

WINTER
2025
ISSUE 48

Spirit Of SCHUMACHER

A Community Newsletter to Connect the
Past, Present and Future



CELEBRATING 113 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2025

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

The McIntyre Community Building was added to the City of Timmins Municipal Heritage Register in April 2022 as a non-designated building, a move meant to offer short-term protection while official designation is sought. In August 2024, Tom Laughren and Mike Mulryan (on behalf of the Schumacher Historical Society) formally filed the heritage property designation nomination. On January 28, 2025, Timmins City Council voted unanimously in favour of By-law 2025-9086 to declare 85 McIntyre Road as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act. On May 28, 2025, a heritage plaque was unveiled at the arena entrance by members of City Council and the Municipal Heritage Committee. A public social to celebrate this long-time-coming recognition of the Mac was hosted by the SHS in the JP Bickell Auditorium on May 29, 2025.

The Mac has been the heart of community life since it opened in 1938. Its cultural and historical importance in Schumacher and area is immeasurable. Built by JP Bickell in the style of Maple Leaf Gardens, it boasts unique Art Deco details in its brickwork, stone relief, marqueses, and original coffee shop fittings. Its steel truss system and plaster mouldings also hold architectural significance. The arena entrance was revamped this fall to improve accessibility, but care was taken to ensure the renos fit with the original architecture.

The Mac is the third property to receive heritage designation within the City of Timmins joining City Hall at 220 Algonquin Boulevard East and the log cabin home at 438 Wilson Avenue. Several other landmarks, including the McIntyre Headframe, remain on the Municipal Heritage Register without designated status.



The plaque officially proclaiming the McIntyre Community Building's heritage property designation is displayed to the right of the revamped arena entrance.

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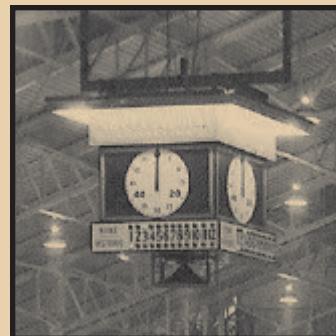
SACHA Supporters

TIME FOR SOME HOCKEY

While they were never meant to compete with the action on the ice below, the score clocks that hang above centre-ice at the McIntyre Arena have always been attention-grabbers. Back in the spring of 2025, Timmins City Council approved the purchase of a new, state-of-the-art clock and scoreboard for the Mac. It features a four-sided LED display complete with full-colour video screens. The \$195 870 plus HST budget expenditure was deemed necessary as parts for the existing obsolete clock were difficult to procure.

In other local hockey news, the Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association was able to ice house league teams at almost all levels this season: U18 Renegades, U15 Bears, U13 Bears, U9 Bears and U7 Timbits. The U15 Empire Building Solutions Bears have had a great start to the season. When this issue went to print, they were undefeated in regular season play, had won the local President's Cup in mid October, and took the championship game in OT at the Kapuskasing Minor Hockey Tournament at the end of November. The SDMHA U18A Cubs are also in action this season.

The entire SDMHA organization, including coaching staff, players and families, is incredibly appreciative of the financial support received by community sponsors. This support comes in many forms including team sponsorship, jersey sponsor bars, and the purchase of new jerseys. Special recognition is extended to Agnico Eagle who provided \$125 per player to offset registration costs at the U9 through U13 levels this year.



Top: The new score clock at the Mac features four-sided LED displays and full-colour video. It's a far cry from the original score clock (above left) from the late 1930s and a clear upgrade from the 15 year-old obsolete model (above right) that it replaced. Below: The U15 Empire Building Solutions Bears celebrate their President's Cup win. (Photo via SDMHA on Facebook.)



YULETIDE EVENTS

Christmas is truly one of the most wonderful times of the year in Schumacher. From a century-old gift-giving tradition to festive dinners and markets, there are multiple opportunities for the community to come together to celebrate the season. It is also a time of year when several fundraising efforts are undertaken to support the less fortunate and spread cheer and goodwill.



