



Small is Beautiful.

The View from Belfountain

December 2014

~ Upcoming Events ~

Community Potluck

at the Belfountain Community Hall, Saturday, December 13th from 5–9 pm. Bring your favourite dish, as well as your own dinnerware.

RSVP to Judy Mabee to reserve seating: 519-316-0222 or externalvp@belfountain.ca.

Candlelight Service

at Belfountain Community Church on Tuesday, December 23rd, 2014 at 7:30 pm. Special music to be enjoyed. Refreshments to follow.

Belfountain Community Meeting

Town & Regional councillors will attend. Updates on recent issues. Early January 2015—watch for an email notification, or check the Village bulletin boards.

BCO Annual General Meeting

at Belfountain Community Hall, Thursday, January 29th, 2015 at 7 pm.

BCO Annual Membership Form in this issue.

New members welcome! (See page 6.)



The View from Belfountain...

is available online: <http://www.belfountain.ca>

Have News For The View? If you would like to write an article or have news of the comings and goings of Belfountain and area residents, we invite you to contact us at:

theview@belfountain.ca

2014 The Year in Review

Last February, you elected a brand-new board for the Belfountain Community Organization, who promised to take action on the proposed ORB development on behalf of the many residents who were opposed to it.

What has that Board been doing for you over the past ten months?

While investigating ORB topped the list, the Board quickly discovered that there were three additional major issues for Belfountain:

- the Regional Roads project,
- the proposed Conservation area expansion, and
- Heritage Designation for Belfountain.

These four issues have involved hundreds of hours of volunteer time on the part of Board members and others. In particular, we would like to acknowledge President, Jenni Le Forestier, who has been working essentially full-time to serve the community since taking office. The View would also like to recognize the organizers of the BCO's two major fundraisers—Lobsterfest: Mary Lawrence, and the Salamander Festival: Grecia Mayer, Madelon Stevenson, & Judy Mabee.

What about ORB?

We are now aware that the ORB developer proposes to double the hamlet population by building sixty-six houses on the 177-acre crescent of land south of Belfountain stretching from Mississauga Road to Shaw's Creek.

The reality is that this land is within the boundaries of the village, so the Developer has the right to submit an application for development. However, this does not mean it will be accepted if we as a community are prepared to stand up and fight it.

The development approval process started on June 12th when the developer met with planning representatives from the Region of Peel, The Town of Caledon, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. These organizations each have a say as to whether this development will be able to go ahead and under what conditions.

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A Tribute to Frank and Sylvia Schenk

With the accidental death of Frank Schenk on December 3, 2014, the Schenk family suffered a great loss. Sadly, Frank fell from a ladder and hit his head on the concrete edge of one of his beautiful stone walls.

Tragically, his dear wife Sylvia died only five days later, on Monday, December 8.

They will be greatly missed by the community and all those whose lives they touched.



Frank Schenk with one of his 400 bluebird boxes.

Frank and Sylvia and their family established and grew a perennial plant business where they planted hostas, wildflowers and specialized shade plants each spring in their cedar-ringed nursery on River Road. Their astilbes were to weep for. Their donated blossoms were an item at every silent auction from the Salamander Festival to the Headwaters Hospital Dance.

For years, Frank planted and cared for the Belfountain public garden at the junction of Main and Bush Sts. He spent hours working voluntarily on this garden as well as the cemetery gardens, accepting only a token fee to cover some of the costs.

Frank came to Canada in 1958 and purchased the Belfountain property in 1962. Although both he and Sylvia were Swiss, they actually met in Toronto in 1963. They were married in 1965 in Erin. Frank and Sylvia were a devoted couple who did everything together.

In 2011, Frank received the Environmentalist of the Year award from the Caledon Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) for helping to reintroduce bluebirds to Belfountain and Caledon. Over the past 40 years, he established and maintained over 400 bluebird boxes in the area.

And now, two lives that flowered in Belfountain have been too early plucked.

Thank you, Frank and Sylvia. Without you we are reduced.

On behalf of the Belfountain Community Organization, *The View* would like to extend deepest sympathies to the Schenk family. Your loss is Belfountain's loss.

Frank and Sylvia Schenk were the loving parents of Anita Schenk and her husband Dave Craughwell of Mono, and Mike Schenk and his partner Jeri Parrent of Wiarton. Cherished Grosvati of Meghan and Kaitlyn. Dear to brother Werner Schenk and Dory Ramseier, and predeceased by brother Robert Schenk (Margrit).

