



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



Volume 24 No 2
July 2015

P.O. Box 309
Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0

Bowling Banquet circa 1955

Cobalt Community Hall, Fireplace Room.



Left to Right: **Front Row:** Walter Cole; Joe Arbour; Bob Scott; Cecile (Audete) Watson; Art Marcotte, Ted Assal. **Second Row:** Roy Switzer; Ernie Taylor; Lloyd Riley; Len Cassidy; Hubert Audette; Walter Purdy. **Third Row:** Ron Nickle; Dennis Larabie; Ray Lemoine; Don Speck; Don Boyce. **Rear:** Lawrence Audette.

Participants identified by Lawrence Audette, Jim Cooper, Roger Grignon, Allan Haarala, Janet Larabie, Ray and Amy Lemoine, and Bill Montgomery.

The two main social events of the year in Cobalt were the Christmas/New Year's Dance held between the two holidays and the Spring Bowling Banquet. This event would have been attended by some 300 persons and held at the end of April. It is thought that Cecile Audette was wearing her crown as the Cobalt Winter Carnival Queen. The bowling alley located in Haileybury still holds bowling banquets at the Cobalt Haileybury Curling Club.

Historic Cobalt Legacy Fund and Agnico-Eagle

This fund organized by Cobalt Mayor Tina Sartoretto in 2014 and administered under The Temiskaming Foundation was the recipient of a gift of \$1 million dollars from Agnico Eagle. The presentation was announced at a buffet luncheon in the Cobalt Community Hall on June 14, 2015. Special guests were former Agnico Eagle employees and their wives. It was announced that a plaque will be placed on the building that was the formerly the Agnico Eagle Office. In honour of the Company's founder, Paul Penna, the Library will be named The Paul Penna Public Library. The interest from the Fund will be used to support the Cobalt Mining Museum, the Bunker Military Museum, the Classic Theatre and the Heritage Silver Trail. Please find enclosed an invitation to contribute to the Historic Cobalt Legacy Fund.

Fraser Hotel Outdoor Mural

The corner of Prospect and Silver no longer sports the curved stairs leading to the Bank of Toronto, but the corner now has a mural of very early Cobalt as buildings started to appear. The Beautification Committee assisted by painting the foundation coats of paint. Laura Landers of Laura's Art Shoppe together with her assistant Melissa Monk has done a beautiful job and caught the eye of many passers-by.



**READY FOR SOME
SERIOUS GAMBLING?**

**500 BALLS
10 HEATS
1 WINNER!**

THE GREAT COBALT SILVER NUGGET RACE
WHEN: 2:00 P.M. SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015
WHERE: BUNKER LANE (ROAD HEADING DOWN TO TRAIN STATION)
50/50 DRAW
\$10.00/TICKET - ONLY 500 TICKETS PRINTED!
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT COBALT MINING MUSEUM & LOCAL BUSINESSES

Great Cobalt Silver Nugget Race

This fund-raiser for the Cobalt Mining Museum takes place August 22nd at Bunker Lane across from Cobalt Town Hall. All those numbered silver balls race down the hill in heats, and the winner shares half the ticket sales as prize money. There are only 500 tickets printed.

You can get your tickets wherever this poster is displayed. And make sure you save the date. Contact the Mining Museum for out of town tickets. (705-679-8301)

Cobalt Train Station

In March it was announced in the Temiskaming Speaker that the Cobalt Train Station had been sold to local private entrepreneur Winnie Kammermayer. Winnie is now living in Temiskaming Shores but was raised in Cobalt.

“I want Cobalt to thrive and have the opportunity to reclaim and reflect some of its former glory,” she says. Born in Kenabeek but raised in Cobalt with many generations of family from Cobalt, Ms. Kammermayer feels a deep connection to the town, its history, and with that the desire for people to see the potential the town has to offer.

“The station was designed by the award winning architect John M. Lyle, also responsible for Canada’s most monumental railway station, Toronto’s Union Station, and built in 1910 to accommodate the extensive traffic accompanying the 30 year silver mining boom. Since that time, Cobalt has continued on quietly, and Ms. Kammermayer sees the potential for business.

“It’s a picturesque town, with a unique layout. Combine that with the history and Cobalt makes a great tourist destination with the possibility of opening doors for the community,” she says.

“The Cobalt Visitor Welcome Centre is already located in the railway station and will be a part of what she has planned for the rest of the space. She hopes to authentically revive the interior and, with a few additions of her own, make the space inviting for locals and tourists alike. It will be a little while before the station is open, but Ms. Kammermayer is excited for the future. “It’s important to generate interest in where we live,” she says. “It shows we care and want to give back to the people and places that shape who we are.”

The railway station is adjacent to Highway 11B in the heart of the Town of Cobalt.



Before and after pictures of some of the restoration work.

Lake Temiskaming Rift Valley Proposed (UNESCO) Global Geopark

The RockWalk Park Inc., the organization which created and maintains the outdoor geologic samples located to the south of the former Haileybury School of Mines, passed a motion at its Annual General Meeting in May 2015 to initiate a planning process for the formation of a geopark in the Temiskaming Rift Valley. The only geopark now established in Canada is Stonehammer, near St. John, New Brunswick. Interested persons may contact RockWalk president Graham Gambles by email: grahamgambles@yahoo.ca

