

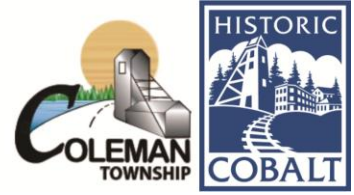


# THE COBALT LODGE

*Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society*

Box 309, Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0      [cobalthistoricalsociety.ca](http://cobalthistoricalsociety.ca)

Vol. 34 No. 2 April 2025



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## **Annual General Meeting Report 2025**

To be presented at the Cobalt Historical Society Annual General Meeting, Monday May 5, 2025.

This report is in four parts

1. **Preservation of the Heritage Silver Trail**
2. **Promotion of the Cobalt Historical Society and the Heritage Silver Trail**
3. **Publications**
4. **Partners**

### **Preservation of the Heritage Silver Trail**

Thanks to Trail Manager Reiner Mielke and board member Reg Holdsworth for regular inspection and maintenance of the sites along the self-guided tour. Thanks, too, to volunteers who helped with clearing the never-ending growth of vegetation.

1. **ONR Closures** – unresolved and unchanged
  - March, 2021, Ontario Northland Railway erected barriers at the Right of Way and Townsite Mine properties, citing a need for environmental and structural assessment.
  - Tourists can view both headframes from a safe distance, though the barriers are not effective at blocking access. Visitors can easily enter the sites, though we, the guardians of the trail are banned from doing so. In 2024, ONR maintained the sites, removing trash and trimming vegetation.
  - The closure of the Right of Way site is particularly problematic in that we have raised \$21,530 to repair the roof of the headframe. We must keep those funds in reserve, expecting the site to reopen at some point in the future.
  - In 2024, and into 2025, ONR conducted a Heritage Assessment of the two headframes to determine if they are worthy of the designation “historically significant.” Kate Bondett, Senior Communications Manager, advises that ONR has completed the first phase of the Townsite and Right of Way Cobalt Headframe Structural Engineering-Building Condition Assessment. ONR is currently awaiting final condition assessment reports from an engineering firm. The firm will complete a follow-up study and sampling work during Summer 2025 to investigate timber conditions and foundation of the structures.

2. **Vandalism** – resolved on a case-by-case basis

Vandals, like the weather, are a constant factor in terms of trail maintenance. Theft and deliberate damage will persist.

We purchased an aluminum replacement sign for the Miller Memorial. Joe Dube donated a stainless-steel marker to replace the time capsule. These were installed in the spring.

Vandals tried to access the Colonial adit and damaged the door and ore car exhibit. Thanks to Agnico who repaired the damage. They also repaired the damaged bat gate at the Nipissing 96 adit.

3. **The Calder Memorial Trail**

The John Calder Memorial trail was officially opened this year.

#### 4. Repairs to Pan Silver Headframe

We are still unable to use the CHS office space due to safety concerns. The stiff legs continue to weather and fall apart. We've approached the Town of Cobalt about Parks Canada funding, and have offered our help, if required.

#### Promotion

**Social media** is still a great way to engage members and those who are interested in mining or family history.

We also assist those working on their family history, writing books, articles or documentaries. This activity is rewarding on a personal level but also encourages people to join our membership.

#### Publications

1. We continued to publish our **newsletters**.
2. Editor Brian Dobbs maintains the **website** and adds new content as necessary
3. Since it started, September 23, 2023, we've published 37 posts on our **blog**, "More to the Story"
4. Since the puzzle manufacturer was moving, we decided not to publish any new souvenir **puzzles** in 2024.

#### Our Partners

Our partnerships with Agnico Eagle, Coleman Township, and the Town of Cobalt remain strong.

In 2024, we made a formal allegiance with the Haileybury Heritage Museum, and we continue to support our friends at the Cobalt Mining Museum. The digitization of the Haileyburian newspaper was completed.

We made several visits to the Englehart Museum to assist and advise where we could as they deaccession their collection.

Together with CMM and HHM, we have formed a new Regional Heritage Initiative, focusing on resource sharing and digital collection of artifacts and stories. Communities from Temagami to Cochrane are involved.

In partnership with the Cobalt Legion, we purchased and installed an aluminum plaque to replace the bronze memorial to VC Eddie Holland. The original was also stolen in 2023. Also with the Legion, we were invited to speak at the Remembrance Day banquet.

