

# Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 104 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2016

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

## HOMETOWN HOCKEY



The iconic head frame of the McIntyre Mine's #11 shaft proudly announces the arrival of Rogers Hometown Hockey in Timmins. (Photo courtesy of Andrew Warren.)

Rogers Hometown Hockey rolled into town on the weekend of November 25th. Leading up to the event, the City of Timmins invited businesses and residents to Paint the Town Red by decorating their homes and storefronts. Perhaps the most eye-catching display was the large Hometown Hockey logo projected onto the McIntyre head frame.

A caravan of Rogers transports arrived in town overnight. By the end of day Friday, the parking lots surrounding the McIntyre Community Building were transformed into a hockey lover's paradise with displays and interactive exhibits that appealed to fans of all ages.

The festivities unofficially kicked off Friday night as Rogers' Tara Sloan was on hand to drop the puck in an NHL Alumni Tour Benefit game that saw the Timmins Police All-Stars face off against an NHL Alumni squad featuring Timmins' own Paul Harrison, Paul Gagne, and Steve Sullivan, along with other familiar faces such as Mark Napier, Mark Laforest, and Dan Daoust. The NHLers won the match-up, and a good time was had by all.

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Thousands of local hockey enthusiasts congregated outside the Mac on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon to take in various activities from making a goal call in the NHL Situation Room, to watching local hockey teams in the Cheer Like Never Before contest, to having photos taken with the Stanley Cup. Many folks also got the chance to meet Wendel Clark, Steve Sullivan, Tara Sloan, or Ron MacLean. The weekend wrapped up with a live broadcast of the Arizona Coyotes vs Edmonton Oilers game on Sunday afternoon.

During the second intermission, Ron MacLean and Tara Sloan led a short ceremony honouring Maple Leafs' greats Frank Mahovlich and the late Bill Barilko. Ron and Tara were joined by Senator Mahovlich himself and by Bill Barilko's nephews, Frank and Barry Klisanich. The banners, which used to hang in Maple Leaf Gardens and later the Air Canada Centre (and which were recently replaced as part of the Maple Leafs Centennial Celebration) were brought home to Timmins. They will find a permanent home inside the McIntyre arena; a fitting tribute if ever there was one.

With an eleven-year difference in age, Mahovlich never met Barilko on the ice (or in person for that matter). Thanks to the Tragically Hip's [50 Mission Cap](#), it's Canadian lore that "the last goal he [Barilko] ever scored won the Leafs the cup. [And] they didn't win another 'til 1962, the year he was discovered". In a plot twist worthy of Hollywood, the Big M was a member of that 1962 team. To this day, Mahovlich recalls the unreal feeling of the team's victory celebration being interrupted by the announcement that the plane carrying Bashin' Bill and dentist Henry Hudson had been found.

During the Hometown Hockey broadcast, the spotlight was also shone on JP "Jack" Bickell, who became president of the McIntyre Mine in 1915 and who is well-known in the area for being the force behind the creation of the McIntyre Community Building in 1937. Lesser known, however, is the role Mr. Bickell played in the early years of the Toronto Maple Leafs. When the Toronto St. Pats were put up for sale in 1927, it was JP Bickell who put together a group of investors so the team could stay in Toronto. The Maple Leafs were born and in a need of a new arena. Again, JP Bickell stepped in and Maple Leaf Gardens was built in five months.

Considering Mr. Bickell's role in both projects, and the fact that gold from the McIntyre Mine helped build both arenas, it seems even more significant that the McIntyre head frame stands sentry over the McIntyre Community Building. That our arena is considered to be the little sister of Maple Leaf Gardens is no coincidence.

While the Hometown Hockey tributes were focused on #27, #5, and JP Bickell, other local hockey heros including Pete Babando, Carlo Cattarello and Father Les Costello were recognized by Ron MacLean. Other features of our city were showcased as well. The First Nations community opened Sunday with a cultural presentation. Tara Sloan ventured underground to the 9600 Level at the Kidd Creek Mine ... the deepest point below sea level accessible in the world. Hometown Hank, the Rogers Hometown Hockey mascot, visited some of the businesses in downtown Timmins. Frederick Schumacher and his Christmas gift legacy were also given mention.

