



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



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P.O. Box 309

Cobalt, On P0J 1C0

“Greetings from Silverland”

In future years “Silverland” may also be known as “Diamond Land” ... Yes! Diamonds have been found in the Cobalt Mining Camp. A joint Federal and Provincial project called “The Discover Abitibi Initiative” has begun numerous geoscientific investigations of the Western Abitibi Greenstone Belt including the mining camps of Timmins, Kirkland Lake and Cobalt. Funding for this initiative is provided by FedNor, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, Municipalities and private sector investors.

The recently published report of special interest to us is “The Sampling of Lamprophyre Dikes for Diamonds”, open file report #6170, The Ontario Geological Survey, by G.P.B. Grabowski and A.C. Wilson, 2005. This report covers a total of 45 samples taken from lamprophyre dikes in the Kirkland Lake and Cobalt camp areas. Each sample weighed approximately 24 kilograms and cost from \$1600.00 to \$2400.00 to fully process. Six of the samples contained diamonds and one of which was taken from a dike on Nipissing Hill near site #8 on the Heritage Silver Trail returned 23 microdiamonds.

Regional Geologist, Gary Grabowski, has long been interested in the Diamond potential of Temiskaming. On a field trip to Wawa he examined a diamond bearing Lamprophyre dike and noted the similarity of this rock to the Lamprophyres of Cobalt and Kirkland Lake. Grabowski also points out that although many of his samples did not return diamonds this does not mean that the respective dikes are barren. More testing is required, and the process is labour intensive and expensive. His findings have attracted a number of Mining Companies including Outcrop Exploration, Globex Mining Enterprises and Randsburg International Gold Corporation.

There are many more Lamprophyre Dikes as yet untested in this area. Also, there are more than 30 Kimberlite pipes already discovered, half of which are Diamondiferous. Several of these are undergoing drilling and bulk sampling at this time.

THE COBALT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Officers and Directors were acclaimed as follows:

President Vivian Hylands

Vice President Reg Holdsworth

Secretary/Treasurer Peter Blakey

Past President Jack Church

Directors: Barbara Nagy, Gladys Wilcox, Merv Lavigne

There are 3 vacancies for Directors – if you are interested please contact us.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

Office account \$17,892.18
(Sept 20, 2005)

Trail account \$19,754.81 *
(Sept 20, 2005)

* - *Most of this money is already committed to several trail sites for repairs, additional signage, displays etc. –*

THE COBALT MINING MUSEUM

Once again we have had a very busy tourist season with 5822 tourists visiting the museum. We also provided 892 tourists with our interpretive underground tour at the Colonial Mine Adit Site. Our hours of operation are: June 1st to September 30th Daily 9am to 5pm, October 1st to May 31st, Monday to Friday 1pm to 4pm. Remember our gift shop is a great place to do your Christmas shopping and shopping locally helps to support your Museum. We are grateful to Bud Price and family for the generous bequest of \$15,000.00 towards our renovation efforts. Also, we are in need of several Directors, if interested please contact the Museum or Reg Holdsworth.

COBALT PUBLIC LIBRARY

As people going by our Library have likely noticed we are having renovations done to the Drummond Parkette. Hopefully with the changes it will be more integrated with the library and better seen when passing by, enough so that it will lure people in to explore it. Dr. Henry Drummond is part of Cobalt History as anyone who has come to see the Drummond Exhibit will know. Both the Cairn and Exhibit were a pet project of Mrs. Margaret Dunning who dedicated a lot of time and work to it. Everyone is welcome to come in and see the exhibit and look through old newspapers, pictures and our many books on local history. We hope to see you soon! Peggy Leaper

THE HISTORIC MINING CAMP PROJECT

Even with the onset of winter, work is continuing to complete Phase One of the Historic Cobalt Mining Camp Project. The train station looks greatly improved. Seven layers of paint dating back to the station's first days have been removed. The fresh coat of paint looks great! A new garden graces the south end of the station. Inside, the exhibit area has been completed. It will give visitors an enticement to travel out into the community to explore our history. The exhibit area includes a new 20 minute DVD video about Cobalt's history. It has been so well received that we will be using it to assist with our fundraising endeavours in the coming months. Those who give generous donations will get a free copy. It is also likely that the DVD will go on sale in the Welcome Centre next spring.

Cobalt's Great Canadian Mine Show is undergoing maintenance and equipment upgrades. A new video about Cobalt's mining technology is in development. The Show will shortly be moved to a new permanent home. New lighting and signage will grace the downtown by the end of winter.

An article about the Project will be appearing in the Feb/Mar issue of The Beaver magazine. New advertisements are currently being booked with several magazines. In the meantime, several travel writers have toured the area throughout the year promising the possibility of more articles. Partnership opportunities with several surrounding communities are underway. These will also help to increase our tourism.

Phase Two plans are being finalized at this writing. It is our hope that existing tour products will be strengthened and a limited amount of expansion will occur with Corporate help in the coming year.

Merry Christmas from the Project team and our best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

THE JACK KOZA MEMORIAL PARK

The equipment displays have all been restored and painted and descriptive signs are in place at each unit. A date for an official dedication will be decided soon.

A PROSPECTOR WHO STILL HAS FAITH IN COBALT



Bogart Leslie, at the age of 95 years still bicycles through the back roads and trails of the Cobalt Camp. He is especially optimistic of the potential for platinum deposits in this area.

On Saturday, November 19th, 2005, the Haileybury Heritage Museum hosted an open house and luncheon to celebrate Bogart's birthday. A large crowd attended and all were impressed with Bogart's agility and memory. His many and varied sorties throughout the mines of Kirkland Lake and Matachewan were recalled and enjoyed. Bogart graduated from the Haileybury School of Mines in 1931.

IN MEMORIAM ... Louis E. Beland, April 28, 1920 – March 31, 2005. Louis left Cobalt in the late thirties to seek employment in the Ottawa area. He retired in 1990 from his position of executive secretary of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority. During his High School days in Cobalt he played on the same football team as Len Cunningham, Mario de Bastiani, and Frank Aimone.

FROM PRESIDENT VIVIAN...

My thanks to the Officers and Directors of the Cobalt Historical Society for their vote of confidence in acclaiming me to this office. I am proud to continue the efforts of our Association towards the recovery and preservation of Cobalt's History and its Heritage sites.

Our society also appreciates the in-kind assistance provided by the municipalities of Cobalt and Coleman, and the ready help available from their public works crews.

To them and to all of our members and supporters our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vivian Hylands