



A Community Newsletter to Connect the  
**Past, Present and Future**

CELEBRATING 112 YEARS

MARCH 1, 1912 TO 2024

SCHUMACHER, ONTARIO

## CELEBRATING CANADA



The encircled maple leaf was one of the final images at the City's first ever drone show. (Photo courtesy of Bob McIntyre.)



Father-daughter duo Dave and Piper Farrell spearheaded the Community Organized Canada Day Celebration.

Canada Day festivities veered from their typical path this year. Instead of sponsoring daytime family activities in Hollinger Park followed by a traditional fireworks display over Gillies Lake in the evening, the City of Timmins opted to consolidate the festivities to an evening event at Gillies Lake and present a drone show instead of fireworks. (More on that later.) Rather than spreading negativity about the lack of family-oriented activities during the afternoon, Piper Farrell (who grew up in Schumacher) and her dad, Dave Farrell (who still lives here), decided to do something about it. With less than 48 hours notice, the Farrells manage to secure use of the Schumacher Lions Club (McIntyre) Park, schedule live entertainment, procure refreshments, and help organize volunteers to run various activities in the park. Thanks to the Farrells' infectious "let's do this" attitude, a host of groups and individuals came together to put on a free Community Organized Canada Day Celebration that was raved about by the many families in attendance.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

(Continued from paged 1) There are too many people, businesses and groups to mention individually in this article, but in addition to Piper and Dave, recognition needs to be extended to the following individuals who volunteered their time: face-painter Priscilla Chiasson (who stayed until 7 PM to accommodate everyone); entertainers Marce Tambeau, Dan (Skinny) Yergeau, Stan Campsall, and Kyle Cote; Dan Magny (who ensured First Aid Services were onsite), Estella Chow and her team from Lady Luck (who donated some of the food and cooked burgers and hot dogs all day), Destinie Caron (who sang O Canada), and Sylvie Wesley (who provided the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer). Gratitude is also extended to all of the individuals and groups who made cash and in-kind donations. Last but not least, about 375 pounds of non-perishable food items were brought to the park to be donated to the Timmins Food Bank. Perhaps Dave said it best in a Facebook post on July 1: "The number of people stepping up [to] help out is amazing! You all put the UNITY in community!"

Members of *The Voices of Porcupine* (a Facebook group that promotes a positive and encouraging community environment) reached out to Ontario Premier Doug Ford office about the successful Community Organized Canada Day Celebration. Premier Ford's response is shown at right. Piper and Dave certainly aren't in it for the accolades, but they were so inspired by how the community came together that they have formed a Community Organized Events Committee. They plan to host Canada Day festivities next year and recently held a second successful event, the Mid-Summer Day in the Park on the Civic Holiday Monday. If you are local and interested in joining the committee, you can find them on Facebook.

As for the Drone Show, which was sponsored in part by the City of Timmins, Northern College and The Bucket Shop, reactions were mixed. While pet owners and those sensitive to noise welcomed the quiet, others missed the signature booms that accompany fireworks displays. Some raved about the technology, others were unimpressed.



Above: The recognition letter from Premier Doug Ford to the Community Organized Canada Day Celebration volunteers.

While drone shows are decidedly more expensive than fireworks, they are also more environmentally friendly and customizable. At a cost of over \$30 000, the 12-minute show featured 100 drones equipped with colour-changing lights that were synchronized to create symbols representing the community, northern Ontario and Canada. Unfortunately, with only 100 drones, the Timmins display was two-dimensional making it hard to make out the symbols if you didn't have the correct vantage point. Many people gathered on the west side of Gillies Lake, which is where McIntyre Catering was set up, only to discover too late that the best view was from the south side. According to the Timmins Daily Press, Patrice Guy of North Star Drone Shows, who ran the Timmins show, indicated that for a true 3D experience at least 200 to 300 drones would be needed. It will be interesting to see whether the City will sponsor more drone shows in the future.

