



*Hooked Runner by Martina Lesar*

# The View from Belfountain

[www.belfountain.ca](http://www.belfountain.ca)

Winter 2010

## The President's Message

The Salamander Festival, the municipal election, the Christmas Potluck, first snow... much has happened since the last *View*. In fact, it's been a busy year. We started out with the second annual goods exchange day last May, followed by some great folk who dutifully planted blue squash in preparation for the Salamander Festival's crowning of Ms. Belfountain Blue. Somewhere along the way Amy Phelan kindly offered to take on editing *The View*. We battled motorcycles and much to our pleasure discovered that our efforts – especially those of David Jobe – had an effect. A motorcycle excessive noise bylaw will come into effect later in 2011.

We also succeeded, thank you Ann Seymour, in having Jimmy Douglas added to Caledon's Walk of Fame. Eventually, Mike Schenk got to work on fixing up the Commons in the village centre and we spent some of the money we raise at the Salamander Festival. But soon the all-consuming Salamander Festival was upon us and the team came through. Headed up by Grecia Mayers and under the watchful eye of our treasurer Alan Seymour, we once again pulled off a successful event. It was fantastic to see the village come out and support the event either by simply dropping by,



*Photos by Mark Robins*

picking up some food or participating in the variety of events that take place that day. Given the size of the crowd, we wondered what it would have been like had it not rained all day! Thanks to all the organizers, ticket sellers, volunteers, donors, entertainers and guests. It was a great community day. I was particularly pleased that Ann Seymour's blue squash was crowned Ms. Belfountain Blue.

We had a bit of a breather before re-convening to organize the Christmas Potluck dinner. Under the direction of Madelon Stevenson and Judy Mabee, with decorating help from Ann and Norma Seymour, it was also a success. We actually overflowed the community hall. The food was excellent and abundant, the entertainment perfect and the conversation lively. We presented the Belfountain Heritage Society with a cheque for \$200 and announced that we would be presenting the Belfountain Public School with a cheque to be contributed to Earth Rangers' program of protecting Jefferson salamander habitat.

Next up—our annual general meeting is on Wednesday, February 16. See you there!

Thanks to all board member, volunteers, helpers and community folk. It's been a great two years.

*Nicola Ross*





*Photos by Mark Robins*



The Board of Directors of the Belfountain Community Organization (BCO) would like to recognize the contributions of our 2010 Salamander Festival partners by sincerely thanking our co-sponsor, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), and the myriad of contributions of goods and services and volunteers from the Belfountain and area residents, land and business owners business owners community, the Town of Caledon, the Region of Peel, student

volunteers and service organizations. Everyone worked so hard and gave so much to make the 2010 Salamander Festival a greater success than ever before. The vendors and entertainers were truly extraordinary, adding that 'je ne sais quoi' which makes our little Festival special and unique, and a must stop on the Fall circuit. It just keeps getting better and better thanks to the support of and contributions from this wonderful community we call home. I think we even had a little fun in the process.





## Salamanders and Snakes

As dawn broke on the morning of the Salamander Festival there was a sliver of brightness over the rooftops on the eastern edge of Belfountain. All was silent, the tent tops in the churchyard up and waiting for what would be the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Salamander Festival, and yet for all the anticipation, a sullen cloud covered the sky.

In an hour, the village began to stir, the dog show vans arrived full of puppies and tricks, the booths were set up and wares put out. At one booth, Sara Bohan directed the placement of cookies, squares, cakes and gift packages, and at another, historical information about the hamlet. Carol Bellamy presided over the food supplies in the Church hall while, under a long tent, David Jobe laid tables with silent auction donations, waiting for bids that would come throughout the day.

A light rain fell as the fiddlers and breakfast grills warmed up, the music and the savory smell of sausages held in the damp air, beckoning us forth. And so people came, young and old wearing raincoats, hats and hoods, and lined up for breakfast. They managed umbrellas with one hand and balanced scrambled egg wraps with the other, adding salsa to sausages that threatened to roll off onto the soggy ground.

Later and all day the people of Belfountain lined up again—rain or no rain—for irresistible bison burgers and then for squash soup—donated by the Belfountain Inn—served in squash cups scooped out by young hands at Belfountain's public school. Darryl and Judy Mabee sipped steaming spoonfuls and said, "We make soup, but this is very good."

Filling the churchyard were tents and booths festive with autumn flora arranged in pumpkins, cans of maple syrup, hand-made jewelry, wood-oven baked breads. There were potter's wheels spinning lumps of glistening clay into vessels and pots, guided by experimenting hands, and overseen by Amanda Elias there were painters brushing watery orange and pink colour across paper.

