



The View from Belfountain

May 2007

The Forks Project

It's taking all the king's horses and all the king's men to put the Forks of Credit Road together again.

The one-year, \$4 million project to repair sections of the crumbling road from Belfountain to Highway 10 is now in its second year and "slightly over budget," says Peel Region Project manager Randy Senko.

Last year's major achievement was the restoring of the hairpin bend.

Two cracks have since appeared in the roadside concrete rampart that has replaced the curving metal railing at the steep bend. "I haven't seen them," says Mr. Senko, adding that they are likely "not significant."

The old quarried stone wall that officials had promised heritage aficionados would be put back immediately below the sharp bend after the foundation was redone is instead blanketed in a fibrous green plastic that is being hydro-seeded.

This year's two main tasks are the rebuilding of the road from the Mississauga Rd. to the eastern entrance of the Caledon Ski Club and the re-construction of the riverbank under the railway trestle.

The roadway west of the ski club entrance was "moving considerably last year, laterally and vertically," sliding into the adjacent wetland, said Mr. Senko.

Earth moving equipment is currently replacing the old roadbed to a depth of some 20 feet, carting away 1,600 truckloads of asphalt and underlying rubble.

This will be replaced by two to four-inch stone that will be trucked in—maybe right through the village—to form a porous, fixed foundation held in place by filtre-fibre sheeting.

The second task is just getting underway. Besides having to build a coffer-dam into the Credit River, "this very complex job...will require the complete underpinning of one of the trestle supports," states Regional Councillor Richard Paterak.

The project will be complete by the end of September, vows Mr. Senko.

Health Wealth

The year's two biggest charity events affecting Belfountain residents' health have raised more megabucks than ever before.

The Headwaters Hospital held its glittering tenth annual supper-dance at the Orangeville Agricultural Centre May 5 and may have garnered as much as \$325,000 for new equipment for the area hospital.

The Great Big Garage Sale on April 28 generated "as much as we have ever got", says close-mouthed Eddie Long, v-p for the Coalition of Concerned Citizens' contesting the James Dick application to develop a quarry penetrating up to 150 feet below the water table at Olde Base Line and Winston Churchill. In previous years the big sale has earned as high as \$45,000.

The quarry application is slated to go before the Ontario Municipal Board September 2008 for a six-month hearing, but the quarry company "is bogged down in the environmental studies he has to do," says Mr. Long.

Bush Highway

Rest easy. A new westbound 400 series highway won't be tearing through our sleepy hamlet.

A Ministry of Transport environmental assessment on building a new highway, or railway, or neither, or bits of both, is in its preliminary stages. But the first bulldozer is at least 10 years away.

Belfountain and Erin are included in the "growth corridor" that the new transport facility would serve. That corridor runs west from Woodbridge to the "Guelph-Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge triangle" north of the 401.

The aim is "to provide for the efficient movement of people and goods within the context of the province's *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*," states the introductory document for the GTA-West Corridor Environmental Assessment.

A series of information sessions have sought public input with the final session May 8 at the Brampton Fairgrounds.

The Greater Golden Horseshoe includes the Oak Ridges Moraine, Niagara Escarpment, the greenbelt, and 7.8 million people, with another 3.7 million due by the year 2031.

"We have no idea if it's even going to be a road," said MoT spokesman Will MacKenzie. "Will already planned improvements be enough?"

"We're looking 25 years into the future. The earliest possible date for shovel in the ground is 10 or 11 years from now."

And even if they do opt for a new 400 series highway, "it's highly doubtful that we'll be along the northern boundary" where Belfountain lies, Mr. MacKenzie added.



Home Wreckers

It's barely 40 years old, with 200-amp service, central vac, oak floors. But the Credit Valley Conservation Authority is about to demolish the Belfountain house and one-time brothel it bought just 14 years ago.

Eric Baldin, conservation lands planner with the CVCA, says an application for a demolition permit was tendered this spring. Come autumn, the beautiful house on the 2.67-acre lot with the breathtaking view at 25 Scott St. will bite the dust.

Last year, three years after severing the site from a nine-acre purchase made in 1993 through the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the CVC offered it for sale at \$525,000.

