



Murder at the Badlands by Cindy Leeman

The View from Belfountain

www.belfountain.ca

Spring 2011

How to Save a Hamlet

Helen Notzl spoke to residents last February about “How to Save a Hamlet” by recalling the 25-year fight of the Belfountain Task Force to preserve precious natural lands in Belfountain.

Her talk started as a love story when in 1979 Helen and her future husband, Walter Keyser, first came to stay on the Grange. And it concluded as a love story that extended to the land, and the community of Belfountain. This passion has been the drive behind the battle she headed against the Enterac Development Corporation.

Started in 1986, the Task Force was formed when area residents discovered 166 homes were about to be built on a large swath of forested and farmed land reaching between Mississauga Road and Shaw’s Creek Road on the south end of the hamlet. With Helen Notzl’s leadership, this committed group volunteers went up against Bruce McLaughlin’s development company, all but defeating the plans.

Here are some Belfountain Task Force milestones:

- 1986 – First meeting (Caledon Ski Club) where Belfountain Task Force on Development was formed. Helen Notzl agreed to be chairman.
- A survey was taken of all the households in the area affected and the results showed an almost 100% consensus against the development.
- With support of the Niagara Escarpment commission and Credit Valley Conservation behind the Belfountain Task Force, the Enterac application was turned down.
- Enterac appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), a pro-development organization. The Task Force reacted by hiring planner, Ross

Raymond, and lawyer, Judy Hendry, as well as an hydrologist. Initiated by Walter Keyser, \$25,000 seed money was acquired through generous donations.

- At the OMB meeting, Enterac Development was unprepared and was duly defeated by water drainage issues they hadn’t even considered. The Belfountain task force showed the OMB that water runoff as a result of this development would be disastrous to the hamlet.
- Over the years, the Belfountain community raised funds for this battle by donation, auctions and fundraising events, amounting to \$150,000.
- In ’93 the Belfountain Task Force on



Development incorporated and changed its name to the Belfountain Community Planning Organization.

- In 1994, the planning organization hosted “Celebration Escarpment” to highlight the importance of active individual and community protection of the area.
- In 1995, “Vision Day” was held to develop a community concept of Belfountain in the future.

Helen and Walter moved back to Toronto for several years but recently returned as fulltime residents. Belfountain Community Planning Organization continues the fight. Today the Enterac plans include a reduced number of only 44 lots, with water runoff concerns unresolved, and 70% of the original property donated back to the community.

When Helen and Walter moved back to Toronto in 1995, the battle continued under new leadership and is now called the Belfountain Community Planning Organization. These are great strides, but the fight is not finished.



The Prez Message

Buenos Noches! As with most things of this nature, I have mixed feelings about stepping down as president of the BCO. It feels good because I won't have to feel so guilty when I have to miss yet another meeting and David or Allan or whomever has to fill in for me again. But I'll miss doing my part at the helm of our small team of villagers who work incredibly hard to make our community a community. And what a lot these folks have done over the last two years!

We initiated and now have pretty good uptake for Belfountain's Goods Exchange Day in May. We managed to keep Myfawny's Christmas Potluck Dinner going. It's different now, but remains a popular event. We were instrumental in bringing about a motorcycle excessive noise bylaw that comes into effect this year in Caledon (yah!). We've been active with the Mississauga Road environmental impact assessment, listened to villagers and therefore decided to not install portapotties, and who could have missed the wonderful new garden in the village common?

And that's not all. We had a wonderful meeting about solar power earlier this year and if my vision comes true, maybe we'll have a village solar farm that will get us all off the Hydro One "teat." This year we'll be adding a workshop on invasive species that will help our village to become a less weedy place. But the BCO's crowning achievement year after year is the Salamander Festival. Most people, even those who help out with this annual event, probably don't recognize how important it is to our community's health. It may only be one day a year, but on that day, the community comes out in droves. I can't tell you how happy it makes me when I see mums and dads having a coffee (organic, free trade and donated) and chatting with friends as their kids take off to make pots with Wendy Burke or get Lynn Wood to paint their faces. It's great having tourists come to this event, but for me, it's a day of catching up with neighbours, many of whom I seldom see, life being what it is. The Salamander Festival works because it is a community event, organized by villagers, attended by residents and supplied by local businesses.

