

An unthinkable month of cruising, and lessons learned

The MS Zaandam transits the Panama Canal.

BIGSTOCK

We were doing it as the trip of a lifetime,” said Tim Wright of Fonthill, without a hint of irony. He was referring to the cruise he and his wife Karen took this March and April on the MS Zaandam. They would be sailing around South America, departing Buenos Aires for the Falkland Islands, then navigating the Beagle Channel and Straits of Magellan before returning north along the remote shores of Chile, traversing the Panama Canal, and concluding in Fort Lauderdale 31 days later.

You may know Wright as a recent volunteer Chair of the Pelham Library Board, a Rotarian, or as a member of various community associations. Professionally, he was President and CEO of the Welland County General Hospital, VP of Regional Operations at the Niagara Health System, and Executive Director of the Niagara Peninsula Children’s Centre.

The following is his account of what happened as COVID-19 engulfed the Zaandam, and some of the many lessons learned.

“We didn’t take the decision lightly, we thought seriously,” said Wright. “We talked about what the chances were of there being problems.” The Wrights had booked their trip nine months earlier.

“As the cruise got closer and other cruise ships became in the news, notably the Diamond Princess and Westerdam, certainly we started thinking—do we still want to do this, do we want to back out, what would the consequences be?”

Holland America offered no options other than to lose everything, which for this 31-day cruise was a substantial amount of money.

Wright realized that if just one infected person boarded the ship there was the potential for trouble, so he studied all the available information in late February and early March, and did the math.

“They were talking 20 to 40 COVID cases in all of the United States.”

Since the number reported at that time for Canada was slightly higher, Wright suspected the US number was inaccurate, and estimated it was probably more like 1000 or 2000.

He then figured, “What are the chances of one of those people getting on the ship?”

Wright’s research suggested there were 150 cruise ships circulating in the world, averaging trips of two weeks’ duration. During the most recent 300 trips, only three ships experienced trouble, so in his mind the chance of a problem was a one in one hundred, or one percent.

Wright also saw that in all of South America there was only one reported case of COVID-19, concluding, “We were cruising to a part of the world where it was not an issue. We decided to go.”

In response to comments made to or about them as the Zaandam’s plight was reported in the press, Wright responded, “It was a wrong decision, but I don’t think it was a stupid decision. I don’t think anybody in the world, if they’re being honest in their mind, anticipated the amount of change that was going to happen in the world between

BY JOHN SWART
Special to the VOICE

March 7th and April 1st. We didn’t have any thoughts of something like that in our mind.”

After spending a night onboard in Buenos Aires, day two was a short cruise to Montevideo, Uruguay. Next were the Falkland Islands, where Wright speculated how interesting it would be to spend time in such an isolated place. He and Karen enjoyed a beautiful first five or six days of cruising.

The Zaandam next docked in Punta Arenas, Chile, at the southern tip of South America.

“This is when all hell started to break loose.”

While moored, the captain notified guests that their next port-of-call, Ushuaia, on the southern tip of Argentina, was closing.

The captain decided to sail south toward Ushuaia to view Cape Horn and the spectacular channels, knowing there would be no dock-

age. During that night’s cruise to the Ushuaia area, the captain received word that Chile was also going to close their ports the next day.

Understanding that Punta Arenas had a small airport from which passengers could have been flown home, the captain reversed course in an attempt to reach Punta Arenas while their port was still open. Chile arbitrarily advanced their deadline by eight hours, ensuring the Zaandam did not arrive in time.

The ship stayed at anchor in Punta Arenas for two days while negotiating permission for the passengers to depart from the local airport. Holland America, the ship’s owner, managed to arrange flights, but ultimately Chile would not let the ship dock. The captain was forced to sail north along the west coast of Chile, searching for a port with access to a larger airport that would allow the Zaandam to dock.

The five days spent sailing north to Santiago’s port city, Valparaiso, didn’t disrupt the cruise much.

