

THE green REPORT



Paul's Perspective

by Paul Green, CFP®, CIM®

What a great quarter!

North American markets may have been fairly flat for the first three months of 2015 but we saw very nice growth in our portfolios. With the help of a strong move in the US dollar, our model balanced portfolio grew over 7% in just three months! This may be hard to believe but due to our continued overweight positions in the US and the large holding of US T-bills we saw a big lift from the exchange rate. If you don't watch the markets as closely as we do, the last 6 months has been an amazing period of outperformance for our portfolios. As the stock markets have been volatile and not seen too much growth, our model balanced portfolios have grown close to 14% for the half year period. Our strategy has been working very well to say the least.

More good news...

Since we made changes to our investment strategy two years ago, we have seen large returns and you would think caution would be prudent. The good news is we use caution every day and have been able to enjoy fabulous results along the way. If our data changed and we needed to move out

of stocks, we would immediately. That said, our data continues to point to favourable returns in US stocks over any other major asset class. This means we see

better returns in US stocks over the next 6 to 18 months. This could change at any time and we will be monitoring the trends for that change, but for now we expect to continue to see positive results from our positions in US equities and US T-bills.

Much to get in the way....

Keeping our eyes wide open to conflicts, economic issues and many other things, we know there are many risks in our globalized world today. Volatility in various markets is common and so are market corrections. Understand that we expect a 10% drop (or more) in equity prices approximately once per year. We are not concerned about these common declines, but keep a close eye on the more severe bear markets that drop prices lower by 20% or more. Take comfort in our ability and willingness to move your nest eggs to cash for true protection.

Jeremy returning to speak to us!

Jeremy Fehr, President and CEO of SIA Charts, will be speaking at the Quality Inn on May 5th at 4pm and 7pm. We are excited to have him back and hear his thoughts about the past year's performance and some of the key positions that contributed the most. Jeremy will also discuss the current investment environment and what trends he is seeing. This event will be very informative for our clients but also friends and family. We encourage you to bring others so they can hear about our unique approach to investing and our disciplined process that will allow us to go to cash to truly protect you from major market declines.



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 to Financial Independence*

Service Matters

Annual Shredding Day

Tax season is almost over and it's time to collect any unwanted documents and statements for shredding. Green Financial Group is holding our 3rd annual shredding day on Tuesday May 12th. Drop by the office from 8:30 a.m. to 5p.m. and Integra Shredding will shred your documents.

T1135 Reporting

The T1135, or Foreign Income Verification Statement is a form to disclose all "specified foreign property" held by Canadians in non-registered accounts. If at any time in the year you own foreign investment property with a total cost amount of more than \$100,000 Canadian, you must file a T1135 form with your income taxes. You must file this form on time as the penalties are severe. Please contact your accountant if you have any questions about the form.

Tax Slips now available on WealthTracker!

As of March 23rd, duplicate tax slips will be available to print from your WealthTracker account. To access your tax slips, log into your account and click on the "Tax Documents" link on the left side menu. If you do not have a WealthTracker account, please call the office and we would be happy to help set you up.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Bowl for Kids Sake

Green Financial Group took part in Big Brothers Big Sisters annual Bowl for Kids Sake this year. Teams raise money through pledges and then take to the lanes for two competitive games of bowling. This year's theme was going dressed as your favorite television show and who better to represent the show "The Office" than the Green Team. We raised \$600 towards the grand total of \$28,500 raised for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Woodstock.



Carolyn, Dave, Paul and Bradley at Bowl for Kids Sake

Tastings 2015

Green Financial Group will once again be the Title Sponsor for Big Brothers Big Sisters annual Tastings even. The evening will feature live and silent auctions, penny sale and live entertainment. There will be plenty of local wines, brews and cuisine for you to taste throughout the

evening. This year will also feature for the first time a hot sizzling room, which features local spicy food and a salsa bar. The event will take place at Quality Hotel & Suites on Friday May 8th from 7pm to 10pm. You can grab your tickets for \$40 in advance at our office or online at www.snapdwoodstock.com otherwise it will be \$50 at the door.



Roasted Halibut with Lemon Anchovy Butter

CHEF'S CORNER with Chef Rob Bartley



For the Lemon Anchovy Butter:

½ lb of unsalted butter soften to room temperature

*1 Tb minced garlic
8-10 good quality Italian anchovies coarsely chopped
2 Tb capers*

*Zest & Juice of 2 lemons
2 Tb chopped fresh oregano*

*1 Tb chopped fresh dill
4 TB chopped fresh Italian parsley*

*1 oz pernod (optional)
Dash of Tobasco & Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper to taste*

The Halibut:

4 x 6 oz boneless fillets of Halibut, skin removed

1 Tb Smoked Paprika Salt and freshly cracked pepper

1 oz extra virgin olive oil

2 cloves of garlic, smashed

Season Halibut with salt and fresh cracked pepper, generously sprinkle the smoked paprika on the fish

Heat olive oil in skillet over medium heat and fry the halibut.

Once flesh is golden brown add the smashed garlic and flip fish

over to brown the other side. Cook fish throughout, approximately 4 minutes.

Transfer to a baking sheet and keep warm, pat off excess oil with a paper towel.

To serve, place 1 slice of anchovy butter on each piece of fish and transfer to oven to JUST slightly melt.

