



A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 104 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2016

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

ROAD TO AMALGAMATION

The Northern Democracy Project's first public research paper was released in the fall. The paper outlines events involving the Town of Timmins, Mountjoy Township, Tisdale Township (including Schumacher and South Porcupine), and Whitney Township (including Porcupine) that led to the 1973 incorporation of the City of Timmins. An extensive bibliography is included at the end of the 28-page paper. A PDF copy will be posted on www.spiritofschumacher.ca.

Brief descriptions of some of these events follow.

1921

Timmins applies to annex the new Hollinger Gold Mine townsite.

1924

Timmins applies to annex Rochester townsite from Tisdale.

1937

Timmins is struggling to meet the mining boom demands. There is talk at the municipal and provincial levels of consolidation.

1941

In December, Timmins approves a bylaw to annex the McIntyre and Coniaurum properties in Tisdale Township. Tisdale continues to strongly oppose the proposal into the new year.

1951

After Tisdale gets a larger mining grant, Timmins officially asks the province to study amalgamation.

1966

Mountjoy Township applies to amalgamate with Timmins.

1967

Minister of Municipal Affairs, JW Spooner, urges the townships to cultivate their inter-municipal interests. The Ontario Municipal Board recommends a large scale amalgamation of the Porcupine.

1969

Timmins area townships see their respective school boards merged. A meeting about possible township amalgamation is held in Toronto.

1970

Darcy McKeough, Minister of Municipal Affairs, says the province will impose its new regional development plan on all municipalities. Plebiscites in Tisdale and Whitney reject the idea of consolidation.

1971

In December, Ross Pope & Company releases the "Porcupine Area Municipal Consolidation Study: Financial Aspects".

1972

By early February, Tisdale and

Whitney reject the Ross Pope report and openly object to any form of amalgamation. In March, Minister McKeough indicates that whether voluntarily or by force, amalgamation is coming.

On June 12, McKeough imposes amalgamation during a highly charged meeting at the McIntyre Arena. From June 22 to 30, Bill 195: An Act to Incorporate the City of Timmins-Porcupine, passes through first, second, and third readings, receives royal ascent, and becomes law.

On October 2, Leo Del Villano is elected as mayor of the new City of Timmins. (The name is chosen by voters in the election plebiscite.)

1973

The City of Timmins is officially incorporated on January 1.

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WHY WAS IT SO SPECIAL?

Born in December 1944, I spent my entire youth in Schumacher. I graduated from high school in 1963 and departed for Southern Ontario. My parents remained in Schumacher until their deaths and through them, plus annual visits home, I was always aware of what was happening around town.

It dawned on me a few years ago that while I've made many friends and acquaintances since leaving Schumacher, none of them (including those from Timmins and South Porcupine) have anywhere near the fond memories of, and affiliation to, their birth towns as do we Schumacherites. Why was Schumacher so special?

Was it because everyone attended Schumacher Public School and the majority went to Schumacher High? You knew everyone and everyone knew you. Did we become so close because the town was so crammed together? There were about 3250 people living on 30-foot wide lots, some with an additional residence in behind. Was it because the majority of our fathers worked in one of the local mines? The pay was poor and no family was well off, but our dads were responsible. Very few children went without food and shelter. Homes were well maintained inside and out, and if someone was doing repairs, a neighbour or 3 would often drop over in the evening to assist. This was, of course, in the days before television kept everyone inside.

The annual Christmas present from Mr. Schumacher was always a highlight. We were all aware that none of the other area school kids received anything. I can't recall what grade I was in, but one year, one of the options for children my age was a tambourine. I didn't know what that was, but my good friend Herb Thompson told me it was a tank! Imagine my disappointment!

I fondly recall hopping on bicycles and heading into the bush, building tree forts, cooking French fries over a fire, swimming at McDonald Lake, and visiting the Vipond Road Ranger tower.

