THE COBALT LODE

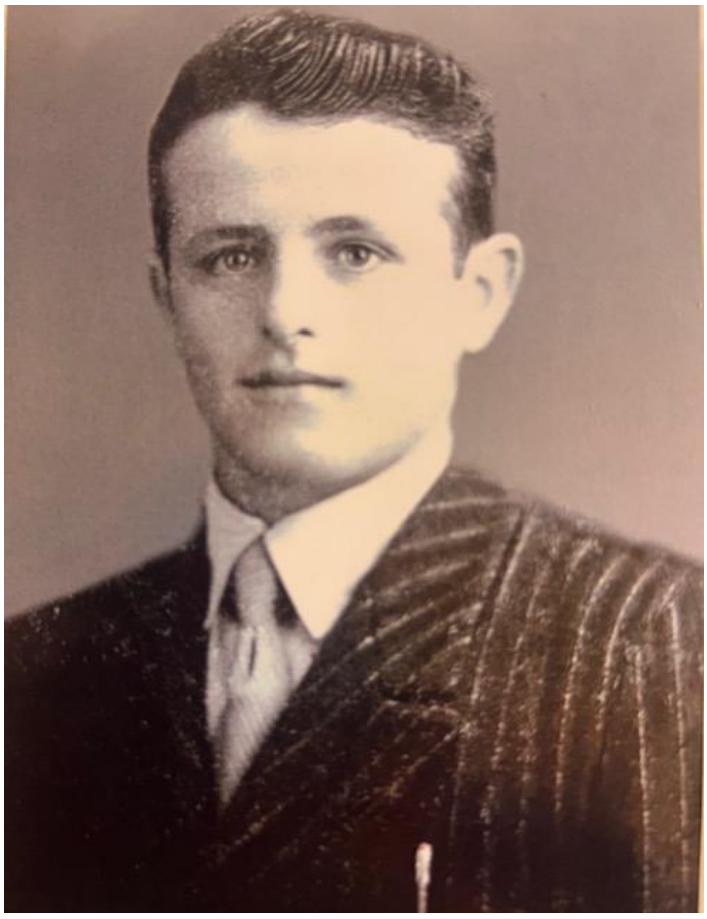
Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society

Box 309, Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0 *cobalthistoricalsociety.ca*

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Giuseppe (Joseph) Tittonel 1931–2026

In this issue, we remember Joe Tittonel, who passed away in July. His children, Silvano and Dolores, donated to the Cobalt Historical Society in his memory. We also extend our thanks to Conrad Corville, whose thoughtful gesture inspired Dolores's contribution: he asked that payment for work at the family cottage instead be donated to a charity in Joe's memory. The following is based on information shared by the family and Joe's own words, recorded in a 1972 interview.



Joe Tittonel when he first arrived in Cobalt in 1952.

Giuseppe (Joseph) Tittonel built a life in Cobalt that began with a journey across the Atlantic and grew into a lasting commitment to family, work, and community. Born on November 23, 1931, in Pieve di Soligo, Treviso, in northern Italy, Joseph was the son of Giuseppe Tittonel and Elisa Pradal. He grew up with his parents and six siblings in Italy, but at 21, he set out to build a new life in Canada.

On May 30, 1952, Joseph left Italy in search of work in the mines, leaving his family and familiar surroundings behind to begin a new chapter in a country he had yet to discover.

Struck by the surrounding hills, rocks, and trees, Joseph described Cobalt as a pleasant, friendly town, similar in size to the one he had left behind. The town was bustling with activity, and employment was available at the mines and several other industries.

He began work at the Cobalt Lode mine, earning 90 cents an hour. He quickly adapted to mining work, progressed to operating machinery, and became one of the mine's two bonus makers — a position earned through hard work. Over the years, he worked as a mining machinist at locations around Cobalt and in Quebec. His career spanned about 30 years.

Joseph's fiancée, Anna Simoni, joined him in Canada a few years after his arrival. The couple married in Cobalt in 1955 and made the town their permanent home. They raised two children, Silvano and Dolores, both born in Cobalt. By the time Joseph was interviewed in 1972, he spoke warmly of the community in which his family was growing up. He and Anna had enrolled in English classes at Cobalt High School, and Joseph continued to develop his skills, including in carpentry.

His working life changed abruptly in 1985 when a serious industrial accident forced him into retirement. But that did not mean an end to useful work. Joseph soon acquired a reputation as "Joe of All Trades," helping family, friends, and neighbours with plumbing, electrical repairs, and home improvements. His practical skills and willingness to lend a hand became another important part of his life in the community.



Joe and Anna Tittonel.



Joe on the left with Joe Malick. Taken a Jack Koza's Machine Shop at Gillies. They both worked at Koza's for years until Joe had his accident.



Looking for your Help on this Photo

Can you identify these miners? Dolores sent us the photo of Joe's coworkers in the 1950s - possibly at the Cobalt Lode. These men were possibly also from Italy.

Joseph also delighted in sharing the pleasures of Italian tradition and good company. Each September, his garage cantina became the setting for winemaking sessions, where neighbours gathered and learned the craft alongside him. He took pride in sharing his wine with friends and was equally generous with the produce from his backyard garden. Together with his friend Ali Neill, he grew tomatoes, lettuce, and garlic, sharing the harvest with those around him.

Family and friendship remained central to Joseph's life. He and his family spent many summers at his friend Albert Chitaroni's Portage Bay Lodge on the Montreal River, enjoying time together in a peaceful setting.

In 1972, Joseph expressed a deep attachment to the town he had chosen as home. He recalled that he once had opportunities to work in southern Ontario, including St. Catharines and Niagara, but could not bring himself to leave Cobalt. It was the first and only town he had known in Canada, and he valued its friendliness, reasonable cost of living, and suitability for raising a family. Even a brief period working at Elliott Lake's Denison Mine ended when an offer from Jack Koza brought him back to Cobalt.

