were full of huge mining machinery and booth and tents...lending itself to a circus like atmosphere. It is advertised every year as being the largest mining trade show in North America and I believe it. The size of the mining equipment was astonishing.

My Father worked at the McIntyre Mine for 36 years and I couldn't help but think how amazed he would be if he were alive today to see the advancements in the mining community. He worked during the days when manual labour was the way to get things done with little or no machinery to help you. Although I am pretty sure he didn't have a trade to speak of he worked every job given to him and finished his career as a cage tender in the mine whose headframe towers over Pearl Lake today.

While walking though the park watching the dogs enjoy their run and regular dips into the slightly murky pond...I remember how much the park and arena were a part of my growing up. I have talked about the benefits of having the arena in the winter months enjoying hockey, bowling, gymnastics, circuses and concerts but the park too provided many a fun filled outing to Schumacher residents.

Once a month on Fridays which was a payday for the miners, my Mom and I would walk up to the gatehouse at the mine and meet my Father coming off shift. We would then trek to the Mac Coffee Shop to have dinner. My Father would always order fish and chips or Pearl Lake perch as he would call it. My Mom and I would settle for hot turkey sandwiches with the famous Mac fries.

After that a walk through the park to admire the beautiful gardens planted by the mine's gardener and maybe catch a soccer or baseball game at the west end of the park. The McIntyre Mine during the days my father was employed also held July 1st picnics in the park with free food and refreshments....quite an experience for a little kid from Schumacher.

Next to the park were the railway tracks which is now a four lane highway. As a kid I enjoyed watching the train go by at various times of the day. Although I would never admit it to my folks, my friends and I would often put pennies on the tracks and watch the trains run over them. We were fascinated at how flat the coins became.....small things amuse small minds I guess....or was it just innocent fun.

As I grew a bit older the park was the site of my softball games and high school football where Schumacher and then Roland Michener High played their home games....the old grandstand would become alive with hundreds of fans screaming for the Rams to beat Timmins High. My Father played soccer on that field as well. Into my late teens the park served as a private place for my friends and I to gather and maybe try an underage illegal drink or cigarette... or a first kiss with that cute guy down the street although I never

partook in any of that...That was my story then and I stand by it today. I had my wedding pictures taken there as did many a young couple in the day.

With the demise of the mine in the years that followed, the park was completely dug up, abused and discarded by an Australian mining company, only to be rescued by the Schumacher Lions Club. The club stepped in years ago and put in place a 10 year plan to fix up the once proud landmark and they're well on their way to achieving this. The waterfall and pond area is renewed and in full swing, park benches have been erected and flower beds planted....a work in progress. The miner's memorial adds to the flavour of the area and old mining equipment give the park a historical feel. It will never be as it once was but thanks to the Lions Club the park is once again becoming a beautiful spot to exercise, relax and enjoy life.

So go take a walk in the McIntyre Park and create your own memories of Schumacher. And remember to support the Schumacher Lions in their efforts to beautify the park and create walking trails all around Pearl and Little Pearl lakes.

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



NEW SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE RISES FROM ASHES OF OLD SCHUMACHER HIGH

With a symbolic first cut of the spade, a ground-breaking ceremony in Schumacher commemorated the start of construction of a new 18,837 square foot head office for District School Board Ontario North East.

Board administration, staff and trustees gathered for the ceremony at the historic site on Croatia Avenue. The new Board office, which replaces the one lost by fire in July 2012, will be completed by Spring of 2014, at a projected cost of \$5.6 million. No operational funds are being used. J.L. Richards of Timmins has been secured as architect, while the firm Quinan of Orillia has been hired as contractor.

"We are pleased with the speed of the process since the fire, and elated that we are rebuilding at this significant site," said Director of Education Linda Knight. "Our state-of-the-art facility promises to be a centerpiece in Schumacher, and we look forward to a long and continued partnership with the community."

The single story facility will pay homage to the city's mining and forestry history by incorporating front and back wood canopies, as well as a stone, linear metal and glass exterior. Other features of the building will include: a large front entrance with glazed red vestibule, a separate entrance for the Transportation Department and a natural gas generator.

"We have also preserved several features from our old building," said Board Chair Doug Shearer. "The old school bell from our former location, as well as a fanned sconce and two decorative cornices will be incorporated into the structure, to remind us of the character of the former Schumacher High School."

