



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



Volume 6
P.O. Box 309

Spring 2004
Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0

“Greetings from Cobalt and Coleman”

Spring is arriving slowly, Cobalt Lake is open, the ducks are swimming and the Robins are chirping.

The Cobalt Historical Society Office

Heritage Trail Site #14, formerly known as The Pan Silver Headframe, is now officially designated “The Willet Green Miller Memorial Site”. Our office in the shafthouse now has furniture, a telephone, (705)-679-5070, and a new computer and website www.cobalthistoricalsociety.ca, courtesy of Bob Montgomery former Cobalter now in Sudbury.

By this summer, we will have part-time staffers to greet our visitors.

The Heritage Silver Trail, Phase II

The third and final stage of this project will begin in mid-May and be completed on or before October 30th, 2004. Most of the work involves completion of contracts issued in 2003 and delayed by early winter weather. The cost over-runs incurred due to safety hazards and unexpected structural defects have forced deferments of two major restoration projects, the Lawson and Silver Summit Mine Sites. These sites will not be abandoned however; they will require an additional application for Phase III funding.

The Jack Koza Memorial Park

Work at this site will resume by mid-May and explanatory plaques will be installed at each display. Sections of the Ragged Chutes air line will be added along with air meters and concrete collars.

Cobalt Mining District, National Historic Site of Canada

A commemorative integrity statement has been drafted by consultants MacLeod-Farley and Associates, reviewed, and amended at local meetings and workshops. It is now under final study by Parks Canada and we hope to hear soon as how and when our development plan will be initiated.

The Cobalt Mining Museum

The Cobalt Mining Museum is now a not-for-profit corporation. Officers are; Reg Holdsworth, president; Allen Simpson, Treasurer; Patricia Anderson, Vice-President.

A new book by Michael Barnes entitled “Looking Back Cobalt” will be published in May with a signing at the museum.

Summer hours begin June 1st; 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. open seven days a week.

Cobalt on the CBC

On April 4th, 2004, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation introduced Daisy Fannin as co-host of “Definitely Not the Opera”. Daisy, a Cobalt singer and songwriter will co-host this four-hour Saturday afternoon musical show with comments on local sites from the Glory Hole to The Miners Home Tavern. A great promotional effort for our area.

Rest in Peace – Paul MacMillan on January 1st, 2004 at the age of 80 years. A W.W.II veteran, Paul ran MacMillan Motors (Nash-Rambler) until the day before his death. He was an ardent Cobalt historian and a founding member of our society.

Mario's Pasta House at Silverland Inn

Opening soon, the pasta house will feature unique pasta specialties and familiar Italian favourites to enjoy with a glass of beer or wine. Open for dinner only, reservations recommended. (705) 679-2115



Albert Chitaroni receives award from Jack Church, President of the Cobalt Historical Society

Coleman Resident Honoured for Saving History

Hard-rock miner Albert Chitaroni was awarded an honorary life membership in The Cobalt Historical Society on April 19th, 2004 at the Cobalt Mining Museum. Historical Society President Jack Church thanked Albert for his “dogged determination” to preserve the last vestiges of mining sites and artifacts in the Cobalt Mining area. Albert battled the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in the 1980's and 1990's over their policy of removing all structures and restoring sites to their natural condition. A plaque commemorating his efforts is now mounted in the Cobalt Mining Museum.

P.S.

Don't forget the Centennial Celebration in Haileybury July 26th to August 1st, 2004.

Website: www.townhaileybury.on.ca (click on Centennial Celebrations)

Also – The Bikers Reunion in New Liskeard will be held the first weekend in July.

From the President

Our priority in 2004 is membership. I ask you as a member of the C.H.S. to recruit ONE new member from among your family or friends; OR, send us the name and address of someone you think might like to share in Cobalt's history.

Jack Church