



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



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How well do you know your Canadian History?

The Cobalt Historical Society Board urges readers to consider signing this Petition sent to us by St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School students in Belleville. It reads:

The undersigned would strongly encourage The Ontario Ministry of Education to change the High School graduation requirements to include a mandatory course in Canadian History at the Grade 12 level.

Currently the only mandatory course is in Grade 10 and that begins with 1914! Since Cobalt was voted "The Most Historic Town", we shall be sending additional material to aid their endeavour. Copies of the petition are at the Cobalt Public Library, Brooksys' restaurant, The Silver Moccasin, Public Library and the municipal offices of Cobalt and Coleman. Out of area readers can send a note; write out the petition, sign your name with your address and mail to St. Theresa CSS, 135 Adam St., Belleville, Ontario K8N 5S1.

CRAFT CIRCLE - A reminder that the Craft Circle sponsored by The Silver Moccasin has a class April 14 to make a personal medicine bag with the four sacred herbs and to learn their traditional uses. April 28 you can make a beaded necklace and choose your own gem stones. The events take place at Keepers of the Circle, 121 Scott St. New Liskeard, 679-5353.

AMAZING GRACE CREATIONS Alicia Larente (a granddaughter of Yolande and Ernie Tresidder) has started a business, Amazing Grace Creations, selling her own designs of necklaces and bracelets of glass beads. They are sold at the Cobalt Mining Museum and Smallman's Pharmacy in Haileybury.

HARDY BOYS SHORT STORY CONTEST a reminder to students in Grades 3-12 to obtain guidelines and registration forms from www.temiskamingshores.ca. The contest closes April 24 with awards presented in June at the Haileybury Heritage Museum.

SPRING PULSE POETRY FESTIVAL ANOTHER SUCCESS!

The Spring Pulse Poetry Festival held March 21-28 concluded a successful series of events including:

- readings at schools and other locations;
- the Temiskaming Palette and Brush Club reception with an award ceremony for the best painting/poetry ;
- workshop held by Bianca Lakoseljac, Branch President, Toronto Chapter of Canadian Authors Association;

- announcement of the winners of the William Henry Drummond poetry contest;
- the induction of Dave McLaren into the Poetry Hall of Fame;
- a fundraising gala featuring local musicians

To see the full programme and information about obtaining the anthology of the winning poems, visit www.springplusepoetryfestival.com. Appreciation goes to David Brydges, Deborah Ranchuk and their volunteers for the attention to details that make this Festival so enjoyable. Thank you to the sponsors for their contribution towards another successful festival.

GENEALOGY SEARCH

The last issue listed the countries of birth of students at Cobalt elementary schools in 1923. Here are two items from John Ralston Saul's book - *A Fair Country; Telling Truths About Canada* - Penguin, 2008:

- "Canada is a Metis civilization. The First Nations played a major role in the shaping of this country that went on for twice as long as Canada has existed as a Confederation a role that was military, civil and commercial."
- "Very few of the United Empire Loyalists were English. They consisted almost entirely of minorities, including Irish, Dutch and Highland Scots. About 40 percent of those that went to Upper Canada were German-speaking, mainly of Rhineland origin."

The Beaver, Canada's History Magazine, Feb-Mar 09 issue pg.13, has an item that relates to this detail. It concerns the efforts of John Lyons to find the graves of his Hessian ancestors in the Rose Cemetery in Waupoos, Prince Edward County, Ontario. (Historians, for accuracy since Germany was not a Country then, use the name of the State as it existed at that time). There were no markers so graduate geology students at Queen's University used ground-penetrating radar, a magnetometer and other hi-tech instruments to locate and map a number of potential grave sites. They will be marked so that they are not disturbed.

TEMISKAMING CEMETERIES For those wishing to search headstones in Temiskaming cemeteries, there is a wonderful website with actual photographs so one can read the exact inscriptions. It is a complicated address so it is best to search for it through Google Temiskaming District Cemeteries.

