



The View from Belfountain

Summer 2017

BELFOUNTAIN SPRAWL

The gathering you simply must not miss!

August 3, at 7 p.m.

in the Belfountain Community Hall

It's pretty basic really—175 green acres where the deer roam, the salamanders scuttle, and locals stroll the trails while their dogs run.

- Formerly known as the McLaughlin land.
- Then the Enterac property.
- Then the Orb property.
- Now the Spina property.

Soon to be a development site extending along the south flank of Belfountain from Mississauga Road to Shaw's Creek Road.

Earlier this year John Spina, a Caledon developer, bought the land for \$5.8 million. There is talk of 49 mansions though no one knows for sure. It promises to bring a virtual doubling of our "small is beautiful" hamlet. It will bring the most transformational impact on Belfountain since its inception in 1825.

An impact bigger even than the 1880-1900 era when a thousand quarry workers roosted temporarily under canvas and five to a room while they mined the sandstone that would form the foundations of Toronto.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission will surely ban housing on the hilly, wooded 40 acres bordering the Mississauga Road and the southern fringe of the village along Bush Street. But the Spina property falls within the village boundary, so development is permissible on the remaining 135 acres under the town of Caledon's intensification policy.

So, you ask, what might 40 wells and 40 swimming pools and 40 septic systems and 40 thirsty lawns do to the water flowing from our taps?

Can a new-look Belfountain still keep its rustic character?

The developer has not yet submitted a plan to the Town of Caledon. But it is coming. Two years ago the village fluttered with STOP SPRAWL signs. Now sprawl is here.

Please show up **Aug. 3 at 7 p.m.** This will be the most important meeting ever held in our **Community Hall**.

Yes, almost all of us will urge a reduction in the number of houses to be built. But think beyond that. Please bring your thoughts on how to mitigate the impact of this development on our way of life.

Exciting Events Coming to Belfountain!

Aug. 19-27 4th Annual Belfountain Music Festival
Sept. 30 21st Salamander Festival
Oct. 31 Children's Halloween party



GRAVEL GALORE

Coming to your Belfountain neighbourhood—the biggest gravel pit yet.

Some 80 people showed up the evening of July 28 at the Centre 2000 in Erin to view a bulletin board presentation of the next gravel project intended by James Dick Construction Ltd. The company has applied to shift the land from agricultural to an extractive industrial zone.

The 309 acre pit—assuming the Town of Caledon permits it to go forward—will extend east from Winston Churchill Rd. to Shaw's Creek Road, just north of the Credit River.

Projected to start in the late 2020s, the excavation to below the water table level will work its way gradually eastward from Winston Churchill over some sixty years. At the end, say the company's engineers, a huge lake will cover virtually the entire depleted pit. The excavation will never get within 300 metres of the Credit River, company reps explained.

While the few wells of residents north of the river may be affected—a suggestion vigorously disputed—by company Vice President, Greg Sweetnam, the blighting of that section of countryside and the roar of trucks exiting along Winston Churchill Rd. is inevitable.

There was no word at the gathering of any form of good will offering the company might make to the community.

A suggestion was made that the company donate to the CVC or an ecological land trust the 400 metre by 400 metre wooded hillside bordering the river and Shaw's Creek Rd. that will not be developed. Mr. Sweetnam said the government "already has too much land."



4th Annual Belfountain Music Festival

Sat., August 19 to Sun., August 27th

Belfountain Old Mill Site property at
702 River Road

Join the Belfountain Heritage Society as we host the 4th Annual Belfountain Music Festival.

Our line-up will feature a rich array of music including five professional chamber music concerts, one opera soloist, an old time country-dance evening as well as five youth chamber music concerts along with Artist In Residence, Peter Dusek.

A 7-foot Steinway Piano is on hand for the performances, which take place at the acoustically pleasing historic Melville White Church, c. 1837.

New this season will be Nibbles & Notes, an opening afternoon reception that will be held in the garden of The Belfountain Old Mill Site property on the banks of the Credit River. In addition, join in the fun on Celtic Night, a salute to the Rockside pioneers who settled the area nearly 200 years ago!

