



# THE COBALT LODGE

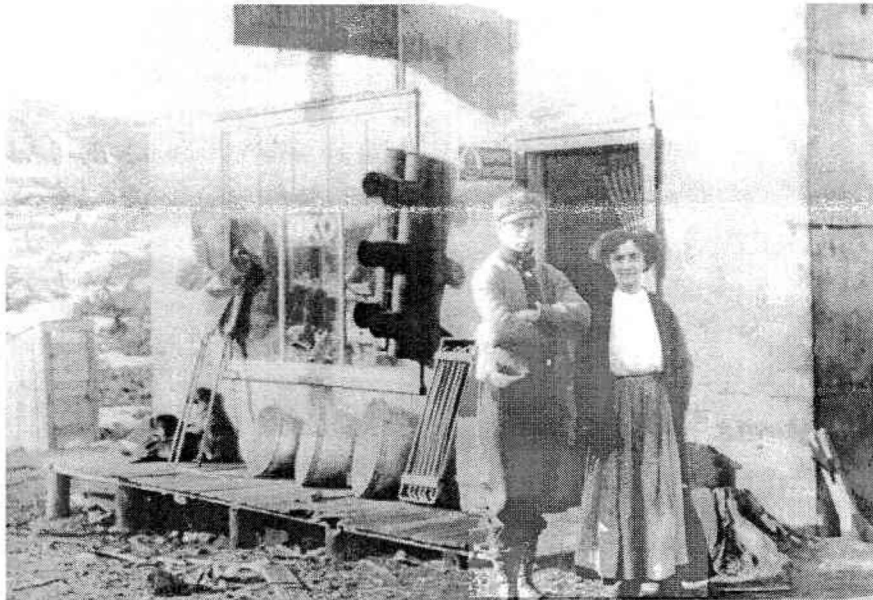
Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



Volume 25 No 4  
October 2016

P.O. Box 309  
Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0

## Buckler's General Store, Mileage 104



*Proprietor: Henry Thomas and Eva Buckler in front of the original store open from 1910 to 1922.*

*This first store burned down in the Great Fire of 1922. This was one of the last buildings burned as the fire ended at Mill Creek, just a little past their store. It was located on the north side of the highway. What you see in the background is where the 104 Mill used to be. Cobalt is just over the hill.*



*Built after the Great Fire of 1922 the second store was open from 1923 to 1958. The second store was rebuilt on the south side of the highway, right at the bottom of the hill as you came into 104 from Cobalt. The building had four wood stoves in the winter to keep it warm. It was about 1958 that Harry Buckler, their son closed the store due to slowing business.*

### OUR CUSTOMER OWNERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The sale of the Company's Preferred Stock to our customers, so successfully concluded recently, has made many friends for the company.

Our constantly widening activities and the large expansion program undertaken in the past couple of years has resulted in the conversion to some extent from credit to partnership obligations through the sale of our Preferred Stock.

It has been a very satisfying experience for us to know the number of new shareholders we have, and it is pleasant to realize what a widespread distribution our stock enjoys. Such an experience encourages thrift and fosters community spirit, and improves public relations. Those people who are constantly advertising municipal ownership of utilities are thus able to reflect—that the principal of encouraging local users of our service to become shareholders, embodies the most practical form of public ownership. Preferred Stock has been the favourite medium to bring new shareholders into any public utility company among customers and employees.

The wide distribution of our Preferred Stock is vastly important to our local investors, because it indicates stability in the market price and precludes any attempt at artificial manipulation. Formerly the shareholders of public utility companies were men of wealth and influence and only a mere handful of local leading citizens were represented in the shareholders' lists. Nowadays, nearly all occupations are represented as shareholders.

