

A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 102 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2014

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF CURLING

The McIntyre Curling Club has been a fixture in the community for the past 75 years. Although "The Mac" was not the first curling facility in the area, nor was it always the only facility in town, it has stood the test of time thanks in no small part to the dedication of its membership and executives. (For the record, the Timmins Curling Club ran from 1926 to 1941 in the Timmins Armories building, and the Dome Mine Curling Club closed in the 1990s.)

Curling was first introduced in the McIntyre Arena in 1938 on the hockey/skating rink. The grand opening of the McIntyre Curling Club (part of the McIntyre Community Building expansion) was in December of 1939. At that time, membership consisted of 507 men, mostly employees of the McIntyre Mine. It was not until 1952 that the

membership passed a motion allowing a ladies section of the club (a similar motion had been defeated in 1951).

The McIntyre Curling Club has played host to two national titles: the 1972 Junior Canadian Curling Championship and the 1982 Seagram's National Mixed Championship. The Mac has also been well represented at many provincial and national events, starting with the 1949 MacDonald Brier and continuing up to the 2013 Police Nationals.

The Mac offers curling opportunities for all ages and skill levels, including a children's Little Rocks program, NEOAA high school curling, a seniors' New Horizons league, mens, ladies, open, and mixed leagues, plus lessons and ice rentals. For more information, visit www.curlthemac.ca.



Above: An undated photo of the McIntyre Curling Club taken from ice level. (SACHA files, with permission from Louise Nightingale Smith.) Left: A new logo was unveiled to coincide with The Mac's 75th anniversary.

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IN MEMORY OF GEORGE DELICH



A SCHUMACHER GENTLEMAN



George Delich truly embodied the Schumacher spirit. His contributions to the community were numerous and varied; he will not soon be forgotten.

A TRUE FRIEND

George Delich is a model of what true friendship should be. I feel honoured and truly appreciative to have had him for a friend for the past six decades. I admired his kindness, his wit, his support, his quiet strength and his intelligence. I knew him as a person of honesty, dignity, tact and intelligence.

When George tackled a job, he did it with a vitality that made you realize he was not going to let it go until the job was done. His enthusiasm was exhibited in his professional work as an educator, especially in his role as a school principal. It showed in his 52 years with the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department, the last 28 in the role of District Chief. And, it benefited the numerous Schumacher committees that he served on. George loved our town and was passionate about serving it. George may have been a man of few words, but he led by example and that action spoke for itself.

Intelligent, dedicated, caring, supportive, courageous - these are adjectives that could be synonymous with George, and yet they are more than words; they are virtues that he lived each and every day. Honour, morality, and conscience are words that could describe George, and yet more than words, they are qualities part and parcel of this man; he taught them as he lived them.

George was a man who lived a life worthy of respect, so we will respect his memory. He always put others first and himself last. He left us a legacy of how life should be lived: as a dedicated husband of Norma for 55 years, a loving father of Michael, Mark and Marty, a grandfather of six grandchildren, a brother of Anne Ross, a true friend and a respected lifelong member of our Schumacher community.

Submitted by George Stefanic

A GREAT BOSS

I had the opportunity to work with George for many years as his secretary at Schumacher Public School. He was a great boss and someone I respected and looked up to. We worked so well together that he could start a sentence and I could finish it and vice versa. It was scary at times. LOL When George's beeper for a fire call would go off, I would throw him my car keys without him even having to ask. I knew how important George's fire calls were to him.

George wasn't just a great boss, he was also a great friend. He will be greatly missed, but I have lots of reminders of him at home. George built many wood furniture pieces for my home, which I will always treasure.

Friends forever, Celine Lilko

A TALENTED WOODWORKER

I came to know George through our hobbies. I create painted wood crafts and George was always willing to put his woodworking skills to the test when I needed shapes cut-out; no matter how complicated the shape, he did beautiful work. George was a true gentleman; he was warm and easy to talk to. He will be missed.

Submitted by Donna Pollock



George Delich passed away September 10th, 2014. He was predeceased by his wife, Norma (née Tarr) on June 8, 2014. A lifelong Schumacher resident, George was devoted to his family, committed to the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department, and a retired Schumacher Public School principal.



Since Halloween saw snow on the ground and Trick or Treaters in toques and mittens, it seems only fitting that this issue boasts so much winter-related content. I'm proud to say that I have personal connections to many of the featured articles.

