

# Spirit Of SCHUMACHER



A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
Past, Present and Future

CELEBRATING 109 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2021

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

## OFFSIDE BEHAVIOUR

With the past two seasons being cut short and heavily modified due to the Covid19 pandemic, all the kids really want is get back on the ice with their friends. Health experts and parents are in full agreement that a safe return to a sense of normalcy is what youth need right now. Unfortunately, it seems that the Timmins Minor Hockey Association (TMHA) is ready to put politics above players in a calculated move that could ultimately destroy the Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association (SDMHA).

An August 21, 2021 statement from the SDMHA Board reads in part "Regretfully, SDMHA received official notification, from the TMHA Board of Directors, that they will not be providing 'Timmins' residents with their releases to play House League in Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association going forward". Based on the NOHA constitution, the TMHA is within its rights to deny releases because even House League players (from U7-TimBit through U18-Midget) are the "property" of their home association by virtue of home address. Although this is not the first time the TMHA has threatened to withhold Permission to Skate, for well over a decade a local blanket release policy

has operated in the background allowing House League players freedom of movement between local associations.

As it stands, players residing outside of Ward 3 who are entering their first year in a division will need to request a Permission to Skate release from the TMHA. When it is inevitably denied, they can choose to appeal the decision to the Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA). The SDMHA Board is strongly encouraging families to request their release and then appeal. According to the August 21st statement, "The residency rules, as written in NOHA constitution, are archaic and need to be challenged". Hopefully, if enough people appeal, then meaningful change might happen.

The stark reality is that there are not enough hockey players living in Ward 3 to sustain the SDMHA. If the TMHA gets its way, there might be enough previously-released players (those entering their second year in a division) to field Schumacher teams this year. That won't be the case for 2022-2023 since a second round of Permission to Skate refusals would virtually deplete the Schumacher Day player base.

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## OFFSIDE BEHAVIOUR CONTINUED

There are enough local players to support the three existing House Leagues (the third being the Porcupine Minor Hockey Association) and the SDMHA Board is not opposed to looking at how local changes could be implemented to improve the House League system in the area. That said, there is an overall sense of confusion concerning why the TMHA would choose to terminate a long-standing "gentlemen's agreement" now of all times. According to the August 21st statement, SDMHA officials met via Zoom with TMHA representatives a few times over the summer, endured unfounded accusations of stacking teams and not drafting fairly, and ultimately refused proposals viewed as ultimatums that jeopardized SDMHA's independence and autonomy. An SDMHA counter-proposal to remain status quo for this season and form a working group with TMHA was refused.

The NOHA did host a Town Hall Meeting via Zoom on September 2. Over 60 families were on the call that lasted about 2 hours. The purpose was twofold: first, to provide families with information about the NOHA rules and regulations, and second, to give families an opportunity to express to the NOHA why they choose to play for SDMHA. A positive note from the NOHA Town Hall was the

acknowledgement that if enough parents appeal, the case may be heard jointly. With the hockey season set to begin, a group appeal would help ensure a timely decision for everyone. It would also ease the financial burden of each player needing to pay the full \$226 appeal fee. (The NOHA representatives were clear that the fee is not meant to be a money grab; rather it is to discourage frivolous appeals.)

Parents on the call were polite but passionate as they expressed a variety of reasons for choosing to play for Schumacher Day; perhaps surprisingly, none of them related to being on a powerhouse winning team. Some parents appreciated the lower fees charged by SDMHA; many mentioned negative TMHA experiences prompting an association switch; several commented on the dedicated SDMHA coaching staff that truly puts players first; some highlighted the focus on fun and skill development; and almost all spoke of the player friendships and family support networks that have been fostered over the years. For some, Schumacher hockey heritage could not be overlooked as they spoke with distinct pride about the fact that their children were playing for the same association that they and their parents once did.

## FIELD DAY MEMORIES

"Rah! Rah! Rah! We're from Schumacher High! We will laud her name until we die!" Thank you to Gloria (Stimac) Zagrodnik for sharing this great photo taken during the 1957 Schumacher High School Field Day. So many smiling faces! Back Row (left to right): Nada Sebalj, Dolly Cicci, Diane Colquhoun, Marilyn Verbik, Brina Johnson, Mary Sinopoli (peeking out!), Betty Vukobratich, and Jenny Balant. Front Row (left to right): Jessie Frankovich, Judy Grant, Gail Hannah (seated), Diane Cepuran, and ??? Kayser. If you have any photos of good times past, share them with us!





