

# Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



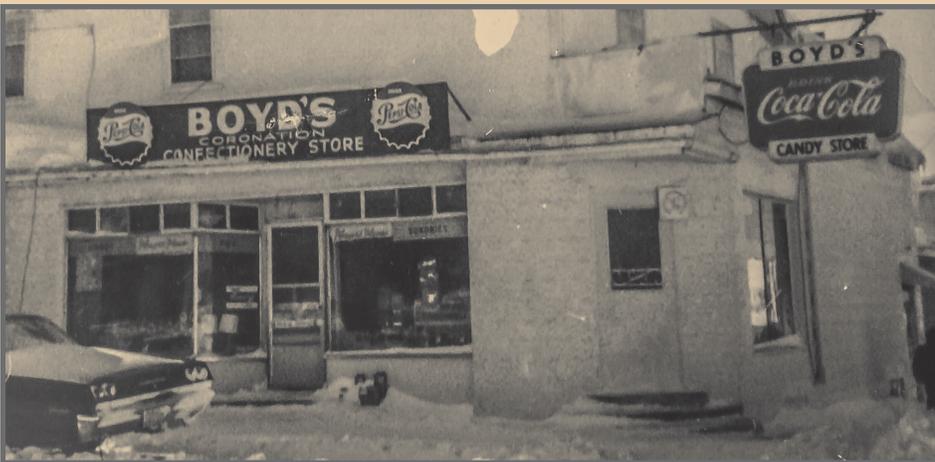
A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 106 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2018

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

## THE OLD CORNER STORE



Depending on the era you grew up in, the confectionery with the rounded steps located at the intersection of First Avenue & Pine Street (now Father Costello Drive and Grant Street) was known as either Hancock's, Boyd's, Guacci's, or Schumacher Variety. Regardless of the name you knew it by, the store was known for ice cream treats on hot summer days and a selection of candy throughout the year.



Built by RS Hancock in 1930, the building was converted into a six-plex in recent years. Fire broke out in the building twice in 2015 and it was left to deteriorate ever since. In early July, workers finally began the demolition process. While it is sad to see a piece of history lost, one less derelict building in town is welcomed by current residents.



Top: One of Christine Krofchick's photos of Boyd's Confectionery (originally posted to the Still Proud to be a Schumacher Boy Facebook group by Steve Krofchick in 2016). Middle Left: As of July 16th, the plaque acknowledging the builder and year of construction was still intact. Middle Right and Directly Above: Demolition of the former Hancock's/Boyd's/Guacci's/Schumacher Variety store has been a slow process that began in early July.

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## STARS & THUNDER 2018

Stars & Thunder 2018 saw a variety of musical acts take to the stage at Fred Salvador Field in Hollinger Park from June 24th through July 1st. Some of the out of town performers included Roch Voisine, Marc Dupre, Colin James, Blue Rodeo, Marianas Trench, Sloan, Burton Cummings, Lindsay Ell, 54-40, Alan Doyle, The Beach Boys, Matthew Good, Our Lady Peace, and Bryan Adams.

Schumacher residents Spyke and Owen Pintar got to experience the event from a unique vantage point; the two were part of "The Dream Team", otherwise known as the official backstage hospitality crew. It was their responsibility to see to the needs of the various musicians before and after they performed. Both Pintars spoke highly of the experience.

For Owen, the week was a bit of a blur, but seeing people from across the province and beyond join the local community to soak in the entertainment and good weather left a lasting impression. He also spoke highly of the energy the Arkells brought to the stage. During their performance of "The People's Champ", the Arkells brought Guy Lamarche of Tourism Timmins and Rick Young of the Timmins Food Bank on stage to recognize their contributions to our community.

In his second year behind the scenes at Stars & Thunder, Spyke was once again struck by the crowd's enthusiasm and praise for the event. In typical Spyke fashion, lighthearted hijinks involving Edmonton Oilers paraphernalia began with Gord Bamford and spread to involve Paul Brandt and High Valley. Speaking of Paul Brandt, Spyke had nothing but good things to say about the country musician who patiently waited out a rain delay before playing an extended set and then stuck around past midnight to greet each of the fans who lined up to meet him.



Above (from left): The Stars & Thunder Dream Team: Mayor Steve Black, MC Beverley Mahood, Stage Manager Josh Clark, Rock Foy, Owen Pintar, Wayne Bozzer, Perry Rinaldo, Promoter Ron Sakamoto, and Spyke Pintar on stage during the eighth and final day of the festival. Missing is Joe Torlone. (Photo courtesy of the Pintars.)