Mr. Delich was my principal at Schumacher Public School. I wasn't the type to get into trouble, but he knew me by name nonetheless. He took an interest in every one of his students and was truly a class act. On the winter sports front, I learned how to cross country ski at the PSR thanks to an after school program at SPS. Today, I am a coach of the OHS Nordic Ski Team. Although I curled at the Mac as a member of the RMSS Girls' Curling team, these days my time there is spent watching my nephews play hockey - Go Schumacher Stingers (Novice) and Schumacher Senators (Timbits)! Last but not least, I can still recall the excitement of the annual Mr. Schumacher gift exchange. One of the last gifts I received was a colourful travel hair-dryer; while its design screams late 1980s, it is still in perfectly good working order.

As winter creeps upon us, remember that there is lots to do in Schumacher to help pass the long, cold months ahead! On behalf of the Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association, I wish each of you an early Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Until next time,
Lisa Romanowski,
 SOS Editor

FEBRUARY READER POLL

What food, snack, or beverage instantly reminds you of Schumacher?

Recipes and photos welcome!
 Responses will be shared in the February edition!

Email your response to schumachergirl@gmail.com or send it by regular post to **PO Box 13, Schumacher, ON, P0N 1G0**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday November 14 & Saturday November 15
 McIntyre Ballroom:
 Murder Afoot! Dinner Theatre
www.taketwotheatre.com

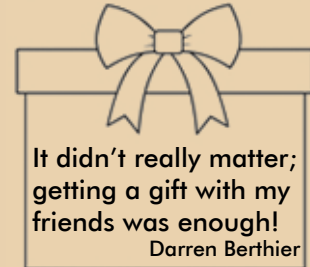
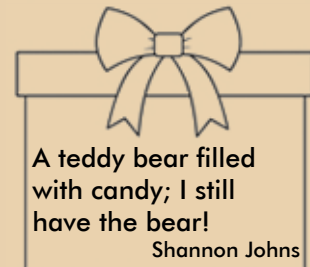
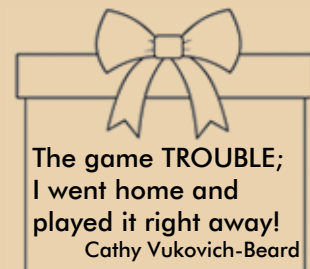
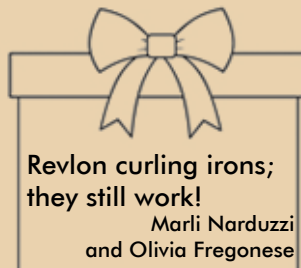
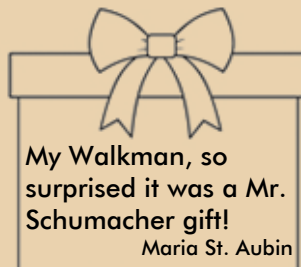
Saturday, November 15th
 Croatian Hall Annual Dinner, Live band & Dancing
 For Tickets Please Call: Frank 705-264-7881
 Darlene 705-235-4307 or George 705-264-2998

Friday, November 21 & Saturday November 22
 McIntyre Auditorium:
 Soldiers of Song – a tribute to the Dumbells
www.timmins.ca/special/tribute-dumbells

Wednesday, December 3
 Seniors Christmas Dinner
 courtesy of the Schumacher Lions Club
 Fill out your invitation at the Schumacher Post Office



My Favourite Mr. Schumacher Gift





TWAS THE KNIFE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Less and less of the blackboard was usable by the teacher as the space was taken over by our painted Christmas scene of a horse drawn sleigh. The pony and cutter were skillfully rendered by our resident Picasso, while the rest of us were tasked with creating the background of evergreens on snowy hills, and houses with pillowy white snow on the roofs and warm yellow windows. Hallmark cards would have been impressed!

"Clean up for today," we were told, "and line up for a walk downstairs to view the selection of Christmas gifts from Mr. Schumacher." Looking over the table laid out with gifts, we all made mental notes of our first and second picks. Judging by previous years, I also made note of third and fourth picks while I was at it. Moving down the table, I quickly made adjustments to my selections. Then, near the end of the table, I saw it! Without a doubt, it instantly catapulted to first place.

Then I thought, "How did it get here? Maybe it's a mistake? Who would have chosen this as a suitable gift for a grade 7 boy?" It had to have been one of the male teachers, or Mr. Murphy himself; I was positive of that. For a kid like me, who spent a lot of time exploring the thousands of acres of bush between Vipond Road and South Porcupine, it would be handy. No, it was a necessity. As necessary as a compass, which I also didn't have.

