

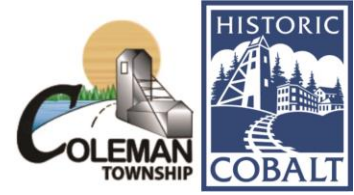


THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society

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

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Worthy of Protection

Early in October, CHS board members met with people from the ONR environmental group and their consultants at the Townsite and Right of Way Mines. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the heritage significance of these two headframes. We were there to provide information about the function of the buildings, and their place in the landscape. Present were representatives of engineering firms as well as three employees of Archaeological Research Associates (ARA) Ltd -- an independent consulting firm dedicated to conserving the heritage of Ontario.

Leading up to this meeting, we supplied ARA with lists of recommended reading, books and reports. We suggested that "our website also has lots of information that you may find useful. We'd also like to point out that an evaluation was done by the federal government which resulted in the area being designated a National Historic Site. We suggest that you

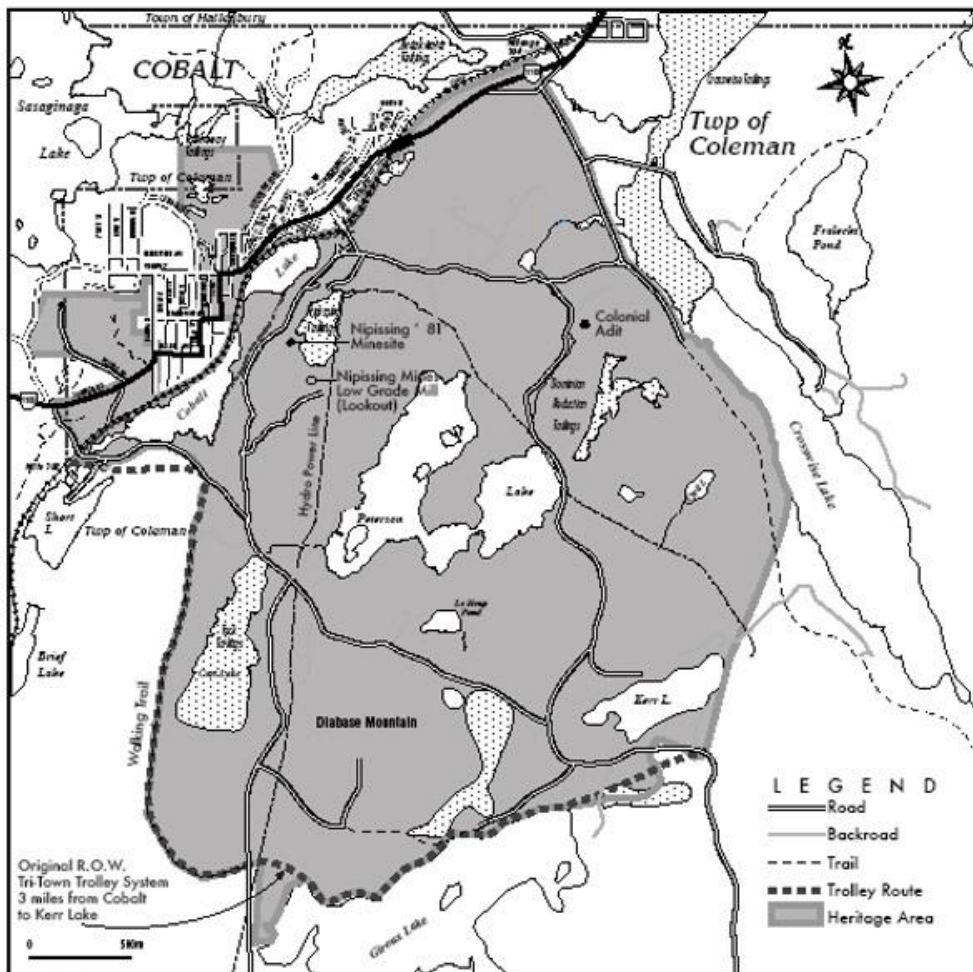
contact them to avoid "reinventing the wheel".

The day after the meeting, we led the ARA team on a walking tour of downtown, starting at the train station. We emphasized that the ONR's success as a railroad was mainly due to mining in the Cobalt area, and that they had an obligation to acknowledge this by helping to preserve the mining history.

