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The View from Belfountain

November 2009

SALAMANDER FESTIVAL 2009

The cold, wet weather could not put a damper the enthusiasm of this year's Salamander participants. The grilled elk burgers beckoned, squash soup warmed the tummy, and the hot coffee lifted the spirits as live musicians entertained all day long and kept the crowd moving to the beat. Mayor Morrison complimented the volunteers for their dedication in putting on an impressive festival, which coincided with Caledon Day.

Belfountain residents proudly came out to support the festival and bring attention to the Jefferson Salamander. Thank you very much to the Salamander Committee, the volunteers, the cooks, the bakers, the cleaners, the decorators, contributors to the silent auction, the vendors and tent raisers all. It takes a village to make a festival work. Thank you, Belfountain. See you next year!

Grecia Mayers, Salamander Committee

Salamander Festival Partners:

Caledon West Rotary Club
Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Belfountain Public School
Eatlocalcaledon.org
Belfountain Village Church
Kinetic

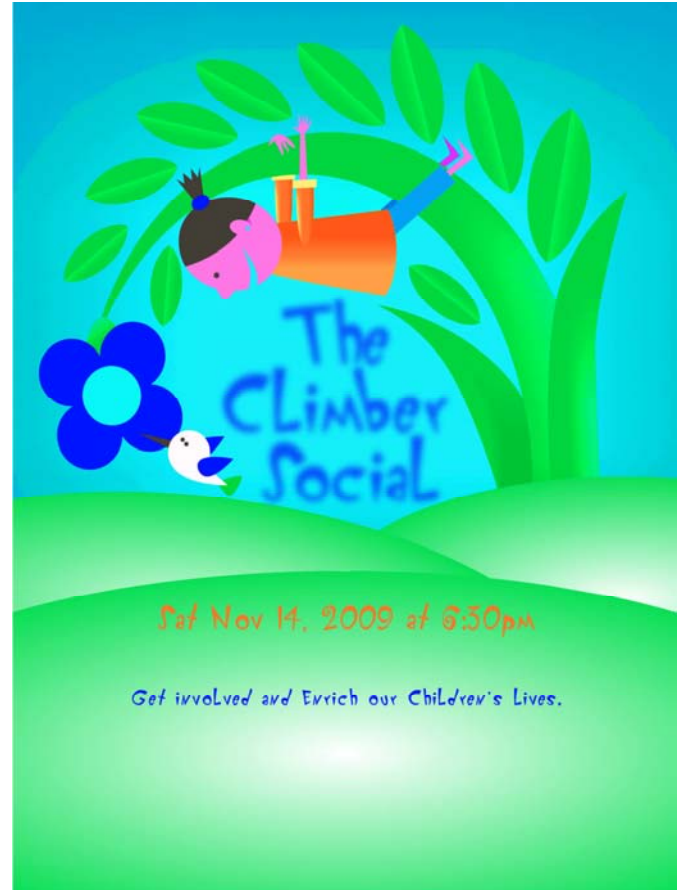
Festival Support:

Jonathon Beckett, Greg Sweeney and Rose DiMarco,
Caledon OPP
Marolyn Morrison, Mayor of Caledon
Doug Beffort, Town Councillor
Town of Caledon, Fire & Emergency Services
Town of Caledon, Parks & Recreation
Town of Caledon, Caledon Day Committee
Region of Peel, Victoria Yard
Richard Paterak, Regional Councillor

Silent Auction Donors:

Alternatives Magazine
Alton Botanix Greenhouses
Doug Beffort, Councillor, Ward One, Town of Caledon
Carole and Ron Bellamy
Belfountain Tennis Club
Betty Burgoyne
Bob's Garage
Booklore
Budson's Feed Mill

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The Learning Grounds are Growing!

Kara McIntosh, Heather Kendall, Tish Hansen and band of tireless volunteers are back in action on behalf of Belfountain Public School. Phase II of the Learning Grounds at Belfountain Public School includes the installation of a Climber, essential to the early development of gross motor skills. Hence, the Climber Social! This full evening's entertainment takes place this weekend, **Saturday November 14th**, at the Main Lodge of the Caledon Ski Club, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are just \$40, including an unparalleled Silent Auction, supper, games and prizes!