The following tabulation will prove exceptionally interesting, showing as it does the wide diversity of occupations and avocations of the 1154 new shareholders of the company.

|                           |    |                              |     |                        |    |
|---------------------------|----|------------------------------|-----|------------------------|----|
| Accountants               | 20 | Crown Lands Agents           | 2   | Restaurant Proprietors | 1  |
| Assayers                  | 3  | Dairy Owners                 | 3   | Real Estate Salesmen   | 1  |
| Auto Salesmen             | 2  | Decorators                   | 3   | Reporter               | 1  |
| Bailiffs                  | 1  | Dentists                     | 5   | Railway Laborers       | 13 |
| Bakers                    | 5  | Diamond Drill Salesmen       | 1   | Salesladies            | 4  |
| Bank Clerks               | 10 | Domestic Servants            | 5   | Sales Managers         | 1  |
| Bank Managers             | 6  | Draftsman                    | 2   | Salesmen               | 11 |
| Barbers                   | 3  | Dressmakers                  | 2   | Shoemakers             | 2  |
| Barristers                | 5  | Druggists                    | 7   | Sign Painter           | 1  |
| Blacksmiths               | 2  | Drug Store Clerks            | 1   | Station Agents         | 3  |
| Boarding House Proprietor | 1  | Dry Cleaners                 | 1   | Stationary Engineers   | 3  |
| Bookkeepers               | 22 | Editors                      | 1   | Stenographers          | 17 |
| Bricklayers               | 2  | Electrical Engineers         | 1   | Store Clerks           | 1  |
| Brokers                   | 4  | Electricians                 | 24  | Store Managers         | 15 |
| Bus Drivers               | 1  | Engineers                    | 1   | Students               | 13 |
| Butchers                  | 5  | Farmers                      | 29  | Superintendents        | 7  |
| Carcheckers               | 1  | Fire Chiefs                  | 2   | Surveyors              | 2  |
| Caretakers                | 8  | Firemen                      | 1   | Switchboard Operators  | 1  |
| Car Inspectors            | 2  | Firerangers                  | 3   | Tailors                | 3  |
| Carpenters                | 18 | Firm Managers                | 6   | Teachers               | 9  |
| Cashiers                  | 7  | Fraternal Societies          | 2   | Teamsters              | 2  |
| Cartage Agents            | 4  | Fuel and Feed Merchants      | 1   | Telegraph Operators    | 3  |
| Chiefs of Police          | 2  | Gardeners                    | 2   | Telephone Operators    | 6  |
| Civil Engineers           | 2  | Garage Owners                | 2   | Tobacconists           | 1  |
| Clergymen                 | 9  | General Merchants            | 7   | Town Clerks            | 1  |
| Clerks                    | 39 | Gentlemen                    | 22  | Town Foreman           | 1  |
| Coal and Wood Dealers     | 1  | Grocers                      | 10  | Trainmen               | 2  |
| Contractors               | 12 | Haberdashers                 | 3   | Truck Drivers          | 4  |
| Cookes                    | 1  | Hairdressers                 | 2   | Turnkey                | 1  |
|                           |    | Hardware Merchants           | 1   | Veterinary Surgeon     | 1  |
|                           |    | Horsedealers                 | 2   | Violinist              | 1  |
|                           |    | Hotel Proprietors            | 5   | Wheelmen               | 1  |
|                           |    | Housekeepers                 | 5   | Widows                 | 1  |
|                           |    | Housewives                   | 218 |                        |    |
|                           |    | Ice Cream Parlor Proprietors | 2   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Insurance Salesmen           | 7   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Iron Turner                  | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Jewellers                    | 2   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Laborers                     | 29  |                        |    |
|                           |    | Laundry Proprietor           | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Librarian                    | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Locomotive Engineers         | 2   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Lumbermen                    | 5   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Lumber Merchants             | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Lumber Salesmen              | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Machinery Salesmen           | 3   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Machinists                   | 3   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Masons                       | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Matrons                      | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Mechanical Engineers         | 2   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Mechanics                    | 10  |                        |    |
|                           |    | Medical Doctors              | 13  |                        |    |
|                           |    | Merchants                    | 42  |                        |    |
|                           |    | Metallurgists                | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Mine Inspectors              | 2   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Mine Managers                | 16  |                        |    |
|                           |    | Mining Engineers             | 22  |                        |    |
|                           |    | Mining Promoter              | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Miners                       | 117 |                        |    |
|                           |    | Minors                       | 99  |                        |    |
|                           |    | Moulders                     | 3   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Navigators                   | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Night Watchmen               | 2   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Nurses                       | 7   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Office Superintendents       | 2   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Pattern Makers               | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Photographers                | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Pipefitters                  | 3   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Plasterers                   | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Plumbers                     | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Police Constable             | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Poolroom Proprietor          | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Postal Clerks                | 6   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Printers                     | 4   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Prospectors                  | 14  |                        |    |
|                           |    | Publishers                   | 3   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Pulp and Paper Salesmen      | 1   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Pulpwood Dealers             | 2   |                        |    |
|                           |    | Pump Engineer                | 1   |                        |    |

Our shares are held from Coast to Coast but the greatest number of shareholders is now found locally, which is as it should be in a public utility company. An uninterrupted dividend record so far indicates the safety of our security as an investment for our customers and employers.

