

A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 108 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2020

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

THE RAVEN'S HONESTY



G. Wayne Prout '20

A mural featuring the teaching of the raven was painted on the Timmins Chamber of Commerce building this summer. (Photo credit to Gerald Wayne Prout of Timmins.)

Over the summer, a colourful mural was painted on the Timmins Chamber of Commerce Building (located across the street from the McIntyre Arena). The mural is part of a youth art initiative that began in early 2018 as a means of honouring Indigenous culture and teachings in our city. Kristin Murray (who was elected to City Council in October 2018) spearheads the project.

The goal of the project is to have elders share Indigenous teachings with local youth, who

then depict those lessons in murals. To date, at least fourteen murals have been installed throughout the City of Timmins. Mique Michelle, a Franco-Ontarian graffiti artist from Field in West Nipissing is the lead artist. Funding for the murals has been provided by the Ontario Arts Council and various local organizations.

The raven that adorns the Chamber of Commerce building teaches us about honesty or Gwekwaadziwin. He reminds us

to be truthful to who we are and to walk tall with integrity. The raven does not seek the power, speed or beauty of others. He uses what he has been given to survive and thrive. We too must strive to accept ourselves and learn how to use our unique gifts.

Murals can also be found at the Timmins Airport, City Hall, Timmins Museum, Timmins & District Hospital, Misiway Health Centre, Porcupine Advance Printers, Timmins Flower Shop, Gibby's Tavern, 208 Third Avenue, Timmins & Area Woman in Crisis, Northern Cash Advance, underneath the Mattagami River Bridge, and at The Urban Farm in South Porcupine. There are future plans to create print material that lists the location of each mural and outlines the teaching behind each one.

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CONCERT SERIES

The Timmins Summer Concert Series has become an outdoor event that many people look forward to attending. In recent years, the event has taken place on Wednesday evenings at the McIntyre Park. Due to the pandemic, the City of Timmins decided to cancel the event this year. DJ TAZ (Peter Lawryniw) and his wife, Julie Cyr, decided to turn the event into a virtual showcase of local talent. Throughout August and September local artists performed at In Session (the former JJs Ranch) and were livestreamed across the *tunehub.ca* platform created by PJ Productions. SACHA was a proud title sponsor of the event and looks forward to the possibility of further collaborations in the future.



Leslie-Anne Dupuis & Friends live from In Session during the virtual summer concert series. (Screen capture from www.tunehub.ca.)

TRIVIA CORNER

Bob Rowe and Clayton McAlpine have collaborated on some Schumacher trivia to share with SOS Readers. Each issue, a new trivia question will be posed with answers provided in the next issue. Here is the inaugural question:

Name all the corner stores / variety stores that existed in Schumacher over the years.

Good luck! Happy Reminiscing!

SKIS TO BRACES

Porcupine Ski Runners is well known for its cross country ski and snowshoe facilities. Perhaps less well known is that the beautiful chalet is typically available for rent during the offseason. There have been many business meetings, birthday parties, baby and bridal showers, and even a few wedding receptions held at the PSR. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, the club did not offer its facilities for rent during the summer of 2020. Following consultation with the Porcupine Health Unit; however, an exception was made for Marc Tessier's brace and artificial limb clinic.

Tessier, from North Bay, typically runs his clinics at the Timmins & District Hospital. The dates he needed for July were not available. Since many individuals were months overdue for his service, Tessier set about looking for a wheelchair accessible building that could provide space for his equipment and a place for private consultation with patients. The PSR chalet fit his needs and the two-day clinic exceeded Tessier's expectations. Arrangements were made for Tessier to return to the chalet for his clinics in September and October. While rentals are a challenge at best during the winter months, this is just one more example of how 2020 has brought people together in unexpected ways.



Thomas McManus and Marc Tessier held brace and artificial limb clinics at the PSR during the offseason. (Photo by Gerry McNair.)

SPRUCED UP

Since the Summer 2020 edition of the SOS went to print, some noticeable changes have happened throughout the community. Much of the graffiti has been painted over, large sections of sidewalk and roadway have been repaired, and the back house at 34 Fourth Avenue was demolished as part of the Salvage Kings deal entered into by the City. (The vacant, fire-damaged front house still stands; and although the sign was removed from the Grandview, it too still stands.) Much work has been done at Schumacher Public School including the installation of new windows, HVAC system upgrades, and the creation of an outdoor classroom. There is still much work to be done, but the community is definitely looking a bit better.