Tickets are still available at the door on Saturday evening, or at the Shed, Inglewood General Store or Belfountain Inn before then. You can even email tish@thansen.ca and tickets will be held at the door for you!

See you there!

Caledon Country Club
Caledon Countryside Alliance
Caledon Fireplace
Caledon Hills Cycling
Caledon Ski Club
Caledon Village Bistro
Caledon Village Wildlife
Capricorn Leather
Carole Clarke Fine Art
Carver's Block
Country Crops Country Store
Credit Creek
Credit River Motor Company
Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Devils' Pulpit Golf Association
Dolores Daly and Ian Donaldson
Double 'R' Leather
Brenda Drysdale
Earth Rangers
Gallery Gemma Fine Jewellery
Gary Hall Photography
Glen Echo Nurseries
Gourmandissimo Fine Food and Catering
Home Depot
Harmony Whole Foods
Inglewood General Store
Sylvia Jones
Kinetico Water Filtration Systems
Laura Berry Fine Art
Les Judge
Shirley and Jack Love
Marolyn Morrison, Mayor of Town of Caledon
Grecia Mayers
Millcroft Inn and Spa
Moorcroft Antiques
Mundell's RONA
National Fitness Products
Jennifer Palacios
Ray's 3G Bakery and Bistro Restaurant
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Quarry Hill Farms
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Norma Seymour
Alan Seymour
Skis & Bikes
Spirit Tree Estate Cidery
Andy Swainson - Ericsson
Terra Cotta Inn
David Tilson
The Ascot Room
The Shed
Theatre Orangeville
Ellen Turner
Jan and Tim Zaharchuk

In Kind Sponsors & Donors:

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The Belfountain Inn
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George Laverentz
Lyonsdale Farms
Kay MacDuffee
Jenna Maxwell and Adrian Stagg
Linda and Brian Moorcroft
Meekabode Farms
Neil Morris
Ed Peavoy
Ann Seymour
The Shed
Bob Waldon
John Wilson

Letters to Editor:

On Wednesday July 22nd, between 10 and 11 am, our home at 623 Bush St. was burglarized. Entry was gained through the rear door to the garage. It was my routine to take our dog out each morning for his walk of approximately one hour. The police strongly suspect that the break-in was undertaken by an older teen or young adult. This individual was someone who was local and very familiar with Belfountain and perhaps with my morning routine. It is also our belief that I may have nearly caught the thief/thieves in mid-exit via the side of the garage, as they headed out towards the front of the property and onto the road. They dropped an article on the path when they suddenly had to retreat to our back yard, exiting through the forested area in the rear.

While inside, the thief/thieves ransacked closets, drawers and jewelry boxes.

A partial list of the articles stolen includes a small, portable electric MIG welder (the thief knew what this was and may have knowledge of welding), a 35 year-old ruby ring, a gold and stone set of necklace and earrings, a sapphire ring, and many pieces of one-of-a-kind costume jewelry.

Although this theft has left us out of pocket, it is not the monetary loss that has cost us the most. The greater loss has been from the violation of our privacy and the threat to our personal security. The thought

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that this could have been perpetrated by someone who may also reside in the village or in the immediate area is even more disturbing.

We are appealing to our fellow Belfountain residents to come forward, please, if you saw or have since heard anything related to the break-in or the disposal of the stolen items. I was the only one at home that day, therefore anyone seen around or coming out of our house between 10 and 11 am would be a suspect. Any and all information related to this incident will be helpful! Please anonymously contact the Caledon O.P.P. at 905-584-2241 and ask to speak to investigating officer Constable David Forde, citing Incident Report #OP09207722.

It has become a sad reality that, even when taking a simple walk through the village, locking all of our doors and turning on outdoor lighting is required to deter thieves. The OPP officer has asked that we spread the word, to other Caledon residents, to lock your cars as well. Incidents of auto theft and break-in on residential driveways are also on the rise.

Thank you for your help.

Lynn Woods

Fighting Fire with Fire!



