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# The View from Belfountain

June 2008

## Food for the Soul—But When?

They wander about, bemused, perhaps frustrated—bikers, pedestrians, kids, and tourists—peering in the window of the locked store where last summer they bought coffees and ice cream.

Despite the old notice outside promising ‘It’s not too late,’ it could be as late as August before the Belfountain Village Store opens its red-painted doors to reveal its new lemon coloured walls and its organic takeout menu, says owner Tammy Karaim.

“It’s a long way from opening,” said Ms. Karaim last week. “It’ll be sometime this summer.”

There had been hopes of opening as soon as the weekend after the Mississauga Road repair was finished, but then came a massive spring flood in the basement. And renovations are never smooth.

Those renovations do not include washrooms, because the store won’t be serving meals, said Regional Councillor Richard Paterak. “She’s adamant there won’t be any restaurant,” he said. “I don’t think you need washrooms for take-out.”

*Upstairs for the mind;*

*downstairs for the body*

Yoga classes upstairs began in May and Ms. Karaim intends to hold inspirational seminars on the second floor under the banner of Tammeron Centre for Well Being. “It’s absolutely my dream project,” she told *The View*. “It will be a building focused on self-development. None of the food will be cooked or processed and we’ll be using local sources.”

So the hammers thud and the paint brushes swish while outside, the decrepit sign still hangs advertising: ‘Belfountain Village Store since 1888’.

But as one observer said: “The village store is gone.”

Something new is taking its place.

## Jim à la Carte

So what’s the special of the day at the Belfountain Inn these days? How would you fancy a nice little starter home with an updated septic system? Or a mansion in that equestrian neighbourhood down Grange Road way?

Yep. Jim Wallace, long-time owner and impresario of the Belfountain Inn, one time local politico, and proud dad of three has a new item on his menu—property. Gives a whole new meaning to ‘house wine’.

“I’m going to be a real estate agent,” said Mr. Wallace. “June 14<sup>th</sup> I take my stage-three exam, and by the end of the month I’ll be selling real estate.” He’ll be working with Gairdner Associates of Erin.

One property not for sale, said Mr. Wallace, is the Belfountain Inn.

“Spread the word: I’m not selling,” said Mr. Wallace. “My children will run the business in the future. We’re absolutely not selling the Inn.”

Well, almost absolutely. “I’m a business man. If someone came to the table with an incredible amount of money, of course I’d sell.”



## The Blue Boxer Shorts

The low point in Alaina Wallace’s Sunday morning came when she plucked a pair of blue boxer shorts from the ditch along Bush Street west of Belfountain.

“We had gloves,” said the thirteen-year old after she and her sisters Megan, eight, and Rebecca, eleven, bundled four clear plastic bags bulging with litter into their dad’s black Ford Ranger pickup.

They were honouring the Belfountain Inn commitment to clean up 1.6 kilometres of Bush St. running west from Shaw’s Creek twice each summer under Peel’s adopt-a-road program. The 6.4 kilometre stretch south on Mississauga Rd. from Belfountain to Base Line is yet to come.

Young Megan came up with the only useful prize of the day—a golf ball. “It was fun. I’m happy because we cleared the road up,” she said.

“I feel like I kind of did that road a favour,” said Rebecca.

“I think it’s pretty disgusting. But I think we can change,” said Alaina. “Take the time to recycle and don’t throw things out the window.”

Amen to that.



## Eat, Drink and be Educated

Belfountain Public School is staging its Annual Sunset BBQ on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, but this year yer all invited!

Just buzz Liberty Murray at 416-540-4323 to reserve meal tickets, so she can organize the right amount of food and *viola* you can skip cooking that evening and chomp into a hot dog, hamburger or veggie burger plus salad, dessert and drinkie-poo.

The school will be rockin’ from 5 to 8 p.m. with Bouncy Castle, Jacob’s Ladder, a huge slide, craft and candy tables, face painting, tattoos, and a silent auction—no credit cards, please. There’ll be school tours showcasing the Eco-lab and students’ work from the 2007/2008 school year.

Meal tickets are \$7 each or four for \$25, and all proceeds go to Belfountain Public School.