“That part of the cruise was a little happy-go-lucky. People were disappointed they didn’t get to see some ports and sights, but we had access to entertainment, food, bars. People were lightheartedly saying that in reality we were likely in one of the safest places on earth. At this time we’re assuming the cruise is clean. In Punta Arenas, there was no word from anyone of any illness on the ship.”

The March 20 and 21 stop in Valparaiso was an anchorage for fuel and supplies only, Chilean authorities would not allow dockage or

passengers to leave the ship.

During this portion of the trip, Tim and Karen both endured mild illness, but recovered. Wright recalled the experience.

“That night I felt lethargic with chills and flushing. I thought I should report this. The next morning, I went to sick bay.” Wright searched for descriptive words, eliminating “shambles” and “mess,” settling upon, “It was extremely busy. There was a ton of people down in sick bay. I was probably the healthiest person.”

“I had to wait, there was a long lineup of people, and they took my temperature. My temperature was normal, and by that time I felt fine. I was told that I wasn’t sick, and that I could go. Sort of a ****-off, we got more important things to do.”

Leaving Valparaiso, Tim and Karen had just finished a Trivia game with 50 other passengers when the captain’s voice was heard throughout the ship. “Go directly to your cabin, do not delay, stay in your cabin until further notice.”

“Within 20 minutes to half an hour, the ship was abandoned,” says Wright. “Some time later the captain came on again and said that there was a lot of illness on the ship, sick bay was very busy, and for everyone’s protection he ordered us to stay in our cabins until further notice.”

The Wrights were in quarantine.

“We did not hear again for four days. No other word on the seriousness of things. We had no idea of the magnitude.”

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Wright’s understanding was that the ship would then pass through the Panama Canal headed to Fort Lauderdale, the original embarkation point, and that the MS Rotterdam was on its way from Acapulco to assist with medical supplies and personnel.

“Life in isolation is horrendous,” stated Wright matter-of-factly, recalling the leg from Valparaiso to Fort Lauderdale.

“The cabins are small. You have a king bed, a narrow strip down each side to get in and out of bed, a small sitting area and a small washroom. That’s your world. You’re under quarantine, you couldn’t step out into the hall, meals were delivered to your door. There was a knock on the door, the person disappeared, and you pulled your tray in from the hallway. You ate and put the tray out. That was the highlight of every day. Three meals. The [in-cabin] entertainment package is notoriously bad on cruise ships. We had Fox and MSNBC, two garbage news channels, the Food Channel, a channel about the off-ship excursions you could take, and a music channel. So you had lousy entertainment, three meals a day, and your bed to sleep on.



Happier times—Time and Karen Wright on a previous trip.

SUPPLIED

That was quarantine life. We got clean towels every second day, we put our garbage outside and it was taken away. There was no house-keeping in the rooms, and no clean sheets. The ventilation is a central system, sometimes it seemed to work, sometimes not. There was a question in our mind as to how healthy it was.”

Wright said that it took four days to reach the Panama Canal.

“As we got closer to population centres, and hopefully some help,

our mood brightened. We’re sailing into Panama Harbour, seeing other ships, feeling a bit better, and the captain comes on and gives an update of our situation.”

Wright said the news shocked him and his wife.

“Four people had died, there were 80 people ill—40 passengers and 40 crew—with basically undefined, flu-like symptoms.”

Passengers learned there were no testing kits on board, and that the captain was awaiting word on passage through the Panama Canal. Morale totally deflated.

Wright noted that by this time CBC had picked up on the Zaandam story, and he wondered if the captain would have announced anything if their situation wasn’t becoming public knowledge.

A positive thing the captain did early into lockdown was provide every cabin with WiFi for communication—a lifesaver for Tim and Karen. Karen began writing emails to about 35 friends, and they Face-timed with their daughter twice a day, getting and giving support.

While the Zaandam waited for clearance in Panama, some 800 healthy people chosen from the 1800 on board were transferred to the Rotterdam, including Wright and Karen. During the first night on the Rotterdam, Wright’s flush-ness and fever returned. He reported it to sick bay by phone, and was provided an in-cabin consultation. The medics then put him and Karen in isolation, which is a step more severe than quarantine. Two days on the Rotterdam, and they were

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"It's very worthwhile to include them, but don't expect them to solve your problems."