According to [www.quantohockey.com](http://www.quantohockey.com), to date the City of Timmins (including Schumacher and the East End) has produced thirty-nine NHL hockey players, twenty-three of whom have played in at least one play-off game. In case any doubt remains, ours is truly a hockey community.



Joseph, Jacob and Benjamin Dunkley meet up with Rogers' mascot Hometown Hank outside the Mac. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

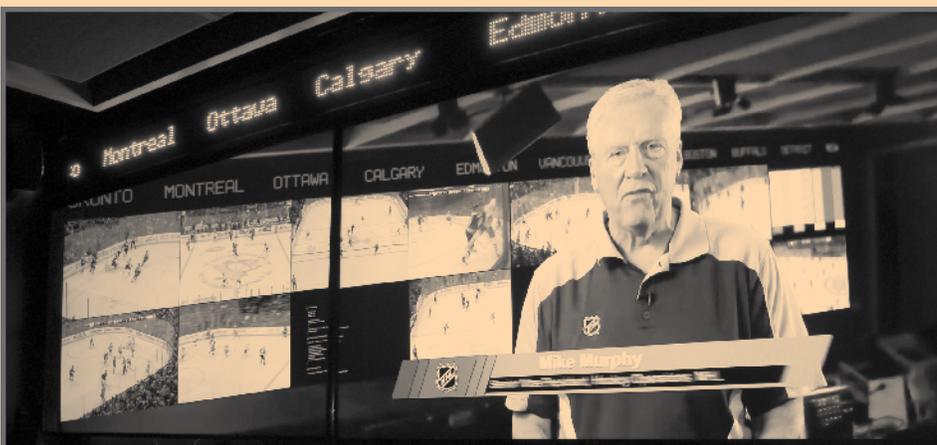


The Playmobil Kids Zone had a bunch of games to play. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)



**SPORTSNET**

Thanks to digital technology, hockey fans could pose with their favourite sports personalities. Henry Romanowski opted to broadcast alongside Don Cherry.



Inside a replica of the NHL Situation Room, Mike Murphy gave hockey fans the opportunity to experience what happens, complete with deciding whether or not a goal is good, when a video review is requested during an NHL game. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

Top: Banners honouring Maple Leafs' greats #27 Frank "The Big M" Mahovlich and the late #5 Bashin' Bill Barilko were unveiled during second period intermission of the Rogers Hometown Hockey broadcast from Timmins on November 27th. The banners were returned to players' hometowns as part of the Maple Leafs Centennial Celebrations. Above: Amongst a large crowd of conlookers Ron MacLean, Senator Mahovlich, Tara Sloan, and Frank & Barry Klisanich (Bill Barilko's nephews) prepare for the banner unveiling ceremony. It was a fitting end to a great weekend celebrating hockey in our community. (Photos by Shannon Johns.)



## SCHUMACHER PROUD

If you're proud to call yourself a Schumacher Boy (or Schumacher Girl for that matter) and haven't already joined the Still Proud to be a Schumacher Boy Facebook group, what are you waiting for?

The group, administered by Susan Somer Beach and Bruce Capeless, was created in October 2012 and currently boasts over 560 members. It's a place to reconnect with old friends, post photos from back in the day, and in general just celebrate what made your time in Schumacher great. A number of Bruce Capeless' Schumacher-inspired songs / poems are also housed under the Files tab on the site. One of his poems is featured at right.

For those interested in current community news, quite a few longtime Schumacher residents are group members and a number of current day photos have been posted. You can join this public group at [www.facebook.com/groups/Schumacherboy/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Schumacherboy/).