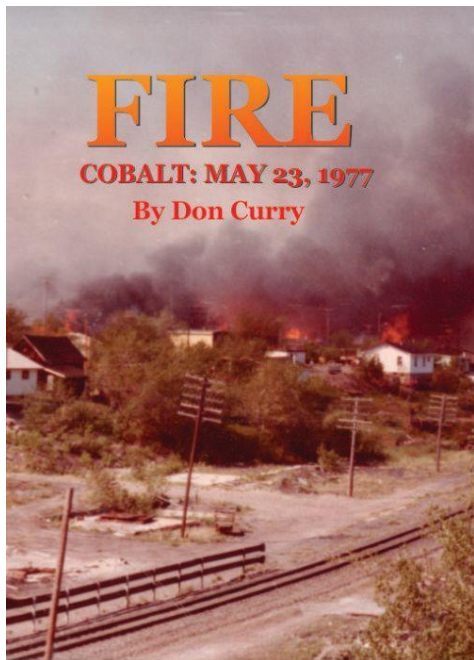


### Cobalt Silver Camp Historical Trivia

Test your knowledge of the history of the Cobalt Silver Camp.  
Answers can be found on the back page of the newsletter.



1. Approximately how many buildings were destroyed in the May 1977 Cobalt Fire?  
a) 100                      b) 150                      c) 200                      d) 250
2. Cobalt's National Hockey Association 1909-1910 team was called what?  
a) Silver Veins              b) Silver Miners              c) Silver Kings              d) Silver Nuggets
3. What year did the Prince of Wales visit Cobalt?  
a) 1907                      b) 1911                      c) 1915                      d) 1919
4. How many million troy ounces of silver were produced in the first 25 years in the Cobalt Silver Camp?  
a) 200                      b) 400                      c) 600                      d) 800
5. Charlie Ferris, renowned Cobalter, was the proprietor of what establishment?  
a) The Boston Grill      b) Cobalt Bowling Alley      c) The Deluxe Restaurant      d) The Classic Theatre



## A New Book - *Fire Cobalt: May 23, 1977* by Don Curry

Most of our members are well aware of the devastating 1977 fire. Many will already own a copy of Don Curry's book. If you do not have the book, or would like a reprint that is illustrated with 59 colour photos, you may wish to visit Cobalt's bookstore, White Mountain Publications. <https://wmpub.ca/1050-fire.html>



Curry has generously offered to donate the royalties from the sale of the book to the Cobalt Historical Society.

*Anyone who experienced the fire of May 23, 1977, in Cobalt will never forget it. The heat, the wind, the incredible mass of flames will never be erased from memory. Don Curry was there, reporting on the top news event of his career as a journalist for the Globe and Mail and Temiskaming Speaker, and taking photographs which were published in the Toronto Star and newspapers across the country through Canadian Press.*

## Gentle Reminder - Membership Renewal 2025

It's that time of year again when we reach out to all our existing (and hopefully new) members with a reminder of the annual membership renewal. It is with your continued support to the Cobalt Historical Society that we can provide the many components of our work including the Heritage Silver Trail, newsletters, research, and all things history related to the Cobalt Silver Camp. We wish to thank you for your continued support and welcome all donations. They are much appreciated.

Feel free to cut or scan the membership card below and fill it in. You can mail it along with your payment by cheque (payable to the Cobalt Historical Society) or if you wish, e-transfer to [mail@cobalthistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:mail@cobalthistoricalsociety.ca)

	<b>Cobalt Historical Society</b> P.O. Box 309, Cobalt, Ontario P0J 1C0 <a href="http://cobalthistoricalsociety.ca">cobalthistoricalsociety.ca</a> <b>Membership Form</b>	
Name: .....		
Street Address: ..... P.O. Box: .....		
Town/City: ..... Province: ..... Postal Code: .....		
Telephone: ..... Email: .....		
Payment – Cheque payable to the Cobalt Historical Society or e-transfer to <a href="mailto:mail@cobalthistoricalsociety.ca">mail@cobalthistoricalsociety.ca</a>		
<b>Annual Dues:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Little Silver Vein ( <u>One</u> Year Household Membership ) \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> The Glory Hole ( <u>One</u> Year Corporate Membership ) \$50.00		
<b>Donation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make the following <u>donation</u> \$ .....		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please place me on the CHS email list. <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to contribute articles to the newsletter.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to work on the trails. <input type="checkbox"/> Please tell me how I can volunteer.		



