



# THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society

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

On June 1, the Cobalt Historical Society presented their second speakers' symposium *Another Chapter of Temiskaming Heritage*. Maggie Wilson, chair of the CHS, spoke about Horatio Claude Barber and one of his businesses, the Cobalt Open Call Mining Exchange. Bruce Taylor, a well-known local historian, followed the lives of former Taylor Hardware employees who got their start in his great grandfather's business. Debra North presented the fascinating story of Cobalt's first nurse, Annie Saunders. To round out the event, Rocky Larocque, who was born and raised in the hydro colonies along the Montreal River, and inspired by his grandfather's passion for photography, presented methods to interpret and date Cobalt's early landscape images.

Judging by the smiles all around, everyone enjoyed themselves, on both sides of the podium.

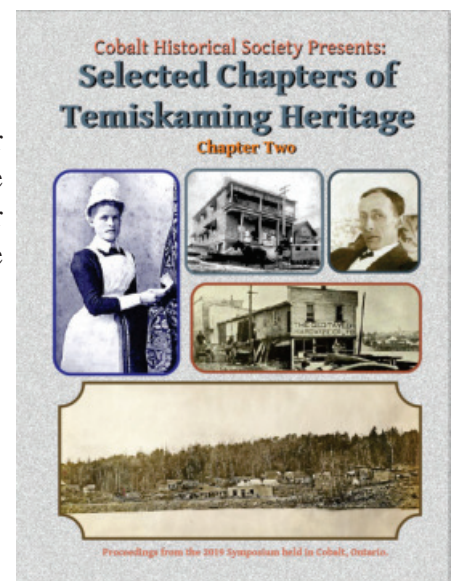


*The speakers at the June 1 symposium Another Chapter of Temiskaming Heritage Maggie Wilson, Debra North, Robert "Rocky" Larocque, and Bruce Taylor.*



*Debra North, left presents a copy of her latest book The Sterling Women of Cobalt 1903 to 1914 to CHS president and speaker, Maggie Wilson, who helped with the writing of the book.*

The proceedings for this symposium are being prepared for print and should be available in the fall.



## Syd Watkinson Cobalt Photographer 1883 - 1963

We are over the moon to have received a generous donation of historic Cobalt photographs from Ian and Val MacPherson of Kenogami.

Val tells us that her grandfather, Syd Watkinson came to Cobalt in 1904 when he was 21. He worked as a blacksmith. He married Gertrude Caverly in 1920. They had two daughters, Val's mother Olive, and Mary.

"Syd seemed to have an early interest in photography but only a few images exist prior to 1924. He upped his game with superior equipment in the mid-1920s. At some point he turned to photography to make ends meet as blacksmithing was a dying trade. This was likely by the mid-1930s. The bulk of his work was portraits, school pictures, and weddings. He might have either worked for or collaborated with Alex MacLean on occasion. He did not have his own studio but did have an elaborate darkroom in his home on Galena Street. He also took up 'colourizing' some of his images and found a market for them around Cobalt.

The Watkinsons moved to Kirkland Lake in the late 1950s. Syd passed away in 1963 at 80 years of age."

Here are samples of his work. Some famous landmarks around Cobalt. Thanks to Ian for digitizing the photos, a true labour of love.



*Prospect Avenue Shaw's Drugs, Inch Block, Cobalt Taxi 1953*



*Cobalt, from Grandview Avenue.*



*Mileage 104*



*The Square, Post office, Simpsons, Dominon Silver Craft shop*



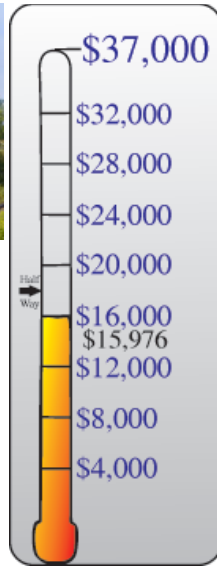
## Fund Raising Update

GREAT news regarding our fundraiser to fix the roof on the Right-of-Way Mine! We're keep growing closer to our goal for the roof with **\$15,976** in donations.

In the meantime, emergency repair on the legs was necessary and has been done. This unexpectedly cut into our budget, but it was necessary. But it has put us behind in our funds for the roof. We need your help.

If you require a tax deductible receipt contact us and we'll advise how this can be done. Donations by mail are fine or you could send us an Interac e-transfer from your bank using this email address: **chs@heritagesilvertrail.ca**

Together is the way it works. Thank you.



## Order of the North

The Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City, affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society, was founded in 2009 on the 100th anniversary of Elk (City) Lake. It was created to honour and commemorate the contributions Jack Munroe made to his community and indeed the entire Country. In turn, the Society created the **Order of the North** to recognize and honour others who have contributed to making the North the fantastic part of Canada that it has become. The inaugural Order was awarded to Jack Munroe in 2014 followed by Jacob "Jake" Englehart, and Leslie McFarlane. On Saturday June 1 during the Spring Pulse Poetry Festival at the Paul Penna Cobalt Library Dr. William Henry Drummond was honoured.



*From left to right : George Othmer, John Vanthof, Anthony Rota, Myrna Hayes, David Brydges, George Lefebvre*

## Membership Renewals

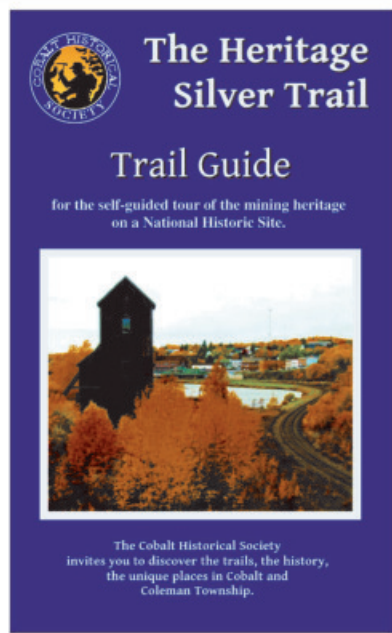
We hope you will renew your membership for 2019. We thank all those who have so quickly sent their renewals for 2019.

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 winter 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:

<https://www.facebook.com/CobaltHistoricalSociety/>



The revised Trail Guide is available in Town and online in PDF format.

Because some of the sites have been withdrawn either due to permission, or safety concerns, we ask that only the sites now on the Trail be visited.

Another educational outreach from you Cobalt Historical Society.