

DECEMBER  
2013

ISSUE 8

# Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2013

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

## CHRISTMAS IN SCHUMACHER

FILM RELEASED BY SACHA



As part of the ongoing *Schumacher Lives* documentary film and interactive website project, funded by the Schumacher Foundation, several short films are being produced that depict the people, places and activities in the community of Schumacher – past and present.

The first film was called, *Schumacher Historical Photos – 1910 to 1960's*. It is a 12 minute photo retrospective of the community of Schumacher from the earliest days of its existence - when it was Aura Lake, Ontario, to becoming Schumacher in 1912 when Frederick W. Schumacher built a railway station and townsite, and right up to the early 1960's when it grew from a few cabins in the woods to a very dynamic, self confident, prosperous, multicultural community of over 3,000 people.

The second short film released as part of the *Schumacher Lives Project* is called *Christmas in Schumacher*. This is a 5 minute music video that features various Christmas activities taking place in the community that are annually presented by Schumacher Public School, Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department and the Schumacher Lions Club. Thanks go out to these organizations for letting us film their activities.

The music video is set to an original song called, *The Bells of St. Alphonsus*, which was composed, recorded and sung by Rob Knox. Rob grew up in Schumacher and still has a very strong connection to

the community. His mother Shiley Knox lives on Croatia Avenue and Rob is the Vice President on the SACHA (Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association) board of directors.

*Christmas in Schumacher* was directed and edited by Bridget Yard and Lloyd Salomone, with camera work by Brandon Theriault, Taylor Salomone and Bridget. Ben Duncan provided graphic design and Chris Giles assisted with titling and online mix services. Special thanks also go to Joanna Conley, Mark and Zora Chenier, Noella and Perry Rinaldo for providing archival audio and visual images used in the film.

SACHA released the *Christmas in Schumacher* video on Youtube where it has been receiving a lot of views and positive feedback from people living in and beyond Schumacher. You can also visit the Spirit of Schumacher website ([www.spiritofschumacher.ca](http://www.spiritofschumacher.ca)) and watch the *Christmas in Schumacher* film there along with the 12 minute film, *Schumacher Historical Photos – 1910 to 1960's*.

So, from the editor and everyone who publishes the Spirit of Schumacher newsletter and SACHA's board of directors and volunteers, we wish the people and community of Schumacher, Canada – a safe and happy holiday season and all the best in 2014!

DECEMBER 2013



# THE NIGHT LIFE OF SCHUMACHER



Buchar Brothers at the Grand View Hotel

I have often mentioned how lucky I felt to be able to grow up in a town like Schumacher in the 60s and 70s. There was always something to do whether it be work or play or just hanging out with good friends.

When I turned 18...which was the legal drinking age then ... my friends and I started frequenting the local establishments. The Empire Hotel in Timmins offered the Fountain Court Lounge and Sportsman's Lounge while many of us went to the Travel Host and its famous Shot and Stein bar.

Many a night was spent drinking draft and dancing to the various bands and when the downtown bars closed we sometimes headed to the Mattagami Hotel which closed an hour after everyone else. While it was fun to hit the Timmins bars drinking but Schumacher had its own bars and benefits.

You never had to worry about bumming a ride home or saving enough money for a cab...eight bars were within a few blocks of each other. We would often try to spread our money around starting at the top of the hill at the Eldorado, then the Emporium for drafts, and then the Schumacher Hotel owed by the Riopel family where we would have a couple of drafts or a bottle of Baby Duck, a really sweet red wine which came in pop sized bottles.

Next stop was the Grand View Hotel where the Buchar brothers would offer up their cocktail mixes in a refined lounge atmosphere complete with uniforms for the waiters. The Grandview was always where we went before a formal occasion such as a wedding to jump start the evening and show off our fancy clothes.

On a regular weekend however we would carry down to the Tisdale Hotel which had the best draft I ever tasted and the coldest. It maintained the two gender specific sides - mens only and gentlemen

and escorts - longer than the rest of the bars. I remember stopping in there with Natalie Ivancic after playing and losing a tennis game to Father Les Costello. He took on both Nat and I and beat us soundly, but proclaimed that he had the Big Guy on his side and we were destined to lose no matter what.