Top: With little fanfare, the iconic Grandview sign was removed from the building in August. (Photo by Marc Gelinas.) Left: An outdoor classroom created from tree trunks has been installed at Schumacher Public School. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.) Right: The demolition team from Priestly Demolition Inc. made short work of the back house at 34 Fourth Avenue. (Drone photo by Ben Dunkley.)

HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY



Happy belated birthday to Henry Romanowski who turned 70 on August 10, 2020. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

A VIEW FROM THE PAST



This photo of the train tracks and McIntyre headframe was taken using a Kodak Baby Brownie camera by 10-year-old John Perkovich circa 1948. At the time, he lived at 2A Railway Street (later Lakeshore Drive and now Lionscrest Lane.)

IN MEMORIAM

The following longtime Schumacher residents have recently passed away: Helen (Cavrak) Resetar who devoted her life to nursing, on September 11 at age 77 and Janine (Perron) Maclsaac, who gave her time to the Timmins Food Bank, on September 17 at age 82. We would also like to acknowledge the passing of Annie (Liposak) Cepuran, a talented seamstress, on April 5 at age 85 and Ana (Radelja) Kolic, who loved cooking and gardening, on February 21 at age 85. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the families; it is never easy saying goodbye to a loved one and the pandemic has only made things more difficult.



BUY A BRICK FOR THE HALL

For 88 years, the Croatian Hall in Schumacher has provided opportunities for the community to gather for cultural events, weddings, dinners, dances, birthday parties, meetings, concerts, Christmas parties, and other special occasions. A major fundraising campaign for the building, Save the Hall, Buy Bricks in the Wall, is now underway.

Throughout the years, members have given their time and labour to keep this community hall functioning. Necessary funds have been raised by selling annual memberships, renting the hall, hosting dinner-dances, selling cabbage rolls, and participating in the annual Timmins Multicultural Festival. During these pandemic times, sources of fundraising are limited. Fortunately, the Croatian Society of Schumacher is still a member of the Timmins Charity Bingo Association and is thankful for the funds they raise by working at the Timmins City Bingo Hall on a biweekly basis.

The Croatian Hall building was built in the 1920s as the Maple Leaf Theatre. At present, extensive repairs are needed on both the roof and foundation of the building. The estimated cost of these repairs is \$150 000 and current fundraising streams will fall short of this target. After much consideration, and for the first time since its inception in 1932, the Croatian Society of Schumacher has decided to seek donations from the public.

To raise the funds required to complete the building repairs, the community is being asked to purchase "a brick in the wall to save the hall". Ultimately, the Croatian Society board members want to ensure that the Croatian Hall maintains its presence in the Porcupine Camp for years to come.

The Buy-a-Brick campaign features the following donation levels: Bronze (\$50+), Silver (\$100+), Gold (\$200+), Platinum (\$1000+) and Diamond (\$5000+). Donors will be honoured with their name or business name engraved on a permanent plaque which will be displayed in the front lobby of the Croatian Hall.

On behalf of the Croatian Society of Schumacher membership, heartfelt thanks and gratitude is extended to Randy Gattesco, owner of the Victory Tavern in Downtown Timmins, who launched this campaign with a donation of \$3100. Randy decided to donate all ticket proceeds from a week long celebration of The Vic's 90th Anniversary to the Save the Hall, Buy Bricks in the Wall campaign.

Please contact Kathy Vukobratc (kvukobratc@hotmail.com) or visit the Croatian Society: Schumacher Facebook page for more information or to purchase a brick. All donations are appreciated and will help ensure that fond memories will continue to be made at the Croatian Hall in Schumacher for years to come!

Centre: Croatian Society board members Dennis Sebalj, Kathy Vukobratc and Darlene Polowy accept a \$3100 cheque from Victory Tavern owner Randy Gattesco to launch the Save the Hall Buy Bricks in the Wall campaign. (Photo by Richa Bhosale) Right: A large crowd enjoys an evening of delicious food and live entertainment at the Croatian Hall. (Photo from Darlene Polowy. Date unknown.)



