



# THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society  
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1903  
Our History Shines  
Volume 26 No 4  
August 2017

## Cobalt Honours



From left to right, Mary Ward-Church, Jack Church, Mayor Tina A.D. Sartoretto, and Valerie Hostetler who accepted the award on behalf of her late mother Vivian Hylands.

Congratulations to Jack Church and Vivian Hylands for being honoured with the **Cobalt Community Spirit Award**. The new award from the Town of Cobalt honours community champions who exemplify the spirit of the Community, a spirit reflective of kindness, caring, and compassion to help and assist others and to make the Town a better place to live, work and play.

One male and one female were chosen for this award in its inaugural year and the Award ceremony was held July 1, 2017. These people certainly were deserving of the recognition they each had shown for many years.

Agnico-Eagle’s rehabilitation team received the **Tom Peters Memorial Award** on June 27th, in Guelph, Ontario during the ceremonial dinner held during the Ontario Land Reclamation and Rehabilitation Symposium. The award is recognizing the effort of Josée Noël, Jean Cayouette, Michel Julien, Jean-François Doyon and a little group of consultants (Story Environment and Golder) for their efforts to rehabilitate the shaft at Coniagas #4—that’s right, the one White Mountain Publications now inhabits at 50 Silver Street, Cobalt.

"Developed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, the Cobalt Historical Society, the private owners of the building, and the community, the project is considered a success in terms of sustainable development, addressing health and safety, environmental and social concerns."

For Agnico-Eagle’s 60th Anniversary they are doing videos that can be seen at <https://www.agnicoeagle.com/E.../60th-anniversary/default.aspx> One features Bill Montgomery, another coming soon has Bill Sutton. They are worth watching.



Josée Noël accepting the Award for Agnico-Eagle from Bryan Tisch of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association



# The George Taylor Hardware in Cobalt- 1905-1941

By Bruce W. Taylor



*George Taylor Hardware circa 1905*

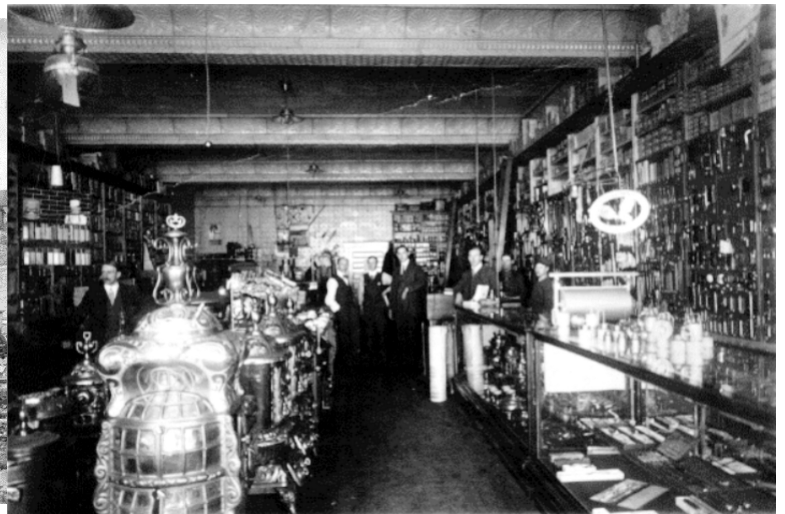
George Taylor, a former mayor of London, Ontario, was awarded a grant of land for his service as a volunteer in the 7th battalion, London Militia, during the Fenian scare in 1866. That grant was for a farm lot in Hilliard Township, on the Blanche River, north of New Liskeard. He was impressed with the Temiskaming area, and in 1901, established a branch of the London-based George Taylor and Sons Hardware in New Liskeard with his sons, William and Albert in charge. In 1905, the business was incorporated under the name “The George Taylor Hardware Limited”, a name that was to be in service for many years.

In 1905, shortly after silver was discovered at Cobalt, the family decided to open a branch of the hardware firm in the silver town with the youngest son, nineteen-year-old R.S. (Ralph) Taylor in charge. This

first store was a wood-frame building situated at the south end of Lang Street, overlooking the railway station.

1909 was a pivotal year for the firm. In one of the many fires that roared through Cobalt in the early years, most of the many businesses on Lang Street, including the Taylor Hardware, burned to the ground in July, 1909. Also, during an outbreak that killed 111 people in November 1909, Ralph Taylor was stricken with typhoid, his recovery complicated by other health problems which plagued him for many years.

On March 10, 1910, Ralph married the former Hola Wilson, daughter of New Liskeard pioneer, John Wilson. The young couple moved into an apartment above a new, concrete block building constructed on



*Exterior and Interior of store on silver street. Circa 1912*





*Post Card view of the Taylor family home at 73 Nickel Street, Cobalt. Date unknown*

the west side of Silver Street (No. 28), where the LCBO building now stands. The author's father, Lowery Taylor, a future mayor of New Liskeard, was born at home on January 26, 1911. Five more children followed; Elsie Taylor on December 11, 1913; William Taylor on April 28, 1916; Bruce Taylor on September 6, 1920, and the twins, Ralph and Tom on May 21, 1924, all born in Cobalt.

With dozens of mines in production, business boomed at the Cobalt store, making it one of the most productive stores in what was fast becoming one of the largest hardware chains in Ontario with stores in New Liskeard, Cobalt, Larder Lake, Matheson, Cochrane, Timmins, Swastika, Kirkland Lake, and Noranda.