And there were glass boxes filled with salamanders, no less, some with yellow spots or red stripes down spines and even our festival namesake turned up for the occasion wearing toad-like blue spots.

Reptiles ruled the day. Kari Sattler of Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) placed a coiled package into my hands—a pale, taupe-coloured Hog Nose Lurvy with a flicking tongue. He nuzzled

his nose under my arm, while beside me a man from Earth Rangers looked on, draped in a thick, sliding, mahogany-coloured Rat Snake!

Making our way down Main Street around thick clumps of visitors and locals, some clutching hot cups of coffee, we stopped in wonderment at The Commons. The stone pavings were now complete, laid with masterful artistry by Mike Schenk, and the plantings of purple blooms had popped up just in time for the festival. Here, in the crux of the village



sat Alan and Norma Seymour, steadfast in the chill of the day, handing out *The View* and giving guidance to day-trippers with warming smiles.

All day the gentle rain came down over Belfountain and no one seemed to mind.

*Amy Phelan*





Photo by Trevor van Ingen

## Can Pinkney House Be Saved?

Thanks to the co-operation of all participants, the slow demolition of the Pinkney House, one of Caledon's loveliest stone homes, proceeds apace.

Hearing nearly two years ago that Lafarge Canada—affiliate of the world's biggest aggregate company based in Paris with 90,000 employees in 70 nations—intended to tear down the deserted house at 17923 Shaw's Creek Road (beside the Cataract-Elora trail), I proposed a rescue. I met with Councilors Doug Beffort, Richard Paterak and with sometime heritage officer Ms. Sally Drummond—offered to spend \$100,000 of my money to fix it up, sell it on the open market and donate the profit to Headwaters Hospital—presumably in excess of \$200,000.

For that to happen, the company would hand over the house and one underlying acre for a token one dollar. This is not without precedent—the Francicini gravel pit immediately north is slated to be rehabilitated and delivered for one dollar to Credit Valley Conservation when the pit is depleted in five years or so. Not one acre—the whole pit.

The former Pinkney farm was mined for gravel in the 1950s and only two summers' gravel remains to be excavated at some undetermined date. The house, on the other hand, had at least another century of life to go at the time of my offer.

Lafarge turned down the proposal and announced its plan to demolish immediately. Council promptly and unanimously passed a resolution to "list" the building, the preliminary step in heritage designation. This meant that the company would have to apply for a permit before proceeding to demolition, and that Caledon could stall for 60 days before issuing the permit.

Since then: nothing.

Well, virtually nothing. The mayor did write to the company in France and I'm told she received an effusive reply.

Now, two years later, the roof has become a sieve, the rain and snow pour in and the first cracks

have appeared in the walls. The company's tactic of 'demolition by neglect' is rampantly successful. Down Burlington way, Nelson Aggregate, in partnership with Lafarge Canada, has recently been turned down or at least severely reduced its proposal to mine Mt. Nemo on the Niagara Escarpment. This, after concerted pressure from chanteuse Sara Harmer, et al. Here in Caledon, apparently, we don't do things that way. Interestingly, someone—presumably the company—last week strapped a plastic sheet over most of the Pinkney roof.

On behalf of the Pinkney clan, living there until 2005 since emigrating from Scotland in the 1850s, I'd like to thank all concerned (and unconcerned) for their efforts.

*David Kendall*

## Pond Hockey



## at the Alton Mill

During this time of year, we often think back to activities we enjoyed during our childhoods. Whether it was fun, athletic, social or required skill, it was good food for the soul, and helped make us who we are today. Pond hockey was one those activities; not only is it the game itself and the teamwork required of the players, but also the camaraderie of the team's supporters and hangers-on, shivering together on the sidelines, sharing stories and sipping hot 'choccie' or whatever kept them warm and toasty, that made the day.

Reminiscent of days of yore, on the last weekend of January, the 29th and 30th, there will be a 2-day pond hockey tournament in Alton, on the frozen waters surrounding the historic Alton Mill. Last year was the first year for this fundraiser, and was focused on Alton area players and residents. Organizers are expanding it to include teams from other communities in West Caledon, and Belfountain has formed a team to participate. Called the Belfountain Blues, we are a collection of enthusiastic, and I suspect talented, residents of the Belfountain and Forks of the Credit areas.

Still early days, more information about the tournament will be published as it becomes available. If you are interested in playing or becoming a team sponsor, let me know. If you are interested in being a supporter, that's great too; come on out and cheer the Blues!! Like many good things, they happen; people find it's a good thing and it takes off and spreads like wild fire. This is one of those good things.