Right: Bryan Adams closes out Stars & Thunder 2018 on Canada Day. (Photo courtesy of Doug Basso.)



Below: Stars & Thunder Fireworks explode over Gillies Lake on June 28th. (Photo courtesy of Brian Cleverdon.)





# FEATURE EVENT

# AUDITORIUM RENAMED



A number of notable Schumacher faces were on hand June 16th to commemorate the renaming of the McIntyre Auditorium to the JP Bickell Auditorium. The dedication took place during the 2018 Timmins Sports Heritage Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. From left are Vital Shank, Joe Campbell, Lou Battochio, Mayor Steve Black, Anne MacDonald, and Ed Pupich.

The 2018 Timmins Sport Heritage Hall of Fame induction ceremony was an ideal time to formally rename the McIntyre Auditorium as the JP Bickell Auditorium. The 2018 inductees include Archie Berube, Allan Daschuk, RJ Ennis, Rene Garon, James Gosselin, Percy Howsend, Justin Lambert-Belanger, Dave MacInnes, Rolly Richer, Len Wadsworth, and The 1998-1999 THVS Senior Blues. Should you wish to nominate a local person for their contributions to sport, forms are available on the TSHHF website.

## Timmins Sports Heritage Hall of Fame 2018 Inductee

R. J. Ennis

**R.J. "Dick" Ennis**, was born in Sheffield, Illinois in 1881 and as a young boy his family moved to Aspen, Colorado. He came north in 1911 at the request of the ownership of the mine in order to build a mill at the McIntyre Porcupine Mine. In 1912, Mr. Ennis was appointed the General Manager of the McIntyre Mine. In 1941, J.P. Bickell the President who was his friend and colleague, appointed him the Vice President and General Manager and he held both positions until his retirement in March 1951. Mr. Ennis managed the same mine property for 38 years, a record which must be without equal in the history of mining. Richard Joseph Ennis was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame in 2003.

He had a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of the people of the community. He was a Director of the Chamber of Commerce and had the shared vision for the magnificent park development on the McIntyre Property, the McIntyre Community Centre and with Percy Boyce the creation of Camp Bickell at Chapman Lake. The Porcupine owes much to Mr. R.J. Ennis.

Piggy backing on the success of Maple Leaf Gardens, Mr. Ennis urged Mr. Bickell to explore a community building. Mr. Bickell agreed that a community building would be a fine gesture on the part of a successful mining company to the people who worked there.

On Oct 9, 1951 Doug McLellan of the Timmins Daily Press wrote, "It was through the untiring efforts of Mr. Ennis, more than any other man that made the building possible, and it is only proper that the community centre will remain as a monument to him for years to come. It is ironical that he and J.P. Bickell the two men most responsible for the building should pass away in the same year".

June 16, 2018

## J.P. Bickell

## Auditorium

Opened Thursday December 8th, 1938  
Dedicated Saturday June 16th, 2018

Left: RJ Ennis' TSHHF dedication plaque. Above: The entrance signage to the JP Bickell Auditorium at the McIntyre Community Centre. (Photos courtesy of TSHHF via Facebook.)



## CROATIAN SOCCER FEVER



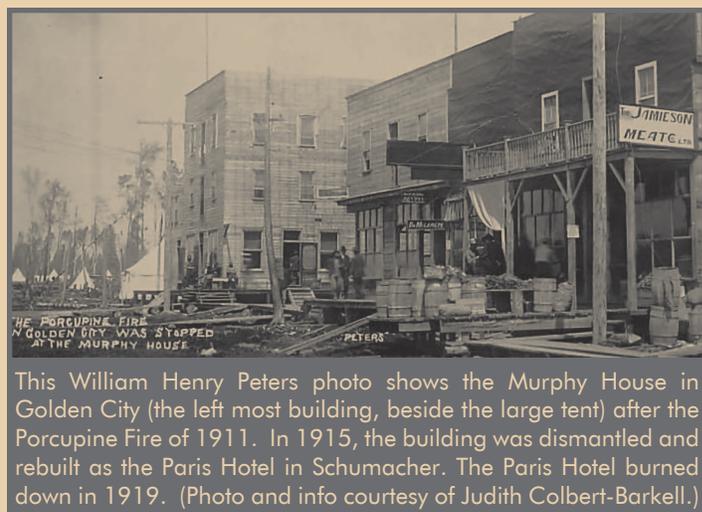
Although France ended up defeating Croatia 4-2 in the final, Schumacher residents including the Polonjics and Sebaljs on Vipond Road and the Johnses in Gold Centre showed their Croatian pride during the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Photos by Shannon Johns and Ben Dunkley.