For more information about this and other school happenings dial up <http://belfountain.peelschools.org>

## EVERGREEN

*a Poem by Nik Habermel*

Nik lived in a small hand-crafted cottage at the end of Main Street. He was known as The Poet of Belfountain. He also was instrumental in preserving our library. Nik died tragically some years ago when felled by a tree in his hand-built retreat and library on a deserted stretch of Manitoulin Island. This poem to the Belfountain area, written in 1995, was recently discovered:

*The hills are red, the yellow lake’s aglow  
From sounds of joy the painter locked within  
Those wildly wooded hills that burst their glow  
To take the shape of places we’ve been in.  
Beneath those trees: bright words of birds make love,  
As we did there, and fight too over blame.  
This canvas burns with captured long gone days  
Whose scarlet heat warms memories of when  
Our lives were fuelled by anxious play  
Consuming hearts and dreams. But not again:  
These red red hills know exactly where we’ve been  
To bring us back, in old age, evergreen.*

## BCO Report

On April 22nd the BCO had its annual AGM. This year, as there were no elections, an environmental film *Escarpment Blues* starring Sarah Harmer and popcorn were the key attractions. Despite a chaotic road tear-up, many brave souls showed up for an evening of mutual enjoyment and a talk with the film director Andy Keen. What was missing for an AGM was a Financial Statement. So in the interests of transparency, we can confirm that as of the end of December, the bank balance stood at \$8,624 and we have no debt. An audited statement will be available in the near future. Congratulations to everybody for this stellar effort! Stay tuned for the next Salamander Festival.

Belfountain Community Association		Year-End 2007
Bank Balances		3529.20
	o/s chqs	114.39
		3414.81
<b>Income</b>	<b>Salamander Festival</b>	
	Food	1472.71
	Bake Sales	270.00
	Pins	55.00
	Tshirts	580.00
	Sponsors	650.00
	Vendors	160.00
	Silent Auction	2310.00
		5497.71
	Townhall Players Theatre Night	112.00
	Jane Wilkinson GIC	5076.13
Gross Income:		14100.65
<b>Expenses</b>		
	<b>Salamander Festival</b>	
	Breakfast	151.82
	Flyers	96.07
	Misc.	6.84 James
	dogs/dairy	180.87 Grecia
	crops	55.86 Wade
	Shed	44.41 cups
	Broadway Musical	97.00 Rentals
	Signage	128.45 parking
	Fuel	29.25
	Entertainment	300.00
	T-Shirt Costs	500.00
	BCO Meeting Refreshments	201.27
	Hall Rentals	186.32
	Bookkeeping - H. Stevenson	180.00
	View/Flyers/Print/Distr	567.96
	Return to G.L.A.H.N (2500 US)	2808.00
	Insurance	521.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>6055.12</b>
<b>Operating Balance:</b>		<b>8045.53</b>
	Donations to Fish Hatchery	200.00
	Donations to Belfountain Village Church	50.00 no rcpt.
Operating Net		7795.53
<b>Bank Balance @ December 31/07</b>		<b>8624.13</b>
<b>discrepancy</b>		<b>628.60</b>

errors and omissions excepted, June 6, 2009  
Aug/Sept/Oct Bank statements are missing, no way to reconcile this now.



## Look Ma: No Furnace

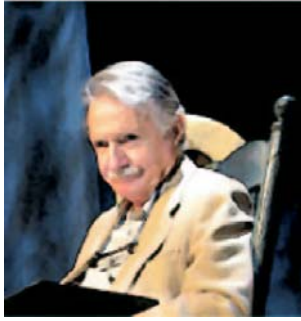
Texas Tea, Black Gold, Alberta Tar, Ontario Hot Air? Well not quite, but Ontario residents can do something to offset relying on energy sources from far away lands. We have our own source of energy perfect for home heating right in our own backyards—it's called ground source heat or geo-thermal energy.

Some three metres down, the ground is a fairly constant 10 - 12 degrees Celsius and geo-thermal technology uses this energy in the earth to heat in winter and cool in the summer. No oil trucks, no worrying about running out of oil or wondering if the driver will get the truck stuck in the snow, just clean heat inside. And outside your home: no soot, no oil, no greenhouse gas emissions. Oh yes, and no horrendous and escalating oil bills.

