



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter Of The Cobalt Historical Society



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P.O. Box 309

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"Greetings From Canada's New "National Historic Site"

Yes! In a letter dated May 15th, 2002. The Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, announced the designation of the Cobalt Mining District as a National Historic Site of Canada. Please see further details in 'The Mayor's Message.' Our apologies for skipping the planned summer edition of the 'Lode' --- with several Heritage Trail projects, District Historical Workshops, Centennial Planning and more, we simply ran out of Volunteers. Hopefully we'll get back on Schedule in Centennial Year 2003.

The Heritage Silver Trail

Phase II Projects, 2002

Our first project began with the stabilization and repairs to the Townsite #1 shafthouse. This structure is now restored to its original configuration and the broken windows are all repaired. It took 15,000 steel screws with neoprene washers to secure the sheet-metal siding. Once again it will be a favoured landmark for artists and camera bugs.

Project #2 - The Right-of-Way buildings.

All three were repaired and stabilized. The missing backlogs were restored at the shaft tower. And a new interpretive sign showing the surface plant as it appeared in 1907 was erected near the entrance. Art groups and visitors will like the landscaping and picnic areas.

Project #3 - The Nipissing 96 Minesite.

The headframe and hoist room were completely rebuilt. The project was only hours away from completion when an accidental fire destroyed the rebuilt hoist room. The debris has been cleaned up and plans are underway to rebuild this structure next spring.

Project #4 - The Meyer Shaft, Nipissing #73.

The headframe and hoist room are currently undergoing restoration. The shaft tower has been repaired and clad with new siding. This project should be completed in early December and will be our last effort for 2002.

Heritage Silver Trail continued

A number of signage projects and landscaping plans have been deferred until Spring 2003 due to inclement weather.

The Cobalt Mining Museum

- Room #1 in the museum is now the "Placer Dome Room", dedicated in appreciation of their most generous donation of \$20 000 00.
- The museum has two new exhibits, which are now on display - one is "The Rudolph Guenther Silver Jewelry Collection" consisting of 37 pieces of his magnificent work. The second exhibit is "The Philip Jones Silver Specimens Collection", consisting of 212 pieces.
- The museum is open Monday to Friday from 1pm to 4 pm.
- The museum gift shop is a great place to shop for those special Christmas gifts on your list.
- The museum is searching for any and all school photographs dating from 1903 to 2002 in order for us to put together a photo album for Cobalt's Centennial celebrations July 31st to August 4th 2003. We would be extremely grateful to anyone who would be willing to donate or loan photographs to us. For more information, please drop in to the museum or call 679-8301.

The Cobalt Public Library

Christmas is just around the corner. Come in and check out our art collection, all by local artists. We have paintings of different sizes and for the stocking stuffers we have miniatures of Cobalt buildings and headframes. Other Christmas gift ideas include Cobalt centennial caps, visors and mugs. Be ready for Cobalt's 100th Birthday! All can be purchased at the library.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!
From the Library Board and Staff

The O.P.P. Link

A painting by artist Jack Lockhart showing Constable George Caldbick stepping off the train at Cobalt in 1905 was unveiled on the station platform on June 7th, 2002. Four years after George arrived in Cobalt the O.P.P. was established with Cobalt as the North Division Headquarters.

Doors Open Ontario

The Cobalt Historical Society in cooperation with the Haileybury Heritage Museum and The Temiskaming-Abitibi Heritage Association enjoyed a successful Summer program involving the six Cobalt designated sites listed in our Spring edition. Libraries, churches and homes throughout the Tri-Town area participated in this popular event and appreciated the cooperation and assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The Dorothy Duncan Award

On May 4th the Cobalt Historical Society was presented with the Dorothy Duncan Award for outstanding service. The award by the Ontario Historical Society was accepted by current president, Reg Holdsworth and founding president, Merv Lavigne at the O.H.S. Toronto Headquarters. Named for the society's former president, the award is presented annually to a non-profit organization nominated by a municipal council for outstanding service to its region.

The Canadian Mining Hall of Fame

Four of Cobalt's founding fathers are to be honoured on January 16th, 2003 at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

Fred Larose, James McKinley, Ernest Darragh and Tom Hebert will be inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame marking the beginning of a long line of potential candidates.