The Belfountain Music Festival brings quality music to our scenic community traversing the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO world biosphere. The Festival also attracts an established group of classical music enthusiasts from the GTA and northern United States.

Highlights and Artists:

- **Nibbles & Notes**, Saturday, August 19th, 3 p.m.

Share in the joy of music on the banks of the beautiful Credit River at the opening reception for the 4th Annual Belfountain Music Festival,

Listen to a selection of musical notes from some of the Festival's performers while enjoying delectable nibbles in the gardens of the *Belfountain Old Mill Site property at 702 River Road*. Tickets required. Rain or shine. Casual dress & low-heeled shoes recommended.

- Prance up to an evening of **Old Time Country Music & Dance**, Friday, August 25th, 8 p.m. Back by popular demand, *The Golden Country Classics Band* will get your toes tapping and feet dancing to old time classic country music tunes and square dancing. Don't know how? No worries, the Band's caller will talk you through the moves!
- **Celtic Night**, Wednesday, August 23rd, 8 p.m. As a salute to the Rockside Pioneers who settled the area nearly 200 years ago, join The Interpreters for a night of traditional Celtic music. This musical trio is renowned for their authentic style and sound!
- The **All Bach Evening** featuring a wonderful ensemble of professional artists performing Bach's classical music.

Find more information & tickets for the Belfountain Music Festival at www.belfountainmusic.com.



Belfountain Community Family Events

There are a growing number of young families in our community, but we found it a challenge to connect with one another. Many parents work and commute outside of the area and geography necessitates car based travel, decreasing the likely hood of meeting neighbours walking through the hamlet. So we started an informal set of activities to help bring everyone together. Our events have included a Halloween Party at Higher Ground Coffee shop, a family oriented nature hike supported by Belfountain's Nicola Ross and Yoga in Foresters Park lead by Paras of Moksha Yoga Studios.

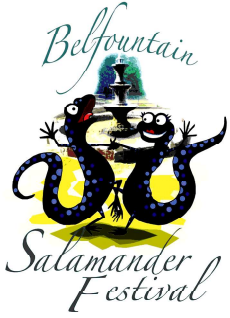
Events are usually free of charge, but can sometimes include a small fee to cover any expenses related to the activities. Watch for upcoming gatherings posted on the Hamlet bulletin boards. Coming up next is the Nibbles & Notes kick off to the Belfountain Music Festival on August 19th (tickets www.belfountainmusic.com), and a "crafty" experience is being planned for September. October 31st will see another Community Halloween party, perhaps of the haunted nature. If you would like more information or have a great idea for an event please email:

Katherine: trembletaylor@yahoo.ca or

Paras: paras@mokshayogobrampton.com



SALAMANDER A-COMIN'



The Belfountain Community Organization in partnership with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority will host the 21st annual Salamander Festival on Saturday, **September 30th, 2017** to celebrate community and Canada 150.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. visitors and residents can look forward to a sizzling breakfast followed by lunch showcasing local fare. The Belfountain Inn's squash soup will be back by popular demand.

Live entertainment provided by local artists is guaranteed to get people moving and singing along. Vendors will sell their wares and bidding will be encouraged at the silent auction.

Along with the familiar Belfountain Village church venue, several local businesses will join to add new venues so that the festival can be enjoyed throughout the Hamlet.

The Salamander Festival raises funds for the village and awareness to protect and preserve the environment and the rural surroundings where the endangered Jefferson Salamander resides. As we face the pressure of increasing development, keeping Belfountain small is every day more challenging.

"Small is Beautiful"



A LAMENT FOR THE PINKNEY HOUSE

Last September came a moment of triumph when Caledon Council unanimously voted to heritage designate the deserted stone Pinkney House on Shaw's Creek.

It was the first time in Caledon history that Council dared to designate a property despite the objection of its owner—in this case the Lafarge gravel company. A 30-day period during which the company could contest the ruling slipped away. Now eleven months have slipped away. And still the designation is not in place.

