

Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 105 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2017

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

FUTURE OF SCHUMACHER

On February 4th, SACHA hosted an open forum community meeting at the Croatian Hall. Its purpose was to allow Schumacher residents and business owners to share their visions for the future of our community. More than 60 people attended the event, including many media outlets. After a historical presentation by Lloyd Salomone documenting the "60 Years of Ups and 45 Years of Downs" of our community, moderator Tom Laughren opened up the floor for comments.

In light of the impending accommodation review and possible closure of Schumacher Public School, retired teachers Lou Battochio and Alan MacDonald spoke about the importance of community schools. Deputy

Mayor Andrew Marks shared his knowledge about how other communities have created community hubs in schools with excess space.

Tanya Thurston, a local business owner and relative newcomer to Schumacher, spoke about enticing McIntyre Arena visitors to trek across the highway to the various retail stores located in town. She called for better promotional signage and a focus on making our downtown "pretty" and welcoming. George Hughes spoke about exploring potential immigration and agricultural opportunities.

Graham Campbell (whose mother Joyce spearheaded the Schumacher Revitalization efforts back in the 90s) reminded the

group that government funding might be available for specific projects. MPP Gilles Bisson (also speaking on behalf of MP Charlie Angus) committed his support to the group. Ward 3 Councillor Joe Campbell addressed the need to preserve our heritage buildings including the McIntyre community centre and head frame.

A follow-up meeting to set priorities and develop action plans was held on February 25th. Increasing community traffic and further consultation with various stakeholders were identified as being priorities. Tom Laughren is working with Coral Ethier, from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, to arrange a heritage preservation presentation for the group.



SACHA President Rob Knox, Ward 3 Councillor Joe Campbell, MPP Gilles Bisson, Deputy Mayor Andrew Marks, and Moderator Tom Laughren. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

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RINK RAT RECOLLECTIONS

What job could compete with the glamour associated with shovelling up after circus elephants and horses? Or with sweeping up piles of spilled popcorn and sticky soda after a packed playoff game during the heady days of the 1968 Schumacher Bears hockey season? Apparently, not many. Throughout the storied history of the Mac, there has never been a shortage of young lads willing to be part of this scene.

An informal survey of those who at one time considered themselves to be “McIntyre rink rats” would generate a long list of recognizable Schumacher surnames. The same story would hold true if McIntyre was replaced by the name of any small town rink in Northern Ontario.

The very definition of a rink rat hasn’t changed much over the years. Traditionally, it was assigned to youngsters who hung around the arena helping with sweeping up in exchange for free ice time or admission to arena events. There’s a palpable excitement that goes along with the majority of events that take place at an arena; being part of that action, even if only behind the scenes, is surely part of attraction of being a rink rat.

Not to be confused with arena maintenance workers, rink rats today cannot perform any of the unionized tasks that make up the day to day maintenance of a modern arena. And the notion of free ice these days is an athema to city budgets. Nevertheless, to many kids, hanging around the rink still feels like time well spent.

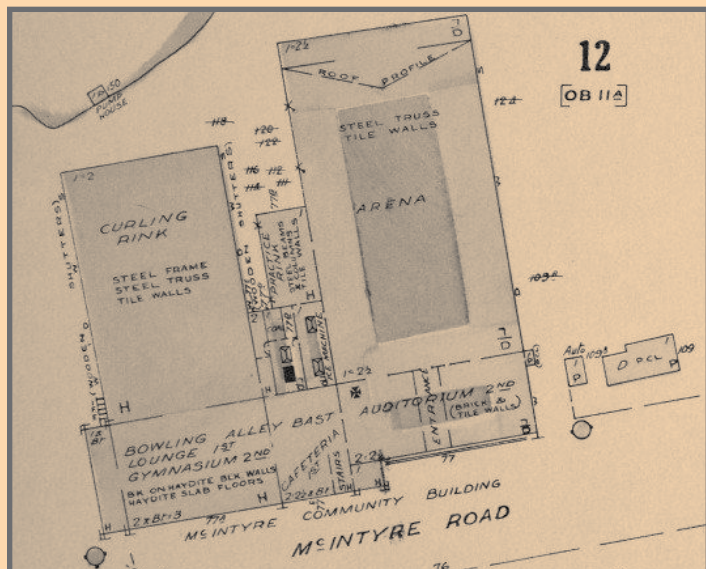
My own experience as a McIntyre rink rat came after an unfortunate incident in which I broke a window horsing around in the lobby. The penalty was to work several hours sweeping up after games until the cost of the window was covered. Seemed pretty fair and, what do you know, it never happened again!

