



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



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From President Vivian Hylands — The first item in this newsletter is to clarify two errors in the last one, Volume 17, so that 2009 can get off to a fresh start. In Elizabeth Clarke's letter, paragraph 2, after 'College,' [Haileybury School of Mines] was inserted. It ought to have been [St. Joseph's College, Mill Creek, North Cobalt]. Please see Peter Fancy's Temiskaming Treasure Trails, 1916-1922, Highway Book Shop, Cobalt 1994. When referring to the hamlet of Argentite, reference was made to the concrete pillars that carried the streetcar tracks. Those pillars are not on either side of the Highway but on either side of the railway tracks.

SO WHAT'S NEW?

- If you have always wanted to own a shafthouse, here is your opportunity. The Coniagas Shaft House #4 at the corner of Silver Street and Prospect Avenue in Cobalt is for sale. Contact Suzanne Othmer. There are restaurant facilities on the ground level and living accommodations upstairs. It is a very adaptable building having been a grocery store owned by A. Giachino then continuing as one under various other proprietors. It later became the offices of the Cobalt Home Support program and The HighGrader

Magazine. Blackstone Development then owned the building before they relocated and the restaurants appeared.

- You have always wanted to learn to play the guitar. You are retired and have the time. Call Mark Drouillard at 'Comfortably Strung' in the 'Barber Shop', at 33 Silver Street, Cobalt 679-5549 or 679-5580. Mark has accessories for guitars available and teaches acoustical and electronic. You may have been in the habit of having your dogs groomed by Mark at this location. You still can.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. DOUGLAS POLLARD

Another Order of Canada Member to acknowledge Douglas Pollard, owner of the Highway Book Shop. January 27, Literacy Day, at the Cobalt Public Library was an opportunity to acknowledge his contribution through the publishing of Northern Ontario authors of poetry, genealogies, histories and literature. March 6 there was a 'meet and greet' to honour Doug at the Haileybury Public Library. The Book Store is for sale and enquiries can be directed to Mary Church.

COBALT FAMILIES OF HISTORY PROJECT Cobalt Public School on February 18 saw the exhibition of paintings and sculptures by students involved in the Cobalt Families of History Project. It was spearheaded by former Cobalt Public School teacher Kathy Hakola and sponsored by the Temiskaming Art Gallery Volunteer Committee and made possible through the HBC Local History Grant Program. The students visited the Cobalt Mining Museum to learn the details of the jobs performed in the Cobalt Mining Camp 1903-1920. The exhibition is now at the Cobalt Public Library until the end of March.

- SPRING PULSE POETRY FESTIVAL -

The Spring Pulse Poetry Festival's second year begins Thursday, March 26. The shafthouse office of the Society will be the site of some poetry readings. Besides many other poetry readings throughout South Temiskaming, there will be the announcement of the winners of the Dr. William Henry Drummond Poetry Contest as well as the launching of the anthology at the Classic Theatre in Cobalt. Look at the web site: www.springpulsepoetryfestival.com

POSTCARDS The Society has finished a postcard project using the pen and ink drawings of Denis Newman from Belleville Ontario. Reproductions of the Tretheway Mill 1912, the Crown Reserve Mine and the Right-of-Way Mine buildings are available at the Cobalt Mining Museum. The Society is pleased with the printing job done for us by Temiskaming Printing in New Liskeard.

FOUND !!!

-At the Highway Book Shop is a new acquisition for the Cobalt Public Library "From Tent to Tower" by Anne M. Logan, the daughter of Sydney H. Logan, first bank manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Cobalt. It was published in 1974 twenty years after Mr. Logan's death. One of the most famous photographs of the Cobalt Mining Camp is the tent that housed the first bank on the shores of Cobalt Lake.

- While browsing through Cobalt's Daily Nugget Newspaper on microfilm, this item was found: [Schools were out for the summer and someone decided to undertake a study of the number of nationalities represented by students in Cobalt].

