



# THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society

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## Message From The President

Greetings to all, and we hope this letter finds you safe and coping with the remarkable challenges 2020 has placed before us.

In preparing this annual report, I reviewed my emails to the board members. We had planned to hold our first meeting in March. Here is my message calling our first meeting in 2020:

*I'd like to set up our next board meeting for Monday, March 23rd. Please let me know if you can make it that day. A plan B date is the following Monday, the 30th.*

*We'll want to:*

*\*authorize expenses for reprinting of the trail guide,*

*\*discuss changes to the trail as suggested by Agnico Eagle,*

*\*discuss a souvenir booklet as a fundraiser for the ROW headframe using art by Dennis Newman*

*\*and whatever else needs discussing.*

You know what happened next: lockdown. No meetings. "Whatever else needs discussing" was deferred or managed virtually.

People stayed close to home this summer and as a



*Halloween visitors to Nipissing Lookout.*

*Photo from Kyle Audette*

result, more visitors came to the Heritage Trail. We noted people at the sites each time we passed. The bookstore has also been busy with customers and visitors. We almost ran out of trail guides, but were able to scrounge enough to get us through the season. Next year, for certain, we'll need to print more.

Kyle Audette's Geocaching scavenger tour along the trail started late in the season, but even so, brought in forty new visitors to town. It may not sound like much, but forty more people are now acquainted with the site.

Throughout the year, we answered queries from the news media or people who wanted to know more about Cobalt or their ancestors' lives. The Cobalt Silver Kings, William Trethewey, Harold Rowdon, and William Assaf, were some of the more well-known names we were asked to investigate. Steven Larocque, editor of *The Temiskaming Speaker*, has invited us to contribute pictures for their weekly "Across the Years" feature.

In August, tourists visited the region and documented their trip in a video - you can view it online here: <https://youtu.be/097Q1McVLOo>

The video captures the highlights of the region and features several points on the Heritage Silver Trail around the lake, including the train station. What caught our attention was the state of the Cobalt sign in the foreground. It had clearly seen better days. Within short order, we arranged permission with the building owner and ordered a replacement sign.

The September newsletter was a big hit among our readers. We received compliments about our efforts to preserve history as well as content for upcoming newsletters! A descendant of Eric Smith (clothier and musician) sent us quite a bit of material which we will feature this coming year. In this edition, we share with you more gifts from Maurice O'Shaughnessy.

Of course, there is no way to predict what next year will bring. We hope for the best, of course. Thanks, one and all for your continued interest and desire to keep the Cobalt story alive. Stay safe!

*Maggie Wilson*



## Do you recognize this house?

A member of the Deering family contacted us from the UK. Several of his ancestors came to Cobalt in the 1910s. One of the family, Connie Fisher Deering was sister-in-law to hardware store owner Harold Rowdon. This photo of the Deering clan is in the family collection. The Rowdons lived at 37 Ruby Street at the far northwestern corner of town.

## New Photos

We wish to thank Maurice O'Shaughnessy who sent us four photos from his family collection. Three of the images were taken around 1923 from his grandfather's house which was on the east side of the Chambers-Ferland property. The fourth was taken up above the mill site located at Mileage 104.



*Unknown man with horse and buggy. Note the tailings in behind, the elevated compressed air pipes, and the square hydro building in the upper right.*



*View to Right of Way manager's home, with vegetable garden in front, Cobalt Lake, and the Town of Cobalt in behind. The water tank sits on top of Prospect Ave, as does the Masonic Temple; the Hunter Block is located to the upper right of the train station. The headframe of the Coniagas Mine is in the distance. (circa 1923)*

*The photographer turned a few degrees to the right and captured the Right of Way Mine; the bridge over the TN&O tracks to the far right.*



*The photographer is standing above the mill at Mileage 104. Maurice tells us that this photo was taken at a later date. The square building in the middle ground was the public school. His mother taught school there, and she met her husband walking to and from Cobalt when he worked at the O'Brien Mine.*



# The Temiskaming Foundation

## Tina Sartoretto Fund



Former Cobalt Mayor Sartoretto passed away this fall.

In honour of Tina, her brother Bert has established the Tina Sartoretto Fund under the **Historic Cobalt Legacy Fund** at **The Temiskaming Foundation**.

As this fund continues to help projects in Cobalt, Tina's impact will continue to be felt in the community. You can read more here, and also donate if you wish

<https://temiskamingfoundation.ca/tina/>

On a different note, the short road across from the Town office formerly called Bunker Lane, has now been re-named Tina's Trail in her honour.

## Membership Renewals

We hope you will renew your membership for 2021. We thank all those who have already sent their renewals for 2021.

We're looking to accomplish bigger and better things. The membership form is available for download from the website. 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.

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

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



The new sign at the train station, courtesy CHS

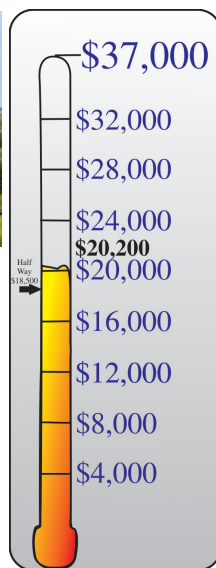


## Fund Raising Update

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 **\$20,200** in donations.

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.



**Submissions** for the Newsletter are most welcome and needed. So if you have some piece of history to share please let us know. We can scan photos, and decipher handwriting if we have to do so, but a word processor file attached to an email would be greatly appreciated. Sharing history of the homes you've lived in, places you've worked -all the pieces of Cobalt life will have some interest. History isn't just the money, the mines, the businesses—it's what life was like that also needs to be captured. Help us do that.