In early October 1922, the business suffered a setback, as a fire broke out in the store. The New Liskeard Speaker reported that "...The upper part of the building is a wreck, while the lower floor, together with the immense stock, is gutted and ruined by fire and water. Only great work by the Cobalt firemen prevented a great disaster to Cobalt." The firm lost no time in rebuilding and stocking the store.

By this time, the Taylor family had moved to a home at 73 Nickel Street, where they lived until 1926, when they moved to New Liskeard. Ralph Taylor was, by this time, Secretary-General of the firm, as well as General Manager of the Cobalt Branch.

Ralph Taylor stayed with the Taylor Hardware organization in the head office in New Liskeard until his untimely death in 1944.

All of the Taylor children born in Cobalt went into business, except for Elsie, who trained as a dietitian, and who married Dr. Wm Taylor (no relation) a WCB Miners Chest X-Ray specialist, in Timmins.

Lowery Taylor worked for the firm in New Liskeard and Kirkland Lake, eventually purchasing the New Liskeard retail store and going independent. William worked for the firm in Kirkland Lake, and after 1928, was in charge of the Mines Assay Supply Company (a wholly owned subsidiary) in Swastika. Bruce, a fighter pilot in WWII was killed on active service with the RAF in 1942. Ralph worked in the stock brokerage business in Kirkland Lake, while his twin, Tom was employed by the firm in New Liskeard and later owned

Railway Garage in that town.

In 1912, the Cobalt Branch purchased the stock of Mines Chemical Supply Company and opened a Mines Assay Supply Department in that town. By 1931, business in Cobalt had fallen off, and the assets of the Assay Department were transferred to the company's Mines Assay Supply Limited that was established in Swastika in 1928.

Finally, in 1941, in order to centralize the company's branches, the general office of the Cobalt Branch was merged with the head office in New Liskeard, and the Cobalt branch was closed.

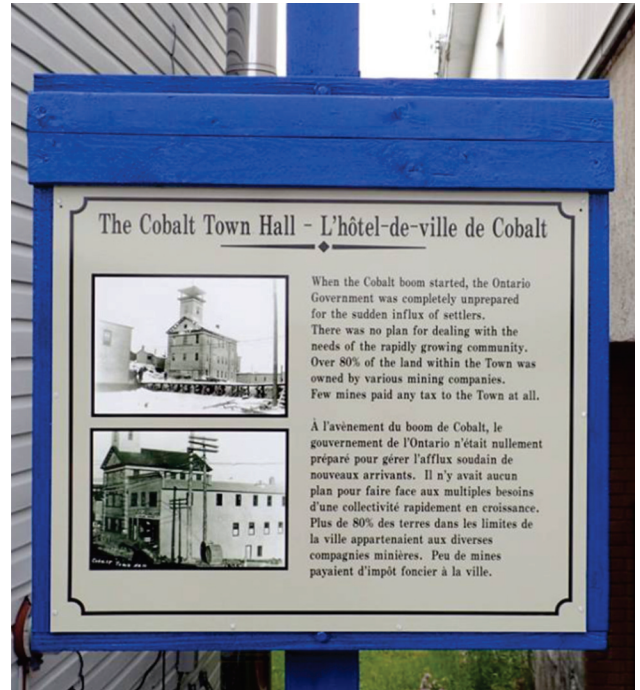


*R.S. Ralph Taylor, Manager of the Cobalt Branch*

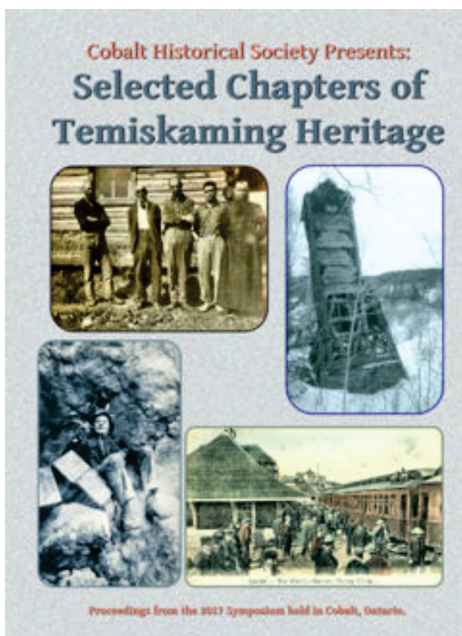
## Around Town

Reiner Mielke has assumed the CHS Trail portfolio. When he discovered that new signs were awaiting installation he consulted with the CHS and the Town of Cobalt and then took it upon himself to

start the clean-up and installation of the signs. In black and white it may not be as apparent, but there is a world of difference having the new signs up and the brown posts repainted Cobalt blue. (Paint supplied by the Town of Cobalt.) The ‘wee gray town’ is looking more lively all the time.



## Selected Chapters of Temiskaming Heritage



*Selected Chapters of Temiskaming Heritage*, the book compiled from the presentations at the Symposium we held June 3rd, 2017, will be ready late August/early September. Enclosed with this Newsletter is an order form for those who wish to reserve their copy. This will be an ongoing fund raiser for the CHS.

We have already started to line up presentations for next year's symposium, so pencil in the first Saturday in June 2018 (June 2nd).

**Submissions** for the Newsletter are most welcome. We appreciate the care and timeliness of new member Bruce Taylor's addition to this newsletter. So if you have some piece of history to share please let us know.

## Membership Renewals

If you haven't renewed your membership for your 2017 membership, we hope you will continue with us. We're looking to accomplish bigger and better things.