

A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
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MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2022

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

# FESTIVE SPIRIT



SACHA's 2022 Festive Display contest received a variety of fantastic entries including a handcrafted anti-gravity light-up cake, a cheerful snowman greeter, an elf invasion of an entire house, a winter wonderland scene including snowflake wallpaper, several beautifully decorated Christmas trees, a handful of captivating Christmas villages, and the awesome outdoor display pictured above.

Lori and Scott Allen and their family created the Christmas extravaganza in their yard on Platt Vet property. There is so much to see that it cannot all be captured in one photo (though what this photo shows is amazing nonetheless). According to Lori, "We are beyond happy that our display did exactly as we hoped it would; it brought joy to others! If there's one thing I love to see being spread around, it's smiles!" (Coverage of SACHA's 2022 contests continues on pages 2 & 3.)

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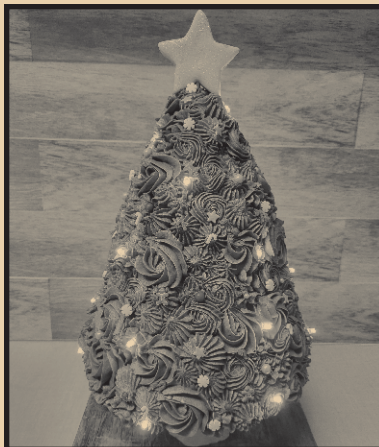
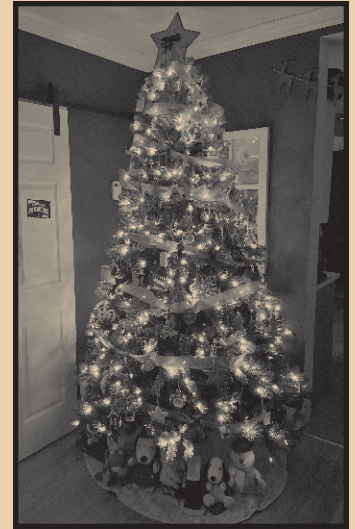
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## FESTIVE DISPLAYS 2022

Near Right: Part of Diane and Josh Wahlman's elf collection on Fourth Avenue. Far Right: Shanna Dubé and family's Christmas tree on Fourth Avenue. Centre: Liza McKay's oceanside Christmas village on Dwyer Avenue. Bottom Left: Lois and Todd Heard's snowman greeter on Claimpost Trail. Bottom Middle: Dawn Charette of Fourth Avenue made edible Christmas tree décor. Bottom Right: Amber Buffalo and family's Dwyer Avenue winter wonderland. Such great displays!



# HALLOWEEN & GARDEN SCENES

Schumacher residents also go all out for Halloween. The winners of the Halloween Scenes contest included: the Armstrong Family from Prospectors Street in Gold Centre (Best Large Scale Display), the Kyle Family from Fourth Avenue (Best Use of Space), the Poupart Family from Dwyer Avenue (Best Lighting Effect) and the Martell Family from Fourth Avenue (Best Indoor Display).



Although Summer 2022 is becoming a distant memory, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the many green thumbs at work in Schumacher. Our Gardens of Summer Contest had entries from Shirley McGarry, Helen Radelja, the Shelley Family, the Wahlman Family, and Kirsty (Schaffner) Roy - her garden (shown below) won the popular vote!



# F.W. SANTA

A winter issue of the SOS would not be complete without mention of Mr. Schumacher Gifts. The Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department continues to handle the logistics of this endeavour with perpetual funding from the Schumacher Foundation.

Local students in Junior Kindergarten through Grade 8 were asked to provide input on the gifts they would like to receive. After purchasing and wrapping the gifts, fire department volunteers went door to door on Sunday, December 18, 2022 to deliver 148 gifts to children in Schumacher.

Lifelong Schumacher residents Jacob and Joseph Dunkley received their last Mr. Schumacher Gifts this year. The 13-year-old, Grade 8 students were very happy with their presents (a Pokémon Elite Trainer Box for Joseph and a Rokr Wooden Train kit for Jacob). Both boys are also grateful to have grown up with this tradition; their fond memories of Mr. Schumacher's generosity will last a lifetime.

