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The View from Belfountain

September 2009



Hello to the Belfountain Community!

As the new principal at Belfountain Public School, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to our community. My name is John Harrower and I have been a teacher with the Peel District School Board since 1978.

My vision is to help every child achieve to the best of their ability in a safe and nurturing environment. I am very excited about my appointment as Principal of Belfountain P. S. and look forward to working with and supporting the energetic and committed staff in our ECO School focus. I expect to be meeting and working with many of you, throughout this school year, through school activities and community events such as the Salamander Festival.

Over the summer, construction began on the playground elements of the Learning Grounds. The trail system, through the playground and teaching/learning areas around the property, was installed in July and August, along with the Rain Garden and the natural Amphitheatre. The Rain Garden will be planted with native species requiring wetlands. The Amphitheatre has seating at the lower end near the stage as well as a wheelchair area located at the top end. This area was recently seeded and is currently fenced off, to allow the seeds to grow and the plants to establish themselves.

The primary play area contains “wacky posts”, “balance” logs, an in-ground slide, and rocks for children to sit on and read during recess periods, if they wish. Three musical instrument areas, a whale drum, bongos, and a xylophone, are ordered and will be installed shortly. The Junior Play Structure has been ordered and Phase will be installed during the

week of September 14th. The Gazebo, outdoor classroom and shelter have been approved and are being



Photos by D. van Ingen

constructed off site. They will be installed in the Learning Grounds when ready.

All of this work has been carried out by a dedicated and hard working group of community volunteers, who have spent countless hours working on completing this project, in partnership with the Peel District School Board, The Ministry of Natural Resources, and Streams Ontario. Much of the material has been donated to the school or offered at cost, by local businesses. I encourage community members to take the time to visit the school grounds to see and experience these exciting changes.

There are still opportunities to get involved in this most worthwhile project. If you are interested in assisting with fundraising, material raising, or construction of the Belfountain School Learning Grounds please contact: Heather Kendall at heatherkendall@rogers.com, or phone 519-927-3061.

Embracing the Democratic Process

A clandestine group of enterprising Caledon Township residents have gathered to ask the question “If we are to think globally, and act locally, what initiative shall we act upon?”

The first idea is to use Belfountain as an example of what can be achieved when everyone pulls together. As a means of preliminary research, we therefore pose to you the following question:

“If Belfountain were to undertake a waste-free initiative, to reduce our overall landfill, would your household participate?”

Please send an email to TheView@belfountain.ca, indicating Yes or No. At this point in our research, your votes may be anonymous!



Cool Finds

What do Ottawa, Paris, Somerset, New York and San Francisco have in common? They are five stops on an education tour that one might take to glean the knowledge necessary to open up your own cidery and bakery. And that is exactly what 4th generation Caledonians Tom Wilson and Nicole Judge have done! This enterprising couple have been studying and building, non-stop, for the past four years, to bring the very best in cider pressing and bread making right into our neighbourhood, at 1137 Boston Mills Road.

Spirit Tree Estate Cidery opens this weekend, September 26th, at 1:00 pm, with tastings and tours for the whole family. The cidery includes an authentic brick oven from which Tom pulls fresh-baked loaves of rustic white, whole wheat, sourdough and Normandy Apple breads. The epis bread, which looks like a wheat stalk, breaks into tasty, crunchy rolls. On the cider side, the couple are experimenting with signature limited edition flavours, the first of which will be crabapple cider. Plans are underway to include a winery side in 2010, which will feature hard ciders such as champagne ciders and ice cider.

Ever the environmentalists, Tom and Nicole have installed geothermal heating in a building of straw bale construction. Every effort has been made to use recycled and rejuvenated décor and displays, and reclaimed brick.

The cidery can press from 1200 to 2000 litres per hour. Starting with scrubbing and mashing the apples, the resulting cider mash is then pressed in an accordion-style press, settled and refrigerated for 24 hours. Spirit Tree cider is pasteurized using a patented UV technology to conserve the vitamins and nutrients. What results is a tangy, robust cider that is both refreshing and nutritious.

Spirit Tree Cidery will be open 9 am to 6 pm from Thursday to Sunday, and holiday Mondays. For further information, surf over to spirittreecider.com, call 905-838-2530, or visit them at 1137 Boston Mills Rd., between Mississauga Rd. and Creditview Rd.

A Fire Hydrant...in Belfountain?



Do trees grow in Brooklyn? Well, yes they do, and we do have a fire hydrant in Belfountain! It was discovered by Marian and Gil Gordon, near the entrance to their Caledon Mountain Drive property. They were pruning overgrown shrubs and discovered the little red plug. Their research unearthed the fact that their house was built by Ray Lawson, of Ray Lawson Boulevard fame in Brampton. Mr. Lawson was a noted and well-loved fire chief for Brampton for many years. As local folklore says, the fire hydrant was installed as a prank and in remembrance by some of the more creative members of his fire brigade.

