



# Food Safety Journey

**Steve Tsuyuki ([steven.tsuyuki@mapleleaf.com](mailto:steven.tsuyuki@mapleleaf.com))**

**Senior Director – Corporate Sanitation and EMP**

**Updated: External – Fall 2023**



## A Heartfelt Debt of Gratitude to NAMI

The rapid recovery of the unfortunate incident at Maple Leaf Foods (MLF) effectively validated the Best Practices we teach in this workshop.

- Randy Huffman now the MLF Chief Food Safety Officer, Sr. VP of Six Sigma and Operations along with John Weisgerber, consultant, and Steve Tsuyuki applied our learnings to their 26 plants and brought Listeria under control in approx. 2.5 years



# Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP)

- Over 1,000 environmental tests weekly across 12+ RTE plants and 60+ production lines
  - Aggressive Seek and Destroy (S&D) methodology resulting in a structured approach to root cause determination (contamination source and vector transfer) and effective sustainable corrective actions.
  - Sanitation Effectiveness (SE) using TPC testing targeted at hard to clean and inaccessible equipment surfaces.
  - Indicator site detection (rinsate sampling): monitor known growth niches, measure the effectiveness of interventions, hurdles and barriers.
- Product testing (mainly as a result of customer and regulatory requirements)
  - 500 + product samples tested annually.
- Weekly “8:30 food safety touch points” across the plant network
  - Discuss S&D missions
  - Share lessons learned



## Starting Point - Have a Purpose

“People do not buy what you do, they buy why you do it.”

Simon Sinek - TED Talks “How Great Leaders Inspire Action” [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)



## **Belief #1: Protect Food Contact Surfaces Because Listeria is in the Plant**

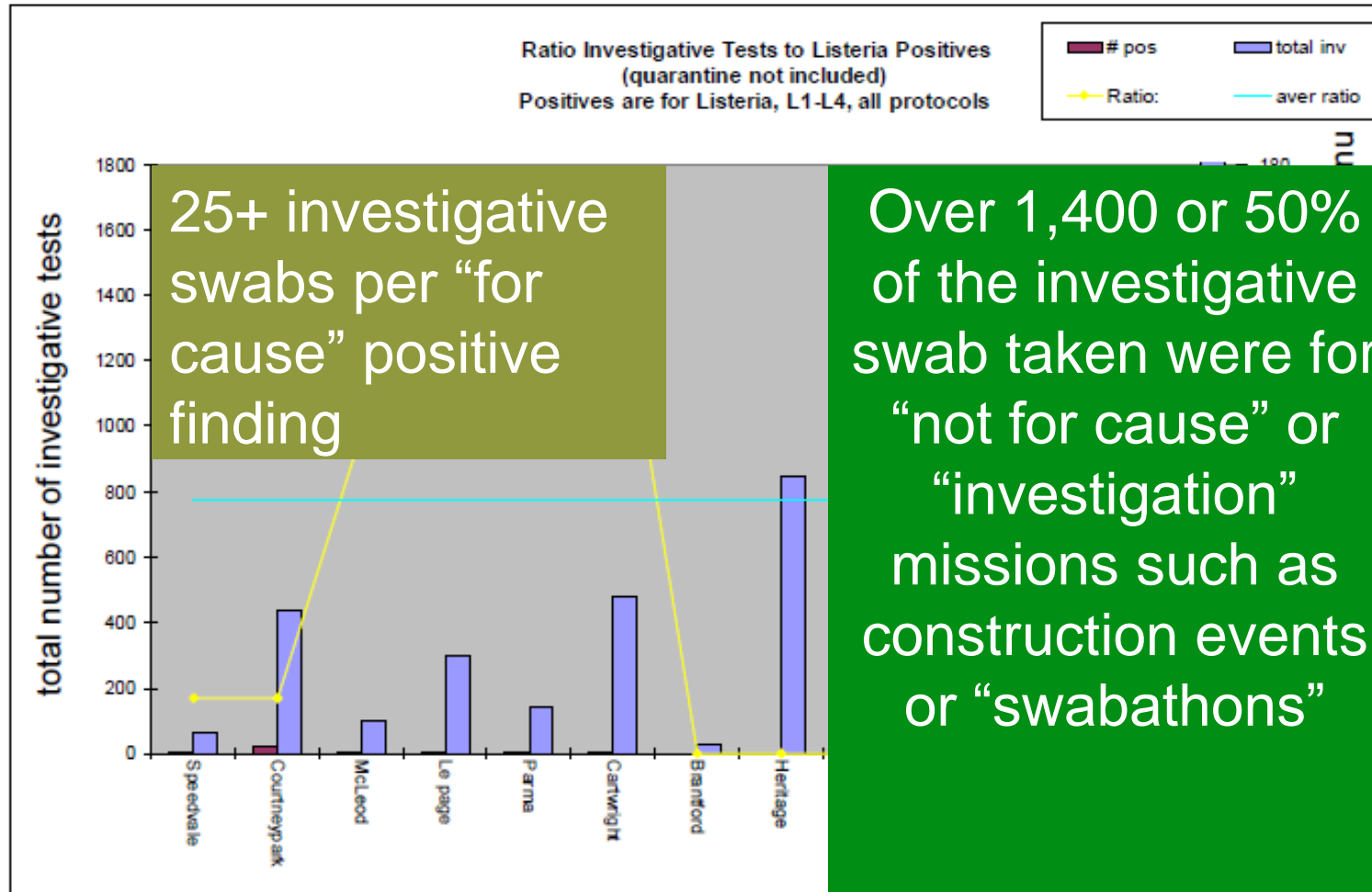
“Listeria is everywhere and in every plant. We need to understand where Listeria persists and how it moves through the plant. We may never eliminate it but we can surely prevent it from getting onto food contact surfaces and potentially contaminating food.”



