



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



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Cobalt, On P0J 1C0

"GREETINGS FROM COBALT AND COLEMAN"

"MORE MUSEUM FUNDING" – FRIDAY, FEB. 16, 2007

Mr. David Ramsay M.P.P. and Minister of Natural Resources was at the Cobalt Mining Museum to present a cheque for \$225,000.00 to the Museum Board. Local municipal leaders, members of the heritage community and interested citizens attended a small reception to acknowledge the announcement. The funding comes from a province wide initiative which sees the government providing \$6.8 million to libraries, museums, and heritage buildings.

Mining Museum Board Chair, Reg Holdsworth noted that most of the funds would be used to complete long-needed renovations to the building. *"Finally we can complete projects that have been on hold for years because of lack of funds. I think wheel-chair accessible washrooms will be a good place to begin"*, said Holdsworth.

FROM PRESIDENT VIVIAN - After more than three and a half years of inactivity and, with a shrinking number of executives and members, the charter of the 'Temiskaming Abitibi Heritage Association' was surrendered on advice from the Ontario Historical Society. It became clear that T.A.H.A. could no longer serve the large geographic jurisdiction it represented. The Treasury Funds were distributed to other active charitable organizations and museums in the district including the Cobalt Mining Museum and The Bunker.

The Bunker Military Museum and the Welcome Centre of the Historic Cobalt Mining Camp Project now share the newly renovated Cobalt Train Station. The new funds will enhance the on-going development of a Library and an exhibit area.

Ours thanks go out to Jim Jones who collected military memorabilia for several years and moved it to the Ontario Northland Railway Station in May 1990 - The Bunker.

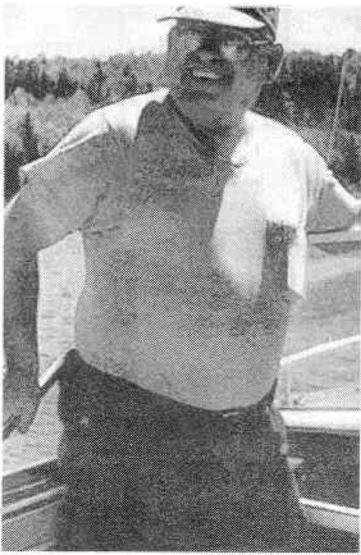
HARDY BOYS SHORT STORY CONTEST

The Ghost of the Hardy Boys NorthernTel Writing Contest for young people begun six years ago by the Hardy Boys Committee in Haileybury, has been expanded to include adults (18 years and up) in the district of Temiskaming. Registration and contest guidelines may be obtained from area Libraries or the Haileybury Heritage Museum (705-672-1922).

This year short stories will be accepted in English in the form of a fictional short story or mystery or adventure. The principal characters should be of the same age category as the original Hardy Boys and the story must be set in this area and incorporate some local landmarks.

The deadline for entries is April 27, 2007. They may be submitted to class teachers or mailed or delivered to the Haileybury Heritage Museum, Main Street, Haileybury, P0J 1K0.

R.I.P. ALLEN SIMPSON (1942-2007)



Born in North Cobalt on August 11, 1942, Allen was a longtime resident of Coleman Township where he served as Road Superintendent for over 20 years. He was due to retire in August 2007.

Allen had a great community-minded spirit; he dedicated a large measure of time to the Coleman Volunteer Fire Department and to the Cobalt Mining Museum. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed the time spent at the family cottage on Portage Bay.

The Cobalt Historical Society will surely miss Allen's contributions; he and his able and supportive public works crew were always available when maintenance or repairs were needed on the Heritage Silver Trail.

COBALT PUBLIC LIBRARY

We're making changes in our Library. We are in the process of automating to make things quicker for patrons and to help us keep an up-to-date inventory. It's all coming along very nicely with just a few glitches to iron out. This came about thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation who provided us with the money for the automating system and to improve lighting.

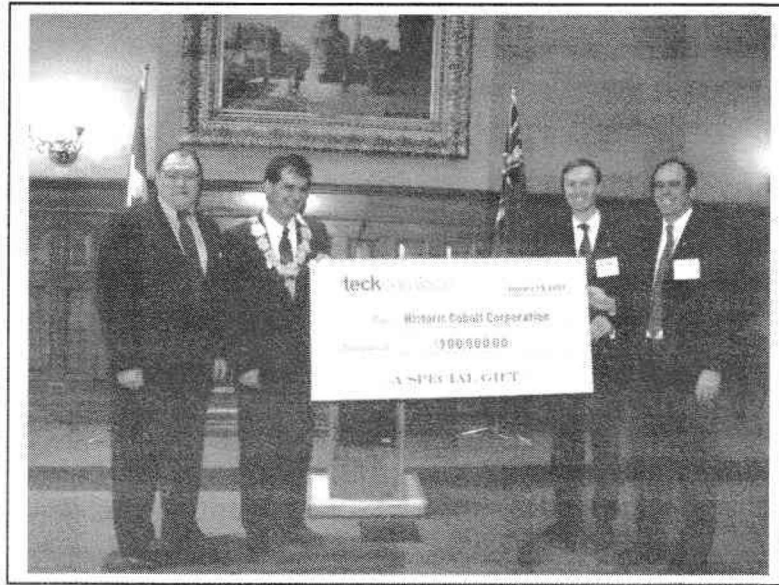
Please come in and browse as we have many new books for adults and children, thanks to an Ontario Government Grant. We also have 3 computers for general public use, free internet access, scanner, photo card reader and word processor for those who want to write their resumes etc.

Of course we still have our local history section and photographs from days gone by. Mr. Robert Hauck has donated original postcards going back to the beginning of Cobalt. If you ever heard of the silent policeman that was at the corner near the Fraser but have never seen it, we have a picture of it with a little bio.

