

Ca-ray-zee Times: A COVID-19 blog by Richard Bercuson

March 20

- Chandelier bulbs offer so much more light when dusted. Only took three years to get to them.
- Brooklin is a wonderful place to walk around and still not be within 30 feet of anyone, let alone 6.
- A dog owner using a field near me drops the dog's poo-filled bags at the field's entrance. I pick them up and toss them in the Town trash bin 100 m away. If you're the owner of said dog and green bags, you're lazy and disgusting. This has nothing to do with COVID-19 but I just wanted to make a point.
- Blinds take a long time to clean. So I'll tackle set 2 tomorrow. Or next week.
- Started a new book. A chapter a day is fine. No rush.
- If I go through every drawer, at one day each, to toss out old clothes, I'll be done in a week. So, I'll do one drawer every two days.
- No sports to watch. I always wondered what it was like for people who don't care for sports nor watch it. Now I know. The day still has 24 meaningful hours.
- My hands have never been so clean.
- If you turn on CNN at any time, you'll invariably hear Trump speak. This triggers my gag reflex. Instead, for an intellectual comparison, I turn on Peppa the Pig, even when my four year old granddaughter isn't home.
- The stationary bike still works really well
- We vow to only order takeout from Brooklin places
- Funny how you start to notice cobwebs in distant ceiling corners

March 22

- If I shave with the same blade every second day for three months, I will have saved buying a blade since each one lasts about a month and a half. Over the course of the year, that's about four blades annually. Good savings there.
- I need a haircut. Pretty soon I'll be asking my six year old grand daughter for one of her hair pullly thingys
- Note: I have not yet gotten to the next set of blinds to clean. There's always next Tuesday. Or Saturday.
- That new book? Read too much of it last night. At this rate, I'll be done by next weekend. Then what?
- Had some trouble with the BTC site the other day. The support people on three different chat lines were mostly useless. I started to panic. Then realized, whoa there, what's the rush!?
- Some mornings I sit by the back window and count the squirrels our dog barks at. But did you know how much they all look alike?

- A raccoon poked his head into the front window on the roof at 2 am the other night, setting the aforementioned dog alight. We calmly got up, turned on the light to see it, then returned to bed, nonplussed. Not like we're going anywhere at 8.
- Naps work best when tired
- The bbq needs to be cleaned. But when?
- Sold something on Kijiji today. Met the guy at Tims on Baldwin. I'd put the item in my trunk so I wouldn't have to hand it to him. I opened it to show him. He stayed 4.2 ft away. We chatted for about 15 seconds. He put the cash in the trunk and took the item. With gloves on, I pushed the cash into a pocket, closed the lid and drove home. In the car, I sprayed hand sanitizer on the gloves and rubbed it in. At home, I removed the cash with the same gloves on then sprayed both sides of the bills with hand sanitizer. Took off the gloves and put them in the cupboard. Washed hands thoroughly - again. Delicately put the sprayed money on the buffet to dry out. Which goes to show how the underground economy can still thrive. Thank you, Kijiji!

March 23

- finished the blinds in one room. **One** room.
- Need to get the snow tires off. And then I thought, wait, where am I going? Do the treads wear down if the car just sits in the driveway? These are important technical questions
- Was poking through our first aid kits because I'd recalled seeing masks once. Sure enough, yes, found two though they're the cheap ones. Don't know when we'd use them. Also in the same compartment were two pairs of latex gloves. Along with my dissection tools from those halcyon McGill days in labs, I'm ready for small surgeries. Viruses? Not so much.
- We're babysitting the 4 and 6 year old grand girls. They are - naturally - adorable. Except when they whine. Or cry. Or pout. Or eat. Or try to rip off one of the dog's ears with hugs. Or need to watch one more episode of Ryan's World.
- Negotiating with a young child on just about anything is like mud wrestling with a pig. You both get dirty but the pig loves it.
- The 6 year old keeps beating me in UNO. I don't get it. However I did demolish her in checkers. Quite satisfying.
- Since the gym is closed, I've been planking. Once I get to two minutes, I recall that the world record is held by a 62 year old former Marine: 8 hrs and 15 mins. The only thing I can think of is how he went for a pee.
- How could we have managed this self-isolation stuff before Facetime?

March 29

- Three uplifting videos to watch with your kids and all are on youtube:
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious from Mary Poppins - **Cabaret** opening number from the movie - **The cover is not the book** from Mary Poppins Returns
- Steady stream of boxes being delivered here. I sense the recycle truck guy will be cursing next week

- Saw two coloured rocks with lovely messages while walking the dog. Took photos and they're on this site. Nice gesture by whoever.
- The only part of the Beer Store I consider an essential service is the bottle/can return. I'm going to take that cash and buy Amazon stock.
- Perspective: Facetimed (now a verb) to friends in North Carolina last week. Their son, a hockey protege of mine some years ago, lives in a walk-up apartment near the Hudson Parkway in Manhattan. For air, he needs to go to the roof!
- Warning! Do NOT watch daytime TV! Ever.
- My slippers have fallen apart. So I just ordered new ones from SoftMoc online, with free shipping. That's just way too easy.
- I have an editing gig with another agency and, before they switched to a different courier company, they left me with a whack of unused courier bags. These are non-porous bags and I wonder how they could be used as masks, so long as you don't mind the company's name on the inside or outside. In this world, who actually cares what they look like when out and about? Suggestions?