# Behavior Metric – Is Sampling Aggressive?

Investigative Activity - Listeria

11-Aug-16

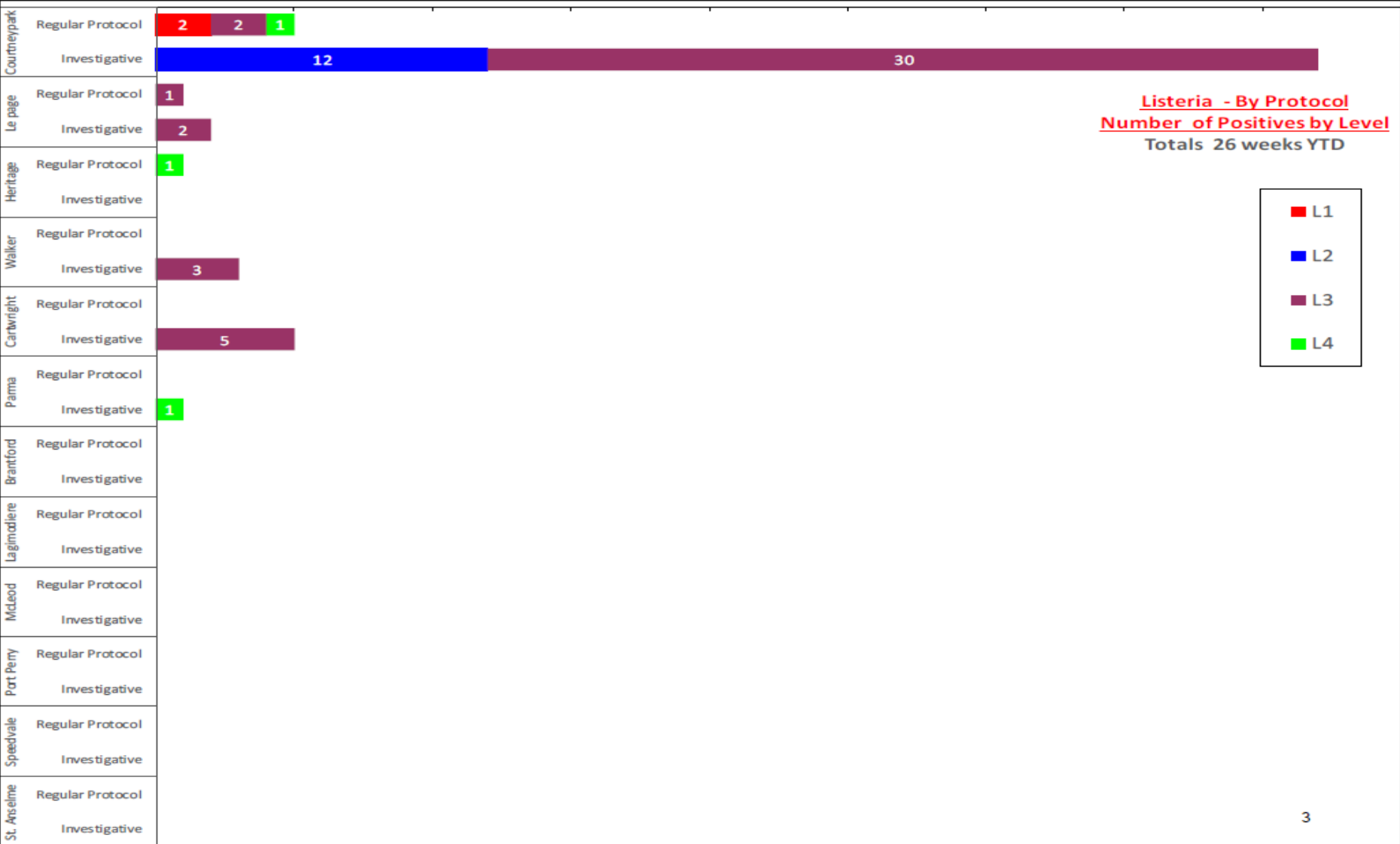




# Report ALL Positive Findings

EMP Activity- RTE Plants

21-Dec-16





## **Belief #2: “Clean” To The Highest Level of Certainty Because Daily Sanitation May Not Be Enough**

“Every piece of RTE equipment including large complex machines with highly sensitive electrical and electronic components must be cleaned and sanitized to the highest level of certainty.”





# “Non- Daily Tasks are Like Going to the Dentist”

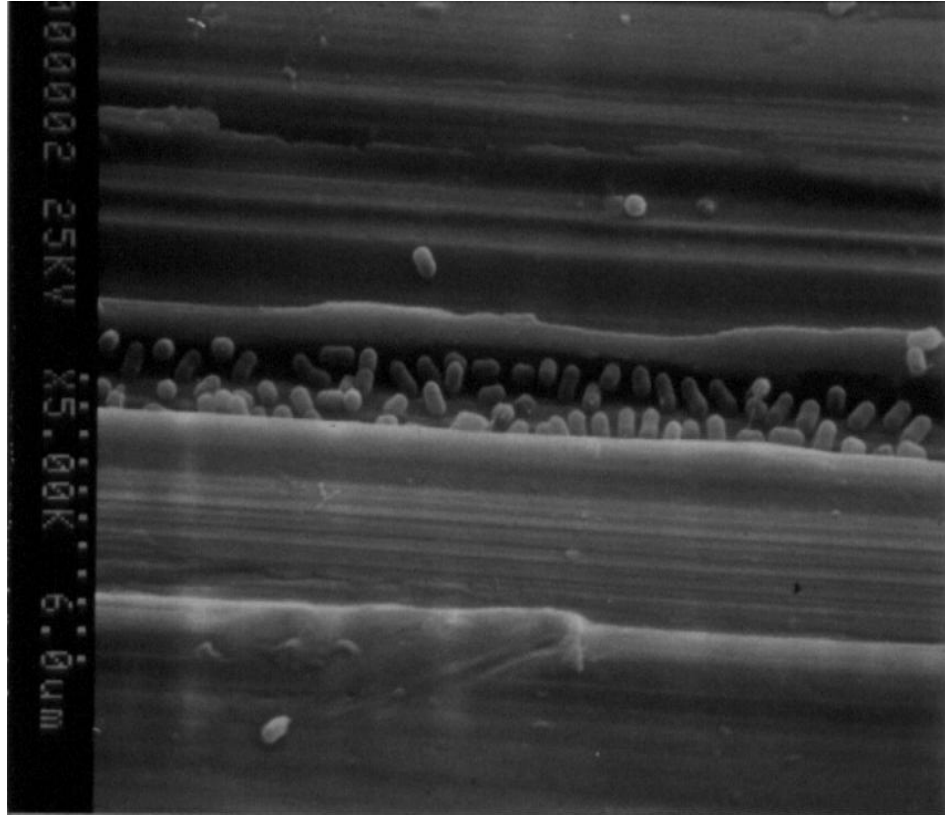
Joe Stout – Founder of CFS

In spite of our best efforts to perform daily cleaning, regular intervention is needed to mitigate the risk of “shedding” and to be certain that ALL surfaces (especially the ones that are mated) are “clean” when you physically cannot see or access them.



# Intervention

- *Interposition or interference of one state in the affairs of another.*
- Synonyms:
  - Interference, Interruption, Invasion, **Attack**
  - **In the context of sanitation, heat intervention “attacks” bacteria where they live and grow that daily sanitation procedures do not address.**



A scratch on a piece of stainless steel acts as a growth niche for Listeria

Courtesy of the University of Wisconsin, Madison

# Listeria monocytogenes (Lm)

- Survives/grows in vacuum-packed refrigerated meats unless a growth inhibitor is introduced.
- Grows at refrigeration temperatures and withstands freezing.
- **Easily destroyed by heat**



# “Wet” Heat is an Effective Intervention to keep Growth Niches “Vacant”

- ✓ Supports regular sanitation procedures
- ✓ Regular sanitation procedures removes visible and accessible soils
- ✓ Deep cleaning non-daily sanitation tasks go beyond daily levels of disassembly and cleaning.
- ✓ Heat Intervention provides a level of certainty that the equipment is free of Listeria, if equipment is not regularly torn down as a non-daily task.





# Questions?



# Thanks!