*David Jobe*





*Photos by Mark Robins*

## The Belfountain Village Store

It came as a surprise to Sam and Dave Shepherd to see old photos of the original interior after the renovation for their new store. In the retail space within the long, wooden building on Main Street, and once home to a blacksmith shop and garage, Dave followed Sam's design ideas, tearing down a wall, raising the ceiling and cladding surfaces with barn board. Over the years, various tenants had reworked the space, but the latest incarnation—Sam and Dave's new general store—looked a lot like the original, complete with barn board!

Sam grew up in the surrounding area and remembers the old general store on Bush Street as the village centre where everyone met for coffee and ice cream and where kids could buy candies for a penny. She decided to recreate the kind of place the people of Belfountain had been wishing for since the general store, had closed a few years before.

Sam Shepherd's wide eyes shine as she talks about why she decided to open this kind of business in Belfountain. There was a need to fill. People kept saying Belfountain needed a general store here, but no one was opening one. So she did it.

Sam depends on her mom, Lynn Wood, to run the new store. "My Mom is amazing to have there....She's interested in the community. That's the kind of person, you want to have in the store."

"You come in and you meet everybody....you hang out and catch up. It's an important part of the community. It's a heart that connects people—it [the old general store] was when I was growing up and that's what I'm trying to bring back."

In the small time allowed between working in her husband's rock climbing business and running a household with four children and a herd of pets, Sam does the purchasing for the store.

As much as possible she buys local goods and believes in supporting our own farmers, producers and artisans. For example, milk comes from Steen's Dairy, bread from Erin, cider from Spirit Tree, soaps are made by Belfountain companies: Tubtown Scents and Goodies Gourmet by Stephanie Brown. The focus is on healthy, organic products and in the prepared food takeout department, containers and disposable cutlery are all biodegradable.

Sam is talking to farmers about supplying sprouts, vegetables, cheeses and meats. The future holds many options as the business adjusts to the needs and suggestions of the store customers. For supplying more than her store can display and store, Sam thinks it will mean a farmers' market set up outside.



"Obviously we're in business to make money....but I'm here for a bigger purpose: to send people to Spirit Tree, to send people to Heatherlea Farms, to send people to our farmers who need our support, as we need to be supported as well."

Sometimes things line up in a way that seems as though it was all meant to be. Sam had chosen a sparrow for the store logo. When the original general store scales resurfaced and were lent to her for use in the store, there, designed as a weight on the equipment, was a sparrow.



*Amy Phelan*

## **Inaugural Council ToC and RoP Meetings**

This past week marked the beginning of the 2011—2014 session of the Town of Caledon and Region of Peel Councils. I was fortunate to have attended both sessions. They were quite the ceremonies.

### **Town of Caledon**

Our incumbent representatives, Doug Beffort (Town) and Richard Paterak (Regional) were returned to Town of Caledon Council for another session. Overall, this Council is unchanged except for two new councillors from Bolton, Patti Foley and Rob Mezzapelli, Regional and Town Councillors respectively. They were co-chairs of the 'Our Caledon, Our Choice' movement, a pro moderate growth organization started in the Bolton area. This council is poised to be much more unified in its position and view on sustainable growth, planning, economic development and the environment. Unified is good, but so is diversity of opinion, which this Council will have as well. Healthy discussions on the issues, challenges and opportunities Caledon has on the table and in the future, is critical to good governance. Tayler Parnaby of CFRB 1010 fame I believe, and a long time Caledon resident, was the guest speaker. He expounded upon the wonderful experience it has been for him and his wife to live and raise their family in this great place we all call home.

### **Region of Peel**

Our representatives at the Regional of Peel Council are our Richard Paterak; Allan Thompson to the south of us in Ward 2, and Richard Whitehead and Patti Foley from eastern Caledon, including Bolton. Mayor Marolyn Morrison also sits on Regional Council. We have our four Councillors plus Mayor Morrison; Brampton six plus Mayor Fennell; and Mississauga 11 plus Mayor McCallion; for a total of 24. Regional Chair Emil Kolb was re-elected for another term bringing the total to an uneven 25.

This session's first regional council meeting was held in Caledon at the Royal Ambassador banquet facility on Innis Lake Road; quite the complex if you have not been there. The Peel Regional Police Pipe Band performed—I'm not a huge fan of the pipes, but my goodness, these folks were fantastic; crisp, clean and right on the money—it's no wonder they are recognized world-wide. Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion spoke a couple of times; she is a character. I can only hope I'm half as sharp as she is at her age. Yikes. It was very pleasing to see the impact and contribution Caledon has had the Regional level. Our representatives bring a

fresh perspective to their more urban compatriots. Regional Chair Emil Kolb is a former Mayor of Caledon, and another former Mayor, Carol Seglins, now a Justice of the Peace, administered the declarations at the ceremony. Very swell indeed. Cheers to Caledon!

