

December newsletter



Too much explanation

A prof from my post-graduate days of study, long long ago once told me I explained things too much, thereby losing people along the way. I still do it.

I went to McDonald's recently. I drove up to the McDonald's window to order my normal McDonald's lunch, 2 regular burgers with nothing on them. Now I should be careful when I say, "Nothing on them." So, I explained to the server on the mic, "I want two hamburgers, just the patties. Nothing else, no pickles, no ketchup, no mustard, no cheese, nothing else." 'Drive ahead sir,' she responded. Pay window, credit card, COVID times, McDonald's doesn't want cash. Tap. Next window, order pickup. Gosh the bag seemed large for two little hamburgers. I pulled over into the parking lot, deciding to eat lunch parked rather than driving down the road. I opened the bag. Hmm, a large plastic food container but the serviettes blocked my view from seeing what was under the clear dome. I pulled the order out of the bag, pushed aside the napkins to see my order. You guessed it. Two lonely patties, sitting side by side. Bare. Naked. Exactly as ordered: no pickles, no ketchup, no

mustard, no cheese...just too very lonely patties under the crystal dome. Just what I ordered.

Professor Faustino, thanks a lot.

COVID, COVID, COVID

What a wreck of a year, can't end soon enough! To find the positive aspects of the year, a real challenge. Goodbye Mr. Trump, glad to see you go. But not soon enough. Dr. Teresa Tam, Canada's chief health officer, endless cautions, and precautions about the pandemic. Please Dr. Tam, ya gotta stop with that endless drone. Immediately won't be soon enough. Premier Ford, you looked so good for a while, back there as you jumped into the COVID fray. But you quit too soon. Did Christine Elliot tell you to stop? Not soon enough premier. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, you jumped in, too. Let's get those kids back into schools. Soon! Ha ha, then we saw...maybe too soon...or not soon enough.

'Not soon enough' might become the ubiquitous label of the times. Apply it everywhere and anywhere but no matter how quickly you apply it, it *may not be soon enough*.

Tired of the waves yet?

First wave, second wave, third...ya tired of the waves yet? I am. It's becoming like a chess game, every move we make, COVID-19 makes a better one. We keep getting outmaneuvered. We blame scapegoats everywhere for our failing play: the young, conspiracists, seniors, the government, politicians, medical professionals, schools, school boards, teachers and on and on...the blame game just keeps rolling along. Will we survive? People do, always have and will forever. This pandemic will end, a vaccine will be produced. We will return to normalcy again. Till then...

Ya gotta fight back

You must find ways to fight back, to reduce your stress, to decrease your anxiety, to keep your sanity. Cabin fever should be reserved for cottage country. Find ways ways to escape it, ways that work for you.

Musicians compose

Musicians play music, compose songs, write lyrics. The melodies calm their ravaged souls. Just listen to K.D. Lang's version of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* and you'll get my drift.

Authors write

Writers are painters in the medium of words, pen rather than the brush. Creating art, no less than any painter, any sculptor just differently. Tell me you didn't escape when you read *The Da Vinci Code*...or any of the works of Stephen King, Donna Tart, David Baldacci, John Grisham. You have a favourite, I know it.

Engineers build

Engineers work with architects building beautiful things, complicated things, intricate

and fantastic things. So, make something, anything. Model airplane, model car, bird house, something you can handle but be reminded of the old saying, "Engineers built the Titanic; amateurs built Noah's ark."

Cooks create

Every cook worth their salt imagines their next meal, creating it mentally, simmering the recipe repeatedly in their heads. Hmm, a bit of parmigiano, a bit of tomato, definitely some garlic...that works for me. Voila, buon appetito.

Painters and the brush off

Painters always critically claim their work is improvable. Ever wonder if Michelangelo was happy with the ceiling? Ya think Pope Julius was critical?? Too much red, Michele; maybe a few more angels? Whaddya think?

What's the point here

The point here is that COVID-19 keeps hammering away at us. Well, fight back. Find something that gets you fighting back. Man the ramparts. Raise the arms. No surrender. Fight back to the last breath. Beat it back. Use every weapon we have...reading, writing, painting, building, cooking, just do things to support our lives. To paraphrase Celine Dion's great hit, "We will go on."



And in that light, fight on. Fight together with your family, with your friends. Fight with all the precautions you can take. But keep going. You're very important to somebody. Somebody wants you around longer. So do everything you can to keep yourself going in these tough times including taking all the precautions you can. Somebody loves ya; somebody cares.

I know, *I do*.

Merry Christmas,
Nadia, Richard
and Fermo