

GEORGETOWN RESTAURANT SERVES UP A 14-POUND MEAL FOR TWO

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Hungry Hollow Smokehouse and Grille has caught the eye of competitive eaters worldwide.

In October, YouTuber, Adam Moran of Beard-MeatsFood, teamed up with a Canadian competitive eater, Orillia's Darrien Thomas, to take on the challenge. While the pair completed the Cuckoo's Nest in 39 minutes, the record-holding team remains undefeated. The video attracted more than 600,000 views on YouTube.

Since the challenge was introduced in 2011, 190 have "tried and cried" according to Mike Parsons, Hungry Hollow Smokehouse owner. Six have completed the massive meal challenge but, even then, not as it was originally intended.

Weighing in around 14

pounds, the Cuckoo's Nest was originally intended to be attempted solo but quickly became a partner project.

The nest takes about half an hour to prepare and consists of three of Hungry Hollow's Dream Burgers (a house-made patty, bacon, cheese and pulled pork), on top of what Parson's estimates is 11 pounds of Red-neck Poutine (cheese curds, gravy and even more pulled pork).

"If you're going to go for this, you're probably not going to be worried about calories," Parsons said, "but it's a lot."

Contenders have 60 minutes to polish off the platter, but Parsons said time is not the limiting factor.

"It's not the time, it's the amount of food," Parsons said.

Parsons said his advice

was to eat fast.

"You've got to get in what you can in 20 minutes or you'll hit the wall," Parsons said, adding that using your hands seemed to be a prevailing method. "Never mind the table manners."

While few have managed to conquer the Cuckoo's Nest, about twice as many have been conquered by the Nest.

"When you do the challenge, you get a pail beside you in case you want to give some back," Parsons said. "It's a little more sanitary than all over my floor."

Out of 190 challengers, six have need to use the pail, six have had to "head out to the boulevard."

The current record holder, a pair of former Georgetown District High School football players, set the record at 29 minutes in 2011.



Hungry Hollow Smokehouse photo

Only six people have completed the Cuckoo's Nest Challenge - 190 have 'tried and cried', according to Hungry Hollow Smokehouse owner Mike Parsons. The massive challenge weighs in at 14 pounds, 11 of which, he estimates, are fries.

Tommy Kanichis and his fellow footballer, Brent, both 17 at the time, completed the challenge after football practice.

"A bunch of my teammates were talking about

doing it, and we were the biggest guys on the team," Kanichis said. "We came, we did it, we enjoyed it."

But that was the first and last food challenge for Kanichis.

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"I was a big boy," Kanichis said, "and we were hungry after practice."

Having completed the challenge, Kanichis still occasionally stops in for a meal at the Smokehouse.

Early in 2019, Joel Hansen, another competitive eater, completed the challenge for his YouTube channel.

Those looking to attempt the Cuckoo's Nest Challenge should call ahead to give staff time to prepare.

While the prize for devouring the entire Cuckoo's Nest is primarily bragging rights, victorious eaters will get their challenge for free, otherwise it'll cost \$89.95.

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