My Father and a bunch of his buddies liked meeting at the Tisdale Hotel on the men's side and he would not allow me to join them on that side. My Dad didn't think we women should be in bars drinking so he would send over two orange pop for Natalie and I.

The last stop on our rounds was the Pearl Lake Hotel which was the only bar located on the north side of First Avenue.

At the time my friends and I were frequenting the bar when it was owned by a couple from Windsor, Butch and Gail Demers. They had always wanted to own a bar and after years of working in the Chrysler car plant they invested in the Pearl Lake Hotel in Schumacher.

The Demers were big sports people and sponsored many a team including the Pearl Lake Giants men's fastball team and the ladies team the Junior Giants. It made good business sense as the sponsored teams would come in after games and usually bring the opposing team for a few brews and a rehash of the game.

But Butch and Gail also brought in some amazing musical talent to perform on the weekends. In those days bands worked a circuit which meant travelling to various venues in northern Ontario. There was something different about the Pearl Lake hotel that set it aside from the rest for my generation. It was more than just a bar it was like a club of sorts. We knew that at some point on a Friday or Saturday night everyone was going to end up at the Pearl Lake. It really wasn't about the drinking as much as the camaraderie.

Bands would sometimes be there for the whole week in which case we would check them out on Monday nights. Wednesday nights were bumper pool league nights and there was regular pool and various video games and of course a juke box which had all the latest hits on it. If we wanted a particular song we would ask Gail and sure enough the next time we showed up the song was on the playlist.

The house drinks were a Jelly Bean and the famous Cream in your Jeans which when you were finished drinking them you could keep the glasses. Try and explain to your parents what a glass with Cream in your Jeans written on it was doing on the kitchen counter!

It wasn't just Schumacher people who were part of the whole Pearl Lake experience, people from around the area would come and check the place out. When Butch and Gail decided to revamp the place and make it a true sports bar... the teams and patrons helped out with painting and minor construction. If they needed extra waiters or bar tenders we tried to help out there as well.

Gail would allow all kinds of shenanigans as long as no one got hurt or insulted anyone else...we had the rule of the roost and it was fun. Some nights were spent dancing on the window sills (they had big window sills) or joining the band on stage for an impromptu jam, which was funny because none of had any musical talent.

But as I have said in previous columns Schumacher was and always will be about the people and a sense of belonging .... and the Pearl Lake and all of the other hotels in town provided a social scene and night life that was incredibly fun and enjoyable.

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

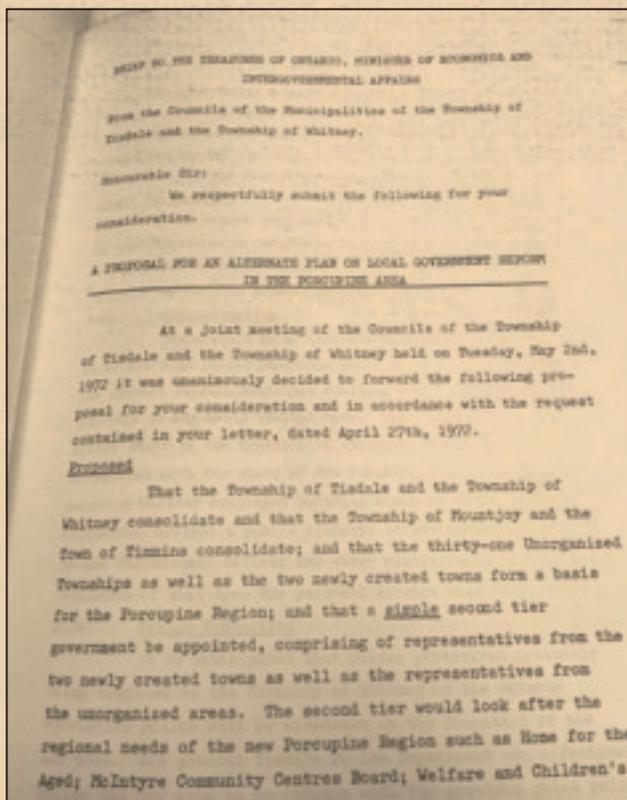
# RESEARCHERS SOUGHT TO STUDY AMALGAMATION IN TIMMINS AREA

In the August newsletter, SACHA reported that it was collaborating with film producer, Lloyd Salomone, and Laurentian University economics professor, Dr. David Leadbeater, regarding the submission of a research project application to various funders (JP Bickell Foundation), that if successful would:

