



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



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GOOD NEWS FROM HISTORIC COBALT!

The Historic Cobalt Corporation held a luncheon announcement on February 14th at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 44, Cobalt. The Fraser Hotel building has been purchased and title given to the Town of Cobalt. The building, once renovated, will house the Bunker Military Museum, accommodations, a restaurant and a culinary school operated by a college from Northern Ontario - soon to be announced. More information can be obtained from Mr. Doug Shearer, General Manager with Historic Cobalt.

WORKSHOP - The Cobalt Historical Society is hosting a workshop on April 26th, at the Classic Theatre. This will be a spin-off from the earlier successful TAHA "Last Saturday in April History Workshops." History presentations held over the past seven years in the District will be given.

CONGRATULATIONS! *As of last October, a generous donor to the Cobalt Historical Society, Joan Craig of Halifax, is now a member of the Order of Canada and a Doctor of Humane Letters from Dalhousie University. These awards are in recognition of her work in supporting the visual and performing arts in Nova Scotia and her "unstinting efforts to foster new knowledge, better treatment practices, and improved diagnosis and outcomes for people with autism."*

COBALT MINING MUSEUM – SILVER THEFT

On the evening of November 27th, 2007 a break-in occurred at the Cobalt Mining Museum. A number of silver bars worth over \$18,000 were stolen in addition to the last silver ingot weighing 93.5 oz, which was poured in Cobalt. The smaller bars each bore a serial number. There was great sadness over this theft as the possibility of retrieving the historical ingot is very poor.

COBALT NORTHERN ONTARIO FIREFIGHTERS' MUSEUM

The Museum continues to receive donated items of documents, hats, shoulder badges etc. for their exhibits. The Temiskaming Chiefs and Firefighters Association have now dissolved and the Museum has received material relating to the Association's history for display. After stopping by the Public Library during the summer, visitors can also stop by the Firefighters' Museum located next door - their records are useful for genealogical enquiries. Contact Leo Arbour at 679-5757 for more information.

COBALT PUBLIC LIBRARY - UPDATE

The Library held a trial period for Saturday afternoon openings with a very favourable response. As a result, the Library will now be opened every Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. as well as throughout the summer months if interest continues.

WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS IS NOW AVAILABLE – good news for summer visitors!

Family history research – birth, death and marriage records from the Temiskaming Speaker and United Church of Rural Churches in Temiskaming District are available for viewing at the Public Library.

SPRING PULSE POETRY FESTIVAL – APRIL 3-6

This festival was inaugurated by David Brydges to commemorate the death 100 years ago of Dr. William Henry Drummond. Please see www.springpulsepoetryfestival.com for details to enter your poetry in the contest. The Festival will be held at the Classic Theatre in Cobalt, as well, the Library will be open extra hours Saturday, April 5th.

BUSINESS NEWS

THE SILVER MOCCASIN

The Silver Moccasin, shop@silvermoccasin.com, is located at 38 Silver Street. Operated by Connie Boyd, this Native arts and crafts store opened in the fall of 2007. Some will recall when it operated as Dr. H. Dunning's medical office. A ladies wear store, "The Olive-Susan Shop", owned by Olive Smith and Susan Mayberry occupied this site in the 50's followed by an insurance business operated by Arnold Todd who had previously occupied an office on the Cobalt Square. Upon Arnold's retirement in 1978, Hank LaFleur operated his insurance office until his retirement in May 2005. Following that, The Country Born Artisan provided a new place to shop until closing in 2007.

CONIAGAS SHAFT NO. 4

The Coniagas Shaft No. 4 is located at the corner of Prospect and Silver Street. The Shaft is 350 feet deep and it produced silver ore from 1914-1917. When the Coniagas Mine closed down, Anthony Giachino took over the property, built an addition to the shaft house opening a grocery store and butcher shop using the cool air from the shaft to keep the meats cold. It remained a grocery store until 1995 when the Town rented an office to the Temiskaming Home Support program as well as space for the production of the Highgrader Magazine. Following that, Gino Chitaroni's Blackstone Development owned the Head frame for their office. They in turn sold it to Rochelle Schwartz and Perry Wuest who operated the Silver City Café for five years. Last year their vegetarian café changed hands with Linda Gauthier opening Corn Meals Restaurant. The menu is based on the use of corn, beans and squash. These foods are tied to the Three Sisters Legend and in turn honour Linda's relationship with her three sisters.

Compiled by: Vivian Hylands, Formatted by: Dale Taylor March, 2008