



The View from Belfountain

Fall 2015

Celebration Salamander Style

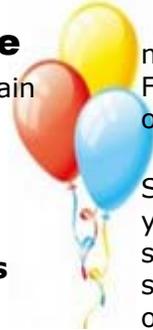
Save the date for the 19th Annual Belfountain Salamander Festival!

Saturday, September 26, 2015

10am-3pm

Belfountain Village Church grounds

Fun for the whole family!



The stage is set for the 19th annual Salamander Festival – our Fall Fair in Belfountain Village. Every year the Belfountain Community Organization (BCO) hosts this event, named for the endangered Jefferson Salamander, to celebrate community spirit and focus attention on environmental issues.

The day provides an outing for locals and visitors to mix and mingle while enjoying the beauty of the hamlet and surroundings, live entertainment, great food, early holiday shopping, and just plain fun. The fair takes place on the grounds of the Belfountain Village Church and the Belfountain Conservation Area.

Jerry Staples and his band "Kewl Fusion" will entertain with various genres of music, Melyssa Kerr, a Salamander favourite singer, will be returning, and Zumba instructor, Yvonne, of Riverdale Fitness will get everyone moving with saucy Latin moves.

The Belfountain Public School's primary choir, *Sing 1 2 3*, last heard at the Pan Am Torch Relay visit to our hamlet, will give a special performance.

The theme of this year's Silent Auction is "A day in the country." Bid on exciting offerings that include a night at the theatre featuring a play by the Caledon Players, dinner at Dolce restaurant, and an overnight stay at the Millcroft Inn. Or, if Bed and Breakfast tickles your fancy, place your bid for a night at The Devonshire B & B.

For golfers, there's a foursome at the Devil's Pulpit for you! Many other golf items to fit every pocket book will be available.

Favourite vendors will return to the artisan's market, along with new entries, while the Fabulous Finds table is the place to find bargains on previously-loved items.

Country air makes for hungry bellies, and Salamander Festival food offerings will please your palate. Enjoy the Belfountain Inn's signature squash soup, along with baked potatoes, chili, sausages, baked delights, warm apple cider, organic coffee and more. *Free coffee if you bring your own mug!*

Delight in the displays in the Credit Valley Conservation area where a variety of mammals, reptiles and birds of prey will be on site. See real, live salamanders, learn to tie a fly with the Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club, and enjoy fun family activities.

And if all this activity is too exciting, there are yoga sessions to bring you back to that OM state of relaxation.

The Salamander Festival is an annual fundraising fall fair co-sponsored by the Belfountain Community Organization and Credit Valley Conservation in partnership with the Belfountain Village Church, Belfountain Public School and the Town of Caledon. Money raised supports local environmental awareness projects and community initiatives.

Upcoming Events

Set-up for Salamander Festival, Sept 24th & Sept 25th – Belfountain Church grounds.

Salamander Festival – Belfountain's Fall Fair: Sat., Sept. 26, 10am-3pm, Belfountain Village Church grounds and Conservation Area.

Belfountain Village Church: Sun. Sept. 13, 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Deeming of New Pastor, Fred Dyke.

Sun. Sept. 20, 9:30 a.m. – Celebration of 180th Anniversary – BBQ & refreshments follow service. Everyone welcome.

Whole Village eco-village and intentional community near Orangeville in Caledon: **Monthly orientations** at 1 pm: Sat. Sept. 12, Sun. Oct. 11, or Sat. Nov. 14. Meet members of the group, tour the farm and eco-residence, and ask questions about the Whole Village initiative. For more information and other events including work bees and games nights, visit: www.wholevillage.org.



Salamander Festival — Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to help with set up for the silent auction.

Contestants for the PIE-EATING CONTEST – contact Madelon (see below).

Set up with the tents: Sept 24th at the Belfountain Village Church grounds.

Calling all BAKERS of sweet treats! You are needed - please call Madelon at 519-927-9087 or email: salamander@belfountain.ca. Your delicious baked goods are an important contribution to our fund-raising efforts.

FABULOUS FINDS donations needed!

