



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society

Box 309, Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0 cobalthistoricalsociety.ca

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Edgar John Boland, Principal, St. Patrick's School

Earlier this year, we received in inquiry, wondering if we would be interested in a small collection of photos and other articles related to St. Patrick's School. "My uncle, Edgar Boland, was principal of the school from 1933 to 1943. I have booklets from the school's anniversary celebrations, as well."

Of course, we answered, "Yes! Please!", our usual reply, whenever anyone asks this sort of question. But in this case, the gift will fill a large gap in our collection. Material related to this time period in general, and to St. Patrick's Parish in particular, is sadly lacking.

No longer. Thanks to Boland's niece, Michele, we are happy to share with you a sample. She told us, "He was an interesting person to talk to and I learned a lot of family history from him. It's where I really developed an interest in the 1825 Peter Robinson Migration to the Peterborough area. My maternal ancestors were part of that migration.

"He loved flower gardening. I remember the beautiful rose beds he had at his house, and then the flowers on his balcony when he moved to an apartment. As a teacher, he wrote very well and I marvelled at that. We usually kept in touch by letters between visits.

"He had a great sense of humour and enjoyed others who did as well. He had a keen interest in people and events, as you could tell from the scrapbook material. I think he was a born historian the way he kept those scrapbooks."

Michele sent us photos from Boland's time in Cobalt, including snaps of the CA-BO-GI Club, St. Patrick's school, staff, and boys' hockey teams. He designed the School Crest. Boland was involved in a number of cultural events in town, several held at the Fraser Hotel including an amateur theatre production. Many of the photos feature the cast, including Alex and Marie Fraser, owners of the hotel.



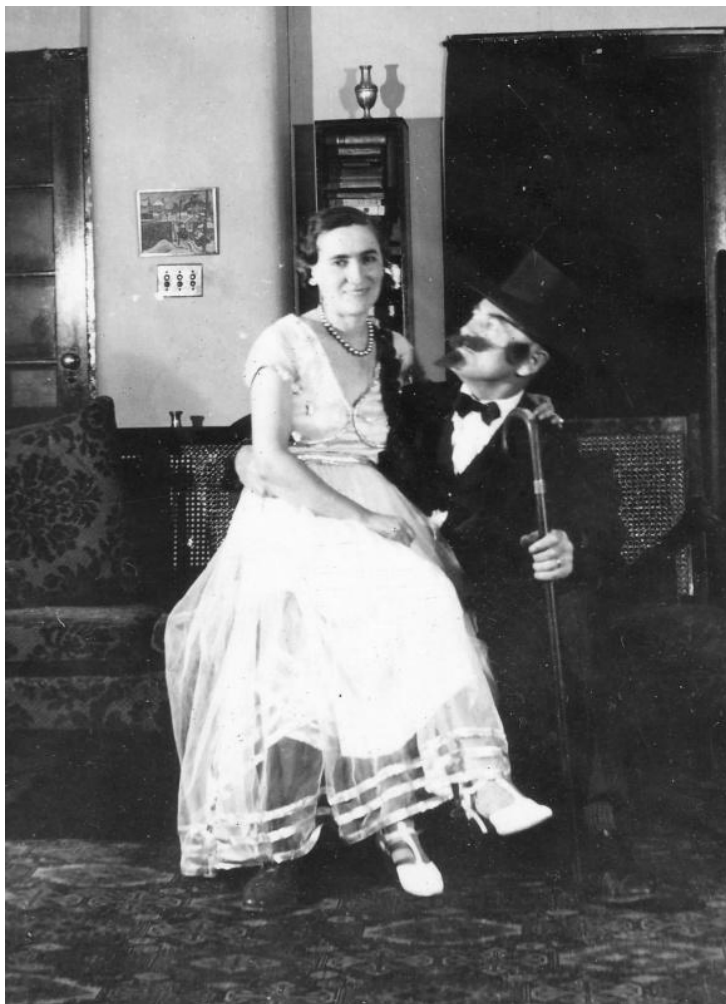
Edgar John Boland and Staff of St. Patrick's School - October 15, 1935

A dedicated historian himself, Boland was part of the publication of Jubilee booklets for St. Patrick's Church. These include a history of the Parish and the congregation and are now available in PDF format, on request.

