



The View from Belfountain

Fall 2019

JUNE 18th MANORS OF BELFOUNTAIN PUBLIC MEETING

What a night it was! Residents of Belfountain arrived in droves, reviewing the project boards posted in the cafeteria and asking questions while the two additionally scheduled public meetings took place. At 8:50pm the Council Chamber emptied and "Belfountainites" entered. The Council Chamber full.

Councillor Nick DeBoer chaired this meeting, the developer's consultants presented the plan and justifications. Upon completion, the floor opened for public input. Cllr. de Boer recommended residents submit their reports for review or present their questions or comments to Council.

It truly was a stellar moment, when half the seats in the chamber emptied as residents got up and formed a line to present their views. Residents of all ages and BCO Members, identified what brought them here, what they valued about living in this little hamlet, and what the impact could be to Belfountain's community character to add an urban subdivision within the settlement area of this minor urban center.

Residents talked about water, loss of water to the hamlet, the need to establish a well water baseline for the community, water quality testing, water loss impact on the wetlands, loss of animal habitat, too many houses, heritage designation, council's commitment to our community and municipality, increased noise, increased traffic flow on an already overburdened community and light pollution. Cllr. DeBoer chided residents when they clapped and cheered in response to presentations, but residents continued and demanded individuals be allowed to speak.

The list was long, the community voiced its concerns with passion and commitment. The presentations were professional, organized, factual and respectful. Nancy Mott from the NEC was in attendance that night, taking copious quantities of notes documenting this meeting. The meeting ended at 11:38 pm.

We want to thank everyone that attended and submitted concerns regarding this development. The energy and pride in community created is outstanding. Letters we have received in response to the meeting

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Turns 23 on
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019
10am - 4pm

Fun for the whole family!

Let's celebrate Jefferson by coming out to the Salamander Festival Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Venue: The Belfountain Village Church, and
CVC in the Park.

Activities are planned for a fun day. Delicious food, silent auction items to choose and make bids.



Wonderful live entertainment along with vendors and live reptiles can be seen in the Credit Valley Conservation area. Fun games for kids.

Bring that community spirit as we celebrate the unique place we call home. Volunteers are needed as our core group passed the baton last year and headed to universities. It is likely that Charlie Keith will return as our wonderful Master of Ceremonies.

Anyone willing to volunteer, please call Grecia Mayers, 519-927-3204.



have been supportive and highly reinforcing. As a collective, we need to remember this moment and use it to foster our efforts in the future, as best outcomes are achieved by the hands of many, not a few. This meeting was another step in the application process.

Belfountain is a beautiful rural community tucked into the Caledon Hills. Development permits are approved by two governing bodies, The Town of Caledon and the Niagara Escarpment Commission. In a meeting with Mayor Allan Thompson on July 2, 2019, he stated the Town will not make a ruling on this development prior to the NEC decision. This means Mr. Spina will continue to wait, as will the residents of Belfountain.

The Town documented this meeting two ways. One method was, through abbreviated written minutes, and the second method was a comprehensive auditory recording. Both of these records can be found on the Belfountain Community Organization website: www.belfountain.ca

THE PARK AND GARLIC MUSTARD

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) this year decided against staging its annual Belfountain 'garlic mustard festival' to which locals were invited to come and uproot the rapacious weed.



It does, however, continue to label the tall, white-blossomed sprout of late spring a primary invasive species in this province.

The festival started some years ago as a Belfountain Public School initiative in conjunction with the CVC. In that era, the school was recognized as highly concerned with environmental issues, which it incorporated into its teaching program. The reason for cancelling the annual event in Belfountain is that over time "there was less engagement from the community," says CVC spokesperson Sandy Camplin. Instead, she said, the event now shifts from school to school across the CVC area.

Some of the lost enthusiasm from Belfountain participants may be attributed to the decision to switch the annual weeding session to cleaning out garlic mustard growing on private Caledon Ski Club land rather than on local trails.

Ironically, the CVC's Belfountain Park this year has sprouted a sea of garlic mustard. True, the gardens and parking lot appear to have been sprayed or weeded where people walk. But just out of view in the woods and behind the bushes the invader has flourished. This writer entered off Pinnacle Street to spend four afternoons swatting mosquitoes and yanking several thousand of the tap-rooted weeds.