Daily Nugget - Wednesday, June 23, 1920

25 Nationalities Represented among Cobalt's School Pupils

A total of 660 students living in Cobalt and Coleman

Cobalt Public School 471: British Born Canadian 317, English 105, Scotch 29, Irish 20

Foreign Born American 19, Australian 4, Chinese 2, Finns 68, French 8, Dutch 3, Greek 1, German 1,

St. Hilariion's 317:	Italian 20, Jews 8, Polish 5, Rumanian 1, Russian 1, Syrian 44, Swedes 4 All French Canadians
St. Patrick's 234:	British Born: Canadian 183, English 5, Irish 3, Scotch 2 Foreign Born: Bulgarians 2, Croatians 5, French 3, Greek 2, Italians 3 Lithuanian 3, New Zealand 2, Polish 5, Roumanians 2, Serbian 2, Syrian 2, Ukrainian 4 United States 2

So when did we begin in Cobalt to think of ourselves as 'Canadians'? Well that all depends on how old you are, doesn't it?

Perhaps these figures raise the question as to how Cobalt came to have elementary schools? After all not all mining camps had schools.

The following information is abridged from Peter Fancy's *Temiskaming Treasure Trails 1904-1906*, Highway Book Shop, Cobalt, 1993

May 1904 Dr. Willett Green Miller, professor from Queen's University and part-time provincial geologist, wanted to make sure that prospectors would respect the Mining Act, asked the Ontario government to survey the area around Long Lake, now Cobalt Lake, into a township. If this had not been done, anyone could have marked 160 acres as a farm, thereby securing the entire mineral rights.

June 1904 In the first week of June upon learning that the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway was moving north, Dr. Miller placed a post on the proposed railway bed near the Lake and wrote "Cobalt Station T.&N.O. Ry." By the following week, people registering at a Haileybury hotel signed 'Cobalt' as their address. Dr. Miller wrote to the TNO Commissioners asking them to call the station 'Cobalt' stating that because there was already a Long Lake one in Frontenac County [Kingston] this would avoid confusion. By June 11, Cobalt was the accepted name of the coming T&NO station.

Because of the railway, families arrived and schools were built in Cobalt and Coleman Township. One of these schools was the Gillies Depot School. One can read about this remarkable school in Peter Fancy's "Gillies Depot, A Temiskaming Journal", Highway Book Shop Cobalt, 2001.

So you ask, "Where is Gillies Depot?"

From the book you learn that "geographically Gillies lies within the area bounded by Loon Lake, Bass Lake, and the Montreal River. In Coleman Township terms: between Lots 9 and 14, in Concession 3, 4 and 5. At the heart of Gillies is Mud Lake, its southern part now called Gillies Lake. Highways 11 and 11B run close to the area's centre, with access roads branching off.

Gillies has no separate municipal status; yet it exists as an identifiable section of Coleman Township, its name an understandable leftover of past events."

How many of those living in 'Gillies' now, know of those past events?

WHAT TO DO ON SUNDAYS? Anyone living in the Cobalt Mining Camp (remember historically it ran up to Gowganda) can think "Gillies."

- Missing your grandchildren? Visit the Nordic Cross Country Ski Club on Portage Bay Road and watch the Young skiers playing ball hockey on skis. There are hot drink available.
- Have lunch at the Cobalt Truck Stop or Wilks Pit Stop Restaurant in Latchford, where you can pretend to be an auto racer in Montreal.
- Take in a visit at the Highway Book Shop where there is the sale of a lifetime build - yourself a library with 75% off.
- On the last Sunday of the month, park at the Coleman Township recreation hall for an afternoon of talking to friends, playing board and card games, and listening to real musicians. Bring your guitar, ukulele, banjo or harmonica. Refreshments are available too.

This newsletter closes with the notice of the death of Dr. Terrance O'Shaugnessy in Las Vegas, Nevada February 4 at the age of 72. His High School friends knew him as Terry O'Shag, an outstanding student; his obituary gave us the opportunity to learn of his many accomplishments as a dental surgeon known around the world. His family has stated that donations may be sent to the Mining Museum.

Information compiled by: Vivian Hylands, President of the The Cobalt Historical Society