Some time ago our Assistant Secretary-Treasurer was in Montreal and he gave to the gentlemen of the S. C. P. NEWS a list of names of members of the C. N. P. Family to be included in the mailing list. Judging from the manner in which the names are spelt we are of the opinion that H. A. made the list in his own handwriting, and such being the case, we wish to congratulate the aforesaid gentlemen of the S. C. P. NEWS on having so nearly deciphered the hieroglyphics.

This copy is from the *Canada Northern Power Corporation Limited* newsletter called *C.N.P.C. Review* Volume 1 #11 November 1928 where they actually list the occupations of shareholders. It certainly makes interesting reading. Thanks to Dan Cleroux, Mayor of Coleman Township, for this moment in history.

# History Meets Poetry: Poetry Meets History

The Cobalt Mining Museum was host during the August Holiday's Cobalt Mining Festival to an event called "History Meets Poetry: Poetry Meets History" arranged by David Brydges on Saturday July 30. From Douglas Baldwin's book, *Cobalt, Canada's Forgotten Boom Town*, David chose sections of historical events to be read by participants followed by the reading of a poem that related to the same historical event. Present was Cobalt's Poet Laureate Anne Margetson. Here is her introductory poem to this novel happening.

## A Treasure Trove

What a treasure trove of history we have in this place,  
Knowledge that would put a smile on any historian's face.  
Yet not many people know of our small town,  
That used to be famous and of great renown.

Come into the Mining Museum, here on Silver Street,  
Crammed full of knowledge, the tour is quite a treat.  
It focuses on Cobalt's silver and on her people too.  
If you have not been round, come and take a view.

Then wander round the Trail, about twenty sites to see,  
Go into the Colonial Adit and in utter darkness be,  
Feel the spirits at The-Right-Of-Way head-frame  
Live in history of the place, you'll never feel the same.

The Mayor's Chain of Office is on display right here,  
Made of pure silver mined in Cobalt, to us all quite dear.  
The world's largest display of native silver is in this place,  
With lots in the ROM, that should put a smile on your face,

With books, maps and clippings, and hundreds of artifacts too,  
I will not spoil the fun, just in case you have not been through.  
But one of my favourite places is where dull rocks shine bright,  
Brighter than the northern lights on a cold clear winter's night.

## Museum That Silver Built

*By Beatrice J. Latimer*

*[This article first appeared in "Scope Recreational Vehicle and Camping News magazine, Late Autumn 1976 issue. Beatrice J. Latimer née Ferris was born in Haileybury 1908, lived in Cobalt leaving for Toronto with her parents and brothers in 1928].*

If your meanderings along Highway #11 take you in the vicinity of Cobalt, turn onto 11B for the Cobalt Mining Museum. It's on the main street, downtown. Whether you're es-

pecially interested in rocks, minerals, mining and allied topics or whether your knowledge on such subjects is limited, you'll find much of interest in this exhibition. For in seven viewing areas, the museum features a variety of material from mining-oriented exhibits through relics and items out of Cobalt's past.

In 1903, silver and cobalt were discovered here although it wasn't until the silver boom had burst and the town had slid from the limelight that the valuable cobalt was mined. The silver discovery is credited to three men working for the railroad being pushed northward from North Bay in the interest of agriculture and lumbering. Fred La Rose, a blacksmith, threw a hammer at a fox and missed—but exposed a vein of silver. The other two men, suspicious of telltale glistening in rock blasted to let the railway through, had specimens analysed. All three staked claims to set Cobalt off on its mining heyday. The museum tells some of that story.