The person on duty would let us climb the steel ladder and share the view. Such a simple pleasure would never happen in today's litigious society with its pervasive fears that "a child might get hurt". Thanks to the Schumacher Lions Club Swimming Pool and Camp Bickell, our summers were glorious!

We were so lucky as minor hockey players to both practice and play at the McIntyre Arena! While our colleagues in Timmins had a league to play in, all they had were outdoor rinks with the only creature comfort being a shack with a potbellied stove for warmth. When I was in Grade 13, my father decided my education was more important than playing juvenile hockey. So, I took up curling at the McIntyre Curling Club for the exorbitant fee of \$15 for the whole season!

Speaking of high school, SHS principal Warren Sparks insisted that every Grade 12 student write a final exam in every subject, regardless of their marks. This was a prelude to the dreaded province-wide Grade 13 exams. Sparky must have known something; for years SHS had the highest Grade 13 graduation rate of any school in the Porcupine.

I am so fortunate to have grown up in such a wonderful community. After graduating university, I joined an accounting firm in downtown Toronto. My new colleagues struggled to comprehend how someone from "boondock Northern Ontario" could bump into so many people he knew on the streets of Toronto. In the mid 1990's, the late Alan Poole approached one of my sons (who was working as a summer hockey school counsellor in Richmond Hill) to inquire if he was related to me. My son simply said, "Don't tell me ... Timmins?" Alan indignantly replied, "No, ... SCHUMACHER!"

It is now 2016, and I'm 71 years old, yet I still retain so many wonderful memories of my youth and growing up in Schumacher.

Lyle Urquhart,
SOS Contributor



100 YEARS OF GIFTS



On Tuesday, December 15, 2015, approximately 275 former and current Schumacher residents joined members of the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department to celebrate 100 years of Mr. Schumacher's gift-giving. The group gathered in the McIntyre Ballroom of the historic McIntyre Community Building.

Upon arrival, adult guests were presented with a commemorative pewter ornament. Following introductory remarks from Mark Delich, a lifelong Schumacher resident and firefighter, a spaghetti dinner, catered by McIntyre Coffee Shop owners Mark and Judy Duciaume and their staff, was enjoyed by all in attendance. The meal and ornament were provided by Mr. Schumacher's great grand-daughter, Lesley Blanchard, through the Schumacher Foundation. Many of those who attended thought a community meal would be a great addition to the annual tradition.



Following the dinner, the school-aged children in the room eagerly lined up in the auditorium to receive their gifts. Firefighter Dale Dirkson addressed the youngsters and their families by providing a brief history of Mr. Schumacher's legacy. He also explained that each child would receive a commemorative 100th year ornament. It was his hope that these keepsakes would be passed on to future generations so that the story of Mr. Schumacher would continue to live on.



Top: About 275 people attended the 100 Year celebration dinner. Middle: The McIntyre Coffee Shop team prepared and served the meal. Bottom: Dale Dirkson speaks to the children. Left: Beautifully detailed pewter keepsake ornaments were provided to everyone. (Photos by Lisa Romanowski.)



WELCOME TO THE MAC

The McIntyre Community Building is as synonymous with Schumacher as its namesake headframe standing in the background across Peal Lake. Current Schumacher residents know the building primarily for the arena, curling rink, coffee shop and ballroom. Older residents who grew up here likely also remember the bowling alley and a second ice surface that was used by figure skaters. According to the Official Opening programme, the public was introduced to the McIntyre Community Building through several events that took place over three days from December 8th to 10th, 1938.

In the Foreword of the Official Opening programme, JP Bickell says, in part, "The McIntyre Community Building to be formally opened at this time, has been planned and erected to provide healthful exercise and recreation, and, above all, to foster community spirit and co-operation".

In a joint message of appreciation found near the end of the programme, the Schumacher Lions Club, Timmins Kiwanis Club, and South Porcupine Kiwanis Club, express to McIntyre Porcupine Mines, Limited "their sincere appreciation of a really great gift, primarily to their employees, but which the whole Camp will no doubt share, as they are doing in this opening event. The tremendous amount of work given so generously in the efforts of President Bickell and Manager Ennis and their whole organization cannot help but reflect a worthwhile interest in their men, their families, and again the entire Camp".