CUT THE CRAP — KEEP THE CREDIT CLEAN



The beautiful West Credit River is under threat. One of the very few remaining pristine rivers in Southern Ontario, it is a spawning ground for brook trout, Atlantic salmon and supports aquatic species, plants and the wildlife that live along its banks.

Now, the towns of Erin and Hillsburgh plan giant developments that will increase their populations by more than 14,000 people.

How will this affect the river? The treated waste will be piped to the corner of Winston Churchill and Bush and dumped into the river on the Caledon side. So Belfountain will directly receive the waste from Wellington County. Thanks a lot!

Is treated sewage safe? That very much depends on whom you talk to. Right now, the technology is NOT available to remove road salt, drugs, hormone disruptors, micro-plastics and other toxins that will permanently alter the river and affect its inhabitants. Water temperatures in the river will rise—and that damages the ability of the fish to breed and thrive.

As of this writing, there seems to be no allowance made for the possibility of storm damage, flooding, or other catastrophic events that could result in raw sewage spills into the river. There has been no consultation with the downstream community. The very people who will be most affected were not given the chance to be part of the decision-making process. However, it is Caledon residents who will pay for the mess when the inevitable breakdowns, storm damage and overflows occur, while receiving NO benefits.

Despite their claim that, "Above all, we are accountable to the environment" and their stated goal to "use innovative approaches to address local environmental concerns", the CVC has been unsupportive in speaking out against this sewage plant. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNR) initially expressed concerns and is now "reviewing the situation," but there is no guarantee that they will do anything about it.

And last but not least, the sewage treatment plant is expensive! Householders in Erin and Hillsburgh can expect to pay \$7,500 each to fund the construction of the plant, as well as a connection fee of \$4,000 to \$8,000, an up-charge of \$11,500 to \$15,500 per household. On top of that, they will fork over an annual fee of \$500-\$600; more once the inevitable repairs and upgrades are required.

If you are incensed by the thought of a lifetime of sewage effluent permanently ruining the West Credit River, please make your views known to your elected representatives in the Town of Caledon, the Town of Erin, the Region of Peel, the Province, and sign the online petition. Just go to www.change.org and find the "Cut the Crap, Keep the Credit" petition.



THE VIEW FROM OUTSIDE THE FENCE

It's a tale of two fences. One old. One new. The oldster vs. the newbie. Antique wood rails compared to spikes of modern steel. Both installed over the last year or so near the hamlet's western boundary.

The wooden fence begins west of Belfountain on Bush St. and runs to Winston Churchill Blvd. where it veers north to the gate-free driveway of its owner, the Wiggan family. Half a kilometre of cedar rails hewn by pioneers. A fence that embraces a forest.

The metal fence at 17196 Shaw's Creek Road south of the Belfountain Public School went in last year. Rods six feet high connect to 21 stone posts topped by roofed lanterns that adhere to the region's 'dark sky' policy. A single tree stands near the tall metal gateway to the gravel driveway. A fence that repels the uninvited.

American President Abe Lincoln was reputedly a rail fence splitter, wielding axe and wedge on black chestnut trunks. Later, as blight extirpated the species, cedar rails became the fencing weapon of choice for the settlers.

McArthur Fencing of Terra Cotta erected the Wiggan fence-rails over a ten-day period in May, five antique rails stretching nine feet between each of 307 posts—over 1,500 rails in all. No nails, just a vertical log tightly wired to pinch the stacked rails against the post. The classic design reflects an era when settlers couldn't jaunt down to their local Home Depot. Other than the wire thongs, the fence was harvested off the land they cleared.

Which is roughly what happened on the Wiggan property. "We found all the rails we needed on site," said Don McArthur.

The two ft. by two ft. square posts of the metal fence stand 33 feet apart along Shaw's Creek. The first such fence in Belfountain's heritage environs. A fence that speaks to the future just as surely as the split rail fence hails from the past.

Neither fence-owner chose to respond to the writer's request for an interview.

