



The View from Belfountain

Spring 2015

Area Politicians Exchange Views With BCO Directors

At the invitation of BCO President Jenni LeForestier, Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson took the hot seat at February's BCO Board meeting, accompanied by Regional Councillor Barb Shaughnessy. Directors questioned the politicians for two hours about a variety of local issues, ranging from the changes planned for the Belfountain Conservation Area to financial encouragement for small businesses, and from Growth in the Greenbelt to piped water.

External VP, Judy Mabee, expressed concerns that the CVC's proposed 5,000-square-foot event centre was not only too big a footprint for the park, but that it would create noise overflow for surrounding villagers. "We really are trying to be a green community," she added. "We want to keep pavement to a minimum and green spaces permeable."

Mayor Thompson pointed out that the Region of Peel funds 92 percent of the CVC and he believes that the budget for building such an Event Centre is simply not available.

In fact, money is the deciding factor when it comes to what will and won't happen in Caledon. Thompson says the Town has a deficit of 20 million and, what's worse, the Province is trying to off-load its debt onto the municipalities. As a result, we will have a tax hike.

To keep taxes down, he explained, Councils prior to 2003 did not spend to maintain infrastructure in Caledon. This is one of the reasons the Belfountain Community Hall building now has problems.

As for development, he said, "A lot of developers don't want to come up into this area because it's too much work." Not to mention that 80 percent of Caledon is protected (i.e. Greenbelt, Escarpment and Moraine).

Thompson believes that, "If we're going to have growth, it [should be] decided by the community." His idea is that we should have a community plan—created by communities for communities—and that Town Halls are the best way for him to receive feedback from Caledon

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Upcoming Events

March 26 Regional Town Hall Meeting—the Greenbelt Thurs., 6-7 pm Open House, 7-9 Meeting Royal Ambassador Centre, 15430 Innis Lake Road

April 9 Willoughby Property Access Consultation Thursday, 7-9 pm Belfountain Public School

TBA LOBSTERFEST is coming! Watch for news about the Second Annual Lobsterfest later in the Spring.

Fast Forward Eco Film Festival:

April 15 Wed., Erin Legion - 7 pm
Divide in Concord, Bottled water ban battle.

May 13 Wed., Erin Legion - 7 pm
Just Eat It! How could we possibly be trashing nearly half our food?

Details: TransitionErin.ca/fast-forward-film-festival.

July 30–Aug. 9 Second Annual Belfountain Music Festival
Melville White Church
Details at BelfountainMusic.com

A calendar of upcoming events is posted on the Belfountain.ca website.

Having Water Issues?

Has your well had water issues since drilling started on the ORB property south of Belfountain? The majority of the drilling took place over the last two years and some villagers have noticed changes during that time.

If you have experienced a change in the quantity of water from your well (water pump having to run more frequently) or the quality of the water (an increase in sediment in the water) or other water changes, please contact BCO President, Jenni LeForestier at:

president@belfountain.ca

Area Politicians Exchange Views With BCO Directors

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residents. So watch for future random Town Halls on various issues and have your say!

The reality is, residential areas do not provide significant income for the Town and simply building more houses doesn't create employment. Canadian Tire, on the other hand, does. Caledon has only 20 percent of its land base for future growth. With that in mind, Thompson wants to ensure there's employment with residential growth so there's enough income in the Town's coffers that residents such as retirees and those on fixed incomes are not forced to move elsewhere, and farmers are not driven off their land. He says a great way to control growth is to insist that for every two people who come into an area, one job is created.

And speaking of money, the mayor was surprised to learn that Belfountain had to hire a lawyer to help us with the Regional Roads issue. Why didn't we approach the Town for help? We did, more than once, and no one responded. With a very short timeline to take action, the BCO was forced to employ legal counsel or watch Belfountain turn into a sea of pavement.

However, the mayor says that, as a two-tier municipality, both the Town and the Region work together on regional service issues for the residents and that Regional Councillor Shaughnessy and his office are here to help the residents. Their support will be greatly appreciated as the BCO continues to address the issues that face Belfountain.