Schumacher Lions Club members Dave Laramore, Estella Chow and Dan Ansara take a shift on the phones during The Feeding Families Radiothon on December 4, 2025. A new record amount of over \$122 000 was raised for the Stan Fowler Christmas Fund. The Schumacher Lions administer the Fund and were able to provide vouchers valued at \$175 each to more than 500 local families.

(Photo courtesy of John McCauley via Facebook.)

Members of the Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association's U18 Renegades (including from left Payton Farlardeau, Rozzi Levesque, Colten Michaud, Jacob Dunkley and Matieux Teal) braved the blustery conditions to collect donations for the South Porcupine Food Bank at the Timmins Santa Claus Parade on November 15, 2025. (Photo courtesy of René Dunkley.)



Meatloaf (above) along with (at left) Maple May and Marlowe Brown had a great time at the 21st Annual Schumacher Lions Club Christmas Craft Show held at the Mac in early November. (Photos courtesy of Jennifer Jane.) Right: Five year-old Gaargiide Siltala was excited to open his Mr. Schumacher Gift and happy with the Transformers toy he received. (Photos courtesy of Iliiana Elizabeth.)

Unexpected major renovations at the Croatian Hall meant that the annual Christmas Dinner for members of Schumacher's Croatian Society had to be held offsite in 2025. Working with the Schumacher Lions Club and McIntyre Coffee Shop, the Executive team of Kathy Vukobratic, Dennis Sebalj, George Stefanic, Jasmine Chenier, Cathy Beard and (not pictured) Darlene Polowy, were able to create a festive evening nonetheless. (Photo courtesy of Jasmine Chenier.)



FOR LOVE OF THE GAME



Amy-Médéa Chartier stands in front of her completed mural at the McIntyre Curling Centre. (This monochrome photo does not do it justice, so check it out in person the next time you're at the Mac.) To learn more about Amy's art journey and future projects, follow Simply Amy on Facebook, Simplyamymovement on TikTok or check out her personal website: www.simplyamy.online

From hosting indoor pickleball in the summer to various curling leagues through the fall and winter, it seems there is always something going on at the McIntyre Curling Centre. No, that's not a typo, the new season was swept in with a new name (Centre instead of Club), and new logo. The fresh new look represents where the club has come from and where they are headed.

In addition to the new name and logo, new artwork was created on the ice level during the summer downtime. Local artist Amy-Médéa Chartier transformed a bank of drab black storage lockers into a meaningful and functional mural. In Amy's words, the piece is "a celebration of community, sport, and art. It is about more than curling; it's about connection, diversity, teamwork, and the joy of sport across generations from kids just starting out to seasoned curlers with decades of stories". Amy wanted this scene to reflect the heartbeat of the curling community under the magic of the northern lights.

Amy began painting just over three years ago, after COVID took away her senses of smell and taste. In searching for a mental health break from that loss, she fell into paint and never looked back. Her very first goal was to learn how to create a perfect portrait for her sister, blending a beloved deceased relative with her two young children. That experience sparked a passion that completely transformed Amy's life. (Before embracing art full-time, Amy spent sixteen years as a civilian with the Timmins Police Service and two years in HR.) Amy is deeply grateful to everyone who believed in her, and to those who doubted her; both pushed her beyond what she thought was possible.

Amy was honoured to have the opportunity to create her fifth mural at the McIntyre Curling Centre. In her words, "every brush stroke felt like a love letter to Schumacher and the people who make it so vibrant". To Amy, the mural is more than paint on a wall; it's proof that following your passion can open doors you never imagined.



Team MacInnes represented Northern Ontario and the McIntyre Curling Centre in the women's draw of the 2025 Canadian Senior Curling Championship in Ottawa from November 29 through December 6. (Photo from the 2026 Senior Nationals via Team MacInnes on Facebook.)

The Winter 2025 curling season has already been an exciting one with Team MacInnes representing the McIntyre and Northern Ontario at the 2025 Canadian Senior Curling Championship in Ottawa. The team, comprised of Skip Valerie MacInnes, Vice Carole Horton, Second Rosanna Furletti and Lead Kim Armstrong, is proud of their accomplishments. It was the first, but hopefully not last, national experience for Carol, Rosanna and Kim. Val's experience was invaluable and as a team they learned and grew stronger.