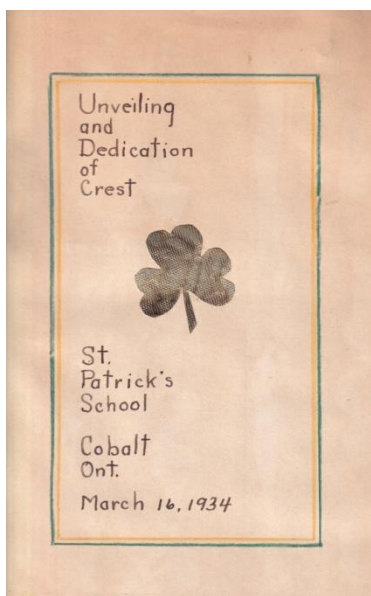
Finally, we have his scrapbook which contains news clippings, souvenirs, programs, etc., ca 1930s – 1940s; Cobalt, Iroquois Falls, Peterborough. Oh, and Edgar was a fan of the Royal Family!



St. Patrick's School.



Marie and Alex Fraser.



Crest Unveiling/Dedication of St. Patrick's School 1934.

The following is copied from the church bulletin that was prepared for his funeral service.

Edgar J. Boland was born in Peterborough on October 19, 1906, the son of Frederick Boland and Laura Lynch. He was educated at St. Peter's Boys' School, and St Peter's High School. In his pursuit to become a teacher, he studied at Peterborough Normal School, Regiopolis College in Kingston, and Trinity College in Toronto.

Edgar's long and distinguished teaching career began in 1926 in a small Rural School House SS No. 1, Douro. For forty-one years, twenty-nine as principal, teaching in such areas as Hastings Co., Iroquois Falls, Temiskaming and Peterborough, Edgar would broaden and develop the minds of children who came under his tutelage. In June of 1967 Edgar retired from his position as Principal of St. Anne's School, Peterborough, a position he had held for 18 years. During his remarkable career Edgar was President of South Temiskaming Teachers' Institute, President of the English Catholic Teachers Institute, Chairman of the Separate Schools Centennial Celebration, and Chairman of the Separate Schools Division of United Appeal.

Edgar was deeply interested in the local history of the communities in which he served as teacher and principal. He took a special interest in the history of the Catholic Church, particularly in his native Diocese of Peterborough. In 1975 Edgar was requested by the late Bishop F. A. Marrocco to

write the history of the Peterborough Diocese. This monumental task was completed in 1976 the result being a volume entitled “From the Pioneers to the Seventies”. Edgar remained as Diocesan historian and archivist until 1983.

In recognition of his service in the field of education, he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal and the Canadian Centennial Medal. In 1974 he was named a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Paul VI.



St. Patrick's School Hockey Team 1939.

Copper Thefts in Cobalt



As many of you already know, someone stole the Willet Green Miller memorial plaque on or before the Labour Day weekend. They also took two smaller signs – a memorial to the miners who were killed on the job, and another marking the location of a time capsule installed in 2006. We also noted evidence of tampering on the recently refurbished bas-relief and the Federal National Historic Site plaque. Further along Silver Street, at the cenotaph, the memorial plaque to Major E J Holland was also taken.

The OPP are still investigating the thefts, and have been in touch with the local metal recyclers.



Copper theft has been on the rise globally. Many organizations and municipalities have taken proactive measures to protect historic monuments by replacing bronze artifacts with a copy made from resin, or other material that is unattractive to thieves.



Willet Green Miller - 1908.

Which is our plan, regrettably, too late to prevent theft. A memorial to employees killed on the job will be erected on the outcrop next to the CHS offices downtown. Joe Dube, of Profile Plus Metal Arts has kindly offered to donate a stainless-steel sign for the time capsule.

