

EDITORIAL

A brain-dead tourism strategy

Norfolk's movers and shakers make much of the county's burgeoning agri-tourism industry, plentiful natural beauty, proliferation of wineries and breweries, and thriving arts scene.

But one potential strategy to attract and retain many more visitors to the South Coast has hitherto been overlooked: zombies.

In a video posted to the YouTube channel The Game Theorists (seen here: bit.ly/norfolkzombies), video game enthusiast Matthew Patrick surveyed where in the world would be the best place to hide out during a mass infestation of the undead.

The winner? You guessed it.

With our low population density, productive farmland, abundant fresh water and unspoiled air, Norfolk County was deemed the most strategic location on Earth to "ride out the inevitable zombie apocalypse."

That only makes sense. The climate and soil of the northern Great Lakes region would allow the few human survivors of the zombie plague to farm a variety of fruits and vegetables. There's plenty of fishing, too (and should it come down to it, even Asian carp makes good eatin' if the alternative is hunting zombie).

The northern Great Lakes edged out the Lake Victoria region in central Africa over fears of zombie mosquitoes transmitting the disease. In Canada, such six-legged threats wouldn't last the winter.

Patrick appears to have made one miscalculation in his video, however. He says Norfolk's population density is 14 people per square kilometre. But according to Statistics Canada, that figure is actually the average population density of Ontario.

Still, on average, just 39 people live in each of Norfolk's 1,608 square kilometres. That leaves plenty of room to flee the zombie hordes.

Unless everyone has the same idea. As Patrick points out, if even a small percentage of the 2.6 million-plus people who've watched his video pick up and move to Norfolk when the going gets horrific, the advantage of wide-open space will vanish in a hurry.

But just think of the possibilities. After fleeing from bloodthirsty creatures that feast on brains, Norfolk's newest residents will be hungry and tired. Pass around the perch and apple donuts, pour out some locally pressed wine and send those beleaguered wanderers for a relaxing snooze in the (still zombie-free) Carolinian forest.

It might be downright tacky to consider capitalizing on what would be the ultimate in disaster tourism. Indeed, it would be lovely if some of the millions of zombies aficionados who – thanks to YouTube – now know where Norfolk is came by to spend a few bucks while the world is still zombie-free.

We didn't ask to be the ideal refuge from the undead. That said, Norfolk's current immigration strategy seems to be attracting urban retirees – the zombie plague will just hasten that inevitability.

Of course, banking on the undead to inject new life into our economy isn't a winning strategy. For one thing, everyone knows zombies are terrible tippers – unless you count fingertips, which apparently are a delicacy.

But when the inevitable happens and humankind suddenly needs a safe place to hide out from flesh-eating reanimated corpses, don't be surprised to see plenty of terror-stricken new faces around the county.



A gloomy day at the Dover beach.
PHOTO BY J.P. ANTONACCI

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Talk with your doctor about prostate cancer

Mayor Charlie Luke has officially proclaimed September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Norfolk County, in support of the one in eight Canadian men who will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime and their families.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is a time dedicated to public education regarding the most common cancer in men.

Statistically comparable with breast cancer, it is of vital importance that we increase our collective understanding about a disease that, when detected early, is over 90 per cent

treatable.

In 2015, an estimated 24,000 Canadian men were diagnosed and this number is expected to double by 2030 due an aging population.

Encourage the men in your life to talk to their doctor about their risk. Early detection saves lives.

For more information, visit prostatecancer.ca.

Stephanie Cole
Prostate Cancer Canada



Encourage the men in your life to talk to their doctor about their risk. Early detection saves lives.

Review safe cycling and walking rules

Schools are open for another year and the Ontario Provincial Police Norfolk County detachment is asking motorists, parents and students to prepare for the return of school buses and students along area roads.

Parents and caregivers, please take the time to discuss safe bike riding

and safe walking with your children:

- All cyclists under 18 must wear an approved helmet.
 - All cyclists need to keep their eyes and ears open for cars.
 - Cyclists must follow the rules of the road – no stunts on the roadway.
 - Walkers, use the sidewalks and only cross the streets at intersections.
 - Always look both ways before crossing any road.
- Taking a few minutes to talk to your children about getting to school safely can be the difference between life and death. It's worth the time.

Const. Ed Sanchuk
Norfolk County OPP

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