Quality, saleable items, e.g., jewellery, accessories, funky clothing, trinkets & treasures, books, CD's, DVD's, décor items... Drop off week of Sept. 12.

Please email Barb at: salamander@belfountain.ca

Many thanks for your continued support.

Changes at the BCO Board

The BCO Board welcomes Helen Notzl as interim director. Helen was one of the original founders of the BCO when it was the Belfountain Community Planning Organization. She now heads up the Fundraising Committee and has great plans in the works for the coming months.

The Board would like to thank exiting directors, Jenni LeForestier, Mary Lawrence, Robert Burr, Mark Nantais, and Karen Alison. Your many contributions to the Belfountain community during your tenure have been greatly appreciated.

Look What's Happening at Heatherlea!

Have you driven on Winston Churchill south of Bush St. lately? Heatherlea Farm Shoppe has started its new building!



We will be providing a fresh meat counter, along with our regular frozen local meats, quality produce, in-store bakery and a place to sit and enjoy those goodies – and much more as times goes by. Our contractor is hoping to have the project finished by, fingers crossed, mid-December.

We'll even have a designated parking lot - three cheers for that!

A special shout-out and thank you to our Mayor Allan Thompson, Councillors Barb Shaughnessy and Doug Beffort and Town of Caledon staff for fighting so diligently for us to get the project started.

Our community is very important to us and we look forward to bringing you the best local products for the health of your whole family!

Trunk Sale

If you dig great bargains and love the clay Badlands along Olde Base Road, the "trunk sale" coming up next month is for you.

"Trunk sale???" you say. You dig into your basement, your garage, your closet, your trunk for that silken blouse that didn't quite fit, the newish lawn mower that your son's gift of a ride-'em one made redundant, the fly rod you never use and tuck these valuable baubles into your car trunk. Then you drive to the appointed time and place and sell them for a pile of dough.

How to spend that dough??? Easy—just give it to the trunk sale sponsor Bonnie Ledson to aid her legal battle to save the Badlands.

The time and place will be posted on the BCO website next week.



Floor Hockey Anyone?

For lo these many years, a bunch of guys aged 30 to 75, curved plastic sticks in hand, have sallied over to the Belfountain Public School gymnasium to chase after a plastic ball.

What with house movings, job transfers, and rheumatism, turns out we need a couple of bodies to round out our quota.

The new season begins the week of Sept. 14th (day still to be determined), and it's super-duper exercise with strict no-bodily-contact and a great group of guys.

Interested? Please contact Clayton MacFarlane at 31caledon@rogers.com. You'll be glad you did.



Judo 5th degree Black Belt Takes On Belfountain Church

'MOVING FORWARD' was the title of Fred Dyke's message on Sunday, August 23, at Belfountain Village Church. The words are doubly auspicious. After the service, the congregation voted unanimously to call him as their new pastor. He has been providing pulpit supply since Easter, with the help of his wife Judee who leads the music and praise.

Fred is not your usual pastor. He's a layman, a management consultant to family businesses and to national and international corporations, and author of *That Book about Management*. In his spare time, he operates Dyman Judo Club in Orangeville where he and Judee make their home. He has broad experience working in church and community organizations, having given lay leadership in several churches and serving on numerous charity boards.

Fred is a Newfoundlander by birth and has the sense of humor to prove it. Be sure to laugh: Fred is a fifth-degree Black Belt in Judo! His competitive years won him numerous titles including 10 provincial championships. His wife, Judee is a retired teacher who was vice-principal of Brampton Christian School for 8 years. Currently she is the director of Birthright, Orangeville. Together they have 7 children, 14 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

On Sunday, September 13th as part of the morning worship, Fred will be officially deemed and welcomed as Pastor of Belfountain Village Church.

*Fred & Judee look forward to meeting you.
 Sunday Morning Service starts at
 9:30 followed by a Coffee Hour.
 Please drop in and say hello.*



Come Celebrate our 180th Anniversary!

On Sunday, September the 20th Belfountain Village Church will CELEBRATE its 180th Anniversary. Service starts at 9:30am with a BBQ and refreshments following.