Meanwhile, the roof of the 1886 structure has once again started to leak.

Heritage Services Officer Sally Drummond says "confidential" talks continue.

Mayor Thompson told this writer that the issue could be wrapped up "in ten minutes."

That was ten weeks ago.

TRAFFIC REPORT

By Mauriça Connell

I am the Belfountain rep on the West Credit Visitor Traffic Management Committee. The other members are Region of Peel, Town of Caledon, CVC, NEC, Ontario Heritage Trust, OPP, and various business representatives.

Discussion at our last meeting, March 10, opened with a need to clarify that for Belfountain the issue was not just parking. I reiterated that residents feel traffic is also a major concern. Fortunately, the motion was carried, and so: "The committee will focus on recommendations on mitigating visitor traffic and parking issues in Belfountain during two weekends of the Fall Colours event" (i.e., Thanksgiving weekend and the weekend before).

Operating principles as a result state that: "a) recommendations should balance the needs of residents, businesses, and tourism opportunities and b) ensure the safety of all users, including vehicular, cycling and pedestrian traffic, in the area."

The Region of Peel produced a Belfountain Studies Summary of 2015/2016 data that compared volumes of vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the roads leading into the Village. The study also pointed out a 12% decrease in volume in 2016 and this was determined to be due to much cooler temperatures (10C) compared to over 20C in 2015.

Options for portable washrooms—their location and appearance—were also discussed. Washrooms in the newly appointed Community Hall may be available on weekends. Barb Elliott, David Kendall and Grecia Mayers have once again offered to house outside facilities at 777 Forks of Credit Road just north of the Credit Creek Store, as has Garth Turner, owner of the General Store.

I presented copies of citizens' responses regarding traffic, parking and tourism. You may see these at belfountain.ca.

Finally, here are the remarks I offered to the committee at that meeting:

"Upon perusing the BCPO and BCO archives, it is important to note that much of the sentiment of the citizenry has not changed. For example, a Peel Region Belfountain area E.A. Public Information Fact Sheet, dated 1996, lists the following publicly expressed concerns: speeding, safety, noise, truck traffic, high volume of traffic, increased development in the Belfountain area, damage to trees and the environment, impact on wells and changes to the rural character of the road. They also requested that attention be given for alternatives, such as reducing speeds or increasing police enforcement, and a possible by-pass around Belfountain, to name a few.

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Traffic Report continued from page 3.

“In addition, past historical data cites the following reasons residents chose to live in Belfountain (according to a circulated survey) in order of importance: being close to nature, location, its rural characteristics and peace and quiet.

“Other serious issues affecting quality of life, listed in order of importance, were: increasing pressure of tourism, traffic noise, commercialization, parking, traffic during weekends and workdays, motorcycles and pollution.

“Clearly, not much has changed in 21 years!

“There is one undeniable variable in the equation that DOES change this scenario, however, and that is the tsunami of development virtually on our doorstep, that will bring enormous pressures to Belfountain and environs. In 2017, projections are: 19,819 new houses and 239 condos in north Brampton. If we multiply by Mom, Dad, and two kids, that is about 80,000 potential new visitors to the countryside! We welcome our neighbours, but we need to have a plan.”



A special thanks to the BCO for buying and installing a batch of the Canadian flags draped about beautiful Belfountain.

Belfountain Heritage Society

The Belfountain Heritage Society recently hosted a Pioneer Picnic and Horse drawn Wagon Ride historical tour to celebrate Canada's 150th. You may have seen the beautiful team of Clydesdales making their way down Main Street to Bush Street and out Shaws Creek to River Road. There was so much history to talk about that the ride was barely long enough! Guests were then dropped off at the Original Mill site property on River Road for a picnic and music along the beautiful Credit River. Local dignitaries enjoying a ride included MPP, Sylvia Jones, and Town of Caledon Region of Peel Councillor, Barb Shaughnessy. A special thank you to our sponsor Higher Ground Coffee Shop for making picnic pack lunches available for the occasion!

The View from Belfountain...

is available online: 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, Maurica Connell and Katherine Tremble-Taylor.

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