



www.belfountain.ca

# The View from Belfountain

Summer 2010



## And the award goes to...

Belfountain Public School has made major headlines this past month, earning three awards of tremendous distinction in the field of environmental education. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the school received the prestigious Edward Burtynsky Award from the Institute of Child Study at OISE, University of Toronto. This award recognizes and celebrates outstanding elementary school teachers in the province of Ontario who, through their exemplary teaching methods, create learning situations that inspire students to become environmentally conscious, responsible stewards who take sustainable actions that protect and restore the environment, thereby preserving our earth and creating hope for future generations.

Belfountain Public School has also received the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) K-12 Award for outstanding contribution to environmental education and learning; and the Friends of The Credit Certificate of Merit Award for the adoption of an ecological focus in the delivery of Ontario's Elementary Curriculum and on-the-ground projects to restore and enhance the Credit River Watershed.

BPS is the first primary level public school in the province to offer a school-wide eco-based curriculum. Their mission is to develop environmental, authentic learning for head, heart and hands by combining environmental education and conservation with outdoor recreation. The

school's goals are to foster in students eco-literacy, learning by living, an environmental ethic and a philosophy of contributing to their community.

"We've seen first-hand how hard our entire staff have worked to build the school's eco program and we're so proud that this remarkable effort is now being recognized by their peers," said Heather Kendall, who co-chairs the Belfountain School Council along with Kara McIntosh.

"We're all so grateful for the dedication of our school's entire staff to make learning fun and engaging by connecting our children in a meaningful way to the environment around them," said McIntosh. Heather and Kara wish to encourage all Belfountain residents to go back to school! Take a stroll through the learning grounds this summer, or stroll among the trees planted to create a wildlife corridor. You can also visit the school website at:

<http://schools.peelschools.org/1458/Pages/default.aspx> .



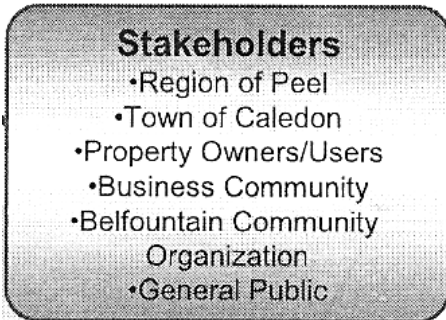
## 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Please come and join us!

Belfountain Village Church celebrates its 175th Anniversary on Sunday, September 12th at 9:30 am.

## May you pillage a village in the name of profit?

Much like nearly 50 other Belfountain residents, I attended the Region of Peel's Public Information Centre for Mississauga Road/Old Main Street and Bush Street project, held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Community Centre. By the time I had run half the gauntlet, a tight horseshoe of tables, easels and suited representatives standing around with their hands in their pockets, I found a piece of information that was alarming in its significance. In two previous BCO meetings held on this topic, with the engineers from the RoP Public Works department and Town of Caledon representatives, I developed a very strong sense that the Mississauga Road/Bush Street project is nothing more than business as usual for the commercial force that is the Region of Peel, and we are to play their willing dupes.

I attach their list of stakeholders, extracted from their own publication, and part of their PIC, for your consideration. Look who is at the top, and who is at the bottom.



Consider, dear villagers, that there is no cost/benefit comparison on the re-structuring vs. simple resurfacing of the roads in question, even though the BCO has requested one. The pale evidence of need for this expensive, disruptive roadwork was conveyed solely by photographs of puddles by the roadside (pit stops for frogs and salamanders?), and, heaven forbid, ditches full of wildflowers, behaving, of course, wildly – clearly something up with which we should not put.

A very dangerous term was bandied about – urban profile. This is the term for curbs, sidewalks, and drains. Sidewalks will be piled with snow all winter, by the plows, and will be yours to shovel, by law. Drains will disturb all surface water flow rates, spring, summer and autumn, and concentrate any persistent pollutants in one sick stream, instead of letting the gravel, limestone and soils under our feet neutralize and disperse them. The curbs, naturally, will necessitate a re-invention of the edge to your

driveway. The enhanced traffic flow that the new and improved roads will magically accommodate will of course make it increasingly dangerous to use your driveway.

Please remember, there is no basis in engineering to suggest we need this work yet. Road enhancements are not the answer to the challenges we face with daily speeding motorists and the weekend influx of tourists. There is a smarter way to ensure the safety of our children en route to and from the public school, and to protect pedestrians coming in from the Caledon Mountain Estates, and it's up to us to find it.

Clearly, our local governments have become corporations, dedicated to effectively moving extracted resources from one place, in the face of massive protest, and selling them back to us in another, without our permission, at tax payers' expense. Everywhere I listen, and look, the RoP are presenting this as a *fait accompli*, and it will be unless you participate in an audible and persistent way.

There are now focus group meetings scheduled for day and evening at the end of June, and again in September, to review all comments gathered from and since the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please contact Solmaz Zia, Project Manager, to be included. Phone is 905-791-7800, Ext. 7845 or email [solmaz.zia@peelregion.ca](mailto:solmaz.zia@peelregion.ca).

