**Not our finest hour**

Ontario had 3945 new cases of Covid 19 yesterday. According to reports, the Ontario government will announce a curfew later today. Some say it won’t work here any better than in Quebec. Partiers will just stay over.

This has not been our society’s finest hour. Too many people refuse to follow public health direction and don’t care that they’re endangering other people’s lives. Anti-maskers, anti vaxxers and fringe religious groups care only about their “civil rights”, not the common good. They don’t care about the people they might infect. They don’t care about the doctors, nurses and medical personnel who are understaffed and overwhelmed by the constantly increasing flow of the sick coming into ICUs. They don’t care about the people whose surgeries will soon be cancelled, including cancer and heart patients. They pout and protest like spoiled three year olds.

Apologists cite “Covid fatigue” as an explanation. This is nonsense. Society should not fall apart after 10 months of being asked to stay home as much as possible and to take sensible precautions such as wearing a mask and keeping at least 6 feet distance from people outside their household. As a society we have shown ourselves to be selfish, weak and lacking in discipline. We were let off the leash last summer and refuse to be reined in again even though the situation now is more dire than ever.

Too many people didn’t care enough to forego the usual Christmas and New Year festivities last year. It was just too much to ask them to celebrate with the people in their household. The 3945 new cases yesterday are a result. According to news reports, one in five children contracted the virus after being exposed during the holidays. What great parents they have.

My parents grew up in Holland during World War II and they lived through five years of bombardment and brutal occupation. Today’s society would have just given up.

Restaurants, small stores, salons, gyms, theatres – owners of these businesses are paying the price for this extended pandemic which is so unfair because they’re not to blame for the virus’ spread. They were closed to stop people from congregating there but instead the selfish just get together with all their friends at somebody’s house and pass the virus along that way.

So, now we have refrigerated trucks parked outside the London Health Science Centre, ready to be used as overflow morgues. We sniffed at the Americans so self-righteously a few months ago when they did the same. Now it’s come to that here too.

It didn’t have to be this way. New Zealand is the proof. We chose this.

This is not our finest hour.