



# The View from Belfountain

Fall 2018

## It's Time to... Celebrate Jefferson Salamander

**Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018**

**10am - 4pm**

**Belfountain Village Church  
grounds**

*Fun for the whole family!*



Mark your calendars to toast our local celebrity Jefferson Salamander. The

Belfountain Community Organization in partnership with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority will host the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salamander Festival to raise awareness of the plight of the endangered amphibian in our rural surroundings. Mark Heaton will have the "celebrities" Salamanders for viewing on the Belfountain Village Church grounds.

From **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** visitors and residents can participate in a day of family activities geared to building community and having fun for all ages.

Live entertainment featuring local artists continues throughout the day, delicious food will be available along with the signature squash soup from the Belfountain Inn. With the hustle of the vendor booths, the silent auction tent, families and dogs walking around, or dancing to the music, the Belfountain Village Church offers a quiet room where "Tea for a Toonie" is available and conversation welcomed.



### **Reptiles and Birds of Prey: 11 a.m. Belfountain Conservation Area**

The excitement of seeing, touching and discovering different mammals, reptiles and birds of prey starts at 11 a.m. in the Belfountain Conservation Area. This is a popular presentation and not to be missed.

See you at the Salamander Festival!

### **EDI**

One of the pleasures of putting on the annual Belfountain Salamander Festival has been to experience the youth of Belfountain taking charge in making sure that the festival went off without a hitch. What pride the young volunteers have taken in arriving on time for set up, working throughout the day flipping burgers, serving food, acting as master of ceremonies, and sticking around for the clean up and take down. Now they are all saying goodbye and heading to university.

One such volunteer is Edi Cadham of Belfountain who mobilized this team for several years. Her involvement with the Belfountain Community

Organization and in particular the Salamander Festival has been "a big part of my life," says Edi.



*Student volunteers.*

She was moved to volunteer when she was in grade 7 after attending a community meeting called by the BCO to brief the residents on a proposed development in Belfountain. Edi spoke up at that meeting, and when asked about her comments, she said: "We've always had strong, loud women in our family."

Best wishes to Edi in her environmental studies at Laurier. And to all the young volunteers, thank you, thank you, thank you.

We're desperate to replace those young folk for this year's Salamander Festival. Anyone keen; please contact Grecia Mayers at 519-927-3204.

## Election 2018

**To: Residents of Belfountain and Environs**

**Re: Municipal Ward 1 Candidate Meetings**

October 22, 2018 is the date voters will cast their ballots for the Ontario Municipal Election.

To provide multiple opportunities for voters to interact with candidates, The Village of Inglewood Association, Riverdale Farm and the Belfountain Community Organization have collaboratively established dates for **Ward 1** residents to meet and ask questions of the incumbent candidates. *The meetings on September 10, 12 and 18 will all be smaller group sessions with individual candidates. Each session will be 20 minutes in duration. You will be able to ask any questions you have and listen to the responses of others. You will move on to the next candidate at the end of the session and begin questioning again. This gives you 60 to 100 minutes of direct question time (based on the number of candidates participating). The group will come together after the sessions for candidate closing comments and feedback.*

Prior to the September 24 *All Candidates* meeting, residents can submit questions to [secretary@belfountain.ca](mailto:secretary@belfountain.ca). Please identify who is to respond to the questions. This meeting will have a moderator. Following is a list of meetings we suggest you attend:

**Monday, September 10, 2018, 7:00–9:00 p.m.**

*Regional Candidates*

Belfountain Community Hall, 17204 Mississauga Road, Belfountain.

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 7:00–9:00 p.m.**

*Mayoral Candidates*

Riverdale Farm, 15707 McLaughlin Road, Inglewood.

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 7:00–9:00 p.m.**

*Area Candidates*

Riverdale Farm, 15707 McLaughlin Road, Inglewood.

**Monday, September 24, 2018, 7:00–9:00 p.m.**

*All Candidate Debate*

Inglewood Community Centre, 15825 McLaughlin Road, Inglewood, **6:30-meet and greet.**

**Thursday, September 27, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**

*All Candidate Debate*

**Hosted by Caledon Village Association and Alton Village Association**

Alton Legion, 1267 Queen Street West, Alton.

Currently these are the only known scheduled meetings with the Candidates.

See you at the meetings!

Belfountain Community Organization



## SPINA DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

**What:** Community Meeting re: Spina (Orb) Development Proposal

**When:** Monday, September 17, 2018

**Where:** Belfountain Community Meeting

**Time:** 7:00-9:00pm

David Donnelly L.L.P. will be present

Belfountain community documents as well as documents from the CVC, Region of Peel etc, were submitted to the NEC May 18, 2018. The review of technical documentation is ongoing. To date, no decisions have been made by the Town or the NEC.