A Private Family Service will take place at the Butcher Family Funeral Home, Main St. S., Erin, followed by Interment at Belfountain Cemetery. A public Celebration of Frank and Sylvia's lives will be held at the Erin Legion, 12 Dundas St. East on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 from 1-4 p.m.

Frank's final gift was the breath of life he gave by donating his lungs to another in need. In lieu of flowers, donations to Headwaters Health Care Foundation Friendship Gardens, 100 Rolling Hills Drive, Orangeville, Ont. L9W 4X9 or St. Michael's Hospital Angel Care Fund, 30 Bond St., Toronto, Ont. M5B 1W8 would be appreciated by the family.

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At this meeting, the developer was given a list of 19 reports that would have to be submitted to the Town within six months. The developer has hired teams of consultants to analyse the property this past summer and autumn. These experts—ranging from hydrologists to archaeologists—are charged with preparing the nineteen reports covering a multiplicity of aspects relating to the land and its proposed development (Environmental, Water, Engineering, Traffic and Urban Planning & Design). Once the reports had been submitted, they are circulated to the various organizations and made available for the public to review.

In order to challenge the validity of the reports paid for by the Developer, the BCO has identified a number of experts who will review

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the nineteen reports for deficiencies. Each of these specialists will be expensive but essential to ensure the claims being made by the Developer are correct. While the BCO hosted a very successful Salamander Festival and Lobsterfest, the profits from these events have already been allocated to legal and hydrology fees in our recent win to have the village removed from the Region's proposed roads project. In the coming months, considerable additional funds will need to be raised to fight the proposed development. Funds in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 will be required to pay our experts. In the 1990's, the community successfully opposed the development.

Ironically, while this development seems like a local issue, the reality is that it is part of a much bigger picture. Belfountain, like many communities in Ontario, is threatened by the provincial plan to intensify populations in every town, village and hamlet. Why is this ironic? Because, at the same time, the province wants to promote tourism, particularly low-impact tourism such as bicycling. It seems self-evident that tourists are interested in charming, historic, rural villages, not bedroom communities for the urban centres.

Every year Belfountain welcomes tens of thousands of urbanites and tourists to Canada who come here to enjoy the hamlet and surrounding area. They hike the trails, bicycle, ride horses and motorcycles, picnic, and generally imbibe the rural atmosphere.

In August, when the BCO conducted a survey of visitors, the comment heard most often was that people come here, year after year, "because it's one of the few places that hasn't changed." Lots of people love Belfountain the way it is; not just us!

So, if you are serious about stopping the sprawl and preserving our rural community and hamlet from development, please make a donation to the BCO's Fundraising Campaign. The Campaign has just been launched and we are already 20% of the way to our goal of raising \$50,000. Donations by cheque can be made out to "Belfountain Community Organization" and mailed to the BCO at P.O. Box 15, Station A, Erin, ON, N0B 1T0.

Our Roads

The Peel Region planned to spend some \$35 million on "upgrading" the roadway rectangle formed by Mississauga Road, Bush Street, Winston Churchill, and Olde Base Line.



In addition to expropriating land from Belfountain front yards to widen the road, (and quite possibly three houses) that plan included installing sidewalks so children could walk to school (as anyone in Belfountain knows, no school children walk to school here), unnecessary street lights (dark skies are already a thing of the past. The whole GTA up to Barrie can easily be identified at night from outer space by its light corridor), cutting down mature trees (which is against the provincial imperative to preserve mature trees especially because of major losses to the Ash Borer) and creating run-off problems with excess pavement in an area that currently has no drainage problems.

The BCO responded with...

- A roads petition in July which resulted in almost 400 signatures mostly from visitors who agreed that the roads in Belfountain should not be changed.
- A community vote in September resulting in a 98% result in favour of rural roads in the hamlet.
- A STOP SPRAWL campaign which garnered support and attention to the issues we are facing as a community.

After a great deal of research, hiring legal counsel, and extensive negotiation on the part of the Board, Peel Region has agreed to drop Belfountain proper from its road upgrade for the next few years. Peel has further agreed to proceed with any future upgrades only after consulting with the BCO. There will be an addendum forthcoming from the Region in January/February excluding Belfountain from the current roads project. When the new EA commences for Belfountain in a few years the BCO is expected to be consulted.

Meanwhile, Peel will continue with its plans for the rest of the rectangle, including the reducing of at least one rise on Mississauga Road a kilometre south of Belfountain. The Region is concerned about drivers having head-on collisions by ignoring the solid yellow line and passing on blind hills.