The big event of the season at the McIntyre Curling Centre is the upcoming U18 Canadian Championships. Forty-two teams from across Canada will rock the house from February 8 to 15. Tickets can be purchased by visiting <https://mcintyre-curling.square.site/> or



The SACHA Board is proud to continue our sponsorship of Team Chilton (from left Audrey, Kendall, Leanna, Coach Steve, Natalie and Deanna). We wish them well at the U18 and U20 Provincials and hope they will earn a spot at Nationals. (Photo via Team Chilton on Facebook.)

by scanning the QR code in the image below. SACHA is proud to be a sponsor of the U18 Canadian Championship, the McIntyre Curling Centre, and Team Chilton (Deanna Chilton, Natalie Graham, Leanna Delich, Kendall Chilton, Audrey Desjardins and Coach Steve Meunier). The Team is competing in U18 and U20 leagues this season. We wish them the best of luck at the U18 Provincials in Fort Francis (January 14-18, 2026) and the U20 Provincials in Sudbury (March 4-8, 2026). We also hope to be cheering them on at Nationals!



Above: The McIntyre Curling Club unveiled a fresh new logo and rebrand as the McIntyre Curling Centre this season. Right: The 2026 U18 Canadian Championship will be hosted at the Mac. Tickets are on sale now.

2026 U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS

TICKET EVENT PRICING



Full Event Wristband
Adult \$100.00
Senior (55+) or Youth (11+) \$ 60.00
Child 5-10 years \$ 40.00

Single Day Ticket
(available at door)
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Child 5-10 years \$10.00

Children under 5 are free

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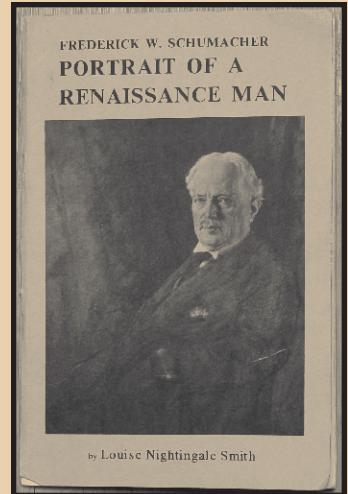
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

DR. PEPPER CONNECTION

Our community's namesake, Frederick W. Schumacher, is best remembered for his more than century-old Christmas gift-giving legacy. Many associate his wealth with investments made during Northern Ontario's mining bonanza of the early 1910s. Some recall that Mr. Schumacher was already a well-established businessman in the United States before turning his attention north. A few may even remember his role in the success of the pharmaceutical elixir Peruna. As it turns out, Mr. Schumacher also played a part in the early development of the Dr. Pepper soda brand.

In the fall of 2022, a short email from Skipper Steely of Paris, Texas appeared in the Spirit of Schumacher Gmail inbox. "I am researching Dr. Pepper's beginning, and FW Schumacher was one of the two dozen or so men who guided it in 1891-94. But, as important as Schumacher was, there is little detail about his early life that I can find. Has there been a book written about him? Can you help me?" he wrote. As a lifelong Schumacher resident and a longtime fan of Dr. Pepper (it is superior to both Pepsi and Coke, in my opinion), I was immediately intrigued.

After confirming that Mr. Steely was legitimate (he has authored several ebooks, many focused on the history of Paris, Texas), I responded by providing scans of the opening pages of Louise Nightingale Smith's 1980 book *FW Schumacher: Portrait of a Renaissance Man* and suggested he contact Porcupine Advance Printers, which had printed the volume. I also noted that Mr. Schumacher's connection to Dr. Pepper was not widely known in our community and expressed interest in sharing the story with SOS readers in the future. Skipper was appreciative and later sent along a proof of the Schumacher section of his manuscript. His complete 518-page ebook, *Soda Pop Founders: Dr. Pepper and Coca-Cola: Both Sold in Paris, Texas 1887*, was published on February 28, 2023 and is available on Kindle.