Regarding the Greenbelt, Niagara Escarpment Commission and Oak Ridges Moraine, Mayor Thompson would like to see the responsibilities held by these organizations downloaded to the municipalities. "We're doing all the work [in terms of building permits, etc.] but we have to wait for the NEC to stamp permits... for home owners," he said, explaining that it can take up to a year to get a response from the NEC. He believes planning should be done at the Town level, not by the NEC, particularly as the NEC doesn't often ask for community input.

Each organization is currently overseen by a different Ministry—the Greenbelt by Municipal Affairs and Housing, the NEC by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Moraine by the Ministry of the Environment—so conflicting agendas are inevitable and capabilities can be hampered from above.

When asked about dark skies—something that is lost in the country when development happens—Thompson said that LED dark sky lighting is planned, although Hydro One is giving trouble over it for unknown reasons. Oakville has already installed it and "has their sky back." Mississauga is converting over the next three years. Brampton? The mayor laughed. "They're... different."

As for the water issue, Thompson says we're losing our well water to developments from the south. With his farm background, he is concerned about availability of municipal water for dairy cattle, but says we can't have a big water pipe coming up from Lake Ontario because it's not cost effective. Water is being brought by pipe to a transfer station at the 410 and 407, but there's not enough capacity in this area to bring it here. He was adamant that a waterline to Belfountain is not feasible and there are no plans for it.

On a lighter note, the mayor told us that when the new rolling garbage containers for 2016 were tested, the people who complained the loudest about the carts beforehand were the ones who most wanted to keep them after the test.

Barb Shaughnessy said that the Region will provide a free service for people with medical conditions who need help with taking the containers to the road. When we confirmed this with the Region, we were told that you must have a note from your doctor AND there must be no one else living in your residence who can put out the carts. To access this service, call the Region in the autumn at 905-791-9499. Do not call before Sept. as the service is not set up yet.

Mayor and Councillor both think communities in Caledon are strong. They told us that improvements are planned for the Six Villages: Alton, Caledon Village, Cheltenham, Inglewood, Mono Mills, and Palgrave. As you can see, because we're a hamlet and not a village proper, Belfountain and area didn't make it onto that list. This is one of the reasons it is so important for us to maintain a strong community organization and ensure that Belfountain has a voice in Caledon. What's that saying about squeaky wheels?

The BCO would like to thank Mayor Thompson and Regional Councillor Shaughnessy for spending time with the Board to share their perspectives.

An Open Letter to David Crombie, Chair of the Land Use Committee

Dear Mr. Crombie,

We read about your appointment to chair the Land Use committee with great interest. As directors of the board of the Belfountain Community Organization (BCO), we would very much like to connect with you to be part of the dialogue as you and your committee proceed over the coming months.

The land, environment, and residents in our area are heavily impacted by changes and policies relating to the Green Belt, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, and the Provincial Plan for growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Equally, we are committed to doing our share to protect and preserve Green Belt and Escarpment assets for all who appreciate them.

The BCO was formed 25 years ago to monitor development in and around Belfountain so that countryside, water security, heritage, and community could be preserved for current and future generations.

Over the past year, the BCO has been extremely active in:

- working with the Region on the Roads project for the local area;
- monitoring newly-proposed development in Belfountain and its environmental impacts,
- applying for the Heritage Designation that has been recommended by the Town of Caledon report for the village of Belfountain and environs;
- liaising with the CVC and scrutinizing plans for the local Conservation Area which is surrounded by the village.

Belfountain is acknowledged to be a jewel in the crown of Caledon. Every year, it welcomes many thousands of Canadian and international tourists who come to enjoy the natural and historic beauties of the area. As concerned and responsible citizens, we look forward to discussing with you the optimal ways to preserve and enhance these treasures for the future.

Sincerely,

Jenni LeForestier, President
and the Board of Directors
Belfountain Community Organization

Town Reaches Out to Heritage Communities

On February 18th, Directors from the BCO attended a Town of Caledon Cultural Heritage Landscapes (CHL) Brainstorming Session. In 2014 the Town initiated a Community Awareness and Consultation Strategy for CHL's to develop a strategy to connect with communities seeking designation.