*It's been dug out and scarred to the core.  
And every day they are looking for more.  
People come from miles around;  
Hoping for gold deep in her ground.*

*She is a princess to me;  
And has been and always will be.  
I was born and raised,  
So she has earned my praise.  
Nobody will ever take that away,  
Even to my last dying days.*

*She is home ...  
From the Pearl Lake shore,  
to the Vipond back road,  
All the way to her majestic claim to fame;  
The mighty McIntyre head frame.*

*Even now though I am not there to enjoy  
I will always be proud  
to be a Schumacher boy.*

## HUSTLE & HEART

Basketball is not often associated with Schumacher, yet a group of girls from our community is leaving their mark on the game. O'Gorman High School hosted the 2016 OFSAA Girls A Basketball Provincial Championship and the third-ranked OHS Knights made it to the gold medal game. A large Schumacher contingent was in the stands, not surprising since players Olivia and Ava Fregonese, Brianna Hway, and Gabriella Schaffner are all lifelong Schumacher residents, and Emma Weltz is the grand-daughter of George & Karen Stefanic. Assistant Coach Cathy Vukovich-Beard also grew up in Schumacher.

Although this young team came up a few points short that game, the silver lining is they will have the opportunity to do great things next season.



2016 OFSAA Girls A Silver Medalists: Back (l to r): Cathy Beard, Natasha Loone, Gabby Schaffner, Hannah Culhane, Tara Jensen, Ava & Olivia Fregonese, Marcy McCarty. Front: Chloe Finnilla Brianna Hway, Holly Mclean, Ally Burke, Mallory Turcotte, Arianna Gagnon, Emma Weltz, and Brianna Dodd. (Photo by Ted Weltz.)





## SACHA COMMUNITY EVENT

# SCHUMACHER SOCIAL



The Gin Soaked Balladeers (featuring Jason Dagg on keyboard, Lee Hannigan on guitar, Adrian Richard on drums, Brian Jones on saxophone, and SACHA President Rob Knox on bass) entertained an enthusiastic crowd. (All photos on this page by Lisa Romanowski.)



Micky Cyr and Tony Salomone check out a gift basket given out as a raffle prize.



Dennis Sebalj, Therese Sebalj, Sue Chenier, Dave & Robin St. Aubin, Louise McInnis, Anne Marie Chalmers, Spike Pintar, and Linda Knox were just some of those supporting SACHA.



Ed Sebalj, John Mavrincac and Lou Battochio were among many of those who enjoyed the evening of music at the Croatian Hall.

The Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association hosted a social at the Croatian Hall on Friday, September 30th. Approximately 100 people came out to listen to the music of the Gin Soaked Balladeers, view a screening of Lloyd Salomone's Croatian Hall documentary film, and catch up with old

acquaintances. Micky Cyr won the door prize, Alan MacDonald, Tony Salomone, Jane Schultz, and Julie Landriault were the raffle winners. Laurie Dagg Labine won the 50/50 draw and then graciously donated her winnings back to SACHA. A good time was had by all. Stay tuned for 2017 event details.





# EDITORIAL & SACHA INFORMATION

This was supposed to be my last issue as SOS editor, but faced with the prospect of the newsletter ending, I've decided to continue on for the time being. I'm looking forward to collaborating with Rob Knox and hope the readership understands our need for the flexibility we will gain by moving to a seasonal format.

Winter has definitely arrived in Schumacher. We've even had a school bus cancellation day. All the best to you and yours in the New Year.

Until next time,  
*Lisa Romanowski,*  
SOS Editor



Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Romanowski-Dunkley clan. (Our Paint the Town Red entry featured Santa refereeing a hockey game between some penguins and a reindeer. The sign reads "Schumacher Stingers & Wicked Jets Welcome Rogers Hometown Hockey". Ben plays for the Jets and the twins play for the Stingers. (Photo by Robin St. Aubin.)

## NEWSLETTER STATUS UPDATE

The Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association is pleased to announce that the quarterly Spirit of Schumacher newsletter will continue to be printed for the foreseeable future. Going forward issues will be published seasonally (spring, summer, fall, winter) instead of during specific months.

