

# Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 108 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2020

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



Above: Schumacher Volunteer Firefighters including (from left) Ryan Hartling, Leo Cote (in the driver's seat), Mark Delich, Chet Hartling, Rudy Cote, Scott Salvador, and Eric Armstrong spent the afternoon of Saturday, December 18 going door to door to deliver Mr. Schumacher gifts. Below: Although the sun sets early, the streets of Schumacher are brightly lit by various Christmas displays including Santa's workshop made from ice blocks on Croatia Avenue and this festive house on Fourth Avenue. (Photos by Lisa Romanowski.)

In 2020 Christmas traditions around the world were impacted by Covid19. Here at home, children could not gather with their families at the McIntyre Ballroom to select a Christmas gift from Mr. Schumacher. Local seniors were not able to gather at the Lions' Den for their annual Christmas Dinner.

In this time of social distance protocols, mandatory face masks, and frequent handwashing, it would have been disappointing, but not surprising, if these events had been cancelled. Instead, the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department and the Schumacher Lions Club rose to the occasion and delivered pandemic-friendly versions of these longstanding festivities. (Continued on page 2.)



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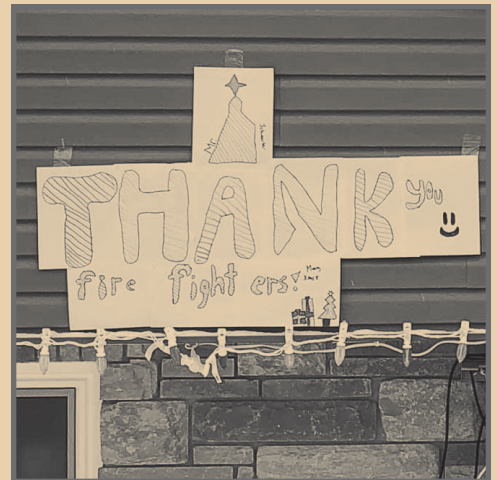
# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

With senior citizens being the most vulnerable group with regard to the novel coronavirus, there was no doubt that their annual Christmas gathering would need to be cancelled. Instead, the Schumacher Lions Club opted to deliver a festive meal to Schumacher seniors on the evening of December 9, 2020. The meal, prepared by Marc and Judy Duciaume and their staff at the McIntyre Coffee Shop, consisted of roast turkey and all the trimmings. Schumacher Lions Club members and their families added festive touches to the meal including handmade Christmas cards and homemade holiday treats. Although the seniors missed the chance to socialize at the Lions Den, they were appreciative of the gesture nonetheless.

Mr. Schumacher started providing Christmas gifts to local children back in 1916. In his younger years, Mr. Schumacher himself would help shop for the gifts and come to town to present them to the school children. After his death, the FW Schumacher Foundation was created and money was set aside to ensure the gift giving tradition would continue. The task of purchasing, wrapping, and distributing the gifts was taken on by the Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department. For the past few decades, elementary school-aged children would gather at the McIntyre Ballroom to receive their gifts. Presents were separated into piles for boys and girls and further divided into age groups. Children could pick whatever gift they wanted

from their designated group. Pandemic restrictions meant that a new approach was needed for 2020.

Working with the four local school boards, lifelong Schumacher resident and volunteer firefighter Ryan Hartling compiled a list of the 160 or so children eligible for gifts this year. Contact was made with each family and each child was asked to submit a wish list of two or three gift ideas. With a budget of about \$40 per child, Ryan and his team used these wish lists to purchase a specific gift for each child. The gifts were wrapped and tagged with each child's name. Then, on the snowy afternoon of December 18, 2020, members of the SVFD loaded up their vehicles and set off to deliver the gifts to each child's house and spread holiday cheer throughout the community.



Left: Schumacher Lion Derek Thibeault and volunteer Patrick Larocque help deliver a festive meal (centre) to Schumacher seniors. Right: A sign of thanks for firefighters delivering Mr. Schumacher gifts. Above: Firefighters wrap up gifts. (Submitted photo.)





# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

## TRIVIA with BOB & CLAYTON

The Fall 2020 challenge was to name all the corner/variety stores that have existed in Schumacher. Here is Bob Rowe and Clayton McAlpine's list: Guay's, Laham's, Pulez's, Setacci's, Townsend's, Coronation, Polly's, Hancock's/Boyd's/Guacci's/Schumacher Variety, Pinto/Mike's Mart/Mac's Milk/Circle K. If they missed any, please let us know!