For those new to the SOS community, Frederick W. Schumacher is our town's namesake. He invested in our community from the early days of the gold rush and his generosity still benefits local organizations today. Mr. Schumacher's generous gift-giving began in December 1916 when 270 gifts were presented to eligible children under the age of 16. Mr. Schumacher's one request was that no child in the community be overlooked. Furthermore, his gifts were never inexpensive trinkets. In 1924, for example, he spent \$600 (\$9000 in today's currency) on sleighs, drums, dolls, books, cameras, silk scarves, manicure sets, and bugles. It's heart-warming that this care continues to this day.

The tradition of Schumacher children receiving a gift from Mr. Schumacher each Christmas continues over a century after the inaugural event in 1916. The Schumacher Volunteer Fire Department purchased and distributed 148 gifts this year. Pictured is Joseph Dunkley who, as a Grade 8 student, received his last Mr. Schumacher gift this year.



## CROATIAN SOCIETY ROUNDUP

As 2022 comes to a close, the Croatian Society Schumacher would like share our successes with the SOS readership. We are thankful for the many generous donations to our "Save the Hall, Buy Bricks in the Wall" Campaign. As our campaign winds down, we have come to realize that we will fall short of our adjusted fundraising target of \$200 000. (Our goal was raised in response to the increased costs everyone is experiencing due to ongoing pandemic fallout.) We have reached \$165 000 and remain hopeful that further donations will get us to our target. Monies were collected from individual and corporate donations and the sale of cabbage rolls, strudel and pierogies.

The Hall has undergone many repairs thus far, mostly in regard to the foundation and roof along with new light fixtures in the main hall. Further reno plans include the downstairs hall, the upstairs bar area, the stage area, and the balcony meeting rooms. We also hope to be able to provide improved accessibility access at the entrance of the hall and perhaps install an air conditioning unit.



Above: Marg Johns adds the apple mixture to a batch of strudel dough. Below Left: Jasmine and Kristina tend bar during the Canada-Croatia FIFA World Cup match on November 27. Below Right: Members were treated to a delicious homemade Croatian feast at the Christmas Party on December 16, 2022.





Above: Santa visits with some of the children in attendance at the Croatian Society Schumacher Christmas Party on December 16, 2022. Below: Sretan Bozic and Sretan Nova Godina from the Croatian Society Schumacher Executive: Kathy Vukobrat, Jasmine Chenier, Dennis Sebalj, George Stefanic, Darlene (Herceg) Polowy, Kristina Beard, and Cathy (Vukovich) Beard.



Fundraising aside, it's been a busy year. Soon after the Hall reopened following the pandemic closure, the war in Ukraine began. The Croatian Society members stepped up by preparing and selling pierogies with all proceeds going to the Ukrainian Cultural Group of Timmins. Following a three year hiatus, the Multicultural Festival was once again held at the McIntyre Arena in May. Our delicious Croatian food sold out in record time! We hosted our very successful 90th Anniversary dinner in September, followed up with our "Cheers to 90 Years After Party" musical social! Croatia and Canada played against each other in the FIFA World Cup tournament and we held a Croatian breakfast and viewing party with more than 100 cheering fans in attendance. December brought about our annual members' Christmas Party. Santa was once again the star of the show delivering gifts to the young ones! Since June, Anti-Hunger Coalition Timmins has been hosting a Good Food Market in our foyer on the last Wednesday of the month. We have been hosting monthly socials in the main hall on Market Days. We offer free refreshments, light snacks and a place to socialize and meet people.

The Executive is very grateful for all the volunteer help we have received throughout the year while preparing for our food bundles and annual events. We certainly appreciate all the continued support for the Croatian community and we want to ensure that fond memories will continue to be made at the Croatian Hall in Schumacher for years to come.

Merry Christmas and all the best in 2023!

# SCHUMACHER BOOK BOXES

The Schumacher Community Library Project was initiated back in 2021 as part of SACHA's 10th Anniversary activities. Significant progress has been made - the book boxes have been crafted by woodshop students from Timmins High & Vocational School and sites around Schumacher have been secured. The boxes are set to be installed sometime this spring. Calls for book donations will be made at that time. Volunteers are actively being sought for book box monitoring and maintenance. For more information, please contact Lloyd Salomone by email at [lloyd\\_salomone@hotmail.com](mailto:lloyd_salomone@hotmail.com).



