



Summer 2022 has Begun!

We welcome you to visit the Town of Cobalt and Coleman Township this summer. Our tireless volunteers have been busy updating information signs and clearing brush.



Above, Reg Holdsworth and Reiner Mielke replaced the old sign at the Right of Way Mine.

Below, the former Hellens Mill site at the south end of Cobalt Lake is a new addition to the trail.



The Cobalt Lake Mine and Hellens Mill site has officially been added to the trail. Agnico suggested that we create a viewing platform and to further enhance the site for visitors. We think it's a great idea!

The Colonial Adit will be open to tourists once again this year. Visit the Cobalt Mining Museum to arrange an underground tour.

Unfortunately, ONR has not yet completed the assessment work on the Townsite Mine and Glory Hole, or the Right of Way Mine locations. Visitors are invited to view these iconic heritage sites from a safe distance.

We are grateful for the ongoing, generous support of the Town of Cobalt and Coleman Township. Special thanks to Agnico Eagle who understand the importance of mining heritage and grant us permission to enter on their property. We ask that visitors stay on the paths and do not breach the fence barriers or cement barricades. Also, please take out what is brought in, or use the trash bins where available.

Updated trail maps and guides are available on our website and at these locations:

- * Town of Cobalt
- * Coleman Township
- * Cobalt Public Library
- * Latchford Town office
- * Cobalt Mining Museum
- * White Mountain Publications
- * Laura's Art Shoppe
- * Fresh as Farm Market
- * Temiskaming Shores Chamber of Commerce

Cobalt's Fire Halls

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the Great Fire. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find more information about the special events being planned by our friends at the Haileybury Heritage Museum, as well as a new book, *The Great Fire of 1922 A Centennial Retrospective*.

The Cobalt Historical Society assisted Haileybury organizers with research. Meanwhile, we received a request from Rob Simpson, He needed a photo of the North Cobalt fire hall. Rob is a retired Health & Safety / Equipment and Driver Training Officer and Volunteer Firefighter. He owns robbyroost.ca, a webpage with information related to current and historical information related to fire stations in Ontario.



After the 1909 fire. Train station on the left. The pumphouse sits on the shore of Cobalt Lake.

Today the building on Lakeview Avenue is an apartment house, between Queen Street and Cross Lake Road. Thanks to Brian Dobbs of the Haileybury Museum, and a lucky find on social media, Rob was able to update his site.

However, we learned that this location does not match what historian Peter Fancy shows on his 1921 map. The original jail and firehall were located two blocks to the east, on Lakeview, between Station and Main (today renamed Carter). Considering the Great Fire of 1922 when most of North Cobalt was destroyed, we surmise that the fire hall was lost and later rebuilt, further west.

We also helped Rob to update his entry of Cobalt fire halls. Fire fighting structures were first located in the Square. A hose reel shelter sat in front of the Imperial Bank of Canada. The pumphouse was southwest of the shelter on the shore of Cobalt Lake.

The first firehall was at 49 Silver Street from 1910 to 1941 when the building was demolished. A new firehall was built in 1953 at this location on Silver Street. In the interim, the fire department occupied space in the Hebert Block on Prospect Avenue. This was a commercial/residential multiplex, built in 1912 to replace the Lyric Theatre.

The Prospect Avenue location is poorly documented in terms of images - we have no photos of firemen, gear, or vehicles. If it weren't for the fact that the 1948 insurance maps clearly show "Fire Station" at this address, we wouldn't have a clue where the station was located. Maybe our members have more information to share?



North Cobalt Firehall (Courtesy Brian Dobbs)



*Another View of the North Cobalt Fire Hall
(Courtesy John V Brown)*



Looking north along Argente St. The Imperial Bank is off camera, right. The slope-roofed shed, front right, housed the hose reels. The walls are papered with handbills.



The first fire station, above, circa 1910, was on Silver Street, in the premises of a former Hardware Store, north of the intersection of Prospect Avenue, roughly the same location as today's fire hall.



From the estate of John Hunt, horses draw the fire wagon from Prospect Ave onto Silver Street. The date and occasion are unknown, but it appears to be a parade, from the 30s or 40s. The Silver Street firehall is in behind the driver's head.

The Herbert Block from 1950. The fire station is behind the utility pole left of centre, between Hebert Fuels and the Dominion. Photographer Syd Watkinson is standing beside the Imperial Bank property on Lang Street.

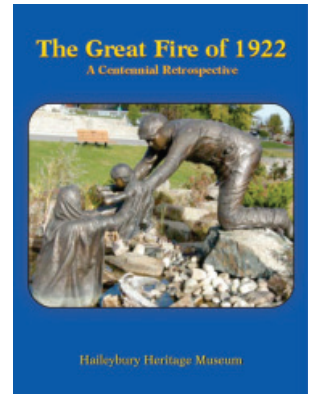


The Great Fire of 1922 Centennial Retrospective

While assisting with the research for the upcoming Great Fire anniversary, we found an editorial in the *North Bay Daily Nugget*. The paper urged residents to observe the week of October 2, 1922 as it was dedicated to fire prevention. The irony is staggering.

Over the next few months as part of the commemoration of the centennial administrators of the Haileybury Heritage Museum Facebook page will share photos and stories from the survivors of this terrible event.

These stories and photos are also included in the *The Great Fire of 1922 A Centennial Retrospective*, a book which is being published by the Haileybury Heritage Museum and White Mountain Publications. It will be available for purchase later this summer. For more information, or to reserve your copy contact the Haileybury Heritage Museum 705-672-1922 or email them at hmmuseum@gmail.com



Save the date! The 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Great Fire of 1922. A multi-day event, September 30, to October 2, 2022 at the Harbour Front Pavilion, Haileybury.

New Puzzles later this year

In partnership with the Cobalt Mining Museum, we will publish a series of puzzles featuring the artwork of George Cassidy. He was an important artist, educator, illustrator, thinker, and writer, and he lived and worked in Cobalt and the surrounding region. His art exemplifies and contributes to our understanding of a particular time in a particular Canadian place: Northeastern Ontario during the World War II era.

Our George Cassidy Puzzle Series comprises images selected from the myriad paintings by Cassidy treasured by local museums, galleries, and collectors.

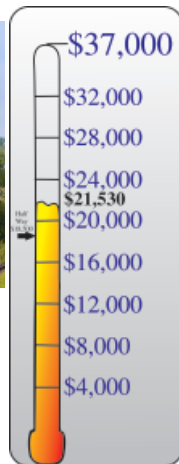


George Cassidy Buffalo Mill and Prospect Ave Water Tower; Below Nipissing 96 Headframe



Fund Raising Update

We are over half-way to our goal for the roof repairs with **\$21,530** in donations. Yes, we continue...



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.