The Great Fire of 1922

The 80th Anniversary of this historic event was commemorated on October 5th, 2002 with the unveiling of "Pioneer Spirit", a large bronze sculpture by Ernie Fauvelle, at the Haileybury Waterfront Park. More than 500 people gathered for this event including 30 survivors of the Great Fire. We congratulate The Haileybury Heritage Museum who raised \$175 000.00 to fund this lasting tribute.

The Hermiston Building

While the Town Public Works was attempting repairs and stabilization the building collapsed. Town Council is now urging citizens and friends of Cobalt to contribute to a restoration effort for 2003.

Contributions can be sent to the Cobalt Historical Society. This Lang Street Landmark should be restored.

The Cobalt Train Station

The Ontario Heritage Foundation presented Mayor Andre Belanger and Coleman Township Reeve Colleen Belanger with a plaque recognizing this structure as a Heritage Building, August 3rd, 2002.

The Rotary Historical Recognition Award

On September 19, 2002, Mayor Andre Belanger and C.H.S. President Reg Holdsworth accepted this award recognizing Cobalt as the birthplace of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association (N.O.H.A.); founded October 18th 1919 with Angus Campbell as president.

COBALT'S CENTENNIAL WEEK JULY 29TH – AUGUST 4TH 2003
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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF COBALT

Congratulations on another successful year. It is encouraging to witness developments that are helping to preserve our vibrant past. Being designated as "A National Historic Site" was welcome news and the Cobalt Historical Society played a key role in this effort. Our newly formed steering committee is working with parks Canada to arrange details for unveiling an official plaque on July 31st, 2003 as part of our centennial celebration.

The collective efforts of our arts and cultural organizations are helping us achieve our goal as a tourist destination and to tell the story of our treasured past. Thank you for contributing to our promising future.

Andre Belanger

MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE OF COLEMAN

The Cobalt Historical Society has done a great job and has made many accomplishments in 2002. The Coleman Township Council wishes to extend its appreciation to the C.H.S. for its efforts and successes. We understand that the C.H.S. had its trials and tribulations this past year and we hope that things will get only better and run smoother for everyone in 2003.

On behalf of The Coleman Township Council I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the very best in the New Year.

Colleen Belanger

MESSAGE FROM THE C.H.S. PRESIDENT

In June 2002, I began my second term as the president of the Cobalt Historical Society. The Board of Directors for 2002-2003 continues to face many challenges in the Cobalt Mining Camp. The restoration of several sites on the Cobalt Heritage Silver Trail dominates the Board's time and energy, but I know the end result will prove to be very rewarding. The many other projects listed here in the Cobalt Lode give some indication of just how involved the Cobalt Historical Society is in the Cobalt Camp.

I would like to thank you, our members for your continued support. Your donations and letters are much appreciated. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Cobalt Historical Society, I wish everyone "*A Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.*"

Remember; celebrate 100 years of Silver with all of us, here in Cobalt, the first week of August 2003.

Reg Holdsworth

Olde Fashioned Ice Cream & Soda Shop

Silverland, 7 Prospect Avenue, Cobalt, Ontario (705) 679-2115 is located in the recently renovated Bank of Ottawa (1913) building. Come and enjoy Banana splits, parfaits, hot fudge sundaes, frozen yogurt, Belgian chocolates, truffles, home-made fudge, hard candies or browse the gift shop which offers an assortment of goodies as well as gift baskets, souvenirs and t-shirts.

Nina Chitaroni, daughter of Albert and Carol Chitaroni invites everyone to come in and experience the magic of Silverland.



The Silver Street Café

Fair trade coffees in the famous Coniagas #4 Shafthouse

Rochelle Schwartz and Perry Wuest, a young Toronto area couple discovered Cobalt in 2000. They now operate a café serving made-from-scratch baking and meals at site #13 on the Heritage Silver Trail.

Customers ask to see the mine shaft and if the owners use it to cool their milk. Actually, Rochelle and Perry plan to use the cool air for summer air conditioning and for cooling beer and wine. "Cobalt's unbeatable history convinced us to develop this historic site and to share it with the locals and tourists who find this community overwhelming!"



Opening Soon – The “Essex”

Fine dining on Silver Street

The Essex, a fine dining establishment, located on Silver Street across from the Classic Theatre will be opening soon. Many people in the Tri-Town area will be able to enjoy a lovely meal after an evening at the Classic Theatre.