But alas, much to the chagrin of Gil and Marian and their neighbours, their out-of-context hydrant it is a non-functioning device. So all those within 300 metres, your house insurance premiums will remain unchanged! Although the hydrant now merely is a lawn ornament, it doesn't make a difference to their dog, Finnigan, who seems to like it, a lot!

D. Jobe

It will be all hands on deck for the next **Salamanca Festival** and volunteers are welcome in a number of capacities.

Belfountain Salamander Festival

October 3, 2009
10 am to 3 pm

Belfountain Hamlet & Belfountain Conservation Area

BRING
the **WHOLE**
FAMILY!

Highlights:

- Live entertainment
- Squash soup, bison & elk burgers
- Kids Activities
- Artisans' and farmers' market
- Family hikes
- Huge silent auction and more!

Gliding demonstration and multi-media show by **SABRINA & SCOOTER**, the amazing flying squirrels

Admission to Belfountain Conservation Area is free with a coupon from CVC's booth in the hamlet.

For more information and activity times, visit www.creditvalleyca.ca or www.belfountain.ca

- Energetic and enthusiastic people are needed to help assemble the stage and tents on Thursday, Oct. 1st. Meet at the Church at 5 pm. Rain date Friday, Oct. 2nd.
- This year's Bake Sale is being coordinated by Sara Bohan. All village bakers are asked to drop their contributions off at the bake sale table by 9:30 am on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Please reach Sara 519-316-0060 if you have any questions.
- Ticket sellers are needed, in shifts, throughout the day.

If you wish to become involved, in any capacity, please contact this year's festival coordinator, Grecia Mayers at 519-927-3204.

An Attitude of Gratitude

Belfountain is a special place. We have always felt that it was, but we got to experience directly the actions of the many wonderful people who make the village so great!

It has been a year and a half since we were in a serious car accident. We are still healing, but life is slowly returning to normal, and we would not be where we are without the help of some amazing people. We would like to thank the Belfountain community for their support during this difficult time. People selflessly offered help with transportation and errands, and provided a sympathetic ear (and frequently an opportunity to laugh) when the going was really rough.

We would especially like to thank Charles for stepping up and 'rallying the forces'! He got the word out and organized help at a time when we were paralyzed by the shock of what had happened. While I was in hospital, Yvette had to deal with getting things ready for my return home, while traveling to and from the hospital to see me, and struggling with her own injuries at the same time. I truly don't know what we would have done with the help of our generous neighbours.

We also send a special thanks to Amanda, not just for help with errands, but for also being a great 'sounding board' when we needed to vent... and most of all for being able to get us to laugh!

Thanks also to Jimmy and Myfanwy for transportation, good conversation and kind thoughts. Thanks to Jack for helping with transportation and for checking with us that we had our needs covered. Thanks also to Kim in Erin for help with errands, great food, and a cheerful greeting whenever we saw her. Thanks to Sarah for doggy kisses... the infectious joy of a happy dog is a sure cure for whatever ails you! We hope that we have not forgotten anyone... once we sat down to write this note, we were so flooded with emotion it was overwhelming!

We really cannot put into words the impact that the Belfountain community has had on our lives. We are immensely grateful to everyone for helping us get through this experience, and we are thrilled to have made new friends in the process. Everyone in Belfountain should be proud of this very special place, and of the part that the people here play in making the community as strong as it is.

Noel & Yvette



Mississauga Road Environmental Assessment Process

You may have noticed some new red capped survey stakes in the area, or perhaps even seen a Region of Peel (ROP) survey crew out and about. The ROP is in the midst of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process that covers Mississauga Road, Old Main Street and Bush Street. The EA process is an extensive review of what ecological, social and cultural impact proposed road changes might have. There will be public information sessions to review the findings of the EA, at which we can express our wishes and opinions in terms of the eventual outcome - i.e., the look and feel of Mississauga Road, Old Main and Bush Streets. When it comes to the Hamlet, we can decide whether we want sidewalks and curbs, for one instance, street lighting perhaps. I have also heard through the grapevine that all those wonderful hummocks on Mississauga Road could be on the chopping block - literally - all in the name of safety. This raises the issue that while motorcyclists might not like the road quite as much, a flatter road would enable even faster speeds - now, is that safe? My research suggests that a similar effort was put forward about 15 years ago, which of course, went nowhere.

D. Jobe

Belfountain Police Services Team

The Belfountain Police Services Team comprises Nicola Ross, David Jobe and Doug Beffort (our Town Councillor), along with Caledon OPP Inspector Commander Rose DiMarco and Staff Sergeant of Operations Greg Sweeney. The BCO is very pleased to be receiving this level of service from the OPP. Working in partnership with the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel, we aim to address our local issues of motorcycle noise, traffic volume and speeding motorists, and to examine how they might fit with larger regional or provincial opportunities.