# SCHUMACHER SCHOLARS

Several lifelong Schumacher residents with ties to SACHA achieved academic milestones at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. Robert St. Aubin graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Juris Doctor (JD) from the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa. Since graduating he has passed both the Barrister and Solicitor bar exams and begun articling at Green and Spiegel LLP in Toronto. Robert has an interest in immigration law and plans to return to the Schumacher area to set up his practice. He is the son of SACHA supporters Robin (Pupich) and Dave St. Aubin. Marli Narduzzi opted to attend law school overseas. She obtained a Senior Status Law Legum Baccalaureus (LLB) from Aberystwyth University in the United Kingdom. Before Marli can start articling here in Canada, she will need to receive accreditation from the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA). In the meantime, Marli has secured employment with Vanbridger, Tomassini & Gvozdanovic in Timmins. Marli is the youngest daughter of SACHA supporters Melissa and Kevin Narduzzi.

Alyssa Delich, the oldest daughter of SACHA supporters Sherry-Lyn (Smith) and Marty Delich, graduated from Timmins High & Vocational School and will be pursuing political studies at Queens University. In recognition of her superior academic abilities and proven leadership qualities, and based in part on a nomination from THVS, Alyssa was selected as one of 50 recipients of a major Queens University entrance scholarship. The Chancellor's Award is valued at \$48 000 split over four years.

Ben Dunkley and Hunter Dunn graduated from O'Gorman High School. Hunter is the son of Amy (Cyr) and Connor Dunn and the grandson of SACHA supporters Darlene (Kolic) and Micky

Cyr and Linda and Terry Dunn. Hunter plans to return to OHS before pursuing post secondary endeavours. Ben is the oldest son of SACHA supporters Jen (Romanowski) and Rene Dunkley and the grandson of SACHA Board member Vera Romanowski. Ben was accepted to the highly sought after Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering (MRE) program at Queens University. Admission to the MRE is very competitive with only 50 students being accepted each year. In case you didn't know, mechatronics is a multidisciplinary branch of engineering that focuses on the integrated design of computer, electrical, and mechanical systems. Robotics is an elevated class of mechatronics that incorporates automation, programming, and autonomous action.

Both Alyssa and Ben were selected to receive Schumacher Alumnae and Schumacher Lions Club Oliver Laurila Memorial Scholarships. Schumacher Alumnae Scholarships, valued at \$500, are awarded annually to a postsecondary-bound graduate from each of the five area high schools. Recipients must be longtime residents of the community, have sound academic skills, display a positive attitude towards learning, and actively participate in the life of their school. Selections are made by the individual high schools. Schumacher Lions Club Scholarships are also valued at \$500 and awarded annually to a postsecondary-bound graduate from each area high school. Recipients must have sound academic skills, a positive attitude towards learning, and active participation in school life. Recipients are selected by the Lions Club from those students who apply. Preference is given to graduates who live in Schumacher or who are the child or grandchild of a Lion.



Alyssa Delich



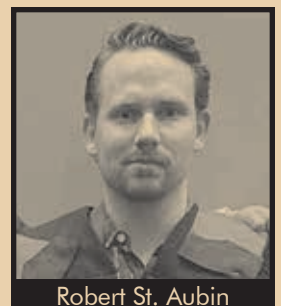
Ben Dunkley



Hunter Dunn



Marli Narduzzi



Robert St. Aubin



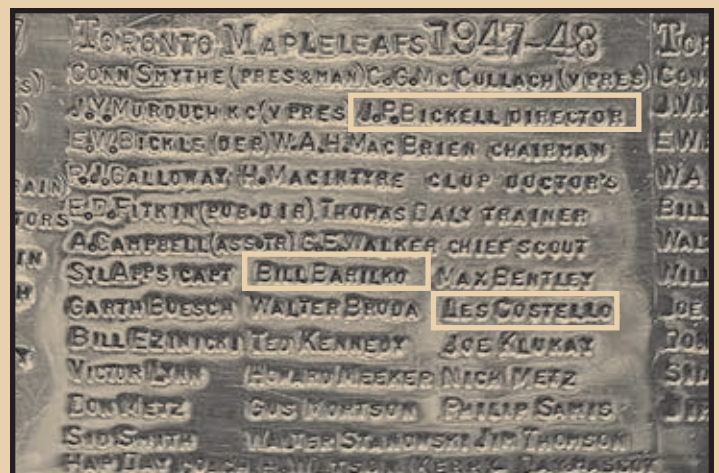
## COSTELLO STATUE IS HOME

The Father Les Costello replacement statue saga has reached a successful conclusion. As a quick recap, back in March 2023, the original 36" bronze statue on display at the McIntyre Arena was discovered broken beyond repair. A decision was made by Timmins Sport Heritage Hall of Fame committee members Wayne Bozzer, Ed Pupich and Mike Mulryan to focus on getting the statue replaced. Toronto Maple Leafs alumni, and Timmins native, Paul Harrison soon became involved. Paul was able to contact the original artist, Gary Aldcorn, who is also a former Toronto Maple Leaf. As luck would have it, 89-year-old Gary still sculpts, was interested in redoing the piece, and was able to track down the original Costello mould. Furthermore, the Northeastern Ontario DARE chapter had agreed to cover the costs associated with replacing the statue.