- conduct a study on amalgamation in the Timmins area to see what happened to to all of the communities affected by it over the last 40 years (socially, politically, culturally, economically)
- allow SACHA to undertake historical research about Schumacher and disseminate this information via the SOS newsletter and website
- help cover production costs associated with the *Schumacher Lives* documentary film & interactive website project

As it relates to the amalgamation study, it will be conducted by Dr. David Leadbeater, an Economics professor in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences at Laurentian University in Sudbury. He has been published in numerous books and academic journals in Canada and the United States.

One of Dr. Leadbeater's areas of interest is on the impact of centralization, amalgamation and globalization on resource communities in Northern Ontario. In 1999, he wrote, *Boom Town Blues: collapse and revival in a single industry community*, which looked at increased transfer dependency in the Elliot Lake and North Shore communities. Then in 2008, he edited the book, *Mining*



Alternative Amalgamation Proposal by Townships of Tisdale & Whitney

*Town Crisis: Globalization, Labor and Resistance in Sudbury, Canada*; that analyzes the impact that globalization and corporate power have had on the working people in the Sudbury Basin.

In association with SACHA and the *Schumacher Lives Project*, Professor Leadbeater is turning his research attention to Timmins, where he wants to examine the social, cultural, political and economic affects that 40 years of amalgamation have had on the people and communities annexed into the super city. We know that in 1973 amalgamation was not wanted by the municipal townships of Tisdale (Schumacher, South Porcupine) or Whitney (Porcupine). In fact, the municipal council's of Tisdale and Whitney proposed an alternative amalgamation plan, where their two townships be amalgamated, and the Town of Timmins be amalgamated with Mountjoy Township. But the Ontario provincial government did not support this and all five communities and many surrounding townships were amalgamated into a super city.

So why did amalgamation occur and what has happened to the people and

communities amalgamated into the City of Timmins? Has the east end (Schumacher, South Porcupine, Porcupine), the west end (Timmins, Mountjoy) and outlying townships really benefited from it? On the surface it appears that the east end has not fared as well as the west end. So the purpose of the research study is to determine - who lost? who won? how much and why?, and can those communities who have been negatively impacted the most be more equitably treated and fairly compensated in the future by the City of Timmins, and the provincial and federal governments?

To conduct this research, Professor Leadbeater is developing a team of academic researchers, and hopes that some of them will come from the Timmins area. He is seeking graduate research candidates studying history, economics, political science or other social science disciplines. If interested please contact Dr. Leadbeater via email [dleadbeater@laurentian.ca](mailto:dleadbeater@laurentian.ca) (note: the proposed research project is dependent upon securing funding)

# A NEW SPIRIT & SENSE OF PRIDE IN SCHUMACHER IS LEADING TO COMMUNITY REJUVENATION

I used to run through Schumacher often in high school and during summer vacation from university. Sometimes, everyday routine makes a person blind to change. Now, I pass through Schumacher less frequently, only on visits. But I've had the good fortune to tie business to pleasure. Through the *Schumacher Lives* documentary film and interactive website project, my visits have become "working trips," where I get to interview relatives, neighbours, and familiar faces I'm only now connecting with familiar names.

My last trip home was in early October. My first run through was exhilarating, and the Northern Ontario air had little to do with it. Schumacher is in a state of flux, and it's a good thing.

For years, I've admired the old Trinity United church on Father Costello Drive, but I had no idea what a gem it is until our alderwoman, Noella Rinaldo, invited us in (camera in tow). The Rinaldos have transformed the church into a beautiful place to live. As I turned my camera on each detail and restoration, I felt like a videographer for an HGTV show. I'm not far off - the kitchen has been the backdrop of a cooking show!

