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The View from Belfountain

January 2008



You're All Invited!

Feb. 1, tentatively set for 11 a.m., the Belfountain Public School will formally open its three new classrooms and the state of the art ECO-lab where the birds 'n the bees take on whole new meanings.

Mayor Marolyn Morrison is invited to cut the ribbon on the \$3 million project along with school trustee Valerie Arnold-Judge, who is to give the keynote speech in the school gym. The grade six class will then drum the assembly along the main hallway toward the new section while students lurk behind wildlife masks.

But the highlight may be the smudging ceremony where a First Nations elder will wield an eagle feather to stroke sacred smoke over students, staff and visitors. The source of the smoke, contrary to those thinking to see the four portables go up in flames, will be an open pit fire of cedar logs at the rear of the school.

The portables, says Principal Michael Walmsley, will be trucked away this spring when the serious ecological work begins on some 24 projects for the old school yard ranging from fitness tracks to a butterfly garden.

The following is an abbreviated version of the school's ecological mission as described in writing by Mr. Walmsley:

"Making full use of its geographic location in the heart of the Credit River Watershed, Belfountain's new ECO Focus drives the Ontario Curriculum through teaching-learning experiences directly involving outdoor experiences in the surrounding environment. The 'ECO' term refers to three main elements—Environmental education, Conservation education and Outdoor recreation. Anyone concerned about the future of our planet would agree these are major understandings with which our youth should grow up."

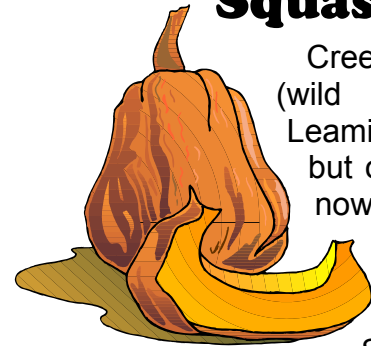
Mr. Walmsley goes on to provide an example of how ECO works with the grade six class working in partnership with the Belfountain Hatchery and the Ministry of Natural Resources on a salmon hatchery and release program. "The students raise fingerlings in their classroom and then release the fish into the Credit River. In order to ensure that the fingerlings have

the greatest degree of survival upon being released, it is important for the students to calculate and monitor the speed of water flow. The consolidation of the learning moves from the typical pencil-paper task to actually having the students put on hip-waders and stand in the running river to ensure that their fingerlings will survive the release by carefully calculating the speed of the water flow. As one of the parents indicated afterwards, 'I don't even have to ask what did you do at school today? I'm bombarded with my child's enthusiasm as soon as he sets foot in our home. What a great way to learn!'"

That learning, writes Mr. Walmsley, will be rooted in the ECO-lab, which is "dedicated to supporting the ECO Focus for all classes in the school from Kindergarten to Grade 6. With the latest in technology, including LCD projectors, computer-connected microscopes, terrariums and aquariums, and a plethora of hands-on teaching-learning resources geared to giving students opportunities to manipulate and create solutions to environmental challenges, the ECO Lab is designed to introduce learners to ECO concepts that are then awaiting as experiences out on the 'Learning Grounds'.

"The Learning Grounds is the moniker being attached to the school's new-look playground. A two-year completion date has been identified as the timeline for school and community forces to combine in the creation of a schoolyard like no other. The plan sees fitness trails connecting various outdoor teaching-learning locations with vegetable gardens planted and nurtured by the pupils, butterfly gardens and bird houses, fitness stations and play areas, and a natural amphitheatre for large-group formal interactions."

Belfountain Squash



Creemore has its ramps (wild leeks) and Leamington its tomatoes, but only Belfountain will now have the squash as its co-mascot (along with the Jefferson Salamander). But

what an under-valued vegetable it is. Not only are locally grown varieties in harvest when our festival takes place, but squash, pumpkins and gourds come in shapes, sizes and colours that spark the imagination.

Having recently received a \$3,000 grant from the Town of Caledon's Green Fund, the BCO intends to hire a part-time squash co-ordinator to expand the impact of squash in our festival and raise the awareness of the broader community about local food availability and production.

The BCO plans to engage the region in squash growing, squash contests, squash cooking and baking, and pumpkin carving.

For this year's festival, squash soup will again come in scooped out pumpkin half shells, eliminating the need for disposable bowls. And to make last year's scintillating squash soup (courtesy of the Belfountain Inn) taste even more scrumptious in 2008, it is hoped that the Belfountain Public School students will grow the squash bowls in the schoolyard veggie garden.

As an incentive to students majoring in squash cultivation, the BCO will be donating some tools and supplies to the school.

Nicola Ross

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority house at 25 Scott Street



Before



After October 10, 2007

TED TITTERTON



Ted and his wife Beth have left Belfountain after twenty years. In keeping with this quiet and unassuming person his going has been a well kept secret. The Tittertons moved to our hamlet from Scarborough. Ted was born as John Edward in Toronto in 1933. The youngest of three children, his mother died when he was 9 months old. He lived in foster homes as a ward of the city until his father remarried eight years later. Ted presumed he was named after a favourite uncle in Wales. Ted had a series of jobs, including chef and meat expert, until joining the army in 1950 and serving in Canada and Germany. With an exacting mind he eventually found his *métier* in the insurance business where he remained for over 38 years.