A buyer appeared, but septic and foundation issues arose. So, rather than fix the problems, the CVCA is mailing the house to the great Teperman in the sky.

"There was a hazard in selling the property," said Mr. Baldin. "It was the location on the slope. Potentially the land was hazardous."

"It's a total waste," said Johnson Associates realtor Martha Summers, who had acted on the property. "It had tons of potential. It needed some work but not impossible work."

Caffeine High

"Better than Starbucks." So says Ashleigh MacInnes, manager of The Shed coffee shop that opened on Easter weekend right across the street from the Belfountain Store.

"We use a better roasted coffee than they do," Ms. MacInnes said, adding that the big American chain favours an "almost burnt" taste rather than The Shed's "more flavourful" roast.

As for coffee averaging 30 cents a cup cheaper at the store over the road, she says: "We're not really competing with them. If people want lunch we tell them the store has that."

"We haven't been affected at all," says Kim Pritchard, manager of the Belfountain Store where their blue-collar brew comes without those expensive frothy crowns. "Our customers are very loyal—the local contractors, landscapers, and so on. They love our coffee."

Since opening, the Shed is doing "better every day," said Ms. MacInnes.

For many, it is already the community hangout they've long craved. "I was getting ready to sell and move away until the Shed opened," said new regular Wade Domet half-seriously.

As an added attraction to tree-huggers, The Shed's to-go cups and 'plastic' glasses for cold beverages are 100 percent bio-degradable and their cutlery is made of potato starch.

And they provide the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Globe and Mail. Readers can actually save money drinking coffee at The Shed.

Adopt-a-Belfountain-Road



The three main roads entering Belfountain are begging for adoption, says Sally Rook, technical analyst roads for Peel Region.

Otherwise, they'll just keep accumulating the junk of drive-by litter-bugs.

Under the adopt-a-road program anyone or group or business can commit to clearing the refuse along a specified roadside at least twice a year. The region will pick up the bagfuls and place a sign at either end of your area with your name inscribed.

- The three available sections are:
- Forks of Credit Rd. from Highway 10 to Belfountain, 7.1 kilometres.
 - Mississauga Rd. from Base Line Rd. to Bush St., 6.4 kilometres.
 - Bush St. from Winston Churchill to Mississauga Rd., 1.9 kilometres.

You can sponsor rather than adopt, paying Peel to do the work for an annual fee of \$1,500 a kilometre.

Adopters should "not wear attire that might divert the attention of motorists during clean-up activities," reads the adopt-a-road rulebook. Alas, topless is not encouraged.

"Ensure no participant possesses or consumes illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages immediately before or during clean-up activities."

This is serious business. Check it out at www.peelregion.ca and go to 'public works'.



Plastic Gladiators

The rough 'n tumble and sporadically blood-spattered Belfountain men's floor hockey season ends next month.

The dozen or so combatants with hair in shades of brown, grey and none, can put away their plastic sticks and pucks and get on with golfing and day-trading.

The View was on hand last week to interview team star Brent Riddall—a bear of a man, known to snatch up Neil Barnes by the ankles and shake him until nickels rain upon the gymnasium floor at the regular Monday night games at the Belfountain Public School.

Q. *How do you feel about being a role model for the youth of Belfountain?*

A. "Tired."

Q. *We understand that your shot has been timed at almost 500 mph.*

A. "Your radar is off. It's a little over 600 mph actually."

Q. *Could you please tell our readers the secret of your one-timer quick release?*

A. "Hormones."

Mr. Riddall, floor hockey co-ordinator Charles Peyton, and all the bruised but unbowed athletes extend their thanks to the School.

Welcome Pastor Michael



At last, the Belfountain Village Church has a new parson.

Pastor Michael Tormey, 53, took over April 1, ending a two-year search for a minister to lead the 172-year-old church since the departure of the well-loved Pastor John Lekx.

An affable man, Pastor Michael is not a "boisterous voice," he says. "There is a big difference between witnessing and proselytizing.

"Sin," he says, "is a separation between you and God."

Cognizant of the recent emergence of the ecology as the leading issue on people's minds, *The View* inquired as to whether wilful environmental destruction is a sin.