As times have changed, extinct have become many of the various jobs once found at the

Mac. While these don’t actually fall under rink rat territory, they are for me a distinct part of the arena fabric. At one time, a young person was responsible for renting out roller skates, a young lady handed out bowling shoes, and a young lad was charged with resetting pins in the bowling alley.

One job that hasn’t gone by the wayside is that of ice making and resurfacing. Who hasn’t watched the methodical rotation and pattern created by a Zamboni driver and thought, “now there’s a cool job”? There’s nothing more satisfying at a hockey rink than to see a perfectly smooth, clean sheet of ice as the players file out from the dressing rooms, followed immediately thereafter by the sound of sharp blades cutting fresh ice. Ice resurfacing has come a long way from the days of a methodical gang of rink rats armed with hand scrapers and barrels of water. That said, I don’t know that I’ll ever get used to the idea of hockey helmeted Zamboni (sorry, ice resurfacing machine) drivers.

Contributed by:
Rob Knox



Schumacher’s 1952 insurance plan map included a detailed layout of The Mac. Any rink rat worth his salt knew the building like the back of his hand. (Photo courtesy of Richard Lamoureux.)





MCINTYRE POWDER PROJECT

From 1943 to approximately 1980, a mandatory practice for many mine workers was to inhale aluminum dust prior to each shift as protection against silicosis. Tens of thousands of mine workers from Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, the United States, Belgian Congo, Western Australia, and Mexico were exposed to McIntyre Powder during the 36 years that the prophylaxis program ran. Employees of certain North American pottery manufacturers, foundries, silica brick manufacturers, and refractories were also exposed during this time.

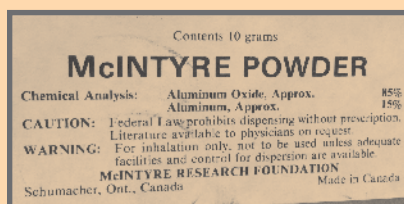
An official statement from the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers reads, in part, that “silicosis is a disabling and often deadly lung disease caused by the inhalation of silica dust. It was also a major source of worker’s compensation costs for the mining industry. Doctors working with the McIntyre mine in Timmins, ON thought that miners would be protected from silicosis if they inhaled so-called McIntyre Powder (finely ground Aluminum dust) before their shifts. Starting in the 1940s, the company forced its miners – as a condition of employment – to undergo daily “treatments” by closing off the change room and fogging it with Aluminum dust using compressed air lines. The rights to make and license the use of McIntyre Powder aluminum dust were later given to a non-profit foundation that spread the practice to other mines in Ontario and beyond. Many scientists rejected the idea from the start, and it is now generally accepted that there was no benefit to the thousands of workers who were forced to accept the ‘treatments’ or lose their jobs.”

The Fifth Estate brought to light the growing concerns of McIntyre Powder use back in 1979 and the prophylaxis program ended within months. Today, more than 35 years later, questions about the long term effects of McIntyre Powder remain.

The McIntyre Powder Project, established in April 2015 by Elliot Lake’s Janice Martell, seeks to find answers to those questions. The Project is a voluntary registry to document health issues (particularly neurological) in mine workers who were exposed to McIntyre Powder in their workplaces. Ultimately, the Project will seek legislative changes to improve workplace safety and access to compensation for all workers who suffer health issues related to occupational disease or injury. The Fifth Estate continues to be involved, having produced an investigative report in January 2016 and an update earlier this month. As reported in the April 15, 2017 edition of the Toronto Star, researchers at McMaster University have been prompted by Martell’s outreach to start studying survivors of the McIntyre Powder program.

McIntyre Powder was used at virtually all local mines (with Texas Gulf / Kidd Creek being the notable exception). Other mine workers, such as mechanics and electricians, were required to inhale the aluminum dust alongside the miners. Those wishing to register with the McIntyre Powder Project can email Janice at minersinfo@yahoo.ca or call her at 1-800-461-7120. She can answer questions, provide more information, and help people apply for their Mining Master Records (which contain chest X-ray rating codes and aluminum dust exposure information.) Family members may register deceased or incapacitated workers.

