

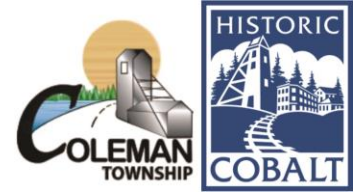


THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society

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

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An Online Repository for Northern Ontario Heritage

In April, board members Maggie Wilson and Sarah Johnston met with Felicity Buckell of the Cobalt Mining Museum to discuss our current projects and the establishment of formal alliances between the two Cobalt heritage agencies. We explored improving information and resource sharing and working together more effectively.

Perhaps an explanation is required.

Many people do not realize that the Cobalt Historical Society and the Cobalt Mining Museum are separate entities. Of course, our mandates overlap - preserving and promoting the history of the Cobalt Mining camp. We are both dedicated to storytelling and preserving artifacts. The difference? The CHS is responsible for the exterior exhibits along the Heritage Silver Trail and in the Town of Cobalt. The museum cares for interior exhibits in their facility. We overlap at the Colonial Mine, where we maintain the outside, and the Museum hosts tours in the underground tunnel. So, while we have the same mandates, we work independently.

We then spoke about the CHS collaboration with the Haileybury Museum and the digitization of the Haileyburian newspaper. [See more in this newsletter] Then, the conversation turned to the closure of the Englehart and Kirkland Lake museums—certainly a sad outcome.

Since we could find an affordable way to digitize the Haileyburian, we wondered about other heritage facilities with artifacts and records that could be preserved digitally and shared online. The only thing stopping them was a lack of resources.

“Resources” means more than just dollars and cents. Money to support museums has always been scarce. Now, more than ever. Case in point: the Englehart Museum is closing, and the Town of Kirkland Lake can no longer support the Museum of Northern History at the Harry Oakes chateau. But it's not just money that is needed.

Most of these heritage groups are run by volunteer boards whose members do the "heavy lifting." Sometimes literally. Some board members have been dedicated to preserving local heritage for decades. Their passion is still evident, but, as the saying goes, the spirit is willing - the body? Not so much.

Passion, time, and money go only so far, however. A board needs expertise in several areas: facilities management, business and finance, grant-writing, computer technology, social media, storytelling, and writing, not to mention a familiarity with the community and its past. Some tourism savvy helps, too. Where Human Resources are involved, other requirements are necessary, including knowledge of the pertinent legislation.

It's not surprising that some non-profit boards have difficulty attracting members. That means the workload falls on the shoulders of one or two people. Hardly ideal. Especially if these volunteers have family or employment obligations that demand their time.

We can share our knowledge, expertise, time, and energy by agreeing to work together. Theoretically, there could be cost savings and an increase in the number of visitors.

We wondered some more: is there an interest in an online heritage repository? It turns out the answer is a resounding YES! To date, we have invited heritage and cultural organizations from Temagami to Timmins - these are

- Temagami Public Library
- Latchford's Little House of Memories and Loggers Museum

- In Cobalt - the CHS, the mining museum, and The Bunker
- Haileybury Heritage Museum
- Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum
- Englehart Museum (closing, but aware of this project and taking it into account as they deaccession artifacts)
- Elk Lake Museum
- Thelma Myles Museum in Matheson (now closed, but we are interested in accessing the collection to digitize it)
- Kirkland Lake Museum of Northern History
- Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre

We will also approach other municipalities with cultural or heritage artifacts in their town halls, legions, and libraries. We intend for this project to be as inclusive as possible - we will invite First Nations and Francophone groups for their guidance and participation.

Besides the two Cobalt heritage boards, Haileybury, New Liskeard, Latchford, Elk Lake, and the Kirkland Lake Museum have all expressed an interest - Temagami Public Library and the Englehart Museum have indicated that they will present the proposal to their boards for approval. We await hearing from the Bunker and the Thelma Myles in Matheson.

