



## Cobalt Today

The world turned on a dime mid-March with the announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic. And Cobalt was almost instantly transformed as well.

The Post Office and the LCBO remained open with reduced hours as the rest of the businesses, Town Office and Library in town closed. Not all at once, but almost.

Temiskaming Transit continues to run, but only people with walkers or assistive devices get anywhere near the drivers. And they are wearing masks. Entry and exit is at the back door of the bus. No fares are required, and so staff are not exposed to cash, tickets or people boarding close to them to show passes. About half the riders wear masks; it seems that the total message that this is for real hasn't hit some of them.

We have been lucky in Temiskaming with only 18 confirmed cases so far, and all of them recovered. That will not last; it means that the majority of people have complied with the social distancing and/or have stayed home. But it seems to have created a false sense of security that could mean trouble down the road.

While the province is encouraging businesses to re-open, the mood here seems to be cautious. The *Haileybury Heritage Museum* has decided already that it is totally closed for 2020. The *Cobalt Mining Museum* and the *Bunker Military Museum* are awaiting further guidance before committing, as is the *Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum* in New Liskeard.

In the meantime the streets are quiet, and few if any people are seen out walking during the day. The Post Office and the LCBO have some traffic, both being essential service. It remains to be seen this summer if we will have any of the visitors we have seen in recent years.

And, given Cobalt's history, it will rebound from this as well. It's the most interesting part of our history.



## The Temiskaming Foundation

We are grateful for the continuing support of Agnico Eagle via the Temiskaming Foundation. This year we received \$3,430 and the funds will go toward trail repair and maintenance.

### Agnico Eagle Fund

This fund was established in honour of Agnico Eagle founder Paul Penna, "as well as on behalf of all the men and women whose commitment, perseverance and spirit helped to transform Agnico Eagle into a leading international gold mining company" Sean Boyd CEO Agnico Eagle. Income from this fund is used to support the *Paul Penna Library* (formerly Cobalt Public Library) as well as providing annual operating grants to the *Cobalt Mining Museum*, the *Bunker Military Museum*, the *Classic Theatre* and the *Cobalt Heritage Silver Trail*.

Donations can be made to the Foundation at:  
<https://temiskamingfoundation.ca/posts/fund/agnico-eagle-fund/>

### Heritage Silver Trail

The Colonial site needs repair as vandals cut the main hydro cable, and so no power is available for the mining tour. (No we have no explanation for this kind of nonsense either...) There was a post accidentally sheared at the Nancy Helen site at the top of Galena. The post has been replaced, but needs painting. We are considering moving the Larose Blacksmith Shop to the Jack Koza Park for easier access. A new Trail Guide will be needed to reflect the closed sites and the website is being revised and will reflect the current Heritage Trail.

So we will continue to be busy, have no worries.

# Cobalt Concentrates

Published Every Thursday

5c Per Copy

January 8, 1947

## First Canadian Citizen Arrives At Cobalt

Typical Cobalt New Year's weather, with it the thermometer at ten below saw the arrival in this Town of its first Canadian citizen. For at 5:30 in the afternoon of New Year's Day, a daughter was born to Mrs. Allen Browne, at her home on Earl Street. The rest of us, they tell us, are just Bohunks—Yogoslavs, Ukrainians, British subjects and what not, while Miss Browne is a full-fledged, legal Canadian citizen, ushered into this cold world under the new Dominion Citizenship Act, which came into force seventeen hours before her birth—not that she cares one bit. Pretty typical too, of our new citizenship, with a father of English descent, a millman at the Ausic Mill over by Cross Lake, and a mother of French ancestry.

When she grows up, Miss Browne may be interested in this little bit of her history, and may wear the Arms of the new Cobalt: A Silver Phoenix rising resplendent out of the ashes of an old fire. For today at Cobalt more development is going on at any other time in the memory of the younger of our population. Not since the early nineteen twenties has such an effort been made to explore the camp and develop new mines.



Shirley Gilson (née Browne)  
today

### COBALT CONCENTRATES NOW PART OF SPEAKER

With this issue "Cobalt Concentrates" becomes part of the Temiskaming Speaker.

This step has been taken in what is believed to be the best interests of the readers of "Cobalt Concentrates". Both papers have been printed at the Speaker plant since March last and it is felt that the addition to the Cobalt paper of the pages of the Speaker will bring to Cobalt readers first class coverage of all the news of this District.

The features which have become part of our own paper will be retained under the new arrangement and it is planned to carry on in a Cobalt section full reports on mining activities in the camp, together with a record of local events and personal and social news.

It is also proposed to continue to use these pages to bring before the people of Cobalt announcements dealing with all those things which are of importance to the community. The remarkable manner in which the citizens of this town have co-operated with the present move to survey the entire population by lung x-ray illustrates the way Cobalt follows through every worthwhile movement, properly brought to the attention of its families. The number of persons who have agreed to be examined is just double that which had been anticipated by the Provincial authorities.