I'll let the show go on, but before I do, I want to thank all of Belfountain for supporting the BCO and making this a great village. And, more importantly, I want to thank all of the BCO directors and volunteers who work so hard to keep the organization active, responsive and fun. It has been great working with you, getting to know each of you and sharing with you that old community feeling.

Nicola Ross



Book Review: *No Signposts in the Sea*

by Vita Sackville-West

Our century-long fascination with the Bloomsbury Set, their love triangles, ideas and art, continue to hold us in thrall. Author Vita Sackville-West, a peripheral member, became Virginia Woolf's lover for a period of time while remaining solidly married. That fact is interesting in view of the constant discussion by Laura and Edmund in *No Signposts in the Sea*, of what makes for an ideal marriage. I can't help thinking that some of Laura's ideas about romantic love and jealousy came directly from the author's own point of view and that she cast herself in the role of love object, Laura. The book has much material for Bloomsbury scholars to mull.

The book itself plays out like a melodrama, an opera where the male lead, Edmund, is poised to die at the exact time the truth about Laura's feelings is revealed. Sackville-West has made an amateur's mistake, though. The characters' voices are hard to distinguish and many times I went back to verify who was speaking, because the sentence structures were identical for each character. They sound like Siamese-twin upper class twits with correct-for-the-times grammar. As educated people they might have written letters in that manner, but real people seldom speak in full, formal sentences. For dialogue to work it needs to feel plausible.

I try to imagine someone so bloodless as Edmund living in this world and I think it might be possible. In truth, the culture of private boy's schools in England might very well have produced so restrained a heart. Edmund seems to me a portrait of latent homosexuality, but I don't think that was Sackville-West's intention.

The mysterious snippets of poetry and prose throughout, I think, were an attempt at creating a look into a somber, artistic soul. Though when we are finally shown it was Edmund all along writing these pieces, I wasn't confident that Sackville-West was using them as a device to show him as a pretentious dilettant.

What rang true for me in the book was Edmund's obsessive jealousy. This is where I began to feel as though the author had some experience with the subject. When Laura talks about the Lesbian couple and their jealousy problem, I began to wonder how close to the bone this problem lay.

Virginia Woolf's books continue to be made into films like "Orlando" or "The Hours". Vita Sackville-West's gardens continue to inspire modern landscape design. Enough said.

Amy Phelan, Belfountain Library Book Club

Cindy Leeman, Artist



Cindy Leeman's painting, 'Murder at the Badlands', refers to a 'murder' or flock of crows. Here she illustrates an old, English nursery rhyme about magpies first recorded in 1780—in North America, the birds are often shown as crows:

One for sorrow,
Two for mirth,
Three for a wedding,
Four for a birth (or death),
Five for silver,
Six for gold,
Seven for a secret, not to be told,
Eight for heaven,
Nine for hell,
And ten for the devil's own self.



Cindy Leeman's painting studio is beside the Belfountain Community Centre where classes are also held.

Pond Hockey on Alton Millpond



Here are the Belfountain Bulldogs for 2011: Peter Bezemer, Larry Evans, Mark Kowalchuk, Darryl Mabee, Dave Murray, Tony Pereira, Andy Ross, Richard Thompson (Goal), Bob Waldon. Coaching & Management: Jack Love and Yours Truly.

Saturday and Sunday January 29th and 30th were two extraordinary days; the weather was spectacular; it was great to be home again in beautiful Belfountain after a week away; and it was the pond hockey tournament in Alton, on the historic Alton Millpond. What an experience it was to participate in this event. What could be more quintessentially Canadian than hockey on a frozen solid pond surface, outside on a cold, brilliant Saturday and Sunday in late January, clear fresh air filling your lungs.

