



THE COBALT LODGE

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P.O. Box 309

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Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0

"Greetings from the Cobalt Silver Camp"

Activities celebrating "100 years of Silver" are now winding down. Actually, we are only pausing for a short rest before starting on "The Cobalt Historic Development Plan" to capitalize on our designation as a "National Historic Site". More details to follow.

Centennial Highlights July 31 – Aug. 4th, 2003

The program outlined in our Spring Newsletter went off as planned and proved crowd pleasing.

The Heritage Plaque Unveiling

started the show with officials from Parks Canada, MP Ben Serré, MPP David Ramsay, Mayor Andre Belanger, Reeve Colleen Belanger and the CHS Officers sharing the stage with George Larose, nephew of the legendary Fred Larose. The Plaque is located across from the Town of Cobalt Office on Site #14 beside the Pan Silver Headframe. It is accompanied by a bronze relief map showing landmarks of the Cobalt Mining Camp as a National Historic Site.

The Heritage Silver Trail – Phase II

The Second year of this program began in early May and will continue into mid December. A total of 5 new sites have been added to the 14 existing sites and major repairs have been completed at several of them.

At the Nipissing Hill Lookout the access road and parking area were improved and the lookout platform upgraded.

The Hoist Room at the Nipissing #96 Shaft has been rebuilt along with new viewing platforms. A wheel chair accessible viewing platform has been constructed at the Little Silver Vein, Site #4. A new reinforced concrete platform is under construction at Site #2 "The Glory Hole" where erosion of overburden was threatening the safety of the existing viewing area.

The 5 New Sites on the Heritage Trail are as follows:

Site #15

The Northern Customs concentrators, locally known as "The 104 Mill".

Site #16

The Colonial Mine and Adit.

Site #17

The Nova Scotia Mine and The Dominion Reduction Mill.

Site #18

The Crown Reserve Mine at Kerr Lake.

Site #19

The Famous Silver Sidewalk Open Stope

The Jack Koza Memorial Park

Is currently being constructed. Mining and Milling equipment is currently being assembled at this new site on Peter Street parallel to the ONR tracks.

The New Cobalt Historical Society Office

The shafthouse of the Pan Silver Headframe (Site #14) is now our official headquarters. With assistance from FedNor, The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, the Town of Cobalt, the Township of Coleman and a Trillium Grant of \$8000.00, we have renovated the shafthouse and carried out extensive landscaping and outdoor displays. We are also hopeful that further assistance will enable us to staff the facility as a visitor information center for the summer of 2004.

Cobalt Historic Development Plan

In accordance with Parks Canada guidelines for National Historic Sites, our consultants, MacLeod-Farley and Associates have outlined a development plan suggesting a welcome centre at the Cobalt Train Station, acquiring "The Great Canadian Mine Show", restoration of historic buildings, a new interpretive centre housing the Cobalt Mining Museum and restoration of the N.C.R. Line to Kerr Lake with a tea house on the Drummond Mine Site... total cost estimate \$ 8.1 million. We will have further details of this plan in our next newsletter in 2004.

The Cobalt Mining Museum

Enjoyed a busy Centennial Year and was the recipient of a fabulous art collection consisting of 12 paintings (approx. 3' x 4') of famous Cobalt area headframes painted in 1970 by

artist Richard "Dick" Ferrier for a Toronto Gallery. They were purchased by Nobel Harbinson of Calgary and later placed in the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame. On the occasion of the induction of the first four discoverers of Cobalt's Silver into the Hall of Fame, it was decided that these paintings be moved to the Cobalt Mining Museum. They now occupy the entire south wall of room #1 in the museum. The Centennial Silver Coins are still available at the museum as well as the new publications: "Silver & Gold" – A Pictorial Souvenir of the Mines of Northern Ontario, first published in 1916 by the Cobalt Daily Nugget. "Cobalt – Where the Stories are as tall as the Headframes", by Helen Culhane is eighty eight pages of stories written by Cobalt residents of all ages and published with the assistance of SMC (Canada) Ltd. and A & B Digital Printing.

The Annual General Meeting of the Cobalt Historical Society

Held on September 24, 2003 at the Town of Cobalt council chambers. President Reg Holdsworth presented his annual report with a detailed account of activities and projects. The new officers and Directors are:

Past President – Reg Holdsworth
President – Jack Church

Vice-President – Vivian Hylands
Secretary/Treasurer – Reg Holdsworth

Directors: Merv Lavigne, Peter Blakey, Laura Baxter, Gladys Wilcox, Doug McLeod & Dan Cleroux.
Municipal Council Reps: Ron Beeson – Coleman Township & Andre Belanger – Town of Cobalt.

Financial statement as of September 24, 2003 shows a balance of \$7689.08 in our office account. This total is the sum of memberships, donations, book sales, municipal contributions and proceeds from the Cobalt Silver Bar Draw as donated by SMC (Canada) Ltd.

Cobalt Public Library

We wish to thank everyone who visited the Library during the Cobalt Centennial weekend. It was great seeing so many Cobalters back for the celebrations. The big attraction at the library for most were the photo albums and newspaper clippings. A celebration to look back in time and to reminisce with old friends.

The Cobalt Centennial Poetry contest winners were Dorothy Farmiloe and Bernard Tucker. Winners of the Cobalt Public Library Art Contest for elementary school children were Bradley Legault, Katie Reginbald and Steve Van Wetten. Each received a decorated basket of supplies made by board member Anita Koza.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in 2004.

Glenda McAnaul

The Father Les Costello Memorial Arena

The re-dedication of the hockey arena as the Father Les Costello Memorial Arena, drew a great crowd and many humorous anecdotes were shared about his years as Parish Priest at St. Pat's.



left to right:

Brother Murray; Niece Corinne Ivanic; Sister Rita Hogan and Brother Jack took part in the dedication ceremonies.

The O.P.P. Mural Unveiling

Was also a crowd pleasing event. The Mural occupies the entire west wall of the bank of Ottawa Building (1913) – now the “Silverland” and depicts the history of the O.P.P. in Northern Ontario starting in Cobalt in 1909. The Cobalt O.P.P. station was the first regional headquarters in Northeastern Ontario.

Leading the dedication and unveiling was O.P.P. Commissioner Gwen Boniface accompanied by Constable Sylvia Began, Sergeant Kevin Murphy and artists Dean Dubois and Guy Racine.



The O.P.P. Motorcycle Squad “The Golden Helmets” were also a big hit in the mile long parade that packed the main streets of downtown Cobalt.

All of the social events, contests and tours were scenes of satisfaction and brought back many happy memories and exchanges for the many residents and visitors who took part in the Centennial Celebrations. Congratulations to the Town of Cobalt and the Township of Coleman and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to pull off such a grand celebration.

Message from the C.H.S. President

As a native and life long resident of Cobalt, I am thrilled to be the President of the Cobalt Historical Society for the coming year. I look forward to your comments / suggestions during my term in office.

Our work on the Heritage Silver Trail will continue during 2004 and new Projects will come on line under Parks Canada's program for National Historic Sites.

To all, our wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jack Church



R.I.P. – Laurie Burpee, author of "Why Cobalt" on September 16, 2003 in Wilsonville, Oregon. Born in 1912 on Nipissing Hill to Fred Burpee and Marion McLeod.