

A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 107 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2019

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

# IN NEED OF REPAIR



The McIntyre Headframe, which overlooks Pearl Lake in Schumacher, is in need of significant maintenance. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

The McIntyre Headframe, which sits on the north shore of Pearl Lake overlooking Schumacher, is recognized far and wide as the symbol of Timmins and the area's rich mining history. Completed in 1927, the ninety-two-year-old headframe is in dire need of costly maintenance and repairs. According to an article published in the Timmins Daily Press on September 11, 2019, the price tag could reach half a million dollars. Mark Jensen, Director of Community Development and Services for the City of Timmins, has summed up the state of the most photographed head frame in the world by commenting that "the building is not going to fall down, but it does need some tender loving care".

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(Headframe Repairs Continued ...)

During the September 10th City of Timmins Council meeting, a decision was made to put off the major repair work until 2020 as there aren't enough funds left in this year's budget. About \$15 000 in repairs will take place this year to ensure that loose metal cladding is secured in preparation for what is expected to be a long and harsh winter. In the mean time, City staff will try to secure provincial and federal funds to offset the cost of the more significant repair work. In a best-case scenario, government funding would cover 75% of the bill; however, there is no guarantee that any funding will come through.

Ward 3 (Schumacher) Councillor Joe Campbell inquired about the worst-case scenario should no upper-level government funding materialize and the entire cost fall on the City. No one at the council table spoke against the repairs; in fact, many councillors suggested that the iconic emblem is indeed worthy of preservation. Mayor George

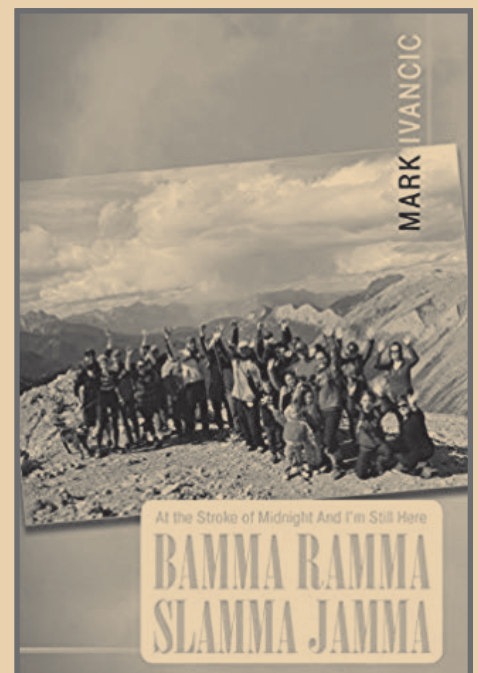
Pirie expressed hope that the Headframe could be developed into a key tourist attraction that includes the entire Pearl Lake area.

Online reactions to the cost of the repairs by residents have spanned the spectrum. Some people are completely dismissive of the headframe's significance and claim it should just be torn down. Others are of the opinion that while the headframe is nice to look at, the money for repairs could be better spent elsewhere. Many others support preserving the headframe and ideally turning it into a more interactive experience for residents and visitors alike. One of the more interesting suggestions put forth was from Matthew Harper via the Timmins, ON Facebook group. Harper, a miner himself, thinks it would be beneficial to update the structure and turn it and some of the upper underground levels into a mining school and tour. This would bring the past, present, and future of mining together in a venture that would ideally generate profit down the road.

## AGAINST ALL ODDS

Mark Ivancic grew up in Schumacher and went on to become a teacher who spent 28-years specializing in empowering youth. He relocated from Ontario to Alberta in 1989. An avid outdoorsman who particularly enjoyed playing hockey and rock climbing, Mark suffered a massive stroke in late April of 2018. His mobility was greatly impaired and Mark was left bed-ridden. Doctors didn't think he would ever walk again. Through sheer determination, and after just four months, Mark made his first post-stroke climb up Sulfur Ridge near Miette Hot Springs in Canada's majestic Rocky Mountains. Accompanied by family and friends, it took Mark five hours to complete the 10 km climb, only two hours longer than it used to take him pre-stroke.

A songwriter and poet, Mark chronicled his emotional journey of recovery in the book **At the Stroke of Midnight and I'm Still Here: Bamma Ramma Slamma Jamma**. The 54-page softcover book is available online at [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca). For more information about Mark and his youth empowerment programs, please visit [www.markivancic.ca](http://www.markivancic.ca). (With information from The Edmonton Sun.)



# OUT OF THIS WORLD



Ben Dunkley (age 12) of Schumacher prepares to launch his science project at the Timmins Stratospheric Balloon Base. (Photo by Vera Romanowski.)