# PARLIAMENTARY PAGE

According to the History section of the Ontario Legislative Page Program website ([www.ola.org/en/visit-learn/programs/page-program/history](http://www.ola.org/en/visit-learn/programs/page-program/history)), "Pages have been an important part of Ontario's Parliament since Confederation. These early Pages were 10 to 14 year-old boys who carried messages, ran errands, and fetched glasses of water for Members of Provincial Parliament.

The role of the Page remained the same throughout the first half of the twentieth century. In 1952, a tutor was hired to work with the Pages a few days a week. Eligibility requirements changed, so that Pages now had to be students in grades 7 or 8, and have a minimum academic average of 80 percent. They also had to have a letter of recommendation from their principal.

In 1971, Speaker Fred Cass (1968 -1971) appointed Ontario's first female Pages. A Page Mistress was hired to oversee the female Pages, and her role soon expanded to supervise all the Pages. In the fall of 1980, an all-girl group of Pages was selected, reflecting the high proportion of female applicants – they outnumbered the male candidates by 106 to 33.

Speaker Cass moved the Pages to an office that included a miniature schoolroom, recreational area, lounge, and kitchen. He also established the practice of choosing Pages from across Ontario, and began the tradition of reading the Pages' names into Hansard, which created an official record of their service."

In its current form, approximately 150 young students from across Ontario are selected each year to participate in Ontario's Legislative Page Program. The program continues to be designed for outgoing, high-achieving, community-involved students who have demonstrated responsibility and leadership. Legislative Pages meet key parliamentary and political figures and learn firsthand about Ontario's Parliament and the legislative process.

Jacob Dunkley, a 13-year-old lifelong Schumacher boy, applied to the Page Program in June of 2022 and received word in the fall that he had been selected for a two-week appointment at the end of October. During his Christmas Break from school, Jacob took some time to share his thoughts about his whirlwind adventure.

According to Jacob, the application process to become a Page was simple, but took a good amount of effort. He needed to create an account on the Ontario Legislative Page website, which involved inputting his riding of Timmins along with his name, address and other contact info. After creating his account, Jacob was required to write a 750-word essay about why he would be a good page candidate. (Having proofread his essay, this SOS Editor can confirm that Jacob included his unique life experiences and perspectives from growing up in northern Ontario as an asset.) Then came the hard part ... waiting for his application to change status from "pending". It took about four months before Jacob received an email indicating that he had been selected to serve during the Second Term of the Fall 2022 parliamentary session.



Jacob Dunkley met with Timmins MPP / Minister of Mines George Pirie during his time at Queens Park. (Supplied Photo.)

While at Queen's Park, Pages work under the direction of the Page Program Coordinator (currently Mr. Franco Gutierrez) who is a certified Ontario teacher. Pages also receive an honorarium of \$25 per day during their term of duty. Jacob and his fellow Pages were required to attend an Orientation Day at Queens Park on Friday, October 14, 2022. He and his dad, Rene, flew to Toronto on Thursday, and enjoyed a short visit with family before attending the Orientation session. The Page group and their parents/guardians were taken on a tour of Queens Park and the Pages had their ID badge photos taken. Page roles and responsibilities were also outlined. After a full day at Queen's Park, Jacob and Rene hopped on a plane back home. The following weekend, the duo drove back down to Toronto as Jacob's term officially began on Monday, October 24, 2022. The Page Program covers transportation and accommodation costs as needed. Jacob had the good fortune of being able to stay with family in Toronto.

Although Jacob's two-week term as a Parliamentary Page was on the short side, he quickly fell into the routine. Each day, the Pages had schooling in addition to their duties. On Parliamentary Days (Mondays and Wednesdays for Jacob) a 10-hour shift included lessons on parliament. On Math Days (Tuesdays and Thursday for Jacob), an 8-hour shift included time spent on math lessons. Every day started with an 8 AM Briefing (requiring a 6 AM wake-up to get there on time), followed by Orders of the Day and Question Period before lunch at noon. After lunch there were additional Orders of the Day followed by the presentation of Bills, Motions and Petitions before the end of day Debrief.

Pages are expected to memorize the names and ridings of all 144 Members of Provincial Parliament. According to Jacob, this is more challenging than you might expect. The job also entails more than bringing water to the MPPs. Jacob particularly enjoyed being sent up to Hansard on the fifth floor. Everything said in The Chamber is recorded by Hansard reporters, who then give the Pages large files to bring up to Hansard. Once there, Pages can keep track of the goings on in The Chamber on the large screen TV and take a breather while the files are photocopied. Once the copies are made, the Pages return to The Chamber and distribute the copies to the MPPs recorded on file.

