



A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 107 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2019

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

SPOOKY LOCAL STORY



Camp Bickell campers pose with books one and two of Paul Toffanello's Popchuck Chronicles novel series. (Supplied Photo.)

Most people who follow *The Popchuck Chronicles* know that the first novel in the series, *Popchuck's Ghost*, is set at Camp McAbre, a fictitious summer camp based on the real Camp Bickell. Book two, *Popchuck's Revenge*, is set in Nimmitsville, a play on words for the City of Timmins. Then of course, there's the ghost!

Arnold Popchuck was crafted from the imaginations of decades of kids who attended Camp Bickell, kids who thought the camp was haunted by the resident ghost. Of course, if you happen to be a Camp Bickell alumnist, you will know that the name of the ghost who lives out there (pun intended) is really Arnold Poopchuck!

What a lot of people don't know is the link between the story and the town of Schumacher. If not for George Delich and Joe Campbell, this novel series might never have been written. Back in the day, Schumacher Public School principals, in concert with Joe Campbell, hired the Camp Bickell Director each year. It so happened that in the mid-1980s I was teaching at SPS and George asked me if I wanted to run the camp. After meeting with Joe, I became the Director for two summers.

At the time, about half of the kids who attended camp came from Schumacher, South Porcupine and Porcupine. It was the Schumacher kids who inspired me to write the story - two students of mine in particular. I would describe these guys as two of the best kids I've ever known. Great little athletes, always willing to go the extra mile to help by shoveling the rink in the winter, moving things around the school for the teachers and principal, and always being good to their peers.

(Story continues on page 2 ...)

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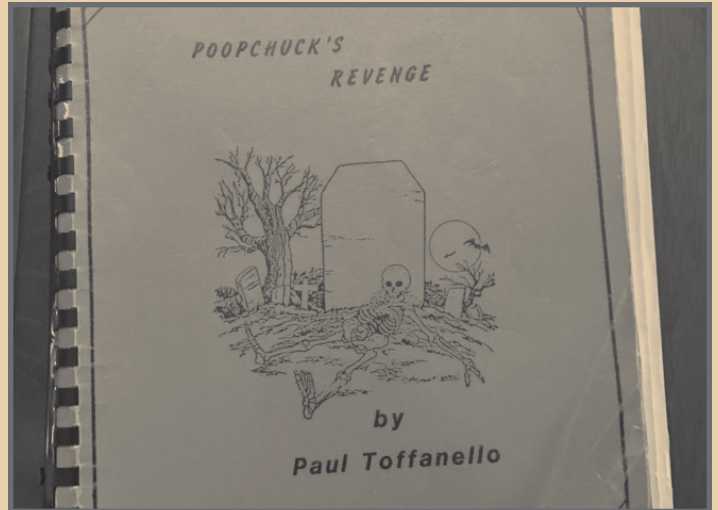
THIS & THAT

(Spooky Local Story continued ...)

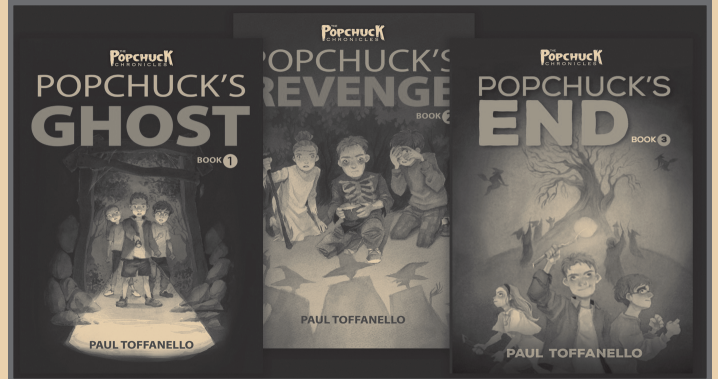
But these two guys hated reading, and it was the thing that drove me crazy. I needed to find a way to hook them on books. Thank God for Camp Bickell and that very synchronistic circumstance of my being the Director. These two guys came to the camp, excitedly told me story after story about Arnold Popchuck, and were thrilled when I carved out the first draft of the novel – using them as the main characters. These guys couldn't get enough of the story, wanted their own copies, and began picking up other books with mystery and suspense – among them, the Hardy Boys. The rest is history!

Thanks Schumacher! Thanks Schumacher Public School where the first drafts of books one and two were written! Thanks George Delich. Thanks Camp Bickell and Joe Campbell! My time as Director was one of the highlights of my life. Of course, thanks to my two students (who shall remain nameless)! You inspired me, while I was trying to inspire you. The best part is that **The Popchuck Chronicles** is a once-upon-a-time Schumacher story!

Paul Toffanello
Popchuck Chronicles Author



Above: The first draft, written in the 1980s. Below: The three books in the Popchuck Chronicles series: *Popchuck's Ghost*, *Popchuck's Revenge*, and *Popchuck's End*. (Submitted photos.) To learn more about the series (there are confirmed plans to turn it into a movie franchise) please visit www.popchuck.ca!



