

Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 103 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2015

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

MAY RUN FUN



Schumacher, and most of Northern Ontario, experienced an unusually warm and dry Victoria Day weekend. There was plenty of outdoor fun to be had for those who did not head out of town to a campsite or cottage. Far Left: Joseph Dunkley proudly shows off his first catch of the season, captured off the dock on Pearl Lake. Left: Karlo Komesarovich tends a backyard bonfire. Below: Henry Romanowski takes his '66 Chevelle out of storage and grandsons Ben and Jacob Dunkley go along for a ride.



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THE DOORWAY TO DESIRE

*Dedicated to the memory of
Mr. Gilbert "Short" Malkin and Mrs. Elizabeth "Bess" Malkin*

What is a turning point in one's life? At what age does it happen?

If one is lucky, it happens in childhood. Grade 6 was my turning point. I found a new friend – art. Although reading was my constant companion, art was edging in. I was enjoying art period more and more, and I raced through my homework so I could draw. What fun it was to draw faces, animals, and buildings. There were books on art among my Nancy Drew mysteries and Cherry Ames nurse novels. I became acquainted with the paintings of Degas, Rembrandt, Renoir and the Group of Seven.

My teacher, Miss Florence McInnes, urged me to enter a poster contest for Fire Prevention Week. My fireman drawing won me second prize; I enjoyed drawing a figure in a particular uniform – that of a fireman extinguishing a fire with a long hose.

During art period in Grade 7, my teacher, Miss Laura Belle Smale, introduced charcoal for drawing. I was fascinated by the "scritch, scritch" as I passed the crayon on paper. How fragile it was!

That year, the Northern Ontario Exhibition in my hometown, Schumacher, was featuring an art contest. Miss Smale encouraged me to submit a drawing. I drew the black Aberdeen terrier from the label of my father's favourite Black & White Scotch whiskey. I won first prize in the Junior Division. The juror was A.J. Casson of the Group of Seven. My father said I brought honour to the family. I was ecstatic.

My last year of elementary school was an important one for two events. The first event occurred in the first week of Grade 8 classes. Library period was Friday morning and it was my favourite time. That Friday, I found a new magazine in the library. Children's Playmate magazine was full of games, recipes, stories and art submitted by children of all ages. Mrs. Jaksic, the librarian, suggested that I send in a drawing to the magazine's editor. If my drawing was published, I would win a year's subscription. My pen and ink drawing of a ballerina dressed in a costume from The Firebird ballet was published. I recalled my ballet lessons as I drew the pose, facial expression, and ballet shoes. It was great to get the magazine each month; I had something that was truly mine.



In Grade 7, Gloria's charcoal drawing of an Aberdeen terrier won the Junior Division of an art contest hosted by the Northern Ontario Exhibition.
Art Credit: Gloria (Yankovich) Easton



During her Grade 8 year, in 1948, Gloria's drawing of a ballerina was featured in Children's Playmate magazine.
Art Credit: Gloria (Yankovich) Easton



The second event was a real surprise. Among the letters I fetched from the post office one day, one peeped out for me from the school board. What did I do? Anything bad? My heart raced. I opened the letter and found a pink registration form stating that I was enrolled in an oil painting class! "Who did this?" I wondered. I hid my letter in a textbook.

On a Saturday morning soon after, I heard a knock on the door. "Hello, Kay, is Gloria home?" said a voice I recognized – Mrs. Malkin. "Come in, Bess, and have some coffee. Gloria's here," said my mom. "Short and I enrolled Gloria in an oil painting class. Did you get the letter, Gloria? The registration form?" asked Mrs. Malkin. "Yes, I did." I replied. "She didn't tell us," answered my mother. "I really didn't understand it," I said. "Well, do go, Gloria. Short and I feel you have a lot of talent in art. Here is \$10 for art supplies. Go to that art store in Timmins," said Mrs. Malkin. We all thanked Mrs. Malkin. I felt truly cherished by people outside of my own family.

My father walked me to the classes and fetched me home. I enjoyed the instructor, Mrs. Florence Hamilton, who taught me how to mix and blend colours and the uses of mineral oil and turpentine. I loved being with adults; I was just 12 years old.