The only drawback, he observed, about living in Cobalt was that the "winters are too long."

Above all, Joseph was grateful for the life he had found in Canada. He learned English, applied for and received Canadian citizenship, and deeply appreciated the opportunities his adopted country had given him. He came to Cobalt looking for a new beginning and, over the course of 74 years in Canada, made it home.

Joe died peacefully at Temiskaming Hospital on July 21, 2026, at the age of 94.

New at Site 7 Nipissing Low Grade Mill Lookout

We are happy to announce that the replacement lookout at the Nipissing Mine site #7 was ready for visitors during the height of autumn colour.

THANK YOU to our patrons at Agnico Eagle for covering the costs of the work.



New Lookout at Nipissing Low Grade Mill.



From left to right: Melissa Leclair, Agnico Eagle; Maggie Wilson, CHS; Cobalt Mayor Pat Anderson, Coleman Mayor Dan Cleroux, Rebecca Getty, Agnico Eagle.

Cobalt Silver Camp Historical Trivia



Test your knowledge of the history of the Cobalt Silver Camp.
Answers can be found on the back page of the newsletter.

1. What was the name of Cobalt's first hospital?
a) Cobalt Mines Hospital
b) Cobalt Misericordia Hospital
c) Lady Minto Hospital
d) Sisters of Providence Hospital

2. In what year did the Bank of Nova Scotia close its Cobalt Branch?
a) 1942 b) 1944 c) 1946
d) 1948

3. A father and son, both named Norman Keevil, led what mining company that played a large role in the Cobalt Silver Camp?
a) Agnico-Eagle b) Nipissing Mines c) Teck Resources d) Buffalo Mines Ltd.

4. Between 1907 and 1916, what percentage of Cobalt's taxes came from the mines?
a) 49% b) 59% c) 69% d) 79%

5. Ferris and Ferguson, a company which operated a ferry service across Cobalt Lake, started in what year?
a) 1904 b) 1905 c) 1906 d) 1907

The 2026 Board of the Cobalt Historical Society

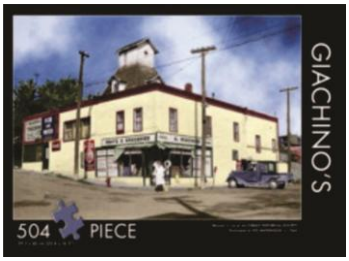
Maggie Wilson - Chair
Sarah Johnston - Secretary and Research
Reg Holdsworth - Treasurer and Trail
Reiner Mielke - Trail Manager
Brian Dobbs - Newsletter editor and webmaster
Dwight Brydges - Member
Deborah Ranchuk – Member

Municipal Liaisons
Pat Anderson for the Town of Cobalt
Marilyn Lubbock for Coleman Township



Don't Forget to Visit our Website
cobalthistoricalsociety.ca

Help Support our Fundraising Efforts - Cobalt Puzzles



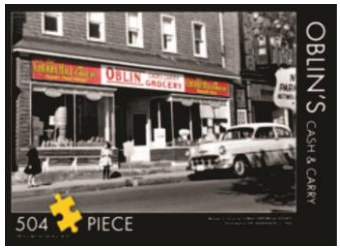
Giachino's *Coniagas Shaft House #4 circa 1945 as a grocery store.*



The Iconic Right of Way Mine *Photo by Charles Dumaresq.*



Right of Way Mine Reflections *Photo by Sue Nielsen.*



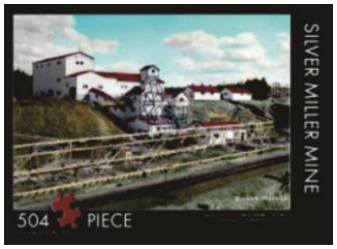
Oblin's Cash and Carry *Circa 1945 on Lang Street*



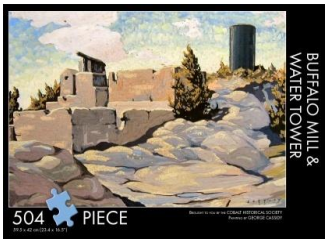
Ontario Northland Railway Station Cobalt *1945.*



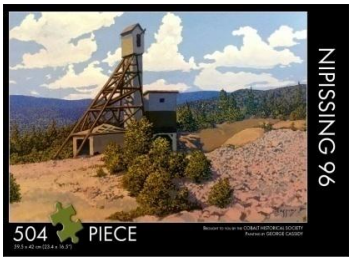
Cobalt Public School *Photo circa 1955.*



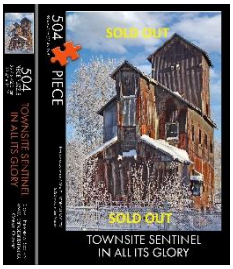
Silver Miller Mine *Photograph circa 1950*



Buffalo Mine & Water Tower *George Cassidy Print*



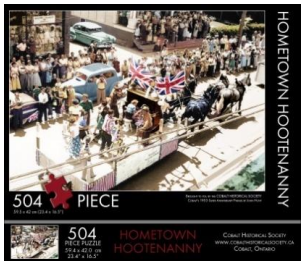
Nipissing 96-*George Cassidy Print*



Townsite Mine



Cobalt Map by Ruth Bernache



Hometown Hootenay

All Puzzles $30. Contact White Mountain Publications at 705-679-5555 or visit www.wmpub.ca for details.

Answers to Cobalt Silver Camp Trivia Questions

1. a) Cobalt Mines Hospital 2. b) 1944 3. c) Teck Resources 4.a) 49% 5. d) 1907