It is worthwhile noting the email of Marjorie Stuart marjstuart@sympatico.ca, Editor of the Cemetery News, in the OHS Bulletin the newsletter of the Ontario Historical Society. This column tracks the efforts of people to preserve cemeteries. This is necessary as there is a book published that describes the seven hundred or so ghost towns in Ontario alone.

Also in Feb-Mar 09 issue of The Beaver is an article in their new "Roots" department discussing genealogy tracking and the importance of not relying extensively on internet information. In the Dec 08-Jan 09 issue, Roots describes how to locate homestead properties in the Prairies. This could be useful for Cobalters searching for ancestors that left for the West as mining declined.

CLASSMATE SEARCH: The searching for people extends to former classmates as well as relatives. The CHS frequently receives requests. The Cobalt Public Library, cobaltlibrary@ontera.net owns two tools that are helpful, the Cobalt telephone book for 1919-20 and the City Directory for 1928. The directory has a listing by last name with occupations as well as by street. The library has been collecting school photographs and many have the names of the students. Tommy Black 1935-1992, Dorothy Nicholls' brother, was an intrepid photographer and Dorothy has donated albums she had created of his photos circa late 1940's and 50's. People are encouraged to come to the Library to scan the hockey photos as some names are missing.

PHOTOGRAPH SEARCH: A recent photograph was received — everyone was sure it was of Cobalt...but where? Using the enlargement element on the photocopier, Librarian Peggy Leaper was able to determine that it was of the south end of Earl Street in 1976 before the fire; as Jack Mathew's garage could be seen. This was a valuable one as there are few photographs of some streets.

There are photographs in the Ontario Department of Mines reports a set is located at the Cobalt Mining Museum in the Ignatius McDonald Memorial Library. Some are photos of mills, shafthouses, other mine buildings and houses.

COBALT'S TOWN BOUNDARIES

The last issue of the newsletter indicated how the Townsite of Cobalt came about. Why is the area of Cobalt so restricted? Let's see what Peter Fancy wrote in "Temiskaming Treasure Trails 1904-1906" pg. 110:

"Nor do the local mine owners have any combined conscience over Cobalt's municipal problems... As they admit behind closed doors, they came here to make money, not spend it. And if they can save money by not paying Cobalt taxes, good business". So because silver and cobalt ores were found all around the Town the Buffalo, the Coniagas, the Tretheway, the Nipissing, the McKinley-Darragh and the Cobalt Lake Mines the mine owners chose not to have their properties become part of the Town.

Cobalt Lake Mine where is that? Here is what the trail sign along the south shore of Cobalt Lake below the McKinley-Darragh home of Florence and Kathleen Dean reads:

"The Cobalt Lake Mining Company Ltd. was granted ownership of the mineral rights under the bed of Cobalt Lake to 47 acres, December 1906. Access to the working was gained from shafts around the south edge of the Lake. Prospecting proved difficult because it all had to be done underground. Crosscuts were driven to intersect the extensions of veins from the neighbouring properties. By 1909, over 5,000 ft of shaft sinking, drifting and crosscutting had been done. Mining began and the first mill on this site was erected in 1911. In 1914 Mining Corporation of Canada Ltd. acquired the property along with many other properties. Cobalt Lake was pumped out in 1915; mining and milling operations were carried out until 1932. In 1932 blasting in the mine broke through the bedrock and an estimated 400,000 tons of mill tailing poured into the mine. No one was injured but the lower levels of the mine were filled with tailings and became unworkable".

When the bottom of the Lake fell in, the road at the south end disappeared. It was evening and Mr. Jewel David, coming home after a shift, placed a coal-oil (kerosene) filled lamp as a beacon, having first gone to the house of the Creighton sisters on the Princess Property so as to warn the partying guests what to expect. Another incident behind the phrase... "And they lived a life and then some".

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

April is membership time for the Society:	Cobalt Historical Society
Little Silver Vein \$10.00	Treasurer, Jack Church
The Townsite \$25.00	P.O. Box 309
The Glory Hole \$50.00	Cobalt, Ontario P0J 1C0

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