



www.belfountainvillage.org

The View from Belfountain

October 2006

The View from Here

"When he's working, he wears no clothes," said Amy White. "He hates the cold weather."

Hugged against Ms. White's chest, Chili Bean was shaking under his quilted coat, target of the elements that dripped down on Belfountain's Sept. 30 **Salamander Festival** in its tenth year.

It was raining cats and eight-pound Mexican Hairless dogs, and Chili Bean had stripped naked to mush through tunnels and over jumps leading his Flatface and Friends dog relay team to victory on Linda and Brian Moorcroft's front lawn.

Despite the chill and the rain, a sizable gathering cheered on the highly trained dogs, including three-month-old Lucky, a border collie from Inglewood.

"His father goes to Belfountain Public School," said artist Julia Gilmore, moored to Lucky's leash. "Lucky has been taking it all in. He was most excited."



Photos by Charles Peyton

Super Dogs perform at Salamander Fest.

BCPO Prez Madelon Stevenson judged the festival a "fabulous success, which was amazing considering the weather." The event earned \$2,000, she said.

Some of that profit came from a long lineup for the pancake breakfast at four dollars a pop. *The View's* food critic choked mildly on the artificial pancake sweetener when maple syrup abounds in the area, but gobbled down the roast potatoes with grated organic cheese.

After downing their pancakes, numbers of Belfountain men took in Ishra of Elora's belly dancing performance beside the Belfountain Village Store. They—like Lucky—were most excited, as were a bevy of ululating female admirers.



"Dancing outside is my favourite," said Ishra, 33, svelte mother of four. She was clad in black velvet with gold embroidery and long black hair that swished about a waist that looked like no pancake had ever ventured across her lips. "Today I've opted for the warmer belly dancing outfit."

"Originally belly dancing was by women—not a harem dance," she added. "It's excellent for health, isolating parts of the body, working on the internal muscles."

Before beginning her performance she instructed spectators in the etiquette of high-pitched ululating in appreciation. "It's customary to cover your mouth so you don't see the tongue wagging," said Ishra.

She culminated her show with a fluid *taxin* dance. There were those in the audience who swore the earth moved when she shook her shoulders. A bug-eyed three-year-old dropped his lollipop.

She and some 20 performers will be staging a 'mish mash belly bash' fusion show—jazz, hip-hop, fire dance, belly dance, etc.—on Nov. 11, 8 p.m. at the River Run Centre in Guelph. Consult www.riverrun.ca for more info.

Under cover at Caroline Butson's *Tree of Life Centre for Creativity*, Reshaun Smith, 7, of Mississauga was engaged in painting a picture of his dad and himself, featuring a pale blue head with yellow feet and ten-pink fingers.

"Cool," said coach Miranda McIver, 16, of Caledon, dabbing a tissue at a blue dribble on Reshaun's soccer jacket. "That's a pretty good man."

Asked what had inspired him, Reshaun gave a Mona Lisa smile. "Me and my dad," he said. "Together."

Ms. Butson opens her studio every Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5 for children to paint and do clay modeling and on Dec. 9 will host a multi-media evening with 35 guest artists singing and dancing.



Alpaca from the Blood Moon Alpacas farm near Erin.

At the rear of the church parking lot Joe and Skywalker, two alpacas from the Blood Moon Alpacas farm near Erin, looked on morosely as the festival revellers trooped by. A man called Tom had sheared their \$40-a-pound fleeces earlier in the year—leaving each of them about seven pounds cooler.

At last year's festival, alpaca caregiver Katie, a grade ten student at Erin District High School, had eyed with a certain envy customers buying the \$27 alpaca socks

"I wish," she said then when asked if she was wearing such luxury.

Wish granted. This year she was decked out in a lovely grey pair.

"They're 100 percent nicer than normal socks," she said. "You can wear them forever and you can't wear holes in them."

Just like the Salamander Festival after ten years of wear—still a perfect fit.

David Kendall

To ORB or not to ORB

Every seat was taken Sept. 14 at the community hall to hear about the Orb development proposal to double the Belfountain population with 66 new houses.

