

- Mid to late 1960s – Roschilka & McIntyre develop trail; reenactors, dressed in period clothes guide visitors to the Townsite #2, the Glory Hole, the Coniagas, and LaRose. It would make your heart stop to see the safety hazards.
- 1985 provincial employee and geologist Leo Owsiaci began plans to develop the trail. “The Heritage Silver Trail was one of six projects he was given to work on and was what he described as being a bit of an aside.”
- 1986 Silver City now the Silver Capital Designation awarded by **Ministry of the Environment [emphasis mine]** August 23, 1986, as recommended by Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.
- 1987, the Heritage Silver Trail opened with 5 sites. McKinley-Darragh Mill, Little Silver Vein, Cart Lake tailings lookout, Nipissing 96 Mine, and the Right of Way Mine.
- 1987 – 1995 The trail was expanded and maintained by the Cobalt Mining Museum.
- March 1995 – safety concerns and lack of funds threaten closure of three sites; then the provincial government with a strong environmental protection mandate threatened to close the sites. A steering committee convened to save the trail, included representatives from Agnico-Eagle, the Town and Township, the mining museum, the Cobalt Historical Society committee, [the CHS was not formally organized until 1999] and others. **NB ONR was not at the table, nor were they considered as a stakeholder. ALSO note, the chair of the steering committee was Charlie Angus.**
- December 1995 – change in government eased concerns. “Ministry staff realize that some of the existing ruins of mines and mills are no more hazardous than the land in its natural state,” [said Agnico-Eagle mines rehabilitation coordinator Kent Saxton.] “But the company is eager to preserve what can be saved.” Agnico was a key supporter of the trail. “Agnico has been working very, very closely with us, and they’re just as interested in seeing the heritage preserved. It’s a good partnership,” Ms. Anderson said.
- September 1996 application made to Northern Ontario Heritage Fund- three phase project 1. Stabilize existing sites; add Larose blacksmith shop, Coniagas #4, Townsite and Glory Hole, Meyer Shaft Nip 73, and Kerr Lake mine site. Relocate University Headframe to 11/11B \$261,000
- 1996 – 1999 Interest in the trail grew; provincial governments focused on tourism.
- 1999 CHS was formed to be an arms-length agency for the two local municipalities, Town of Cobalt and Coleman Township. This was a necessary step to allow access to grants since neither of the local governments were eligible for funds from provincial or federal bodies. FEDNOR grants totaled \$750K to the CHS. “The Heritage Silver Trail is a **joint venture** of the Cobalt Historical Society, the Town of Cobalt and the Township of Coleman.” **[emphasis mine – CHS should not be left alone in the cause to preserve the trail]** Trail officially opened 1999 with plans to add more sites in the early 00s. Ironically, the grand opening ceremonies were held at the Townsite property. Albert Chitaroni was acknowledged as key supporter; Signs commemorating the event are still on display.
- November 1999 Cobalt looking to be designated as a National Mining Heritage Park – Jim Taylor, Blackstone presents feasibility study to council.
- June 6, 2001 TVO announces Cobalt **Most Historic Town**
- July 27, 2001 CHS receives \$328,000 from Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for trail
- May 15, 2002 Federal Government named Cobalt a **National Historic Site**
- May 22, 2002 CHS awarded Ontario Historical Society **Dorothy Duncan Award for outstanding service**
- August 21, 2002 \$65,000 to stabilize and repair Right of Way begins; already completed stabilization of Townsite \$52,300