## RESTORATION PLANS



This up close photo of the McIntyre Headframe facade was taken by O’Gorman High School student Ellie Yacula on Dec. 02, 2020.

The 175 foot tall McIntyre Headframe has stood sentry over our community for a century. It is one of Northern Ontario’s most recognized landmarks and is reportedly the most photographed headframe in the world. Number 11 has endured our harsh winters and baked under harsh sunlight. In recent years it has fallen into a state of disrepair and action is now required.

In June 2021, Timmins City Council approved a \$500 000 restoration project that will include roof repairs, shoring up the concrete structural supports, and sealing various cracks and openings. The federal government’s Investing in Canada infrastructure program will cover about three-quarters of the cost; the City will cover the rest.

Currently used as a pumping station for Newmont Porcupine’s open-pit mine, the headframe will be turned back over to the City once mining operations cease. The plan then is to develop it into a tourist attraction focused on the art, culture, and heritage of the area. Discussions are ongoing about designating it as an official heritage site.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Sincere congratulations to O’Gorman High School’s Owen Salvador (pictured at left) and Timmins High & Vocational School’s Katrina Reiner. They are the 2021 recipients of the Schumacher Alumnae Scholarship. There were no eligible recipients from Roland Michener SS, ESC Theriault, or ES Renaissance for the 2020-2021 school year. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)

## TRIVIA with BOB & CLAYTON

The Spring 2021 challenge was to name all the restaurants that have existed in Schumacher. Here is Bob Rowe and Clayton McAlpine’s list: Johnny’s/Sagan’s/Barton’s Grill, Black & White Grill, Hazel’s Grill, The Daffodil, College Inn Cafe, Ansara’s Ice Cream Parlour, Shangri-la, Kava House, McIntyre Coffee Shop. If they missed any, please let us know! If you have any picture of these restaurants, please share!

Here is your next trivia question:

**Name all the auto / transportation related businesses that operated in Schumacher.**

Good luck! Happy Reminiscing!







## CURRENT EVENTS

# PEACE PARK PARTNERSHIP

Conceived both to help the Schumacher Lions Club rejuvenate the former McIntyre Park and to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association, the Schumacher International Peace Park will consist of a Peace Garden, surrounded by creatively decorated Peace Poles with the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” written in various languages spoken in the Timmins-Porcupine area. It will be an inclusive public space where people can reflect upon peace in a natural setting. The park will be officially dedicated on September 21, 2021 (the United Nations’ International Day of Peace). This project was made possible through partnerships with the City of Timmins, Newmont Resources, Timmins Local Immigration Partnership, Kirkland Lake Gold, and the Schumacher Foundation. Numerous other local businesses contributed to the project. Full details will be shared in the Fall 2021 edition of the Spirit of Schumacher newsletter.



The Schumacher International Peace Park will overlook Little Pearl Lake. The Peace Poles will surround a flower garden. Site prep undertaken by the Schumacher Lions Club included the installation of 20 poles, placement of picnic tables, and laying of new sod. (Photo courtesy of Mark West.)

# CROATIAN HALL UPDATE

The Croatian Society Schumacher is pleased to announce that \$105,765 of their \$150,000 “Save the Hall, Buy Bricks in the Wall” fundraising goal has been raised. They are appreciative of recent In Memoriam donations as well as business community contributions. Hall renovations continue and they are looking forward to hosting events once again in the future. Plans are in the works for another “Food Bundle” sale in October. Keep updated by visiting the Croatian Society Schumacher Facebook page or the [croatiansocietyschumacher.com](http://croatiansocietyschumacher.com) website.

(Photo credit to Dariya Baiguzhiyeva.)



Kieran Duquette of Northern Windows & Doors presents George Stefanic with a \$1000 donation towards the Croatian Society’s “Save the Hall, Buy Bricks in the Wall” fundraising campaign.



# SCHNITZELS & STRUDELS NORTH

It's a case of history repeating itself with a bit of a twist. Faced with less than stellar summer job prospects in the midst of the pandemic, twins Victor and Julia Polowy decided to get into the food truck business. *Schnitzels & Strudels North* is not your typical Northern Ontario food truck experience. Rather than burgers and poutine, it specializes in freshly made European classics inspired by their Croatian and Ukrainian roots.