Pages need to follow parliamentary protocol. For example, Pages assigned to the Dais are required to sit and stand in lockstep with the Speaker of the House. Jacob and his fellow Pages got quite the leg workout on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 when sixteen members of the Ontario New Democratic Party were escorted out of the legislature one-by-one during Question Period after making outbursts over Bill 28 (legislation that would prevent education workers from striking). Bill 28 was repealed on November 14, shortly after Jacob's term as a Page ended. Being cognizant that Pages are to present themselves as non-partisan, Jacob will only comment that November 2 was the most interesting day he experienced at Queens Park.

Some of the unique opportunities Jacob was afforded while at Queens Park included a group meeting with Premier Doug Ford and a question-and-answer lunch session with Head Clerk Todd Decker. Jacob served as a Page Captain on November 3 and got to lead the Daily Procession Line with Sergeant at Arms Jackie Gordon, Head Clerk Decker and Speaker of the House Ted Arnott. Jacob was also invited to lunch with Timmins MPP / Minister of Mines George Pirie who took care to introduce Jacob to The House as being from Schumacher. Jacob and a fellow Page from Sudbury (Molly Farrell) were interviewed by CBC Radio's Markus Schwabe about their experiences. Jacob's time at Queens Park was not all politics and schooling. The Page group had a fun excursion to the Museum of Illusions. Jacob also got to Trick or Treat with his cousins in the big city and take in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* with his dad. Overall, Jacob had a great experience. He met lots of nice people, made new friends, and learned how government operates.



Jacob Dunkley served as an Ontario Legislative Page from Oct. 24 through Nov. 4, 2022. (Supplied Photo.)

## GRAND DEMOLITION

When the burnt-out remains of the Grandview Hotel were scavenged by the History Channel's Salvage Kings in September of 2020, most locals expected that the building's demolition would soon follow. As things turned out, and for reasons not widely known, that was not the case. The building continued to sit vacant and become more of an eyesore and safety hazard for another two years before a local demolition crew reduced the much-loved watering hole to a dusty pile of rubble.

Landowners and tenants in the buildings on either side of the Grandview were informed by a letter from Arcwood Industries (located on Fogg Street in Timmins) that the demolition would take place on September 27 and 28, 2022. Clean-up continued for several days after. The now vacant lot is a jarring change in the familiar landscape. (Photos by Vera Romanowski and Joseph Dunkley.)



## RINK REJUVENATION

After a long hiatus, the outdoor rink at Schumacher Public School is ready for the return of skaters. Lifelong resident Jasmine Chenier took it upon herself to get permission from the school for local residents to take over the maintenance of the rink. Thanks to the efforts of her team of volunteers, ice has been installed for the first time in several years. Lorne Feldman (Ward 2 Councillor and owner of Feldman Timber BMR located within walking distance of Schumacher near the intersection of HWY 101 and HWY 655) donated a 100 foot hose to the cause. Ward 3 Councillor Bill Gvozdanovic has taken a few turns at flooding the ice. Jasmine is looking for a few more volunteers to share the workload. If you are local and interested in helping out, send us an email and we will put you in touch with Jasmine and her group.



Volunteers have rejuvenated the rink at SPS. A sign at the entrance states that the rink is regularly inspected, reminds skaters to use at their own risk, recommends CSA approved helmets, and requests that hazards be reported to District School Board Ontario North East. (Photo by Ben Dunkley.)



# Snow Contest 2023

Snow people, snow creatures, snow sculptures ... get creative!  
Help the kids, collaborate with neighbours, build on your own.

To enter\*, email your physical address and photo(s) of your snow creation to  
[SPIRITOFSCHUMACHER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SPIRITOFSCHUMACHER@GMAIL.COM)

Entry deadline is 9 PM on Sunday, March 19, 2023.  
Winners will be announced on Sunday, March 26, 2023.  
Great prizes from local merchants to be won!

Contest open to residents of Schumacher, Platt Vet, Gold Centre & Carium

\*By submitting an entry, you acknowledge that your name and photo(s) may appear on SACHA's website or Facebook page or in an upcoming issue of the Spirit of Schumacher newsletter.