Two pilot landscapes are Silver Creek and Rockside. A Niagara Escarpment Plan development permit application for Silver Creek was submitted in 2011 prompting interest in conservation. A "Cultural Heritage Landscape" can be protected through a "Heritage Conservation District" or "through policy amendments of the Town's Official Plan."

In 2003, the "Criteria for the Identification of Cultural Heritage Landscapes" report (Andre Scheinman and ENVision, The Hough Group September 2003) determined criteria for identifying CHLs. Belfountain was recommended.

Interestingly, heritage doesn't just mean buildings. Information from Heritage Officer, Sally Drummond, says, "Cultural Heritage Landscapes are collections of related built form, landscape, vegetation, archaeological resources and other resources that have heritage value. They may include rural or agricultural landscapes, urban or industrial landscapes, cemetery, memorial or sacred landscapes, as well as Heritage Conservation Districts." The Province apparently is very interested in preserving Ontario's heritage.

The BCO delegated to Heritage Caledon in September of 2014 requesting consideration for Designation. We received strong support and encouragement that we would be considered for the 2015 budget.

This year, Heritage Caledon is not convening until September. The 2015 budget has been set at \$20,000 and heritage designation costs the Town as much as nine times that amount. However, as our area was assessed in 2003, the costs could be lowered in Belfountain's case by using the studies the Town has already paid for.

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

A Tribute to Alan M. Seymour, 1934–2014

B.C.O. Treasurer (6 years)

by Ann Seymour



Alan Seymour died at the age of 80, on December 10th, 2014. Survived by his wife of 58 years, Norma; his daughter Ann, son Mark and their families.

In 2007 Alan and Norma moved to a cabin located in Belfountain in which they affectionately named the 'Tavern'.

They would spend weekends enjoying the country life and involving themselves in the local community. Alan first met the B.C.O. group by attending a meeting in Brian and Linda Moorcroft's home. He felt an immediate connection to this like-minded group and was soon involved in the Salamander Festival.

His favourite job at the Salamander Festival was running the information table that he and his family set up. He would happily sell tickets; provide information to visitors and sign up new members. He did this with his wife Norma who was always by his side working and having fun together.

As treasurer Alan took on the task of putting the BCO's books into order, he also brought the organization's rules and regulations into compliance with changes to provincial laws. When called on to be acting-chairman of B.C.O. meetings, he had the ability to keep our diverse group on an even keel and ensure that everyone had the opportunity to be heard. One former President said he was gifted in the ability to 'lead from behind.'



Alan's hobbies included collecting antiques. One of his prized acquisitions was a 19th century cast iron street lamp from Rye, England. It now stands permanent vigil to his 'Tavern' in Belfountain.

Due to an unexpected diagnosis of late-stage lung cancer this past summer, Alan gave up his work as an administrator for a high-tech manufacturing plant and his community service activities.

Mr. Seymour possessed an unwavering belief that fostering community dialogue and positive action makes a better neighbourhood and better citizens. He was a gentle man with an inclusive nature and a community builder. Alan lives on in his family, friends, work and volunteer colleagues, leaving with them his values of integrity, generosity and honour. He has been described by many in this community as a team player, professional, gentleman, friend, voice of reason, statesman, negotiator, deal broker, mediator, thought provoker, dedicated, and committed. He was our treasurer, operations manager and mentor. Forever the project manager extraordinaire.



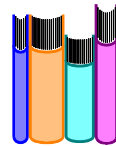
Belfountain Community Church

Join us for Sunday worship

Services at 9:30 a.m.

Easter Service, April 5th

New to the area?



Belfountain Library is located in the Belfountain Public School on Shaw's Creek Rd.

Hours of Operation:

During the School Year

Tuesday & Wednesday: 4pm – 8pm

Thursday: 3pm – 8pm

Saturday: 10am - 4pm

Summer & School Holidays:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 2pm – 8pm

Thursday: 10am – 2pm

Saturday: 10am – 4pm

The Caledon Library sponsors a Book Club at the Belfountain Library. New members welcome! Books are provided by the library and meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month (weather permitting).