Transfer fish to plate. Serve with steamed green asparagus or a salad.

The Lemon Anchovy Butter:

In a food processor combine all ingredients and blend until smooth.

Using a rubber spatula, scrap butter out of bowl onto a large piece of saran wrap. Using the saran wrap roll the butter into a 2 inch diameter log and twist ends to secure and tighten.

Place butter in fridge until ready to use (this can be done days in advance)

When ready to use remove saran wrap and cut into ½ inch slices.

GREEN TEAM IN THE COMMUNITY

It's time to put your thinking caps on for the good of our community, your neighbours and the world. Our Share the Green "Pay it Forward" initiative is making a return in 2015! For those of you who may not remember, we award 10 entries with \$1,000 each towards a cause or charity of their choice. The sky's the limit as we will accept entries for anything around the world. We encourage you to think about which causes and charities mean the most to you and how \$1,000 could be best used.

You may still be overwhelmed with whom to help as there are so many great charities around the world. We have put together four examples of how previous winners used the \$1,000 towards their charitable cause. They were used:

- To help a local family whose father was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Because of his illness, he was unable to work and his wife was only working part time to take him to appointments. The family had 3 young children and the money was used to help the family through an emotional and financially difficult time.
- To help Operation Sharing buy gifts for children whose family are not able to afford them. The funds help provide a Christmas to many families in our community.
- To help Woodstock and District Developmental Services (WDDS) fund their "forest for life" program. This program brings together landowners, people with developmental disability and community groups to plant and maintain native trees in restoration projects. The money helped with the

purchase of supplies and consumables needed within the greenhouse.

- To help Gabriel Smith's family battle leukemia. Mike and Tina Smith's son Gabriel was diagnosed with Leukemia at the age of 3 and has been battling ever since. Mike & Tina missed many months of employment while Gabriel was in Sick Kids Toronto Hospital. The \$1,000 was used to help them through financial difficulties.

As in previous years, we will award 10 winners \$1,000 each to implement in their Share the Green idea. However, this year we decided to have a panel of judges choose 5 winners and the remaining 5 winners will be selected at random. We feel this gives everyone a chance to win.

There are a couple ways you can enter this year's Share the Green program.



Some of our previous winners of Share the Green celebrate the positive impact their entries made in the world

Visit our website www.greenfinancial-group.com and click on the "Share the Green Entry Form" link on the home page to open a fillable PDF form. Please fill this out, save and email to: sburton@greenfinancialgroup.com or print and mail to 112 Springbank Ave., Woodstock Ontario, N4S 7P8.

You can also call the office at 519-539-8212 to request a hard copy be mailed to you. Please mail back or drop off the entry form back to our office.

We look forward to reading your entries and helping many great charitable causes!

Spring is a Time for Renewal

DAVE'S INSIGHTS by David Harris, CFP®, CIM®

As I write this article, we are beginning to see signs of spring and snowdrops are popping up along my south facing flowerbed. We are all hoping that soon other spring flowers like daffodils will start to emerge from their wintery hibernation. Another sure sign of spring is your annual tax return preparation and submission. Since you are gathering all of your financial information together, now is a great time to take a look at your savings and spending over the past year to see if your plans are on track.

Three steps to Financial Renewal

Financial Plan

Review your financial plan to determine if your savings targets are being met. Check your lifestyle expenses to see how they compare to your actual expenses over the past year. Send us an update so we can revise your plan for our annual review. If you would like a copy of the expense sheets from our Workbook please let us know.

Goals and Objectives

If you have previously written down yearly goals or objectives for yourself and your family, now is a great time to review them. If not, the most important thing you can do is take time to write them down. Set goals for health, family, charity and savings. One of the most rewarding things we do with our clients is review previously set goals and check them off as "achieved" in our annual meetings. Please contact us for a document to help with goal setting.

Review Income Tax Notice of Assessments

Check your RRSP contribution room and carry-forward amounts. Any contributions that reduce your taxable

income to \$44,000 provide at least a 32% tax benefit. Please forward us a copy when received so we can review it for you.

Income Tax Planning by the Numbers

\$100,000 – The cost base of foreign property required before you need to file a T1135 form with your taxes. This includes investments in non-registered accounts but excludes registered accounts such as RRSP's, RRIF's and TFSA's.

\$24,930 or 18% of your earned income minus any pension adjustment – Maximum RRSP contribution for 2015. Are you maximizing your contributions?

\$72,809 – Income threshold for 2015 at which retirees will see their Old Age Security benefits begin to be clawed back. We can help with income planning to minimize the impact of this clawback.

\$300 – Tax credit (savings) available to those 65 and older who received \$2,000 in "qualified" pension income such as RRIF income. Talk to us about starting your RRIF early.

\$10,000 - TFSA annual contribution limit for 2015. Lifetime contribution limit is \$41,000 this year. A great tool for estate planning and tax reduction.

\$2,500 – Maximum annual contribution to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) account that will attract the 20% grant (CESG) for this year. Additional contributions of up to \$2,500 will attract previously unclaimed grant.

\$536.74 – Maximum Old Age Security (OAS) benefit for 2015.

\$1,065.00 – Maximum monthly Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefit for retirees at age 65. Average is \$610.57. Benefits are 34.8% lower if taken at age 60 in 2015.

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