Inside This Issue:

Winona Reinsma
Mortgage Professional

T 604.882.3643
F 604.882.2546

E winona.reinsma@verico.ca
W www.winonareinsma.com

Blog: http://winonareinsma.wordpress.com/

The Financial implications of living longer

It's a fact that Canadians are living longer today than ever before and while this is great because we'll have more time to spend with loved ones—it's a bit alarming from a finance and savings perspective.

Data suggests that retirement years have stretched from 13 to 20 years—or a 54% increase. This means that a proportionate increase in savings is required to ensure your savings can fund the retirement lifestyle you had in mind.

How can we fund this longer retirement? "The easy answer is either through an increase in contributions, or higher returns on your investments," says Bob Gorman, Chief Portfolio Strategist for TD Waterhouse.

"However, in reality that can be difficult: people have a natural tendency as they age to make lower-risk investments, which can reduce the chances of higher returns."

Getting an early start on retirement savings and making regular contributions is probably the best way to ensure you have savings in place when it's time to stop working. Bob Gorman offers tips to get started—or to help maximize your current retirement investments:

Make sure you have a plan.

Know what your goals are and determine what financial steps are needed to get there. An experienced financial advisor can help you build a custom plan suited for your personal situation, as well as help you manage it.

Contribute regularly.

Monthly contributions can help you reach your total annual contribution goal. Investigate taking advantage of payroll deductions for an RSP if offered by your employer.

If short of funds, consider a loan for your RSP contributions.

The tax deferred compound growth on your investments could potentially outweigh the interest costs.

Evaluate your investment portfolio regularly.

Analyze your asset allocation and assess if it's appropriate for your required return, time horizon and risk tolerance, as well as if you're on track to meet your goals.

(Source: News Canada)




Keep your haunted home safe for Halloween

Eerie sounds, spooky lights and jack-o'-lanterns aglow—extra efforts at Halloween will keep visitors coming back for both tricks and treats. However, to keep the fun going, it's important to plan your home's scary set-up with safety in mind.

Decorations for special events, most often involving candles, such as those found in jack-o'-lanterns, account for an average of 800 home fires in North America, causing nearly $4 million in direct property damage every year.

To keep your house from being haunted with potential insurance woes, here are some Halloween preparation tips for preventing fires and other insurance claims.

Practice fire safety: When setting up spooky electrical decorations and lighting, ensure that electrical outlets are not overloaded. Consider battery or solar powered jack-o'-lanterns.

Make sure your walkways are safe: Although darkness may set the Halloween mood, keep walkways well lit and obstruction free to reduce the risk of injury and allow many guests to walk through simultaneously.

Check your insurance coverage: While homeowner policies generally will cover you and your property on Halloween, it is a good idea to contact your insurance broker to ensure you have the right amount of coverage—especially with hundreds of visitors to your home.

(Source: News Canada)

Stop shaking your piggy bank. Shake up old habits instead.

Remember what your first savings account looked liked? It was probably a piggy or a giant baseball with a slot at the top. You'd shake it and money would fall out. Then there was some running to the corner store for candy. And then soon enough, it was the sound you dreaded: that lonely coin rattling around inside a completely empty plastic container. Why did I have only one penny left? Old habits die hard.

So let's shake something other than our empty piggy bank this year. Shake up our old habits. Try something new. Don't spend so much money on lattes. That $600 fill–in–the–blank fad? It shall pass. Just blink a few times. If you have some money to put away, try the new kid on the block: the Tax–Free Savings Account. It's an investment vehicle that's a bit more flexible than an RRSP, and a bit more lucrative than a plain old savings account.

Tax–Free Savings Account:

- $5,000 in new contribution room every year.
- Buy different types of investments.
- Interest and capital gains you make are tax–free.
- Unused contribution room accumulates.
- Ask your broker about mortgage strategies that can assist you in achieving your savings goals.

Do you have an orange key?
Open an ING TFSA account
with a minimum of $100 using
orange key # **35788150S1**
you'll get a **$25 bonus** and
your own orange key.
Happy Saving, Friends!