<http://www.belfountain.ca/>

<http://www.belfountain.ca/>

## ERIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

The Belfountain Community Organization reviewed the environment studies conducted for the proposed Erin sewage treatment plant. The board was not confident that effluent content, seepage, spill potential and environmental impact had been adequately addressed and therefore requested a Part 11 Order with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for further studies. The Ministry has acknowledged our submission and we await further communication.

### 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](mailto:theview@belfountain.ca)

**Contributing Editors:** Grecia Meyers, David Kendall, Karen Alison, Katharine Tremble Taylor and Jennie Le Forestier.

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.



### **THE COMMON GOOD**

The Common Good, may be defined as what is shared and beneficial to all. It is also the new name of the Belfountain General Store.

Lisa Young, the new owner of The Common Good, says that from the age of 8, antiquing with her family was part of her past. During those years, she learned to appreciate the beauty and charm of heritage buildings, particularly one in Belfountain. In April of this year, she became the new owner.

The store's transformation has been remarkable. The adage, out with the old and in with the new, applies here. For Lisa, heritage tethers the past to where we are now.

When you enter the store, the delicious aroma of coffee and fresh scratch baked goods surrounds you. On display, you will also find a baseline of beautiful housewarming gifts, with artist works added in. Lisa's focus is "doing" for the people of the community.

During the month of July, she offered sit down breakfasts on weekends, 7:00 to 11:00 am. In August, she planned movie nights on the back of her building. Her list of ideas to share with the community is long and innovative. Be sure to stop in and say hello, and welcome Lisa, not only as a business owner, but as a new Belfountain resident as of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Website: [thecommongoodgeneral@gmail.com](mailto:thecommongoodgeneral@gmail.com)

### **NORM**

You'd see him sitting, grizzled and smiling, in front of the Higher Ground Cafe. Ready to expound.

**Norm Wrycraft:** He died last Sunday, age 82, in the Saugeen Nursing Facility in Mt. Forest where he'd been transferred from Headwaters Hospital in March. "Dementia," said Maureen, his wife of the last 63 years. "He just gave up."

Raised on Ossington Avenue in Toronto, he met Maureen in high school. "I didn't like him then," she said Monday as their four children, Michael, Kim, Kevin and Karen, gathered around. "Then we got together and went up to the drugstore for a smoke, and we loved each other."

The family moved to Belfountain 39 years ago and lived in the Victorian house where Forks of Credit Road splits to go past the ski club--Ian MacCallum's place these days. Then in 1994 they bought the old Trimble building opposite the General Store. Norm and Maureen lived upstairs until now, while the retail and food businesses below called him landlord.

The premises have been bought by a woman who takes possession in late November, said Maureen who plans to move to Orangeville.

"Norm believed hugely in the power of prayer," she added.

"Family was everything to him," said his daughter Karen. "He'd empty his pockets for people."

People would ask Norm, sitting in the cafe chair, how he was doing. "I'm alright," Norm would say, "for an old guy."

A celebration of life will be held at the Erin Legion September 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4 pm.

Condolences to Maureen and family.



### **HIGHER GROUND**

Local café owner Bev Marshall's Higher Ground Café continues to evolve. Her friendly Baristas can create your favourite espresso drinks, and her menu offers many hot and cold food choices as well as tasty desserts.

Bev loves being part of the Belfountain Community and feels she has established an "instant family" with customers near and far. For those who haven't stopped in lately, coffee is on the house! This fall Bev will be offering take-out meals, like meat pies and lasagne, so folks can stop in at Higher Ground on the way home. This could make dinner a whole lot easier after a busy day.



### THE 50-YEAR PIT

A letter from the BCO urging that the Town of Caledon push James Dick gravel to donate a small parkland along Shaw’s Creek Road will be reviewed in due course, says Caledon planning spokesperson Parm Chohan.

The quarrying company plans to apply for permission to develop a pit from Winston Churchill Road to Shaw’s Creek Road just north of the Credit River. The project will run for some fifty years.

The pit will extend over the flat farmland above the wooded hillside that rises from the river. It will bring noise, dust and visual blight to the local landscape. It will also pose a risk to the water supply for nearby houses north of the river and surely reduce the property value of those homes.

Accordingly, the BCO has proposed that the gravel operation give to a land trust such as the CVC or the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy the 400 x 400 metre forested slope that it owns north of the river along the west side of Shaw’s Creek. With the projected loss of the open country of the Orb/Spina property to the south, the block of undevelopable James Dick land would act as a new place to stroll and walk the dog.