Belfountain was there—represented by a great group of guys; a rag tag team some might say, most not knowing the others. Having said that, the team worked well together demonstrating great passing technique and skating ability minute after excruciating minute. But alas, in spite of everything, valiant individual and tremendous team efforts included, we fell to the relative strength of both games' opposing teams, the Caledon Village Vipers on Saturday and the Alton Action Heroes on Sunday. At tourney's end, we brought up the rear, in 4th place. We all had a blast, and are looking forward to next year—isn't that what anyone says who comes in last...perhaps it was our blue and white jerseys we were given to wear which jinxed us.

To all players, thank you for sharing your skill, professionalism and enthusiasm for the game; all which shone through when you played so well together, without ever having met as a team, with a coach (me) who had know idea what he was doing. Amazing and well done. In pond hockey, positions don't matter, everyone is everywhere, aren't they?

Some of our players stood out...Bob Waldon, our most senior player I reckon, could be seen prostrate on the ice in a state of frustration, pain, agony, exhaustion, anxiety, humour or whatever, several times at any point during the game. He did pick himself up though, thank goodness. He reminded me of his lightning speed and devastating slap shot prior to release of this article - I had somehow forgotten. Darryl Mabee, not the most agile man ever having donned two skates and referred directly to his face by Ray Scapinello, our official and a renowned member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, as 'the worst hockey player he has ever seen', provided yeoman defence whenever the puck entered the Bulldog's zone. It was widely known that Ray harassed all the players in a unique but similar jocular manner—his way of coaching and confidence/team building, I suppose.

I would also like to extend the appreciation of the Alton Millpond Rehabilitation Project Committee for supporting the cause, and that of the Town of Caledon for enhancing the community in which we live. The Belfountain team players and their families contributed more than \$500 to the Alton Millpond Rehabilitation Project, for the opportunity to play in the tournament and enjoy a delicious BBQ steak dinner inside the Mill Saturday evening.

We will be changing our name to the Belfountain Blues for 2012; and hopefully will not be singing the blues! In the meantime, you may see us practicing on a frozen pond near you; if you do, honk your horn in support (we need encouragement), and think back to days of yore...to a simpler time. 'Till next year!!

By David Jobe (Coach Wannabe)



The View from Belfountain...

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To receive your **e-issue**, please send us an email, with your full name and street address included to:

theview@belfountain.ca

Please send submissions to the Editor:

Amy Phelan, phelan.amy@hotmail.ca

or call 519-927-5899

Fast & Fabulous in Belfountain

- ✓ You worked all week, you made the deadline and all you want to do is curl up on the couch. But there's nothing in the fridge.
- ✓ The bike tires are pumped, the chain is oiled, you're ready to roll, but where's the picnic?
- ✓ The guests are arriving at 5:00 PM and you need something fast and delicious.
- ✓ You just love great food.

Here's four stores to get what you need:



Belfountain Village Store

General store with a focus on food, Groceries and gifts.

Menu

Grilled Panini & Pizza

Made with gourmet ingredients: organic spinach, chicken, sun-dried tomatoes, aged cheddar, pesto, garlic spread, artichokes, pears...

Veggie Samosas & Dip

Beverages: *Canned, bottled and hot or cold local cider*

Specializing in: Picnic Baskets

Packed to order with drinks, snacks, sandwiches, cheeses, biscuits, pepperettes, pickles... and even a cloth to sit on.



Heatherlea Farms

Working farm and store featuring additive-free products.

Menu

Pies

Chicken pot pie, Irish meat pie (with Guinness beer), Shepherd's pie

Bison Chili & Homemade Soup

Mac & Cheese with a Twist
with ham

Fruit Pies & Apple Crisp

Specializing in: additive-free food prepared from scratch.

Just heat and serve. Add fresh produce in season.



The Shed

Village coffee shop and events producer.