BLACK POWDER

The new clothing store in Belfountain is named after co-owner Elizabeth Porter's great-great-granddad. He traded in gunpowder. The store doesn't. But the shirts, sweaters, and jackets on sale at Black Powder Supply Company are explosively modish.

Most of the clothes "are designed and made in Canada," says Elizabeth. Some are "handmade with sustainable bamboo fibre". That includes clothing that she and husband Daryl, both of Erin, design themselves. "It's very important to us that the garments are made in an ethical manner.

"We've both worked in retail for a long time. We have full-time jobs," she says. So the store opens only on weekends. "But we've already got to meet a lot of great people in the area.

Charles Trimble, whose family at one time owned the building, was "totally blown away" by the store with its black and white motif, shining hubcaps on one wall, two candles burning and the shelf of old books from granddad's ancestral collection, says Elizabeth.

Just what the great-great-grandpa would have said on viewing the black, midriff-flaunting \$55 'cropped shirts' remains undetermined. But he'd surely have snuggled into the beautifully crafted heavy-duty red rug-shirts even if he balked at the \$215 price tag.



THE PINKNEY HOUSE

Some 23 months after Caledon Council unanimously endorsed the heritage designation of the 1886-built Pinkney House on Shaw's Creek Road, a 'pre-hearing' conference telephone call between the two parties and the presiding Conservation Review Council adjudicator took place August 8.

The property owner, Lafarge gravel, objected to the heritage designation within the 30-day time-limit following the Council vote two Septembers ago. Since then, secret negotiations have dragged on, during which the apparently designated barn has been torn down with the consent of the Town.

Lawyers for both Lafarge and the Town told the phone meeting that their clients fully accept heritage designation of the derelict stone house. But Lafarge does not agree to the surrounding 39 acres being included in the designation.

The Conservation Review Board representative finished the 45-minute phone encounter with instructions to the two parties to stop sending letters back and forth and get "face to face."

Both sides agreed to do just that, and to meet again with the adjudicator for the Conservation Review Council in two months.

THE SWEET SHOP

You've seen it, neat as a red-wrapped Christmas toffee. The Little Red Candy Shack, 50 metres along Bush Street from the intersection, in front of where Caroline Butson used to live.



Geeta Nair and “the hubby” live there now. There’s a sign pointing the way. It’s stuck in the public garden at the intersection with Main Street.

The recently opened candy shack operates weekends only. That smile as you walk in could shine from Geeta or from 15-year-old daughter Ilaria.

Care for a ‘Canadian Maple Flavoured Poop’?

Not your speed. How about a fruit flavoured ‘Runt’?

Still a tad choosy. Okay, might a ‘Swedish Fish’ that tastes like cherry meet your favour?

Okay, go for the heavy-duty stuff—‘Shock Rocks’ popping candy. Strawberry flavoured, though they’re coloured green. To be honest, they don’t quite ‘pop’ in the mouth, just crunch.

“This is our trial run,” says Geeta, adding that the shop outlet is mainly to cover the extra tax cost of commercial zoning at that address.

There have been occasional exciting moments already. Like when a couple walked about the shop, then left chewing vigorously, but forgetting the baby.

And the elderly candy-lover who strolled around munching a Tootsie Roll, then confessed he was a diabetic.

And then there’s candy-lady Greta’s slight cringe when a kid with teeth-braces walks in—she’s a fulltime office manager weekday at a Brampton dental office. “I have to separate myself from my office thinking,” she says.

Edi Cadham

Edi may have physically left Belfountain for Laurier University, but Belfountain is always in her thoughts and very likely in her future plans.



Edi is returning to Laurier this September for her second year of a four-year programme in Environmental Studies. Reflecting back on her first year, she tells me that having attended Belfountain Public School—in her day labelled an “eco” school—she gained a lot of knowledge of the local and wider environment.

With this strong environmental background, she was keen to learn more about the connections between environmental issues such as climate change and how it relates to social issues. In global terms, these issues put a spotlight on the inequalities in the world. Edi points out that climate change has more of an impact in developing countries than in our own country.

