

Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 106 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2018

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

THEN THERE WERE NONE



Above: The March 8, 2018 fire at the Grandview Hotel is under investigation by the Timmins Police Service and Ontario Fire Marshal. Below: SACHA members enjoy a beverage at the Grandview in May 2014. Bottom: Extensive damage is visible on the backside of the hotel building.



In the early morning hours of March 8th, 2018, fire gutted the Grandview Hotel, bringing with it the end of an era. In its heyday, Schumacher boasted at least 8 bars - the Eldorado, Emporium, Schumacher (later JJ's Ranch), Commercial (later the Plaza), Grandview, Gold Range, Pearl Lake and Tisdale - within a three block stretch of First Avenue (now Father Costello Drive). Since 2014, the Grandview stood as the community's last bar; the others having closed for various reasons over the years.

According to the Timmins Fire Department, the initial call came in at 4:23 AM with resources (including multiple fire apparatus, two aerial trucks and two pumper trucks) from Schumacher, South Porcupine and Timmins stations responding. Damage to the building caused by smoke, fire and water is extensive. Fortunately, the lone tenant in the building escaped unhurt and none of the surrounding buildings were damaged by the fire. This was the second call to the Grandview in three months. Just before Christmas, 13 hotel residents were displaced after a pipe burst, causing a third-floor ceiling to collapse and flooding to spread from the upper levels to the ground floor. Owned for many years by the Buchar family and then the Keizer family, the Grandview Hotel was sold in recent years.

On March 9th, the Timmins Police confirmed that the Grandview fire is formally being investigated at the request of the Timmins Fire Department. The Ontario Fire Marshal's office is also part of the investigation. No further details were available at press time.



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THE ELDORADO

Eldorado, a word of Spanish origin, refers to any place that is supposedly rich in gold and opportunity. All things considered, it was a fitting name for the first hotel one would find upon entering Schumacher from the west. Known for the round window in its entrance door, the Eldorado Hotel was located at 12 First Avenue. For much of its existence it operated as both a rooming house for miners and a tavern.

The Eldorado's early history is still largely a mystery, but it is known that Charles Pupich Sr. purchased the building sometime in the mid 1930s after immigrating to Canada from the former Yugoslavia. One of his sons, Charles Jr. (Charlie) took over hotel operations after returning from WWII. Charlie and his wife Elia eventually purchased the hotel from Charles Sr. They sold the place to Serge and Fernande Come in 1960 and moved down south. Emile and Mencil Brazeau purchased the Eldorado from Roger Richard in 1967. The Brazeau's sold to Bruce Stevens' family in 1972. Wayne Harrison bought the hotel from the Stevens and is believed to have been the last owner before the Eldorado (like so many other hotels in Schumacher) burned down in the early 1980s.



Eldorado Keepsakes: Above, a keychain bottle opener. Left: A promo thermometer from when the Pupiches owned the hotel. (Photos courtesy of Judith Colbert-Barkel.)



Last Post: Ken Pye signs off on a Hollinger Park claim post as John Grant and David Gibson look. (Photo via Ken Pye, Facebook.)

Prospectors

from the Sons of Maxwell album

The Neighbourhood

At the turn of the century, Timmins, ON (then known as the Porcupine Mining Camp) attracted people from around the world in one of the largest and least well known gold rushes. Ruben D'Aigle had claims upon what would become one of the richest gold mines in history, but failed to find it. Sandy McIntyre found two mines of significance yet died a relatively poor man. This song is for all those who, like these gentlemen, act on faith in themselves and raw determination.

I search for gold. I live alone.
 They say I'm stubborn to the bone.
 I'm headed upwards to North Ontario.
 "D'Aigle, you're a fool," they say,
 "Veins of quartz will never pay."
 But there are riches there I know.
 I will strike it rich this time.
 And try my luck in Porcupine.
 The prospects have been good,
 in free gold you can see.
 I'll make the find of ten lifetimes.
 And men will rush to work the mine,
 in a town they'll name in honour of me.
 And I'll go, and I'll go, and I'll fight off
 the blackflies and the cold.
 And I'll go, and I'll go, and I'll stay
 until I find my heart of gold.