I and two of our neighbours are in the process of installation. Two others along Caledon Mt. Dr. have systems in already. With federal and provincial government EnerGuide rebates and a soon-to-be-announced, 'PowerHouse (Hydro One sponsored) Interest Free/Low Interest Loan Program', it's easier than you may think. I reckon my system will pay for itself in about eight years—that's with oil prices being stable. When I checked with my soon-to-be-former oil provider Wednesday, home heating oil was selling for \$1.229 cents a litre + GST. That's up ten cents in six weeks. Yikes!!

By David Jobe

## Jimmy Leacock



You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll emerge enlightened. Our very own James B. Douglas is starring in *Sunshine and Shadows, an Evening with Stephen Leacock*, this June 12, 13, and 14 at the

Century Church Theatre in Hillsburgh.

The one-man show is at 8 p.m. each evening with an extra afternoon performance at 2:30 on the 14th. Call 519-855-4586 for tickets.

## Good-bye Richard 'n Betty

Please join your neighbours in celebrating Richard and Betty Fife's contribution to life in Belfountain. The Fifes' have sold their Caledon Mt. Dr. home and moved to the Windsor area where their children reside. But they'll be back in our midst Sunday, 22 June from 3-6 p.m. at the Belfountain Inn to reminisce about the past, present and future. This reception is very generously supported by Michele Skawski. Please contact Sarah Bohan by 15 June at 519.316.0060 (that is a Rogers Belfountain number) to let her know you're coming.

## Mary McLeod



Belfountain has lost another link to the past. Mary McLeod died on March 17th, living to the end in the house that her deceased husband Wally built by hand on Bush Street in 1973. Wally and the late Roy Trimble of Trimble's Garage were Sunday school students together at the Melville White Church down Mississauga Road and Wally was the custodian of our Community Hall for almost 40 years.

Like so many wives of our early residents, Mary was an active woman. Besides raising three children, she worked in an office, drove a school bus, and held a job at the Caledon Ski Club for over thirty years. Mary met Wally at a lacrosse game in Inglewood. She and Wally were also avid bowlers in a Friday Night Bowling League. She enjoyed fiddle concerts, the theatre at Drayton and Blythe and once went all the way to Nashville for a concert.

Our condolences to all the family, many old friends and especially Peter, Marlene, and Charlotte, as well as to grandson Michael and great grandchildren Kayla and Logan.

## A Shocking Birthday Surprise

As many of you know, Jean Coulson, formerly of River Road is now happily living in the Mountainview residence in Glen Williams. In February, on the morning of her birthday, a friend who had never seen Jean's old house on River Road offered to take her for a ride to Belfountain. Jean had lived there for many years with Dunc, her late husband and loved the place—the comfortable home, the birds and animals and the river at the bottom of her garden.

Alas, as they turned onto River Road, they were met with a horrendous scene. Jean's old house, which had been empty for some months, had burned down. Smoke was pouring from the smoldering shell. The firefighters were still there and thankful to see Jean, who was able to give them the layout of the house.

She left with a heavy heart. The property is up for sale again, at the same price Jean had sold for, but without the house.

By M.D.



## Belfountain Public Library

The library will start their summer hours for the months of July and August. Please call 519-927-5701 for times and summer holiday closures. By internet: [www.caledon.canlib.ca](http://www.caledon.canlib.ca) to reserve books, renewals or check your account.

## Cut the Mustard

Did you know that Belfountain has been invaded? Not by ALIENS, but by a pretty little flower called GARLIC MUSTARD!



It is invasive and an ecological threat. It was first introduced to North America as a culinary herb in 1860. But now it has devastated a number of Niagara Region forests and wild life areas in the GTA.

It is a severe threat to native plants in forest clearings and lightly treed areas. And this spring it is growing in our yards! Once introduced to an area, garlic mustard overruns native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space.

How can we attack this nasty invader? Spot the flowers. Crush them and smell the garlic. Pull them up easily from the stem at the base. DO NOT compost, as this will add to the seed dispersal, which allows them to rise again. Once the wee flower has turned into a million airborne seeds it's game-over-till-next-year!

Several years ago Purple Loose Strife invaded Belfountain and a coalition of the willing was conscripted to give battle. A huge bonfire incinerated the plucked monsters while villagers danced with bacchanalian glee and roasted marsh mallows.

Oh yes, you can harvest this garlic mustard for cooking. For eradication advice and recipes please contact Ann Seymour at 647-724-7685.

## 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.

### Submission:

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