We are learning from the work that our counterparts in Port Dover are performing. Caledon OPP is communicating with the Norfolk County OPP and I have been in touch with a member of the Port Dover Police Services Board. This is all very encouraging, and we hope to be able to report something new soon. Traffic volume and speed counting has been completed and we are analyzing the information to determine how traffic volume and vehicular speed have changed over the years. In the meantime, the Caledon detachment of the OPP is continuing their traffic blitzes on a regular basis and we continue to receive regular updates.

D. Jobe



What's In a Name?

Thanks to everyone who entered the fox-naming contest from the last issue of *The View*. We received ten suggestions for names, which were voted on by 24 attendees at the town meeting in July. First place goes to Carol Williamson for 'Foxy Lady'. Second place goes to Mercedes McCann for 'The Slys', which tied in popularity with 'Trot', suggested by Jack Love. While the foxes have headed deeper into the forest to protect their young as they teach them to hunt, we look forward to their return next spring.



Under 21

Jason Emmerson is an eighteen year old man with an outdoor plan. Jay excels at working with his hands, and excels at small engine repairs as well as a myriad of other things. From tuning up dirt bikes and lawn mowers to welding dump trucks together, he has a remedy for almost anything broken. "I learned a lot from my father and grandfather" he admits shyly, "whenever they were fixing something, they always said 'Jay, come and do this', and I did. They have taught me everything they know." When he isn't busy finishing his Grade 12 and OAC credits, Jay loves to be outdoors, and spends his spare time riding his BMX or fishing. His ambitions are to travel to New Zealand and the Dominican Republic, and to one day build his own house. Jay is available to assist with all of your small and large home repairs, including, incredibly, deck building, roofing, dry walling and installing hardwood floors! Undaunted by hard work, he is also available for yard maintenance, landscaping, and snow removal, His rates range from \$10 to \$15 per hour depending on the work and he loves to be around dogs. He is available after school and on weekends. Reach Jason at 519-927-9279 to book his services in advance.



Message from the Pres

Okay, I admit it. I'm proud of my Guatemalan Blue. She's cute, delicate and each day she turns a bit bluer. Ya, I know, she's only six inches long (Never could parallel park.) – hardly the giant promised on the seed package, but she still has a couple of weeks to prepare for the Squash competition at the Salamander Festival. I'm certain that she'll be crowned Ms. Belfountain Blue and take home the tiara. I do, however, admit to having squash envy. Each time I pass Mark and Abbey Heaton's and see that they've turned their lawn into a pumpkin patch; it occurs to me that perhaps my precious might have some competition. But I know she'll win. It's beauty, not brawn that the judges will be after. I'm sure of it.

See you on October 3rd!

Nicola



COMINGS & GOINGS...

Pinnacle Street's **Richard Zimmerman** Passes Away (1927 to 2009). A Belfountain resident for 22 years, Richard Zimmerman passed away on August 24, 2009. A lawyer and competitive croquet player, Richard was often seen walking into the village to purchase *The Globe and Mail*. He will be deeply missed by Nancy, his wife of 56 years, his four sons and six grandchildren. His Pinnacle Street neighbours report that their "cereal" meetings will never be the same. Richard was a proud mason, a Past Master of Harcourt Lodge #581 G.R.C. and always ready for a good conversation. The BCO sends its condolences to Nancy and the family.

A hearty Belfountain welcome to **Jenna Maxwell, Adrian Stagg**, their son Max and their cat Newbie, who have adopted the original Wayside Inn on Old Main Street. Adrian is an electrical engineer and Jenna is a product placement specialist. The couple moved here from Etobicoke so that young Max, now 17 months old, could have room to run and grow up on country air. Jenna and Adrian welcome their neighbours to just drop in and say hello! Amusing coincidence, Adrian comes from Stratford on Avon, in England, and Jimmy and Myfanwy, the Inn's previous owners, have just moved to Stratford, Ontario!

Les and Finola Judge have moved to Bush Street in Belfountain with their friendly wheaton schnauzer Rupert. The couple has roots in the village dating back to 1953, when Finola's uncle resided here. They are no strangers to country life and environmental initiatives. Les has a special talent for crafting brilliant, useful articles from recycled fabric samples, thus diverting them from landfill. An example of Les' expertise with the needle can be seen in the Silent Auction at the Salamander Festival.

Peter and Jody Bezemer have taken up residence on Old Main just up from the Belfountain Inn. The couple hail from Streetsville, and Peter has already volunteered to get involved in the Salamander Festival!

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