



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



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Fraser Hotel Renovations

Many readers of the Cobalt Lode who do not have access to the local newspapers want to know what is going on with the Fraser Hotel renovations. The Bunker Museum entrance will be on Silver Street and the double doors of glass have been installed. Inside, book cases for the Bunker's Library are being built and installed. Outside along the sidewalk, anodized aluminum guard rails are in place and the section at the corner has clear Plexiglas inserts. Many vans are parked as the interior work continues. Air exchange equipment has been installed as has the electrical wiring. The heating is provided by a boiler system utilizing specially manufactured plastic piping that distributes heat inside the building as well as using radiators. Plaster and dry walls have been nearly completed and rooms are being painted.

Dr. William Henry Drummond Poetry Contest 2012

One of the oldest non-governmental national poetry contests (est. 1970) is accepting entries.

With \$1200 in cash prizes, an anthology of winning poems, a trophy and award ceremony at the Cobalt Public Library during the Spring Pulse Poetry Festival on Friday May 11, please check the Festival website at www.springpulsepoetryfestival.com for entry details..

Send any inquiries or questions to mybrydges@yahoo.ca; e-mail address of organizer David Brydges. The Dr. William Henry Drummond Poetry Contest Deadline is April 2.

An Afternoon with Vivian and Ruthann

Last summer I spent an afternoon with Ruthann MacDonald at her home on lower Jamison Street that she shares with her husband Ron. They moved here from Saskatchewan to be near a daughter and her family living on Townsite Road. Earlier Ruthann mentioned that she and Ron in the seven years of living in Cobalt had noticed many positive changes. As she and Ron are walkers they see the differences. Property owners are constantly making improvements to their homes and to businesses.

A house on the corner of Baker and Nickel had an addition so completing an earlier renovation. The house originally built for the Manager of the Buffalo Mines on middle Galena Street was resided in the original brown colour with new glass doors to the front porch. The curved concrete steps were repaired. St. James Anglican Church has new windows let in along the sides with an addition of a meeting room replacing the earlier one. A bell bought by Fulton Purdy to honour his brother who died in WWII had been placed in a steeple built by Alex Adshead shortly before Alex died in 2006. So now we have the sound of a church bell once again in Cobalt.

Landscaping is ongoing as people plant flowers, trim bushes, place outdoor lighting and mow lawns. All this is set off by the fact that there is less trash seen on the streets.

Since they first arrived the former Bank of Ottawa building, once the Office of Agnico Mines, was bought and restored to be the office and restaurant of the Silverland Motel with more offices on the second floor. This building has since been sold and is owned as a home and business by Lindsay Inglis and Craig Clattenburg. The Silverland Motel itself, aligned along the rear of the Hunter Block on the old Cobalt Square, has just been sold as I write. Since the Macdonalds arrived the Coniagas Shaft No 4 at the corner of Silver St and Prospect Avenue has been bought twice, first to be the Silver Street Café, then rented out as the Cornmeal Restaurant and now office of a junior mining

company. We thought we would be without a garage dispensing gas but Wayne Gray continues that service as well as repairs having taken over from former owner Bob Cote.

The Macdonalds are appreciative of the variety of newspapers available. They notice the differences in the volume of traffic as it varies by the season. The number of church denominations in the Tri-Towns is something else that they noticed.

Ruthann remarked on the neighbourliness here. One of their activities is singing in the Interlink Choir which meets at St Patrick's Elementary School. Students in Grade Six are assigned an adult as a mentor and with a pianist, the students and adults meet once a week to rehearse for their concert held in the Classic Theatre every May. Some of their activities are the Xmas Pot lunch with the exchange of five dollar gifts, further potlucks on Valentine Day and at Easter. The end of the school year is celebrated with a visit to a mini-putt, with a pizza lunch at school. The students are encouraged to write to their mentors thus pen pals are formed.

Ruthann and Ron are members of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church which supplies clothing, towels, linens and foot gear by the Community Service Clothing Bus - a store that travels to Latchford, Cobalt, Haileybury, New Liskeard, Englehart, Charleton, Matachewan and Virginiatown. This good will service to people in need with donations from the communities at large and has been active since 1993. Ruthann gave figures for 2010 in an article written by Sue Nielsen for The Temiskaming Speaker "In 2010 the bus boutique served the needs of 637 people, a total of 767 volunteer hours were needed to maintain the service and 14,211 pieces of clothing were given out."

It takes new eyes to see the old Town.

Correction: Please note that in the last Cobalt Lode Newsletter, when quoting the article from the Globe and Mail on school children and claim staking, the article stated that a standard claim was 1,320 square feet which of course does not make sense. We apologize that the original error was not caught. A standard claim is 1,320 feet square.

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