For other information their website is:

www.aledon.library.on.ca



The Gift in the Inferno

By David Donaldson

In the wee hours of December 18, Elf, our Sheltie, jumped on the bed and barked. Now barking for a Sheltie is as natural as breathing, but this was an unusual and purposeful bark. We decided to investigate. Peering down the street, I immediately saw 10-foot high flames coming from what I thought was Bev's house, our immediate neighbour to the south.

The good news was it was not Bev's house, but her car, that was the source of the roaring flames (and yes, it did loudly roar). The bad news was that Bev's car was parked only a few feet from Kathy's house. I immediately checked that Bev was up. She was, and even better, on the phone to 911.

With the flames threatening to feed on Kathy's house, I pounded on her front door. It turns out our neighbour is a sound sleeper; it took a fair bit to rouse her. With both of them safely out of their houses, there was little left to do but wait until the fire truck arrived. We chatted and comforted each other, thankful that no one was hurt. Erin, Bev's daughter, came running down the street to assist, fire extinguisher in hand. A smart thing to do, although it had quickly become much too big a blaze for a hand held canister.

When the fire crew arrived they first confirmed the houses were empty and then approached the fire - until they were alerted to the large propane tanks a couple of feet away. Other than the tires popping due to the high heat, nothing exploded. The fire crew quickly brought the flames under control and carefully inspected the smoking carcass before declaring it safe. The police, who had blocked off the street, took down our information and the Village

returned to its peacefully quiet sleepy demeanour.

It is amazing how quickly a situation can grow to dangerous proportions but you know what really struck me that night? It was how quickly everything calmed down and returned to normal. Other than the burnt shell of the car that remained, while the insurance company did what insurance companies do, there was no real evidence of the very loud and very bright fire. And once the fire, police and ambulance crews arrived, it all felt very calm, a regular day at the office, and for them I guess it was.



Kathy, Bev and Erin after the fire.

This event will go under the column of "a Christmas gift" in my book. The gift was that this fire, although it destroyed the car and the fence beside it, did not spread to either house (thankfully no wind that night), the propane tanks did not explode, and no one was injured. Besides, in the end, Bev got a new car!





Protecting Your Pets From Coyotes

by Robert Burr

We had a coyote visit us last year. Early one morning, I opened the front door and spotted it in the long grass on the far side of the front pond. Coyotes are shy but curious creatures and often will not run away when they first see humans. We examined each other from a distance for a moment. Only when I reached inside to get the binoculars for a closer look did he turn away and move into the woods.

He was there again the next morning and I began to worry that this wasn't a random visit but that he was casing the joint. At the time we had three small house dogs and a pet pig who lived in the barn but who, after breakfast, enjoyed spending her days wandering around the pond. I decided that some precautions were called for.

We immediately stopped putting out any garbage before the pickup day and I made sure that the compost bins were secured. Household garbage and compost can attract all manner of unwanted wildlife.

I installed a very bright, movement-activated, security light that comes on whenever anything, man or beast, approaches the house after dark.

We got some LED pet safety lights that clip on to our pets' collars and we turn them on when the dogs are outside after dark. Even though we always supervise the dogs when they are outside, these lights make it easy to keep them in sight even if they move into a shadowy area. I also believe that most wildlife lurking about would be confused and afraid of the lights and so, they would stay clear of them. The lights are available at most pet food outlets or can be ordered from Amazon if you cannot find them in a store.

I read an article about *Hazing*, which is a method that makes use of deterrents to move an unwanted animal out of an area. Hazing can help maintain coyotes' fear of humans and deter them from backyards, trails, and play spaces. It really boils down to your doing whatever you can to frighten off the coyote, anything from waving your arms about and shouting, "Go away, you bad Coyote" (yes this really works and no, the Coyote will not immediately turn on you), to banging on pots and pans and creating such a fuss that any self-respecting coyote will soon learn to avoid your yard the way the Prime Minister avoids David Suzuki.