The argument is that Belfountain residents should be compensated for the inconvenience and detriment that half a century of excavation will impose. In urban neighbourhoods affected by high rises and associated developments, compensation in various forms is negotiated under section 37 of the Ontario Planning Act.

“The request submitted by the Belfountain Residence Association (sic) has been received and will be reviewed with the application” for the pit, Mr. Chohan confirmed.



### HERITAGE DESIGNATION?

Two years have dribbled by since Council unanimously voted to designate the 1886-built Pinkney House on Shaw’s Creek. Its owner, Lafarge gravel, objected within the designated 30-day period. Since then the two sides have been in “confidential” discussions, according to Caledon Heritage Officer Sally Drummond.

The original designation vote encompassed 33.9 acres, the derelict barn, and the stone house. Last April the company tore the barn down. It was done legally, planning spokesman Parm Chohan confirmed last week. The company sought and received demolition permission. Yet there’s still no agreement on heritage designation, not even for the house.

“Discussion will likely commence with the new Council after the elections in October,” said Caledon spokesman Parm Chohan.



Those bikes revving and screaming along Forks of Credit Road keeping you awake at night? Interrupting the family barbecue as they fly by?

You’d best invest in a good pair of ear protectors. It doesn’t seem as if blessed silence is going to reign anytime soon in our once-quiet country burg.

The Town of Caledon did purchase one or more ‘sound level meters’ some years ago. And under the Ontario Traffic Act “unnecessary noise” from mufflers or honking is subject to sanction, according to OPP media officer P.C. Tamara Schubert.

But the sound level meters to “quantify” noise remain in the hands of Caledon’s bylaw officials, rather than with police officers on patrol. The bylaw people can take the meters to the home of a noisome vehicle, measure the noise and issue tickets. But only if they know the address. “We don’t have the authority to pull over vehicles,” said a bylaw spokesperson.

## TWO YEARS AND STILL CLOSED

Don't even think of taking your friends to gape at the falls tumbling below the village of Cataract. Fenced off for two years now, the foaming highlight of the Forks of Credit Provincial Park trail from Cataract to Brimstone remains a no-trespassing venture.

The waterfall, since 2017 a local highlight of the 24,000-kilometre Great Trail from sea to sea to sea that commemorates Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, remains fenced off with "no date for re-opening," an Ontario Parks spokesperson told The View.

"We're working on preliminary plans," said park supervisor Jill VanNiekerk. Specialists in May, 2016, viewed the "erosion of the slope" under the wood and metal viewing platform and condemned its loss of "structural integrity".

She could not predict when work will start to rebuild the popular viewing spot, but said it would entail "significant cost".



## THE PARK

The Belfountain Conservation Area (CA) is considered the "jewel of the CVC". Its natural beauty and history have been local attractions since 1914. The autumn 2018 edition of the magazine "Niagara Escarpment Views" which is freely distributed from Niagara to Tobermory, includes a picture centrefold of the Belfountain Park head pond. For many residents in Belfountain who once took care of the park every spring in return for enjoying its trails, the CA now looks tired and downtrodden by the thousands of feet that have trudged through there.

This summer has seen an intense increase of visitors, traffic and parking issues, as people have attempted to escape the heat of the city, especially on long weekends.

Multi-car families visiting the CA, park offsite, and fill one car to mitigate the \$10 parking fee to enter the CA. Others walk in to avoid parking fees altogether. We understand the need for people to find that piece of turf that reconnects you with nature, but the parking issue has ramifications for everyone. Belfountain residents feel the pressure of parking overflow when visitors park on residents' lawns or parking spaces and visitors feel the pinch when they leave the CA to find their car ticketed for parking illegally, a \$40 ticket, or encounter up to a \$600 ticket because it has been towed to Caledon East or Orangeville. Belfountain now has three full time OPP officers assigned to address parking, traffic and other related issues.

June 19 2018, the CVC held a public open house to unveil their plan for the CA. Work will take two years to implement. Phase One addresses the head pond and dam. Phase Two which would start in 2020, would see the front entrance gate moved closer to the road and a 5000-6000 square foot facility built for office space and a visitors' centre.

When the CVC Management Plan began in 2014, the community of Belfountain was about to lose its Community Hall. After the Town of Caledon approved thousands of dollars to rejuvenate the Hall, an innovative partnership was struck with the OPP. The

*Continued on page 6...*



## A DELICATE BALANCE

The Badlands along Base Line Road will be the goodlands to visit around mid-September. "We're working toward a fall opening," says Credit Valley Conservation spokesperson Jamie Williams.