Should the day come, as some day it will, when the mines of Cobalt once more return to high production and the mills once more are grinding, separate issues of our paper may again be resumed; in the meantime, it is the belief of those who have given thought to the question that the people of Cobalt will be well served by the incorporation of "Cobalt Concentrates" with the pages of the paper of our sister town.

Temiskaming Speaker September 4, 1947

Does anyone have any information about the Cobalt "Coat of Arms" described in the *Cobalt Concentrates* article above? Or a picture maybe? Would love to see it....

### NEW PAPERS

THE SPEAKER is indeed happy to extend a welcome and best wishes to the three newest contemporaries in the field of journalism in the North.

Last week the *Goldfield's Star* made its bow at Malartic when it came out as a sixteen page tabloid designed to serve English-speaking readers of Northwest Quebec, particularly the big community extending from Perron to Cadillac in the Golden Valley. It incorporates the two English-language weeklies which formerly served the area. G. G. Yates as editor and T. J. Hunter as manager are associated in the venture.

*Cobalt Concentrates* sported a new dress last week. This paper which was set up some months ago as part of the Adult Education program in Cobalt has met with a considerable measure of success in its short life. Until last week A. H. Moss's class in Journalism, composed largely of high school students, not only compiled and edited the local news but they also turned it out laboriously on a duplicating machine. The change came when they decided that the effort deserved professional handling and as a result last week's edition was turned over to a printing establishment for publication. The composition and press work is now being done by the Temiskaming Printing Company Limited.

The third newcomer to the publishing field is still a very modest effort but it bears promise of bigger things. *The Gowganda Weekly Bulletin* is edited and published by the public school pupils of that mining town who work under the editorship of Wayne Green. It consists of two pages of typewritten news items of local interest. The young journalists are finding that the demand for their publication usually exceeds the supply and circulation is growing steadily.



By the 1930s Canada's naturalization laws consisted of a hodgepodge of confusing Acts, which still retained the term "British subject" as the only nationality and citizenship of "Canadian nationals". This eventually conflicted with the nationalism that arose following the First and Second World Wars, and the accompanying desire to have the Dominion of Canada's sovereign status reflected in distinct national symbols (such as flags, anthem, seal, etc.). This, plus the muddled nature of existing nationality law, prompted the enactment of the **Canadian Citizenship Act, 1946**, which took effect on 1 January 1947. On that date, Canadian citizenship was conferred on British subjects who were born, naturalized or domiciled in Canada.

Article 26 of the Citizenship Act 1946 still declared that "A Canadian Citizen is a British Subject." While the Act had created a separate legal concept of Canadian Citizenship, Canadians still remained part of a wider British Subject, or Commonwealth Citizen, status. The concept of "A Canadian Citizen is a British Subject" would remain part of the Citizenship Act until the Act was overhauled and replaced by the Citizenship Act, 1976, where the concept was replaced by the term "Commonwealth Citizen." British subjects/Commonwealth citizens ability to vote in Canada on the federal level was not ended until 1975 and was not fully phased out in all provinces until 2006.

The substantially revised new Citizenship Act, 1976 came into force on 15 February 1977.

In general, persons born in Canada on or after 1 January 1947 (or 1 April 1949 if born in Newfoundland and Labrador) automatically acquired Canadian citizenship at birth unless they fell into one of the exceptions. Those born in Canada before 1947 automatically acquired Canadian citizenship either on 1 January 1947 (or 1 April 1949 for Newfoundland and Labrador residents) if they were British subjects on that day, or on 11 June 2015 if they had involuntarily lost their British subject status before that day.

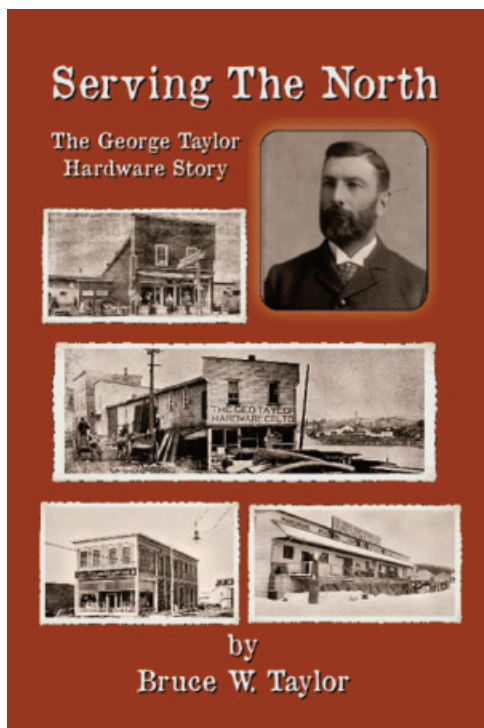
Despite being indigenous peoples in Canada, many First Nations peoples (legally known as Status Indians) and Inuit born before 1947 did not acquire Canadian citizenship until 1956, when only those who met the conditions were retroactively granted Canadian citizenship.