That night at home, reality set in. What were the chances I actually got my first choice? Slim to none! The typical methods for choosing gifts varied between the first letter of your first name and the first letter of your last name. Since my name doesn't have the letter "a" anywhere in a prominent location, but lots of "z's", I was poached.

The following morning, our teacher said that, this year, we would choose gifts according to a number we picked out of a bowl. I guess a bowl is sturdier than a toque? Fair enough,

but the odds were still not that great, since there were at least 20 kids in the class. So I had a 1 in 20 chance of drawing number 1! Slightly better than the lotteries today. One by one, we pulled out a piece of paper with our magic number and held it face down on our desk. Peeking at my number, to my surprise and delight, I saw it was 5! This was the best position I had ever had, but it wasn't number 1. Then, to my total surprise, the first four choices went to girls!

It seemed to take forever to mark the girls' names against their chosen gifts. "Who has number 5?" I shot up from my seat, shaking with excitement. "And your choice?" "The hunting knife with the stainless steel blade, carved elk horn handle, and hand stitched sheath." "Alright," the teacher said, as if handing out a hunting knife with a 6" blade to a kid was an everyday event at Schumacher Public School. I could hear some moans and groans from behind. Obviously, I wasn't the only guy with the hunting knife on his Christmas list. I sat down and didn't look back, no need for them to see the smile on my face!

Imagine, this was not a kid bringing a knife to school, but a kid bringing a real hunting knife home from school! Now, if I could only talk my Mom and Dad into getting me that Red Rider BB gun in Grant's Hardware window, then I'd be set. This was the early 60's, it was a different time, nobody got bent out of shape about kids with hunting knives and BB guns!

I still have that knife I got from Mr. Schumacher and can say that not a single critter was ever harmed. It did help start many a camp fire and cut up many potatoes from Dad's garden for the blackened, cast iron frying pan we used for chip roasts in the bush.

Harold Orsztynowicz,
SOS Contributor





SCHUMACHER'S SANTA

Since 1916, Christmas gifts have been provided to local children by Mr. Frederick W. Schumacher, the namesake of our small community. In the early years, Mr. Schumacher himself selected the gifts and sent them to Schumacher Public School. Teachers decided which gift to give each child and the principal distributed them. The years that Mr. Schumacher personally distributed the gifts were cause for great celebration; students gathered to sing carols and perform skits for the man who was their version of Santa Claus.

After his death in 1957, the purchasing of gifts was undertaken by the Schumacher Public School staff. Children were allowed to preview the gifts before selecting their preference in turn. In 1979, the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department agreed to take over the gift-giving operation. Gifts are now wrapped and sorted by gender and age, causing much speculation about the brightly wrapped packages. Additionally, any Schumacher child

from JK to Grade 8; regardless of their elementary school, is now eligible to receive a gift. This change is true to Mr. Schumacher's desire that only Schumacher children receive gifts, and reflects the fact that not all children in the community attend Schumacher Public School.

Since 1957, gift funds have been provided by the Schumacher Foundation (the current director is Schumacher's great-granddaughter, Lesley Finnell Blanchard). The gift exchange is typically held during the last week of school before Christmas Break in the Mr. Schumacher Ballroom at the McIntyre Community Building. Each year, as eager children gather under Mr. Schumacher's portrait, a firefighter shares the story of Mr. Schumacher. For long-time residents, this legacy has transcended three or four generations. For others, it is a rare glimpse into the history of our community. For everyone, both young and old, it is a chance to be a part of a nearly 100 year-old tradition.



Above: The F.W. Schumacher Philosopher and Philanthropist mural painted by Timmins artist, Ed Spehar, graces an exterior wall of the McIntyre Arena. (Photo: Vera Romanowski)

Fun Gift Facts from the Firefighters

- * About 200 gifts are given out each year.
- * Average gift cost is \$15-\$25 (varies by age).
- * 20 firefighters shop for the gifts.
- * Shopping takes about 10 hours in total.
- * 15 wives/girlfriends gather to wrap gifts.
- * Wrapping takes about 3 hours.
- * Everything is wrapped, even tricky items!
- * Stuffed animals are a hit with young girls.
- * Legos & trucks are a win with young boys.
- * Batteries are usually included!





THE PUCK DROPS HERE

Hockey season is well underway for teams belonging to the Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association. There are over 225 players, ranging in age from 3 to 17 years old, registered in SDMHA this season. Schumacher House League teams posted a great start to the season, winning Novice, Atom, and Midget trophies at the President's Cup Showcase, hosted by the local hockey associations. Great job to all of our teams.