Wright added that it's important to understand the additional risks travelling in remote areas entails.

"One thing that struck me later about the period when we were sailing up the west coast of Chile is how remote that area is. There is absolutely nothing down there. It's really an isolated part of the world."

Wright warns how these areas present accessibility challenges, and avoiding such destinations will influence his next trip.

He cannot imagine the risks that would have ensued had all the Zaandam's passengers been allowed to fly out of Punta Arenas. Twelve hundred people travelling for five or more days, staying in hotels and passing through airports with no knowl-

edge of their health status.

Don't expect normal communications during a crisis, said Wright.

"The communication on the ship was terrible. The captain made one announcement, then disappeared for four days. The only communication passengers have is by telephone. You couldn't go into the hallway, walk to guest services, any of these things. You had to call guest services, and their refrain each and every time was, 'We're working on it, we're looking into it, and we'll get back to you.' No one ever got back to you. I was worried about my mild illness and wanted to ask some questions, but you were never able to get beyond guest services."

Plus, Wright said, there were no counselling services that he could find for those that might be in a special situation.

Wright believes the stress of losing control had the worst neg-

ative effect on him. Towards the end of the ordeal, he began having nightmares, which continued for a few days after returning home. He was willing to share this during the interview only to emphasize the following point.

"My message to people thinking of travelling, especially on cruise ships, or even in general, is that when you're travelling overseas, you're basically there at the will of the governments where you are. You can go quickly from having the rights of a traveler to having no rights, and very little recourse to do anything about it. It was amazing how quickly the captain put us in lockdown. It became very militaristic. I went from a citizen of good standing, able to do pretty much what I wanted to do, to an individual who had no rights at all. I didn't have access to any of the authorities on the ship, any of the authorities in the countries we visited, those that at that point

had control over my life. This is a huge warning to people that once you fall into that part of the system, you're very easily controlled, then lost in the system. People don't seem to care about you, and you have no control over anything in your life."

Where are the Wrights going next?

Tim responds quickly, vowing that they will not stop travelling. He does admit that he and Karen have different opinions about whether they might cruise again though.

Wright believes the cruise industry will take a tremendous hit, but says others share the blame.

"My biggest disappointment in this is the reactions of the various governments in the world. The cruise industry has had pitches from so many countries, 'Come here, come here, we want you here.'"

Wright is referring to the eco-

nomic benefits derived when a cruise ship docks.

"It was a very severe disappointment that at the first sign of trouble, the abandonment by that other partner in the process [the country being visited] was total, as was the betrayal of passengers that wanted to see their country."

"People are seeing the precariousness of travel, and what can happen. The travelling public must have in mind what will happen if they do get in crisis, and ensure that the travel companies they choose and their partners have these types of emergency systems set up."

Lastly, the Wrights want to thank everyone in the community that supported them. The well-wishes, they said, and knowledge people were thinking of them, made a tremendous difference to their morale and gave them a warm sense that they were cared about. ♦

COVID-19: Pelham’s historic general public rate highest in Niagara

On per-capita basis, town has seen disproportionately more confirmed positives than big city neighbours—but currently has only two active cases

BY VOICE STAFF

Despite a large jump in COVID-19-positive cases in St. Catharines over the last two weeks, as some 60 infections were tied to a single greenhouse operation in that city, Pelham remains at the top of Niagara municipalities for historic cases of the virus per-capita among the general public.

According to Niagara Public Health statistics released Thursday, June 4, Pelham has 16.1 cases per 10,000 population among the general public, a rate that is 58% higher than St. Catharines, and 61% higher than Niagara-on-the-Lake, a town whose demographics closely match Pelham’s.

Since the Voice last reported on COVID-19 case rates in Niagara on May 26, Niagara Public Health has reported one more case in Pelham, bring the historical total to 34. Only two cases remain active. (The Region does not report coronavirus deaths by municipality.)

NOTL, Port Colborne, Wainfleet, and West Lincoln are all currently reporting zero active cases.

Public Health divides cases into two broad categories: those among the general public, and those in healthcare facilities.