When we reached the Willet Green Miller Memorial site on Silver Street, conversation turned to the numerous plaques, including the one erected by Parks Canada. This plaque had a map, which the ARA people were interested in. They could not find the Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) that was prepared in support of the designation.

We have since supplied those documents, including a map, shown here.

The report itemizes the historically significant elements of the camp, categorized as "vestiges",



*Designated Area for the Cobalt Mining District National Historical Site.
Credit: MacLeod Farley & Associates.*



Royal Exchange Building 1910.



*Former Fraser Hotel Building. Today - Apartments, a pharmacy, and the Bunker Military Museum in the basement.
Note: The two iron lamp posts at the entrance of the building – they are present in the 2017 image here, and still stand today.*

Credit: Sarah Jane Klaassen 2017

“intact”, and/or “change in function.” Examples of vestiges are the Ragged Chutes pipeline, mill foundations, open cuts, Nipissing Mine aerial tramway, and tailings. Intact items that now have a change of function included the nurses’ residence and the former YMCA on Silver Street, the TTL, the banks, the Royal Exchange Building. The report even mentions the remnants of a sidewalk containing rose-coloured glass, adjacent to the Royal Exchange Building.

Also near the building were iron lamp posts, two of which still stand today.

The Townsite Mine and the Right of Way Mine were included in the CIS report and identified as “intact”. Certainly, there was no question in 2004 to include these buildings. After all, sidewalks and lamp posts were worthy.

Twenty years later, we await the ONR consultant’s report. Our hope is that we will read where they have confirmed that these two monuments are indeed important heritage features that deserve protection.



Townsite Mine.



Right of Way Mine 1907.

Northeastern Ontario Heritage Organizations Update

Early in October, the Cobalt Historical Society, the Cobalt Mining Museum, and the Haileybury Heritage Museum hosted a meeting of heritage organizations from the region.

Our primary goals were to get to know one another, learn about each other’s successes and challenges, and make plans for future collaboration.

It was discovered that, amongst this motivated group, strengths abound, as does a keen interest in working together to carry out our mandates. As we went around the table, it was clear that we are proud of where our organizations are today, and how we got here – most of us have had to face myriad challenges over the decades.

Digitization and online dissemination of collections was identified as a priority for almost all of the organizations. It was recognized that this project - working together to digitize collections and develop a shared online platform – might be an ideal starting point for what could later become a region-wide network for Northeastern Ontario heritage organizations.

From her follow-up notes, Felicity Buckell of the Cobalt Mining Museum wrote:

We came here to today:

- to build and strengthen partnerships across the region;
- with the hopes of finding help with financial stability;
- to share our knowledge, skills, and resources;
- to work together to carry out our mandates;

- because we believe in the value of the work we do;
- and because hearts are in this!

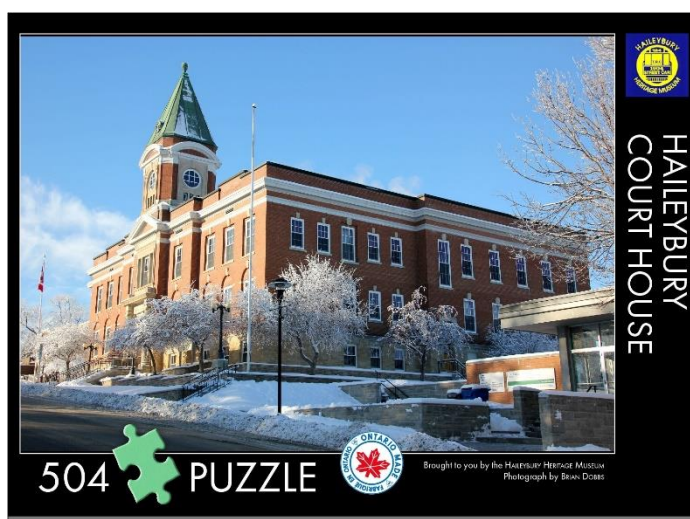
By the end of our time together this afternoon, there was not a doubt around the table that we have stumbled across something big here: we need to connect, to support each other, to share ideas and resources, and to work together toward shared goals.

For now, our working title is Northeastern Ontario Heritage Patrimoine du nord-est de l'Ontario.

Stay tuned for updates!