He married Beth in 1955 and they had three children Stephen, Robert and Susan.

It was Ted and Norm Wrycraft who discovered that the 1837 Melville White Church down Mississauga Road was going to be demolished. This galvanized the early Belfountain Heritage Society, and with its then President James Douglas, they embarked on a twelve-year journey that saw this beautiful pioneer building restored.

Ted continued his involvement with this heritage gem until his departure. He also served as liaison with the BHS as a valued member of the Caledon Heritage Society.

Beth will be remembered as a long-time member of the Belfountain Singers and an accomplished pianist who shared her love of music with countless students.

Certainly there will be a large gap in our hamlet with the departure of such wonderful contributors to our village life.



A Warm Welcome to Susan Hamilton

Ms. Hamilton is the new branch supervisor of the Belfountain Public Library. She has taken the position after the death of former librarian, Sharon Viersen, who after a long illness passed away this fall.

The dynamic Ms. Hamilton has initiated an adult book club and has already doubled the number of clients at the Belfountain Library—a good thing considering this has long been Caledon's most under-used library.

The View from Belfountain... comes to you from the Belfountain Community Organization. It is published irregularly as news and information warrant and time allows. It is circulated to all residents of Belfountain and its environs.

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COMINGS and GOINGS...

Len and Paula Basciano — People who “schuss” together may end up together. Len and Paula Basciano met on the slopes of the Caledon Ski Club, married three years ago, and have moved into the Titterton House on Scott Street. Vic is an Engineer in Aurora and Paula is an Administration Assistant in Toronto. Despite the commute their reply to, “Why Belfountain?” is a succinct, “We’ve always loved it here.”

The Wallaces — Rooms with a view seem to be the “in” thing. Belfountain Inn host Jim Wallace’s mother and step father have moved next door in what is best remembered as “Maxine and Don’s House”. They have a splendid view of the river—the source of Belfountain’s history.

Steve Goyache — Over on River Road, Steve Goyache, who has owned and rented out for 16 years a little cottage near the original mill in McCurdy’s Village (Belfountain), has moved back with his wife Anne. Anne’s parents, Alan and Nora Seymour, join them on the weekends. This family has already become valued volunteers in the village.

Richard and Betty Fife — It is with sadness for us and happiness for them that we announce the pending departure of the Belfountain family of Richard and Betty Fife, but they are drawn by a stronger power. They are leaving our midst to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Long time residents of Caledon Mountain Estates, Richard and Betty have been stalwart members of our community. They will be missed by many including the Church. We wish them all the best. Their lovely property will be a new home for a young family from the City.

Other news....

John Trimble — of the legendary Trimble’s Garage fame, reports that he has been given a new magnifying machine by the CNIB. A great boon for John, now on his own since the death of Berniece. Good news for those kind Belfountainers who had offered to raise money for this worthy cause. John still welcomes visitors to his retirement home in Orangeville.

Anne Seymour — reports from the River Road that coyotes are on the rampage down there. Several pussy-cats have disappeared and they have come across two half-eaten deer!

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 2007



Photo: Alan Seymour

Three Lucky Winners

A major feature of past Christmas parties has been gift giving to the younger folk. This year we turned the tables and, in lieu of gifts, raised \$340 towards the purchase of a cow for a needy African family through World Vision. This project was in conjunction with Belfountain Village Church.

The theme of our gathering became “A Cow for Christmas” and each table was asked to submit a relevant poem; pencils and paper were provided. The highlight of the evening was the hilarious reading of these poems by both young and old (er)! No one missed the gift giving, as at the last minute Linda Bridges donated a beautiful basket of elegant Christmas decorations that were distributed to lucky ticket holders.

As usual, the variety of “pot luck” dishes amazed everyone; thanks to the many contributors and those who helped decorate the hall so beautifully, especially the Seymours, Anne, Nora and Alan, Wade Domet (whose property was raided for the greens), Charles Peyton, Grecia Mayers, Amanda Elias, Myfanwy and Jimmy Douglas.

A notable recycling event—nothing, we repeat nothing, went into the landfill.

A Store with Vitamins

The Belfountain Village Store is to become a health food outlet and restaurant, says the new owner after shelling out a healthy \$621,000 for the privilege.

The upstairs will be reserved for workshops and classes, she says. “We’ll be working over the next couple of months to define exactly what we want to do.”

And who might “we” be? “I have personal reasons I’m not saying anything right now,” she told *The View*. She did confirm that she has purchased both the building and the business from Halton Region MP Garth Turner.

The store closed its doors for the winter on January 19. The deal closes March 31.

“It’s a loss leader in the wintertime,” said current shopkeeper Lynn Moore, who has had a struggle with the store. “For us it’s a good thing to leave that building.”

She’ll continue to run her successful businesses at Craze’s Restaurant, The Busholme in Erin, as well as The Cataract Inn, which will be serving lunch and dinner five days a week starting in April.

The staff from the Belfountain Store will still have jobs at her other enterprises, she said. “I’d like to thank all the customers who have supported us at the store.”