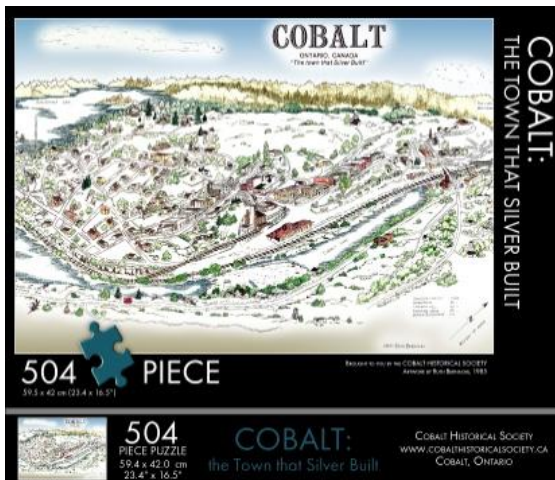
As for the Willet Green Miller Memorial – we will erect a temporary aluminum sign in place of the bronze that was commissioned by the Kiwanis in 1926.

To our minds, there is no question that Miller deserves a dignified and long-lasting memorial. We will explore permanent options as well as sponsorships to help pay for the replacement. We'll keep you posted.

**WILLET GREEN MILLER
FIRST PROVINCIAL GEOLOGIST OF ONTARIO
1902 - 1925**

**TO COBALT HE GAVE ITS NAME
AND PLACE AMONG THE GREAT MINING
CAMPS IN THE WORLD.
HE READ THE SECRET OF THE ROCKS
AND OPENED THE PORTAL FOR THE OUTPOURING
OF THE WONDERFUL RICHES.
HIS MONUMENT IS
NEW ONTARIO.**

Two New Puzzles Added in our Fundraising Efforts

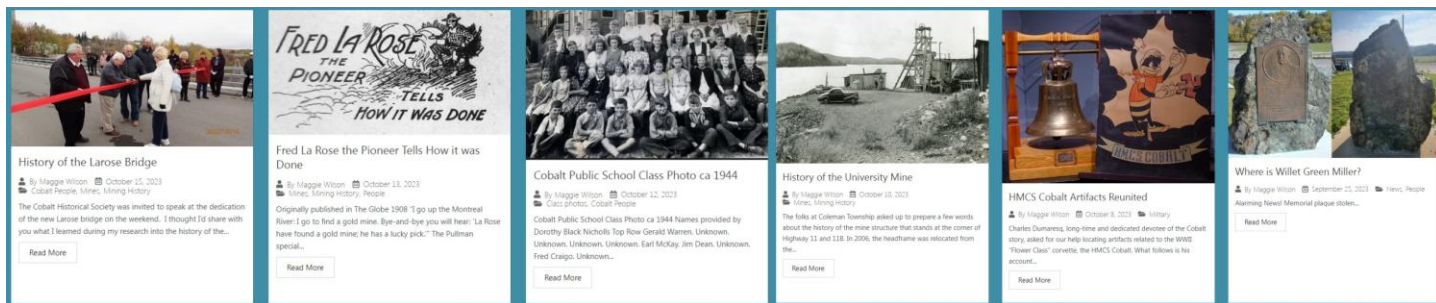


As part of our continued fundraising efforts, the Cobalt Historical Society is excited to announce that two new puzzles have been added to the many we already have for sale. The first, a Cobalt Map, originally designed by Ruth Bernache, and the second, Hometown Hootenanny, are both 500 pieces and are available at White Mountain Publications in Cobalt. (See ordering information on last page of this newsletter or visit our website at <https://cobalthistoricalsociety.ca/fundraising/>)

For those wishing to download a printable copy of the map, visit our website at <https://cobalthistoricalsociety.ca/news/>

Something New on Our Website – “More to the Story” BLOGS!

“More to the Story”, a new blog section, has now been added to our website. Check it out! We hope you enjoy reading these fascinating articles and look forward to your comments. <https://cobalthistoricalsociety.ca/blog-posts/>



Digitization of the Haileyburian Newspaper



The Cobalt Historical Society, in conjunction with the Haileybury Heritage Museum, will be joining together to determine the feasibility and available funding to have the *The Haileyburian* newspaper digitally archived.