Brought to you by SACHA  
Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association

## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER



I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! This is a wonderful time of year to spend with family and friends. We are a warm and friendly town and we will always be there to help each other whenever we can. That has always been the Spirit of Schumacher.

Councillor Bill Gvozdanovic

## READER MAIL

Hi Lisa,

Looking forward to the next issue of the newsletter to find out what's been going on in Schumacher. My brother, John, his wife, Dutchie, and I got up for a visit in July. We checked out all our old haunts and were treated to a tour of Camp Bickell by Joe Campbell. We just missed the first concert in the Lions' Park, but had a good chat with Mark West and some of his hard-working crew. Always great to get home!

Thanks and keep the local news coming!

David Hamilton

## READER MAIL

Please find the enclosed cheque as a donation to SACHA in memory of my brothers Wayne McAlpine (1942-2013) and Gary McAlpine (1939-2022).

I certainly enjoy reading each issue of the Spirit of Schumacher newsletter. I have so many memories of growing up in Schumacher. Although I don't get to visit often, Schumacher will always be "home".

Yours truly,  
Twila (McAlpine) Sauv 

## READER MAIL

Please use the enclosed cheque to renew SACHA subscriptions for Nancy McNeil, Sheila McLellan, Milly Hillgendorf and Marjorie Payne.

We all grew up in Schumacher and enjoyed an active life. We are all still living in our own homes (three in Toronto and one in Huntsville) and keep in touch! At over 90 years old, I'm still navigating. I am driving and doing errands as need be.

Nancy McNeil



# EDITORIAL

This issue of the SOS comes with belated wishes for a healthy and happy new year. Whether you spent the holidays hunkered down during a blizzard or vacationing someplace warm, I hope you had a peaceful and joyous time.

SACHA's seasonal contests continue to be popular with current Schumacher residents. As you can tell from the photos elsewhere in this issue, there are some very talented folks living in town who go out of their way to create eye-catching displays to brighten up our neighbourhoods. We can't wait to see what creations are submitted for our 2023 Snow Contest!

We hope you enjoyed reading about Jacob Dunkley's experience as an Ontario Parliamentary Page. It is an amazing opportunity that not many young people are afforded. We would love to feature the unique experiences of Schumacher residents in upcoming issues; if you have a story to share, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

If you are a current SACHA supporter, a small token of appreciation is included with this issue of the SOS. We hope you find your Spirit of Schumacher shopping tote to be a fun and functional reminder of home!

Until next time, take care of yourselves!

*Lisa Romanowski,*  
SOS Editor



Best Wishes for 2023 from the SOS Production Team!  
Lisa and Vera Romanowski



The SACHA Board enjoys gifting our supporters with tokens of appreciation. We hope you like your SOS shopping totes!

## SACHA 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

Lloyd Salomone  
Kathy Vukobratich  
Vera Romanowski  
Lisa Romanowski  
Rene Dunkley (Webmaster)

### SOS Newsletter Inquiries

[schumachergirl@gmail.com](mailto:schumachergirl@gmail.com)  
PO Box 13, Schumacher, ON, P0N 1G0

### General SACHA Inquiries:

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

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## SOS NEWSLETTER

The not-for-profit Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association publishes the SOS newsletter three times a year in the spring, summer and fall/winter.

For newsletter inquiries 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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Featuring 42 Teams from Across Canada  
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For info: [curlthetmac.ca/canadian-championship/](http://curlthetmac.ca/canadian-championship/)

Friday, February 10 to Sunday, February 12  
**South Porcupine Winter Carnival**

Children's Activities, Vendor Show, Fireworks  
[facebook.com/groups/southporcupinewintercarnival/](https://facebook.com/groups/southporcupinewintercarnival/)

Saturday, February 25, 2023

**Coldest Night of the Year**

It's cold out there, so gather for good and participate in a family-friendly walk to raise money for local people experiencing hunger.

For more info visit: [cnoy.org/home](http://cnoy.org/home)



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+ Deceased

Thank you to Marjorie Payne for the donation in memory of her late husband, Bruce Payne. Bruce replaced Mr. Wylie at Schumacher Public school and taught the Grade 8 boys for five years. To become a SACHA supporter, complete this form and send payment to the address listed below.

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SACHA will recognize your generosity in the SOS newsletter and on its website. A non-tax deductible receipt will be issued.