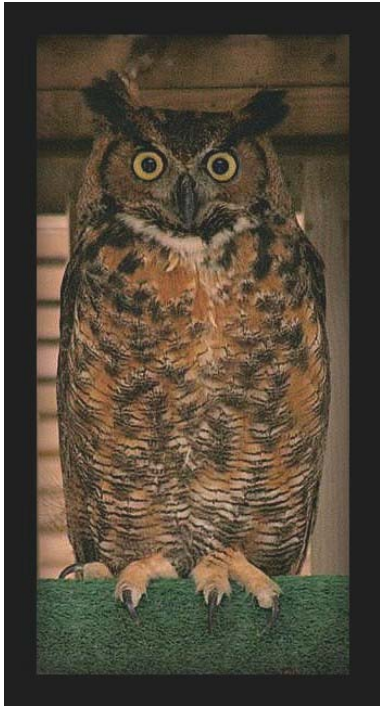
Coyote Repellent.

Our household Hazing technique goes like this. We have an old frying pan and a steel mallet. We leave these outside near the front door. When we go outside with the dogs from dusk till dawn, we take the noise-makers and bash them together for a few seconds. We have no close neighbours and so we have had no complaints and the police have not been called, yet.

Actually, we no longer do this every time we go out with the dogs since the point of hazing is to teach the coyotes to stay away and, so the theory goes, a short course of hazing should be enough to keep the local coyotes away. It might be wise to repeat this once a week as a refresher and, as a precaution, the mallet and frying pan remain near the door just in case we notice that any unwelcome animals have appeared.

As it turned out, the coyote didn't return. Unfortunately, there had been a stray cat on our property that I had been attempting to catch for a number of weeks. My goal had been to turn it into the local Humane Society with the hope that they would find it a home. After the coyote left, the cat never came back.

Editor's Note: Coyotes are nocturnal animals. To protect your pets, please do not let them out at night unattended, particularly during extreme cold when hungry wildlife is looking for food.



Give A HOOT

Many of you may have been driving by the beautiful building that houses Tammeron's Place and wondering "what is going to happen now?" I would love to briefly share a story and you will know the truth!

Although I had put the building up for sale in September 2014, by the middle of October I still had no offers. The following week, during an interview with a local ghost hunting company for the Caledon Enterprise newspaper, I decided to host a free ghost hunt on the Halloween weekend. I asked well-known psychic medium, Carolyn Molnar, to pop by.

A few days before the event, I joined with some neighbours to rescue an injured owl on Shaw's Creek Road. Since I had the day off and was craving adventure, I offered to take her to The Owl Foundation in Vineland. En route, I picked up my mother in Georgetown because we are both infatuated with owls! Within 2 hours we had arrived and were greeted by the incredible team of volunteers.

They determined she had severe head injuries, a damaged foot and she was extremely dehydrated. We were asked to call back in 24 hours about the full extent of her injuries. We blessed the owl, took a few quick pictures and, back in Belfountain, put a photo up on social media! Our friends, neighbours, and family immediately sent their prayers. When I called The Owl Foundation the next day, they told me they were thrilled to see such a quick response

with the owl. The following day on October 31, 2014 they felt she might actually survive!

During the ghost hunting event, I put out a donation jar to help fund the recovery of the owl (who was soon named "Bella from Belfountain"). Medium Carolyn felt Bella's rescue by community members working together was significant to the building and predicted that I would stay in it.

I decided to keep my building and work on a new business plan, including more community events! I am now set to re-open next month and my first event is Sat. April 18, 2015 with Carolyn Molnar! I will be offering organic produce, gluten-free food for take-out on weekends only (old ice cream parlour) and I will have monthly workshops, events, and a filming of my YOU Tube TV Show called "In YOUR Business" during the week (the main area). Fundraising events to help restore my building will be held under the name: "**Give A HOOT Belfountain**".

If you would like to be updated on events (including "Bella") please email:

giveahootbelfountain@gmail.com and I would be happy to add you to our monthly newsletter starting April 2015.

We are also very excited to announce that our beautiful Great Horned Owl, "Bella," (approx. 1 year old) has survived two critical surgeries and became the **poster owl** for The Owl Foundation. She lost a toe and battled a severe infection in the same foot. We hope that she is soon able to feed herself, build strength with her wing span and gain the confidence she needs in order to be released back in Belfountain! Please send her your prayers!