In high school, I volunteered to be the fashion editor for the quarterly newsletter. Gleaning suitable adaptations from fashion trends for the teenage set was challenging and rewarding. Copy was enhanced with my drawings. My sources were Ladies' Home Journal, McCall's, Life and Look and even movie magazines. I had a taste of journalism and it was a great experience.

Near the end of Grade 13, my father asked me what I intended to do after I graduated. I said that I would like to go to art college or go to university and study to be a teacher of French. He took my hand and in a heartfelt voice said that he couldn't afford either. His eyes glittered with tears.

I replied that it was alright. I said I was thinking of going into nursing to learn more about anatomy and physiology. If I went to train with the Grey Nuns in Sudbury, I would hear a lot of French and maybe even pick up some French conversation with my colleagues and patients. In my spare time, I could draw and paint; I would take my art supplies. We both agreed on that. Training to be a nurse was difficult, but I enjoyed drawing whenever I could to help explain myself on tests and exams. My marks improved.

At Christmas, the Sisters decorated the hospital. Sister Marguerite asked me if I could paint a mural five feet by seven feet. The scene depicted a deer on the brow of a snowy hill as it gazed down on a babbling brook. I painted from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. as I did not want to compromise my training. Painting the snow, I felt at one with nature. The deer inspired a bravery in me as it endured the cold. A Sister from the other wing asked me to paint the glass double doors separating the wing where I worked from hers. She wanted reverse images of the Holy Mother and Christ child. When I was done, the doors looked like stained glass windows. I experienced a calmness and peace while I painted. Sister was pleased. She said she felt the need to pray when she looked at the doors. It was hard to say no to the Sisters.

When my fiancé proposed, I offered a condition that I have an art night weekly. He agreed; I said yes. Over the years, with very few exceptions, I have kept my promise to myself to paint. I have taken many art courses, including cartooning, Chinese brush painting, acrylics, oil, and watercolour. I continue to take watercolour courses and remain ever-grateful to the people who helped show me the doorway to my heart's desire and passion to draw and paint.

Gloria (Yankovich) Easton,
SOS Contributor



Left: "Sleeveless blouses are the hit this year Cottons tend to be most popular. Add spice with a flower boutonniere or a neckerchief," wrote Gloria in an issue of the SHS ASP newsletter in 1953.

Centre: Gloria's deer mural at St. Joseph Hospital in Sudbury.

Right: Mrs. Gloria (Yankovich) Easton.

Photo Credit: Gloria Easton



NEIGHBOURHOOD SPOTLIGHT

IT'S IN THE MAIL

Over the years, the doors to various community gathering places (the library, bank, and various convenience stores and churches) have closed permanently. Those at the Schumacher Post Office, however, have remained open and inviting. The post office is like a child-friendly Cheers bar ... everyone knows your name and is always glad to see you.

With 69 years of employment between them, the familiar faces of Post Master Linette MacDonald (40 years) and Assistant Post Master Pierrette "Pete" Campsall (29 years) greet everyone with a warm smile (and stickers or candy for well-behaved youngsters). Not only do the "girls at the mail" run a very efficient postal operation, they've taken it upon themselves to watch out for the seniors in our community, share local news and events, and make newcomers feel welcome.



From left: Pierrette "Pete" Campsall and Linette MacDonald have kept the Schumacher Post Office running for a combined total of 69 years. These ladies go above and beyond sorting letters and selling stamps; they have helped make the post office the heart of our community. Photo Credit: Vera Romanowski

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LET'S PLAY BALL

Far too often, the memories of unsung heroes in small communities lose lustre as time marches on. Lost in the archives of Schumacher history is one such person: Ike Solomon. Few seem to remember the philanthropy of this gentleman who loved baseball.

Before I get too far ahead of myself, let me put some context to growing up in Schumacher in the early 1950s. Our small community was a hotbed of sports, not only hockey and soccer, but baseball as well. The McIntyre Mine was the sponsor for most athletic teams and often provided jobs to attract skilled athletes.

