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The View from Belfountain

May 2006

The View from Here



Photo by Charles Peyton

Bonnie Glenn, new owner of Belfountain Village Store

You're fired!

And just like that, Belfountain's retail tycoon has fired himself right out the door of the village store.

And of the Cataract Inn.

And of the Caledon Inn.

All three operations—the beating heart of Garth Turner's The Credit River Company—have been sold, although the heritage buildings themselves remain with the genial shopkeeper and wannabe Tory cabinet minister from Halton Region.

"He is winding down his business here," says Bonnie Glenn, the alert, engaging new owner of the Belfountain Village Store business as of May 15.

The Caledon East mother of three boys—they'll "helping voluntarily and sometimes not voluntarily," she says—has been running the Credit River businesses for a couple of years on Mr. Turner's behalf. Earlier, she spent fifteen years managing several Thrifty car rental franchises in Toronto.

Mr. Turner did not return our phone call, locked in as he is to Ottawa where his assertive nature has already made its mark in the House of Commons.

The store has lost something of its local appeal by catering mainly to outsiders during his nearly four-year tenancy, but Mr. Turner has been true to his word in not handing it over to a variety shop and in restoring the building as a lovely centrepiece to the village.

"You bet it's good news for Belfountain," says Ms. Glenn. "The store is the centre of the community. It's not just a huge tourist trap. We care. We won't bulldoze over people. We're really interested in input from the community."

She'll be baking fresh bread daily, contributing to the Salamander Festival, and opening at 7:00 a.m., just to mention some of the new elements she promises.

Ms. Glenn has also living a second long time dream by leasing the Caledon Inn.

Meanwhile, when you call for dinner reservations at the Cataract Inn these days, they don't say hello! They say: "It's a great day at the Cataract Inn!"

The restaurant is now the enterprise of Lynn Moore, owner of Craze's At 282 Restaurant in Erin. She has been "getting comfortable with the building" since May 1, but the grand opening was Mother's Day.

"It'll be casual fine dining, a little step up from Craze's pricing," she says. "Upbeat, good music, a well-priced meal."

Head chef Dwayne Presley will rule both restaurant kitchens until the end of June when a second chef will come on scene, she says.

Ms. Glenn and Ms. Presley both confirm that they have long-term non-interference leases that will be unaffected if the minority PC government takes a header in the next election.

The Caledon Inn building—with its restaurant and downstairs bar—is currently on offer at \$1.25 million.



Mega-Hamlet

Alton, Cheltenham, Inglewood. They've all endured it—big time development that encircled their village and doubled its size.

Now it's our turn. Greenbelt notwithstanding, 66 new houses are to cluster about the southern fringe of Belfountain. It will probably take another four years to resolve water and sewage issues, but the bulldozers will surely roll.

Enterac Property Corp.—now known as Orb—is saying it intends to implement the development deal that was brokered back in the nineties following a 1989 Ontario Municipal Board hearing on the 174-acre property running west from Mississauga Rd. to Shaw's Creek just south of the school.

The original Belfountain Task Force raised \$150 to fight the Enterac development on the Willis Farm land. Subsequently, the BTF was incorporated as the BCPO. The board was elected by the community to represent the majority of residents.

According to the resulting May 11, 1998 draft plan, the farm and woodland area will have 12 estate lots totalling 22 acres near the school and 54 detached homes on a 24.5 acre parcel currently reached by walking up the trail beside the crumbling barn foundation just outside Belfountain. Of these, eight homes will be below the hill and the others above it.

A 1.1 acre lot will be donated to Belfountain to use as the village wishes. The remainder of the acreage after roads and sewage treatment terrain—nearly 178 acres—will be deeded to the Town of Caledon or to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority or to a land trust to remain as untouched wild space forever.

Balls of Fire

Great balls of fire turned into great balls of gold for the Headwaters Hospital the night of May 6.

Some 400 attended the 9th annual glitzy rock-a-billy dinner dance at the Orangeville aggie centre. "We netted over \$200,000" reported Pam Purves, co-chair of the hospital fundraiser. "It was by far our best year—we did spectacularly well."