Cheers, Tammeron

New Principal at the School

Did you know that the Belfountain School is filled to capacity and flourishing?

The BCO would like to welcome new Principal, Michael Odd, to this important institution in our community.

Tennis Anyone?

Belfountain Tennis Club opens May 2nd

Registration Sunday, April 26th, 2-4

593 Bush Street



Belfountain Community Hall Closes

The Belfountain Community Hall on Main Street has served our village and area for many years and several generations. On March 3, 2015, the Town Engineer closed the building as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of the public.

The Town of Caledon estimates it would cost \$600,000 to make the building functional. A plan for the building will be brought to the Town Council for consideration in the near future. Whether that involves selling the hall or demolishing it is not yet clear. If demolished, the building cannot be replaced in that location as it is too close to the road to meet code.



Directors of the BCO will be delegating to the town about our community hall this spring.

The Town has also decided to sell off the old Alton Town Hall. That community has requested that the sale of their hall give priority to bids that include planned renovation to preserve the historic streetscape. Even though the building received heritage designation in 2013 and the Town promotes Alton as a tourist destination for its nineteenth-century charm, the hall's maintenance costs seem to outweigh these considerations.

Will the Belfountain Community Hall succumb to the same fate?

Belfountain Wants You!

Our little hamlet is an active, thriving place. As you can see from the chart of BCO Board Committees / Initiatives, there are many ways to participate in the activities here. Getting involved is a great way to make new friends, meet your community, and feel the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to preserve and protect our beautiful Belfountain area for current residents and visitors, as well as future generations.

Take a look at the chart (on the following page 9) and you're sure to find something that interests you, whether it's helping out with the Salamander Festival or Lobster Fest, or offering a couple of hours of your time to attend a Town meeting on Land Use, Heritage, or other issues that affect all of us. Just email theview@belfountain.ca about the committees or areas you're interested in and *The View* will put you in touch with the right person. If you would like to talk to someone by phone about participating, please mention that in your email.

At our last Annual General Meeting, the members agreed to raise the dues for an individual membership in the BCO from \$10.00 to \$20.00. It was pointed out that the cost of membership had not changed since the 1990's while the costs associated with doing the work we do on behalf of our community have increased substantially.

We would like to invite all our neighbours and friends to take an active role in our community and join the BCO. You can send a cheque, made out to:

Belfountain Community Organization
P.O. Box 15, Station A
Erin, ON.
N0B1T0

Remember that memberships are \$20.00 per person. Please include a note with your name, address, phone number and email.



BCO Board Committees / Initiatives

@ 2015 March 17

Committee / Initiative	Prime	Backup	Members
Executive & Board Members - definitions of roles and responsibilities	Jenni	VPs	
Province of Ontario Liaison			
Town of Caledon / Region of Peel Liaison	Jenni	Judy	
Roads committee – 413	Karen	Jenni	
Roads committee – Belfountain ESA	Jenni	Karen	
NEC / CVC	Jenni	Judy, John	
Peel District School / Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board			
OPP Liaison	Mauricia	Doug	
Business community representative	Tammeron		
Liaison – villages, hamlets	Jenni	Judy	Mauricia
Garlic Festival	Ian	Judy	
Fundraising	Barry	Jeremy	
Heritage Heritage designation, Liaison with BHS & Sally Drummond, Heritage walk, house tours Plaques, Hamlet elders!!	Ian	Jenni	Alistair S, David K. Robert, Tammeron, Darryl
Land Use / Orb development application - Next steps to prepare for eventual app.	John	Mark	Jeremy
Social Committees Lead			
Community Hall			
Community Event Grants	Judy	Ian	
Salamander Festival	Grecia		
Lobster Festival	Mary		
Dance			
Pub			
Talent / Fashion / Beauty show, Stomping Tom event, Plays			
Welcome wagon	Judy		
Member database, residents and property owners / residents (provide process for board members to review, access and maintain)	Darryl	Karen	



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