It is said you can take the girl out of the village, but you can't take the village out of the girl. Every time I pass a gravel pit in our neighbourhood, I silently weep and have to look away. The scars on our landscape are insult enough; now our rural heritage is at stake, and if we wish to remain an oasis of ecological sanity between Brampton and Orangeville, we have to say no to the people and corporations like the Region of Peel, who obviously just don't get it.

*Amanda Elias*

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## In Everlasting Memory

A heartfelt thanks to Ann Seymour for the thoroughly and thoughtfully enduring the application process to have James B. Douglas posthumously inducted to the Caledon Walk of Fame. In this honour, Jimmy joins other notable Caledon residents such as Norman Jewison, Elmer Iseler, Conn Smythe, Daphne Lingwood, Robertson Davies, Robert and Signe McMichael, and Farley Mowat. The Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Full details and Jimmy's bio are available at [www.belfountain.ca](http://www.belfountain.ca).



## As Perennial as the Grass

Since the 1940's urbanites have flocked to Belfountain and surrounding hills to enjoy our endless stretches of tree-lined roads and rolling fields. So motorcycle traffic is not news. Long-time Belfountain residents like to blame Garth Turner and his motorcycle-specific parking lot, but bikes will come, with or without the General Store. The internet abounds with blogs and message boards describing the freedom and escape our hills offer. There is even a video on YouTube. With the deluge of motorcycles encroaching on our peace and quiet yet again this summer, it's a good time to be clear on the exact problem.

Most riders, about 90% of them, (by local random interview) ride for freedom; they ride quietly, respectfully, and are fully conscious of their impact on the communities they visit. Their exhaust systems are unmodified. They even bring travel mugs to mitigate waste. The way that they ride is a reflection of who they are when they are off their bikes.

The other 10%, the belligerent, modified-exhaust rev-limiter ignoring bunch, well, they ride for rebellion. And the way that they ride is also a reflection of who they are when they are off their bikes. They are noisy, disruptive, and seemingly indifferent to their impact on people around them. They are, if you will allow the comparison, the bullies of the bike world. Their exhaust systems are modified so you can hear them approaching, passing through, and leaving. Their noise doesn't bother them one bit. They defend their choice to be loud by saying that drivers in closed vehicles can't see them, because they have yet to learn how to stay out of a driver's blind spot! Ultimately, they crave attention, even negative attention and are prepared to act up to get it.

So, how do we learn to adapt to this invasive species of biker bully?

**Number One:** Don't vilify all bikers, it doesn't help. Many rally rides that pass through Belfountain are on major fundraisers, for prostate

cancer, Big Brothers, Junior Diabetes — you name it, they ride for it. They even ride for the pink ribbon. They are family men and women pursuing their own form of recreation and most do it with courtesy.

**Number Two:** Engage the law where we have it on our side. The BCO, in co-operation with the OPP, the Town of Caledon, and RoadWatch, released the first edition of 'A Motorcyclist's Handbook to Riding in Caledon' in June. This is a breakthrough initiative to raise awareness with the motorcycle community about respectful, safe and quiet riding in Caledon. Copies are available in the parking lot in the centre of town. The handbook is one aspect of a larger communications program the OPP will be participating in, as vehicle and motorcycle safety and noise-reduction opportunities are addressed. And no, the handbook alone is not enough, but it's a strong start.

**Number Three:** Engage our governments. We are working on bylaw and legislation revisions that will add traction to the Highway Traffic Act in the area of noise compliance. Accurate sound-level metering technology is available but expensive, ergo police departments can't afford it, but governments can. Have you ever wondered why motorcycles are exempt from emissions tests prior to license renewal? Emissions testing has successfully removed most ancient and poorly maintained vehicles from our roads. A very thoughtful non-resident recently offered up the idea that perhaps an annual sound and emissions test is a permanent, viable solution.

Lastly, let us respect our fellow residents who think it really is okay to have a noisy weekend here and there, those who believe we should let it ride. Remember that opinions are like elbows - everyone has a couple!



### From The President

Given the concentration of motorcycles in the village these days, it might surprise you that the BCO is working really hard to figure out some solutions to what we consider a big problem. I know that those of you who are bothered by the noise and speeding might wonder if the new handbook will have any effect. Time will tell.

As part of the Environmental Assessment process for Mississauga Road including Old Main Street, we have requested traffic calming devices that should discourage some motorcycles. Most recently, we have decided to look into charity ride events. On Saturday, June 5, the Motorcycle Ride for Dad – Peel rolled through the village. While it's a worthy cause (prostate cancer), the roar made by some of the motorcycles makes it hard to believe that noise levels were not being broken. That the police escort the ride means that they are condoning illegal pipes. The ride website (<http://www.motorcycleridefordad.org/peel/about-us>) has a lengthy list of rules, but I couldn't find any mention of the need to keep the noise down.

The Goods Exchange Day was a great success, the gardens in the centre of the village have been given a good cleanup and the BCO received some funding from the Town of Caledon for a program on invasive weeds.

