

\$100,000 list 'backfiring'

BY LISA QUEEN
lqueen@yrmg.com

Twenty years after former premier Mike Harris introduced the Sunshine List to shine light on top earners in Ontario's public service, the disclosure act has backfired by driving up salaries, a York University professor says.

"The list has been perverted from what its original intent was," administrative studies professor Richard Leblanc, an expert in law, governance and ethics, said.

The annual list, launched in 1996, reveals the names of public sector employees, such as those working for the provincial government, municipal governments, hospitals and school boards, with salaries of \$100,000 or more.

The initial intent of the legislation was worthy, even as it came with an added perception of embarrassing supposedly overpaid public service workers, because it promoted the idea of pay for performance among top wage earners and encouraged accountability, Leblanc said.

But, in reality, salaries have climbed as workers discovered their peers made the list and they felt they were worthy of earning comparable salaries, Leblanc said.

There were 115,431 workers on this year's Sunshine List, with combined salaries of more than \$14.8 billion.

There were 4,457 workers on the list in 1996. Up until 2000, there were fewer than 10,000. By 2003, that had increased to about 20,000. By 2007, there were about 42,000 on the list and by 2011, there were just shy of 80,000.

"It is negative. It has the undesired effect of ratcheting pay upwards. That's because when you flick on a switch and have complete disclosure, you have people who use peers to put upward pressure on pay-setters and the regulators, the governments, have not addressed this issue, this notion of what's called peer benchmarking," Leblanc said.

Read the entire story on yorkregion.com

THIS WEEK IS MAPLE WEEK

At our store we're going to celebrate that beautiful natural event that happens but once a year, when the sap runs and maple happens.

I have enjoyed maple all my life, in large part because my dad was from remote Eastern Ontario, and the maple - and the country - seemed to flow in his veins.

I am continually amazed at how much maple we use in the store - it's big with us!

WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE DELI!

Let's start with... **Cathy's Coleslaw** - Made with finely-shredded cabbage, carrots, julienne of peppers, maple vinegar and mayo.

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

It's a big hit at all our family functions, or sometimes just for me. **Reg. \$1.99/100g.** **Featured at**

Next item will be... **Split Pea and Ham Soup** - This is an old-time pea soup with lots of ham, onions, carrots, and celery, along with the peas.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

Reg. \$8.95/900ml **Featured at**

Next up is our **Porcini Risotto**. We use arborio rice, chicken stock, sweet onions, porcini and cremini mushrooms, herbs and spices, and a touch of butter. You could consider this a great main course, or a side, possibly with our chicken featured elsewhere in the ad.

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

Reg. \$9.95/4"x5" foil. **Featured at**

Following this, we'll be making **Maple-Lime Pork Tenderloin**, which have been wrapped in our maple bacon. The work has been done here; just heat and serve.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

Reg. \$4.49/100g. **Featured at**

- There's more! - Our sous-vide dinner will be our **Jack Daniel's Smoked B.B.Q. Back Ribs**. Just like the pork mentioned above, all the work has been done, just boil-in-bag as directed, and voila!...

25% OFF THIS WEEK

Dinner is ready! **Reg. \$3.29/100g.** **Featured at**

And lastly, our salad dressing will be **Raspberry-Balsamic**. We package these in a 250ml size, and they'll be featured at

\$3.99 EACH

S-MAPLE-CRANBERRY SAUSAGES

These are the dinner-sausage size, and since the snow has receded and revealed a lot of B.B.Q., you may want to grill these for the full experience.

Reg. \$5.99/lb. **Featured this week at**

25% OFF THIS WEEK

C-MAPLE-CHEDDAR PLEASE

This is actually a **Maple Wood-Smoked Two Year Aged Cheddar**. Be patient with it out of the fridge as it really likes room temperature.

Reg. \$4.99/100g **Featured at** ...As usual, samples abound!...

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

C-MAPLE MUSTARD-CHICKEN BREASTS

These are our boneless chicken breasts that have been marinated in our maple-mustard dressing. These can be grilled on that same B.B.Q., or oven-roasted. What to serve with? Our scalloped potatoes are a great fit.

Reg. \$12.49/lb **Featured this week at**

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

T FRESH TILAPIA

There will be available au natural, marinated in either a lemon and dill or Cajun spice, or very fancy, rolled lengthwise with a stuffing of bread, lemon zest, sweet onion, sea salt and pepper. Foolproof cooking instructions will be on hand.