Our Schumacher Cubs Midget "A" team is competing in the local Timmins Midget Hockey League, and will also be attending a number of tournaments. The team will be travelling to Huntsville, Sault Ste. Marie, and Temiskaming Shores this season. Stop by the Mac to catch the Cubs at home on Monday nights ... you're in for some exciting hockey.

SDMHA will also be hosting its 3rd annual Novice/Atom House League tournament from Friday, November 21st to Sunday, November 23rd, 2014. We are expecting teams from around the north to join us for a fun-filled tournament. Games will take place at the Whitney Arena and our home, the Mac. Weekend passes are only \$10. For news and updates, please visit the Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association webpage, found at www.schumacherday.com.

Brian Getty,

SDMHA Vice President / Treasurer



Above: The Schumacher Stingers (Novice) scramble to control the puck against the Porcupine Petes on November 1, 2014. Below: The Stingers celebrate after their 1-0 win. (Photos: Lisa Romanowski)



Schumacher Lions Club Film Set For Release

The short documentary, featuring long time Lions Ken Lessard and Joe Ferrari, chronicles the club's history of community service since 1938.

The film will be released on YouTube and Vimeo on December 1st, 2014. It will also be found under Schumacher Videos at www.spiritofschumacher.ca.

The film was produced by Lloyd Salomone (Flower Power Productions) in conjunction with the Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association.





RIGHT IN OUR BACKYARDS



Above: The Xstrata Copper Chalet at the Porcupine Ski Runners. (Photo courtesy of Claude J. Gagnon.)

Below: A skier takes advantage of the lit trails and enjoys some night skiing. (Photo courtesy of Diane Luhta.)



We are a hardy bunch in Schumacher, but the long winters can get even the most positive person a little down in the dumps. For the 1000+ members of Porcupine Ski Runners, however, winter is welcomed with open arms every year.

If you haven't been to Porcupine Ski Runners in recent years, you should really make a point of coming by. Over the last several years, the club has built a brand new chalet, added a network of snowshoe trails, and has started offering ski and snowshoe equipment for rent. Add to that lighted trails for night skiing and impeccably groomed trails, and you have one of the best winter recreation facilities in the country.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are activities that all ages are able to participate in and enjoy, and they truly do make the winter fly by. These sports are also some of the most affordable. Club membership rates are kept low by the hundreds of hours put in by dedicated volunteers. And, gently used equipment won't break the bank.

In Schumacher we are truly lucky to have such an incredible facility literally in our own backyards. Why not come out to the Ski Swap and Open House on November 29th and learn a little more about the PSR and what we have to offer? Or, visit us online: www.porcupineskirunners.com.

Neal McNair,

PSR Facilities Chair / Website Admin.

UPCOMING PSR EVENTS

Saturday, November 22: Ski Swap Drop-off Day

Drop off the ski equipment you want to sell.
Drop off skis to be waxed.

Saturday, November 29: Ski Swap and Open House

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Great deals on used ski equipment.
Get advice from local experts.
Luhta Atomic and Northern Sports onsite.

Saturday, November 29: Jackrabbit Registration

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Register your kids for the 2015 program.

Sunday, November 30th: Jackrabbit Registration

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Christmas Break

Special activities and rental deals.
Check www.porcupineskirunners.com!





SACHA INFORMATION & UPDATES

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 Lloyd Salomone (Secretary)
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ADVERTISING

Businesses are invited to purchase business card ads in upcoming issues of the newsletter. Cost is \$25 / issue or \$90 / year.

It is estimated that 5000 people read each newsletter in either its print or online form. Contact us for more information.

SCHUMACHER MUGS FOR SALE

Handcrafted by Mira Buchar
 Featuring the McIntyre Headframe or Mr. Schumacher.
 Four Colours Available!



\$25 each

(plus shipping if applicable)

Call: 705-267-4416 or
 Email: schumachergirl@gmail.com

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 Schumacher Volunteer
 Fire Department

* Additional Contribution

**Thank You for
 Your Generous Support**

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Readers are invited to submit announcements, stories, photos, and songs/poems celebrating the past, present, or future of Schumacher for consideration in future editions. Please include the creator's full name and the full names of anyone pictured. Submissions can be sent by email or regular post.

SOS NEWSLETTER

The Spirit of Schumacher community newsletter is published quarterly (February, May, August, November) by the Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association, a not-for-profit organization. Printed newsletters are distributed free to all postal boxes in Schumacher.

To receive free PDF versions of the SOS Newsletter, email: subscribe@spiritofschumacher.ca

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