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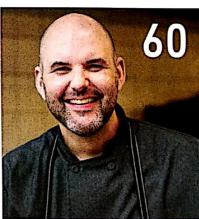
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# **FOODSERVICE**

EST. 1968 | VOLUME 52, NO. 8 | SEPTEMBER 2019

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To subscribe to F&H, visit foodserviceandhospitality.com

Published 11 times per year by Kostuch Media Ltd., 23 Lesmill Rd., Suite 404, Toronto, Ont., M3B 3P6. Tel: (416) 447-0888, Fax (416) 447-5333, website: foodserviceandhospitality.com.

> SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 1-year subscription, \$55; U.S. \$80; International, \$100.

Canada Post - "Canadian Publication Mail Product Sales Agreement #40063470." Postmaster send form 33-086-173 (11-82).

RETURN MAIL TO: Kostuch Media Ltd., 23 Lesmill Rd., Suite 404, Toronto, Ont., M3B 3P6. Member of CCAB, a Division of BPA International. Printed in Canada on recycled stock

anada





### Dear Editor:

Re: Stop the Waste

I was sitting in my office doing up some paperwork when the mailman arrived with your magazine. Paperwork was put aside and the magazine was read cover to cover, back to front, top to bottom. Your articles are always interesting and insightful.

In this issue, the main page was your page — From the Editor, Stop the Waste.

Regarding equipment, I haven't seen anything about ice machines/cubers. Unless they've changed, most floor models have a drain where excess water from production and thawing goes down. You would be surprised how much perfectly good water is lost. Our restaurant (a small family-business) raised our ice maker off the floor so water now drains into plastic buckets and water is used to wash produce, et cetera. Imagine how much [water] is wasted at full-scale institutions and franchised restaurants.

I [also] believe kitchen exhaust hoods and fans should be installed with a three-speed fan, low speed on at all times during operation while other speeds used according to workload. (Similar idea to heating/ cooling, et cetera.)

Next, how are hospitality and tourism schools addressing waste? I am curious about the number of graduates per year and the percentage of those employed in the profession. If there is a significant number, then why can't small businesses. which are the backbone of the economy, find suitable help? Is it minimum wage, location? Also, are students in these pro-

grams taught anything about running a business - such as taxes, payroll, rules and regulations, licenses and inspectors, ordering supplies and inventory control - and not just a fragment of it? Maybe field placement should be part of the course (say one semester per each of the last two years). This would perhaps give [students] a better perspective of what is involved.

When it comes to food waste, your editorial gives the percentage of where waste occurs, but I, as a businessman and avid reader, would like more detail:

- What is meant by lost instead of wasted? And by 58 per cent of food produced?
- What is the difference between food processing, 34 per cent, and manufacturing at 13 per cent?
- Production is 24 per cent - is this because crops cannot be harvested on time because of labour, or climate, or transportation to wholesalers?
- Are we producing too much of the wrong crops or importing foods at a lesser dollar value? We have to pinpoint areas of concern within each sector of waste.
- Also, some countries allow sale of products past due date on labels. What guidelines would be needed?

I think I have given you enough food for thought. Keep up the good work!

DONALD WHEELER. ARTEMIS RESTAURANT, FORT ERIE, ONT.