## THE PARIS HOTEL

As a result of contacts made while researching the Eldorado Hotel for the Spring 2018 edition, the storied history of one of Schumacher's oldest hotels was shared with me. The Paris Hotel began as the Murphy House in Golden City. If you know your local history, you may recall that the 1911 Porcupine Fire was stopped at the Murphy House.

According to the June 25, 1915 edition of *The Porcupine Advance*, a decision was made to dismantle the Murphy House, rebuild it close to the train station in Schumacher, and rename it the Paris Hotel. The dining room at the new hotel pledged to offer a welcome amenity to the community: staying open late enough to service the late train.

In an ironic and an eerie foreshadowing of the fate of many hotels in Schumacher, the Paris Hotel burned down in January 1919. According to the January 15, 1919 edition of *The Porcupine Advance*, at the time of the fire, the hotel



This William Henry Peters photo shows the Murphy House in Golden City (the left most building, beside the large tent) after the Porcupine Fire of 1911. In 1915, the building was dismantled and rebuilt as the Paris Hotel in Schumacher. The Paris Hotel burned down in 1919. (Photo and info courtesy of Judith Colbert-Barkell.)

was one of Schumacher's biggest buildings and was owned by H. Bourdoncle. Although the building was destroyed, its 25 boarders escaped unharmed. The fire was thought to have started when a wood stove in one of the upper floor rooms exploded.

## HUMBOLDT STRONG

As most readers are likely aware, tragedy struck the Humboldt Broncos hockey club on April 6, 2018. En route to a Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League playoff game, the team bus was struck by a semi-trailer. The horrific crash took the lives of sixteen people (including 10 players) and injured thirteen others (some seriously).

In the days and weeks that followed, the hashtags #PrayersforHumboldt and #HumboldtStrong spread across social media as Canada and the world shared their support and condolences with the Humboldt community. Here in Schumacher, Ted Vail (a former Broncos player) and his wife (Linda) erected a billboard in their yard on Dwyer Avenue in support of the Humboldt community.

their families. Schumacher residents and business owners Mark and Jose Duquette pledged to donate \$5 to the Humboldt fund for every hockey stick that was left at the entrance of Northern Windows & Doors. They ended up making a \$500 contribution and donated the acquired sticks to Sk8 Hollinger.



Jacob, Joseph and Ben Dunkley drop off some sticks at Northern Windows & Doors in Schumacher. Owners Mark and Jose Duquette contributed \$5 to the Humboldt fund for every hockey stick left outside the business entrance. The hockey sticks were donated to Sk8 Hollinger and a \$500 contribution was made.

People were moved by the realization that what happened to the Broncos could have happened to any travelling youth team from any Canadian city. It also brought to mind similar tragedies from the past. Longtime locals couldn't help but recall the January 14, 1988 crash involving the Timmins A&W Bears Atom AAA team as they travelled in a caravan of cars to a tournament in Rouyn-Noranda. That crash took the lives of players Ali Eren (11 of Schumacher), Geoffrey Jones (12), and Sylvain Bradette (11), as well as Sylvain's parents Alain and Lise. High school coaches were reminded of the January 12, 2008 crash in New Brunswick that took the lives of seven Bathurst basketball players and the coach's wife.

On July 6, 2018, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police laid 29 charges of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle against the driver of the semi-trailer. An official statement from the Broncos reads, in part "The Humboldt Broncos' thank the RCMP and its investigators for their work. Our primary focus continues to be supporting the survivors, families and others that were directly impacted by the tragedy on April 6th." For more information and updates on the Humboldt Broncos please visit: <https://humboldtstrong.info/>.



Shortly after the Humboldt bus crash, Ted and Linda Vail installed a billboard in honour of the Broncos in the driveway of their Dwyer Avenue home. Ted played for the Broncos in the late 1970s. Elgar is 82-year-old Elgar Petersen, the Broncos biggest supporter and volunteer since the team's inception in 1970. The Broncos home ice was renamed the Elgar Petersen Arena back in 2000. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

A grassroots initiative by a group of hockey parents in British Columbia gained social media traction and evolved into a national event which saw people from across the country sport #JerseysforHumboldt on April 12th. Worldwide, hockey families took up the invitation to leave their sticks out on the front porch as a symbol of unity and solidarity with the Humboldt community. A GoFundMe campaign set a national record; over \$15 million was raised for the crash victims and



# SCHUMACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

It's been an interesting few months since the previous issue, with plenty of good times and a few not so great events. As a result, this issue is a bit of a hodge podge. For the record, I grew up knowing the "round steps store" as both Guacci's and later Schumacher Variety. Those steps seemed so much bigger back then! I actually spent more time at Polly's though; it was closer to my grandparents' place and my parents knew Larry from college.