Everyone is welcome.

Since the arrival of the first settler in 1825, the village of Belfountain, surrounded by the scenic beauty of Caledon Hills, has become one of Ontario's offerings to the jaded spirits of its urban population. And the beautiful stone church, situated in the centre of the village at 17258 Old Main Street, epitomizes the serenity to which the modern day world aspires. The stone building is an English gothic-style structure with an appended bell tower typical of churches built during that period in the British Isles.

The actual congregation was formed in 1835 and the church existed and grew in the village for fifty years before the building was erected. On November 10th 1889, it is recorded that Mrs. George Trimble (Maria Longstreet,) mother of the late J.R. Trimble and grandmother of Roy Trimble, Belfountain, and his brother John of Orangeville, was baptized in the new facility.

Reid Hall, the new addition, was constructed in 1985. It was architecturally designed to complement the classic style of the stone building and is a meeting place for Sunday school, bible studies, congregation and community events. Each autumn, the Church grounds continue to provide space for a great time of fun and celebration during the annual Salamander Festival.



Belfountain Village Church is inter-denominational. A true Community Church, it attracts people from many diverse backgrounds and seeks to minister to the needs of all people within the community. With a new Pastor and the foundation and vision conceived by the founders of this church so long ago, we are moving forward to offer the timeless message of God's love. **GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS**

Please join us for this jubilant celebration of 180 years!



Belfountain Public Library Turns A Page

You may have noticed some changes at the Belfountain Public Library (BPL): shorter hours and a new branch coordinator.

Now that Sue Hamilton has retired, the person who will check out your library materials is Michelle Willison. Michelle has been an adult page in the Caledon Library for the past year and has a history of working with Parks and Rec.



Colleen (L) and Michelle.

The new library hours are Tuesdays from 4 to 8 and Saturdays from 10 to 4 and run for the duration of the school year, from Tuesday, September 8th until the end of June. This is about half as many hours as we used to have.

Why the change? Colleen Lipp, the new CEO and Chief Librarian of the Caledon Library system explains that the new hours are a pilot project to “encourage concentrated use of the library.”

The Belfountain Library constitutes a mere two to three percent of library usage in Caledon and the cost of every item circulated here is double that of every other library!

Despite the fact that our community is very attached to our neighbourhood library, many of us who live in the Belfountain area visit other branches.

So is the Belfountain Library going to close?

Not in the short term. Ms. Lipp says, “Our intention is not to find a way to close the library but to ensure that it’s taken advantage of.”

She explains that there is considerable investigation to be done before any decision can be reached. That includes analyzing how patrons are using the library, reporting to the library board midway through the pilot project, and considering what’s best for the Caledon library system as a whole while being proactive in meeting the needs of the community. Since BPL is a joint venture with the school board, closing the library—should that become necessary—would involve a lengthy process.

As CEO, Ms. Lipp recognizes that Caledon is growing—the population is set to double over the

next 15 years—and the library system will be challenged to provide a wide range of library services to this diverse group. She points out that libraries are no longer just about checking out books.

In the meantime, she is actively seeking feedback from Belfountain residents about why we use our local library—or don’t use it, so she can identify the model that works.

You may find a Caledon Library representative at the Salamander Festival. Let them know your thoughts about the Belfountain Library!

Chartered Professional Accountant near Belfountain



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For your convenience I can meet with you
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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

Contributing Editors: Carole Bellamy, Grecia Meyers, David Kendall, Melinda McArthur, Helen Notzl, Madelon Stevenson, and Barb McKee.

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A Tragic Loss for Our Community

Jessica Coupland She would ride the wind, ATV humming, her dark hair streaming from under the shiny crash helmet. Jessica Susan Catherine Coupland, the twelve-year-old oft seen giggling behind the lemonade stand near the Woodland Court mailbox. Too young even to know her own fragile beauty.

According to the OPP, she wasn't speeding along a Huntsville-area road the morning of August 23, 2015 when she glanced back to check that her dad Mike, brother Kyle and sister Grace were close behind. Her vehicle swerved off the road, crashed into the ditch, and sweet Jessica died.