The parking lot for 30 cars and two buses, a roadside sidewalk, coupled with a viewing platform and walkway are completed. There will be garbage receptacles and organized pick-up. Mainly trail improvements remain to finish —including a bushland trail from the walkway to the parking lot.

Meanwhile, said an Ontario Heritage Trust representative, talks continue with the people who are being hired to maintain the site during the tourist season. The objective, she said, is "a delicate balance between preserving nature and tourism."

Entry will be free, though parking will not.

Judging from the 8,000 visitors who swamped a sunflower farm just west of Caledon East over the August long weekend, traffic issues could be problematic. So the good news to our readers who may fancy a visit: the Badlands will stay open in the winter.

*The Park* continued from page 5

Hall structure was preserved. Having spent all that money restoring the Hall, why does a community this size need another public meeting building as planned by the CVC? The CVC needs to reconsider their projected 6,000 sq. ft meeting space and make room for more onsite parking.

The CVC stated in the minutes of their meeting June 19th:

“Visitation is increasing and is being driven by demographics and recreation trends, not by the offerings of this CA. This is consistent with trends across the GTA and Ontario and heightened by the close proximity to Peel growth areas.”

However, when the CVC was asked about implementing a reservation system like Parks Canada uses, the answer was not yes - “implementation of a reservation system in the near term, may be possible, but highly unlikely.”

The CVC will not support managing the number of people entering the park each day, i.e. quota. While the length of stay has been *forecast* as a 2-hour maximum, visitor turn around may be increasing, many will stay past the allotted time.

The Belfountain CA is a major draw for tourists to this area. It’s natural beauty and heritage draw thousands yearly into the hamlet. Mac’s Park is a “jewel”, but so is the hamlet of Belfountain.

There needs to be a parking solution that can work for everyone.

Let’s face it, everyone needs their own piece of heaven.

The fridge wouldn’t fit in a bag—so they rang the Town of Caledon. “They were there almost immediately,” said Cindy.

Since that first day they take their exercise three times a week, early before the midday sun, plastic bags in their gloved hands. On regular garbage collection days they’ll occasionally unload their gatherings into neighbours’ bins that have been dragged to the road. Then continue on their way, refilling their bags.

*(The following anecdote from the annals of the trash-gatherers is for adult readers only! Another local resident who jogs the roads and trails always bag-in-hand recently spied a scrap of old bicycle tire in the long grass along Mississauga Road opposite the cemetery. He picked it up, and it was a black dildo! He stuck it atop his garbage can and days later someone came along and tied a pink ribbon on it. A week later, a squirrel climbed up and bit off the tip. That’s it, the local decided. The dildo went into the garbage.)*

“We felt if we cleaned the road up, people wouldn’t throw stuff,” continued Cindy, conceding that it doesn’t always work that way.

“My grandfather told me: ‘If it didn’t grow out of the ground, then don’t throw it onto the ground,’” she said.



### THE ANTI-LITTERERS



So you’re driving out of Belfountain one day and the roadside is dotted with the shine and flutter tossed by the careless. Then the next day you motor by and you rub your eyes, you stare at the unblemished greenery.

#### The anti-litterers have been by

They started this spring, Rahelah Shabani and Cindy Dennis, both of Belfountain. Between Bush Street and Base Line that first day they filled twelve giant garbage bags in one day off the edges of Shaw’s Creek Road. “Right after the snow melted we could see all the stuff,” said Cindy.

Stuff ranging from a refrigerator with no door to a plastic bag holding a pair of men’s underpants.

### PUFFBALL MAGIC

The puffballs, they is puffin’ up somethin’ magic this year. Small ones, big ones, some as big as your head—just go for a stroll in the woods around Belfountain and you’ll find the unworldly glowing white globes.

So we thought we’d publish the recipe we ran a couple of years ago:

- Cut the puffball into slices about half an inch thick and peel off the skin.
- Dip the slice in a batter of an egg and a splash of milk.
- Dip the battered slice into a blend of half flour and half ground Parmesan cheese.
- Fry it until brownish in a mixture of cooking oil and butter.

Go ecstatic!

## HELEN NOTZL'S LONG JOURNEY HOME—A PRAGUE LOVE STORY

At age four, Helen Notzl, long-time resident of The Grange with her husband Walter Keyser, made a daring escape with her mother and brother from the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. But that was only the beginning of Notzl's adventures in this passionate, forthright and harrowing memoir.

This is a book about the search for home, family, belonging, and the quest to love and be loved. In many ways, it's a quintessentially Canadian story—the author grew up in a safe environment, yet she longed for the people, places and language of the country she was forced to leave behind—food for her soul.