Another fundraiser...The Coalition Great Big Garage Sale April 29 raised some \$50,000, to fight the James Dick application for a quarry at Rockfort. "It was the best ever," said Eddie Long, vice-president of the coalition, "150 volunteers came out and bust their butts."

Happy Blouseday

The Ascot Room will be at the Belfountain Community Hall for its 10th anniversary blow-out June 15 & 16. "It's going to be fun," says Genie Hayward, proprietor of the fashion house on Main St. The sale will feature "price point" sections where nothing goes above \$40 as well as "very special merchandise" from Italy and refreshments!

"If this were to fall apart," said Ward One Regional Councillor Richard Paterak, who supports the deal, "someone else could come along and decide to build 350 houses or something."

The development deal evolved from a series of "visioning days" by local Belfountain residents, said architect Robert Boraks, a former NEC rep and founding member of the BCPO, now residing in Ottawa. Even the Niagara Escarpment Commission is "extremely supportive."

The unresolved details centre upon water—clean water and dirty water.

The property has a single deep well and the developer had wanted to drill a second one. But Peel Region has nixed this, citing the fragile aquifer that currently provides water to local residents. So the developer now plans a pipeline from Erin. If that happens, local residents may get the opportunity to tie into the system.

But Erin is engaged in a two-year study called a Settlement and Servicing Master Plan, which will determine whether it has sufficient water to supply its own growth let alone sell to Belfountain.

Meanwhile, the sewage system is not yet determined. But the treated water that eventually would be discharged into the Credit River must be "totally sanitized" so that it is utterly benign for trout and salmon, said Mr. Paterak.

"It's going to happen," said Mr. Paterak. "They've got tired of waiting."

That's what he'll be saying later this summer when the BCPO hosts an information meeting for residents.



Forget the Forks of Credit Road this summer, unless you're astride a horse or a canoe.

A year later than anticipated, the dust is to start flying in July for the \$4 million dig-up of the scenic drive from Belfountain to Highway 10, says Peel Region Project Manager Randy Senko.

A local resident's appeal to the Niagara Escarpment Commission delayed the three-phase project to rescue the collapsing roadway, but has now been resolved, he said.

A major phase of the job will entail the shoring up of the walls and foundations of the road near and beneath the railway trestle bridge. This has required painstaking planning to avoid contaminating the Credit River.

Trow Associates Inc. of Brampton have already completed the design work and the contract for the project will be tendered by the end of May, said Mr. Senko.

There will be an information meeting at Belfountain Public School in early June, he added.



Photo by Charles Peyton

Ism Art Marvellous

So there they were, young Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Jews all playing together at Belfountain artist Caroline Butson's Tree of Life Centre for Creativity.

The 23 grade five students from Homestead Public School gathered April 21 to launch their 'Faith as an *ism*' art exhibit in which each student has painted a visualization of his or her religion. The show continues to June 18 at Ms. Butson's centre.

"There are a few who don't believe in any organized religion," said homeroom teacher Deborah Danforth. "But they all believe in something."

Arsalan Qazi, 10, believes in the teachings of the Koran. "My dad reads the Koran. He tells me what's in it," he said. His rendering shows him watching his dad praying on a red *janaman*, a prayer carpet.

"The Koran tells you about Allah and how to be a good human," said Arsalan. "I believe in friendship. I believe that bullies are bullies for a reason."

"I've been thinking about the elements," said Dyar Yoksuf, 12, pointing to his canvas of red flame, blue water and purplish form. "I just believe there's a conflict between fire and water. Steam symbolizes hope, the mixing of blue and red into purple."

"Water is life. Fire burns. I was thinking: say if you die, you're supposed to go to heaven or the other place."

"I worked hard and it turned out good," said Alexia Gartsen, 10, pointing at her self-portrait.

"I do believe in myself." "I believe in peace, love and nature," she continued. "Nature means animals and plants that give us oxygen."