Welcome to a special six-page post-Salamander edition of the View! The BCO is deeply grateful to everyone who contributed time, products, services and support so generously to what was our best

Salamander Festival yet!

If you will indulge me, I offer below the highlights of my pre-festival week, concluding with some hot tips on keeping warm this winter.

As every one of the 25+ BCO and community volunteers with this year's Salamander Committee will attest, festival week can be quite strenuous. Many of us are required to be in multiple places at once, and when it really comes down to the wire, we get a little silly. Emails get shorter, we forget each other's names, leave our domestic chores and unnecessary showers to the bitter end, and generally throw ourselves (and our friends and family!) into bringing on six hours of festival fun to the village. So, in my pre-festival week, I made a few compromises to my routine and gave myself an eye-opening look at country living. It went a little like this:

I had left my firewood unstacked, in the pouring rain, all pre-festival week. It would wait, I have all autumn etc. was my thinking at the time. When I built my Wednesday fire, I loaded my wood stove full of logs, got it up to a nice crackle, secured the doors, plugged in the fan, placed six rain-drenched logs on top of the stove to dry from the heat of the fire, and settled in at my laptop to do some editing. A short while later, a knock arrived upon my door, a quick hand was needed downtown. I checked my home over once, locked all doors as Lynn Wood's Letter to the Editor suggests (page 2), and went to assist a friend. Returning home no more than thirty minutes later, at the edge of my driveway I heard my smoke alarm sounding. Bolting to my front door in fear for my cat's life, I peeked through the glass panels to see a house full of dense, swirling smoke. My house is drafty old darling, so I knew there would be no back-draft if I opened the front door. I rushed indoors, and peered to the fireplace from the safety of the kitchen, to evaluate the source of the smoke. Yep. The wood I had left to dry out on the fireplace top, unattended, was in flames. Bright orange flames were licking their way up the front of the stone-faced hearth, and eating away at a painting I had hanging there, adding noxious fumes to the smoke mix circling it's way through my entire house.

I certainly found out who my friends were that day. To the friend who without a second thought came running through my open front door, asking if I was okay, I have never been on the receiving end of

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Can there be too much of a good thing? I think so. What BCO members and friends thought would be a fun, community building idea this spring, has kind of run amok in recent weeks. The fox crossing signs were borne of the intent to protect our resident fox family. We all got to know them, be aware of them as they traversed the Hamlet in search of food—and there still aren't a lot of squirrels to this day!

The fox family has long dispersed as the now-grown kits search out their own territories. May I suggest to those residents who have these signs displayed, to please take them down for the time being. The original intent was to have two or three signs strategically placed throughout Belfountain to alert residents and tourists that a fox family was in the vicinity. The signs have become popular and they have been sighted throughout Belfountain and in Terra Cotta, Inglewood and elsewhere. The proliferation of signs can be confusing, and give people a message about our community that may not necessarily be positive. Jimmy Douglas worked so diligently to keep our Hamlet's sign clutter to a minimum - let's respect that effort and store the signs for the winter. A fox family will no doubt be in residence again next year, when there will be a new generation of foxes who will need to learn where to cross the road.

D. Jobe

Continued from Fighting Fire with Fire

such courage and I will remember that gesture for the rest of my life. To my neighbours who stood anxiously by outside, waiting for an all clear and our exit from the building, I thank you from the bottom of my heart, for your care and concern. It is good to know one is not alone in this world.

Having determined that the fire was wood-based and not a chemical fire, I doused it with a jug of water from the kitchen sink to drown out the flames. I then raced through the house, calling my cat and flinging open doors and windows as I went. (I really did think I was too old to move that fast, who knew!). I doused the remains of the smoldering logs again and moved them into the fireplace. I scooped up my cat and headed for fresh air, waiting for the smoke to clear and the smoke alarms to stop beeping, counting my blessings every shaky step of the way.

Eventually, I swept up the coals and took the damaged painting out of its frame for repairs. I am leaving the carbon deposits on the hearth stones a little longer, to remind me to slow down, be more careful.