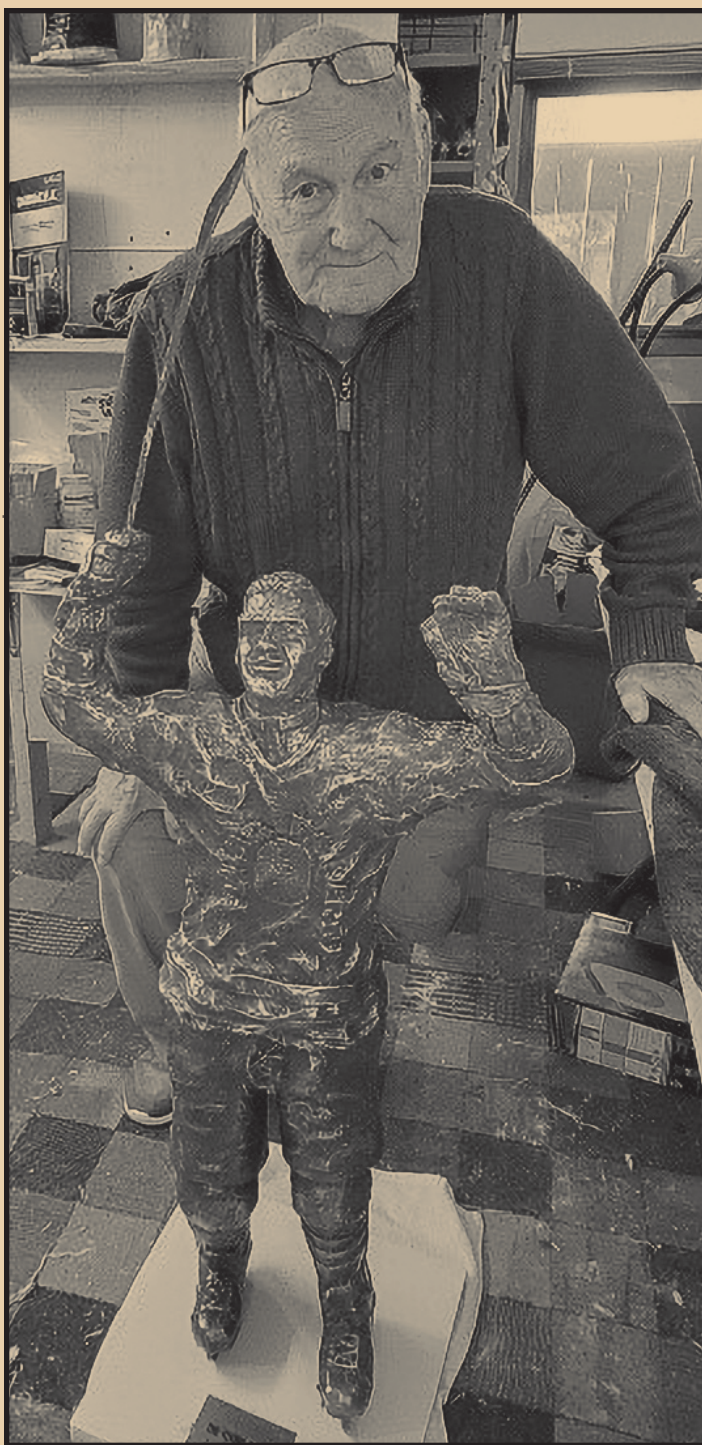
When we left off last issue, a new statue had been cast, but the challenging logistics of getting it home to Timmins from Lethbridge, Alberta remained. As those of us with deep roots in Schumacher know, regardless of where you might be in the world, you often don't have to look too hard to find connections to the community. It was one of these connections that ultimately brought the statue safely home and added a final twist to the story.