"Thank you to our staff who endured the fire, and have been working out of cramped quarters for the past year," added Knight. "The fire and demolition of the old building marked the end of an era for our Board. But this new building will mark the beginning of a new and even better one."



WALLY WRITES ABOUT SCHUMACHER

Although dwarfed by its neighbour to the west, Schumacher in its heyday, during the 1940's, 50's and 60's, had a vibrant commercial life to serve its close to four thousand population. Most were spread along First Avenue and despite a regular bus service to Timmins provided by Dwyer Bus Line, local residents were loyal to our Schumacher businesses which were mainly family run.

Visitors often were surprised by the number of hotels, at least seven, but when one appreciates that they also served as rooming and boarding houses for many bachelors who worked in the mines, there became a better understanding that they were more than just beer parlours and drinking establishments.

Starting from the west end there was the Eldorado Hotel which was owned by the Pupich family, then the Emporium Hotel, followed by the Schumacher Hotel which was owned by the Zupansich family. The Commercial Hotel became the Plaza, and then there was the Grandview Hotel which was owned by the Buchar family. The Krupka family owned the Gold Range Hotel and the Klizanich family ran the Pearl Lake Hotel establishment. The Tisdale Hotel was owned by the Pecanic family. Back then the hotels had two sides' - the men's side where women were not allowed, and the ladies and escorts side where couples quenched their thirst, especially after hockey nights at the Mac.

Just as numerous, were the eight grocery stores in Schumacher where most shopped daily because refrigeration was by ice box. Fresh meats and vegetables were a staple to the diverse ethnic community living in Schumacher. Once again from the west, Sebalj Grocery was operated by brothers Nick and Frank Sebalj while across the avenue Feldman's Mercantile store with clothing

and a grocery section run by Joe Schwab. I remember Eddy Morandin, a drummer with Henry Kelnecks band and Rita Morandin working there. Blahey's Grocery was across the street from Zanchin's Grocery owned by affable Frank Zanchin a master with seasonings and specialty foods. Rounding out the grocery stores were the Verbicks, McLellans, and the Consumers Cooperative, the last one to go (now the Mac's Milk store).

There were five restaurants in Schumacher. Catering to the singles crowd and families were the College Inn Chinese Restaurant, the Daffodil Grill; Beamish Snack Bar, Sagan's Grill also known as Johnny's, and the Mac Coffee Shop being the only one left.

Imagine a small town with three drug stores - Briscoll, McNaughton and Wilson Drugs. They were more than just pharmacies as they sold newspapers, magazines, sundries and had soda fountain bars. Schumacher also had a multitude of confectionary stores including Fabello's, Townsend's, Setachy's on Third Ave, Poullice's across from the school, Gay's Variety, Joe Iannerelli's Variety, and Gold Centre Variety owned by Bill Jefferies and Locket MacKinnon. Then there was Boyd's Variety, and Laham's on First Avenue run by Ernie and his father, who made the best hot dogs and fries. I still recall the humorous signage which decorated their store, with sayings such as "what the hell are you looking up here for" which was on the ceiling, and "use less sugar and stir like hell" just to name a few.

As for hardware and furnishings, Schumacher Hardware was owned by the Abrams brothers, and Grant' Hardware was owned by Walter and Lucy Grant. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce was also a busy place on paydays as was the Cartier theatre and the Markovich Brothers pool room.



Grade 8 photo of Wally Wiwchar at Schumacher Public

Does anyone remember the Beamish Store, Reward Shoes, Zanchin's Clothes & Bootery, and Arnett's Men's Wear? Or Polar/Mayfair Furriers, Anderson Photo Studio, Rudy Shukulski bike repairs, Sam Gurvich Jewellers and Charlie Wong's Laundry? The BA and Fina gas stations?

Unfortunately, Schumacher's business community began to decline as more families owned cars and were drawn to larger stores and malls being built in Timmins. Plus the four lane highway built around Schumacher did not favour local enterprises. Who knows, maybe one day the people living in Schumacher will once again open family retail businesses on First Avenue and support them like they used to?

Wally Wiwchar Retired Teacher & Business Owner

This is the first of several articles he plans to write about the community of Schumacher.

Quiz

Name all of the family barber shops and hair salons in Schumacher during the 1950's and 60's?