In re-telling this story to friends, I realized that the only reason I knew how to assess that fire, and act quickly to contain it, was because my parents had fire drilled us thoroughly as children. We had ladders under the beds in our second-story bedrooms, fire extinguishers under the kitchen sink, a big brass bell to wake everyone, a check-in place outdoors. Our smoke alarms were seasonally inspected. We were taught fire prevention and fire safety.

Friday came quickly. I spent the morning in a Grade 4 cooking class at BPS, making cupcakes for the Bake Sale, and I met some amazing children. They were smart, funny, engaging, helpful and polite. And I remember thinking that day, I would have loved to go to this school when I was their age!

But all of this is just background to the real story, that spontaneous gem of my entire Salamander Festival day. In light of my recent harrowing experiences, I awoke on Festival morning inspired. Perhaps my job as MC would be to help festival-goers get to know the career and volunteer firefighters that are integral to our safety as residents of the Town of Caledon. I had just experienced first-hand how very little time there is to act in a house fire, especially if you live, as I do, in a house made of sticks. It seemed important to point out that if you live outside an urban area you are solely reliant on volunteer firefighters. In fact, 80% of Canada's land mass is protected by volunteer firefighters.

Enlisting the help of the BPS students I had met the previous morning, and the very willing Karen and Rick from Firehouse #305, what happened next, on the main stage at the Festival, was a little skit that can't be called anything but The Full Un-Monty! Karen

and Rick brought out the real firefighters gear - balaclavas and respirators and helmets and pants (yes, they really do have red suspenders) jackets and boots and hose-handlers, and proceeded to let children assembled get dressed in turns and relays, and get a sense of what it takes to be a career or volunteer firefighter, don about 220 kgs of equipment in 90 seconds and be ready to move out and keep moving for hours! This result was interactive and informative for all gathered, and the children were so entertaining, it remains my most indelible Festival memory for 2009. So to Karen and Rick and the crew chief too shy to tell me his name, thanks for playing along. You were an inspiration and a joy to play with!

And that's my Festival story, fighting fire with fire fighters. Do you still believe in happy endings? I do.

Amanda Elias, Editor

Facts extracted from The Fire Within 2010 Calendar, Chad Startison, Chair, Caledon Fire and Emergency Services. Copies are available at Inglewood General Store—very thoughtful gift idea.



*Winners of the Largest Pumpkin Contest
The Barber family*



Under 21

A hearty Salamander salute to the amazing student volunteers Jonas Cadham, Michael Waltham, Kethra Heaton and Mercedes McKenzie and their crew chief Stacey Mortimer-Sandilands, who jumped in at 8 a.m. sharp and hung in to the final closing chores in a downpour! For your boundless energy and willingness to help make the Festival a smooth one, your village thanks you!

Tips for a Warm, Safe Winter Season

A neighbour asked what some strategies might be to keep warm in a draftier home with lovely old bones. Here is a collection of ideas from recent conversations with others:

Wood only gets wet on the outside; wood that appears wet will still burn, eventually.

Hang heavier drapes in winter, especially over large glass panes like sliding doors. Darker coloured fabrics like navy and forest green will absorb more heat than white or pastel materials.

Enclosed candles and fuel lanterns add a beautiful glow and immediate warmth to small rooms. Before you light them, look up! The hottest part of a flame is above it. Stay clear of wooden beams, low shelves etc. Again, do not leave candles or lanterns unsupervised, even if you are only running to answer the phone or check on your children.

Houses are easier to keep warm if they are constantly heated to some degree. Letting a house get excessively cool during the day does mean you may need more fuel to heat up the walls, floors, furnishings etc when you arrive home.



Slippers with thicker soles place a greater distance between a drafty floor and your feet. The same goes for choosing a good winter boot, the thicker the sole the toastier the toes!