Here is your next trivia question:

*Name all the grocery stores that existed in Schumacher over the years.*

Good luck! Happy Reminiscing!

## OLD FRIENDS CELEBRATE



Anne (Rioux) Illing and Al Proulx celebrated their 83rd birthdays together in the fall of 2020. Anne (who grew up on Third Avenue) and Al (who grew up on Fourth Avenue) were classmates from kindergarten through Grade 13. They continue to get together several times a year with each visit prompting a fond trip down memory lane. They relive the highlights of their school adventures and the functions they attended at The Mac. They reminisce about their Mr. Schumacher gifts and still recall getting to meet FW Schumacher when he attended a Schumacher Public School assembly. Mostly they reflect on the unrestricted freedom of growing up in Schumacher and how they did not realize at the time how great a place they had to grow up in.

## CROATIAN HALL UPDATE

The Croatian Society of Schumacher is very thankful for the generous donations received thus far from supporters across Canada, the USA and as far as Zurich, Switzerland. In just three short months nearly \$55 000 has been raised; that's more than 35% of our target! With the deadline for the Save the Hall, Buy Bricks in the Wall campaign set for December 31, 2021, we are confident that together we will reach our \$150 000 goal and keep the Croatian Hall open for many years to come. For the most up-to-date information, visit our webpage [www.croatiansocietyschumacher.com](http://www.croatiansocietyschumacher.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

Eduard Spehar, a well-known local mural artist, died peacefully in his sleep on November 11, 2020 at age 94. Having survived great and harrowing ordeals during and after WWII, Ed's love for his family and the arts kept the light shining bright in his eyes. His artistic legacy will live on in the Mr. Schumacher mural at The Mac and in the "In the Beginning" mural on the NorthernTel building on Father Costello Drive. Our condolences are extended to Ed's wife of 64 years, Branka, and to their children and extended family.



## MCINTYRE HEADFRAME

In the late 1930s, Sudbury journalist Leslie McFarlane (who grew up in Haileybury and whom many will associate with the original Hardy Boys mysteries that he wrote under the pseudonym Franklin W Dixon) ventured to the bottom of the McIntyre Mine. His experience is recounted in the February 15, 1938 issue of Maclean's magazine. What follows is the beginning of that lengthy article.

"It's seven o'clock on a frosty winter night. Three hundred miners are waiting at the McIntyre shafthead to go on shift. Shovellers, scraper men, machine runners, timbermen, scalers, trammers, loaders, nippers, motormen, switchmen, helpers, chute loaders and just plain laborers. Men in hobnailed boots and overalls, each with a battery strapped to the back of his belt and an electric lamp clipped to his collar or the front of his hard hat. They wait in the draughty, lofty shafthouse, with its narrow-gauge railway tracks.

Steel beams tower to the roof of the headframe 175 feet above. Steel cables glimmer black and slick, descending from the upper shadows into the shaft beneath. Metal gates and grills guard the mouth of the huge rectangular pit that has been hewn and blasted out of solid rock, straight down, down, down - Number Eleven, main shaft and lifeline of the McIntyre, deepest mine in the Porcupine gold country."

From its completion in 1927 until operations ceased in the late 1990s, many men toiled in the tunnels under the imposing No. 11 shaft. For a brief time in the 1980s, local Grade 4 students, clad in oversized overalls and steel-toed rubber boots, had the opportunity to go underground at the McIntyre as part of their unit of study on mining. Nowadays, with the shaft flooded, the structure that overlooks Schumacher remains an iconic landmark and a symbol of our heritage. It continues to be the most photographed headframe in the world.



Photos of the McIntyre Headframe taken on December 02, 2020 by Lisa Romanowski. Thank you to Newmont Porcupine for permitting onsite access to the O'Gorman HS TGP3M Photography class.



# THURSTON STAINED GLASS

Tanya Thurston's adventures in stained glass art began in 2001 when her husband, Glenn, gave her a gift certificate to take a beginner class. She was immediately hooked and that first class led to another and then another. After three years of hobbling at home, Tanya was affectionately told to stop or open a store. There wasn't a window in their home to look out of; they were all covered in stained glass creations. So Tanya opened her first store in Ingersoll in 2004. Things were going well and she loved every aspect of it.