*David Jobe*

## **It's a Work in Progress**



*Photos by Mark Robins*

For The Commons in the centre of Belfountain, the transformation has begun. A local stone mason, designer and artisan is working his magic, building a loose stone wall, as the back drop for our expanded Commons. It's looking great. Although newly built with ancient stone, our 'heritage' wall is now complete. Drop by and take a peek. Even under the snow it's beautiful. That proves we have a good four season design. New paving material, flagstone, purchased from a local quarry, DeForest Brothers, is a new feature beneath our feet. You may notice a slight pink/beige tinge to the stone, perhaps reminding you of the Ontario legislature buildings in the City. Stone for that structure came from this area too.

We are very excited about the work being done and the progress to date and look forward to seeing the completed project, well, Phase 1 anyway. Phase 2 is the construction of a pergola or 'something', to contain additional seating and several interpretive plaques describing the culture, history and ecology of this area.

If you would like to support this project, please send your contribution to:

Belfountain Community Organization,  
P.O. Box 15, Erin, Ontario N0B 1T0





## 2010 UN International Year of Biodiversity

### Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*):

This non-native is one of the top ten **invasive plants** in the Credit River Watershed.

This is one serious invasive plant that has NOT reached Belfountain, yet! You may have noticed it clogging the road and highway ditches leading to our hamlet.

Phragmites has undergone a population explosion and made major headway in Ontario in recent years. In wetlands it is reducing biodiversity and destroying viable habitat for native species, including Species at Risk. It is like grass on steroids growing to extraordinary heights of up to 4 metres.

*What can you do to reduce the spread of Phragmites?*

- Don't spread its seeds by cutting stems and placing in a decorative flower arrangement.
- After hiking or biking, and before you return home to Belfountain clean any debris from tires and the soles of your hiking boots to eliminate the relocation of seeds.
- Do not purchase this common reed as an ornamental grass from a nursery.



Where have the native wetland plants gone? Within expansive Phragmites stands wildlife is scarce (no nests, tracks, scat or other evidence of use). Native plant species cannot compete with Phragmites.



*Phragmites can be identified by its' dense seed heads.*

*Ann Seymour  
Pulling for Biodiversity*



### Book Review:

#### *Sweetness in the Bottom of the Pie*

by Alan Bradley

Caledon Library's sent Belfountain's book club three rounds of books since the last edition of *The View*. Here is a review of our favourite Flavia de Luce, an eleven-years-old motherless child, is a heroine with a gothic mind. She sees the world with a lurid view as she cycles through the English village world of *Sweetness in the Bottom of the Pie*, solving a murder mystery involving a rare, stolen stamp and her implicated father. An example of her vivid outlook: ...a lighted cigarette dangled from his lips, its grey ashes drooping like a mummified garden slug.

With Flavis's precocious knowledge of chemistry and poisons, as well as by her ability to maneuver the adult mind, she is too clever for her own good and finds herself in deep trouble. Never for a minute do we think she won't come out on top, but we want the full pleasure of the ride to the end.

The novel is thick with phrases that give the reader pause. Author, Alan Bradley, gives us mad perceptions and I imagine him sitting back with a suppressed smile as we ruminate through the text:

*...we were boiling over like a roomful of teakettles.*

or

*...one of those sad beech trees with...drooping branches that always reminded me of a family of despondent elephants wandering across the African Veld.*

The other mystery is how Mr. Bradley, a born and bred Canadian, can take us into the British world of 1950 so convincingly that he has been awarded Britain's Crime Writers' Association Debut Dagger Award. We hope to come across his next book in the series soon. A film or PBS TV show can't be far behind.

*Amy Phelan*

Snowed in? Keep in mind on these long winter nights that Caledon offers e-books to members.



The Belfountain Public Library is open to the public:  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 4:00–8:00 pm,  
and Saturdays, 10:00– 4:00.

Closed: Dec. 24, 25, 26, 27, 31 and Jan. 1, 2011  
and Holiday hours (Wed. 10-2, Thurs. 1:30-8, Tues  
and Sat. stay the same).



## Christmas Eve Luminaria

The Christmas Eve Luminaria is a beautiful tradition the residents of Caledon Mountain Estates have been doing for some time. The BCO would like to invite all residents and business owners in the Hamlet to participate. The more who participate, the more of a sight it will be; it makes Christmas Eve that much more special! It's great to get out as a family with friends, enjoy the sight and meet your neighbours during the holiday season.