Getting a food truck up and running is no easy feat. Fortunately, the twins were able to benefit from the past experiences of their parents, Mike and Darlene (Herceg) Polowy, who ran a food truck in downtown Toronto back in their late twenties when full-time teaching jobs were scarce. Victor and Julia grew up on European comfort food, so it seemed like fate was nodding her approval when they came across a food truck called *Schnitzels & Strudels* for sale. The truck's previous owner, Max Kaiser of St. Catherines, was happy to provide a bit of help and guidance as the Polowys rebranded to *Schnitzels & Strudels North*.

The menu features a host of delicious homemade items with many ingredients sourced locally from Dabrowski's Smoked Meats, Golden Crust Specialty Bakery, and Pick of the Crop. The signature item on the menu is a pork schnitzel sandwich served with housemade kettle chips and a signature garlic dip. It comes in four varieties: Euro Classic (based on Max's original recipe), Hunter (made with Darlene's hunter sauce), Parmesan (with homemade marina

sauce), and Buffalo Ranch (a test item that's proven to be a hit). With warm apple strudel on the menu, no other dessert option is really needed.

Baba's Specialty Plates (featuring cabbage rolls, sausages, and sides such as sauerkraut with bacon, coleslaw, and potato salad) are available exclusively during supper hours on Sundays. These specialty plates are a tribute to the twins' Baba, Mary Herceg, who passed away in May of 2021. Mary was a longtime Schumacher resident and a pioneering member of the Croatian Hall. The twins have fond memories of learning to make cabbage rolls and strudel with their Baba and are proud to carry on her love of feeding people good food.

The community has received this new food offering with enthusiasm. The truck has sold out of items on multiple days and folks don't seem to mind the drive out to 730 Falcon Road in Porcupine. A beautiful and whimsical picnic area is set up beside the bright blue truck and there is plenty of parking. As for Victor and Julia, they couldn't be happier with the response their food venture has received.

Editor's Note: *Schnitzels & Strudels North* ceased food service at the end of August, but will be offering a dessert-only menu (including funnel cake) through the end of September. This fall, Victor will be attending the University of Toronto. Julia will be returning to Germany in October to resume figure-skating with Holiday on Ice. The food truck's regulars will be eagerly awaiting their return next summer. (Photos courtesy of Julia Polowy.)







# EDITORIAL

Schumacher Day Minor Hockey has a long and proud history of putting kids first. The recent actions of Timmins Minor Hockey most certainly do not have players' best intentions at heart. They also pose a real threat to the ability of SDMHA to remain a viable organization. Hopefully a timely resolution that doesn't jeopardize the season or the organization is soon reached.

The SACHA Board is thankful that we were able to partner with several community groups to bring the International Peace Park Project to fruition. Look for coverage of the dedication ceremony in the next issue. Unfortunately, with the pandemic lingering, plans to host a community gathering to celebrate SACHA's tenth anniversary have been shelved.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delays in producing this issue of the SOS. To put it mildly, the first seven months of 2021 were challenging on both a personal and professional level. After months of online teaching and ongoing concerns about a loved one's health, some family-focused downtime was in order. Fortunately, things are looking up on all fronts and I expect the Fall edition of the SOS will be out in a timely manner.

Until next time, take care of yourselves (and if you're local, take the drive out to Falcon Road),

*Lisa Romanowski,*  
SOS Editor

## SACHA UPDATE

The Spirit of Schumacher website is currently inaccessible as we are in the process of redesigning it and switching to a new service provider. In the meantime, for the most up to date SACHA info, follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SpiritOfSchumacher](http://www.facebook.com/SpiritOfSchumacher)



To encourage Schumacher residents to get involved in the City of Timmins Community Cleanup which ran from May 25th to 30th, 2021, SACHA offered a draw for those who cleaned up areas in our immediate community. Prizes included a \$50 Narduzzi's Restaurant Gift Certificate won by Ally (MacGregor) Dufour and a \$50 Thurston's Stained Glass gift certificate won by Rene Dunkley. To enter, participants were asked to take before and after photos and add them to a post on the SACHA Facebook page. The Dunkley Family cleaned up a section of Vipond Road leading to the Dusty Baker Ball Field. The Dufour Family cleaned up part of the trail area behind the FW Schumacher Residence (the old St. Francis School).

## 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).

## SACHA DIRECTORS

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Kathy Vukobratich  
Vera Romanowski  
Lisa Romanowski  
Jennifer Dunkley

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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: [spiritofschumacher@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofschumacher@gmail.com)

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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*Live in the sunshine.*

*Swim in the sea.*

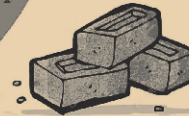
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