Belfountain walkers would hear her, then see her, as she—always with a family escort--motored about the trails on the ORB land directly across the Mississauga Road from her Woodland Court home.

The flowers from friends and neighbours are



wilting now on the lemonade stand, a hydrangea drooping from the bottle with the attached poem the Queen read at her mother's funeral. "You can shed tears that she died, or you can smile because she has lived," it begins.

Three model butterflies flutter over the sign that Jessica scrawled in

pink and blue letters: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

A note of thanks from Becky and Mike Coupland to well-wishers is pinned to the stand. "Please never forget our beautiful little girl," it ends.

A Celebration of Jessica's life took place at St. John de Brebeuf Catholic Church in Erin, on August 27, and was followed by a reception at the family home.

The View would like to extend deepest sympathies to Jessica's family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

Donations to The Upper Credit Humane Society, 5383 Trafalgar Road, Erin, Ont. N0B 1T0 would be appreciated by the family.

The Biggest Battle



OR



Help Us Stop Sprawl and save Belfountain as we know and love it.

Recently the Belfountain Community Organization (BCO) signed an agreement to partner with the Biosphere Conservation Foundation, a registered Canadian charitable organization dedicated to protecting and preserving ecologically and environmentally sensitive land. That partnership means that your donation of \$200 or more to the BCO's up-coming fund-raising campaign will result in a charitable receipt to use against your personal income tax.

The BCO has done so much over the past year—fought off road-widening in the hamlet, worked to save our community hall, spoken up on issues from the Belfountain Conservation Area to the Green Belt re-assessment, and supported initiatives on the eroding Badlands.

But now looms the biggest battle, the threat that will trigger the survival or demise of our rural community. ORB development is expected to apply to Caledon this month for a permit to double our hamlet's size, with up to 66 houses slated for its 177-acre property skirting the southern fringe of Belfountain.

The BCO has established a Fund-Raising Committee to coordinate the mustering of funds. To stop or severely reduce the proposed sprawl, technical experts must be enlisted in our campaign—and paid. Already some members of the community have stepped up with sizable pledges, but your financial support is vital to our cause.

Please seriously consider committing to our campaign, either with a personal contribution or by joining with family, friends and neighbours to donate money to help stop sprawl and to save our hamlet.

Thank you,

The BCO Fund-Raising Committee



Should Caledon Be A City?

For those of us who live in Belfountain and area, the answer to this question is likely to be a resounding NO. We have chosen to live in the countryside and we love it.

So you might be surprised to learn that urbanites and decision-makers believe otherwise.

At a Peel Regional Council meeting she attended, one of my neighbours told me that a Mississauga councillor asked, in innocent bewilderment, a question to this effect: *“Don’t you people in Caledon want it to be a city?”*

The depth of ignorance behind this question obliges every one of us to take some kind of action to educate the Region, the Province, our visitors who exclaim over the many beauties of the surroundings, and even some of our neighbours that:

- 1) We don’t lie awake at night, wishing Caledon was downtown Mississauga, and
- 2) *Caledon is in crisis.*

As the low-population member of Peel Region, constantly eyeballed by housing developers and aggregate companies, and told that we have to conform to the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), residents of Caledon are in danger of losing our country life.

(BTW, the PPS was designed for urban areas, NOT rural ones, so the next time some mucky-muck tells you that Caledon has to grow or else, that’s not strictly true.)

Here in Belfountain, the fight has begun again to stop a 66-house development that threatens water supply and quality for the hamlet, among other potential problems.

But Belfountain is not alone.

- Alton and Inglewood struggle with water and sewage issues because of the current model of “chainsaw and bulldoze” housing

development. Cheltenham is working hard to protect the Badlands from being literally flattened by tourists. The Badlands are lower by 10 feet or just over 3 metres than they were 40 years ago because of visitors walking on them, and the visitors continually increase. A fence has only recently been installed.

- Caledon Village, divided by what amounts to a four-lane highway, will never be able to restore its small-scale ambience.