Sue Nielsen, one of the new Library Board members, will be organizing a poetry contest in memory of Dr. W.H. Drummond, a local poet who died 100 years ago on April 7. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Peggy Leaper, Librarian

TECK COMINCO DONATION



(January 19, 2007 at Queen's Park, Toronto)

Teck Cominco Ltd. becomes the first corporate supporter of the Historic Cobalt Corporation with a donation of \$300,000.00 to build a Mining-Themed Playground Park and a Heritage Walking Trail around Cobalt Lake.

Accepting the cheque are Gino Chitaroni, Chair of the Historic Cobalt Corporation and Cobalt Mayor Andre Belanger. Representing Teck Cominco are President Don Lindsay and Director Norman Keevil.

The Playground will be named "Teck Cominco Prospect Park" and the Heritage Trail will be called "The Norman Keevil Sr. Walking Trail." Both projects will be completed by the Autumn of 2007.

Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, applauded the Teck Cominco donation for *"investing in the Historic Cobalt Mining Camp and the rich culture of mining heritage in Northern Ontario."*

David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources, also thanked Teck Cominco for *"showcasing the pride and heritage of Canadian mining and its contribution to the economic success of this province and Canada."*

AND MORE GOOD NEWS..... On their return to Cobalt, Gino and Andre opened good news mail from Fed Nor – a promise of \$328,300.00 for the second stage of "The Development Planning Project" which began in 2004. Councillor Doug Shearer explained that these funds will aid in the hiring of a manager and staff to reach the ultimate goal of becoming a self-sustaining project.

HISTORIC COBALT CORPORATION (H.C.C.)

A NEW ERA IN COBALT HERITAGE

THE BEGINNING - The discovery of silver in 1903, during the construction of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway created a mining explosion that resounded not only in Northeastern Ontario but throughout Canada. Miners from around the world flocked to this remote bush camp to work one of the richest deposits of silver in the world. These miners and the companies that employed them laid the foundation of what was to become Canada's hard rock mining industry. More than a century later the name Cobalt is still known throughout the world and its spirit, "The Cobalt Spirit", continues to live, thanks in part, to a handful of dedicated politicians and volunteers who work tirelessly to preserve the mining heritage of the Cobalt Silver Mining Camp.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION - In 2001, the year Cobalt was recognized by T.V.O. as Ontario's Most Historic Town, national recognition soon followed. A report entitled "Cobalt Mining Landscape: Cobalt Ontario" was prepared by Andrew Walden for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. This report led to the designation of the Cobalt Mining Camp as a National Historic Site in 2002 by Parks Canada. Two impressive plaques were unveiled on July 31, 2003 during the "One Hundred Years of Silver" celebrations. The Cobalt Camp, all 12 square kilometers of it, was now officially the "Cobalt Mining District National Historic Site of Canada."

HERITAGE MOMENTUM STRENGTHENS - The "Silver Nugget" continued to roll. By 2005, The Development Plan for the Historic Cobalt Mining Camp was completed setting the stage for comprehensive development of the site as a heritage tourism attraction. This plan was initiated and administered by the Town of Cobalt. Many funding partners were involved including The Township of Coleman, The Town of Cobalt, Fed Nor (Industry Canada) and The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund. A Steering Committee composed of members of both municipal councils, Cobalt Historical Society, Cobalt Mining Museum and interested community citizens was formed to guide the project. The Historic Cobalt Mining Camp Steering Committee proceeded to hire a project manager and other support staff. As part of Phase 1 development The Welcome Centre was created in the Cobalt Station sharing space with the Bunker Military Museum. The Great Canadian Mine Show was obtained and is now a popular attraction. Underground mine tours were improved and they continue to be popular as well. These along with many improvements throughout the town serve as a basis for heritage tourism within the Cobalt Camp.

THE HISTORIC COBALT CORPORATION - The formation, in 2005, of the Historic Cobalt Corporation (H.C.C.) was a bold and ambitious step to take charge of both heritage conservation and heritage tourism of the Cobalt Mining Camp. ¹ "The Historic Cobalt Corporation is a community business venture for the Historic Cobalt Mining Camp that supports heritage conservation and community economic development through professional heritage conservation, heritage tourism operations and capacity development."

The H.C.C. was born out of the solid platform of the Cobalt Mining Museum established in 1953. The H.C.C. is a "not for profit" charitable corporation which means it can legally obtain property for heritage conservation. It acts as the "umbrella organization" for all aspects of heritage in the Historic Cobalt Mining Camp. The Mining Museum, The Welcome Centre and the Bunker each will have advisory boards which answer to the Board of Directors of the H.C.C.

As this report is being penned the Town of Cobalt, along with the H.C.C. are moving forward with Phase 2 plans. Funding has been obtained from Fed Nor to hire a heritage tourism manager and support staff for the next three years. An aggressive corporate fundraising initiative has also proved successful. Just recently, Teck Cominco Corporation, which has roots in Cobalt, has approved \$300,000.00 to build a mining theme walking trail along with a children's playground near Cobalt Lake. Hopefully this will be just the beginning.

These are exciting times in Historic Cobalt and future development seems solid and assured. The Historic Cobalt Corporation is the organization that has the ability to create and sustain heritage-based tourism in the Historic Cobalt Mining Camp. "The future of Historic Cobalt is indeed bright." The "Silver Nugget" continues to roll.

By: Reg Holdsworth – Chair: Cobalt Mining Museum, Vice President: Cobalt Historical Society,

Vice President: Historic Cobalt Corporation

¹ Mission Statement (H.C.C.)