Other organizations have requested to take part as well. Because of our efforts, the Schumacher Historical Society and the board of the Rockwalk at the Haileybury School of Mines have also joined.

We are in the very early stages of this project. Our main objective is to keep the doors open to as many heritage facilities as possible. Second, since most organizations are seasonal, we'd like to see an online repository of key artifacts and documents. And should the worst befall a local museum, as in Englehart, an online presence means the stories and images will not be lost.

Next, we will hold an in-person meeting with representatives from each local heritage agency. The project will evolve as we get input from other groups. But right now, enthusiasm is high, and we are determined.

A New Addition to the Heritage Silver Trail



The dedication of the John Calder Memorial Trail was held Saturday June 29. John Calder's daughter Dulande Joaguin and her husband Scott stand in front of the trail map at the Little Silver Vein. Thanks to Marilyn Lubbock for the photo.

The John Calder Memorial Trail

This trail was made possible by a generous donation from the John Calder estate.

John Calder (1932-2022) was a longtime Cobalt history buff and mineral collector and was known by his friends as "Cobalt John". It was his wish to give something back to Cobalt, for all the joy he received from this area.



No ATVs, trucks, cars or motorcycles are allowed to use the trail. Please stay on the trail, do not litter, and clean up after your dog.

We held the official opening of the new John Calder Memorial Trail on Saturday, June 29. In attendance were representatives from both municipalities, friends of the Cobalt Historical Society, and friends and family of John Calder. It was a grey, drizzling morning. But the mood was celebratory, in a muted, reverent sort of way.

CHS chair Maggie Wilson spoke about how the trail came to be - through her mineral collecting connection with Bob Beckett and John Calder. In the past few years, most changes to the Heritage Silver Trail have been related to the removal of sites. It is with gratitude that we can offer something new.

Or, should we say, renew? The trail, which snakes up and behind the McKinley Darragh Mill site, was once THE road that connected the Town of Cobalt to the mine and on to other mines situated around Kerr and Giroux Lakes.

You can read more about the trail, the donors, and the opening ceremony on our website <https://cobalthistoricalsociety.ca/new-john-calder-memorial-trail/>

ONR Update

MORE studies: Townsite and Right of Way Mines

At the May meeting of the Cobalt Coleman Environment Advisory Committee, Ontario Northland Railway gave us an update regarding the two ONR sites on the Heritage Silver Trail. We learned that barriers around the Townsite and Right of Way Mine sites will remain until additional studies have been completed. Funds are in place to further examine geotechnical and physical hazards. This summer, ONR is commissioning a study regarding cultural heritage features. Agnico and CHS have offered to help.

In August, we alerted the ONR about a concern. Visitors are entering the sites, and sharing photos that were taken on the other side of the barriers. The fact that we cannot conduct our work is very frustrating. Vegetation has grown around buildings and artifacts. The trees are threatening to obscure the relics and signage, or damage foundations, or lift the tram rails. It's difficult to take pride in our volunteer efforts when the sites look so neglected.

We asked if ONR would be open to helping out. That is, send in a crew to maintain the site, clean up garbage, trim the trees and weeds, etc. Our contact agreed to arrange this.

The Haileyburian Digitization Project (Update)

As you may recall, we are helping with a project at the Haileybury Heritage Museum - digitizing their collection of *The Haileyburian* - the newspaper published by the Town's founder, Charles Cobbold Farr.