On entering, you see table-top layouts that graphically relate to the mining story. And you find silver conspicuous; samples from silver fields, silver cobalt ore, silver labeled as plate, wire, refined. There are high grade ore specimens, cobalt rock formations, colourful cobalt bloom, native copper and native gold in quartz. Add to this, cores forming a drilling operation, assay buttons, coins and fossils. Some exhibits are courtesy of the Ontario Department of Mines.

On our visit here we noticed among mineral displays one on loan from the Ontario Northland Railway. A rock collection on view was also on loan. Last time we stopped in we found an additional viewing area – a small

*continued*

## Museum That Silver Built -continued

darkened room downstairs where a fine Fluorescent Display had spectacular lighting.

The older building housing the museum is somehow very suitable, for much of the material being shown recalls the life-style of those bygone days when Cobalt was a bustling, silver camp. And this material gives the museum a human touch. Among things featured is an array of photographs, mural, paintings, books, newspaper clippings, documents, stock certificates, and a Prospectors Hall of Fame.

Would you like to see a sampling machine; how natural gas formed the equipment of pioneer prospectors? We were fascinated with a miner's campsite - no hookups and pull-throughs here. A simple tent, log table and make-believe open fire with bean pot and reflector made us realize those early-day campers could have done with a self-contained RV!

Snowshoes, toboggan, 1907 bucket, 1905 forge, bellows of 1900s, 1910 miner's boot, there's a parade of items from the good old days. This includes a gramophone, camera, stove clocks and tools: grindstone, hammers, shovel. There's plenty more that will catch your interest and unless inflation has pushed up the admission price, you can see it all for \$1.00, children, 50 cents. [Ed.Note: Inflation indeed has risen since 1976, and admission is now higher.]



### We Will Need Your Help

The Cobalt Historical Society maintains the Heritage Silver Trail. The-Right-of-Way mine is in need of a new tin roof to maintain the building's integrity. Estimates for this work have been done and it will need approximately \$30,000 to accomplish the work. We anticipate the work will be done before the coming winter. Applications have been made. To gain matching funds from government agencies we will need to raise approximately \$12,500. Tax deductible receipts are available for contributions to this project. We have raised some of the money and are awaiting confirmation of the federal government funding.

We hope we can continue to count on your support.

## Coleman - Cobalt News

The Bunker Military Museum held the launch, October 1st. of the virtual exhibit *Exploring Small Town Canada at War*. Project Manager was Dan Laroque, content developer and scriptwriter was Brit Griffin while producer and context developer was Drew Gauley. The contents for the First World War were drawn from the diary of Lt.-Col. Bryon Cooper Sisler who although not from Cobalt, enlisted from here when he was visiting Cobalt friends. The World War Two segment follows the Algonquin Regiment as it entered Holland and Belgium. It is based on a painting by Brigadier-General George L. Cassidy.

The Museum received a grant of \$200,100 from the Federal Government's Canadian Heritage Information Network and contributed \$50,000 itself to the project. Find it at [www.smalltowncanadaatwar.com](http://www.smalltowncanadaatwar.com).

**Cobalt Shines** is an event slated for November 4th when stores and museums will remain open from 10 in the morning until 9 o'clock in the evening. There will be free draws and store specials with a grand prize valued at over \$800. After closing, the Miners Tavern will feature Trevor Alguire. More details can be found online at [www.wmpub.ca/CobaltShines](http://www.wmpub.ca/CobaltShines).

Coincidentally down in Waterloo on November 4th at the *Canadian Archaeology Association* meeting, Norman Hawairko will be giving an illustrated talk on the mapping by the drone company *North Country Aerial* of the industrial sites in Coleman and Cobalt i.e. the mining and mill foundations. From thirty feet above ground, these photos are awe inspiring. Hopefully Norm will be able to visit the mining drift project located in one of the tunnels at Waterloo University where machinery provided by the *Cobalt Historical Society* is located.

Our condolences to the family of **Cal Taylor** who passed away October 24, 2016. In lieu of flowers, Cal requested donations to charity, including the *Temiskaming Foundation*—Historic Cobalt Fund.

If you have tried to log into the website for the Cobalt Historical Society and have become confused, you are not alone. The domain name has been taken over by someone else and is no longer available to us. How that happened is still being investigated. The new website for the Cobalt Historical Society is **HeritageSilverTrail.ca** or **HeritageSilverTrail.com** and is being re-constructed.