CONGRATS GRADUATES

Each year, Schumacher Alumnae Scholarships are presented to local high school graduates who are longtime residents of Schumacher. Scholarship recipients must be attending post secondary school and have demonstrated solid academic achievement and involvement in their school and community. The 2019 recipients include: Jerica Corner from Roland Michener Secondary School, Parker Gvozdanovic from O’Gorman High School and Alex (Emily) Skrtic from Timmins High & Vocational School. There were no eligible graduates from Ecole Secondaire Catholique Theriault or Ecole Secondaire Renaissance this year. Pictured at right is Anne MacDonald presenting Parker Gvozdanovic with his scholarship at the OHS Graduation. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Ed & Karen Pupich celebrated 50 years of marriage on July 26th. Ed is a lifelong Schumacher boy while Karen's roots are in Tilsonburg, ON. The couple's sons and daughters-in-law, Sean & Dawn and Eric & Zabrina, hosted an afternoon social at the Croatian Hall on July 27th. Grandsons Cameron and Ryan were also on hand for the festivities. A delicious light lunch was catered by Narduzzi's Family Restaurant and a beautiful cake was created by Golden Crust Specialty Bakery. Approximately 100 friends and family stopped by to celebrate the couple's milestone anniversary. A number of guests traveled from out of town to be a part of this special occasion. Accounting for leap years, 50 years is equivalent to 600 months or 2600 weeks or 18 262.5 days or 438 300 hours or 26 298 000 minutes or 1 577 880 000 seconds. The SACHA Board wishes Ed & Karen many more years of love and happiness. (Photo by Jacob Dunkley.)

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

Right: Well-known Schumacher resident, Mrs. Mary Monaghan, poses for a photo the day before her 90th birthday in June. Below: Mary's graduation photo from nursing school.



History may best remember 1929 for the Wall Street crash that started the Great Depression, but good things also happened. The Museum of Modern Art opened in New York City. The first Academy Awards ceremony was held. 7UP was invented. And, Mary was born!

Mary Monaghan, a long time Schumacher resident, celebrated a milestone birthday in June. At 90, Mary remains fiercely independent. She enjoys getting out and about and she is a devoted fan of "Sid the Kid" and his Pittsburgh Penguins as well as the Toronto Blue Jays.

Mary, a retired Registered Nurse, is well known in the community due to her 26 years of volunteer work with the Snuggles & Cuddles program. Her devotion to newborn babies led her to help pioneer the Nursery program at St. Mary's Hospital in 1991. She served as the program's coordinator at Timmins & District Hospital for many years and remained an active volunteer through 2017.

Friends and family organized two 90th birthday celebrations, including one at Mary's beloved cottage at Highway Beach. The SACHA Board wishes Mary continued health and happiness! (Photo provided by Connie Fournier-Nelson.)

CELEBRATING A CENTURY

Schumacher Public School staff and students celebrated the school's 100th anniversary in style on Friday, June 7, 2019. A variety of activities helped to make the once in a century occasion a memorable one. A significant anniversary is just not complete without a celebratory cake and congratulatory wishes from local dignitaries; rest assured, the SPS 100th was no exception. A large banner acknowledging this milestone was also hung prominently in the main hallway.

Additionally, former staff and students, as well as current Schumacher residents, were invited to an Open House. Current students proudly gave tours of every nook and cranny of the school. The students were excited to show off some of the building's recent acquisitions (including a new day care facility, a Snoezelen Multi-Sensory Room and a well-equipped Maker Space amongst others). They were also interested in listening to visitors' stories about the good old days at SPS.

The gym was converted into a walk down memory lane. Current students created posters depicting highlights of what was going on in Canada and the world during each decade of the school's existence. SPS memorabilia (including plaques, photos, and newspaper clippings) was also on display. A model of an old-school classroom was created using odds and ends from around the school. The efforts of the organizing committee did not go unnoticed.



Above: To ensure it doesn't get lost, staff and students created a wall mounted time capsule to be opened in 2069. Below Left: You can't celebrate 100 years without a cake! Below: A banner featuring an updated SPS logo now hangs in the main hallway. (Photos from the Schumacher Public School Facebook page.)





Above: The contents of the second floor safe were revealed during the Schumacher Public School 100th Anniversary celebration on June 7th. Its treasures included old class ledgers, a chunk of gold, a school stamp, and a handful of \$2 bills. Below: The gym was converted into a walk down memory lane, complete with a model classroom of days gone by created from odds 'n ends found within the school. Plaques, photo albums, newspaper clippings and other SPS artefacts were also on display. (Photos by Lisa Romanowski.)

A highlight of the event was the opening of the 800-pound safe on the second floor. (For those wondering, a crane was apparently used to lift it up there through a window.) At some point many years ago, the keys to the safe were lost. To get it open, school staff convinced a local locksmith to briefly come out of retirement. The effort was worth it as the safe held a few treasures including school ledgers, a stamp of the school, a piece of gold, and a bunch of \$2 bills. (As a point of reference, the last time a \$2 bill was printed in Canada was in February 1996. It is likely that no current SPS student had ever seen a \$2 bill before in their life.)