Pelham’s cases are overwhelm-

ingly among the general public, 85 percent, versus just 15 percent in healthcare facilities.

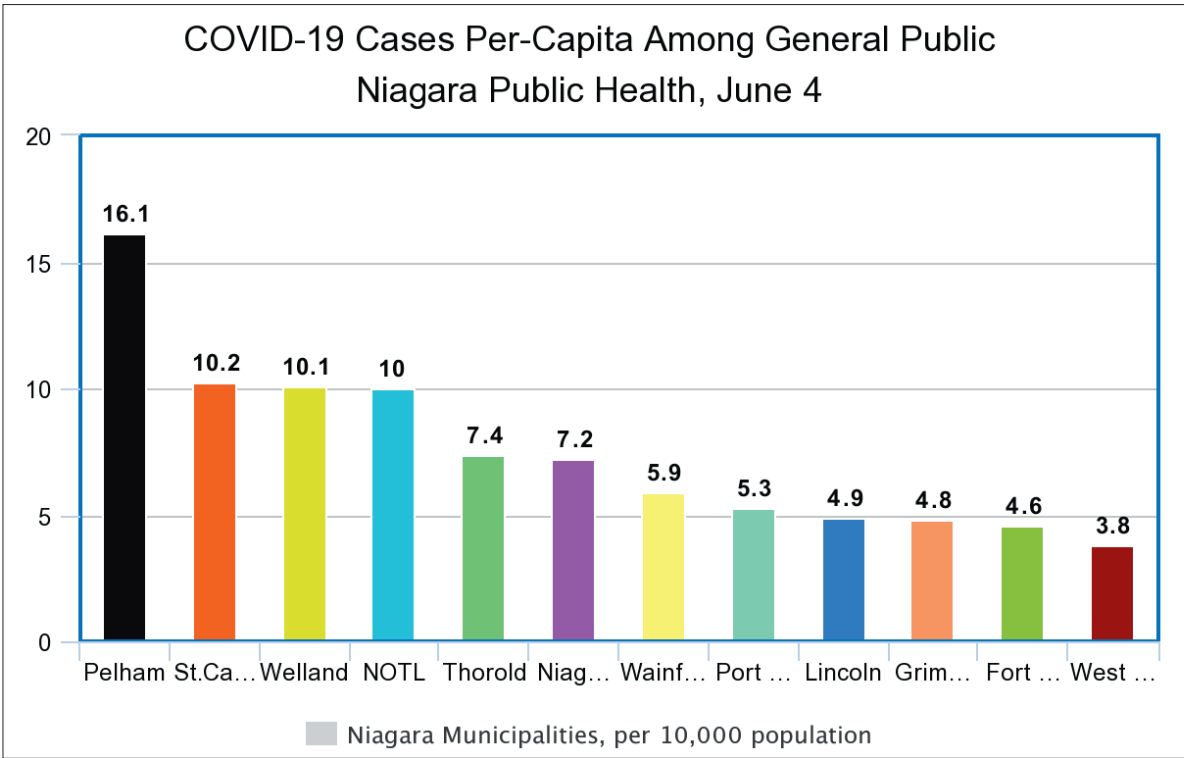
If both categories are combined, Pelham’s historical case rate per-capita remains second in Niagara, behind Welland. In Welland, the overwhelming number of cases are in healthcare facilities, 74 percent, while just over a quarter of cases, 26%, are among the general public.

In Pelham, Public Health attributes a bit less than one-third of all cases to travel, and zero percent to contact with persons who travelled. Slightly over 70 percent are attributed to community or close contact exposure.

Cases are reported based on the patient’s town of residence, which is not necessarily where the infected individual was exposed to the virus.

Speaking to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Local newspaper in late May, Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Niagara Region, emphasized this point.

“They could be having coffee in St. Catharines, gone to work in Thorold and then done some grocery shopping in Niagara Falls on the way home,” Hirji said, and have no idea where they contract-



ed it.

“There are limitations of what we can interpret from the data. This represents the cases we know about, and not where they were exposed to it.”