Menu

Gourmet Coffee and Teas

Scones, Bagels, Cookies & Cakes

Made in local kitchens

Soups

Roasted red pepper & basil, mushroom & leek, tomato & tarragon...

Coming Soon: Specialty Teas

Tea lattes and loose teas with natural ingredients: cocoa, pina colada...



Tammeron Centres for Wellbeing

Self development, education centre

Menu

Zucchini Noodles & Sauce

Creamy garlic or tomato

Raw Burgers, Tacos, Nut Balls & Pate

Made from various blends of ingredients such as nuts, vegetables, and sunflower seeds and wrapped in collard greens.

Quinoa Chili, Soup of the Day

Dips & Sauces

Desserts & Chocolates

Chocolate or cranberry mousse, dairy-free ice cream, Cheesecakes, energy bars and handmade chocolates

Beverages & Snacks

Specializing in: raw, vegetarian, organic foods

Non-gluten & dairy-free



Solar Power

World events have all of us questioning our energy sources, from oil to nuclear. We must be able to move our energy focus from the greenhouse gas producing to renewable. Solar is an important part of this shift. Solar is silent with no moving parts, no emissions, no pollution with no lasting effect on the natural environment and it is recognised as one of the most environmentally friendly energy sources in the world.

There are a many reasons why families are considering installing solar power on their homes and properties. Things have changed significantly at the provincial level, with the Province using the generation of Solar Power as one of the ways to meet their renewable energy goals. The Green Energy Act allows residents, businesses and farmers to install solar generating units and feed the power they generate back into the hydro grid. The individual, in effect, becomes a small power producer and earns revenue in the process. This is called the Micro Feed in Tarriff program (MicroFIT).

From an energy generation standpoint there are terrific benefits:

- Power is generated locally meaning there are fewer losses of power through the transmission lines.
- Solar power production is at its peak when our power demands are the greatest- mid day during the summer.
- It's clean power- no greenhouse gas production, helping Canada meet its carbon reduction goals.

Solar cells produce a regular stream of power over a long period of time. Solar panels are generally guaranteed to produce power at peak levels for 25 years and will continue to produce power for many years longer. In other areas of the world, where solar has been part of the energy mix for longer, panels are still producing well 40 years after they were initially installed.

For you as an individual, the Green Energy Act means you will be paid to produce power. The rate paid for rooftop generation is 80.2 cents per kilowatt hour. Rates vary from this amount based on the system size and whether or not the system is ground mounted. The provincial government has tried to create an opportunity that will encourage solar power production and investment.

The system that I am proposing for our property at 699 Bush St. would be situated beside the barn. It would be two rows of 26 panels for a total of 52 panels. This would be a 10kW system and qualifies as a MicroFIT project. The initial investment in our solar system should be paid for in approximately 10 years and the remainder is my return on investment. The system should be producing power for the next 35 to 40 years. This is one small step that will help reduce our dependency on dirty coal and other dangerous forms of generation and move us to a clean, modern and reliable energy future, enabling Caledon to remain as the greenest town in Ontario.

*By Derek Wilson,
www.EcoAltEnergy.com*



Photo by Mark Robins

Live Music at The Shed with Danny DePoe, last January.



Decade of Biodiversity

Focus on Biodiversity was brought about in 2010 by the UN's International Year of Biodiversity. Japan recently called on the U.N. to declare 2011 to 2020 the Decade of Biodiversity because of the need for more work to be done. The UN responded in agreement so we are now embarking on the **International Decade of Biodiversity** and 2011 has been declared the "[International Year of Forests](#)"— to help do our part encouraging diverse plant growth.

Pulling for Biodiversity: Managing Invasive Plants Workshop for Landowners & Gardeners

Many of us have been struggling to manage invasive species on our properties. This Spring the BCO, funded by the Town of Caledon's Greenfund programme, is offering a workshop lead by Credit Valley Conservation and professional property managers Urban Forest Associates on how to control invasives. This workshop is for anyone who has any size property, large or small, and would like to learn how to control and manage invasive species such as garlic mustard, Norway maple, Manitoba maple, and many more.

