



# THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society

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## Another Chapter in Temiskaming Heritage June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019



Maggie Wilson



Bruce Taylor



Debra North



Rocky Larocque

We have 4 presentations starting at 9:30 am @ Golden Age Club, 22 Argentite Street, Cobalt.

**Maggie Wilson: *Horatio Barber and the Open Call Mining Exchange.*** Horatio Barber was known to be a wealthy eccentric who was famous for his aviation exploits, but little was known about how he made his fortune in mining. Barber was by turn a scholar, gent, miner, promoter, speculator, mining consultant, pilot, Captain, insurance broker, colonial development officer. It seems that the man never sat still.

**Bruce Taylor – *Taylor Hardware As A Business Incubator.*** One company that established a store very early in the history of the Cobalt silver camp was George Taylor Hardware Limited, which started selling hardware and other supplies to prospectors and the early mines out of a tent on Haileybury Road in 1905. Management of the Taylor Hardware Cobalt Branch recruited many talented and hard-working men and women over the years, and a significant number of them advanced to positions of responsibility within the Taylor organization and elsewhere over the years. Many served in WWI and WWII. This is the story of some of these people who made a difference.

**Debra North: *Annie Saunders, Cobalt's First Nurse.***

Through extensive research Debra has been able to follow this amazing woman from her birth in England to her arrival in Cobalt. Through pictures, some not seen publicly before, the viewer will have the opportunity to walk in this dedicated woman's footsteps as she devoted nine years of her life to Cobalt.

**Robert Larocque: *A Methodical Strategy to Dating Historic Cobalt Photographs.*** A glimpse through the camera lens of the early photographers provides one with an intriguing look at the early years of the mining camp. The early images we have today of the landscape offer the viewer a great wealth of details regarding the growth of Cobalt during the first few years after silver was first discovered in late 1903. They are the visual story of a moment frozen in time, that were captured in the lenses of medium & large format cameras of the day. They are the stark images of a bygone era that tell us how the rag tag assortment of canvas tents and haphazard shacks constructed along the shoreline of Long Lake would become the 'Silver Capital of the World' in just a few short years.

**Registration: \$40.00 (includes HST)/per person.** The fee covers admission, light refreshments, and lunch. Please let us know soon, as we need to prepare.

## The History Channel in Cobalt – MacMillan Garage

We received an interesting phone call from the History Channel. They are working on a new series called *Salvage Kings* and wondered what we could tell them about historic buildings in Cobalt in general and in particular, the MacMillan garage on Silver Street, just north of Prospect Avenue.

According to historian Peter Fancy, the building was originally C. P. Campbell's funeral parlour and furniture store. J. C. McNabb then installed stained glass to the front and operated his undertaking business there.

At the end of WWI, Oliver Blais converted the building to an Overland and Chevrolet sales and service building. Lloyd MacMillan bought the business in 1936 and sold Nash autos, later Ramblers. The MacMillan Garage closed sometime around 1994.

In 1972, Olga MacMillan was interviewed about her memories of the early days. Here's what she recalled about the building when they moved to Cobalt in 1936.

“The apartment over Blais Garage was old fashioned with V-joint walls. It was very dirty. I had a Mr. Diary come and wash walls and a Mr. Hyatt did our wall papering. He lived on the Silver Center Road. Emily Prescott stayed with me six weeks cleaning the place up. Lloyd started the garage and hired mechanics. He had five people working for him. The shop foreman was George Brackenbush. Lloyd employed a body man and four mechanics Ray Cloutier, Isaac Dunn, Jack Cloutier, Pete a drifter did painting.”

The series features Toronto company, Priestly Demolition. Corus Entertainment describes the series on their website: “A family business with a big heart and hundreds of demolition jobs a year. When buildings are slated to be torn down, that's just the beginning of the story for Priestly's expert salvage crew. They race against the clock hunting through abandoned buildings and dangerous work sites for hidden treasures — just before the walls come down. What are they looking for? Well, if it can be repurposed, restored or turned around for a buck, they want it. If an object has a history, it has a future, and that future is worth top dollar to this team.