Email us your answers
info@spiritofschumacher.ca
and we will publish them in a future SOS newsletter.

CAN SCHUMACHER BECOME A TRANSITION TOWN?

In Northern Ontario, we are able to gaze at wildlife in our back yards and breathe clean air, safe from the smog advisories that plague our neighbours “down South”. But we’re not immune to global climate change, high energy prices, questionable food that’s travelled thousands of kilometres to get to our kitchen tables, and large corporations that do not have our best interests at heart.

There’s a network of communities around the world who are pushing against this conventional way of life and thinking – and succeeding. These communities make up the “transition town” movement. Transition towns are people in communities trying to avoid further ecological damage to our planet by creating locally sustainable economies. This movement is also a spiritual, cultural, political, economic and ecological response to global issues facing local communities

For people in small communities to sustainably live in a highly competitive, global market place that does not really care about them or their families, something will need to change. Although Schumacher is not the town it once was, and may never return to its former glory, it can be something new and just as wonderful. It only requires that people look for and create new solutions to global issues affecting them locally.

One of the main goals of a transition town is to reduce energy usage and sustain oneself within a local area. Good, fresh, local produce is sometimes hard to come by, but backyard and community based

gardens can healthfully sustain people in a town. People living in Schumacher used to make great use of backyards by planting vegetable gardens, especially on the roomie properties on 3rd (Croatia) and 4th avenues. Derelict properties in Schumacher could also provide public areas for community gardens and beautified green spaces with flowers, trees, and shrubs. Schumacher could use more public spaces where neighbors can meet, relax, plant gardens and exchange ideas.

With many days of sunlight in the northern hemisphere, solar panels can also be installed on the exteriors of homes, that will save home owners – and the community – a lot of money in the long run. Small and scalable community wind power projects would allow residents in Schumacher to share electrical power, which is another way that transition towns are meeting their local energy needs.

Although we wish that many of the small businesses in Schumacher were still thriving today, many people forget their own responsibility in the equation. There once was over 40 family enterprises in Schumacher, proving that the population could support many types of business ventures. So why can’t Schumacher residents support a small bakery, meat shop, organic food store, cafe and restaurants, which would jump start the local economy, create activity in the downtown and enhance the quality of life in the community? Family and community owned enterprises serve local communities, allowing residents to shop

within a few blocks, instead of driving to stores and malls kilometers away. By supporting family enterprises, it not only reduces energy consumption, but would strengthen the social, political, cultural and economic fabric of Schumacher. It only takes a few successful entrepreneurs to get things started.

Plus there are people and local organizations - like those associated with local food producers, crafts people, artists, entrepreneurs - who can help Schumacher become a transition town. These people see the benefits of buying at local farmers market, craft shows, family businesses, and attending film screenings, music performances and other cultural activities. All of which can help revitalize the community and breathe some life back into Schumacher.

The original transition town is Totnes, in the United Kingdom, which has been functioning as a reinvigorated community for almost a decade now. The people and businesses living there even have their own currency, keeping the economy hyper-local. Imagine having a currency called, Mr. Schumacher Dollars? It would be an appropriate name for a local currency, given that Frederick W. Schumacher founded the community in 1912, and whose family foundation still cares about the people and generously gives back to the community. His name is synonymous with integrity and strong community values.

In taking care of the environment and pocketbooks, we must not forget about ourselves. Maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle is another trait of a transition town. Schumacher has beautiful bush trails to enjoy nature, including those along the power lines, old railway tracks, and the Porcupine Ski Runners system. Pearl Lake is also a nice spot to hike, jog, or stroll through. With more integrated trail connections and maintenance, interpretative signage, park benches, picnic tables and BBQ pits, and solar-powered lights, Schumacher trails could be used by local residents and visitors to stay physically active – walking, running, cycling, skiing, snowshoeing and picnicing.

In order to breathe new life into Schumacher and create positive change, the people and community will need to start dreaming of a better life, and rebuild relationships with themselves, and the land and water around them. To become a transition town, people need to care and support each other, something Schumacher successfully did in the past, and can do again. It only takes a few people to get the ball rolling.



1st Avenue Schumacher 1950



WHY ESTABLISH A BUSINESS IN SCHUMACHER?