The opening events included a figure-skating carnival, and a hockey game that saw the local mine league teams face off against a team from Kirkland Lake.

Thank you to Jane Vettor for sending along the skating programs, newspaper clippings, and old post cards she found when going through her grandfather's things. Jane is the grand-daughter of Arnold Greer who lived in Gold Center and worked in the McIntyre Mine.

WINTER CARNIVAL

featuring

Members of the Granite Skating Club assisted by

Members of the Toronto Skating Club

in

Northern Lights of 1939

Presented by McINTYRE PORCUPINE, MINES LIMITED

THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 8th—For McIntyre Employees

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 9th—For McIntyre Employees

The McIntyre Porcupine Mines Limited are also inviting as many of the children of McIntyre employees and the school children of the Township of Tisdale as can be accommodated.

and

under the auspices of

THE SCHUMACHER LIONS CLUB

THE TIMMINS KIWANIS CLUB

and

THE SOUTH PORCUPINE KIWANIS CLUB

to the general public on

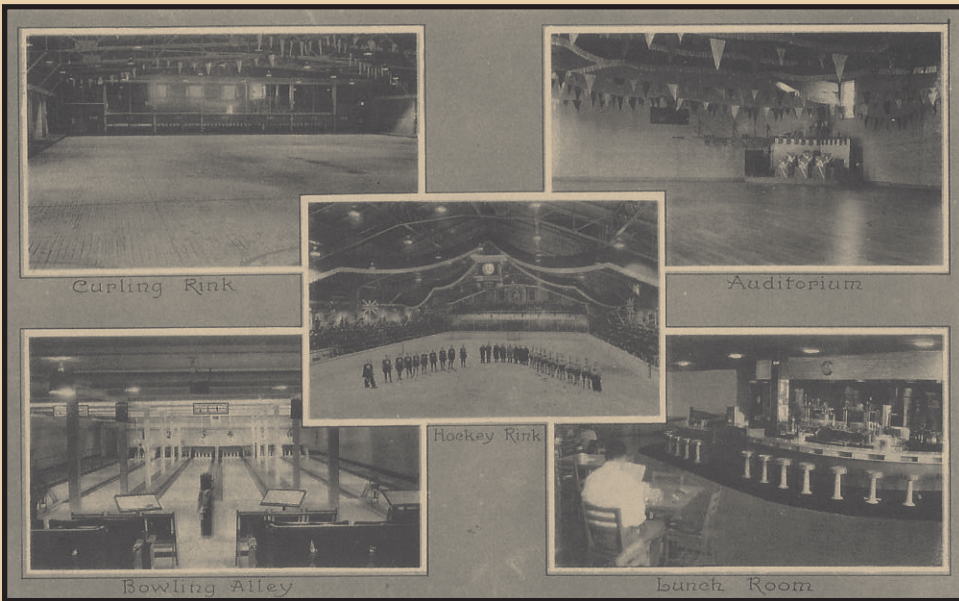
FRIDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS, DEC. 9th and 10th

Above: The first page of the McIntyre Community Building Official Opening programme from December 1938 courtesy of Jane Vettor. Below: The newly completed McIntyre arena ice surface. Photo courtesy of Richard Lamoureux.

