



The Fernald Farm across from Nottingham Square

An early indication that Spring is Coming!

Steve Soreff, MD

On Wednesday, February 22, 2023, I drove through all four towns that are in the shadow of Mount Pawtuckaway-the communities served by *The Forum*. With the snowstorm forecasted for the next day, I was delighted to look at the sap buckets on many of the maple trees. They made me smile 😊. Tapping maple trees has long been a [tradition](#). “No one really knows who first discovered how to make syrup and sugar from the sap of a maple tree. However, we know that maple syrup was an important commodity in the North American Indian economy. Maple syrup and sugar were used for barter by Indians living along the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.

In 1663, English chemist Robert Boyle told associates in Europe, ‘There is in some parts of New England a kind of tree whose juice that weeps out its incision, if it is permitted slowly to exhale away the superfluous moisture, doth congeal into a sweet and saccharin substance and the like was confirmed to me by the agent of the great and populace colony of Massachusetts.’”

You could really see that the daylight was getting longer each day since December 2, 2022 aka [Weber’s Law](#). Although by a very small increment, the amount of daylight has been occurring since December 21, the Winter Solstice, it is just really now noticeable.

The buckets are on my bucket list for believing that Spring is just around the corner.