

URGENT UPDATE ON BELFOUNTAIN WATER AND ORB DEVELOPMENT

CURRENT WATER PROBLEMS IN BELFOUNTAIN TO BE WORSENER BY ORB

DEVELOPMENT: At its meeting Jan. 18, 2014, the Belfountain Task Force (BTF) heard a preliminary report from local hydrologist Hailey Ashworth on the findings of the water survey BTF members conducted in December.

Belfountain proper has 106 households and stores. Of these, 95 lie west of the river and 48 of them completed the three-page water survey. The results confirm the fragility of water supply to the hamlet, with 13 households (7 on Old Main St.) reporting water shortages and another 6 requiring cisterns to get by.

Some 23 households have water softeners and the same number have UV or reverse osmosis water purification systems. Sixteen of the 48 households list ongoing water quality issues ranging from high sulphur or iron content to coliform contamination.

Besides water quantity, Hailey told the meeting, the big danger will be the compromising of water quality if the ORB development drills 70-plus wells and septic systems on its land along the south fringe of Belfountain. These excavations will almost certainly perforate the 'groundwater recharge' zone for the aquifer, risking the contaminating of the current village wells downhill from the aquifer.

Under the Source Water Protection Act that became law last year: "All sources of drinking water must be assessed for vulnerability," said Hailey. This Act attaches to the Clean Water Act of 2006, enacted since the Walkerton water disaster of 2000. "Significant groundwater recharge areas must be delineated and protected under the Clean Water Act," she added.

BCO AND COMMUNITY NEED TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AGAINST ORB

DEVELOPMENT: The meeting also discussed the upcoming Belfountain Community Organization (BCO) annual general meeting set for 7 p.m., Feb. 19 at the Belfountain Community Hall. The Belfountain Task Force (BTF) is the present day incarnation of the original Belfountain Task Force on Development formed 30 years ago to oppose the first development plan proposed by Enterac, now called ORB.

The reborn BTF was formed last year to counter the new ORB plan. At next month's BCO meeting the BTF will put forward a slate of members seeking to staff the 15-person BCO board.

If you worry about your home value, water, rural environment, traffic, or the prospect of a bedroom community in your backyard that doubles the size of the village, NOW is the time to speak up. We urge you to enlist your friends and neighbours to back the BTF in making the case against this development.

The BTF's slate of directors will bring fresh energy to protecting our beautiful rural community.

We must speak our opposition with one voice. Once elected, the directors will then choose the new president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary of the BCO. So, please:

- 1) Join the BCO for \$10 each adult at least three days ahead of the Feb. 19 meeting. This will entitle you to vote. Please complete the attached BCO membership form and send it with a cheque to the address specified.
- 2) Come out in full force to the Feb. 19th AGM meeting and vote for the BTF slate of directors. No proxies allowed, so please attend.