Skipper Steely's 2023 eBook *Soda Pop Founders: Dr. Pepper and Coca-Cola Both Sold in Paris, Texas 1887* and Louise Nightingale Smith's 1980 book *FW Schumacher: Portrait of a Renaissance Man*, provided much of the factual content for this article.

That backstory aside, you may be wondering how Frederick William Schumacher became connected to the Dr. Pepper brand in the first place. Born September 13, 1863, in Burg auf Fehmarn (a Danish island that later became part of Germany), Schumacher emigrated with his family to Waco, Texas, in 1872. By age twenty, he had graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy with the highest marks in the school's history. He returned to Waco and joined the Behrens Wholesale Drug Company, where he advanced rapidly. He became a U.S. citizen at twenty-three, and by age twenty-four he had been promoted to Secretary-Treasurer of Behrens.

FW Schumacher was very much a mover and shaker. Alongside his pharmaceutical work, he was involved in real estate and the publication of a trade magazine. His name appears on the very first page of the minutes from the inaugural shareholders' meeting of the Artesian Manufacturing and Bottling Company, held on April 14, 1891. This is significant because the very next day Artesian filed its charter



with the Texas Department of State, stating its purpose as the manufacture and sale of Doctor Pepper's Phos-Ferrates. From 1892 through 1897, Waco city directories list Mr. Schumacher as vice-president of the Artesian corporation.

To be clear, FW Schumacher did not develop the still-secret Dr. Pepper recipe. Nonetheless, he is counted among roughly twenty-three individuals considered founders of the brand due to their financial, managerial, and organizational contributions during its formative years. Mr. Schumacher brought significant business acumen to Artesian, and his experience in pharmaceuticals, bottling, sales, and advertising proved especially valuable as Dr. Pepper transitioned from a local fountain drink to a bottled commercial product.

During his time with Artesian, Schumacher maintained his position at Behrens. It was also in these early years that he placed the infamous order for 72 000 bottles (600 cases) of Peruna for distribution through Behrens. It is worth noting that patent medicines like Peruna and early soft drinks shared bottlers, glass suppliers, rail networks, and a public accustomed to so-called "restorative" beverages. So, as historians like to say, the timing is suggestive. The scale of the Peruna order would have demonstrated that Waco could bottle, transport, and distribute large volumes of branded liquid products, helping to pave the way for Dr. Pepper's commercial expansion.

Mr. Schumacher's ties to Peruna are more widely known. His extraordinary order prompted the company's founder, Dr. Samuel B. Hartman, to accompany the railcar shipment from Columbus, Ohio, to Waco. Hartman's nineteen-year-old daughter, Maribel, travelled with him. From this first meeting grew both a professional relationship between Hartman and Schumacher and a romantic relationship between Frederick and Maribel. Married in 1895, by 1897 the Schumachers had relocated to Columbus and Frederick had formally joined the Peruna Drug Company.

Applying the same large-scale marketing instincts that had first distinguished him in Texas, Schumacher rose through the company's leadership and helped transform Peruna into one of the most recognizable health brands in North America. By mid-1905, however, Peruna's fortunes began to slide. Its high alcohol content (typically around 27% and sometimes higher) became widely known and

Waco, Texas April 14th 1891
The Stockholders of the Artesian Manufacturing and Bottling Company, met at the office of the Company, and Mr. H. Behrens was called to the Chair and D. B. Owen appointed Secretary.
The object of the meeting as stated by the Chairman was for the purpose of complete the organization of the Company, and to formulate plans to do business and to fix the amount of Capital Stock of the Corporation.
By motion of W. B. Morrison and seconded by F. W. Schumacher the Capital Stock of the Company was fixed at (\$2500.00) Twenty five hundred dollars, with fifty shares of (\$50.00) fifty dollars each, the motion carried.