Before we conclude the statue story, a little history refresher is warranted. As you may recall, John Paris Bickell (born September 26, 1884) was one of the initial investors in the McIntyre Mine back in 1911. Mining was just one

of several areas where JP Bickell left his mark. Credited as being a key player in the development of the Canadian movie industry, by 1930 Bickell had sold his considerable movie industry interests to focus on mining and the Toronto Maple Leafs. Bickell eventually became the McIntyre Mine president and then chairman (a role he held until his death on August 22, 1951). In 1924, Bickell also became the majority owner, chairman, and president of the Maple Leafs and he served as a director of the organization until his death. He was a driving force behind the 1931 construction of Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto and the 1938 construction of the McIntyre Community Building. It is not a coincidence that The Mac was designed as the little sister of The Gardens. The Bickell link between the Maple Leafs and the McIntyre features in the final chapter of the statue story.



Above: Les Costello, Bill Barilko and JP Bickell were all part of the 1947-48 Stanley Cup Winning Toronto Maple Leafs. Next Page Top: Gary Aldcorn with the new statue of Father Costello. Bottom: Wayne Bozzer, Paul Harrison, Mike Mulryan and Ed Pupich with the newly unveiled statue on April 24, 2024.



Graham MacLachlan, a relative of JP Bickell, lives in Calgary, Alberta with his wife, Anika. Their son, Evan, who works in Timmins full time, happened to be home for a visit this spring. Aware of the daunting transportation logistics with the statue, the MacLachlans did not hesitate to help out. Graham and Anika made the drive to Lethbridge where they met with Gary, picked up the statue and brought it home to Calgary. Evan then carefully packed up the statue in his truck and made the stressful 2800 km drive back to Timmins. To say that Evan felt a sense of relief once the statue was turned over to the Timmins Sports Heritage Hall of Fame would be an understatement.

The new *The Flying Father: Les Costello* statue was unveiled in the JP Bickell Auditorium at the McIntyre Community Centre on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. The small gathering featured various media representatives, relatives of Father Les and longtime community members, along with Evan, Paul, Mike, Ed and Wayne. Those in attendance who knew Les agreed that he would not have enjoyed all the fuss being made over him. To Les' humble way of thinking, his story could best be summed up as "Father Les played some hockey, became a priest, ran a really nice little parish in Schumacher and helped the less fortunate" with no further fanfare needed. Ironically, it's for exactly those reasons that honouring Father Les and preserving his memory by replacing the statue was the right thing to do.

The statue has been reinstalled at the entrance to the McIntyre Arena with a few additional features in place to prevent any further issues. These include a more stable shelf, a thicker base and a security bolt in each leg. According to Mike Mulryan, who praised the City of Timmins for its willingness to ensure the safety of the new statue, "Barring a Level 5 earthquake, we should be secure without it being knocked down again." And so ends the story of a statue.







## PAST MEETS PRESENT

# ALONG THE HIGHWAY

Jacob Dunkley, who is going into Grade 10, decided to fulfill his mandatory Arts credit by taking a photography course this summer. As he worked through his various assignments, he had plenty of opportunities to take photos around Schumacher. Quite a few of his best shots were taken along the highway, which sparked the idea for this feature. We hope you enjoy this mix of current day photos courtesy of Jacob and historical photos from various times periods and sources.



Above: Jacob used a Canon R5 on a tripod with a slow shutter speed to capture light trails of evening traffic against the backdrop of the McIntyre headframe. (The colour version is even more impressive.) Left: While he was out and about, Jacob used his iPhone 11 to snap a photo of the Schumacher sign at the west entrance. Below Left: To illustrate balance and unity, Jacob took a photo of the flags located at the east entrance to Schumacher. Below: This undated and uncredited photo once hung in a City shop and features the east entrance to Schumacher before the bypass was built. Based on the speed limit of 30 mph, the photo likely predates September 1, 1977 (which is when Canadian highways adopted the metric system).