Pulling for Biodiversity: Workshop for Landowners

Date: Saturday, May 14, 2011
Time: 9:30 - 1:30 (light lunch provided)
Location: at a location to be announced
Cost: FREE

Registration opens online at www.creditvalleyca.ca on Wed., April 13, 2011. For more information contact Holly Nadalin at 800-668-5557, ext. 449.



WANTED DEAD: Garlic Mustard a highly invasive plant that will choke out native species.

International Biodiversity Day Community "Garlic Mustard Pull"

Date: Saturday May 28, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, free BBQ lunch
Location: Belfountain Conservation Area
Cost: FREE

"Pull" the community together; your help is needed to remove garlic mustard from our Belfountain hamlet and the Conservation Area. Come out for a fun morning of removing Garlic Mustard, learn how to help control the spread of invasive species, and how garlic mustard, Norway Maple, Manitoba Maple, etc. can impact your forest community and biodiversity.

Celebrate your efforts during the bag count with FREE BBQ at the Conservation Area.

For more information contact Lindsey Jennings at 800-668-5557, ext.445 or ljennings@creditvalleyca.ca



Community Pull-a-thon: How much can you bag?

*Ann Seymour
Pulling for Biodiversity*



Urgent Request from Whole Village

A letter from Whole Village to the Belfountain community came to our notice and we are printing it here:

Dear friends and supporters of Whole Village:

In the past you have shown interest in Whole Village through attendance at our orientations, work bees and other events, or through other kinds of support. We are writing to you now to tell you that our eco-village community is in crisis, in the hope that you may be able to help.

If you are willing to work with us to take concrete steps to revitalize the community, please contact us. If you have ever seriously considered living in an eco-village and think you might someday choose to do so, note that we are the only established community in Ontario, and now is the time to join us.

We have accomplished a great deal in the past ten years of the Whole Village project, from buying the property and building our community house, to developing a very successful CSA, planting 12,000 trees, and hosting many WWOOFERS, volunteers and school groups, as well as workshops, concerts, and many other social and community development projects. We now have a solar hot water system. We have become a presence in the surrounding community through member participation in political, environmental, social, agricultural, and community service organizations.

Our crisis arises from the fact that over the five years that we have lived together in Greenhaven, several of our original members have left for various reasons, and we have been unsuccessful in replacing them with new members buying in. We need new members who are willing and able to make the financial commitment by buying a suite, and the personal commitment of time and energy that is necessary to keep this important project thriving.

We get many inquiries from people who want to start their own eco-village or intentional community. If this fits your situation you could save yourselves and your group a tremendous amount of time and energy by joining us in our already-built and well-functioning community house. We would welcome new energy and new ideas and are open to changes that are in harmony with our goal of living in a consensus-based community that is dedicated to living with an ever-decreasing ecological footprint and stewarding our 191-acre organic farm.

There are opportunities here for entrepreneurial people to start farm-based businesses. For example, we have contacts interested in purchasing organically-grown cut flowers, or heritage seeds. Whole Village would also be a good place to run retreats and environmentally focused education projects. If you are looking for a supportive environment in which to start a business, this could be the place for you. Imagine working and living on the land!



Finally, if you have ideas about how we can raise a large amount of money to buy out members who have left (approximately \$1 million), please let us know. Thank you for your interest in and support of our community. We hope to hear from you. Why not come to a work bee, or stay at our bed and breakfast, drop by on our monthly games night, or...

phone 519-941-1099,

email us, info@wholevillage.org, or

check our web-site at www.wholevillage.org.

What we need most is concrete offers of help and participation. If you are ready to make such an offer, please contact us.

The Whole Villagers



Belfountain Coffee Club

Every Friday 10:30 AM at The Shed

Join us for a short stay, or a longer stay, sippa cuppa java, or for a change of pace, or venue; we are an informal group interested in good conversation! We might even solve a problem or two.