In adulthood, Helen returned to the historic city of Prague, where she fell in love with Karel, an artist. But she was soon forced to confront the bizarre capriciousness of the communist officials—a terrifying cat-and-mouse game in which she was expected to become a spy in exchange for a permit to stay in the country.

Notzl is a keen observer, particularly of emotional realities. Her memoir is filled with rich detail and reads like a novel—a tense thriller that had me anxiously turning pages to find out what would happen next.

Not a memoir for the faint-of-heart, Long Journey Home is both a frank love story and a searing indictment of oppression and bullying in all their forms—political, sexual, social, and relational. It is a celebration of independence of thought and life choices—and a call to risk the heart to live life to its fullest.

Long Journey Home is available online and at Booklore in Orangeville. Watch for Helen's launch in October at The Common Ground (former Belfountain General Store). Visit her website at:

[www.helennotzl.com](http://www.helennotzl.com).

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**Kayla** would like to thank everyone who stopped by to try some lemonade this Summer. She appreciated your support and enjoyed getting to meet all of you!



## BELFOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL— ANOTHER SWEET MEDLEY

The fifth annual Belfountain Music Festival, was held August 10-19, featured a unique assemblage of musical talents in delightful settings that ranged from Belfountain to Alton to Georgetown.

Some highlights were:

*Nibbles and Notes*, the opening gala at the site of the Belfountain Grist Mill on River Road, offered Celtic music by The Interpreters and delicious food prepared by chef Dinesh Shetty. After filling our plates at the generous buffet, we reached the music by crossing a wide bridge over the river that once powered the mill, onto a lawn surrounded by trees and swathes of yellow flowers as tall as the average Celt. As night fell, candles on every table flickered to life and a fire by the river sent golden sparks into the dark sky, making us feel that we had stepped through a curtain between centuries into an earlier time when these melodies – lively or haunting by turns – originated.

Stephanie Tulloch and James Turner, local guitarists and multi-talented musicians, performed original songs and covers of beloved tunes at the Alton Mill Arts Centre. Their sweet harmonies filled the soaring west gallery, while, beyond the wall of windows, the millpond reflected the rose and lemon wash of sunset.

Pianist, Emily Rho, and TSO cellist, Britt Riley, put on a phenomenal concert at the Georgetown Piano Hall. An intriguing mix of classical genres spanned the centuries. Emily is the incoming co-director of the Music Festival.

On another note (yes, yes, pun intended), Ron Salisbury and friends rocked the Belfountain Community Hall with their Golden Country Classics. Everyone had a great time, square-dancing to the caller, and there's talk of repeating the fun on a monthly basis. If this interests you, contact Sarah Bohan of the Belfountain Heritage Society, presenters of the Festival.

The finale concert was held at the Melville White Church with its classic acoustics, and showcased a bravura piano recital on an elegant Steinway by Ron Greidanus, director of the Georgetown Bach Chorale. The audience gave a standing ovation after the first movement!

Our thanks to Festival Director, Alex McLeod.

To be involved with the 2019 Festival, volunteer to put up posters, deliver flyers, and remind all your friends to attend and enjoy!

[belfountainmusic@gmail.com](mailto:belfountainmusic@gmail.com)



## Belfountain Keeps Saying Protect our Unique Ecosystem! Help us by Making Your Voice Heard.

*Consider making a DONATION to help cover legal and expert costs at [belfountain.ca](http://belfountain.ca)*

Belfountain is a unique and sensitive area on the Credit River watershed. It is within the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, and part of the Greenbelt. It will be under tremendous pressure over the next five years facing:

- Manors of Belfountain (MOB) 67 lot subdivision development proposal at the south end of the hamlet
- Effluent discharge from the Sewage Treatment Plant in Erin
- The extension of the Erin Gravel Pit North of the Credit River in Belfountain,

**Your voice needs to join ours to protect the water, wildlife, fish, birds, endangered and threatened species, wetlands, and watershed.**

Please send your comments by either: i) filling out the back of this card and placing it in the box here or at Higher Ground Coffee shop or the Belfountain General Store or ii) email [secretary@belfountain.ca](mailto:secretary@belfountain.ca)

**Help Us Preserve the Rural, Heritage and Environmental Integrity of the Hamlet of Belfountain and Environs.**



## Belfountain Keeps Saying "No Development" Help us by Making Your Voice Heard

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments regarding Development around Belfountain:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please consider DONATING to help cover legal and expert costs at [belfountain.ca](http://belfountain.ca)*

Please send your comments by either: i) filling out this card and placing it in the box here or at Higher Ground Coffee shop or the Belfountain General Store or ii) email your comments to [secretary@belfountain.ca](mailto:secretary@belfountain.ca)

