



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



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P.O. Box 309

Cobalt, On P0J 1C0

"GREETINGS FROM SILVERLAND"

CANADIAN MINING HALL OF FAME AWARD

On May 31, 2006, Ontario's Most Historic Town was honored by The Canadian Mining Hall of Fame for having achieved designation as a Canadian National Historic District.

Natural Resources Minister, David Ramsay and Northern Development and Mines Minister, Rick Bartolucci, joined Cobalt Mayor Andre Belanger and over 100 guests in celebration of the official designation and the Town's 100 year anniversary at Queen's Park. The Cobalt Mining Camp is one of only three nationally designated mining sites in Canada.

Mayor Belanger was pleased to accept a plaque from officials of the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame on behalf of the Town, The Township of Coleman and the Historic Cobalt Corporation.

COBALT ROCKS

On July 29-30, 2006, the first ever "Cobalt Rocks" event attracted 1,000 people to the Father Les Costello Arena. Along with rocks, gems and geological displays, there were guided tours, underground adit visits, the Junior Miner Competition and a special presentation on geology, courtesy of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Show co-ordinator Nina Chamillard was happy with the results and has already received requests from vendors for space at next year's show. Some vendors came from as far away as Manitoba.

Rob Wright of Mattawa organized a "Global Position System" event and had 50 people prowling for sites around Cobalt. He expects to set up a certified course later this year.

COBALT'S CENTURY OF MEMORIES AUGUST 4-7

Judy Belanger and Pat Tresidder co-chaired a committee of volunteers and local organizations to put together an action-packed four days of events celebrating the Town's 100 years of incorporation.

The weekend began with a reception at the new Welcome Centre and continued with hospitality at all local establishments such as the Library, Mining Museum, Classic Theatre, Legion, Father Les Costello Arena, etc., The celebrations involved all age groups of residents and visitors. In addition to the typical Miners' Day Festival contests and displays, two new memorial parks were dedicated in honour of two prominent local citizens in the persons of Jack Koza and Bruce Lonsdale.

THE JACK KOZA MEMORIAL PARK

Saturday August 5, 2006, the Heritage Silver Trail site #20, The Mine Equipment Park, was dedicated to the memory of Jack Koza. Cobalt Historical Society President, Vivian Hylands, introduced the Koza family and local dignitaries.

Father M.J. Scully delivered a fond eulogy recalling his many associations with Jack over the years and then led the large crowd in a prayer of dedication. The Koza family were impressed and pleased with the ceremony.



Members of the Koza family were present for the dedication of a park in Cobalt to the memory of Jack (Jake) Koza. Pictured here are: grandson Nicolas Gignac, 20, who will be attending school in Montreal (back, left); daughter Golda Gignac of Broome, Australia (front, left); son Aaron Koza of Gillies Lake (centre, back); daughter-in-law Jill Koza of Gillies Lake (second from right); wife Anita Koza of Gillies Lake (right); grandson Jake Koza, two-and-a-half, of Gillies Lake (front, centre, left); and granddaughter Zoe, 6, of Gillies Lake (front, centre, right). (Photo by Darlene Wroe)

THE BRUCE LONSDALE MEMORIAL PARK

On Sunday, August 5, 2006, a commemorative plaque and sign were unveiled next to the Welcome Centre at the south end of the Cobalt Train Station in honour of a former Cobalt Mayor and Federal Member of Parliament, Bruce Lonsdale.

Bruce was one of Cobalt's youngest and most outstanding mayors, whose leadership shone through the Town's darkest hour during the fire of 1977. Sergeant Kevin Murphy, O.P.P., spearheaded the effort to create this park in the memory of Mr. Lonsdale.

Bruce Lonsdale died January 12, 1982 at the age of 32 years as a result of a highway traffic accident while traveling on his duties as Temiskaming's Member of Parliament. Several family members were present at the dedication including Bruce's wife Linda, son Wade, brother Jim and wife Sue. Tributes were given by Cobalt Mayor Andre Belanger, area M.P.'s Anthony Rota and Charlie Angus, and former Latchford Mayor George Lefebvre.



The Bruce Lonsdale Memorial Park was dedicated Sunday, August 9. Among the 130 people present were family members (left to right): sister-in-law Sue Lonsdale, brother Jim, wife Linda, and son Wade. On the left is Cobalt Community Policing Committee liaison Ontario Provincial Police Sergeant Kevin Murphy who pushed the project through. (Photo by Darlene Wroe)

COBALT MINING MUSEUM

During the Spring and early Summer months the main floor's 5 display rooms underwent extensive renovations. The new floor tiles and painted walls have created a bright and welcoming look for our visitors and the new display cabinets have enhanced our collections.

To September 30th, 2006, 4,100 people have visited the Museum and 1,071 have been guided through the Colonial Mine Adit Tour.

On Sunday, August 6th, Museum Board Chairman Reg Holdsworth presided over the induction of 4 new members into the Cobalt Mining Museum Hall of Fame –

Albert Chitaroni, Robert Whitehead, Larry Francis and Evelyn Fenton.

Business hours at the Museum are now 1:00-4:00 (October 1-May 31) Monday to Friday. Remember that the Museum gift shop is a great place to do your Christmas shopping.

THE COBALT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

September 19, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. President Vivian Hylands read her annual report highlighting the co-operation and encouragement that the Cobalt Historical Society has given to the community. She also thanked the municipal officials and workers of the Town of Cobalt and the Township of Coleman for their assistance on the Heritage Silver Trail.

Officers and Directors for 2006/2007 term:

President:	Vivian Hylands	Director:	Gladys Wilcox, MJ Scully,
Vice-President:	Reg Holdsworth		Merv Lavigne
Secretary-Treasurer:	Peter Blakey		

The Board is seeking 3 additional directors. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST –

- The Headframe at the University Mine Property has been dismantled, moved to the junction of Highways 11 and 11B, near the Cobalt Truck Stop and re-constructed as a scenic monument indicating the entry point to the historic Cobalt Camp.
- A time capsule holding local memorabilia and samples is now ready for dedication at the Willet Green Miller Memorial site across from the Town Hall. A local contractor is preparing to drill a 6-inch diameter hole in the outcrop near the Cobalt Historical Society Office. The covering plaque will specify an opening in 2056.
- The C.I.B.C. Bank has been purchased and occupied by an aggressive Junior Mining Company, Adroit Resources Inc. The building is now the District Exploration Office for Adroit who are testing properties in the Cobalt-Temagami areas for Gold and Diamonds. Good Luck Adroit!
- The Cobalt Historical Society approved a memorial plaque honouring Major Holland, a Boer War winner of the Victoria Cross who later became postmaster at Cobalt. The plaque will be placed near Galena Street on the Nancy Helen Mine Property where Holland resided.
- President Vivian wishes to thank all of the many Cobalt Historical Society members who have sent us photographs and clippings of historic events and places from earlier days in the camp.