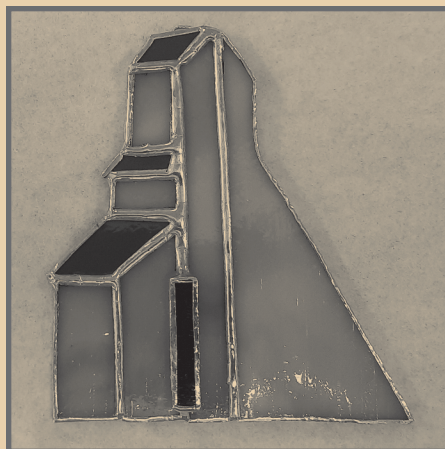
In 2011, Glenn accepted a job offer in Timmins. After closing the Ingersoll store and getting their house ready for sale, Tanya was able to join him up north a year later. Glenn had rented an apartment in Schumacher and both Thurstons quickly realized they really liked this small town. In 2013, they bought the old laundry mat building located at 35 Father Costello Drive. Tanya is quick to say that her neighbours are great and that she would not feel as at home and happy anywhere else.

Not long after purchasing the building, Tanya opened a new store, Thurston Stained Glass Shoppe & Studio, on the main floor. She loves her little shop and does her best to keep it well-stocked with glass, tools, and supplies. Other than online, there aren't any stained glass suppliers this far up

north. Having material readily available in the shop is appreciated by many stained glass crafters in the area. An added benefit for Tanya is that she gets to meet others who share her interest and passion for stained glass. She still marvels at the friendliness of the people she meets.

Prior to the pandemic, Tanya regularly offered daytime and evening stained glass classes. They were well-received by participants and were a lot of fun for Tanya as well. Since Covid restrictions have come into effect, classes have been put on hold. Although things have been quiet, Tanya is patiently waiting for sunnier days.

The grayscale photos at the bottom of this page do not do Tanya's work justice. To truly get a glimpse of her artistry and craftsmanship, visit [www.facebook.com/thurstonstainedglass](https://www.facebook.com/thurstonstainedglass) or, better yet, stop by the shop. Regular hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM. When you stop by, you'll most likely find Tanya making "stuff" to hang on the walls and windows, completing a custom order for a customer, or brainstorming new design ideas - all while watching a good TV show! In her words, it truly doesn't get any better than that! Should you need to get in touch with Tanya she can be reached by phone at 705-465-1772 or by email at [thurstonstainedglass@gmail.com](mailto:thurstonstainedglass@gmail.com).





# EDITORIAL

## A DECADE OF SCHUMACHER SPIRIT

The Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association will mark its 10th Anniversary in December 2021.

Planning has begun to commemorate this milestone throughout the coming year. The SOS newsletter and our website ([www.spiritofschumacher.ca](http://www.spiritofschumacher.ca)) will see some updates and upgrades. Several local organizations have been approached to collaborate on two community projects during the spring and summer. A souvenir item will likely be designed. Finally, if possible, we hope to host at least one community social by the end of the year.

For the most up to date info, follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SpiritOfSchumacher](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritOfSchumacher)



Best Wishes for a Healthy & Happy New Year from the Romanowskis and Dunkleys (from left) Vera, Joseph, Henry, Jen, Murphy, Rene, Jacob, Lisa, and Benjamin. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

By most accounts, 2020 has been anything but a banner year. Worldwide travel has been replaced by worldwide lockdowns, runway fashion has been replaced by pajama pants, social gatherings have been replaced by Zoom calls, and two of the most in demand accessories are face masks and hand sanitizer. Yes, Covid19 has impacted our lives in many ways; but, to be fair, it has not all been bad.

The pandemic has brought people closer together; perhaps because we've been forced to slow down and so have more time for each other. There is a growing call to support local businesses and people seem to be more open about showing appreciation and gratitude. Simple pleasures like walking in the woods, tending a garden, or making a puzzle have become activities that sustain us. Above all, people have shown ingenuity and resilience as they attempt to create a sense of normalcy in these troubled times.

Although vaccines have been developed and approved in record time, we are not out of the woods yet. Stay the course, keep following public health guidelines, and, above all, continue to look forward to brighter days. They are surely coming.

Until next time, stay healthy and take care,

*Lisa Romanowski,*  
SOS Editor

## SACHA NOW ACCEPTS ETRANSFERS

Annual SACHA support payments can now be made by eTransfer. Use the email address [schumachergirl@gmail.com](mailto:schumachergirl@gmail.com).

## 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)

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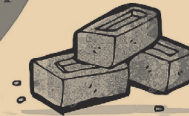
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