Monday, September 16th, 2019 brought the culmination of a year of hard work, planning, and rigorous testing for two aspiring local scientists. Dozens of local students, family members, and community supporters were on hand to watch eighth-grader Benjamin Dunkley and twelfth-grader Magalie Durepos-Letourneau successfully launch their science projects from the Timmins Stratospheric Balloon Base at the Victor M Power Airport. Ben's project measures ozone levels in the Northern Ontario atmosphere; Magalie's focuses on cosmic rays.

The young scientists' payloads soared to heights of 37 km before touching down near the Quebec border. With the fanfare of the launch behind them, Ben and Magalie will now analyze the collected data. Both young people plan to enter their projects in the Timmins Regional Science Fair this spring. Their ultimate goal is an invitation to move on to the Canadian Science Fair, which will be held in Edmonton in May.

This amazing opportunity is a result of a partnership between Science Timmins, the Canadian Space Agency and France's National Centre for Space Studies. Sponsorship for Ben and Magalie was provided by the Fishbowl Restaurant and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists.

# CALLED TO THE BAR



Newly licensed lawyer, Behn Gvozdanovic, has strong Schumacher ties. He will be working as an Associate Lawyer at the VanBridger Jenner firm in Timmins. He can be contacted at 705-531-5888 between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM from Monday to Friday. After hours, he can be reached at 705-221-3828 or by email at [behn@vanbridgerjenner.com](mailto:behn@vanbridgerjenner.com).

Behn Gvozdanovic was Called to the Ontario Bar at a ceremony in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on September 25, 2019. Behn graduated from the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law in Thunder Bay this past June with a Juris Doctorate. He passed the Ontario barrister and solicitor exams later that same month. With the licensing process complete, Behn will continue his employment at the VanBridger Jenner firm in the capacity of Associate Lawyer. Behn's already begun carving out a practice in Provincial Offences court (traffic court) and expects to do the same in Small Claims court and in various administrative tribunals. Behn has always gravitated to criminal defence work, attributing his strong sense of social justice and compassion to his Schumacher upbringing.

Behn, a son of John and Joan Gvozdanovic, grew up on Third Avenue (which his Baba Gvozdanovic arduously campaigned to have changed to Croatia Avenue). He is a proud graduate of Schumacher Public School and O'Gorman High School. Prior to law school, he was employed as an arena worker and as a court reporter in town. Behn's been known to give free consultations and generous discounts to prospective clients with Schumacher affiliations - no matter how tenuous - as he's hyperaware that he owes much to the community.



## HOLIDAY ON ICE

From the second she took her first steps on an outdoor rink at 18 months of age, Julia Polowy fell in love with skating. Now, 18 years later, the daughter of Darlene (Herceg) and Mike Polowy is touring Europe with **Holiday on Ice**.

"I've been on quite the journey," Polowy says about her skating career. She started figure skating at local clubs, relocated to Barrie to attend the Mariposa International School of Skating throughout high school, and eventually pursued synchronized skating with Team NEXXICE. Julia proudly represented Canada at the 2018 World Junior Synchronized Figure Skating Championships in Zagreb, Croatia. "These were all stepping stones to becoming a professional figure skater, which I still cannot believe I am," Julia continues to explain.

During her first season with Holiday On Ice, Julia truly got to experience life on the road while touring Europe. She spent five weeks in Belgium learning choreography, completing costume fittings, and getting to know the cast which is made up of talented skaters from around the world. "After that, we took the show on the road, touring three months

in Germany, and three in France, performing in a new city almost every week," Julia added.

One of only two Canadian cast members among skaters representing Russia, Switzerland, Australia, Italy, England, Ukraine, Estonia and the United States, Julia's favourite part about touring is getting to explore each city during time off. She makes it a point to visit as many tourist and historical sites as possible. Some of the highlights from her first season include touring the Eiffel Tower, exploring Trier (the oldest city in Germany), and relaxing on the French Riviera. Such experiences more than make up for the small struggles of living out of a suitcase for seven months.

"Holiday on Ice is celebrating their 75th Anniversary with a unique jubilee production called **Showtime** and I am so grateful to be a part of it," Julia concludes. The five time Skate Canada Gold Medalist will be heading back to Europe in early November to take part in the second season of **Showtime**. Please visit [www.holidayonice.com](http://www.holidayonice.com) for more information or to purchase tickets to the world's most popular ice skating show.



### Croatian Hall News

2020 FUNDRAISING:  
Campaign details will be revealed soon!

Plans are underway to host another Croatian Dinner in Spring 2020!