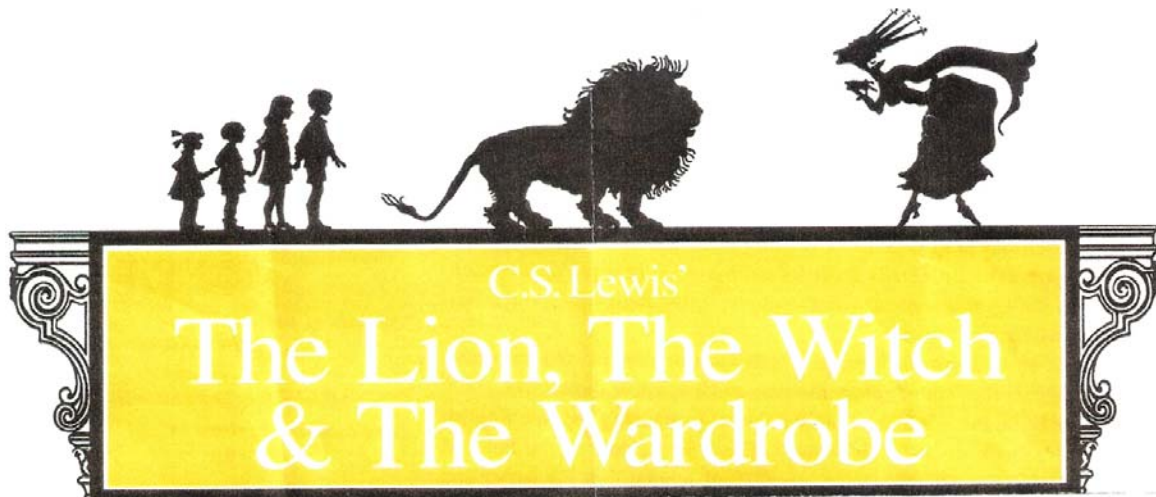
Wrap up in a shawl, a quilt or an extra sweater, and invest in soft, cozy socks.

Body heat can add a lot of warmth to a room very quickly, so invite some friends over for cards, board games, cocoa, or even dancing!

Live Theatre for the Entire Family

C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* will be performed at The Belfountain Community Hall on Sunday November 29th, at 3:00 pm. The performance is presented by Belfountain Village Church. Tickets are just \$10 for Adults, and \$5 for Children up to age 12. To reserve your tickets, please call 519-927-3165.

You can check out the details at www.LionWW.com.





It's All Happening December 5th!

Come one, come all to the Belfountain Community Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 5th. Celebrate the Christmas spirit with your family, friends and neighbours.

Pot Luck Supper commences at 5 p.m. at the Community Hall. Please keep an eye on community bulletin boards for further details.

In consideration of the environment, please bring your own re-usable plates, utensils, and drinking glasses. Some refreshments will be provided, but if you have a special dietary requirement, please bring your own.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting follows at The Belfountain Village Church at 7:30 p.m. After a fun-filled dinner, enjoy this seasonal tradition of carolling with friends, and hot drinks and treats for the children.

Bring your singing voice too!

Treasurer's Report

Welcome to all new BCO members who joined us over the summer and through the Salamander Festival. Your BCO membership dues will help to defray the production costs associated with *The View From Belfountain* and other administrative expenses like Community Hall rentals for BCO meetings and village get-togethers. I look forward to seeing you at a BCO meeting soon!

Alan Seymour



COMINGS & GOINGS...

Dear Friends,

Jimmie and I would like to thank you all for your care and support during our final days in Belfountain, and for the wonderful farewell party. The sadness of leaving and the added weight of Jimmie's illness were greatly eased by the incredible community effort in seeing us on our way. It epitomized the spirit of Belfountain that we had always worked to encourage. Thank you all for your love and friendship over the years. People walk into our new little house in Stratford and say, "It's just like your house in Belfountain!" The door is always open and Welsh cakes on the (gas) stove! Please visit. Our phone number is 519-273-7658.

Myfanwy & Jimmie

The late **Joan Kendall**, long time resident of Caledon will be inducted into the Canadian Eventing Hall of Fame at an inaugural gala on November 7th, 2009. The Canadian Eventing Committee selected Joan in recognition of her contribution to the development and foundation of the sport in Canada. To acknowledge this prestigious recognition, Joan's sons David and Jeremy will be in attendance.

Lost & Found on Festival Grounds

One pink umbrella, one khaki cap, one silver ring, one webbed-strap coffee caddy.

Please call 519-927-9762 to claim these items.

The View from Belfountain... is published by the Belfountain Community Organization and is released six times per year.

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519-927-9762