Born in Scotland I have come,
 to find where rivers of gold run.
 And so I go to where
 the gold's already found.
 In Porcupine I'll stake my claims.
 Sandy McIntyre's my name,
 And I know more lies under that ground.
 Money is not all I seek,
 I like the chase and love the drink.
 Living as a bushman,
 it's then I feel most free.
 And if I squander all away,
 the fortune I might find today,
 I'll turn to luck to twice find me.

Exploration fuels the fire
 of speculation and desire.
 Seeking out adventure,
 we come here young and old.
 Most of us will never find
 enough to ever make a mine,
 and still we seek our fortune in gold.



STAKING THE LAST POST

Monday, January 8th, 2018 marked the end of a 126 year-old tradition of physically staking mining claims in Ontario. On April 10th, following a 90-day transition period (where no new claims or transactions will be permitted), the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines will officially launch the online Mining Lands Administration System. This new system will require Ontario prospectors to wield keyboards instead of axes to stake their mineral claims.

While there are administrative benefits to modernizing the claim staking process using technology, the new digital process has its downsides. There is concern that independent prospectors and smaller operations will no longer be on the same playing field as big mining companies. On a per claim basis, digital claims will be more expensive to register than hand-staked claims. Rather than grit and a willingness to brave the elements, deeper pockets and digital literacy skills will now be key requirements of remaining competitive. The general consensus amongst local stakers is that the spirit of adventure and the sense of accomplishment that were part and parcel of the physical staking process have essentially been eliminated.

John Grant of Exsics Exploration bought his prospecting license in 1974. He staked claims under that license number for over 43 years, right up until the end. He had this to say on January 8th, "[An] emotional day, [the] end of an era in the mining industry in Ontario. The prospector and small independent mining individuals have lost an important aspect of the business where they could compete on a level field with large mining corporations in Ontario for certain lands that had the potential for new discoveries. The thrill of 'the staking rush' as the industry has known it is gone forever. Over 125 years of claim staking done by hearty men and women (all whom loved the bush and the challenge of the physical work involved in staking a claim) and their pride in negotiating deals

for stock, cash and royalties is forever gone. [It will be] replaced now by map staking using computers from an office or home. It's going to be difficult to compete with major companies who have a much larger capacity to do map staking. Time will only tell as to how this new staking method will pan out for all those involved in the ever changing face of the exploration and mining industry, [but] a big part of the thrill has gone."

Local prospector Ken Pye starting staking mining claims in Thornloe Township off HWY 144 with David Gibson in 1983. Over the next 35 years, he walked the line for or alongside Ralph E Allerston, David Meunier, Robert Rousseau, Adam Maskavich, John Hussey, David P. Larche, Donny McKinnon Jr., Norm Collins, Chad Gloster, Albert J Ristimaki, David Gonzales, David Gibson, Hugh L Coulson, David Coulson, Eric Charters, Shay Simon, Peter Bernier, Daniel Wesolowski, Larry Gervais, Tom Kioki Jr, and Kevin Cool. To bring things full circle, David Gibson returned to Timmins from Calgary so that he and Pye could stake their last claim together on January 8, 2018. The duo ventured out to "gold country" west of Timmins to stake their final claim. Like all prospectors before them, they hold out hope that this claim will be the mother lode.

In a fitting tribute, Ken Pye organized a Last Post ceremony at Hollinger Park later in the day on January 8th. He was joined by Mr. Gibson, Mr. Grant, Mr. Collins, Mr. Gloster, Mr. Cool, other local prospectors, their family members and interested residents. Traditional small metal plates from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines were hammered to four claim posts at each corner of the park. Participants then added their names and prospector's license numbers to the posts, along with the time that the event started and finished. The posts have been donated to the Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre as a lasting symbol of our mining history.





FUTURE OF SCHUMACHER

A Future of Schumacher Strategic Planning Meeting was held on Saturday, March 3rd, 2018. Moderated by co-chair Tom Laughren, the purpose of the meeting was to allow representatives from a few key areas to come together to discuss current realities and future prospects.

Bob Brush (Chair, DSB ONE Board of Trustees) affirmed the commitment District School Board Ontario North East has to Schumacher. He cited the rebuilding of the Board Office on Croatia and a new boiler system at Schumacher Public School as concrete examples. Mr. Brush also stressed that upcoming changes to Ministry of Education policies would give residents an opportunity to be heard should Schumacher Public School be placed under accommodation review in the future.