As it did for many people, the Humboldt Broncos tragedy struck close to home. Growing up, many of my friends and cousins travelled for hockey. Ali Eren was a year ahead of me at Schumacher Public School. I can still vaguely recall the whole school assembling in the gym when Mr. Delich broke the news about the crash that took Ali's life in 1988. As a high school teacher, I know only too well how much time student-athletes from Northern Ontario continue to spend on the road travelling to and from various competitions.

As for Stars & Thunder, my family and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves again this year. I've seen Bryan Adams perform at the ACC in Toronto, but there was something awesome about seeing him onstage right here at home. Another highlight was finally seeing Alan Doyle perform more than 20 years after having to miss a Great Big Sea concert in North Bay. While I'm in the camp that believes tweaks to the festival length and dates are needed, I do hope this annual event continues.

Until next time,  
*Lisa Romanowski,*  
SOS Editor

Each year, Schumacher Alumnae Scholarships are made available to the five local high schools. Recipients must have resided in Schumacher, Gold Centre or Carium Road for the past four years, have sound academic achievement, a positive attitude towards learning, made meaningful contributions to their high school, and plan to pursue post secondary studies. The 2018 recipients are: Olivia Fregonese (O'Gorman HS), Nakeam Gougeon (ES Renaissance), and Vincent Gauthier (ESC Theriault). There were no eligible graduates from Timmins High or Roland Michener SS this year.



George Stefanic presents O'Gorman High School student Olivia Fregonese with her 2018 Schumacher Alumnae Scholarship. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

## SACHA BOARD

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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](mailto: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 don't oysters share their pearls?  
Because they're shellfish!

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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Join Us for Breakfast or Lunch from 6 AM!



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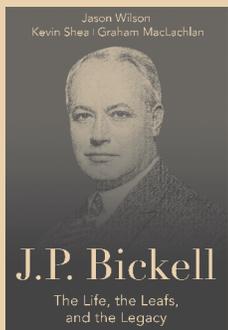
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mark.duquette@northernwindows.ca

www.northernwindows.ca



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](http://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

All Summer Long

### Timmins Summer Concert Series

Wednesdays at McIntyre Park in Schumacher  
Select Thursdays at Bannerman Park in South Porcupine  
For times and line-ups visit:

<http://www.tourismtimmins.com/events/local-events/timmins-summer-concert-series/>

Saturday, August 4th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

### Classic & Elite Car Show

St. Mary's Gardens, 225 Fifth Avenue, Timmins  
Stop by to take a trip down memory lane!

Friday, August 24th through Sunday, August 26th

### 10th Annual Great Canadian Kayak Challenge & Festival

Mountjoy Historic Participark, 600 Riverside Drive, Timmins  
Free admission to live concerts, exhibits, vendor booths, children's activities, fireworks and more.

Wednesday, September 5th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

### Welcome to Timmins Night

McIntyre Curling Club, 85 McIntyre Road

Featuring over 120 local non-profit organizations.

For More Info: [adickinson@timminsmulticultural.ca](mailto:adickinson@timminsmulticultural.ca)

Admission: Non-perishable food item or a clean stuffed toy.

Sunday, September 9th from 10:30 AM

### Friends of O'Gorman High School Bus for Us Golf Tournament

Hollinger Golf Club, 555 Moneta Avenue, Timmins  
\$100 includes fees, cart, brunch, prizes, BBQ and more!  
Only 144 spots! For more info: [dbasso@necdsb.ca](mailto:dbasso@necdsb.ca)

Saturday, September 27th from 5:30 PM

### Celebrity Spelling Bee

Porcupine Dante Club, 162 Cedar Street South, Timmins  
Enjoy dinner, prizes, a silent auction and more as you cheer on local spellers & support the Timmins Learning Centre.  
Tickets \$40 For More Info: 705-268-8900

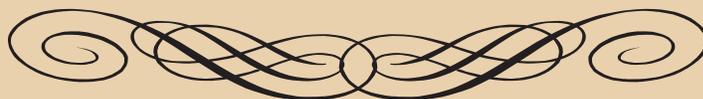
Thursday, October 25th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

### Healthy Aging Expo

Science Timmins, 225 Fifth Avenue, Timmins  
Discover local services available to older adults.

Free admission.

For More Info: (705) 360-5800 ext. 229





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

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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.