One of her idols is the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg who she says has brought about large-scale changes at such a young age. I reminded Edi that she too at a young age spoke up in a room of adults to bring awareness to the importance of keeping Belfountain the small hamlet that it is.

On the recent issues of development challenging Belfountain, Edi spoke last month at the Town of Caledon meeting introducing the plan to build 71 ‘manors’ on Belfountain’s southern flank. She said she spoke from her heart, but wrote a couple of notes before presenting.

“When a community comes together, you can make a difference,” Edi comments. “Small doesn’t mean you’re not mighty.”

With Edi’s involvement in the Waterloo Blue Dot Movement, which recognizes every Canadian’s right to live in a healthy environment, and the Green New Deal where like-minded environmental leaders come together to discuss climate change and strategies to gain attention of our governments, she is a busy 19-year-old.

Edi will be casting her first vote federally in this year’s election this Fall. Belfountain is so proud of you Edi Cadham.

As told to Grecia Meyers

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, David Kendall, Judy Mabey, Karen Alison, and Cindy Dennis.

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DOES WEST CALEDON NEED ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT DISASTER?

West Caledon has been violated by some doozy development disasters over the past decade or so. They include the barren site in Alton, where bulldozing and cutting of mature trees caused flooding for existing residents of the town. Years have passed and still there are no houses – and no replanting of trees.

Inglewood's development has had costly sewage problems. Apparently whatever projections were made about sewage during the development's design and approval stages were incorrect. Another mess.

In Caledon East, on the “Castles of Caledon” land (a Spina development), mature trees were cut and the property stripped. Three years have gone by and the land is still empty. A third mess.

And now Belfountain is facing threats of the same treatment. Again. Does Caledon need yet another development disaster? The answer from any right-thinking person should be a resounding “NO!”

While developers bleat about the Provincial mandate to intensify, there is no actual insistence in the Plan on intensifying in rural areas like Belfountain. It's true that the development lands south of the village are within the “settlement boundary.” But those boundaries were set in the middle of the last century, long before anyone thought about the looming climate crisis, or the invasive sprawl. As Nancy Mott of the NEC pointed out to the Town on June 18, these lands south of Belfountain need to be rezoned.

In fact, these lands should be turned into a forest. Swiss research demonstrates that planting a billion or so hectares of trees on the planet will stop the climate crisis. Instead of turning up the air conditioning on 40C days, politicians and their constituents should be jumping all over this tree-planting advice and implementing it faster than thoroughbreds on speed.

What is perhaps most unsettling about the debate over developing Belfountain's rural land is that the only argument that seems to hold sway is a technical one – will there be enough water and septic beds to support the houses?

The real problem is human, moral and environmental. Is it right, or even sane, to allow one man or woman – for personal gain – to destroy a neighbourhood for the 300+ people who already live there?

When people move to a village like Belfountain, it is typically because they love the area and value its qualities. They appreciate the look and feel of the rural and natural environment, the peace and quiet of low-density, and the historic style of the buildings. A development of 70+ large houses does not conform to any of these appreciations.

The Belfountain motto is “Small is Beautiful.” Not “Bigger is better.” Bring on the trees!



THE PIT

BCO Secretary Cindy Dennis has filed an objection to the James Dick pit expansion on Shaws Creek Road. The pit expansion is the third item on the BCO's Protect our Unique Ecosystem postcard. The first item is the MOB development, the second is the effluent discharge from the proposed wastewater treatment plan in Erin and the third is the 50-year gravel pit. Here is her June 21, 2019 letter:

Re: Erin Pit Expansion (Caledon Side)
Part Lots 11 to 13 Concession 6, Town of Caledon,
Region of Peel

Hand Delivered

James Dick Construction Limited, 14442 Highway 50,
Bolton, ON L7E 5T4, Attn: Greg Sweetnam

Ministry of Natural Resources, Attn: Aggregate
Inspector, 50 Bloomingdale Rd. W., Aurora, ON L4G
3G8 Attn: Ben Keen

Thank you for your letters dated Nov 7th, 2018 and May 29th, 2019. Please consider this response within the 20 days provided in your Notice of Objector Response. (June 24th, 2019)

Thank you for providing the additional recommendations for resolving the objections with the outlined changes you have documented:

There are remaining reasons for objection that need further review:

Water

- The mining is to occur below the water table. The implication of this action in such close proximity to the Credit River, the underlying aquifer(s) and Belfountain community water supply must have further evaluation. In two studies of Caledon watersheds and the water table, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority employed consultants and hydro geologists to produce an overview of the state of the water table in the Caledon area. Their results reveal that incursions into the water table represent predictable threats to water supply and quality throughout the region. They recommend that an

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ongoing monitoring process needs to be implemented of aquifer distribution and water course flow throughout the region to monitor the effects of these incursions. The OOSGA have released documentation outlining that below water pits must be carefully designed and managed in order not to have an impact on peoples drinking water provided by the underlying aquifer(s).

- In conjunction with mining under the water table, there will be an aggregate washing plant and water used for dust control along with natural evaporation from pit ponds. Therefore, specialized hydro-geological studies (peer reviewed) of the impact on the sensitive features of the area wetlands, the Credit River, shallow wells and water supply are required.
- The cold-water fishery directly adjoining the site in the Credit River is temperature sensitive. Thermal effects of the pit ponds and any water draining back into the river, baseflow discharge and water table needs to be considered as there are seeps and springs that feed the Credit. Appropriate investigations and studies are required to be performed.
- The Town of Erin is proposing to have their Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) outflow pipe into the Credit River at 10th Line and Bush Street immediately upstream from the pit expansion. Evaluation of the thermal impact of both the WWTP and the below water table pit needs to be performed in conjunction with each other.

Rehabilitation

- Below water table pits and quarries are virtually impossible to convert back to the original agricultural use unless water is pumped back in perpetuity. The topsoil mounded in berms for years destroys the microorganisms that are vital to future fertility. The beautiful rolling hills and healthy farmland will be destroyed forever. This is a poor resource strategy. Outlining the commitment of rehabilitation including who will police this in the future is important. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Town of Caledon must have the funding from the aggregate industry to pay for inspections and fines must be levied if the rehabilitation does not occur timely and in accordance with the license.
- Clearly stating the end date of the mining and when rehabilitation will commence is critical. This prevents keeping the pit open without on-going full-scale extraction indefinitely. It prevents the threat to ground water quality and safety runoff into or in proximity to ground water from the open pit awaiting rehabilitation.
- There must be commitment to not use the pit for recycling products. Any other industrial use that will

create a permanent use delaying or preventing rehabilitation must not occur.

Traffic

- Thank you for providing information regarding the Transportation Impact Study by Paradigm Engineering. It appears they have only considered the increase in gravel trucks and standard traffic increases if they are suggesting 1.0 percent per annum to the total 10 Year traffic volumes. What has not been considered is that the forecast Ten Year total traffic volumes do not take into account the proposed addition of 2,300 homes, schools, industrial and employment in the Town of Erin and 800 acres of homes in Hillsburgh and development in Belfountain of 70 homes. The Erin and Belfountain additions are located within 3km of the intersection of Bush Street and Winston Churchill. The closest grocery stores, banks, etc. for the residents of Belfountain are through this intersection in Erin. This requires further evaluation including these proposals.

Mr. Sweetnam, I have noted your comments in letter of November 7th regarding the lands along the Credit River that could be used recreationally and thank you. I would like to discuss this further with you and engage the Belfountain Community Organization regarding this point.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Local traffic-only barriers have been set out since May 31, following resident request and visitor parking issues.

An emergency motion brought forward by Cllr. Ian Sinclair at the May 28th council meeting requested barriers be distributed in high traffic visitor communities annually from the May 24th weekend to the conclusion of fall colours. This motion was approved by 2/3 majority of the council.

Neighbourhood watch and the BCO met with the Caledon Bylaw department and the OPP regarding bylaw enforcement and OPP involvement. The OPP committed to a strong presence (zero tolerance) early in the season.

There will be a minimum of six noise clinics conducted in the Belfountain Village Church yard over the summer months. The lack of respect/ understanding demonstrated toward the environment and private property as visitor numbers steadily rise has become an issue for local residents.