Another highlight of the event was the creation of a time capsule to be opened fifty years from now, in 2069. This specific time capsule has been given a prominent location at the front entrance of the school. A large tree was painted on the wall and students used their handprints to create its leaves. The time capsule vessel is a wooden birdhouse that has been attached to the wall. To help ensure that the time capsule isn't opened early, Principal Kelly Pearce threw away the key.

SPS staff opted not to bury the time capsule due to their ongoing struggle to locate two existing capsules that are supposedly on the property. Rumour has it that one may have been buried underneath the gym (which was built in the 1980s) and that a more recent one may have been placed in a basement wall. If you happen to know more specific details about the exact location of either of these time capsules, please get in touch with Schumacher Public School or let us know (we'll be sure to pass on the details to school staff).





EDITORIAL

Summer took its time arriving, but now that it's here, there's been much to celebrate and plenty of activities to keep everyone occupied.

A warm welcome is extended to SACHA's newest board member, Darrell MacGregor. He will be taking on the role of community relations.

Please read the Take Note message at right. It outlines a significant change coming to the SOS in 2020 that will mostly impact Schumacher residents.

We hope you'll be able to join us for the SACHA Schumacher Social this fall. Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, check out Soundcloud and take a listen to the Spirit of Schumacher podcasts.

Until next time,
Lisa Romanowski,
SOS Editor

TAKE NOTE: CHANGES COMING

More and more copies of the SOS newsletter are being discarded at the Schumacher Post Office. After much consideration, and in keeping with our aim to be financially and environmentally responsible, the SACHA Board has decided that complimentary distribution of the SOS Newsletter to those with Schumacher post boxes will cease in 2020. (This change will not impact current SACHA supporters; you will continue to receive paper copies of future editions in the mail.)

Schumacher residents who wish to continue receiving paper copies of the newsletter will need to become SACHA supporters. Annual support levels begin at just \$15 per year. (Please refer to the last page of this newsletter for more details.) Those with family or friends living in Schumacher might want to consider gifting memberships for birthdays, etc.

For those who do not wish to pay to receive paper copies, digital editions of the SOS will continue to be shared freely online via email, Facebook, and our website. To ensure you don't miss an issue, please join the subscriber list by sending an email to info@spiritofschumacher.ca with SUBSCRIBE as the title.

This change will come into effect with the Spring 2020 edition of the SOS. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



The Dog Days of Summer: The newest addition to our family, Murphy Dunkley, enjoys playing in the schoolyard, swimming in the pool, and chewing on barbecued lamb bones.

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- Lloyd Salomone (Secretary)
- Vera Romanowski (Sponsorship)
- Lisa Romanowski (Newsletter)
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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.

For PDF versions email:
info@spiritofschumacher.ca

ADVERTISING

\$25/issue or \$90/year
Contact us for more information.

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.

Good for a Giggle ...

What do you call a sun-tanning pig?
Bacon!





All Tracks Albums Playlists Reposts

SACHA
Ed Pupich - Thoughts About Schumacher / A Spirit of Schumacher Podcast
11 days ago #Storytelling

SACHA
Anne MacDonald - Staying in Schumacher / A Spirit of Schumacher Podcast
11 days ago #Storytelling

SACHA
Art Corbell - Sports in Schumacher / A Spirit of Schumacher Podcast
2 months ago #Storytelling

SACHA
Louise Nightingale Smith - Researching Mr. Schumacher / A Spirit of Schumacher Podcast
2 months ago #Storytelling

In addition to continuing to produce documentary films related to the history of Schumacher, SACHA's Lloyd Salomone has begun creating Spirit of Schumacher podcasts. Each podcast features a familiar Schumacher personality discussing some aspect of our community. To date, four podcasts (featuring Louise Nightingale Smith, Art Corbell, Anne MacDonald, and Ed Pupich) have been produced. Readers can access these podcasts using Soundcloud, a free-to-listen streaming service. To access the SACHA channel, simply visit <https://soundcloud.com/user-428875997>.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 23rd through Sunday, August 25th

11th Annual Great Canadian Kayak Challenge & Festival

Mountjoy Historic Participark
600 Riverside Drive, Timmins

Free Concerts, Vendors & Activities, Fireworks & More!
Online: www.thegreatcanadiankayakchallenge.com

Wednesday, September 4th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Welcome to Timmins Night

McIntyre Curling Club

85 McIntyre Road, Schumacher

Discover local groups, clubs and organizations.

Email: info@timminsmulticultural.ca

Saturday, September 28th from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Local History Scavenger Hunt

Timmins Public Library - Main Branch

320 Second Avenue, Timmins

A 2019 Cultural Days Activity

Email: karina.douglas@timmins.ca



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Starting in Spring 2020, printed copies of the SOS will only be distributed to SACHA Supporters.
The continued generosity of all our supporters is truly appreciated.

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 A non-tax deductible receipt will be issued.