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Conservation Area Expansion

This is an interesting one. In the narrow, fragile valley of the Conservation Area, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority wants to expand the facilities in the park for weddings and film shoots. Plans include the possible demolition of the big dam/waterfall and the swinging bridge as well as a major expansion of the parking area. In effect, this will attract even more “tourists” to Belfountain. While one can certainly understand the CVC’s desire to capitalize on the natural environment, many questions leap to mind and the Board was quick to ask them and demand some reasonable answers from the CVC.

Where will all these people park when the parking lots are full? How will the noise level of partying wedding guests impact residents who live around the Conservation Area? How will these activities impact the local flora and fauna? What are the implications for people who wish to hike the trails? What happened to the original agreement saying that the inhabitants of Belfountain could use the Conservation Area for free, in perpetuity?

Members of the BCO Board have attended many meetings to stay on top of these issues and lobby for the rights of Belfountain residents.

Heritage Designation for Belfountain

The Board and other volunteers have spent a great deal of time looking into Heritage Designation for Belfountain. They made a well-received presentation to the Town’s Heritage Caledon Committee in September. The Committee resolved that Belfountain should be recommended to council in 2015 for Heritage Conservation District. Heritage Resource Officer, Sally Drummond, was enthusiastic about the project.

It’s an expensive, two-year proceeding that is undertaken by the Town of Caledon for about \$180,000, half for the study and half for the designation process. The Board is excited about watching it go forward.

While some residents may worry that having Heritage designation will interfere with them making needed renovations or improvements to buildings, the reality is that Belfountain is already governed by NEC restrictions which are equally rigorous.

Other BCO Activities:

Lobsterfest



A new fundraising event with a huge appeal, the BCO’s first annual Lobsterfest in June was a cracking success. Be sure to buy your tickets early for next year’s dinner as they sell out quickly.

Community Pick-up

After the terrible ice storm of last winter that caused more damage in Caledon than any other place in Ontario, the BCO organized a community clean-up. Despite the rainy weather, volunteers pitched in to clear fallen branches, brush and debris in Belfountain and Caledon Mountain Estates.

Belfountain T shirts

Belfountain “Small is Beautiful” T-shirts were created in 2014 to help raise funds and to express our pride in our neighbourhood. T shirts will likely be available again in 2015. If you are interested in T-shirts, please email:

theview@belfountain.ca

Salamander Festival

Belfountain’s annual fall fair is an organizational feat requiring months of preparation by the BCO. It was an enormous success, both for visitors and as a fund-raiser. See the Salamander Festival article for more details.

STOP SPRAWL signs



The STOP SPRAWL signs were a BCO initiative to raise awareness among electoral candidates and visitors to the area about our “Small is Beautiful” philosophy.

Community Pot Luck

A delightful annual event celebrating our community spirit! To be held this year on December 13th. 5–9 pm. RSVP to Judy Mabee 519-316-0222 or externalvp@belfountain.ca.



Laureen Teskey, Adrienne Alison, and landscape crew with 1812 sculpture.

Belfountain’s Link to Newest Sculpture on Parliament Hill

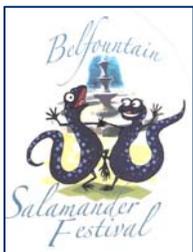
The newest monument on Parliament Hill is dated 1812. That is, it commemorates the War of 1812-14.

The seven bronze figures of the monument were sculpted by Adrienne Alison who has a long history with Belfountain. Several generations and branches of her family have lived in the area for almost 100 years.

Ms. Alison was one of only six Canadian sculptors invited to compete for the commission. The sculpture was inaugurated on Nov. 6th, and stands in front of the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, across from the National War Memorial.

BELFOUNTAIN SALAMANDER FESTIVAL 2014

Salamander Festival 2014 was a great success. With the unusual summer-like weather, the community came out to enjoy the breezes and the beauty of living in the hamlet of Belfountain. Visitors from as far afield as the Beaches, Etobicoke and Mississauga expressed their appreciation of returning to participate in the fares of the festival.



Interesting vendors and child-friendly activities on the Belfountain Church grounds, in the village and in the Credit Valley Conservation area kept youngsters of all ages engaged throughout the day. Delicious food tempted fair-

goers’ palates, with the squash soup from the Belfountain Inn always a favourite at the festival. The silent auction featured superlative items, while live entertainment kept the beat going on into the late afternoon.