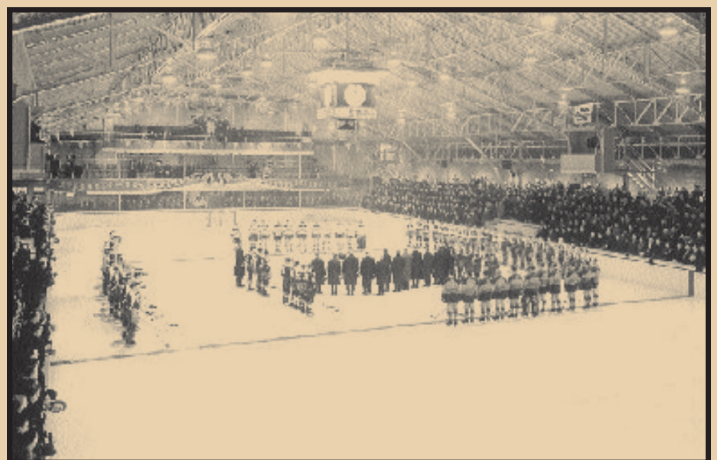
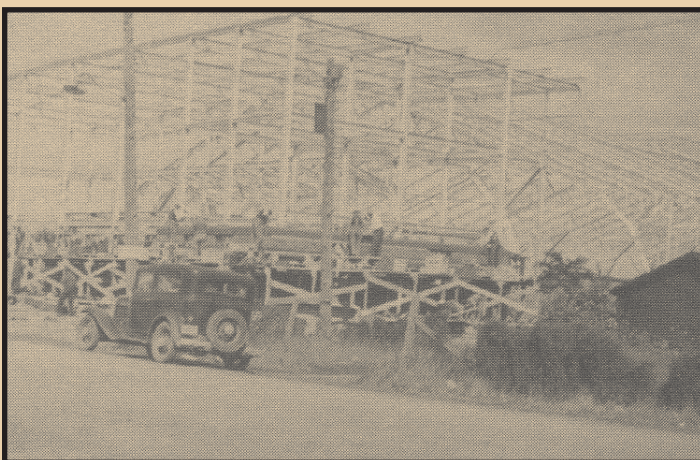




MJC
Photography
McClement.com



Top: Past meets present ... the Mac then and now. Photo created by Mark Clement. Left: An early McIntyre post card featuring the curling and ice rinks, lunch room, bowling alley, and auditorium. Photo courtesy of Bill Wallace. Below left: The McIntyre Community Building takes shape. Photo courtesy of Richard Lamoureux. Below: As part of the official opening of the Mac, a hockey team from Kirkland Lake was invited to face-off against the six teams that made up the Porcupine Mines senior league. The KL team played each local team for a ten minute period. The match-ups took place on December 8, 1938. Photo courtesy of Richard Lamoureux with additional information from the Timmins: Our City Then and Now Facebook group.





EDITORIAL & SACHA INFORMATION

By the time this edition reaches you, it will be well into March. Sorry for the delay; it's been a particularly busy few months!

Thank you to the Schumacher Fire Department for continuing the Mr. Schumacher Gift-Giving tradition. Starting with my late grandmother, Danica Pupich, my family has been a part of this tradition for more than 80 years. Three generations of us thought the 100 year celebration was fantastic!

If you come across any Schumacher mementos while spring cleaning, please share photos with me.

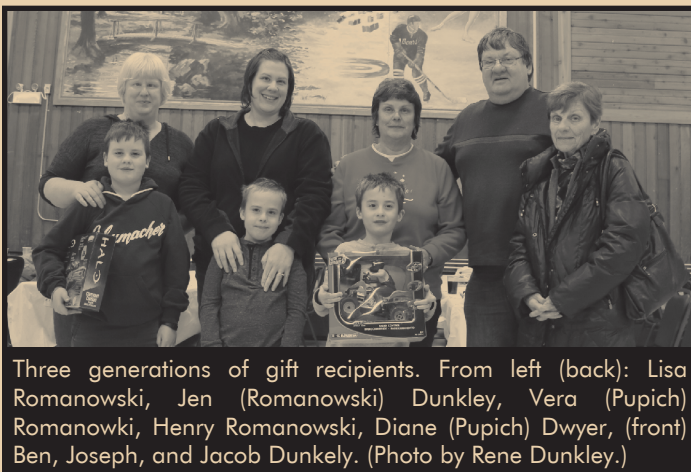
Until next time,
Lisa Romanowski,
SOS Editor

HOUSEKEEPING ODDS 'N ENDS

It recently came to my attention that the answers to the "Name the Schumacher Homecoming Attendee" contest in the August 2014 issue of the newsletter were never published. They were: 1. Lou Battocchio, 2. Linda Guacci, 3. Lloyd Salomone, 4. Karen (Buderick) Rogers, 5. Anne MacDonald, and 6. John Bryers. Due to an absence of entries, no one won the Schumacher mug.