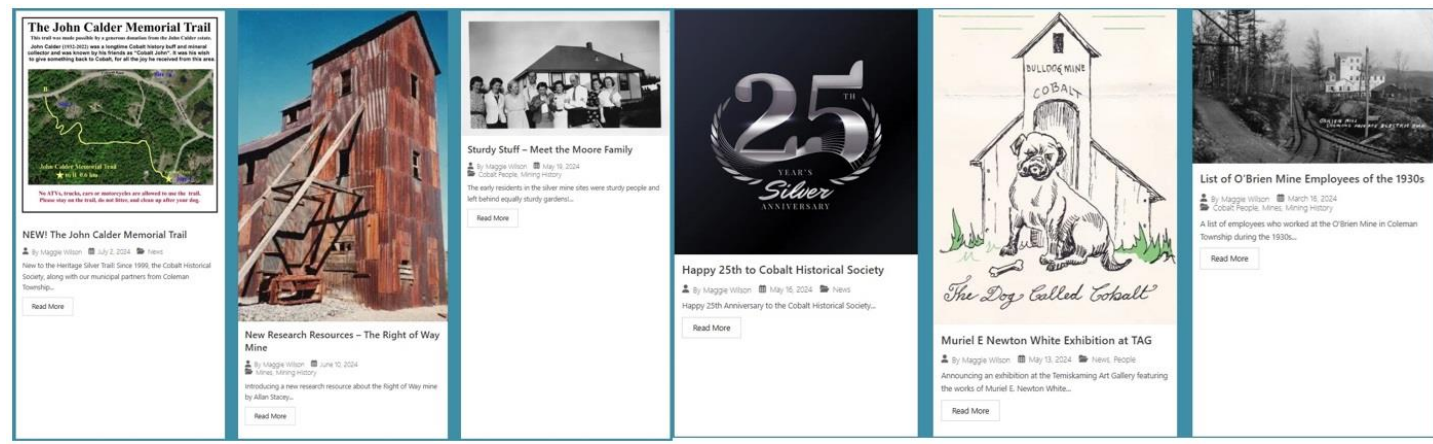
New Puzzles – Haileybury Heritage Museum

In support of our neighbours to the North, the Cobalt Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Haileybury Heritage Museum has recently released two new puzzles as part of their fundraising efforts. They are presently available at White Mountain Publications in Cobalt. Call 705-679-5555 or email wmpub@wmpub.ca You can also phone the Haileybury Heritage Museum at 705-672-1922 or email them at hmmuseum@hotmail.ca



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

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



New Local History Book at White Mountain Publications

Haileybury School of Mines - "Humble Beginnings" 1912-1922

By Brian Dobbs

Haileybury School Of Mines
Humble Beginnings
1912-1922



Brian Dobbs

Cobalt Historical Society Director Brian Dobbs is pleased to announce the publication of his latest book *Haileybury School of Mines - "Humble Beginnings" 1912-1922*. Copies are available at White Mountain Publications at 705-679-5555 or their website at www.wmpub.ca

"The history of the Haileybury School of Mines is nothing short of fascinating. While much has been written about the school since World War 2, very little detailed information regarding its origin has been available in print.

The idea of establishing a Mining School in the area can be traced back to Asbury Wilson, the first principal of Haileybury High School. His vision of introducing mining-related subjects within the high school curriculum in 1912 planted the seed to eventually realize a much-needed program for technically trained graduates for

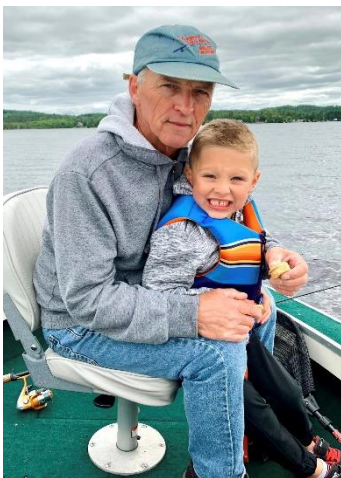
the Canadian mining industry.

"Humble Beginnings" commences by taking us back to the earliest days of settlement in the area and the need to provide local education. With the discovery of silver in Cobalt in 1903, it soon became apparent that mining played a vital role in the livelihood of residents and served as the economic engine for local prosperity.

In many ways, the book is a biography of Asbury Wilson during his ten years as principal. We learn of the many obstacles he faced dealing with government bureaucrats, local municipal leaders, and high school advisory committees to secure funding for curriculum development, infrastructure, and equipment purchases. Adding to his many challenges during this period was the fact that Canada was fully engaged in a World War.