Patricia Chertow, SPS Principal, shared that while only about 30% of the school's current population lives in Schumacher, school events are well-received by the parent community. She noted that partnerships with local organizations including the Timmins Native Friendship Centre and Timmins Family YMCA are ongoing. The recent announcement of an independently operated daycare taking over unused space in the school was also highlighted as a positive outcome. Ms. Chertow also mentioned that plans are underway to mark the 100th anniversary of Schumacher Public School in September 2018.

Courtney Berlinghoff of the Timmins Family YMCA shared that the YMCA programming offered in Schumacher is the most well-attended throughout the City of Timmins. She indicated that the Y is actively looking for ways to expand its presence in Schumacher.

Mayor Steven Black commended the Future of Schumacher committee for coming together in a spirit of community revitalization. He used the example of Naoshima, Japan (Timmins' sister city) as an example of responding to change by finding a new niche and moving forward.

In the case of Naoshima (population 3000), job reduction due to automation at its Mitsubishi plant in the 1980s was counteracted by slowly developing the island community into a vibrant contemporary art destination. Mayor Black also encouraged the group to involve young families in the process of any revitalization efforts.

Dennis Sebalj and Kathy Vukobratich spoke about the status of the Croatian Hall. The space is currently under-utilized and in need of some significant repairs and upgrades. The Croatian Hall Society is looking at incorporating, which would open up opportunities to apply for government grants aimed at building improvements. The executive is also considering ways to boost their membership, increase hall rentals, and attract tenants to some of their unused space.

Ward 3 Councillor (and Future of Schumacher co-chair) Joe Campbell has long advocated for enhancing the McIntyre Arena into a modernized hockey arena, conference, trade show and concert venue. Joe prepared a formal proposal in the fall of 2017, but city council ultimately voted against allocating funds from the 2018 budget to further pursue the project's feasibility. Joe, however, remains committed to the project and has garnered support from residents with engineering and architectural drafting backgrounds. As a result of these grassroots efforts, it is expected that more detailed plans will be finalized this spring.

Dr. David Leadbeater spoke about the ongoing efforts of the Northern Democracy Project. He expressed interest in partnering with community groups that share his vision of using democratic processes as a force for change. He built on Mayor Black's comments by stressing the importance of involving Schumacher residents in planning for the community's future. Lastly, SACHA's Lloyd Salomone initiated discussion of possible uses for the community's empty lots and vacant buildings with an eye towards low cost yet impactful changes.



BOOTLEG GOLD MINI-SERIES

In the summer of 1984, I arrived in Timmins to work as a radio news journalist at CKGB. I wouldn't have known a gold mine back then if I literally fell into one. Within days of my arrival in Timmins, some local teenagers did precisely that; they fell into a gold mine, the Hollinger to be exact. Suddenly, I was reporting a story across the country about some young men who had apparently taken some tennis rackets into the old Hollinger mine workings to swat at bats. The story was national news for about 48 hours and it was my introduction to this curious, fascinating, and secretive city.

A few weeks later, I found myself on a plane flying from Timmins to Hearst. One of the passengers that day was Jack Atkinson, a tall, debonair and thoroughly riveting story-teller. The retired President of All-State Canada was entertaining the passengers with stories of his adventures as a Timmins police officer in the late 1930s and early 1940s. I was mesmerized and, quite frankly, also skeptical. His tales were monumental. How come I had never heard of them? Why hadn't the rest of the world ever heard of them?

I made the transition from radio to television and, upon the retirement of news anchor Jim Prince, found myself anchoring the 6 o'clock news. This meant my day to day work-shift was 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM, so in the mornings I took my passion for highgrading research to the Timmins Public Library. The staff were gracious enough to allow me early entry so I could spend time going through more than 70 years worth of microfiche of the Porcupine Advance and The Daily Press.

After more than three decades of research, and 17,000 pages of documents, I know I have only scratched the surface of the enormous number of stories that are part of the secretive folklore of the Porcupine, what I like to refer to as Canada's Last Great Frontier. My research resulted in the publication of my first book, **Bootleg Gold Volume One**, five years ago.