Three Pelham residents and one non-resident who later tested positive for the virus shared the same enclosed space, during Pelham Town Council’s meeting of March 23. Councillor Ron Kore, Councillor Mike Ciolfi, and two senior administrators all later tested positive for COVID-19. The two staffers and Kore experienced varying symptoms and recovered. Councillor Ciolfi died ten days later. An official cause of death has not been made public.

On April 22, news broke that Kore, who is also the Fonthill Sobey’s franchisee, had continued working in his store and attending council while exhibiting symptoms of a respiratory illness—including during the March 23 council meeting, as seen in the Town’s video recording of the meeting.

The main takeaway from the statistics, Hirji said, “is that people in every municipality have been infected, and it’s still out there.... As businesses are opening up, and we have the potential for interacting, we have the potential for the virus to spread.”

Although the numbers represent positive tests, not the overall infection rate among those who

may be positive but asymptomatic, Hirji said he was confident they are a realistic indication of “the big picture.”

If patients started showing up at the hospitals and requiring intensive care, there might be concern that the numbers are not accurate, “but we’re not seeing that.”

Hirji stressed that the best advice now is for people who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to reach out to assessment centres or their physicians for advice about whether to be tested.

“We really do want to find any cases that are out there.”

See INFECTIONS back page



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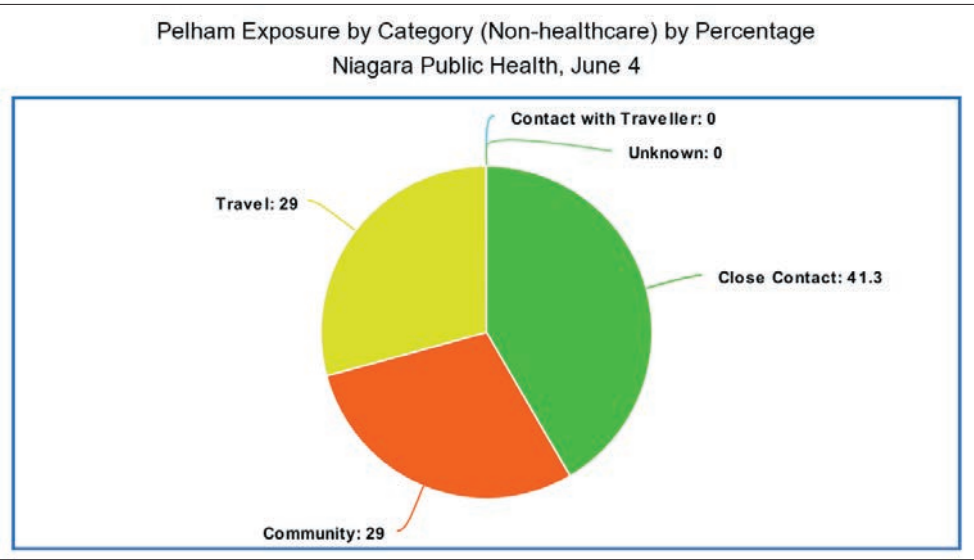
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3. Old Pelham Town Hall – (3-beds)
4. Cherry Ridge Park - Park Sign
5. Harold Black Park – Flag Pole
6. Peace Park – Cenotaph
7. Peace Park – Park Sign
8. Town Hall – Rear Bed (North Entrance door)
9. Town Hall Rear Bed (South Entrance door)
10. Town Hall Front Beds

www.pelham.ca/garden-beds





INFECTIONS

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As of Friday, June 5, total number of Niagara cases since outbreak began: 707
Total number of active cases: 85
Total number of deaths: 60
Some 25 percent of total

cases were found in long-term care or retirement homes. Among those cases, 83 percent died.
Total number of historic cases among the general public by municipality
Fort Erie: 15
Grimsby: 14
Lincoln: 12
Niagara Falls: 69

NOTL: 19
Pelham: 29
Port Colborne: 10
St. Catharines: 144
Thorold: 16
Wainfleet: 4
Welland: 56
West Lincoln: 6

With files from the NOTL Local.