## 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/>



### Filthy Stinking Rich, Cobalt Style

By Cobalt Historical Society March 12, 2025  
Cobalt Buildings, Cobalt People  
Filthy Stinking Rich, Cobalt Style Most of us know what the phrase “filthy rich” means, but I asked Google for...

[Read More](#)



### Richard Alexander Elliott 1878 – 1942

By Cobalt Historical Society February 13, 2025  
Cobalt People, Mining History  
For Black History Month Today we share the story of Richard “Dick” Alexander Elliott. Information for this sketch was drawn...

[Read More](#)



### New Research Resource – Pat Anderson Tailings Report 1993

By Maggie Wilson January 7, 2025  
Mines, Mining History, News  
New Research Resource We’ve added a new file on our Research page. Thanks to Pat Anderson for permitting us to...

[Read More](#)

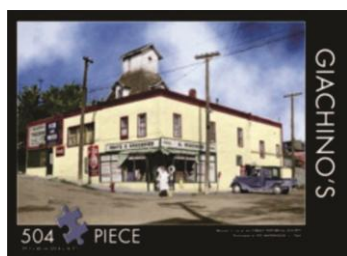


### From Coleman to Kenogami: Clear as Mud

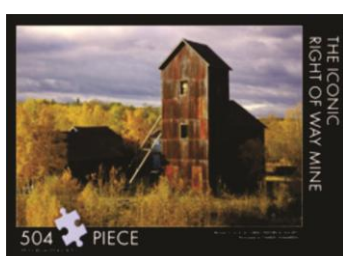
By Maggie Wilson January 1, 2025  
Mines, Mining History, People  
4 Nations Coleman Township, 1931 Recently, after the 1931 Canadian Census was released, I learned that there was a location...

[Read More](#)

## Help Support our Fundraising Efforts - Cobalt Puzzles



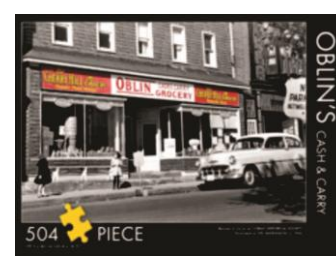
*Giachino's Coniagas Shaft House  
#4 circa 1945 as a grocery store.*



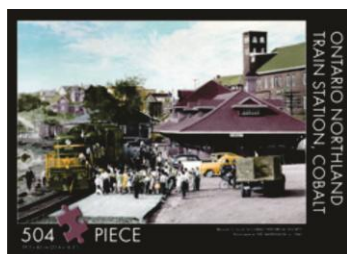
*The Iconic Right of Way Mine  
Photo by Charles Dumaesq.*



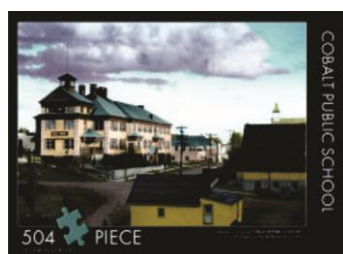
*Right of Way Mine Reflections  
Photo by Sue Nielsen.*



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



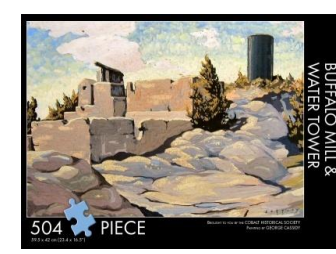
*Ontario Northland Railway  
Station Cobalt 1945.*



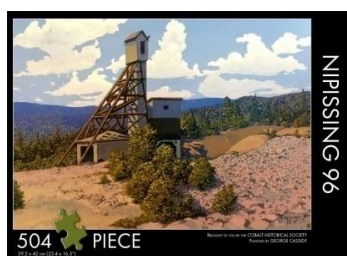
*Cobalt Public School  
Photo circa 1955.*



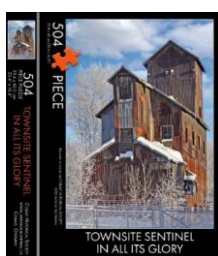
*Silver Miller Mine  
Photograph circa 1950*



*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](http://www.wmpub.ca) for further details.

## Answers to Cobalt Silver Camp Trivia Questions

1. b) 150
2. c) Silver Kings
3. d) 1919
4. c) 600
5. a) The Boston Grill