Over the years, I also sat down with dozens of individuals who had some kind of connection to this salacious world of gold smuggling. As luck would have it (luck being in the eye of the beholder, I must add) the Aquarius Gold Mine just east of Timmins was robbed in January of 1986. I had the opportunity to sit in on the trial of three men accused of the caper and it became the topic of **Bootleg Gold Volume Two**, which was released just two years ago. Both books are available through www.BootlegGold.net.

The collection of stories is vast. Schumacher, of course, figures prominently. There are tales of local hotels with secret tunnels that allowed underground miners to pop up during their shift for a drink, paying more often than not with pieces of highgrade. In the early years, there were tales of mine captains and shift bosses who were ordered to go to these bars late at night and, on behalf of the mines, buy back the stolen gold so it could be mixed in with the gold that had not been stolen. Then there are the larger-than-life characters, like Charlie Lamothe of South Porcupine, who provided an entire community with enough highgrading folklore to fill an encyclopedia.

In 2017, while preparing my third and final book, I had the good fortune to connect with a couple of television networks and a production company who have taken a keen interest in bringing these stories to life and share them with the rest of the world. The two-part mini-series will shine a spotlight on the pioneer life of Timmins, the mines, and the world of highgrading. Filming takes place this spring and production will take several

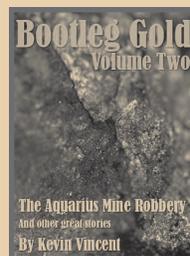
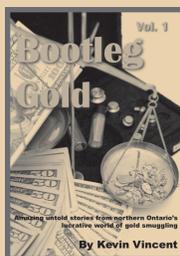
months to complete.

When will they air?

Stay tuned.

Contributed by:

Kevin Vincent





READER MAIL

Hi to all ..

I have totally enjoyed receiving the newsletter since it was introduced to me by my great friend, Charlene Doody. Because of SACHA, I have reconnected with Sandra Calhoun in Alberta!

My daughter and I had a great visit home in July 2017. Charlene took us to eat at the McIntyre Arena restaurant. So Good! We drove around to school areas, fishing holes, and where I lived. Had a good visit with Joanne Beaudoin (who since lost her battle with MS). Our stay was too short for me to locate and visit Gwen Orr ... perhaps she or any of my old acquaintances will see this and get in touch. It's so nice to reminisce.

Catherine Brown Graham
Port Stanley, Ontario

In spite of family connections, I have no personal ties to, nor recollections of, the Eldorado Hotel. The death of Elia Pupich in February, 2018 at age 102 prompted me to look into the hotel's history. If any SOS readers have photos or additional information about the hotel, please do get in touch!

The Grandview Hotel figures more prominently in my family's history. My grandparents (the late Bob and Danica Pupich) owned the apartment building next door. At one time, my Babi worked for the Buchars. Grandpa Bob and Uncle Fred (Dwyer) were regular patrons. My mom (Vera) and aunts recall pitchers of cold draft magically appearing over the fence on hot summer days. My dad (Henry) worked for the Buchars during college and, as the story goes, their connection to a diamond wholesaler resulted in my mom's engagement ring. My cousin Mark McAlpine occasionally bartended for the Keizers before moving to Fort McMurray. As a child, the hotel's outdoor staircase and a jump across the roofs gave alternate access to Babi's porch. As a young adult, I enjoyed the occasional butterscotch ripple shot from the hotel's comfy club chairs.

Thank you Kevin Vincent, Judith Colbert-Barkel, Dawn McCulloch, Gilles Gelinas, Ken Pye, William Grant, and Dave Carroll for your contributions to this issue! They are most appreciated. Anyone with photos or bits of history related to Schumacher is encouraged to share them with the SOS community..

Until next time,
Lisa Romanowski,
SOS Editor



Support SACHA by purchasing a mousepad!

Just **\$10.00** each!
(Extra \$3 per item to ship.)

Spirit of Schumacher
Schumacher Arts Culture & Heritage Association

TO PLACE AN ORDER
Email: schumachergirl@gmail.com

SOS WINTER 2017 CORRECTION

While the 1971 Schumacher Bears did advance to the finals, they did not retain their 1970 provincial title.