And these are just a few examples of what’s going on all over Caledon. Other threats include the widening and flattening of Regional roads “for safety”, yet more quarries and golf courses, a giant development on Mayfield Road, and the proposed Highway 413 across Class One farmland, offering noise, light, ground, water and air pollution.



On top of that, the Green Belt, Niagara Escarpment, and Oak Ridges Moraine plans are all up for review this year. Ontarians have confirmed that they want the Green Belt expanded. But will that happen? Only if we keep applying pressure. (Remember, the developers are not sitting still. Should they determine the future of the Green Belt?)

So, is this the time to give up in despair and buy into the belief that the loss of our countryside is inevitable? Of course not!

If you love the country, this is the time to make your voice—and your vision for the future of Caledon—heard. There are many options.

Peel has a survey you can fill out, asking residents about their vision for Peel 2035. (Whether regional government still exists by then is another question.)

<http://www.peelregion.ca/peelin2035/>

You can call, email or visit your Town, Regional, Provincial and federal representatives,

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Should Caledon be a City? *continued from page 6.*

and the Chair of Peel, Frank Dale, to express your concerns. You can also talk to all your friends, relatives and Facebook friends to let them know what's going on here.

You might also consider the idea of forming a ratepayers association with other Caledon residents—which would enable a louder voice on issues than the small community groups now struggling with local problems can project. (We need the community groups, too.)

Why bother? Especially when there seems to be a consensus among many politicians and planners that growth is good and that it's coming whether you like it or not!

Here's why:

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, many people who live in the city do not understand why they should and must value the countryside.

We need to tell them. What's at stake goes far beyond the temporary value of a short-term economic development opportunity and affects a huge population. Preserving the countryside in Caledon is not about maintaining a playground for the super-rich, as one Toronto Life columnist seems to believe. And it's definitely NOT about NIMBYism. (Not In My BackYard.)

So, how can the countryside help people who live in the city? What are the big issues that affect us all?

- Climate change. This is a no-brainer. Forests combat climate change. Highways, roads and parking lots make it worse. Caledon and the Green Belt help counteract the GTA's carbon emissions.
- Water. Caledon is not called Headwaters country for nothing. There's a lot more to water in Ontario than the Great Lakes.
- Oxygen. Breathing tops my list of priorities, but I don't see any trees in the new developments in Brampton.
- Food security. Replacing farmland with a mega-highway... hmm... what's wrong with this picture, especially when Canada only has 4.6 percent arable land? Does anyone really believe that you can grow food on the Canadian Shield once the Golden Horseshoe is built over?
- Our responsibility to future generations. We've already mortgaged future generations to the hilt with government debt. Do we have the right to destroy their opportunity to experience and enjoy the

countryside and its benefits to their lives and health as listed above?

- Green Tourism. Caledon, the Green Belt, the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine provide a much-needed escape from the urban jungle, particularly to day trippers, and are part of a UNESCO Biosphere.

Tourism is important enough to Caledon that council hired a consultant to help form a tourism strategy. We already anticipate the arrival of the leaf people for fall colours. In the future, expect to see adventure tourism and sport tourism—triathlons, canoeing, swimming, climbing, etc., as pits and quarries go off license and are rehabilitated to other uses. (Perhaps new houses could be built in old quarries. That would give a whole new meaning to a name like Valleyfield, wouldn't it?) But tourists want to explore real country, not a homogenized suburb.



These are the major issues that affect Caledon, Ontario, and the globe.

Yet there's another factor to consider—something you're not supposed to talk about if you want to be taken seriously by politicians, economists, planners and civil servants.

What is it?

Love. People who live here love this place.

Oh, yuck! Unless you can put a dollar value on it, no one wants to hear about your sappy attachment to the land. Or about how your soul is soothed when you listen to the wind ruffling the trees, or watch the sunrise over your neighbour's golden field, or take a deep breath of cedar-scented air when you're out for a walk, or see the world reflected in a drop of dew suspended from the tip of a branch.

But it's love that protects the land, the environment and our legacy to future generations. When you love something, you look after it.

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Should Caledon be a City? *continued from page 7.*

And it's not just residents of Caledon who love it here. Many of our visitors must feel the same way. When the BCO polled almost 300 of them last summer, two comments were heard again and again.