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the protest, families maintained physical distancing measures by spreading six feet apart and wore masks to ensure safety.
“It really gave them an opportunity and a sense of having power and a voice even in times where exercising that voice is made all the more difficult by the pandemic,” Zanutto said.
“On the best of days, it’s difficult to stand up for something that you know is right, but you see great conflict in the community and the world and that was certainly made harder by our circumstances now.”
Zanutto expressed the importance of amplifying the voices of young people and said, “For us to raise aware children and have our children grow into aware adults who have that broader world view of what justice looks like, we really have to make that extra

effort to provide them with that opportunity.”
She believes that the dancers really got a chance to see collectively what they can do.
Foundations Dance Company dancers and protest participants Kira Welcome, Olivia Rondinelli, Milana and Ivana Mascia shared their experiences of the event with the Voice.
Welcome said that it’s important to stand together against racism because no one should be afraid to leave their house or encounter police just because of their skin colour.
“You can spread this message by bringing it up in conversation with others and even posting about it on social media platforms,” she said. “I feel proud being a part of the movement because I am getting my voice out there and not staying silent.”
Welcome also said that everyone deserves to have the same opportunities and chances in life and that it shouldn’t be affected by the colour of your skin.
Rondinelli said that the significance of the event is to not only to stand with people of colour but also to listen and learn from them.
“I felt nervous and emotional but at the same time proud of myself and my team for stepping up,” she said.
Milana and Ivana Mascia wanted to make everyone aware that black lives matter and that everyone of colour should be treated equally.
Milana said that once she started their peaceful protest, she felt empowered to make a difference and realized that she could, no matter her age.
Ivana added that, “Other ways we could spread this message are as simple as treating everyone with love and respect at all times. Actions speak louder than words.”



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REVEL

Three Town councillors attempt to muzzle Mayor

Junkin apoplectic at COVID-19-specific motion, says he won’t adhere to it

BY VOICE STAFF

Pelham Town Council’s 3-2 vote on Monday, April 27, to effectively muzzle Mayor Marvin Junkin from acting as a Town spokesperson on COVID-19 matters, may have the opposite effect intended by the councillors who brought the measure forward.

Junkin, for one, says he will refuse to adhere to it.

“The Municipal Act does not provide a council any legitimate way to take away the powers of a head of council,” the Mayor told the Voice. “They had no more right to pass that motion than they do to regulate the speed limit on the QEW. I will not be restricting any of my comments because of it.”

The motion was tabled out of nowhere by Councillor Bob Hildebrandt and seconded by Lisa Haun.

Fireworks ensued.

“That is a horrendous, I can’t stress enough, a horrendous blow to democracy,” an angry Junkin told the meeting—once again held via videoconference due to the coronavirus pandemic. “That’s what it is.”

The motion passed with Hildebrandt, Haun and Councillor Marianne Stewart voting in favour. Junkin and Councillor John Wink voted against.

The resolution puts re-

sponsibility for Town statements regarding COVID-19 in the hands of CAO David Cribbs—and, as pertaining to public safety, Fire Chief Bob Lymburner.

Cribbs stressed to the

The Municipal Act does not provide a council any legitimate way to take away the powers of a head of council

Voice that he was not involved in devising the measure.

“For the record, my office did not seek this delegation of authority,” the CAO said.

During the meeting, Hildebrandt explained his motion by saying, “Given the potential for municipal liability and/or confusion arising from any public misstatements pertaining to the coronavirus or the Town’s approach to addressing it, or the sensitivity of such as-

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Top, Pelham Mayor Marvin Junkin. Above, from left, Councillors Marianne Stewart, Lisa Haun, and Bob Hildebrandt. VOICE FILE



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MUZZLED
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pects as the safety and functionality of major employers in Pelham, consistency is of paramount importance. The reason for my motion is the number of emails that I as a councillor have received, and calls I have received ... my motion will be that the CAO will be appointed as the sole spokesman for the Town of Pelham, save and except Chief Lymburner [regarding COVID-19] for the duration of this pandemic. Council must be notified of all statements made on behalf of the Town within 24 hours.”