The custom is New World Hispanic, originating in the U.S. states of New Mexico, Arizona and west Texas where luminarias are made from brown paper bags weighted down with sand and illuminated from within by a lit candle and traditionally displayed on Christmas Eve. These are typically arranged in rows to create large and elaborate displays. The hope among Christian believers is that the lights will guide the spirit of the Christ child to one's home. In recent times they are seen more as a secular decoration, akin to holiday lights, and have gained popularity in other parts of the country. I remember doing this 30 years ago in Owen Sound, for our Christmas parties, introduced to my family from friends from Texas. Santa Fe and Old Town Albuquerque are well known for their impressive Christmas Eve luminaria displays. In some South-western states, such as Arizona, Texas and New Mexico, luminarias are also occasionally used as Halloween decorations, sometimes featuring Jack O' Lantern faces drawn on the paper bags. In West Valley City, Utah, Luminarias are used to light the path during the Walk with Santa held the first Monday of December every year.

Here are a few suggested guidelines about how to create your display:

- use lunch-sized square / box bottomed white paper bakery bags (size #6 or #8), preferably white, but brown will do if one has too;
- dump a couple of inches or 5cm of kitty litter or sand in the bottom;
- insert half an emergency candle, an old candle (either preferable), or tea light into the kitty litter or sand;
- up to you, but placing the bags about 3m or 10' feet apart, along the roadside snow bank out in front of your property, produces a nice effect;
- light the candles with a fireplace torch, by 6 PM; and finally;
- hope for good weather and enjoy.

Here are some tricks to render your luminaria a little more robust, and longer lasting with a bigger impact:

- use larger, stubbier candles;
- fashion half milk cartons inserts for rigidity of form - glass mason jars (with the candle inside of course) also work very well;
- create little knee walls in the side of the snow bank, they not only provide some shelter from the wind, but reflect the candle light back onto the street;
- fold the top one (1) inch of the bag back is also good; and for the ultimate—one resident even fabricated metal frames for the bags. It's fun, really, and very beautiful and meaningful...

David Jobe



### ***The View from Belfountain...***

is published by the Belfountain Community Organization and is released four times a year. Watch as *The View* online changes. We will be adding new features and updating as stories arrive.

To receive your **e-issue**, please send us an email, with your full name and street address included to:

[theview@belfountain.ca](mailto:theview@belfountain.ca).

Please send submissions to the Editor:

Amy Phelan, [phelan.amy@hotmail.ca](mailto:phelan.amy@hotmail.ca)  
or call 519-927-5899

  
**Seasons Greetings**





### Timeless in Belfountain

What compelled Jan Zimmerman to paint a picture of a house on Main Street, here in Belfountain and place it in another setting? I'm referring to the slice of the painting that appears at the top of the previous *View's* cover page where the historic home beside the community centre is removed from the streetscape and put down in fields where sheep graze among wild flowers?

"I like to keep it simple," she says. "I've never painted a car or a garage. I want to paint the essence of the house because it makes it timeless."

I'm at Ms. Zimmerman's loft-like apartment in an old stone building in Georgetown where windowpanes cast grey light over her tall drafting table. She looks at me with large eyes from under her bangs. We compare notes on being asked out by younger men in the past. But the artist loves living alone and having the freedom to create her own days.

It was never Jan Zimmerman's intention to call her work, 'folk art', though people refer to it as such. I ask her if it's because there's a design aspect to her work with flattened images. She picks up a small landscape to demonstrate. In this painting the fields look like a patchwork quilt with squares of alternating colour. She says she doesn't always work that way, and that she often uses shadow and a sense of depth. However, the artist would hate someone to say her work looks like a photograph.

So what's the connection with Belfountain—there's more than one picture of a house from the village in the collection? Is it because her daughter, Linda Bridges, lives in the village?

Yes, of course, but there was a time when she was growing up in Toronto and her parents were planning to move to Belfountain. They'd been forced to move from the Toronto Islands where she was raised in the days when the city was expanding and needed more parkland for the urban population. From there new home in Long Branch they took many trips to this hamlet and hoped to eventually move to the area. But Ms. Zimmerman's father died and their plans changed.

Now this artist seems to be having a Belfountain moment with her paintings in these pages and now featured on the walls of our new general store. Referring to her work, Ms Zimmerman says, "Tomorrow is yesterday."

*Amy Phelan*

*Jan Zimmerman exhibits her work with a collective called Innerscapes.*





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