As summer picks up steam, the BCO's focus is turning to the Salamander Festival that will take place on Saturday, October 2. We would love to have some extra help for the Salamander Festival. There are all kinds of jobs, big and small, that need doing. If you have an hour or two to spare, please consider helping out. It's a lot of fun and great community building.

Thanks to all BCO directors. You guys are great!

Have a great summer.

*Nicola Ross*

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### *In The Village Commons*

Our village's centre triangle is to be reclaimed and modestly re-built this summer in Phase I of the makeover! The existing garden cribs will be re-stained and maintained, with the assistance of crews from the Town of Caledon. All subsequent renovations will be postponed until the Region of Peel have finished their EA process and road enhancements. Local suppliers and contractors are being engaged to work on this project.



### Where is your Village voice?

The BCO currently serves 189 village households and 39 rural residences on Shaw's Creek, Grange Road and Mississauga Road. Since 2007, our paid membership has soared from 13 to 65! In addition, 74 households have registered to receive an e-View. As a village our voice has really grown, so thanks to everyone who joined us over the past year. New residents are encouraged to hop on board. Individual memberships are \$2 per year, family memberships are \$5 per year.



### Our Tech Squad

After five years as our loyal webmaster, David Burke has passed the torch to Darryl Mabee. David has built our on-line presence over the years and many a returning tourist have checked in to the web-site for Salamander dates, back issues of *The View* and notes on coming events. Thank you David, we are deeply grateful for your efforts. With the number of projects now being tackled by BCO volunteers, the website will be an important tool for keeping in touch. "Perhaps we need a blog" suggests Darryl, "so we can reach our neighbours." Darryl, put down the Blackberry and do like your BPS sweatshirt says – Belfountain. Get Outside!

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### A Directory of Local Talent

In a preliminary survey, 15 local businesses have expressed an interest in making their services readily available to local residents. The Belfountain Business Directory is coming soon to a desktop near you! To join the directory, contact [davidjobe@sympatico.ca](mailto:davidjobe@sympatico.ca).



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### Belfountain Library

Summer Hours – July and August

Tuesday 4-8      Wednesday 10-2

Thursday 1:30-8      Saturday 10-4

Join in on our Summer Reading Programs for adults, teens and children (prize gift baskets). Also this summer: Photo contest, Summer Poetry contest and Short Story Contest. As well as, the latest books/paperback, magazines, DVDs, audio books, or browse the internet. Details at your library, phone 519-927-5701.

**Letters to the Editor**

I attended Peel Region’s info night for the Mississauga Rd. construction project at the community center. I will not say that I am disgusted with the Region, anymore that I ever am with government people, but I told them, rather strongly, as more people should, to keep their hands off of this community! Leave our old broken COUNTRY ROAD alone.

Our road is rustic (not old and broken), yes it matches our hamlet, and we like it just fine. Take down our hills and flatten our area? Why is this place called “The Caledon Hills”? Once you have flattened Caledon’s hills, what’s next? Keep driving your development west and go to B.C. and flatten the rocky mountain roads?

Don’t come here peddling your fear of our road collapsing just because there is a puddle beside it. I saw how you already paved the Forks over near McLaren Rd, when there was nothing wrong with it. You got federal money and just spent it for the sake of spending it. You know we have 230 or so people in this Hamlet and Peel Region sent 13 people to this meeting, no doubt on time and half pay. That is 5 % of our total population. I’d rather see you take this money and buy an MRI machine for some small hospital somewhere.

Take your artery-plugging Timbits and your PowerPoint, jackets and ties, and college educations that are contrivances of your urban world, and find somewhere else to create the need for your employment. We are a rural village, this is OUR hamlet and we like it just fine the way it is. Get out of town and back to your flat and concrete neighbourhoods, but leave my home alone!

*Wade Domet*



**Enterac Lands Re-Secured**


A group of residents from the Caledon Mountain Estates gathered at the silo property on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to re-secure the entrance and remove several truckloads of scrap metal. Assisted by the Town of Caledon, volunteers have removed dangerous debris and blocked the driveway once again, to prevent a continuation of the recent spate of late night dumping on the site.

**— To Do This Summer —**

[www.greentcaledon.ca](http://www.greentcaledon.ca): an engaging mediated discussion of all topics Caledon and green, monthly, all summer long.

[www.creditvalleyca.ca](http://www.creditvalleyca.ca): lists activities at Terra Cotta and Belfountain Conservation Areas, focusing on youth and rural land stewardship.

Inglewood Farmer’s Market: enjoy local food and fun among friends Wednesdays 4 till 7 all summer long, Inglewood General Store.

 Belfountain Salamander Festival: Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, rain or shine!



**Adopt a Church**

Melville Church on Mississauga Road is falling into disrepair and is in need of painting. While the search for funding is underway, and the BCO and Belfountain Heritage Society look for ways to join forces to restore this

local gem, all suggestions are welcome. The church is available for traditional wedding and baptism rentals, and would also make an excellent venue for a play or theatre production. Inquiries are easily made at [belfountainheritage.com](http://belfountainheritage.com).

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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](mailto:theview@belfountain.ca), or Editor: [Amanda@rippleforce.com](mailto:Amanda@rippleforce.com) 519-927-9762