The photo of Altenstadt refugee camp from the "Real Gold in the Mine" article in the November 2015 issue was obtained from the following website: <http://www.dpcamps.org/altenstadt.html>. Thanks to George Skarzynski for the clarification.

The unknown bass player in the "Legacy of Music" article in the November 2015 issue has been identified as Nick Vrbanac. Thank you to both Nick Krcel and Mary Rumleski for getting in touch!



Three generations of gift recipients. From left (back): Lisa Romanowski, Jen (Romanowski) Dunkley, Vera (Pupich) Romanowski, Henry Romanowski, Diane (Pupich) Dwyer, (front) Ben, Joseph, and Jacob Dunkely. (Photo by Rene Dunkley.)

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Interested in volunteering with SACHA?

Contact Lloyd Salomone
info@spiritofschumacher.ca
We'll find a role that suits your
skills and interests.

SOS NEWSLETTER

The not-for-profit Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association publishes the SOS newsletter quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

The print edition is distributed freely to all Schumacher post boxes.

To receive a free PDF versions, email:
subscribe@spiritofschumacher.ca

ADVERTISING

Businesses can purchase ads for \$25/issue or \$90/year. It is estimated that 5000 people read each edition. Contact us for more information.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Readers are invited to submit articles and photos for publication consideration. Items should celebrate Schumacher's past, present, or future. Please include the creator's full name and the full names of photo subjects.

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A TASTE OF SCHUMACHER

Camp Bickell Macaroons

Contributed by Vera Romanowski

Many of you probably remember eating these chocolatey treats in the Community Centre before bedtime.

1. Combine the following ingredients in a saucepan:
2 cups white sugar
6 tablespoons of cocoa
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup canned milk
2. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly, and then remove from heat.
3. Add the following and mix thoroughly:
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup shredded coconut
3 cups quick oats
4. Drop mixture by spoonfuls onto waxed-paper covered cookies sheets.
5. Refrigerate until firm.

The **Taste of Schumacher** feature will continue as long as readers submit their recipes. Please email your recipes to schumachergirl@gmail.com or post them to PO Box 13, Schumacher, ON P0N 1G0.



Linda and Rob Knox
Timmins, Ontario



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 30, 2016

Evening of Applause

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

ESC Theriault Auditorium, 341 Theriault Blvd, Timmins
Celebrate role models in human rights & anti-racism.

For more information: 705-269-8822

April 16, 2016

TFEC: Epic Band Battle

7:00 PM to 2:00 AM

McIntyre Curling Club, 85 McIntyre Rd, Schumacher
Tickets: \$25 until March 22, \$30 after.

For more information: www.timminsfestivals.com

April 23 & 24, 2016

Schumacher Lions Club Sportsman Show

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

McIntyre Building, 85 McIntyre Rd, Schumacher

April 29 & 30, May 1, 2016

Timmins Home Show

5 PM - 9 PM, 10 AM - 8 PM, 10 AM - 3 PM

McIntyre Building, 85 McIntyre Rd, Schumacher

Entry: Adults \$5, Seniors/Students \$4, 10&Under Free

May 7 & 8, 2016

Northern Ontario Expo

10 AM 6 PM and 10 AM to 5 PM

Kids' Zone, Cosplay Corner, Artist Alley & More!

Archie Dillon Sportsplex, 396 Theriault Blvd, Timmins

For more information: www.northernontarioexpo.com



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 Thank you for your continued generosity.

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 A non-tax deductible receipt will be issued.