The *ism* show is the first of a series of children's exhibits at her Centre, said Ms. Butson. "It's not a gallery—it's a workshop where they can create."

A second show opened May 12 and will run to June 18—art by grade six students from Belfountain Public School on the theme of endangered species.

A Bookish Friend



The once lonely Belfountain 'Friend of the Caledon Library' is seeking reading-mates.

Laura Forbes recently became that solitary Friend and has since dredged up two more Friends. "We were the only village in Caledon without a representative," she said.

Joining the Friends costs five dollars a year, and you get to carry library services to shut-ins, help raise funds for the system, and above all love to read.

The Friends hope to drum up enthusiasm for the Belfountain branch located in the public school, which is the least used library in the system.

PARKING UPDATE

Months of meetings and parking surveys have boiled down to this: occasional controlled parking—one side only of Bush and Main Sts.—for the busy fall colour weekend and the Salamander festival. This parking control can also be arranged for a special event, such as a wedding, if prior notice is given. This year we intend to address lowering speed limits, which many feel is more of a safety issue than is parking.

The View from Belfountain...

comes to you from the Belfountain Community Planning 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 Deadlines:** To submit articles or information, email or drop of discs/hard copies to David Kendall, editor at 519-927-3204 / email inkarri28@yahoo.ca, or co-editor Charles Peyton at 519-927-5055 / email at cpeyton@rogers.com.

Next deadline to submit articles by August 25; publication around September 7.



Belfountain Heritage Society

Mark Your Calendar Now...Sept. 9-10

In celebration of Heritage Caledon's 30th Anniversary, the Belfountain Heritage Society along with other local historical societies will be inviting Caledon residents and others to visit a variety of heritage sites across the Township. As many as 12 churches, former schoolhouses, mills, and community halls will open their doors to the public, providing an opportunity to explore and enjoy some of the treasures of Caledon's past. What's more: it's all free.

Our participation will be the first Open House of the Melville White Church. We shall be providing on both days, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 4:00 pm, a variety of programming for your entertainment and pleasure. Watch for more details coming your way over the next months. We'd love to see you there come September.

Wanted: The Melville White Church is in desperate need of a small desk or table plus a chair, for use in the church during weddings for the 'signing of the register' by the bride and groom. They should be reasonably old and not large and bulky.

We have our first wedding of the year coming up very soon. Should the donor wish, we can provide a Tax Receipt. Please contact Norm Wrycraft at 519-927-3298 if you think you can help.

Norm Wrycraft



Host Of Golden Daffodils

The raised village gardens at the corner of Main and Bush Sts. are currently ablaze with "hundreds and hundreds" of bulbs that ex-gardener Frank Schenk planted in earlier years, says Kathy Yankovich who is the new lead gardener.

But after the tulips and daffodils droop, "every few weeks we'll be putting together a work crew to weed and tidy up," she says.

The gardens are a volunteer effort with a budget of about \$100 a year from the BCPO.

"If anyone has any perennials that would be appropriate that they would like to donate, that would be fantastic," says Ms. Yankovich.

Appropriate means "don't need a lot of watering," she adds, perennials such as nepeta, geraniums, purple corn flowers, yarrow or day lilies.

If you'd like to put your green thumb on offer, call Ms. Yankovich at 927-9928.

Did you know that...?



There was once a 'closed' bar in our village store.

There was once an armed hold-up in our peaceful wee hamlet.

In 1924, John R. Trimble, following in the footsteps of his father George, returned to Belfountain to buy and run a blacksmith shop, soon to become Trimble's Garage. He was looking for a place to move his family then housed temporarily in Erin. In 1926 a Miss Lloyd, proprietor of the Belfountain Store, rented the family three small rooms in the store. John Trimble today remembers some frigid winters with only a coal fireplace. He also calls to mind the time an armed and masked robber held up a terrified Miss Lloyd, scooped a few dollars from the till and fled down Bush Street. She hurtled into the street hollering "help!" but, unlike today, the street was deserted and the varlet escaped with his ill-gotten gains.

