

FORMING IDEAS

A publication of Brenco Industries Ltd

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Brenco Industries has been publishing the Forming Ideas newsletter since 2007. It is intended to educate and inform our friends, customers and suppliers through our own observations and experiences. Brenco is a quality provider of metal cutting, forming and fabricating solutions.



Oh, What A Year!

As if a recession wasn't already on our doorstep along with the plummeting price of oil, along came COVID-19.

We know that you are doing your best during these trying times: supporting your family, avoiding the virus, working from home, keeping your businesses alive. You worry about your friends and loved ones more than yourself. That is why you are making the sacrifices that have been so hard to make. You're doing whatever you can to hold on to everything you love and have worked for. For most of us, this is the most difficult event we'll face in our lifetime.

All of us at Brenco care about you and your business. We are here to help. It is our hope that the current situation will be brought under control quickly and successfully in order to avoid further damage to our lives and economy.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Stay Strong

NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

In our last issue we touched briefly on COVID-19. At that moment in time, little was known about the virus. That was late February. Shortly afterwards, it became considered a decimating threat to the human race. Enormous measures were taken by governments around the world to save humanity.

Niall Furguson, renowned British historian, recently made a comparison between COVID-19 and previous global pandemics. He cited that the two worst pandemics in recorded history were the Antonine Plague of 165 to 180 AD and the Black Death of the mid 1340's. Both, Furguson claims, took the lives of approximately 1/3 of humanity. A truly catastrophic number. The next closest was the Spanish Influenza in 1918 which has often been used as a comparison to our current situation. Then, 3% of the world population was lost.

As a historian, Furguson agrees that the initial emergency responses by governments to minimize the impact of COVID-19 were proper and reasonable but adds that enough has been learned to realize that we are not seeing a reoccurrence of Antonine or the Black Death. In fact, we are not even dealing with anything as major as the 1918 influenza. He suggests that this event is more like the 1957-58 pandemic (H2N2), which caused the death of an estimated 1.1 million worldwide.

Don't feel badly if you don't recall that event. You probably don't remember the 1968 pandemic (H3N2) either where an estimated 1 million lost their lives. In '68, the majority of deaths occurred with people over the age of 65. (H3N2 continues to circulate worldwide as a seasonal influenza.) The likely reason you don't recall these pandemics is because there was no coordinated mass response to either. For the most part, life continued normally without government intervention. By comparison, the world's response to this most recent pandemic has been unprecedented in all of human history.

Please allow all of us at Brenco to express our sympathy if you have lost a family member or friend to COVID-19. Sadly, as we have learned, these events occur randomly and, for the most part, remain out of human control. It was reasonable for governments to make drastic changes in order to avoid an enormous burden on our hospitals and health care work-

ers who deserve praise and admiration for their commitment to serving in spite of personal risk.

At the time of this writing, just over 330,000 people have died worldwide as a result of contracting COVID-19. That number is certain to grow and has, without doubt, been kept low because of the changes to human activity. Considering the current decline in infection and mortality, it is possible that the death toll will remain under 1 million during the pandemic period. Put into perspective, the world population in 1958 was 2.9 billion. The current population is estimated at 7.8 billion. By percentage of population, the death toll in 1958 was .037% compared to .0038% today

Physical health is important but so are mental and economic health. Governments are asking human beings to stop behaving like human beings. The stress of not socializing, not working and physical avoidance are taking their toll on the human psyche. (Neither can world economies be sacrificed based on these numbers.) The consequences of a deep recession or possibly even a depression would ruin many lives for years to come.

Go onto the internet and check out social media. There you'll see countless conspiracy theories ranging from world domination by the Illuminati to the disease being caused by 5G wave frequency transmission. Mankind is amazingly resourceful but a conspiracy of that magnitude is beyond human ability. The reality is that politicians are under enormous pressure to make the 'right decisions'. Do too little and the consequences could be catastrophic. Do too much and other damage is inflicted. Either way, the voting public becomes angry. Politicians facing an angry electorate don't get re-elected.

The number of COVID-19 related deaths in Canada has been in significant decline since May 14th. On May 1st, 200 deaths were reported. By May 19th, the number had dropped to 70. The government is also reporting that the 2019-20 influenza season ended abruptly in week 12. In weeks 15 to 19, exceptionally low levels of influenza activity were reported across Canada.

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History Mystery



June 29th, 1951: The Surrey Drive-In Theatre opened. It was located in the Newton area of Surrey at 471 King George Highway, which today would be roughly 82nd Avenue and King George Boulevard. It was operated by Sid Moskaluke and Bill Bonnar, owners of Gayland Amusement Co. Ltd. Moskaluke was a veteran of the Second World War who had begun his dream of owning a theatre when he started the Cameo Theatre in Whalley's Corner. He sold out his interest of the Cameo to open Surrey's first open air drive-in theatre.

The concept of a drive-in theatre was so new that the Surrey municipal council had to revise the bylaws in June, 1950 to accommodate Moskaluke's plan.

The opening ceremonies were broadcast live by CKNW and dignitaries such as Reeve Charles Schultz and the Delta MLA Alec Hope attended. The ribbon was cut by well-known local businessman and Newton pioneer, Lew Jack.

There was room for 430 vehicles on opening night, but capacity would expand to 600 within the month, making it the largest theatre in B.C. at that time. They anticipated a crowd of up to



1,200 people every night and often sold out.

Besides the concession stand set in the centre, the open air theatre also had a large play area for the children at the front. The children could also take turns riding on Shetland ponies, a 26-seat merry-go-round or a 12-seat Ferris wheel. Admission was \$0.25 per person and if you didn't have a vehicle, you were welcome to sit in the outside shack.

With the family friendly atmosphere, it was often a full day affair. A typical summer day might be spent at White Rock or Crescent Beach with fish and chips for dinner, and then it was off to the drive-in for the evening so the kids could play in the playground while Mom and Dad watched the movie. Families would pack a picnic dinner to cut down on costs as well.

On June 29th, 1951, the theatre opened with Fred MacMurray starring in "Don't Trust Your Husband". The drive-in closed with Tom Cruise's "Risky Business" on October 30th, 1983.

Hockey: What's In A Name?



In 1932, James Norris purchased the Detroit Falcons hockey team and renamed them the Red Wings. Norris had played for a Montreal team named the Winged Wheelers which inspired the name and winged wheel logo on the NHL's motor city franchise.

Madison Square Garden president "Tex" Rickard started the New York team in 1926. They would become the second NHL team in New York City. The Americans being the first. People began calling the new team, Tex's Rangers and the name stuck.



The Montreal Canadiens began as an all French-Canadian hockey team that would be an honest representation of the Province of Quebec. Their nickname, the Habs, is an abbreviation of les habitants, meaning "those who live here." The CH logo on their sweaters stands for "Club de Hockey, Canadien." The Canadiens won their first Stanley Cup in 1916, the year before the NHL was formed.

In 1927, after having just been fired by the New York Rangers, Conn Smythe took the winnings from a horse race and bought the Toronto Saint Pats hockey team, renaming them the Maple Leafs. Impressed with how brilliantly Canadians had fought in the First World War, Smythe named his new team after the soldiers' maple leaf insignia. Smythe is the man who said of hockey, "If you can't beat them in the alley, you can't beat them on the ice."



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Forming Ideas has a new look. This is the third format change since beginning publication in 2007. We will continue to bring you stories of interest packaged with a bit of trivia and humour. Enjoy!