Presently, the Cobalt Daily Nugget, and later the North Bay Nugget, have both been done. Locally, these newspapers provide a wealth of information regarding local history. Although there is not a complete set of the Haileybury newspaper, the museum does have numerous copies spanning the many years of its publication.

Stay tuned for further details in this project

A Friendly Reminder!

The McMichael Gallery exhibition of *Cobalt: A Mining Town and the Canadian Imagination* opens November 18, 2023 and runs to April 21, 2024

Afterward, the show will tour at the Gallery of Sudbury from May 9-June 30, 2024, and then the Art Gallery of Algoma from mid-July to October 14, 2024. The catalogue can be purchased from McMichael's online store:

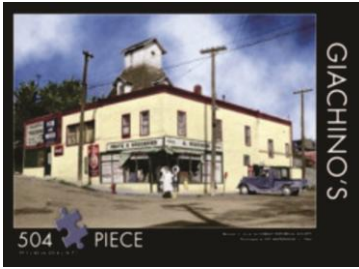
<https://shop.mcmichael.com/collections/gifts>

If you haven't done so already, please check out our new website at www.cobalthistoricalsociety.ca



Franklin Carmichael, A Northern Silver Mine, 1930, oil on canvas, 101.5 x 121.2 cm, Gift of Mrs. A.J. Latner, McMichael Canadian Art Collection

Help Support our Fundraising Efforts - Cobalt Puzzles



***Giachino's Coniagas Shaft House
#4 circa 1945 as a grocery store.***



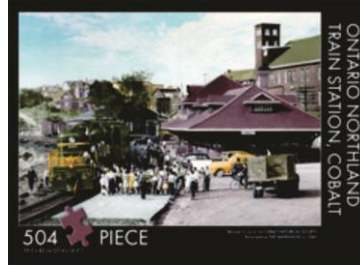
***The Iconic Right of Way Mine
Photo by Charles Dumaresq.***



***Right of Way Mine Reflections
Photo by Sue Nielsen.***



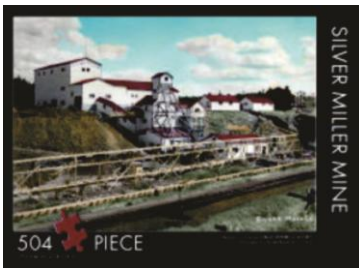
***Oblin's Cash and Carry
Circa 1945 on Lang Street.***



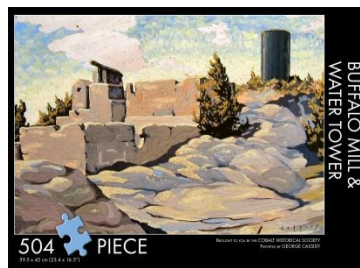
***Ontario Northland Railway
Station Cobalt 1945.***



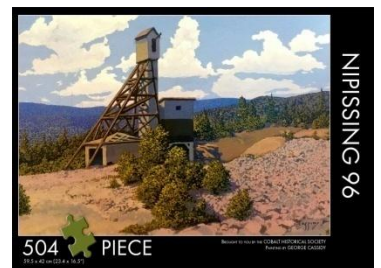
***Cobalt Public School
Photo circa 1955.***



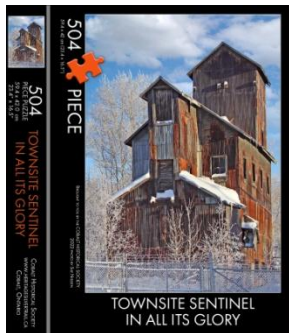
***Silver Miller Mine
Photograph circa 1950***



***Buffalo Mine & Water Tower
George Cassidy Print***



***Nipissing 96
George Cassidy Print***



Townsite Mine



***Cobalt Map by Ruth Bernache
NEW!***



***Hometown Hootenay
NEW!***

All puzzles are \$30.

Contact White Mountain Publications at 705-679-5555 or their website at www.wmpub.ca for further details.