NARDUZZI'S RESTAURANT



Melissa Narduzzi has a wealth of experience working in the restaurant industry. She has called Schumacher home for the past 25 years and many will recall her smiling face and cheerful demeanour from her days at the McIntyre Coffee Shop. Melissa had long dreamed of opening her own restaurant. When the opportunity arose in early 2017, husband Kevin (a lifelong Schumacher boy) and daughters Jordan and Marli gave her their full support. Narduzzi's Family Plaza restaurant, located beside the Porcupine Mall off HWY 101 in South Porcupine, officially opened its doors in April 2017.

Over the past three years, Narduzzi's has developed a loyal customer base. This is no doubt due to the quality food and friendly service. Two must-try signature dishes include the taco perogy bowl and the breakfast poutine. Over the past year, homemade pizza (including sauce from scratch) has been added to the menu. There was a learning curve to mastering the authentic stone oven, but they have found their stride and serve up pies that outshine any chain pizza joint.

Like so many local businesses, Narduzzi's has not been immune to the impacts of the Covid19 pandemic; however, they innovated and adapted

to make the best of the situation. The restaurant started offering delivery and take-out options and these have been well-received. The delivery area is officially only Porcupine and South Porcupine, but they have been known to accommodate calls from Schumacher. Adjustments have been made to the dining room area to accommodate physical distancing requirements. Perhaps the biggest change has been to the restaurant's hours of operation. They are now closed on Mondays and open from 11 AM to 7 PM Tuesdays through Fridays, from 7 AM to 7 PM on Saturdays and from 8 AM to 2 PM on Sundays.

One upside to the downtime experienced in the spring was an opportunity to do some renovations to the dining room including painting and new flooring. An interesting collection of old sports photos featuring athletes from Schumacher and South Porcupine continues to be proudly displayed. The restaurant can be rented for weddings, baby showers and other gatherings. With large gatherings curtailed by public health restrictions, the restaurant has hosted a number of small weddings over the past few months. For more info, call 705-235-2777 or 705-266-5618.



EDITORIAL

School's been back in session for just about two months now. While I don't think I'll ever completely adjust to having to wear a mask all day (plus a face shield when distancing cannot be maintained), it does feel good to be back in my classroom with my students. Things are different for sure, and kinks still need to be worked out; but so far, so good.

Speaking of masks, I need to send a shout out to Skoser Merch in South Porcupine who printed our SACHA masks. Owner Paul Mascaro was super easy to work with and we should all support local when we can. The store is located at 57 Main St., not very far from Narduzzi's Restaurant. Speaking of Narduzzi's, you can't go wrong with their chicken wings! They are SO good!

As the pandemic continues to wreak havoc on 2020, steps are being taken to return a sense of normalcy to the community. The McIntyre Curling Club is no longer serving as a temporary homeless shelter and registration for the 2020-2021 curling season has taken place. Schumacher Day Minor Hockey has worked diligently to ensure a safe return to hockey for local youth. Things will be very different this season, but SDMH players started returning to the ice on October 3rd.

Until next time, stay healthy and take care,

Lisa Romanowski,
SOS Editor

WEAR YOUR SCHUMACHER SPIRIT

As a token of appreciation from the SACHA Board, SACHA supporters who joined or renewed in 2020 received a Schumacher-themed face mask with their copy of this newsletter.

Supporters who join or renew before the end of the year will receive their mask with the Winter 2020 SOS.

Additional masks can be purchased for \$10 each.

Email schumachergirl@gmail.com or phone 705-267-4416 for more info.



SACHA NOW ACCEPTS ETRANSFERS

Annual SACHA support payments can now be made by eTransfer. Use the email address schumachergirl@gmail.com.

SACHA DIRECTORS

Lloyd Salomone
Kathy Vukobratich
Vera Romanowski
Lisa Romanowski

SOS Newsletter Inquiries

schumachergirl@gmail.com
PO Box 13, Schumacher, ON, P0N 1G0

General SACHA Inquiries:

info@spiritofschumacher.ca

Connect with Us Online:

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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

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

Good for a Giggle ...

Where do mummies like to swim?
In the Dead Sea!

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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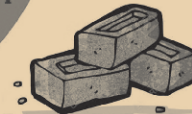
*Autumn leaves are falling,
filling up the street;
golden colours on the lawn,
nature's trick or treat!*

- Rusty Fischer



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