One was that people have been returning here to visit for years; in some cases, for decades. The other was that people love the Belfountain area because it is relatively unchanged, offering a sense of history and belonging—a kind of security of place that doesn't exist for them in the urban world.

So, should Caledon become a city?

In my opinion, absolutely not! The countryside is too valuable a resource to be squandered on endless pavement, intensive housing developments, and mundane shopping malls of the sort you can see anywhere in North America, from Oshawa to Florida.

If you happen to agree, please do take action and let decision-makers, friends and visitors know that, apart from Bolton, Caledon means country.

By Karen Alison

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can **change the world**; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

- attributed to anthropologist, Margaret Meade

"We... need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."

- Wallace Stegner

"Those shining stars, he liked to point out, were one of the special treats for people like us who lived out in the wilderness. Rich city folks, he'd say, lived in fancy apartments, but their air was so polluted they couldn't even see the stars. We'd have to be out of our minds to want to trade places with any of them."

— Jeannette Walls, *The Glass Castle*

"The more civilized man becomes, the more he needs and craves a great background of forest wildness, to which he may return like a contrite prodigal from the husks of an artificial life."

- Ellen Burns Sherman

Under the Maples



Bill Moffatt's maple syrup farm in Belfountain was the idyllic setting on a beautiful summer's day for the outdoor concert, "Under the Maples."

Perfect weather, cold Steam Whistle beer, and delicious food from Georgetown's Hungry Hollow Smokehouse and Grille along with Sweet Chili of Orangeville, made the day "sweet."

Old friends greeted one another under Bill's giant maples and grooved to the Chuck Jackson and the All Stars band, who delivered down-home Mississippi Blues.

Bryce Butcher of Erin played guitar and sang earlier in the day, setting the tone for the Whiskey Jack Band who travelled with Stompin' Tom Connors in the 1990's, and performed his famous songs for Belfountain.



There was some disappointment as the musicians who had prior engagements packed up, leaving the crowd wanting more.

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Under the Maples continued from page 8

But the lucky winners of the Treasure Chest prizes were delighted with their gift certificates to golfing at the Caledon Golf & Country Club, dinner at Ray's Bistro in Alton, a night at the Devonshire B & B in Erin, and \$100 to spend at the LCBO, as well as a Landscaper's Safety Kit from Stewart's Equipment, a book of country walks by Nicola Ross, and some delicious Wycked shortbread cookies.



In the run-up to the concert, members of the BCO who hosted the event counted down the days until the big event, working overtime on publicity and logistics.

Wade Domet and Ian MacCallum came up with the idea to produce a music festival on behalf of the community. It was a challenge and, if this event is to happen yearly, many areas must be addressed. The music will not end at an early hour, the starting time would be later, and new ticket prices to accommodate families will be considered.



Edi Cadham volunteered as the MC.

Big shout outs to all the volunteers, Andrea McCallum for her work on posters and more, Mike Domet and Laurie Shute who tended the bar, the Caledon Ski Club for the parking facilities, the BCO members who distributed flyers of the event throughout Caledon, and all who were willing to lend a hand to see "Under the Maples" come about. A huge thank you to Bill Moffatt for providing the venue and his help with the event.

Here's what one appreciative participant had to say about "Under the Maples":

Congratulations!

Just a quick message to say how much we enjoyed ourselves last evening. We had a simply delightful time! Your event was well planned and made for a very lovely way to spend a few hours—socializing, eating, drinking, enjoying great music, and all in a tranquil country setting. So glad we were able to make our getaway work—it was a real treat.

*Thanks again,
Donna Christie
President, Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre*

View Seeks New Editor

Do you have a yen to write and edit? Are you interested in collecting community news to share with your Belfountain and area neighbours?

The View from Belfountain is looking for a new editor. After two years of working on our quarterly publication, editor-in-chief, Karen, is about to step down. Look for her at www.RemedyWise.com the website about natural remedies and wellness she is currently developing.

Contact us at theview@belfountain.ca for more information.