Mainly, town planner Glenn Schnarr representing the development, ex-Belfountain architect Robert Boraks, and Peel Region Manager Engineering and Infrastructure Planning Kathy Cater reviewed the twenty-year history of the proposal for the 178-acre tract. Here's what the audience heard:

- The development will build in a nucleus using less than 80 acres. "A small eco-footprint" said Mr. Boraks, "with nice little narrow roads." The remaining 100-acre block will be gifted to a land trust to remain wild forever.

- If Orb encounters excessive resistance, it could sell the land to another developer who would surely push a much more intrusive plan.

- The development as planned cannot go ahead without water. "We're stalled on water supply," said Mr. Schnarr. Peel will not approve an on-site well because it won't generate in excess of 100 gallons a minute. So Orb hopes to pipe in water from Erin. Current villagers would be able to tie into that water at an unspecified cost, providing 66% vote in favour.

- "They have water in Erin," said Ms. Cater. "They don't know how much water they have." That figure will be established by a Settlement Servicing Master Plan study that will take place over two years starting next year, said regional councillor Richard Paterak.

- Development on the Orb (formerly Enterac) property will happen. It falls within the Small Urban Centre village boundary, so the Caledon government, Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Conservation Authority, and the BCPO endorse it in principle, the meeting heard. "Residential development will come to these lands," said Mr. Schnarr.

Based on the above, it would seem that the bulldozers could be lumbering across the cornfields in about three years—say 2010.

— But Maybe Not —

The View has found there is more to the ORB story than meets the ear.

Niagara Escarpment Commission: Forget the year 2010, say NEC mandarins. Even 2015 looks highly unlikely.

NEC Manager Ken Whitbread and NEC Development Control Planner for Caledon Michael Baran both expressed astonishment at the bullish statements heard at the Sept. 14 meeting in Belfountain. "No one in the Commission has been contacted. We're completely in the dark," said Mr. Baran. "There is no draft approval from us. They'll be starting from scratch."

As for piping water from Erin, both officials cited a 'moratorium' under the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act and the provincial Greenbelt Act imposing a delay until the year 2015 before anyone can even file an application to shift water from one urban centre to another.

"The Greenbelt plan says you can't extend pipes and services from existing centres until 2015," said Mr. Whitbread. The Greenbelt rules aim to force growth focus within existing population centres, he explained. "You can't be crisscrossing rural areas."

And if Orb were to sell the land to another developer? "Their big foot in the door is that they're within the Belfountain urban boundary," said Mr. Whitbread. "But they'd still have to meet the environmental standards of the NEC."

Continued on back page...

Continued from: To ORB or not to ORB

Erin Water: As the Sept. 14 meeting heard, the single well drilled on the Orb property has a capacity of 60 gallons a minute and Peel Region is adamant that development approval requires a well of at least 100 gallons a minute. So water almost certainly will have to be piped in.

If Erin does eventually sell water to Belfountain, it will be chlorinated water, Kathy Cater, Peel region's manager engineering and infrastructure planning, recently told the View. That would require a pipe of six to twelve inches in diameter and would likely cost about \$400 a metre installed with complete engineering—at least \$3.5 million in total. Still, she said, Peel currently supplies water to York region and collects its wastewater, so crossing regional boundaries is not without precedent.

But she warned Orb proponents to drop any idea of getting water from anywhere other than Erin. The Terracotta/Cheltenham system is designed exclusively to the dimensions of those two communities, "so they don't have extra capacity". Orangeville doesn't have enough water for its own needs, she said. And Brampton's pipe system reaches only to Mayfield Road.

As for a sewage system for the Orb development, Ms. Cater said: "It's only prudent that the service would be extended to the existing Belfountain community." She dismissed Mr. Boraks' suggestion of purifying the waste water from the community and pumping it back into the ground, citing flood risks and the "very complicated hydro-geology" in the area, which features "fractured rock." The purified water, she said, will have to meet virtually crystalline standards and then be pumped directly into the Credit River.