Hildebrandt did not respond when asked by the Voice about the nature of the emails and phone calls he asserted he received.

As debate got heated, Hildebrandt asked whether discussion on his motion should be deferred until later in the meeting, to be discussed in closed session, out of public view. Junkin objected.

“No, I’m against that,” the Mayor said. “We are not going to move this in camera. This deserves to be debated in the public eye. We are not going to hide it. We’re going to have a recorded vote in public so that everyone can see.”

Hildebrandt’s move came on the heels Ward 2 Councillor and Sobeys franchisee Ron Kore’s reported conduct in public while exhibiting signs of a respiratory illness. Kore tested positive for COVID-19 early last week. News of his continued attendance at his grocery store and on council business, while likely infected

according to Niagara Public Health’s timeline, drew regional and then national attention to Pelham, including on CBC’s The National news program.

Asked by the Voice whether their move could be perceived as being motivated by political rather than public safety considerations, neither Hildebrandt nor Haun—seen as a close ally of Kore—responded.

For the second straight meeting, Kore was not in attendance. Kore has not replied to Voice requests for comment since April 6, when he pushed to attend that day’s council meeting in person, despite COVID-19 precautions at Town Hall. Kore did not attend the April 6 meeting in person or by videoconference.

Asked if he believed that concerns over litigation from Kore drove Hildebrandt’s motion, Councillor John Wink told the Voice he didn’t think so.

“I think that’s a stretch,” the Ward 2 councillor said Thursday. “I don’t think it has anything to do with litigation, but you may want to ask that of the other councillors ... I can’t speculate what their thought process was.”

Hildebrandt did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Haun directed the newspaper to CAO Cribbs.

Wink doesn’t believe Junkin said anything out of line during his media interviews.

“I don’t think the Mayor has been doing anything incorrectly or doing a bad job with respect to COVID



Council and some senior staff attend last Monday’s meeting by Zoom. Councillor Ron Kore was absent.

YOUTUBE

information,” he said. “He has the right to speak on behalf of the town and our community and if you look at any other [municipality] ... it’s also the mayor speaking, it’s the mayor of Toronto, the mayor of Hamilton, St. Catharines, whatever.”

During the council meeting, Haun said she didn’t want the mayor speaking for her, while highlighting Cribbs’ “media training.”

“Mr. Mayor, you’re welcome to speak on your own behalf,” she told a visibly annoyed Junkin. “But I think what Councillor Hildebrandt is trying to say is, and certainly myself, is I don’t want you speaking on my behalf—especially with things that I may have a completely different opinion on.”

Junkin interjected.

“Show me in the Municipal Act where a council can do this,” he said.

For her part, Councillor Marianne Stewart told

council that she didn’t feel comfortable talking to the press during the fallout from the Kore affair, and seemed to wonder if Junkin was allowing emotions to get the better of him.

“Speaking for myself, in light of the circumstances that presented themselves in the last week, I don’t know about the councillors, but I was contacted by both CBC Toronto and Hamilton, and [CHCH-TV] and a slew of other media outlets,” she said. “Speaking to them would’ve been far above my pay grade because of the emotional nature of everything that’s happened, so I deferred all of that to the CAO.”

Stewart did not acknowledge a Voice request to say why she voted for the motion.

Asked for reaction after the meeting, Junkin said that the move came as a surprise.

“There was no warning from [Hildebrandt], no discussion with me in advance, he just brought the motion with no heads-up to me. And when I asked the councillor whether, if this motion passed, would I have to hand the material that I write for the newspaper to the CAO for his approval, unbelievably, without batting an eye, and with no hint of embarrassment, he said ‘yes.’ So think about it. They want an unelected official to okay what an elected official puts in the paper for the residents to read.”

Junkin said that he was never provided with evidence that he had made any inaccurate statements.

“At no time during the discussion was any proof given of past inaccuracies. When putting my commu-

nication together I have always used federal and provincial information sites, and checked any facts with the Fire Chief. I am positive that I have not misstated any facts in any of my interviews or columns. I take the privilege of being Mayor very seriously and have always made sure that my information is correct.”