*As the Nash dealership*

Filming will start in late May or early June. Details at: <https://www.corusent.com/properties/salvage-kings-wt/> and <https://www.equipmentjournal.com/construction-news/history-channel-demolition-new-show/>



*As a General Tire, Rambler dealership.*



*1955 MacMillan Motors*



*MacMillan Garage in 2006 (Photo credit Frank Nagy)*

## How important is history?

It's a question that requires more space than this small square has to offer. Suffice to say, some people get it, and some people don't. Here in Coleman and Cobalt, the local administrations recognize the importance of heritage and they support us as best they can.



The Cobalt Historical Society is grateful for the financial support from Coleman Township. At the end of April after our presentation to council, Mayor Dan Cleroux generously donated a cheque of \$2,000. Both the Town of Cobalt and Coleman Township continue to help us with trail maintenance, as required. We are fortunate to have use of the Pan Silver Headframe office on Silver Street, thanks to the Town of Cobalt.

We are of, course, grateful for your support! You guys get it!

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**Haileybury Heritage Museum**  
  
**Fundraising Auction**

Sunday, June 2, 2019  
 Cobalt-Haileybury Curling Club  
 Doors Open for Viewing at 11am – Auction Starts at Noon

Don't miss this opportunity to bid on hundreds of items, including many collectables.  
 Special auctions and fundraisers will also be held during this event.  
 Food and refreshments will be available.  
 Stay tuned to the Haileybury Heritage Museum Facebook page for updates of information and photos of auction items.  
 If you would like to support the Haileybury Heritage Museum in this fundraiser by donating items, please contact the museum by phoning 705-672-1922 or by email at [hlmuseum@hotmail.ca](mailto:hlmuseum@hotmail.ca)

**HELP SUPPORT THE HAILEYBURY HERITAGE MUSEUM!**

There's plenty going on the weekend of June 1 in the Tri-towns. The *Spring Pulse Poetry Festival* is on all week leading up to a special ceremony on Saturday, June 1st for the awarding the Order of the North to Dr. William Henry Drummond. Also, on Sunday, plan to attend a fundraising auction for our friends at the *Haileybury Heritage Museum*.



*You are cordially invited to attend the*

**ORDER OF THE NORTH CEREMONY**  
**FOR DR. WILLIAM HENRY DRUMMOND**

*Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 1:00pm*

PAUL PENNA COBALT  
 PUBLIC LIBRARY  
 30 LANG STREET COBALT

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH  
 FROM NOON TO 1:00 P.M.  
 PROVIDED BY THE COBALT LIBRARY BOARD

## Annual General Meeting

**CHS Annual General Meeting** was held March 18, 2019 at the CHS office. Board members include Maggie Wilson, Reiner Mielke, Reg Holdworth, Dwight Brydges, Kendra Lacarte and Deborah Ranchuk who all consented to continue. The election of the Board officers was held after the AGM: President,

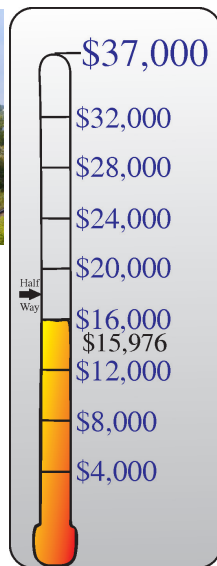
Maggie Wilson; Treasurer, Kendra Lacarte; Secretary, Deborah Ranchuk. Much work was done through the year on the trails. Lathem replaced the legs on the Right-of-Way which were in dire need. This unexpectedly cut into our budget, but it was necessary. Our thanks go out to Lathem Excavating Ltd. and Eddie Labelle for their help in preserving the Right-of-Way.



## Fund Raising Update

GREAT news regarding our fundraiser to fix the roof on the Right-of-Way Mine! We're keep growing closer to our goal with **\$15,976** in donations. If you wish to send us an Interac e-transfer from your bank, please use our email [chs@heritagesilvertrail.ca](mailto:chs@heritagesilvertrail.ca)

Together is the way it works. Thank you.



## Membership Renewals

We hope you will renew your membership for 2019. We thank all those who have so quickly sent their renewals for 2019.

We're looking to accomplish bigger and better things. The form is available for download from the website if you've lost the copy that came in the last newsletter. The Newsletter will only be mailed to those who have renewed. If you would prefer an online version rather than a printed one, just indicate it on your renewal, or send us an email, or letter.

We thank Stan Lafleur at Prism Publishing for printing the newsletters. The set-up time has also been donated, so please support the book store in the old Coniagas shaft house downtown so we can continue to serve you.

Between newsletters, stay current with our website and Facebook page.