A good day became a wonderful day through the efforts of the Belfountain Community Organization, co-hosts Credit Valley Conservation Authority and the Belfountain Village Church.

The BCO Board and Salamander Committee would like to thank the following for helping us to make this wonderful day a success:

Aves Ltd	Heatherlea Farms
Barb McKee	Holtom’s Bakery
Barry & Doreen Hayward	Ian McCallum
Belfountain Tennis Club	Jenni Le Forestier
Bistro Riviere	Jeremy & Lynn Kendall
Blooms Away Flowers & Gifts	Kimberly Farms
Bonnie Gordon	Loblaws Wholesale Club
Bonnie Richmond	Lynn Wood
Brighten Up	Madelon Stevenson
Caledon Mtn Supply Co.	Mark Nantais
Caledon Ski Club	Mary Lawrence
Carole Bellamy	McMaster's Meats & Deli
Casa Lena	Michael Barry
Chestnut Park Real Estate	Mike Ellis
Clahair Spa	Minerva’s Spa/Tintagel’s
Coxcom Inc.	Nicola Ross
Credit Creek	Olivar Corp
Credit Valley Conservation	Orangeville Flowers
Darryl & Judy Mabee	ReMax In The Hills
David Donaldson	Renaissance
David Tilson	Rexall Drug Store
Deeley Harley Davidson	Richard Clewes
Devil’s Pulpit/Paintbrush	Richard Paterak
Doug Beffort	Royal Bank of Erin
Doug Connell	Salon Texture
Dufferin County Museum	Spirit Tree
Edi Cadham	Sylvia Jones
Ellen Turner	TD Canada Trust
Eudora’s Fine Foods	Thai Healing Massage
Everdale Music Concert	The Ascot Room
Felix and Ginger (Alton)	The Spa at Belfountain
Fit You Training	Town of Caledon
Frank & Sylvia Schenk	Tying the Knot
Friendly Chef Adventures	Valu Mart
Gourmandissimo	Wade Domet

If we’ve left anyone out, our apologies. We deeply appreciate the many generous contributions that made the 2014 Salamander Festival possible.

Belfountain Community Organization (BCO) Annual Membership Form

BCO Mandate

Committed to Preserving the Rural, Heritage and Environmental Integrity of the Hamlet of Belfountain and its Environs.

Membership Eligibility

Adult (18+ years) property owner, renter or living at home; full or part time, residing in the area bounded by:

North: Regional Road 124 (Charleston Sideroad), between Winston Churchill Boulevard and Mississauga Road

South: The Grange Sideroad (both sides), from Winston Churchill Blvd. east to the edge of the Niagara Escarpment

West: Winston Churchill Blvd. (both sides), from The Grange Sideroad north to Charleston Sideroad (RR 124)

East: Mississauga Road (north of the Forks of the Credit) and the edge of the Niagara Escarpment in the south

Annual Membership Fee

\$10 per adult per year. Membership entitles you as a BCO Member to one vote on issues pertinent to the community.

Cheques only please; payable to the 'Belfountain Community Organization', **to be received no later than 48 hours prior to each Annual General Meeting (AGM); for this year, by end of business 27 January 2014.** Enclose this form (completed) and your cheque, addressed to:

Belfountain Community Organization
P.O. Box 15
Erin, Ontario N0B 1T0

BCO Board of Directors

At each Annual General Meeting (AGM), members of the BCO will elect up to 15 Directors for the coming year. Elected Directors vote for the 5 executive positions (President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer) at the first Board meeting after the AGM. The remaining 10 are Directors-at-Large. Let us know if you would like to run for election to the BCO Board of Directors.

Yes, I would like to run for election to the BCO Board of Directors:

Name: _____

Future Membership Communication

Please provide your e-mail address(es) and confirm your Canada Post Address. Once a year, we will be reaching out to members via Canada Post, and we will issue items of interest on a periodic basis, via e-mail. Neither your e-mail nor Canada Post address(es) will be shared outside of the BCO; we value your privacy and will strive to protect it.

Name(s): _____

E-mail Address(es): _____

Canada Post Address: _____

Acknowledgement

Thank you for becoming a member of the BCO for 2015, and for providing your e-mail address for us to communicate. Visit www.belfountain.ca from time to time to find out what's new. The BCO is your closest facsimile to a local municipal government, and a mechanism for you to have your voice heard, no matter the issue or challenge at hand. We'll see you at the **AGM, Thursday 29 January, 2015**, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Belfountain Community Hall.