SACHA president, Rob Knox, will join forces with current editor, Lisa Romanowski, to share the editing duties. Please get in touch with Lisa ([schumachergirl@gmail.com](mailto:schumachergirl@gmail.com)) or Rob ([knoxr50@gmail.com](mailto:knoxr50@gmail.com)) if you have pictures, stories, or other ideas to contribute to our community newsletter.

## Celebrating 5 Years

December 3, 2016 marked SACHA's 5th anniversary. Thanks to the efforts of numerous people, the organization has grown significantly in that time. Some of our fondest achievements include:

- 1) Having more than 100 supporters.
- 2) Publishing 20 issues of the SOS newsletter
- 3) Producing short documentary films
- 4) Hosting socials & community events.

Wherever you are, raise a glass to SACHA. May we continue on for another 5 years!

### SOS Newsletter Inquiries

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### General SACHA Inquiries:

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### Connect with Us Online:

[www.facebook.com/SpiritOfSchumacher](http://www.facebook.com/SpiritOfSchumacher)  
[www.spiritofschumacher.ca](http://www.spiritofschumacher.ca)

## SOS NEWSLETTER

The not-for-profit Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association publishes the SOS newsletter quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

The print edition is distributed to all Schumacher post boxes. For PDF versions email: [info@spiritofschumacher.ca](mailto:info@spiritofschumacher.ca)

## SACHA BOARD

Rob Knox (President)  
Kathy Vukobratc (Treasurer)  
Lloyd Salomone (Secretary)  
Vera Romanowski (Sponsorship)  
Brian Conley

## 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.

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.



# READER MAIL

In response to a request for Christmas photos on the SACHA Facebook page, Cindy Normandeaux submitted this photo of Bryce and Brody Anthony excitedly showing off their Mr. Schumacher gifts at the 100 years celebration on December 15, 2015.



**Linda and Rob Knox**  
Timmins, Ontario



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15th at 6:30 PM  
**Community Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
An annual tradition inspired by Miah Corbeil!  
Hollinger Park

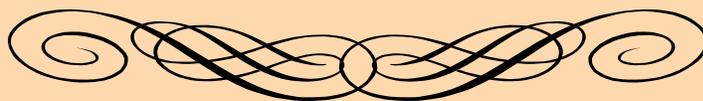
Families may bring a non-glass ornament for the tree.

December 20th at 6:00 PM  
**Mr. Schumacher Gift Giving**  
An annual tradition for 101 years.  
Schumacher Ballroom, 85 McIntyre Road  
Eligible children will receive information at school.

January 27th at 8:00 PM  
**Jack de Keyzer - LIVE**  
International Blues Guitarist  
McIntyre Community Building  
Tickets \$25, age of majority required.  
Call 705-266-3645 for more information.

February 25th from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
**A Night At The Movies**  
A Timmins Symphony Orchestra Concert  
St. Anthony's Cathedral, 73 Spruce Street North  
Contact the Timmins Museum for tickets or more info.

June 24th to July 1st, Times Vary  
**Stars and Thunder**  
Timmins International Fireworks & Music Festival  
Hollinger Park  
Tickets are on sale now!  
Event Pass \$240 VIP Event Pass \$400  
For more information and to purchase tickets online:  
[www.starsandthunder.com](http://www.starsandthunder.com)

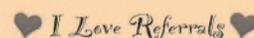


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 Northern Windows & Doors  
 Schumacher Fire Department

\* Additional Contribution  
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Your financial support covers the costs of producing and distributing the SOS newsletter. SACHA is pleased to announce that the SOS will continue to publish for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## SUPPORT THE SCHUMACHER ARTS CULTURE & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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(Please print clearly.)

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SUPPORT TYPE:  Individual (\$15)  Family (\$25)  Business (\$50)

DEDICATED CONTRIBUTION: (please specify an amount of your choice) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to: **Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association.**  
 Mail your completed form and cheque to **PO Box 13, Schumacher, Ontario, P0N 1G0.**

SACHA will recognize your generosity with acknowledgement in the SOS newsletter and on its website.  
 A non-tax deductible receipt will be issued.