Just down the street, our camera captured a work crew fixing up a roof. It seems small, but most homeowners can attest to the difference a few shingles make.

The week before, we spoke to the Romanowski family about another, somewhat larger, home renovation on Grant Street. Vera and Henry have owned several apartments in Schumacher for years. They decided it was time to gut the top floor of one older building and renovate - creating one spacious apartment where before, there were two.



It's not necessary to completely remodel a home to give it an update. There's something special about the laneways running through our town. There's lots of history there. Mayor Tom Laughren spoke to us for a few hours one day about his childhood in Schumacher and how he used to make mischief in those very laneways. Now, one of his daughters, Kylie, lives in the old Murdoch house with a wonderful view: an old garden and beyond it a good, old-fashioned Schumacher laneway. She and her partner Chris plan to add a deck to take in the view.

Much of the rejuvenation activity in our town is impossible to see from afar - to experience it, you have to talk to your neighbours and find out what's going on in their lives and visiting them inside their homes.

We were filming streetscapes toward the end of our visit and passed by the old St. Chad's Anglican church on Dwyer Avenue. We noticed the black fence had a fresh coat of paint. Interest piqued, we walked up the front steps, leading to a door with a glass window and doorknob - not the heavy door one would associate with a religious institution. We knocked, and were greeted by the owner. We received a warm welcome, and found out they were building a new hair studio in the foyer of the church. The rest of the main floor already houses a young family. Schumacher has gained another business, and another set of neighbours who are calling the community home.

Our historic sites are changing, too. The old Schumacher High School building suffered a catastrophic fire, but is now under renovation. Along with Anne and Alan MacDonald, our camera captured a work crew rebuilding the school board office from the ground up. Though we lost a beautiful 1930's Art Deco facade and walls steeped in history, we're gaining a new, innovative contemporary design the community can be proud of.

The biggest display of pride and rejuvenation I noticed during my last trip is in the Lions Club Park. I have no memories of its former glory. I hear countless stories throughout the interview process for the *Schumacher Lives Project*, and I wish I were part of the Schumacher the old McIntyre Park represents. I'm not.

But I am able to document the efforts of the Lions Club to create a new space for the community to enjoy.

The relatively new miner's memorial is a tribute to the industry's past, and placed just metres away from a children's jungle gym. A few steps away, the pond and bridge offers a backdrop for portraits and picnics. Several of our interviewees have noted it as the backdrop to their wedding photos. Now, their children will be able to say the same. Construction had also begun on the newly Goldcorp-sponsored pavillion project, another contemporary work of architecture that I can't wait to see completed on my next trip to Schumacher in the new year.

So there seems to be a new spirit and sense of pride in Schumacher, that is leading to its rejuvenation, which I think is a very good thing for the people who live there and call it home.

**Bridget Yard**  
*Journalist & Filmmaker*





# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2013 TO APRIL 2014

*SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO - THE MEETING PLACE!*

### Schumacher Public School Events

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**December 16, 2013**

**Skating at The Mac @ 11am-12 noon.**

Primary students and Mrs. Stewart's class

**December 17, 2013**

**Skating at The Mac @ 11am - 12 noon.**

Junior students & Mrs. Pahl's, Mrs. Hall's and Ms. Montague's classes

**December 17, 2013**

**Schumacher Christmas Concert in the Gym @ 1:15 - 2:15 pm.**

For all students

**December 18, 2013**

**Turkey Luncheon @ 12 noon - 12:45 pm.**

For all students

**December 19, 2013**

**Christmas Carols @ 1:35 - 2:30 pm.**

For all students

*Parents are welcome to join us during our activities.*

Reminder school commences on  
**Monday, January 6, 2014!**

For more info contact school principal Lisa Yee:  
[lisa.yee@dsb1.edu.on.ca](mailto:lisa.yee@dsb1.edu.on.ca)

### Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department

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**December 17, 2013**

**Mr. Schumacher Christmas Gifts for Children @ The Mac Ballroom 6:30pm**

### Schumacher Lions Club Events

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**December 4, 2013**

**Seniors Supper @ Lions Den**

**December 7, 2013**

**CTV / Lions Club Telethon**

**December 21, 2013**

**Telethon Voucher Delivery**

**December 31, 2013**

**New Years Eve Dance @ Lions Den**

In association with dart league

**April 26 & 27, 2014**

**Sportsman Show @ The Mac**

For more info contact Jack Arbic:

[sampump@persona.ca](mailto:sampump@persona.ca)

### McIntyre Curling Club Events

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**December 31, 2014**

**New Year's Eve Party**

**January 23 to 26, 2014**

**Northern Ontario Curling Association East Qualifier**

**February 5 to 9, 2014**

**Northern Ontario Curling Association Men's Provincials**

**February 15, 2014**

**Sweetheart Bonspiel**

**March 28 to 31, 2014**

**Fisherman/Ladies Bonspiel**

For more info contact Linda Larrat:

705-360-1770

### Porcupine Ski Runners Events

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**February 24 - 26, 2014**

**OFSAA & PSR Loppet Race weekend**  
with 600 athletes competing in OFSAA

**March 8 -9, 2014**

**Porcupine Ski Runners**

34th Annual Loppet with 10km, 17km, 23km and for the first time a 46 km challenge event.

For more info contact Diane Luhta:

705-360-1444





# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association Events

Please take in Schumacher Minor Hockey team games and playoff at The McIntyre Arena – home of the SDMHA & Schumacher Cubs

**April 10-13, 2014**  
**2014 Midget "A" All Ontario Hockey Federation Championship ~ at The Mac**

For more info contact Brian Getty:  
[bgetty@eastlink.ca](mailto:bgetty@eastlink.ca)

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



from all of the community organizations that make Schumacher a special place to live, learn and play in!



## 2014 events



NOT TO BE MISSED

### 2nd Annual Mr. Schumacher Day 102nd Anniversary Celebration

**Date:** Saturday March 1, 2014

**Location:** to be determined

**Contact:** SACHA [www.spiritofschumacher.ca](http://www.spiritofschumacher.ca)

### 2014 Schumacher Homecoming Celebration

**Date:** Long Weekend - May 16, 17, 18, 2014

**Location:** McIntyre Arena & Curling Club

**Contact:** Lou Battochio at 705-264-0974



## 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; Advertising Inquiries: Lloyd Salomone, email [lloyd\\_salomone@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@spiritofschumacher.ca).

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AND GIVE US FEEDBACK!

[www.spiritofschumacher.ca](http://www.spiritofschumacher.ca)



## 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](mailto:info@spiritofschumacher.ca) and we will forward you the SOS advertising rate card.



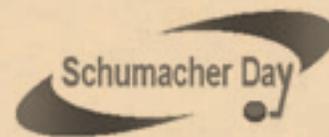
## SCHUMACHER CUBS & SCHUMACHER DAY MINOR HOCKEY ASSN HOSTING 2014 MIDGET "A" OHF CHAMPIONSHIP @ THE MAC APRIL 10-13, 2014

The Northern Ontario Hockey Association, in conjunction with the Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association and the Schumacher Cubs Midget Hockey Team, is pleased to announce that the 2014 Midget "A" Ontario Hockey Federation championships will be hosted by the local Schumacher Cubs. This provincial championship will take place in our community the weekend of April 10th – 13th, 2014.

The tournament is a three day event that produces the provincial Midget "A" champions. The championship takes place at the conclusion of the hockey season, with five teams participating. The participating teams include representatives from the Greater Toronto Hockey League, the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, the Northern Ontario Hockey Association and ALLIANCE. The fifth team is the host team.

From business and tourism standpoints, this is great news for the City of Timmins as it will generate revenue for our local hotels, restaurants, and other retail establishments.

It is our hope that the community will support the association in putting on a first class tournament as well as coming out to cheer on the local boys.



**For more information contact:**  
Sylvie Geuvremont, Chair, 2014 Midget "A" OHF Championship  
[sgouvremont@personainternet.com](mailto:sgouvremont@personainternet.com) or  
705-264-8314

