



Volume 2
P.O. Box 309

THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



Spring 2002
Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0

"Greetings from the Best Old Town "

Our history continues to shine. On March 1, 2002 the CBC crew from " Ontario Today" arrived at the Silver Street Café and broadcasted a 2-Hour show. Local politicians, historians, citizens at large, and visitors were interviewed on Cobalt's History. Listeners from across the province phoned in, the St. Pat's School Choir sang "The Cobalt Song" - it was another great day for Ontario's Most Historic Town.

The Heritage Silver Trail, Phase II – Is off to a good start. A highly qualified tradesman in the person of Ed Labelle, has been hired as our liaison supervisor. His 37 years of wide ranging experience in mining and mine plant construction will ensure the integrity of our restoration project, which will begin soon at the Townsite #1 Shafthouse near the south entrance of town. This famous landmark contributed to the fortune of Sir Henry Pellat and his Toronto Landmark, Casa Loma.

Unfortunately, we lost another landmark at the Genesee Property—the headframe collapsed in a winter storm.

The Cobalt Centennial 2003 – A full program will be in our summer newsletter; meanwhile, we can highlight a few projects already underway.

Centennial Poetry Contest - Open to all ages, English or French, dealing with the history, characters, or drama of the "Town with the Silver Lining". The deadline is February 02, 2003. Send entries to:

*Cobalt Centennial Poetry Contest
Box 496
Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0*

Booklets, Albums, Etc. - In cooperation with the Highway Book Shop, we are trying to reproduce "Silver and Gold", a pictorial souvenir of the mines of Northern Ontario, published in 1916 by "The Cobalt Daily Nugget", and "The Cobalt Souvenir and Cookbook " compiled by the Ladies of the Presbyterian Church, Cobalt, Ontario 1908-09. Both books show the town and the mines in their heyday and the great meals and goodies the ladies provided.

Doors Open Ontario – A 2002 Ontario Government initiative to showcase sites of local heritage. The Business and Real Estate Improvement Committee has designated the following sites for 2002:

- 1.) The Cobalt Train Station (now housing The Bunker and KMK Consultants);
- 2.) The Bank of Commerce (now Coleman Township Office);
- 3.) Cobalt's 2nd Town Hall (now Blackstone Development & Polymet Resources);
- 4.) Coniagas No.4 Shafthouse (now the Silver Street Café);
- 5.) St. Patrick's Church - still going;
- 6.) The Methodist Church Manse (residence of Ruth McGarry)

The Classic Theatre – Enjoying a busy year and currently in the legal process of becoming a "Non-Profit Corporation". The Cobalt Mining Museum is also considering this option.

The Bunker – Will reopen on the Holiday weekend of May 18-20, 2002.

Street Banners – Now in the design stage will be located at the north and south entrances of town, stating "Ontario's Most Historic Town of the Century".

Parks Canada and Historic Sites – our local MP, Ben Serre, is very optimistic of our chances for designation as a "National Historic Site". We expect to learn more next month (May).

Rest in Peace

- *Marvin Armstrong*, February 03, 2002 in this 86th year, HSM 1936.
- *Ed Kostuik*, Class of 1956, Haileybury School of Mines, on April 3, 2002.
- *Don McKelvie*, born April 14, 1913. Former President of Northern Telephone, and the Temiskaming and Hudson Bay Mining Company, on March 20, 2002.

A Word From the President – It's been an exciting year—The Heritage Silver Trail has taken most of my time and energy and will be a showcase for the North by completion in 2003. Our designation as "Ontario's Most Historic Town of the Century" and the CBC Show "Ontario Today" gave testimony to the fact that "The Cobalt Connection" is still very active. Thank you for your interest and support over the past year and please help us to continue this effort.

Reg Holdsworth

P.S. *If you have old photos, notes, or such items of history, we would appreciate them.*

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