CAO Cribbs explained that in crises, it is not uncommon for municipal councils to designate a single point of contact, but also said there is very little anyone can do about restricting the free speech of an officeholder.

“The rights of every elected official to engage in constitutionally protected speech cannot be limited without adequate justification,” Cribbs told the Voice.

He added that he can’t discipline Junkin for speaking publicly.

“The office of the CAO does not, will not and cannot engage in disciplinary measures against an elected official for engaging in alleged conduct that runs contrary to a vote of council. Only a majority of council, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice or the Integrity Commissioner have authority or jurisdiction to address alleged rule-breaking by one of its members.”

Brock Professor Emeritus of Political Science David Siegel agreed that if Junkin continues to speak regarding COVID-19, the penalties are few and without much bite.

“Council could pass a motion of censure, which doesn’t have any practical consequence, except stating the opinion of the majority of council,” said Siegel.

He said that council could escalate the matter to the Integrity Commissioner, who could come back with a recommendation that Junkin lose a certain amount of pay and be prohibited from attending council meetings for a given period.

“There’s very strong idea in Ontario legislation that these people have been duly elected by the electorate and they should have the right to represent the electorate in the way they see fit, and then the electorate can deal with that at the next election,” said Siegel. “But it’s not up to individual councillors to discipline other councillors except in areas where the integrity commissioner has become involved.”

Siegel said he had seen attempts elsewhere in Ontario to restrict free speech among elected officials.

“There’s always an issue around councillors trying to find a way to muzzle other councillors, and frequently they want to direct the mayor to do something, and they can’t do that. Councillors and the mayor are elected representatives, they have a right to speak. In certain circumstances it might be unwise for them to do so, but you can’t restrict their right to speak. You do hear about it every once in awhile, and it always has the same outcome. They’re elected members and they have a right to speak their minds.”

Siegel noted that over the years he had served on various municipal legal panels with Pelham’s CAO, who is a licensed attorney.

“What I get from these sorts of things is that the CAO is put in a very difficult position. It sounds like the CAO in this case has handled it very well.”

Junkin said that he is curious to see how those who voted for Hildebrandt’s motion will react when, “they realize I will pay no heed to it.”

“Will they banish me from the town? Perhaps proclaim a sentence of death by firing squad? Or—and this is the worst —will they insist that I comb my hair? All kidding aside, the residents of Pelham should feel deeply insulted by the actions of these three councillors.”

With reporting by John Chick and Dave Burket.

Public Notice of Pesticide Use for Gypsy Moth Control

The Town of Pelham is conducting an aerial spray program to control European gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) along the following municipal roadsides/parks, Town owned properties, and private owned properties:

- Area Map 1:** Cherry Ridge Park, Memorial Drive, Maple Street, Canboro Road
- Area Map 2:** Canboro Road, Sunset Drive, Garner Avenue
- Area Map 3:** Memorial Drive, Canboro Road
- Area Map 4:** Canboro Road, Hillside Cemetery
- Area Map 5:** Canboro Road
- Area Map 6:** Canboro Road, Timmsdale Park, Concord Valley Area
- Area Map 7:** Hillcrest Park Area, Pancake Lane Area, Berkwood Place Area
- Area Map 8:** Crosshill Area, Berkwood/Rolling Meadows Area
- Area Map 9:** Kunda Park (John Street/Stella)
- Area Map 10:** Lookout Park

All areas are within the Town of Pelham and the villages of Fenwick, Ridgeville, and Fonthill.

The aerial spray program carried out by helicopter will be applying the biological pesticide Foray 48B Biological Insecticide Aqueous Suspension, active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis v. kurstaki* (Btk), Registration No. 24977 under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada). Applications will occur early mornings before 8 a.m. Two applications will occur approximately 7 days apart.

Proposed earliest commencement date of May 20, 2020, weather permitting, and ending June 5, 2020.

For further information, including aerial spray dates, please contact:

Christine Tonon, Public Works • Town of Pelham
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Collect calls will be accepted

www.pelham.ca/gypsy-moth

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