SACHA BOARD

Rob Knox (President)
Kathy Vukobratich (Treasurer)
Lloyd Salomone (Secretary)
Vera Romanowski (Sponsorship)

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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

ADVERTISING

\$25/issue or \$90/year
An estimated 5000 people read each edition. Contact us for more information.

Good for a Giggle ...
**Why did the Easter egg hide?
He was a little chicken!**

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





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Melissa & Kevin

4800 Hwy. 101 East - Porcupine Mall

Join Us for Breakfast or Lunch from 6 AM!



Linda and Rob Knox
Timmins, Ontario



Mark E. Duquette
Owner/President

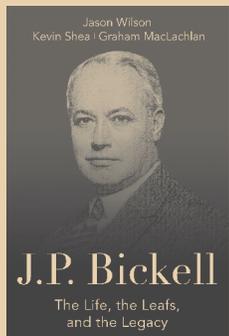
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The definitive story of the extraordinary man whose influence runs deeper than the McIntyre Mine.

Hardcover Copies Available Locally
at the Timmins Museum

Online Purchases
www.dundurn.com/books/JP-Bickell

Co-author Graham MacLachlan, a cousin of J.P. Bickell, will be donating his portion of the book proceeds to Camp Bickell on Chapman Lake near Iroquois Falls.

Published by Dundurn Press 2017



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 14th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Northern Ontario Handmade

McIntyre Auditorium, 85 McIntyre Road

Quality handmade items by regional makers!

Info: www.facebook.com/NorthernOntarioHandmade/

Saturday, April 14th from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Beer Fest

McIntyre Curling Club, 85 McIntyre Road

Craft Beer Showcase, Specialty Foods, Live Music
For Tickets / More Info: www.timminsfestivals.com

Sunday, April 15th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Spring Holistic Healing Fair

Senator Hotel, 14 Mountjoy Street South, Timmins
Explore unique ways of healing. Everyone welcome!

For More Info: www.holistichealingfair.com

Saturday, April 21st from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Sunday, April 22nd from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Timmins Comicon

McIntyre Curling Club, 85 McIntyre Road

Kids Zone, Cosplay Corner, Artist Alley, Vendor Market
For More Info: www.northernontarioexpo.com/

Saturday, April 28th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, April 29th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

71st Annual Sportsman Show

McIntyre Community Building, 85 McIntyre Road
For Info: www.schumacherlions.com/contact.htm

Wednesday, May 2nd from 9:00 AM to Noon

Arts and Culture Roundtable

Timmins Museum, 325 Second Avenue, Timmins
Share your ideas to build our arts & culture sector.
For Info or to Register: kelsey.luxton@timmins.ca

Friday, May 4th from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturday, May 5th from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 6th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

29th Annual Home Show

McIntyre Community Building, 85 McIntyre Road
For More Info: www.facebook.com/timconst/

Sunday, June 24th through Sunday, July 1st

Early Bird Pricing Available until April 30th.

Children's Tickets Available

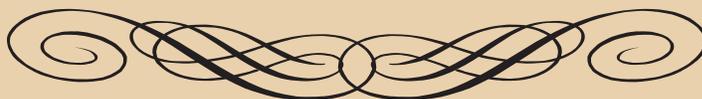
Stars and Thunder 2018

Fred Salvador Field, Hollinger Park

Eight nights of Canadian music and fireworks.

For more information or to buy tickets online:

www.starsandthunder.com





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Individual (\$15)

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 Pierrette Campsall
 Mary Kay (Ashton) Claydon
 Brian Cleverdon
 Gordon Critchley
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 Bonnie (Fleming) Gorham
 Linda Guacci
 David Hamilton*
 Bernice Harper*
 Margaret (McGee) Inskip*
 Judith (Fleming) Jaeger
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Business (\$50)

Blackhawk Transport
 The Living Room
 Northern Windows & Doors
 Rock Solid Parts*
 Schumacher Fire Department

* Additional Contribution
 + Deceased

A special thank you is extended to the Pupich family (Diane, Ed, Marilyn, Vera, and Robin) for their generous donation in memory of their aunt, Elia (Zuliani) Pupich. The continued generosity of all our supporters is truly appreciated.

SUPPORT THE SCHUMACHER ARTS CULTURE & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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

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 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.