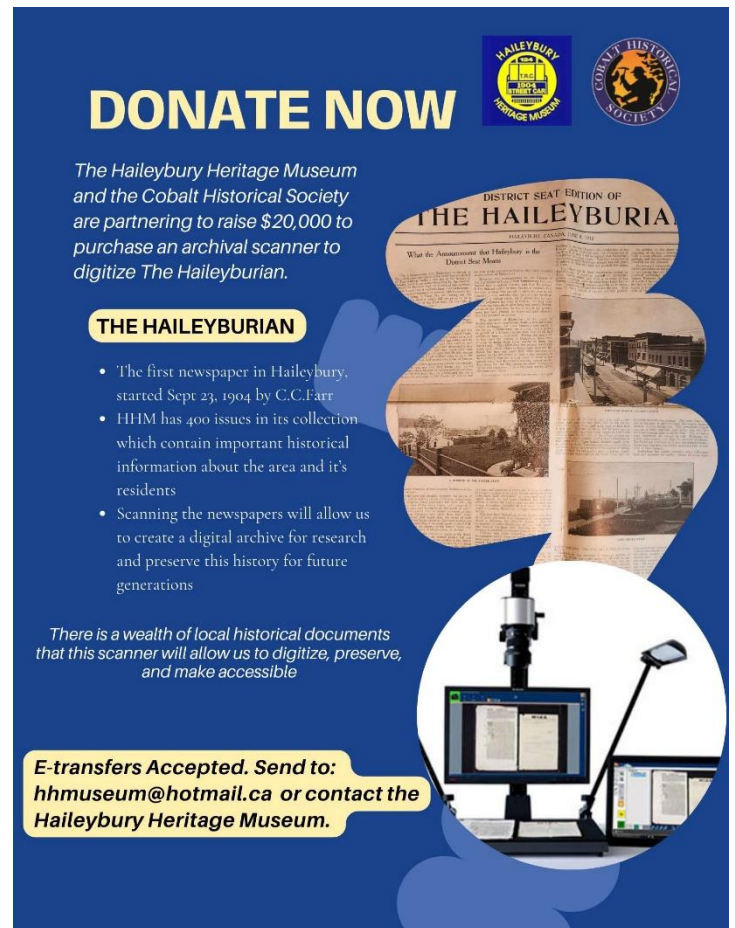
Many years ago, HHM board members set out to do so, but the price tag was too high. Also, the technology at the time would have damaged some of the pages, which were fragile and crumbling.

Luckily, the hardware cost has improved dramatically, so we considered purchasing a scanner for in-house use. Summer staff and volunteers would do the work. Copying would take a year or two, but we were up to the challenge.

Then, we learned of an even better option through a connection at the Toronto Public Library. For a fraction of the cost of new hardware, we have contracted out the work to OurDigitalWorld. The pages will be hosted on their site, searchable, and downloadable at no cost to the user.

The papers were packed and shipped early in August. We expect that the site will be live sometime in 2025.

In the meantime, thanks to the Rotary Club of Temiskaming Shores and Area and the private individuals who contributed to your donations. We now have over half the funds needed. If you wish to donate to the project, please send an e-transfer to hhmuseum@hotmail.ca or contact them at the same address for more options.



DONATE NOW

The Haileybury Heritage Museum and the Cobalt Historical Society are partnering to raise \$20,000 to purchase an archival scanner to digitize *The Haileyburian*.

THE HAILEYBURIAN

- The first newspaper in Haileybury, started Sept 23, 1904 by C.C.Farr
- HHM has 400 issues in its collection which contain important historical information about the area and it's residents
- Scanning the newspapers will allow us to create a digital archive for research and preserve this history for future generations

There is a wealth of local historical documents that this scanner will allow us to digitize, preserve, and make accessible

E-transfers Accepted. Send to: hhmuseum@hotmail.ca or contact the Haileybury Heritage Museum.



Crowd in front of Haileyburian Office on Main Street in Haileybury

Major E J G Holland VC Park Plaque

A year ago, vandals stole several bronze memorial plaques along Silver Street. In conversation with our friends at the Cobalt Legion, we offered to replace the plaque that honoured Major E J G Holland VC.

The plaque, located in Major E J G Holland VC Park in downtown Cobalt, reads as follows:

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 44, and the Town of Cobalt dedicate this park to honor the courage and bravery shown by Edward James Gibson Holland, who, on November 7th, 1900, at Leliefontein, South Africa, kept the Boers at bay using his Colt machine gun.