"Pollution of the water contributes to the detriment of your neighbour," said Pastor Michael. "It won't render you to eternal damnation, but of course that's a sin. It's harming your neighbour."

Born in Dublin, he worked in Germany, France and the U.S. before immigrating more than 20 years ago to specialize in managing food and beverage operations—including seven restaurants in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Double by-pass surgery two months ago has transformed his ideas on food. "No more fried food," says Pastor Michael with noticeable regret.

He has long worked in street ministries and in various churches, including with the Inuit of the Canadian Arctic.

He and wife Fen have two daughters and a son, all grown up. The couple is currently living in Mississauga and they intend to move up to Belfountain and rent before buying a home.

"I don't want to live in the city any more," said Pastor Michael. "I want to be where all you hear at night are the grasshoppers."

Anxious not to discourage the new vicar, *The View* chose not to enlighten him on the soulful rumble of the choppers to be heard at daytime during Belfountain's summer season.

His wife, a fashion designer, was born in Guangzhou, China. A free thinker, she concluded "there was more to life than Chairman Mao," said her husband.

She was arrested three times by the Chinese authorities and eventually escaped to Hong Kong after fleeing for three weeks through the mountains.

Portrait of an Artist as a Young Woman



Belfountain has always been a haven for artists, both acclaimed and unrecognized. Jessie Crosbie was one of the latter. No one would have guessed that one day a portrait of this bright, unassuming woman would grace the cover of a new book, *F.H. Varley-*

Portraits into the Light, by Katerina Atanassova.

In 1947, Jessie was living in the same Toronto rooming house as Frederick Varley (of the Group of Seven). The two became close friends, painting, singing, and playing the piano together. Later Varley was to call Jessie 'Skylark'.

Weekends and the occasional holiday were spent at 'The Sheiling', Jessie's cottage in Belfountain, and the two would spend time walking and painting. People in Belfountain still remember Jessie and 'Fred' coming up on the bus from Toronto. Jessie was sociable and both were often invited to tea locally where Fred would sit apart sketching. Few in the area knew of his artistic standing.

Jessie trained as a nurse. Her parents, like Varley's, came from Yorkshire.

Jessie and Varley discussed founding an art centre in Belfountain, but in 1952 Varley left her for a wealthy benefactor in Toronto. A woman of strength and self-sufficiency, Jessie apparently bore him no ill feelings. Varley's 1950 portrait of Jessie captures these elements of her and is one

of his most sensitive and revealing. It is felt by some that Jessie was Varley's muse.

Jessie moved to Orangeville in her later years, living alone with her beloved dog Minou, making many friends, volunteering for the CNIB, and working for the VON. Her connection with Varley was virtually unknown. She wished to be an artist in her own right and had a studio in her basement where she painted and sculpted. Unfortunately none of her work has been traced (anyone knowing of any please call Myfanwy at 519-927-5277).

Varley's son and biographer, Peter Varley, wrote a touching note to Jessie in 1983 thanking her for the care and affection she had given his father. Jessie died in 1991, at 85. Her ashes were dispersed, at her request, in Belfountain.

The launch of 'F.H. Varley-Portraits into the Light', will take place at the Varley Art Gallery, in Unionville on May 25. Jessie will have contributed in a significant way which she would not have foreseen, to the fabric of Canadian art

Myfanwy Douglas

Please, It's BCO

Yes, it's the **Belfountain Community Organization** now, not the Belfountain Community Planning Organization.

By exiling the word "planning" from its title, the BCO is no longer an advocacy group and thus qualifies for limitless grants for non-profit organizations, BCO Secretary James Douglas told the annual general meeting on April 26 at the Belfountain Community Hall.

The BCO finished the year with \$3,240 in the kitty, the 30 in attendance heard.

Mr. Douglas also informed the gathering that ORB developers were in "very preliminary" talks about re-opening two unused wells south of Erin as possible water sources for their proposed 66-house development on the Enterac property bounding Belfountain.

A new speed limit of 40 kph will come to Belfountain as soon as signs are installed, replacing the current 50 kph. Mr. Douglas warned motorists that police have promised extra monitoring of the speed limit over the first two weeks.