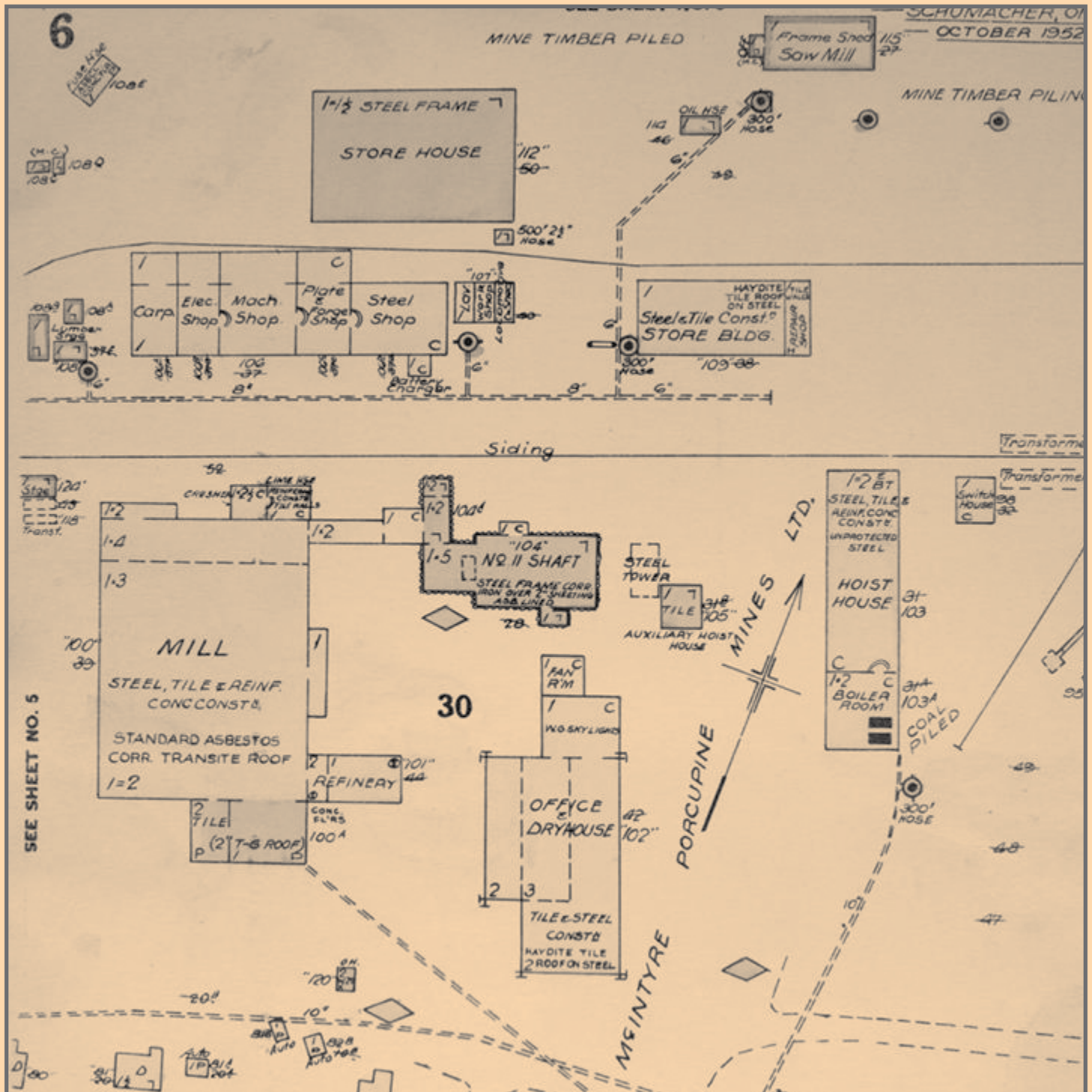
For more information, connect via Facebook: www.facebook.com/mcintyrepowderproject/ or visit the website: mcintyrepowderproject.com.



McIntyre Powder typically came in 10 gram vials with bright yellow lids. (Photos courtesy of Janice Martell.)



A MAP OF THE PAST



At one time the Insurance Brokers of Ontario produced detailed, hand-drawn insurance maps for each community. The map above shows the layout of the McIntyre Mine Property in October of 1952. (Map photos courtesy of Richard Lamoureux.)





This map reveals many interesting details about the various buildings along the stretch of First Avenue (now Father Costello Drive) from Poplar Street (now Vipond Road) to Pine Street (now Grant Street). Many of these buildings serve the same purpose today.