\$9.95 /LB **Featured at**

B-MAPLE-BUTTER CRISP

These are made right here in Markham. They are a habit-forming treat that you won't be able to put down, that's for sure.

Reg. \$9.99/250g size

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

B-MAPLE-BACON

We've arranged a feature on our **Dry-Cured Maple Bacon**. We make this in the same old-fashioned manner as our regular side bacon.

If you have yet to try our bacon, this is a good moment to take the plunge.

\$7.95 /LB

S-CALIFORNIA-STRAWBERRIES

We'll have a load of these fresh off the truck from California tomorrow. They have been very nice and flavourful. I love these simply sliced in a bowl and drizzled with maple syrup - it's sublime! 1 lb containers.

\$2.99 EACH

L-WHAT'S FOR LUNCH!

Thomas here...I absolutely LOVE maple syrup. It's naturally sweet, versatile, quintessentially Canadian and above all, delicious. This week we'll be letting it shine at the cafe for you folks to enjoy. We'll have our **Maple Sugar Ham & Smoked Cheddar Croissant with Maple Aioli and Sliced Apples** for \$5.99. We'll also be carving up racks of **Maple Sugar Pork Chops alongside Scalloped Potatoes** on Friday afternoon for \$7.99. And we'll be serving **Kulam's Sweet Potato & Maple Soup** as a side for any full meal for \$1.79. Also, don't forget to try our **Maple Latte**, where we reduce maple syrup alongside vanilla beans and cinnamon, a guilty pleasure indeed!

Sunday Brunch will begin with a bowl of our **Chicken Noodle Soup**, followed by either **Penne with Smoked Salmon and Pesto**, **Chicken Cacciatore or Beef and Mushroom Stew**, with either rice or mashed, tea or coffee, and a mini dessert. **All for \$11.95** **Served from noon till 2.**

B-WHAT'S BAKING THIS WEEK

Our theme in the bakery will be **Maple** as well, and we'll begin with...

MAPLE-PECAN APPLE PIES - These are made with freshly-sliced apples seasoned with maple syrup and crushed pecans. The topping will be a pecan-streusel. Pies will be available either baked or ready-to-bake, and I think that the aroma from the latter will be amazing! 9" size, **Reg. \$12.95**

MAPLE-PECAN MUFFINS - These are more of a 'cake muffin', with maple syrup and pecans baked in, and the crowning glory is the absolutely amazing maple glaze. **Reg. \$2.29**

PUMPKIN COFFEE CAKE - While it's me (Evan) writing this, it is the various department heads in our store who send me the details. So allow me to quote Andrea, our Head Baker... "Just FYI, I tried this for the first time on Easter weekend. I bought it with the intention of having one slice with my coffee for breakfast on Good Friday and freezing the rest. I ended up eating this for dinner three nights in a row. Someone asked me, what it tasted like and all I could say was 'It tasted like magic.' This is the moistest, most delicious combination of flavours and textures. It is my new diet-destroying favourite cake."

B.T.W. It's made with pumpkin, fresh and dried cranberries, pecans, fresh apples tossed with spices and maple syrup, and then finished with maple glaze, cranberries, raisins, and pumpkin seeds. **Reg. \$18.95 ea.**

D-WHAT'S FOR DINNER!

From our frozen section, we'll have two items, the first being our **French Onion Soup**, which is beef stock-based and requires copious amounts of onion to make, and the second is our **Beef Bourguignon**, a slow-cooked beef dish made better with burgundy wine! **Reg. \$8.95 and \$23.95** respectively, and both will be featured at

25% OFF THIS WEEK

V-MAPLE-VINEGAR

This is a pet project of my pal Peter Fortune's dad, who runs the sugar bush. It adds a subtle flavour dimension to salads, especially those made with Boston lettuce. 250 ml size. **Reg. \$7.99**

25% OFF THIS WEEK

...DO YOU NEED A ROOM?

One of our best-kept secrets is our upstairs room... two actually, where you can hold business meetings, parties, socials, cook with 30 (or more) of your best friends, or simply learn neat stuff. Food and beverage service is available as you wish (some restrictions apply), and the tables/chairs can be configured, and the room 'themed' as you wish. We get great reviews on the venue. If you need a room, give us a call at the store

and we'll answer any questions you have and give you a tour. Another of our well-kept secrets is that we will do lunches or dinners for you, catering if you will, in your venue. Menus are custom-made to suit, and you will be pleasantly surprised at what we are capable of, and what you will get for your budget in both food and service. Any enquiries can be directed to Mabel or Kulam at 905-940-0655.

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