Above: Jacob used a Mavic Mini drone to capture a view of the arena, headframe, and former park area. Left: This undated and uncredited photo once hung in a City shop and features the Hollinger Aerial Tramway (aka the Bucket Line) that spanned the highway near Schumacher's west entrance. According to the Timmins Museum, it was built in 1927 to transport gravel to backfill the stopes. The system moved 750 000 tons of backfill a year using 230 buckets suspended along 11.5 km of cable. It operated for 16 hours per day, with each bucket depositing its load every 17.5 seconds. Below: The Schumacher Lions Club Pool at some point in the 1950s before it was enclosed. You can see the west end of McIntyre Park across the highway. (Photo from TSHHF Facebook page.) Below Left: Jacob took photos of the rusty vintage mine cart near the Comfort Inn to demonstrate texture. The Schumacher Lions Club Pool was located near here.



Below: This rare panorama shows the once magnificent McIntyre Park which started right across the street from the McIntyre Community Building (on the far right) and extended to the dirt road that runs beside the modern-day Signature Auto Sales. The train tracks are where the four-lane highway is situated today. (Photo courtesy of TSHHF Facebook page contributor Micky Cyr.)





## BOOK BOXES INSTALLED

They say good things come to those who wait and that's the case with the Schumacher Community Library Project. Back in 2022, under the leadership of Lloyd Salomone, a committee was formed to oversee the creation, installation and maintenance of 10 book boxes within the Schumacher area. District School Board Ontario North East students built the boxes early on, but getting them installed has taken longer than anticipated. Fortunately, most of the boxes are now in place. Initial reactions from the community have been positive with books being both borrowed and donated. Book boxes are currently located at Dwyer Park, Fourth Avenue Park, Gold Centre Park, Laham's Hill, the Flag Park, Porcupine Ski Runners (Wax Shack) and Schumacher Lions Club (McIntyre) Park.



The majority of the 10 Schumacher Community Library Project book boxes were installed around Schumacher this summer. Two of the locations include Dwyer Park (left) and Fourth Avenue Park (right). The remaining boxes will be installed in the near future.

## NEW CAMP BICKELL BOARD

In operation since 1939 and billed as the finest co-ed camping facility in Northeastern Ontario, Camp Bickell is located on the shores of Chapman Lake in Iroquois Falls. Joe Campbell became the Chair of the camp's Board of Directors in 1986 at a time when the camp was severely run down and on the verge of permanent closure. After 38 years of volunteer service, Joe has stepped down from his duties and left the camp far better than he found it. Joe's leadership and personal contributions, along with immeasurable support from his immediate and extended family, saw the collection of ramshackle cabins transform into the modern gem of a youth outdoor centre it is today.

Coinciding with Joe's retirement, a new volunteer Board of Directors has been installed. Boasting mostly new faces, the new board intends to use their wealth of knowledge and skill to build on Joe's work and turn the camp into a year-round facility. A strategic plan is in active development. Thirty-nine year board member Paul Toffanello, an educational consultant and author, is the new Chair. Stuart Weir, Legal Aid Ontario lawyer, is the new secretary. Graham MacLachlan, Global Trade Credit Inc managing partner and a relative of the camp's namesake, is the new financial officer. New members at large include Lacey Rigg (City of Timmins events coordinator), Wayne Bozzer (retired YMCA CEO and Timmins Sports Heritage Hall of Fame director), James Parisi (Timmins Economic Development Corporation consultant), Casandra Gravel (Guillemette Law lawyer) and Courtney Berlinghoff (Timmins YMCA manager and Joe's niece).



Above:  
Joe Campbell  
Below:  
Paul Toffanello





# FUN ON FOURTH AVENUE



Above: The Mann kids were the first to test out the new equipment at the Fourth Avenue Park on August 15, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Alex Mann). Below: It took about a week to install the new equipment which complements the swingset that was already onsite. (Photo by Lisa Romanowski.)



Well, it took years longer than it should have, and the dogged efforts of two consecutive Ward 3 Councillors, but the City of Timmins finally installed a much needed modern play structure at the Fourth Avenue Park (located at the intersection of Fourth and Boundary Lane). Thanks and gratitude go out to former Councillor, Joe Campbell, for starting the process and to current Councillor, Bill Gvozdanovic, for seeing it through to completion.

The new brightly coloured structure includes slides, climbing apparatus, and rocking toys which compliment the existing swingset. A Schumacher Book Box is also located at this park, making it an ideal location for nearby families with children of all ages to gather. The construction fence officially came down on Thursday, August 15 and the Mann family holds the distinction of being the first to test out the new equipment. Several people have already expressed their gratitude for this newly enhanced outdoor space. Families in Schumacher are actually quite lucky as there are five well-equipped parks where kids can play: Dwyer Avenue Park across from the Fire Hall; the Schumacher Public School yard; Fourth Avenue Park; Gold Centre Park; and Schumacher Lions Club (McIntyre) Park.

# MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL



Left: Jasmine Chenier and Kylie Krcel donned traditional Kolo dresses for the festival. Right: Volunteers Kim Krcel, Kathy Vukobratich, Ken Krcel, Lorna Hrbolich and Michaela Delich at the Croatian Society booth.

The 52nd Annual Timmins Multicultural Festival took place at the McIntyre Arena on May 25 & 26, 2024. On the afternoon of the 25th, a Cultural Connections event (consisting of short presentations from representatives of various cultures) was held in the McIntyre Auditorium. The 26th saw the traditional parade of nations, live entertainment and ethnic food sales on the McIntyre Arena floor.

The Croatian Society of Schumacher has long participated in the festival and this year was no exception. Their delectable offerings sold out quickly thanks to the fantastic turnout!



## EDITORIAL

All in all, it's been a beautiful summer in Schumacher with plenty of activities to keep everyone busy. It's nice to see additions like the park on Fourth Avenue and the book boxes encouraging people to get outside. It's also fantastic to see community members come together to create positive events for families without getting bogged down in politics or red tape. To all students with Schumacher ties who graduated during the 2023-2024 school year: Best wishes in your future endeavours. Dream big, follow your heart, and never forget your roots!

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the unexpected passing of Ted Vail on May 27, 2024 at the age of 66 years. Although Ted was not an official member of the SACHA Board, he was always willing to help me out if I needed a photo or background info for a story. Hindsight being 20/20, I wish I would have made space for the "dog in the SHS group photo" update last issue when he was still with us. Ted's passion for Schumacher history and his genuine gratitude for those who impacted his life were unsurpassed. He will be missed.

The next issue should be out in late December or early January. If you have good news items or a story to share, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Until next time, take care!

*Lisa Romanowski,*  
SOS Editor



The Summer 2023 (Issue #44) of the SOS featured a panorama of the Schumacher High School student body from the early 1950s. There was a dog comfortably posed with the group and in the write-up I wondered about how that came to be. Days after receiving his copy of the newsletter, Ted Vail reached out to share the pooch's backstory and a photo (above) that he had received from Carol Neilsen. Fittingly, the dog's name was Teddie and although he was owned by the Waddell family, he was a community dog. The story is that Teddie would ride the rails between Schumacher and South Porcupine on the T & NO (Temiskaming & Northern Ontario) train. The conductor would let Teddie hop on in Schumacher and made sure that by the end of the day he had hopped back off at Schumacher Station. In the photo, Teddie is standing in front of the sewage treatment bunker that was located at the bottom of Laham's Hill.

### REMINDER: NEW PUBLICATION TIMEFRAMES

To keep the production of the Spirit of Schumacher newsletter viable, we have permanently switched to two issues per year. Expect issues in July/August and December/January.

### SACHA ACCEPTS ETRANSFERS

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### 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](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.

### ADVERTISING

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

### Good for a Giggle ...

Do fish go on vacation?  
No, they're always in school!







The photo above is from the 7th Annual Porcupine Skating Club Carnival programme, which took place April 6 & 7, 1945. It features (back L to R): Marjorie Tomkinson, Jeannine Morin, Irene Domoglaski, (front L to R) Audrey Jenkin, Mildred Verbik, and Beverley Cooke. According to the online Skating Magazine archives, Milly Verbik passed Level 8 in January 1950, earning her the title of Canadian Gold Medalist. Her coach was Hans Gerschwiler. Milly went on to achieve her Gold Dance - Blues in the spring of 1952 before turning pro. She was a figure skating coach in Noranda by January 1953 and had expanded her résumé to include Kirkland Lake by November 1954.

## READER MAIL

Please accept this in memoriam donation in tribute to Milly (Verbik) Hilgendorf. Milly was the first skater from the Porcupine Skating Club [based out of the McIntyre Arena] to pass the Gold Medal test [in 1950]. After turning pro, she coached in Kirkland Lake and Noranda.

From her friends,  
Nancy McNeil, Marje Payne & Sheila McLellan



SACHA was pleased to receive the above Thank You message from Leanna Delich on behalf of the Mac's U18 Team Chilton.

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