People cutting through private property at night to get to the conservation area is not okay, nor is being blocked in your driveway or having visitors parking in your driveway because of a parking shortage. For these types of issues residents should be contacting the non-emergency OPP telephone number at 1-888-310-1122 or *OPP on mobile. If you don't call, there is

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no record of circumstance. Police support is assigned to areas where data exists.

Also advise neighbourhoodWatch@belfountain.ca when you contact the OPP so we can track infractions. If you can describe the make and model of a vehicle or provide a license plate number, all of this information is helpful. Above all else, do not put yourself in a position of compromise with the driver(s), call and let the police pursue the issue.

The CVC has hired a security company to be present in the park every other weekend from 9-2 pm. The CVC has nine employees trained in enforcement, to issue tickets. The CVC has also installed cameras in the areas of trespass and placed barriers on the paths in the woods to impede visitors during the night. We need additional street captains and a co-chair, if anyone can volunteer let us know.

Please review our protocol developed in partnership with The Town, The Region and the OPP at <http://www.belfountain.ca/neighbourhood-watch/>

Also we would like to give a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Agnes Zarska. Agnes was one of our founding co-chairs for the Neighbourhood Watch Program in Belfountain. She designed the street maps for the community and did much leg work along with Darryl Mabee recruiting street captains. Agnes, you will be missed; your energy level and commitment to the community was endless. We wish you and your family well in your new adventures!

Lucky

*by Jenny Kroeger
(Rigbee Childminding)*

My heart is heavy and grateful at the same time. My older daughter is heading to Junior Kindergarten in a few weeks, and I know that the glorious summer that we had will never present itself in the same way again. I spent the summer watching over and playing with my two children (4 and 2) and a variety of neighbourhood children. Because we had to be home much of the time for the child care business, we spent our summer enjoying Belfountain's amenities. I am grateful for many reasons for the children with whom we shared our days, but one reason is that it forced us to keep our lives simple and local. And that's what made our summer so delicious.

By 9:00 on weekdays, after parents had dropped their children off with me and the commuter traffic through Belfountain had died down, sometimes I felt like I was the only person left. I felt left behind in a way, like the rest of the world had moved onto something more productive. There were days that I wondered if I should join the workforce too, but then I remembered what I had right in front of me. It was always something

worthwhile—maybe a conflict that needed my coaching, tears from a skinned knee, an exclamation that one tomato is finally red, or a glimpse of my daughters holding hands, and I knew that I was right where I needed to be.

I was lucky to be at home with my daughters this summer in Belfountain. It was a privilege to occasionally be the first one in the conservation area in the morning. What a joy it was to spontaneously run into the river, clothes and all, and to know that we simply had to walk a block home for dry clothes. We hogged the entire bridge in the park, traipsing back and forth and standing in the middle without having to worry about any one else passing through in those early morning hours.

Do you know that expression, "Dance like no one is watching?" That's what it feels like to be at Forrester Park. We spent hours running wild, laughing and squealing, knowing that we had the playground to ourselves.

And oh, River Road. Thank you for giving us a suitable place to ride our bikes. Our bike rides were always a meandering, stop-and-go sort of event. We didn't win any races, but we certainly stopped to smell the roses.

On slow mornings, my 4-year-old sometimes asked to take her piggy bank to Higher Ground to get a cookie. There are not many communities left where I can assuredly send my preschooler off to a shop solo. I am grateful for the women at Higher Ground for keeping an eye out for her as she stretched her independence.

I try to remind myself of these rich, satisfying moments when the roar of motorcycles fills my apartment the moment I am trying to enjoy some quiet after a full day with children. I am lucky to be in a position to soak in the hamlet's atmosphere while most people are off into the Real World. The quiet weekdays make the weekends tolerable. In fact, people watching from our stairs has become a fun weekend activity for us, and a lemonade stand is on our to-do list for the last few weeks of summer.

I know this won't last. I have maybe one more year of bliss before I enter teaching full time again. In the meantime, I am opening my pores and slowing myself down the best I can so that these gratifying moments soak into me.

Thank you, Belfountain, for providing my children and the children in my care, the simple pleasures of childhood this summer.