The inaugural stockholders meeting of the Artesian Manufacturing and Bottling Company, chartered to manufacture and sell Dr. Pepper, took place April 14, 1891. FW Schumacher is on record seconding a motion to fix the capital stock at \$2500. (Image via Steely p264.)

drew increasing criticism. Some reports outright labeled the product a medical fraud. The passage of the United States Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906 effectively ended Peruna's popularity. New regulations required alcohol content to be clearly disclosed and, to avoid the need for a liquor license, the Peruna formula was altered to reduce the alcohol content to 18%. As sales collapsed, Hartman and Schumacher began seeking new opportunities, turning their attention to mining exploration. Before long, FW Schumacher headed north of the border, establishing himself first in Cobalt and later in the Porcupine Camp.

Mr. Schumacher has had such a lasting impact on our small community that it's almost difficult to comprehend his much broader history. That his story continues to reveal surprises almost 70 years after his death is remarkable. This newly uncovered Dr. Pepper chapter only serves to enrich his already remarkable legacy as a businessman, philanthropist, art collector, and civic leader. From pharmaceuticals to soft drinks, and from boardrooms to mine sites, FW Schumacher consistently stood at the crossroads of innovation, enterprise, and opportunity. At the same time, he gave generously from his wealth by funding libraries, supporting scholarships, and helping build institutions that still exist today.



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BRINGING HOME GOLD

Chris Exel is a busy guy. He is a Northern College student, a dedicated community volunteer (you may have seen him shovelling the rink at SPS in the winter, picking up garbage around Schumacher in the spring, or helping out at the Lord's Kitchen) and an accomplished track and field athlete. (He also enjoys golf, softball, bowling and curling.) Chris got involved in Track & Field when his family moved to Schumacher from Barrie in 2021. In July, he brought home three medals from the Special Olympics 2025 Ontario Summer Games in Brantford: gold in shot put (his favourite Athletics event), gold in the 50 m sprint, and bronze in javelin. Chris was recently selected to represent Ontario at the 2026 National Games in Medicine Hat, Alberta and has already attended a training camp in Bracebridge. He aspires to one day compete in the Special Olympics World Games.



Coach Spyke Pintar congratulates Chris Exel on his awesome three medal performance (two golds and a bronze) at the 2025 Special Olympics Provincial Games held in Brantford in July. (Supplied photo.)

CLASS OF 2025



Congratulations to all Class of 2025 graduates, including Schumacher's own Emma Dunn and Sahayma Omenye from O'Gorman High School. Sahayma was the OHS recipient of the Schumacher Alumnae Scholarship for 2025.

NINETY YEARS



The Schumacher Lions have served the community since February 13, 1935. On May 28, 2025, Mayor Michelle Boileau presented President Jim Nault with a Heart of Gold Civic Recognition Award in recognition of the Club's tireless efforts. (Photo via City of Timmins on Facebook.)



SUMMER IN THE PARK



The Trailblazers: Dan Champagne (Lead Guitar), Claude Rocheleau (Bass), Chris Moulton (Drums) and Leslie-Anne Dupuis (Lead Vocals) performed at the Schumacher Lions Summer Concert Series on July 17. In an awesome gesture of goodwill (and to help win a friendly bet that she could generate a crowd of at least 500), Leslie-Anne arranged to have Timmins Transit transport residents from local retirement homes to and from the park. (Band photo above supplied by Leslie-Anne Dupuis. Crowd photo below by Lisa Romanowski.)

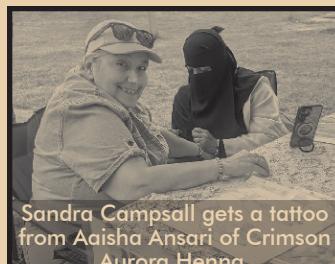
Over the past several years, members of the Schumacher Lions Club have worked tirelessly to restore and maintain the park across from the McIntyre Arena. As a direct result of their efforts, the park is now home to several summer events including the Lions Summer Concert Series, the Community Organized Day in the Park, and the United Nations International Day of Peace Celebration. SACHA is proud to have been able to support each of these events in 2025.



Aquatics & Exotics brought some reptile friends out to play.



Piper Farrell's son, Chandler, runs the obstacles like a pro.



Sandra Campsall gets a tattoo from Aaisha Ansari of Crimson Aurora Henna.



Melissa Narduzzi, President of the South Porcupine Food Bank, appreciated the donations.