In danger of capture, Holland detached the gun from its carriage and carried it off to safety. For this outstanding valour, Holland, then a sergeant with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, was awarded the Commonwealth's highest military honour, the Victoria Cross.

He was born in Ottawa in 1878, worked throughout Northern Ontario following His WW1 service, and was postmaster in Cobalt, Ontario, from 1931 until his death in 1948.



Maggie Wilson – President CHS and Reiner Mielke – Trail Manager, replacing Major E J G Holland VC Park Plaque

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/>

- The John Calder Memorial Trail**: A map showing the trail route.
- NEW! The John Calder Memorial Trail**: A photograph of a large wooden building.
- Sturdy Stuff – Meet the Moore Family**: A photograph of a group of people.
- Happy 25th to Cobalt Historical Society**: A graphic celebrating the 25th anniversary.
- The Dog Called Cobalt**: A drawing of a dog in front of a mine entrance.
- List of O'Brien Mine Employees of the 1930s**: A photograph of a mine building.

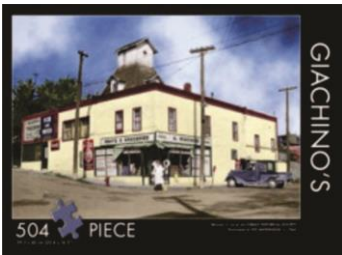
Don't forget to visit our website!

cobalthistoricalsociety.ca

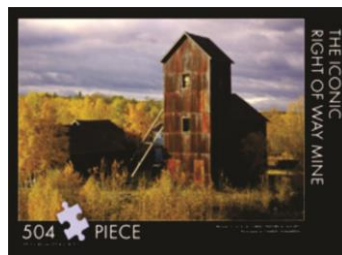
Drop us an email – We'd Love to Hear from You!



Help Support our Fundraising Efforts - Cobalt Puzzles



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



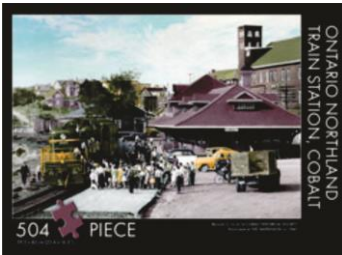
*The Iconic Right of Way Mine
Photo by Charles Dumaresq.*



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



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



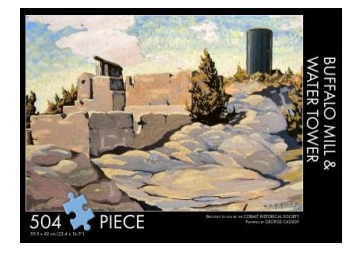
Ontario Northland Railway Station Cobalt 1945.



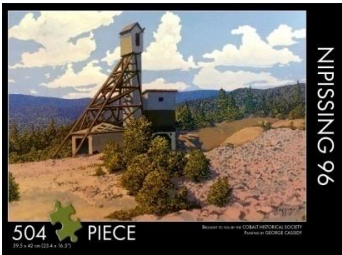
*Cobalt Public School
Photo circa 1955.*



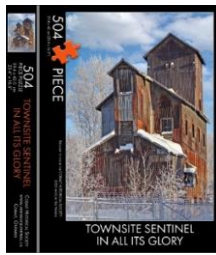
*Silver Miller Mine
Photograph circa 1950*



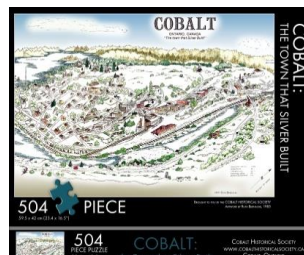
*Buffalo Mine & Water Tower
George Cassidy Print*



*Nipissing 96
George Cassidy Print*



Townsite Mine



Cobalt Map by Ruth Bernache



Hometown Hootenanny

All Puzzles \$30. Contact White Mountain Publications at 705-679-5555 or their website at www.wmpub.ca for further details.