(PART ONE)

Locally owned family enterprises are at the social, political and economic centre of any town. The people who own family businesses live, work, play and volunteer in the community where they operate. They provide valuable products and services to residents and visitors, and they give back to their community.

There was a time when Schumacher had over 40 retail enterprises located on First Avenue (Father Costello Drive) and many side streets – most were family owned. But the number of family enterprises began to dwindle in the late 1960's as car culture, suburban shopping malls and highway bypasses began to destroy local downtown business districts all over Canada. Not only did Schumacher's downtown shrink, but so did South Porcupine and Timmins. The main problem was that residents were not supporting downtown businesses, instead buying from national retailers who have very little stake in the community, other than displacing family enterprise jobs and transferring their revenues and profits elsewhere.

But some communities have been bucking this trend, as more people look to buy from local retailers and producers. In a recent US study conducted by Civics Economics', and cited by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, local retail businesses returned 52% of their revenue to the local economy while national chain stores only returned 14%. Similarly locally owned restaurants circulated 79% of their revenue locally, versus 30% for chain eateries. Simply put, family retail enterprises are major drivers in keeping local economies strong, vibrant and healthy. This is why Schumacher supported over 40 businesses, because residents working at the McIntyre, Hollinger and Dome mines spent their money at family businesses, and they in turn bought from other family businesses, so the money continuously circulated in the local community, payday after payday.

So why set up a retail business in Schumacher? What does the community have going for it?

If one looks at the numbers and infrastructure, Schumacher is perfectly situated geographically to be a visitor and tourist hub for the City of Timmins and surrounding area.

- First, its located in the centre of Timmins – equi-distant between Porcupine and Mountjoy. In a 2004 City traffic study done at Algonquin Blvd & Hwy 655, over 29,000 vehicles per day (over 200,000 per week and 10 million per year) go through this intersection, so there's a lot of people going by Schumacher.
- Second, the most and largest sports, conventions, trade shows, concerts, festivals, entertainment and cultural events held in the city, take place at the McIntyre Community Building. According to a sample of events taken by the City, over 150,000 people go through the MAC each year, with some of the larger events attracting big numbers over multiple days: World Under 17 Hockey Tournament 18,000+, SLC Sportsman Show 10,000+, Rotary Ribfest 10,000+, Mining Expo 10,000+, Mushkegowuk Cup 7,000, SLC Craft Show 7,000.
- Third, the aquatic water quality in Pearl Lake is improving to the point where it can ecologically support healthy fish populations and recreational activity (fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking).
- Fourth, the McIntyre Park is being rejuvenated and beautified by the Schumacher Lions Club, and has the Porcupine Miner's Memorial sculpture located in it.
- Fifth, Goldcorp is rehabilitating the McIntyre Mine tailings, so they are becoming an ecologically healthy green space for recreation

and where First Nations spiritual ceremonies are held.

- Sixth, the McIntyre Mine headframe is an iconic architectural landmark being branded in City tourism promotion, and with additional tourism activities and infrastructure (i.e. amphitheatre, trail system, ecological aquatic park), it would become the centre of the City's tourism strategy.
- Plus, the Timmins Sports Heritage Hall of Fame will soon be located at the Mac.

With this much visitor and tourist related activity and infrastructure already around Schumacher, and the closing of the Shania Twain Centre and Hollinger Gold Mine Tour, plus the Hollinger Project requiring a mine closure plan, there is a very strong case to be made that a waterfront tourism development strategy centred around Schumacher would make very good social, recreational, spiritual, economic and political sense. It would just be a matter of bringing together the City of Timmins politicians and development staff, Timmins Economic Development Corporation and Timmins Chamber of Commerce representatives, provincial and federal government politicians and agencies, along with mining company executives and interested community stakeholders, to have a round table discussion on how best to move this initiative forward, for the benefit of all.

So there are many good reasons to establish a visitor and tourist hub in Schumacher. If there are enough unique family retail enterprises – like bakery cafes, restaurants, bed & breakfasts, hotels, gift shops, ethnic food stores, etc. – that can tap into existing and new tourism activities and infrastructure around Schumacher, then the downtown will come back to life. If this were to happen, the quality of life for the residents of Schumacher and greater Timmins would significantly improve.