One of Orb's fallback options would entail replacing the current nucleus development proposal with the original concept of 50-or-less estate lots scattered across the entire acreage. That way, each house would be responsible for its own well and septic system. But NEC manager Whitbread warned: "The trend and thrust of the Greenbelt legislation is to have a common water and sewage system."

That option, said Ms Cater, was largely out of her hands. "That would be development on a private basis with private services, so the region has no involvement. It would be up to the Town of Caledon," she said. "But they'd still have to go through the NEC."

The Hardest Hit: Amid all the development chatter at the meeting, little was heard from the two properties most affected by the onset of new housing.

Paul Montgomery, wife Sharon and three children have lived at 593 Bush Street since 1984. Perched atop a long steep driveway skirting the Belfountain tennis courts, they have a view clear to the Devil's Pulpit.

"We love the view," said Mr. Montgomery, who built their home. "From every direction you can't see a house."

The Orb proposal will feature a dozen estate lots running south of the school on Shaw's Creek Rd. that will abut the Montgomerys' 10-acre spot.

"It's houses. Right now I'm looking at a cornfield, a beautiful cornfield," said Mr. Montgomery. "But I can't be a hypocrite and say I can do it, but you can't. It will affect my view. But as long as I don't end up with Brampton behind me, it's okay."

Barry Haywood, living with Doreen Papport at 17200 Mississauga Rd., the original Blair farm at the end of the winding lane running past the Belfountain Community Hall, is less than "okay" about Orb's scheme.

Where he now sees deer, foxes and coyotes, the main nucleus of the development will cluster above his fence line, which lies some 150 metres from his living room window.

"I'd prefer ten people with 20-acre lots, not a bunch of low-end houses," he said.

He was "aware of the potential for development" when he bought the 11.5-acre homestead in 1994.

Now he fears continuous "noise and people pollution," he said. "I see it as a loss of privacy visually. I'd like fifteen-foot fences to keep people out. The developer could put them up."

The developer should also spend at least \$50,000 on landscaping—including "major trees"—to counteract his loss of privacy, said Mr. Haywood.

"The BCPO is totally pro-the development," he said. "The BCPO meeting (of Sept. 14) was bought and paid for. Every time I tried to get my voice out I couldn't get heard by the BCPO."

What Mr. Haywood Might See: While it's "premature" to get into architectural and price details, said town planner Glen Schnarr, the current proposal's nucleus housing would all be detached single-family homes.

"We'll try to support the heritage character of the village," he said. "They won't be low scale or cheap housing. The cost of servicing the property will mean upscale housing."

But even he conceded: "There's not a lot of confidence around that we'll be successful. The Region hasn't been that supportive."

Instead, he reckons a regular "estate subdivision" with independent wells and septic systems is more likely than the "environmentally friendly" nucleus housing proposal.

"At some time the village will need good water and we're the white knight standing by now ready to provide it," said Mr. Schnarr.

As for the obstacles about piped water raised by the NEC, Mr. Schnarr had this to say: "Let's just say I believe that if the NEC saw our proposal resulting in significant preservation of lands for conservation, I believe they would approve our plan."

New Plastic Crosswalk



Peel traffic manager Jim Carrick in a suit and six men in hardhats on Sept. 25 installed a new crosswalk at the centre of Belfountain.

The last one peeled away in less than a year. The spiffy new \$10,000 one won't, said regional councillor Richard Paterak, who was also on hand.

"Because it's inlaid, the plows won't scrape it away," said Mr. Carrick, promising that the tough thermoplastic material will last at least five years.

BCPO — 10th Salamander Festival

The Belfountain Community and Planning Organization thanks the businesses in our community who have sponsored us for many years: **The Ascot Room, The Belfountain Inn, Caroline Butson's Tree of Life Centre, Casa Lena, Spa at Belfountain** and this year's addition **The Belfountain General Store** — please drop in and say thank you and let them know how much you appreciate their contributions throughout the years.