An unprecedented 15 names were put forward for election to the BCO's board, and the final rendering was set for the May 10 meeting. A complete list of the new board will be published in the next issue of *The View*.

The meeting ended with a lively presentation from Lea Anne Mallett, executive director of EcoSource in Mississauga, an organization that can assist anyone seeking funding for environmental issues.

"If you live on this planet you are an environmentalist, whether you like it or not," she said, adding her suggestion that this summer's Salamander Festival be a "zero waste" event with participants encouraged to bring their own ceramic mugs instead of Styrofoam cups.

The meeting ended with biscuits and coffee in Styrofoam cups.

COMINGS and GOINGS...

New arrival: Cassidy Skye, born January 17 to Julie Pachnovsky and Danny Ross

Leaving: After 24 years Janice and Ed Gilpin, from the cottage at the bend of Main Street and Forks of the Credit, are moving to Guelph. Ed is retiring but Janice will continue her teaching in Bolton.

Karen Wrycraft, for many years a resident and manager of the Belfountain Village Store, collected \$450 in lieu of 40th birthday presents and donated it to the Upper Credit Humane Society.

Fashion: Co-ordinator Betty Burgoyne will stage the first of three 'fashion events' over 12:30 lunch on June 6 featuring styles from the Ascot Room. Reserve your seat at the Belfountain Inn, 519-927-9219.

The new BCO Board elected May 10: Charles Peyton (president) 519-927-5055, James Douglas (vice-president) 519-927-5277, Grecia Mayers (secretary) 519-927-3204. The treasurer remains to be named.

Thanks: A huge thank you goes to the tireless Madelon Stevenson and the pragmatic Wade Domet for their work as president and treasurer of the BCPO over the last year.



Melville Mouse Moves In

The Belfountain Heritage Society is excited to introduce their new mascot, Melville the Church Mouse, as the first part of a new fundraising program.

For many years, Melville the Church Mouse enjoyed all the excitement and busyness at the Melville White Church. Then about 30 years ago the church fell silent as the last service was held and the old church was abandoned. After a few years, Melville came out of his mouse hole to find his church in a sad state of disrepair; so bad that there was a demolition order placed on the building.

Melville scurried into the village of Belfountain and recruited a number of able bodied citizens to save his church from the wrecking ball. Luckily his efforts paid off, and the Belfountain Heritage Society, with the help of countless volunteers and donors, restored the church to its former glory. This is one of the oldest remaining timber frame churches in Ontario, dating from 1837.

The cute, cuddly, six-inch tall, toy mouse is available for \$10 from the Belfountain Heritage Society (519-927-3298) and will be on sale at various stores in the area. Proceeds from the sales will be used to construct environmentally responsible washroom facilities at the Melville White Church on Mississauga Road south of The Grange Sideroad, replacing the archaic backhouse and the unsightly port-a-potty currently servicing the facility.

Peter Probst, BHS

Berniece Trimble



Francis Berniece Trimble passed away on Jan. 6. She was born near Shelburne in 1919. But Berniece will always be a part of Belfountain. She is inextricably linked in our memories and in her written histories of this area.

Berniece and husband John Trimble spent over 50 years in Belfountain. Her deep love of history led her to publish two books about Belfountain, books that have become the bible for researchers into our past. With the help of relatives here and abroad she traced her Fine ancestry back to 1066!

She and John went to the same school, grew up together and were married in January 1942. They had two boys and there are now four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Berniece was correspondent for many years with the Orangeville Banner and the Erin Advocate. She was a founding member of the Caledon Historical Society and a member of the Belfountain School Board. After selling the family business John and Berniece moved to Orangeville where neighbours soon became their extended family.

Roy and Eleanor Trimble and now Berniece have left us. But the memory of Trimble's garage and the Trimble legacy remain. We also remember the merry twinkle in Berniece's eye when she confirmed the many stories of her and John's beloved Belfountain.

James Douglas

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** To submit articles or information, email or drop of discs/hard copies to David Kendall at 519-927-3204 / email inkarri28@yahoo.ca, or co-editor Charles Peyton at 519-927-5055 / email at cpeyton@rogers.com.