BUY LOCAL

There are over **80 enterprises** with postal addresses in Schumacher, so please support locally owned enterprises. Such as: Hair Charisma, John's Auto Body, McIntyre Lodge, Camp Bickell, Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy.

Email

info@spiritofschumacher.ca
have your Schumacher enterprise advertised in the SOS newsletter.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2013

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO - THE MEETING PLACE!

June 2013:

Event: Multicultural Festival

Date: June 2nd 2013

Location: McIntyre Arena Ice Surface

Contact: Marjorie Boyd: 705-268-0735

Event: National Arm Wrestling Championship

Date: June 28th, 29th & 30th 2013

Location: McIntyre Arena Ice Surface

Contact: Joanne Lachance: 705-365-5923

Event: Rib Fest

Date: June 28th, 29th & 30th 2013 (TENTATIVE)

Location: McIntyre Community Centre

Contact: Timmins Rotary Club: 705-365-0437

September 2013

Event: Welcome to Timmins Night

Date: September 11th 2013

Location: McIntyre Arena Curling Club

Contact: TEDC: 705-360-2656

SACHA LAUNCHES THE SPIRIT OF SCHUMACHER WEBSITE.

VISIT AND GIVE US FEEDBACK!

www.spiritofschumacher.ca



Good news!
The Good Food Box is now available in YOUR neighbourhood!
Save money, support local farming and eat better!
Visit Gracie Jiu Jitsu Academy in Schumacher
(88 Father Costello Drive)
Place your order on or before the first Thursday of every month.

Other community host sites:
Timmins: Timmins Native Friendship Centre, 179 Kirby Avenue 268-6262
Melrose Area: Community Living Timmins, 166 Albroseaux Avenue 268-8811
South Porcupine: Northern College, First Year Experience Office 235-6920
Timmins: Northeastern Ontario Family and Children's Services (NEOFACS) 797 Ross Avenue 363-8978

Are you getting enough?
The Good Food Box offers affordable fruits and vegetables delivered close to your door!

What is the Good Food Box?
The Good Food Box is like a fruit and vegetable buying club. The program offers discount prices on a variety of nutritious, high quality and local food in season. If you're looking for an affordable way to add more fruit and vegetables to your diet, then give the Good Food Box a try! Payment of \$20 can be made on or before the first Thursday of the month, with delivery to your neighbourhood host site on the third Thursday of the month.

Visit the Schumacher host site:
Gracie Jiu Jitsu Academy at
88 Father Costello Drive, Schumacher.
Jonelle Larouche, Manager (705) 264-7655
Phone or email for further information on other host site locations: Call 705 - 262 - 2499 or
email: goodfoodbox@astihungerscoalition.com
www.facebook.com/goodfoodboxtimmins

Program of Anti-Hunger Coalition Timmins • Supported by Porcupine United Way






ADVERTISING

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.



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subscribe@spiritofschumacher.ca

Spirit Of **SCHUMACHER**

SCHUMACHER ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

SACHA Mandate

On December 3, 2011, a new Schumacher based group met 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, and to enhance the quality of life for the people of Schumacher and greater Timmins."

Become A Member and or Dedicated Contributor

SACHA is a non-profit organization. You can financially assist with its Schumacher based activities as follows:

1) Become a Member (annual fee assists with publishing the SOS newsletter and general administration)

2) Make a Dedicated Contribution (amount of your choice assists with the following community activities)

- maintenance & beautification of monuments and public spaces in Schumacher
- conduct arts, culture & heritage research for educational and historical purposes
- preservation & construction of Schumacher heritage sites and infrastructure
- presentation of events, workshops & exhibitions in the community
- development & maintainance of the SOS website and online content

Note: SACHA will recognize the generosity of members and dedicated contributors with acknowledgement in the SOS newsletter and website, and by notices / invitations to various community activities.

Please copy and fill out this membership & contribution form.

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **Prov:** _____ **P-Code:** _____

Tel: _____ **Email:** _____

Select the membership category and or dedicated contribution amount below.

Individual Membership \$15 **Family Membership \$25** **Business Membership \$50**

Dedicated Contribution (specify amount of your choice) _____

Total Membership & Dedicated Contribution Amount _____

Send form and cheque payable to the following address, and be issued a non-tax deductible receipt.

Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association c/o PO Box 58, Schumacher, Ontario, P0N 1G0

For membership information please email: info@spiritofschumacher.ca