We would also like to thank the following sponsors:

Alton Players	John Tory MPP
Broadway Musical	Kathy Ellis, Johnson Assoc.
Caledon Fireplace	Laura Berry, Artist
Caledon Golf Club	Mary Klein, Sutton Group
Caledon Ski Club	Martha Summers, Johnson A
CandleMaker Commun.	Mawle Products
Chris Ritchie — ReMax	Michele Skawski, Century 21
Culligan Water	Meekabode — Meek family
Dopplemayr Cable Car	Mundels Hardware
Daferner European Deli	Orb — Toby Barwick
Darryl McNichol Family	Steve Manias, C.A.
David Tilson, MP	SAMS Service Centre
Eco Grouting Specialists	Steen's Dairy
Ed Peavoy Septic	Marc's Valu-Mart
Jeremy Kendall	West Credit Rotary
Caledon Fireplace	

Special *thanks to all* of you who generously donated to our Silent Auction and to the volunteers who helped make the Festival a success.

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 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 an article is the 1st week of December; publication around January 7.

Comings and Goings

Moved:

JEAN COULSON arrived in Belfountain in the 1950's, war bride of Canadian soldier Bob Barrett.

Jean was actually born in Brantford but when she was twelve years old her emigrant father returned to England to work on the family farm. At eighteen she joined The British Army's Auxiliary Territorial Services. Our picture is of Private Jean Bull in 1943. Jean was written up in the book *Fragments of War* as 'The Canadian Girl' in the A.T.S.

When their first daughter was born they named her Letitia after the troop ship that brought them home. Their other children were Stephen, Sandra, Cynthia and Christine. The Barretts lived on Main Street Belfountain for many years. After Bob died in 1985, Jean married Duncan Coulson in 1989 and moved to his home on River Road. Alas, Dunc died in 2003.

Now Jean has left Belfountain to reside in Mountainview retirement home in Georgetown.

Deceased:

GRACE HOBBS was four when her father tragically died on a farm in 1922. Grace's fondest childhood memories were the walks with her widowed along the many Belfountain trails. Even in her 88th year Grace continued to enjoy walking.

Grace took secretarial training and worked during WWII as a supply clerk at the Canadian Air force base in Downsview. She later joined the provincial government where she became a systems analyst.

Grace first purchased her cottage in Belfountain around 1953. Upon retiring in the 1970's she built a new house on her Belfountain Property. There she lived and attended church until last year when she moved into Shepherd's Lodge where she was much loved until her death at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre this October 3rd.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS...

- THEY spoke with forked tongue, it appears, in promising a Belfountain information meeting June 6, last year that the \$6 million Forks of Credit Rd. upgrade would be completed by this Dec. 10. Randy Senko, project manager Region of Peel, has confirmed that just two of the project's four segments will be ready this December. The remaining two segments will wait until the road again closes to traffic next summer from April through September.
- LOCAL resident and current Caledon Ward 1 area councillor Jim Wallace is seeking the Progressive Conservative nomination for the Dufferin-Caledon provincial riding vacated by current MPP John Tory, who recently announced his decision to seek a seat in Toronto for the 2007 election.
- BCPO will host a *Ward 1 All Candidates Meeting* including mayoralty candidates at the Belfountain Community Hall **November 7th** from 7:00 p.m.



Calling All Litter-Haters

Nearly 21 km of Belfountain area roads are seeking ecological individuals, groups or businesses to join Peel's Adopt-a-Road program and clean up the drive-by trash.

Local Re/Max real estate agent Ian Amos and his Aspera Terrent Farm have dropped out of the program after officially adopting the roads over the last three years.

"They have chosen to not renew their participation in the Adopt-a-Road plan," Sally Rook, technical analyst roads Region of Peel told *The View* on Oct. 13. "Their signs have been taken down. I didn't ask them to explain themselves. I wasn't going to dredge up the past."

Mr. Amos did not return our call.

If you'd care to join the program, log on to www.peelregion.ca and go to Public Works and thence to Adopt-a-Road. Adopters are responsible for cleaning from the roadside to the fence line of their adopted road. Peel staff will pick up the amassed rubbish. Peel erects signs noting the name of the adopters at each end of the chosen section. "We'd love to have a flourishing program," said Ms. Rook.