While the mine did its share on the adult side, starting in 1952, it was the Schumacher Lions Club that sponsored the Juvenile baseball club. The team played in a league with Timmins Dairy, The Richelieu, and South Porcupine. In the first two years, the team did not have uniforms and experienced mixed success. When the team was finally dressed, it went on to celebrate wins, including the league championship. At the time, the Schumacher Lions were coached by Art Quinn and managed by postmaster Les Hall, who was also a member of the Schumacher Lions Club. Members of the team included

pitchers Brian "Pancho" Grant, Gerry Zgonce, and Victor Oreskovich, catcher Bronko Sebalj, George Kovich on first, George Delich on third as well as George "Waxy" Boljkovac, Leo Debon, George "Malo" Maletich and Joe Krznicar. Overage juveniles went on to play for the McIntyre Macmen in the Mines' league.

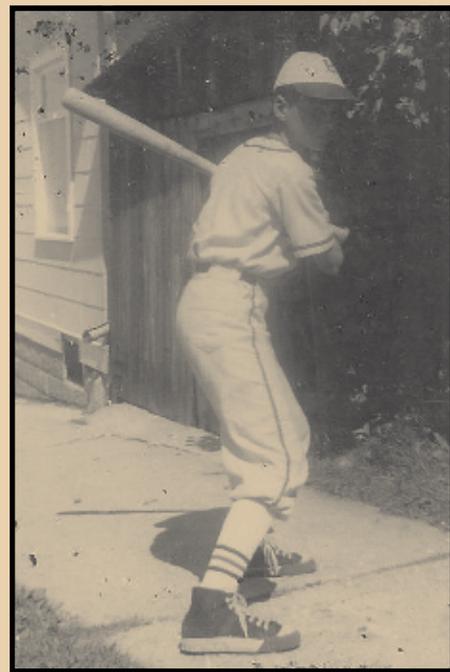
A regular at all the games was a portly gentleman, well-dressed and always with a cigar in hand. Ike Solomon, a bachelor who lived above the beer store, had a passion for baseball. He was rumoured to have made his money on the stock market, but few knew much about him. Searching through the archives of the Timmins Library and the Timmins Daily Press yields little about the man.

Nevertheless, at some point circa 1954, Ike took it upon himself to address a gap in the Schumacher baseball community. Schumacher boys too young to play juvenile ball had no team to join let alone league to play in. So Mr. Solomon went out and bought uniforms for all the eligible Schumacher preteens and even supplied ball gloves for those who could not afford them. The house league that was formed through his philanthropy became a farm team for the Schumacher Lions.

More importantly, it helped build the character of a generation of Schumacher boys.

I was one of those kids that benefited from Ike Solomon's generosity. I still have my cherished Schumacher Dodgers' baseball uniform. Even though fifty years have passed, I remain grateful to this unsung Schumacher hero.

Wally Wiwchar,
SOS Contributor



Thirteen-year-old Wally Wiwchar poses proudly in his Schumacher Dodgers baseball uniform on a summer day in August, 1954. The uniforms were generously provided to the team by Mr. Ike Solomon.

Photo Credit: Wally Wiwchar





EDITORIAL

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since I agreed to become the SOS editor and that this is my fourth edition of the newsletter! Overall, it's been a positive experience. I am very grateful to the various individuals who have submitted articles or responded to the reader poll questions with anecdotes and pictures.

There are over 100 years of stories to tell, but I need your help to fill in the details! Without reader input, it's difficult to create eight pages of content each issue. I encourage each one of you to share your anecdotes, memories, and photos with the SOS community. Send me a letter (Box 13, Schumacher, P0N 1G0) or email (schumachergirl@gmail.com). If you don't fancy yourself a writer, but have a story to tell, please contact me and we'll work together to get your words into print.

Please excuse the liberal use of my family on the front page. Life has been busy lately, and as deadlines drew near, theirs were the only adventures readily available to share. I'm looking forward to the summer when things slow down somewhat and I can focus more time on the August issue!

Lastly, I created the image at right for a project unrelated to SACHA, but thought that all SOS readers might enjoy it. Happy Canada Day!