For a much more detailed description visit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian\\_nationality\\_law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_nationality_law)

## Serving the North The George Taylor Hardware Store

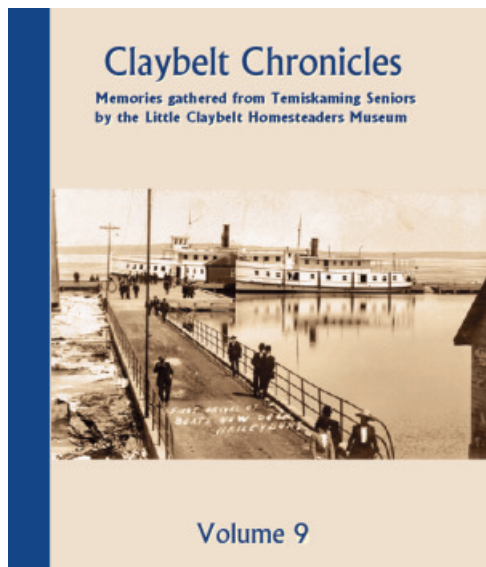
By Bruce W. Taylor

If you were at the 2019 Symposium, you heard about this book as it was being written. It will be here at the book store in print and online in ebook formats for June 2020 <https://wmpub.ca/1322-GTH.html>

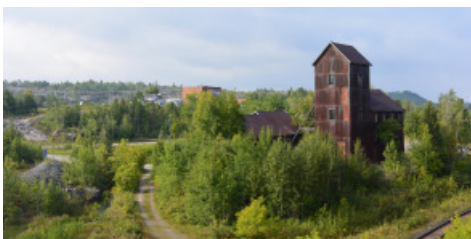


*George Taylor Hardware, Silver Street, Cobalt circa 1910*

Coming from the *Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum in June 2020*: The final volume in the Claybelt Chronicles interview series:



<https://claybeltmuseum.ca/209-CC-Vol9.htm>  
or  
<https://wmpub.ca/7990-CC9.html>



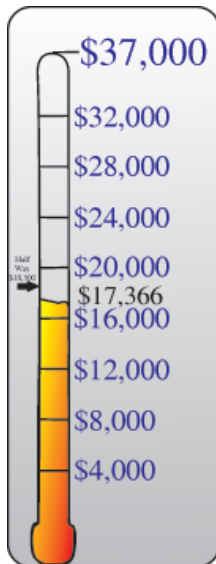
## Fund Raising Update

GREAT news regarding our fundraiser to fix the roof on the Right-of-Way Mine! We keep growing closer to our goal for the roof with **\$17,366** in donations.

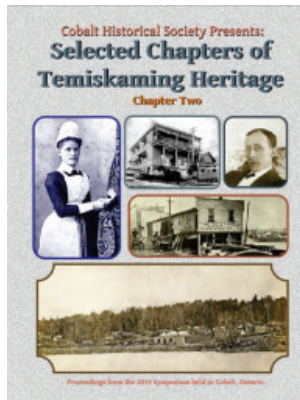
In the meantime, emergency repair on the legs was necessary and has been done. In 2018, the stiff legs on the headframe were replaced as they were rotting and in danger of falling down. Fortunately, we had sufficient savings to cover the expense and did not need to dip into the roof repair fund.

Donations by mail are fine or you could send us an Interac e-transfer from your bank using this email address: [chs@heritagesilvertrail.ca](mailto:chs@heritagesilvertrail.ca)

Together is the way it works. Thank you.



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



The proceedings for this symposium are available now. Get your copy at the book store in Cobalt or by ordering online. To order the first book or this one online send an e-transfer to [chs@heritagesilvertrail.ca](mailto:chs@heritagesilvertrail.ca) for \$15 each + \$7 shipping. We'll get it (them) out to you as soon as possible.

## Membership Renewals

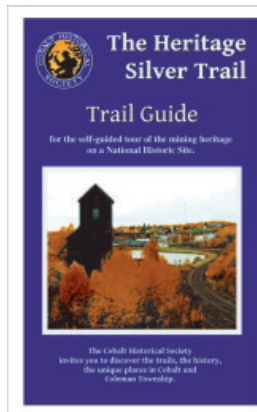
We hope you have renewed your membership for 2020. We thank all those who have already sent their renewals for 2020.

We're looking to accomplish bigger and better things. The form is available for download T: [http://heritagesilvertrail.ca/PDF/2020-Membership\\_form.pdf](http://heritagesilvertrail.ca/PDF/2020-Membership_form.pdf). 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.

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 the Cobalt Historical Society.