To stay up to date, please LIKE and FOLLOW us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/thecrohall/](http://www.facebook.com/thecrohall/)



# CROATIAN POLKA PARTY



The Croatian Hall hosted its annual Walter Ostanek Dinner & Polka Party on September 14th. The hall was packed with happy revellers who enjoyed a delicious meal, live music, and dancing. Above left: Grace Manol and Morgan St. Amour sample some appetizers. Top Right: Darlene Polowy, Karen Stefanic, Annie Cepuran, Kathy Vukobratich, and Mary Herceg prepare another batch of cabbage rolls. Below: Hungry guests line up at the buffet. (Photos courtesy of Julia Polowy.) Left: Walter Ostanek (Canada's King of Polka) and keyboardist Wayne Malton were joined onstage by Dennis Sebalj (trumpet) and Paul Sebalj (accordion). (Photo courtesy of Paul Sebalj.)





# EDITORIAL

# REMINDER: 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](mailto: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 crisp chill of autumn is definitely in the air. School is back in session, albeit under the uncertainty of government cutbacks and contract negotiations with various education worker unions. That said, there is still plenty of good news to share!

Quite by accident, this issue of the SOS adopted a theme of celebrating the accomplishments of various people with strong ties to Schumacher. I hope this is something readers find enjoyable and I invite you to share similar stories for publication consideration in future issues.

Please stay tuned to the Spirit of Schumacher Facebook page for updates on all things SACHA.

Until next time,  
*Lisa Romanowski*,  
SOS Editor



Congrats to Vera & Henry Romanowski who celebrated 45 years of Marriage on August 31st and to Jen & Rene Dunkley whose 15th wedding anniversary was on August 28th, 2019.

## SACHA BOARD

- Rob Knox (President)
- Kathy Vukobratc (Treasurer)
- Lloyd Salomone (Secretary)
- Vera Romanowski (Sponsorship)
- Lisa Romanowski (Newsletter)
- Darryl MacGregor (Community Relations)

## SOS Newsletter Inquiries

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## General SACHA Inquiries:

[info@spiritofschumacher.ca](mailto:info@spiritofschumacher.ca)

## 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.

For PDF versions email:  
[info@spiritofschumacher.ca](mailto: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 ...

How do you fix a broken pumpkin?  
With a pumpkin patch!



# READER MAIL

Dear Lisa

I enjoy reading the "Spirit of Schumacher". I've so many fond memories of growing up in Schumacher (the best town to live in, in Ontario)! I went to Camp Bickell when I was in Grade 8, in Betty Murphy's class. It was the only year I ever went because as a family we always rented a cottage on Watabeag Lake outside of Matheson the last week of August. Having never experienced cottage life without my parents, I opted to venture forth and sign up for Camp Bickell as my Grade 8 Graduation gift. You'll never guess who showed up as the camp nurse ... my mother! C'est la vie!

Margaret (McGee) Inskip



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, October 21st from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

### Federal Election Day

Please exercise your right to vote!

For more information, including advanced poll dates, please visit [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) or call the local Elections Canada Office 1-866-714-6417

Monday, October 21st from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

### Local History Trivia Night

Timmins Public Library - Main Branch  
320 Second Avenue, Timmins

Teams of 2 to 4 players must register in advance!  
Drop by the library or call 705-360-2623 ext 8519.

Saturday, November 2nd from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### Niska Noel Artisan Sale

Timmins Museum NEC, 325 Second Avenue, Timmins  
One-of-a-kind, fair trade products by Indigenous Artisans.

Saturday, November 16th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### Northern Ontario Handmade Christmas Market

Ballroom - McIntyre Community Building  
85 McIntyre Road, Schumacher

Pottery, Stained Glass, Photography, Knitting and more!  
More Info: [www.facebook.com/NorthernOntarioHandmade](http://www.facebook.com/NorthernOntarioHandmade)

Saturday, November 16th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

### Santa Claus Parade

Downtown Timmins

Float Entry Deadline is Friday, November 1st.  
See: [www.facebook.com/events/2548819548511358/](http://www.facebook.com/events/2548819548511358/)

Friday, November 22nd to Sunday, November 24th

### 2nd Annual Lou Battochio Memorial House League Tournament

Bantam and Midget Divisions  
Free Admission for Spectators

December: Date and Time TBD

### Mr. Schumacher Gift Giving

An annual tradition for more than a century.  
Tickets and other information will be sent home from school with eligible students closer to the event date.



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**Melissa & Kevin**  
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**Linda and Rob Knox**  
**Timmins, Ontario**



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Blackhawk Transport  
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 \* Additional Contribution  
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**Starting in Spring 2020, printed copies of the SOS will only be distributed to SACHA Supporters.**

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(Please print clearly.)

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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.