The 2nd Annual Schumacher Day in the Park featured free food, games, music, vendor booths, a car show and more. Attendees donated generously to the South Porcupine Food Bank. While the day's success was due to the efforts of many individuals, mention needs to be given to Dave and Piper Farrell for spearheading the event. (Photos via Community Organized Events Committee on Facebook.)



Above: From elders to children, representatives of various cultures celebrated the UN International Day of Peace on September 21, 2025. Right: Michele Zagrodnik paints some finishing details on the Polish Peace Pole at the Schumacher International Peace Park. It is one of the newest poles and was designed by her daughter Brianna. Far Right: Sisters Judith Colbert-Barkel and Jennifer Laroche stand proudly by the new Welsh Peace Pole.

SOS | EDITORIAL

Wishing you all a belated Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Winter arrived early in Schumacher and it has settled in for the long haul. As I put the finishing touches on this issue, the region is still recovering from a fierce late December storm. For context, in an unprecedeted turn of events, local school buses have not run since the storm because the roads are too narrow.

For a variety of reasons, this is the only 2025 issue of the *Spirit of Schumacher* newsletter. Truth be told, as a one-woman show, it is increasingly challenging to generate content to share with our readership. I truly appreciate those of you who willingly share your photos and stories and I encourage more of you to contribute articles and photos for use in future editions. It is the mix of current events and historical memories narrated by various voices that makes the SOS an enjoyable read for everyone with ties to our community.

The SACHA Board is happy to have been able to continue to sponsor Schumacher-based events, organizations, and teams this past year. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Until next time, sip a can of Dr. Pepper in honour of Mr. Schumacher, stay warm, and take care!

Lisa Romanowski,
SOS Editor

As has become an annual Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association tradition, SACHA supporters will receive a small token of appreciation with their printed copy of this newsletter. The SACHA Board of Directors hopes you enjoy your *Spirit of Schumacher* key chain, designed by Lisa Romanowski and produced by Benjamin Dunkley. For those of you who no longer carry keys, they can also be used as bag charms or zipper pulls.



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, March 1, 2026

We are in the early stages of planning a family-friendly celebration to commemorate the 114th Anniversary of Schumacher.

Details will be shared on our Facebook page once they are finalized.

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SACHA DIRECTORS

Lloyd Salomone
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Vera Romanowski
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General SACHA Inquiries:

spiritofschumacher@gmail.com

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Mailing Address

PO Box 13, Schumacher, ON, P0N 1G0

SOS NEWSLETTER

The not-for-profit Schumacher Arts, Culture & Heritage Association publishes the *Spirit of Schumacher* newsletter two times a year in the summer and winter.

For newsletter inquiries email: 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.

ADVERTISING

Business ads are \$70/year.
Contact us for more information.

Good for a Giggle ...

What happened to the duo who stole a calendar?
They each got six months!



MAJOR STORM

The City of Timmins said good-bye to 2025 by weathering one of the worst winter storms on record. From 5 PM on Sunday, December 28 through 1 PM on Tuesday, December 30, it snowed continuously for 44 hours with total accumulations of about 60 cm. Strong winds added to the chaos. Area highways have since reopened, but major cleanup is still required. In many residential areas, streets are down to single lanes and sidewalks are non-existent. Clearing of Schumacher roads finally started on January 5, 2026. Fortunately, in typical Schumacher fashion, neighbours stepped up to help clear vents, shovel blocked doorways, and free stuck vehicles.



Top: Multiple cars were stuck on Dwyer between Grant and Boundary Lane by midmorning on December 29. (Photo courtesy of John Ratsep). Above: Croatia was impassable on December 30. (City of Timmins Facebook photo.) Right: Deep drifts had formed at 28 Vipond by late afternoon on December 29, 2025. (Photos courtesy of Ben Dunkley.)

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Below: Forward Jacob Dunkley (sporting a new jersey provided by Francesco's Pizzeria) and Coach Steve Mesich show off the 2025-2026 SDMHA U18 Renegades' sponsor banner. SACHA is a proud supporter of the team.





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