

Happy people after meeting on Belfountain traffic

By Bill Rea

Plans to divert traffic away from Belfountain are off the table for this year, and those concerned are looking to next year.

That was the main result of last Wednesday's meeting with municipal officials and business people in the hamlet.

'Common sense prevailed,' declared Garth Turner, owner of Belfountain General Store.

The West Caledon Visitor Traffic Management Committee had come up with an idea that police would be encouraging traffic on Forks of the Credit Road, heading west from Highway 10, to go north on Mississauga Road, thus bypassing the hamlet. The plan had been to implement the idea the first two weekends of October, including Thanksgiving. The aim was to reduce traffic congestions, which was feared, considering the number of tourists expected in the area this time of year to take in the fall colours. People who indicated they wanted to go into Belfountain would have been allowed to proceed.

Last week's meeting took place in Mayor Allan Thompson's office.

'It was excellent,' Councillor Barb Shaughnessy declared. 'It was great public engagement.'

She also pointed out the business people are worried about losing parking spots.

'They see the value in having a parking lot,' she said. 'That's not easy to accomplish because you're sitting on Niagara Escarpment land.'

Shaughnessy also agreed that dealing with the issue was left too late this year.

'We have to start earlier,' she said.

'I think they agree the intentions were good intentions,' she added, adding they didn't agree with the proposed pilot project because of a lack of consultation.

'I think it went well,' Thompson remarked. 'I think now we can find a workable solution for everybody.'

Turner said there were about 20 at the meeting, including representation from the Town, Caledon OPP, Credit Valley Conservation and the business community. 'It was a good group,' he said.

He also said they were given assurances the proposed provisions have been scrapped for this year.

'We proceeded to talk about next year,' he said. 'I would term the meeting respectful, constructive and productive.'

Turner added it was apparent that small business will be heard from in the future.

'I think that is all we asked for,' he remarked.