



The View from Belfountain

Fall 2016

LOOK WHO'S TURNING 20

by Grecia Mayers

The Belfountain Community Organization in partnership with the Credit Valley Conservation is pleased to announce that the Belfountain Salamander Festival will be celebrating 20 years of community participation this year.

After a spirited challenge with the Enterac developers some twenty-five or so years ago, the Belfountain Task Force wanted to thank the residents of Belfountain and supporters of the idea that "Small is Beautiful." What better way to have the community involved than throwing a party! After all the residents and supporters had raised a substantial amount of money to assist in their fight to halt the housing development on what is now known as the ORB property.

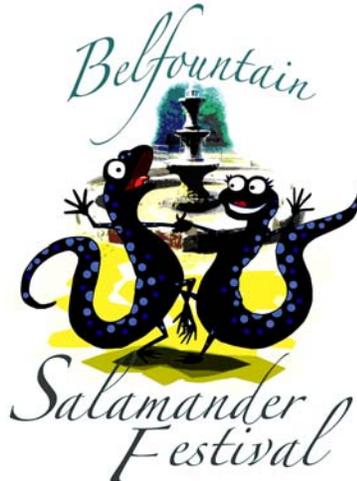
As residents of Belfountain, we know the threat is always there, and three years ago, the residents came out in droves to again say "No way" to a resurrected proposal for 77 houses. "Small is Beautiful" is still the mantra of the Belfountain Community Organization as we go forward.

Twenty years of residents coming out to celebrate community is quite a feat and this year, the plans are to celebrate big and salute this special amphibian Jefferson for lending his name to our festival.

A day of live music featuring Kewl Fusion, Melyssa Kerr, Angelina Vaccaro playing the bagpipes, the delightful Sing 123 Choir from Belfountain Public School will charm you, and plenty of delicious food, special events planned by the Credit Valley Conservation in the park, a silent auction, vendors all designed for your enjoyment.

It is a day of fun for the entire family and our school volunteers make it that way. This dedicated group of young people have been with the festival for quite a few years and eagerly look forward to serving and representing their community.

If you would like to be part of this group and help out on Salamander Festival day, do not hesitate to send us an email at: salamander@belfountain.ca



Sat., September 24, 2016

10 am to 4 pm

**Belfountain Village Church
grounds and
Belfountain Conservation Area**

Once-A-Year Opportunity...

Once a year, we all have the opportunity to support the work of the BCO in preserving our village and rural way of life by contributing to the Salamander Festival through...

- Volunteering
- Donating items for the Silent Auction
- Cash donations
- Donating gently-used items for the *Fabulous Finds* booth

Contact salamander@belfountain.ca to offer your services or arrange pick up of donations. Thank you!

Belfountain's Junior Musicians Take to the Stage Again

Don't miss the performance by Belfountain's youngest musicians, the Sing 1-2-3 Choir, at the Salamander Festival on September 24th!

The children enjoyed a brief fling with celebrity status when they sang at the torch relay for the Pan American Games at Belfountain School in June of 2015. But, more importantly, as choir members, they are learning how to use their voices properly, take the stage with confidence, and work together to create beautiful music.

The choir performs under the direction of Jenni Le Forestier and Judith Butler, both professional musicians and choir masters, while Kaitlin Rees administers the programme. Jenni also offers private tuition in piano and voice in Belfountain. To book a lesson, contact her at 519-927-5558.

HERITAGE BELFOUNTAIN

by David Kendall

Add it up, and we're on the brink of 382 years of history preserved.

That, proud hamlet denizens, is the total ages of three magnificent Belfountain properties that Heritage Caledon has deemed worthy of heritage designation.

It started with the return of Garth Turner and his springtime salvaging of THE BELFOUNTAIN GENERAL STORE built in 1888.

A quarter million dollars later, he has restored it to its former glory, opened it up inside, repaired the decaying brick work, and employed a batch of local students to sell everything from ice cream cones to bottles of old fashioned vinaigrette. Labour Day Monday, said store manager Lorna Ekdaahl was "our best day ever." And starting in two weeks she says they'll be selling antiques on consignment—just in time, as local antique dealers Linda and Brian Moorecroft have put their home and shop up for sale.



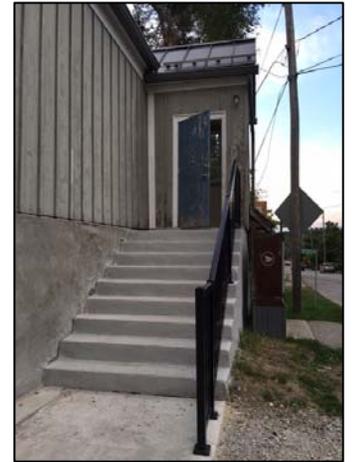
Then as summer began, the sound of hammers and drills took over the PUBLIC HALL MECHANICS' INSTITUTE of 1893—known as Belfountain's Community Hall.

Sometime near the end of October and the end of some \$300,000 in public money from Caledon and from Peel Region, it will be brought back to a glory its builders could but dream of. To think that just a year ago the plan had been to tear it down.

The upstairs hall and kitchen are already complete under a metal roof, fully insulated, new windows looking out on a modern septic system and lush lawn at the rear.