In retrospect, before his departure in 1921, Asbury Wilson had completed his mandate of setting up a qualified "hands-on" mining program with a separate training facility adjacent to the high school. Graduates had now been placed throughout various mining camps within the country and the mining industry knew it could call upon Haileybury to fill further needs. Following the Great Fire of 1922, which obliterated ninety percent of the Town of Haileybury, the Mining School continued to build its reputation. Following a short closure during the Second World War, the school, now a dedicated vocational training centre for mining, re-opened as the Provincial Institute of Mining. During this time, under the leadership of Ossie Walli and Jack Frey, the schools' reputation was vaulted to an international level.

"Humble Beginnings" is a tribute to all those who established the School of Mines and continued the necessary work to maintain its high-quality curriculum for the last one hundred and ten years."



Brian Dobbs was born in 1960 in Haileybury, Ontario. A graduate of both Haileybury High School and the Haileybury School of Mines in 1981, Brian has worked in the field of instrumentation for over 40 years. Brian returned to Haileybury in 1990, becoming an instrumentation college professor at the Haileybury School of Mines. Brian has been active as both a Board member and volunteer in several local groups including the Haileybury Heritage Museum, Temiskaming-Abitibi Heritage Association, Haileybury School of Mines Alumni Association, and the Temiskaming Writers Guild. Brian chaired the Haileybury Centennial Committee and the Haileybury Special Events Committee. He also served on council for the Town of Haileybury. In 1997, Brian authored *Ghosts of Haileybury*, a historical book bringing to life the lives of the many people and events of this Northern Ontario community.

In June 2023, Brian formally retired from teaching. Brian and his wife Susan are proud grandparents and enjoy the summer at their cottage. Brian enjoys writing, photography, fishing, and researching the history of the local area. He is presently an active Board member of the Cobalt Historical Society.

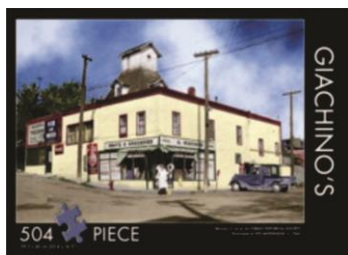
Don't forget to visit our website!

cobalthistoricalsociety.ca

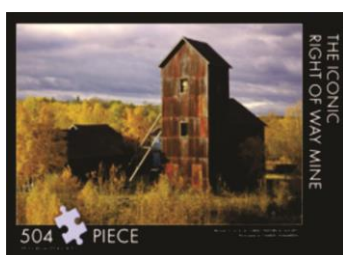
Drop us an email – We'd Love to Hear from You!



Help Support our Fundraising Efforts - Cobalt Puzzles



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



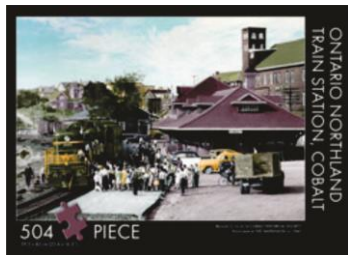
*The Iconic Right of Way Mine
Photo by Charles Dumaresq.*



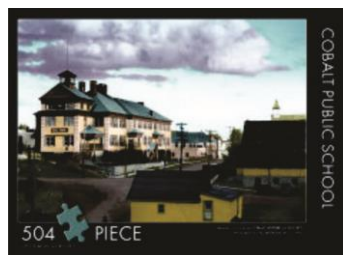
*Right of Way Mine Reflections
Photo by Sue Nielsen.*



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



Ontario Northland Railway Station Cobalt 1945.



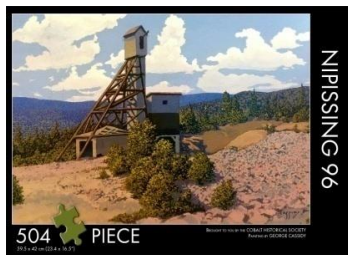
*Cobalt Public School
Photo circa 1955.*



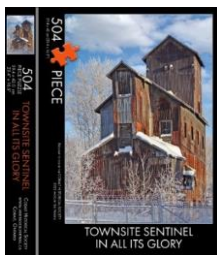
*Silver Miller Mine
Photograph circa 1950*



*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.