EDITORIAL & SACHA INFORMATION

READER MAIL



Top: The 2017 Tri-City Novice House League Division Champion Schumacher Stingers mob their goalie following a hard fought and well-earned victory. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.) The championship game, played in front of a crowd of fans at the Mac, is one for the record books. The Stingers faced off against fellow Schumacher Day Minor Hockey team, the Daredevils. At the end of regulation time, the game was tied 2-2. After multiple overtime periods (including 5-on-5 for 5-minutes, followed by 4-on-4 for 4-minutes, then 3-on-3 for 3-minutes, 2-on-2 for 2-minutes, and even 1-on-1 for 2-minutes), the score remained tied. The game was finally won by the Stingers thanks to a shoot out goal by Alex Ayotte and great goaltending by Caevan Ryan. Bottom: The 2016-2017 Schumacher Stingers hockey team. (Photo by Rene Dunkley.)

Hi and thank you to my friend Charlene Doody for sending me three past issues ... I'm loving this!

I am Catherine (Brown) Graham, the 6th of the seven Brown kids who grew up in Schumacher in the 1940s and 50s. Dad passed in 1943 when I was four and my mom, Bertha, had a horrible time of it. My young life was far from easy, horrific at times, but survival did include some special people before I left school at age 16 to support myself.

Our gifts at school from Mr. Schumacher every Christmas were unbelievable, and the Legion food baskets were appreciated. Throughout the years, until I left town in 1957, many kind neighbours (too many to mention by name) shared yummy meals and invites to events. Their generosity will never be forgotten.

Hometown reunions were totally enjoyed and one of my daughters wants to bring me back to Schumacher in July so she can see where I grew up.

We have no computers in our home, but I would so love to have a note from anyone that may like to correspond a bit. I love this sort of nostalgia!

Bye bye for now.
Cathy Graham
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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

SACHA BOARD

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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.




Greetings from sunny Schumacher. Spring is definitely upon us here in Northern Ontario! I hope this first edition of 2017 find you well.

The features in this issue came together rather unexpectedly, but they truly do connect the past, present, and future of our community. I anticipate that the old maps and rink rat article will stir up fond memories for many of you. For those who were exposed to McIntyre Powder, please consider learning more about Janice's project. Also, should you have ideas regarding the future of Schumacher, please share them with us via email, snail mail, or our Facebook page. Look for our next issue in July.

Until next time,
Lisa Romanowski,
SOS Editor



Linda and Rob Knox
Timmins, Ontario



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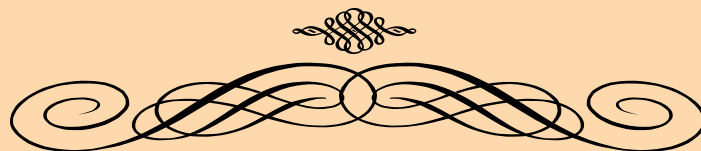
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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22nd 10:00 AM to April 23rd 4:00 PM

Sportsman Show

Schumacher Lions Club

McIntyre Arena & Curling Club

Admission \$5 Children 10 & Under FREE

April 29th 10:00 AM to April 23rd 3:00 PM

28th Annual Home Show

Timmins Construction Association

McIntyre Arena & Curling Club

Admission \$5 Seniors & Students \$4

Children 12 & Under FREE (with an adult)

May 3rd through 6th at 7:00 PM

Bye Bye Birdie

Proudly presented by O'Gorman High School
Sylvia Gravel Theatre at O'Gorman High School
Tickets available at OHS Office, Alfie's Cigar Store,
Timmins Square Customer Service Booth.

May 6th 10:00 AM to May 7th 5:00 PM

Northern Ontario Expo

A Comic Con Style Event

Archie Dillon Sportsplex

For more information call 705-267-2857

May 26th 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

4th Annual Powwow - Protect Our Water

Timmins High & Vocational School in partnership with
Kiskinohamatowin and O'Gorman High School
Mountjoy Historical Particpark, 600 Riverside Drive

May 31st 10:00 AM to June 1st 5:00 PM

The Big Event Mining Expo

Featuring more than 400 displays!

McIntyre Community Building

For more information call 705-264-2251

June 4th (Times to be Determined)

Timmins Multicultural Festival

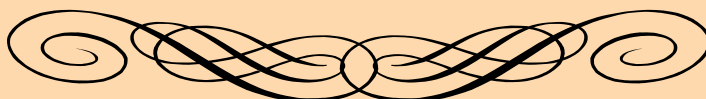
McIntyre Community Building

June 24th to July 1st , Times Vary

Stars and Thunder

Timmins International Fireworks & Music Festival
Hollinger Park

For more information and to purchase tickets online:
www.starsandthunder.com





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 Unforgettables

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SACHA will recognize your generosity with acknowledgement in the SOS newsletter and on its website.
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