Downstairs as of Sept. 8, the wiring and plumbing for the OPP satellite station, new

furnace, and wheelchair-accessible washroom, are all in place. The studs are set in to separate the police office from the rear half of the downstairs. One-way windows are installed. A new doorway for the police office has been hacked through the south foundation wall. Unresolved remains a plan for using the unoccupied half of the basement.



The setting up of the police office is thanks in large measure to the efforts of OPP Inspector Tim Melanson. BCO Prez Ian MacCallum promises a celebratory opening of the community hall upon completion of the job.



And last Tuesday the Committee for Planning and Development as a Whole met in Council Chamber to vote unanimously for heritage designation of THE PINKNEY HOUSE built in 1886. The boarded up stone house at 17923 Shaw's Creek Road beside the crossing for the Elora-Cataract Trail sits on the edge of an old gravel pit

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Heritage Belfountain *continued from page 2*

owned by Lafarge Canada Inc. The Heritage Caledon report recommended designation of the house, the decrepit barn, and 33.89 acres stretching east along the north side of the walking trail. The land in question consists of some 15 acres of protected forest on the east end, then the great hole from the old 1950s pit for another fifteen acres, and finally along the road the buildings atop the four acres not mined in the old days.

The owner and members of the public will have 30 days to support or contest the designation before it is finalized. Caledon has never designated a property over the head of a protesting owner. Lafarge's representative Chris Galway told the meeting that his people would meet within 30 days with Caledon officials and with a group of Belfountain residents anxious to invest in restoring the house. The company nine years ago thought to tear the house down, but has since has changed its stance and in December, 2013, invested some \$50,000 in a new roof and cladding along with new fascia, soffits, and guttering.

Formal ratification of the heritage resolution is expected at the Sept. 13 Caledon Council meeting. Our thanks to Councillors Doug Beffort and Barb Shaughnessy who have long supported this project. Below is the motion for heritage designation framed by Councillor Joanna Downey:

Proposed Motion for Council's consideration on September 13:

That Staff Report 2016-98 regarding Proposed Heritage Designation of 17923 Shaw's Creek Road (Ward 1), be received; and that staff be directed to proceed with the Notice of Intention to Designate for 17923 Shaw's Creek Road; and That staff work with the current owner, Lafarge to identify and respond to creative ideas from community members as to how the Pinkney House could be preserved, protected and provide a positive outcome for all members of the community; and

That should no objections be received during the mandatory 30-day public objection period following publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate, a by-law be enacted for the purpose of designating 17923 Shaw's Creek Road pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act.



Library News

From Chief Librarian and CEO, Colleen Lipp:

The Caledon Public Library's pilot project and review of services and community use at the Belfountain Branch has been completed and final recommendations will be considered by the Library Board at their September meeting. This review has included investigation of innovative new ways of delivering library services as a means of improving access within Belfountain and neighbouring communities. Regardless of the Library Board's decision, there will be no significant changes in the delivery of library services to Belfountain residents before June 2017.

And from Mary Maw, of Caledon Library Communications:

On Friday, October 28^h, we have a special evening planned at the Alton Mill as we celebrate the creativity of all the aspiring authors and photographers who entered our *Click Create Celebrate* contest this past summer. In addition to announcing the winners, the event will include displays by *Read Local Caledon* authors, art exhibits, music and refreshments.

Back once again is the ever popular FOOD FOR FINES from October 1st to 10th. Just drop off food items at any branch (juice boxes are particularly needed right now) and have your overdue fines forgiven while helping to support your own community.

Events and classes for all ages and interests can be found at: www.caledon.library.on.ca

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: Grecia Meyers, Karen Alison and David Kendall. Our organization accepts no liability for the content. Any views or opinions presented in this newsletter are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the organization.

Nature's Gift

by David Kendall

You're strolling through the woods and you see an unearthly, glowing orb with the dimensions of a soccer ball. And just two days ago it wasn't there. You think of ET, you're ready to run, your imagination is about to pop.

But no. It's a puffball, surely nature's most wondrous—and delicious—gift to us the lucky ones treading Caledon's hills. Last week of August, first half of September, that's when those invisible spores land on wooded hillsides and puff into existence. Mushrooms sired by whales.

Pick it and carry it home in loving hands. Cook it soon after—you can delay a day or so, but longer than that and you'll see a damp coloration pervade the delicate flesh. Then you've missed the boat. They're so big, puffballs that your best bet is to share chunks with the neighbours.

Here's my five-minute recipe:

Slice it about the thickness of sliced bread and peel the skin off each slice. Heat a frying pan with a blend of butter and olive oil. Dip the slices in a batter of one egg and a dash of milk. Then dip the egged slice in a mixture of half flour and half parmesan cheese. Fry, chew and fly into ecstasy.



Chain Missing

Someone has taken away the chain that I stretched five years ago over the laneway entrance to the ORB property off Mississauga Rd. The property manager Toby Barwick was in favour of said chain. I put up a sign at the time: Hikers, bikers and pet-likers welcome—but it vanished years ago.

Prior to the chain—which cost \$45, dump truck loads of rubble, animal guts, construction waste, and just plain garbage would pile along the laneway. I had all-day fires. Since the chain it has been largely litter-free, and a walkway frequented by Belfountain residents.

Now it's gone. If anyone has a clue about its location, please drop the chain at the gateway entrance and I'll re-attach it.

by David Kendall