Until next time,
Lisa Romanowski,
SOS Editor

AUGUST READER POLL

Please share stories and photos of Schumacher musicians, singers, and bands from the past and present!

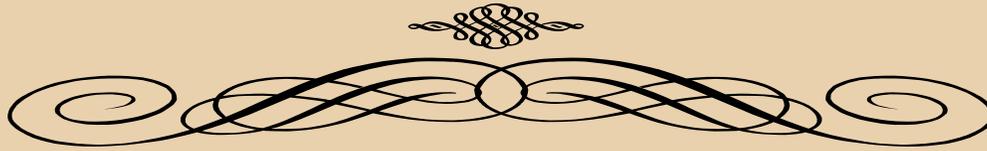
If you have song lyrics about Schumacher, send those too!
Responses will be shared in the August edition!

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



THEN AND NOW: Left: The view from the top of Poplar Street looking towards the McIntyre headframe at some point in time circa 1940. (Photo from SACHA files with permission from Louise Nightingale Smith.) Right: A similar view today. The "new houses" on the western side of what's now Vipond Road were all built between 25 and 30 years ago. Many of the homes on the eastern side of the street have undergone multiple renovations over the years. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)





UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6, 2015

Alzheimer Society: Mud Factor

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Porcupine Ski Runners
705-268-4554 to register or for more info.

June 7, 2015

Timmins Multicultural Festival

12:30 PM Parade of Nations kickoff
McIntyre Arena
Enjoy ethnic entertainers and food!

June 12, 2015

Cancer Society: Relay for Life

6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
O’Gorman High School
www.relayforlife.ca/timmins

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2015

Timmins Summer Concert Series

6:00 PM to 9:00
TH&VS Pavilion in the Hollinger Park
www.tourismtimmins.com

June 30, July 28, and August 25, 2015

Millson Forestry Industrial Tours (Free)

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
1782 Dalton Road, Timmins
705-264-3426 to register or for more info.

July 1, 2015

Canada Day Celebrations & Fireworks

From 11:00 AM
Mountjoy Historical Conservation Participark
Contact 705-360-2600 ext. 3785 for more info.

July 9, 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2015

Goldcorp Industrial Tours (Free)

10:00 AM
Tourism Timmins Centre (76 McIntyre Road)
705-360-2600 ext. 3700 to register or for info.

July 12, 2015

12th Annual Heart of Gold Triathlon

8:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Gillies Lake Conservation Area
www.heartofgoldtriathlon.com

July 15 to 19, 2015

Beauce Carnival

Times Vary by Day
Timmins Square Parking Lot (1500 Riverside Dr.)
Contact 418-228-8008 for more info.

August 15, 2015

John P. Larche Charity Golf Classic

for the Timmins & District Hospital
11:00 AM to 11:00 PM
Spruce Needles Golf Club
705-360-6039 to register or for more info.

August 16, 2015

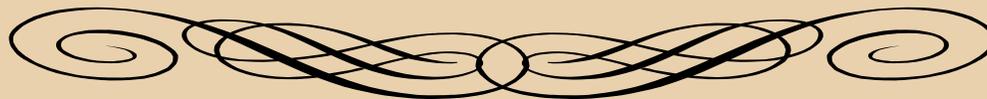
Timmins Golden Trails Half Marathon

8:00 AM
Timmins Regional Athletics & Soccer Complex
www.goldentrailshalfmarathon.ca

August 28 to 30, 2015

Great Canadian Kayak Challenge

Times Vary by Day
Mountjoy Historical Conservation Participark
www.thegreatcanadiankayakchallenge.com



Linda and Rob Knox
Timmins, Ontario

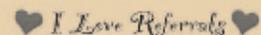


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Businesses are invited to purchase business card ads in upcoming issues. Cost is \$25/issue or \$90/year. It is estimated that 5000 people read each newsletter in either its print or online form.

Contact us for more information.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

For consideration in future editions, readers are invited to submit (by email or regular post) announcements, stories, photos, or songs/poems celebrating Schumacher's past, present, or future. Please include the creator's full name and the full names of anyone pictured.

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* Additional Contribution
+ Deceased

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.

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