A 'nosy Parker' did not escape so lightly. It was long rumoured that a private 'closed' bar operated in the store. To this day Trimble does not know what 'closed' meant. However, he recalls Sam Brock telling of a curious villager staring through the window to see what devilry was up. A drunken fellow inside saw a face through the darkened window and punched the poor peeper on the jaw—right through the glass pane!

"Oh, golly!" laughed Johnny Trimble. "I sure wish Sam Brock and John Longstreet were still with us. They'd tell you a tale or two! There was the time a fella was on the ground behind the store and another fella was standin' over him with a sardine on the end of a sword, well..."

But we'll have to leave that story for another day.

James B. Douglas

Message from the President

I would like to thank our past president David Burke for his commitment, dedication over the past year. As your new president, I would like to see our community become more self-supporting by working and playing together. The BCPO needs your input on the direction we should take in 2006.

The BCPO exists to represent our community. The volunteers are there to serve as your watchdog on issues that affect the health and wellbeing of our hamlet. If you would like to join the BCPO and help your community, please call me and come to one of our monthly meetings.

We hope you enjoy *The View* from Belfountain—which keeps our residents informed of up-coming events such as The Salamander Festival, important issues, and has entertaining items of interest.

We are a non-profit organization, and monies raised through our efforts such as pub nights and the Salamander festival—set this year for Sept. 30—flow back into the community for items like flowers at the intersection, the Christmas Party and the printing of *The View*.

Last year's Salamander Festival was the best attended so far and helped raise funds for the school. Pub Night on June 17th will complete this commitment. So come out and get involved and we can make the 2006 spectacular.

Madelon Stevenson, BCPO President

The BCPO committee members for 2006 are: Wade Domet (treasurer), James B. Douglas (secretary), David Jobe, Grecia Mayers, Linda Moorcroft, Charles Peyton (vice-president), Madelon Stevenson (president), Kathy Yankovich.

Belfountain Village Church



The Annual Women's Spring Breakfast was held on Saturday, May 13th. A full house of 70 women gathered in Reid Hall to enjoy a free breakfast, a dynamic guest speaker Diane Hooper and special music by Pat Armstrong.

And there's more of the same coming. June 17th will be the 9:00am Men's Breakfast with Guest Speaker former NHL Player DEAN PRENTICE. Men, don't miss this highly motivational speaker — Everyone is welcome!

Interim Pastor, John Albiston, 519-927-3165

Adopt-A-Rubbish

The Region of Peel will be monitoring people who adopt Belfountain roads to ensure they honour their commitment to collect the rubbish.

For the last couple of years, the region has posted metal signs showing ReMax Realtor Ian Amos and his Aspera Terrent horse farm have adopted 13.5 kilometres along the Forks of Credit Road and Mississauga Rd.

"I have not had a cancellation from them," Sally Rook, technical analyst roads, Region of Peel, told *The View* last month. "I am monitoring." Sending letters to all adopting individuals and enterprises reminding them of their duties.

In previous years she has simply assumed that the twice-yearly de-littering was done on Belfountain roads. But this year, she said, local adopters must contact her to borrow 'men working' signs, gloves and orange shirts and to schedule her trucks to pick up the bags of collected rubbish. That way, she'll know the job is getting done. And if it isn't? "I'll pull down their signs," said Ms. Rook.

What about penalties for non-compliance? "I'd love to punish them," she said. "But unfortunately that's not how the system works."

"It's hard to keep track," Mr. Amos told *The View*. "It's quite a bit of work. Last year we took out literally dozens of garbage bags full. It's amazing how people can be indifferent to litter."



School Shenanigans

On June 22, the Belfountain school is having big funfest and barbecue. Everyone is invited for the 5-8 p.m., but food tickets are in advance only. The price will be around \$6 a meal. The evening will feature an auction, raffle, and side-splitting fun n' games. Contact Wade Domet at 927-3303 for advance food tickets.

Gardening in the Park Sun., June 4, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Credit Valley Conservation is having a Gardening Day at the Belfountain Park. Volunteers will earn a free 1-day Appreciation Pass