



**RBC  
Dominion  
Securities**

# THE Stanton

## REPORT

Views & Opinions For The Clients & Friends  
Of Investment Advisor  
Richard Stanton  
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Volume 3, Number 4

WINTER 2008

### *A Word from Richard*

Christmas was spent at home this year. We spent lots of quality time with the kids and the girls, as usual, were spoilt. It was an enjoyable holiday season with lots of rest and relaxation. We rang in the New Year quietly and we're looking forward to a new and prosperous 2008.

My family has now joined the skiing masses. We enrolled our oldest daughter, Olivia, into Nancy Greene this year. So we have been making the weekly weekend trek up the ski hill. We have even had the opportunity to spend a few nights up there in a rented cabin. We are enjoying the family time and hopefully next year we'll have both girls in the ski program and actually get some full days of skiing in.

Shauna has now successfully completed her Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation. CFP is a distinguished designation and Shauna deserves it, it is a true accomplishment on her part.

*Looking back on the fourth quarter of 2007 here are few of the highlights:*

- The soaring **Canadian Dollar** had a year like no other surging 17%. It rose to touch a modern day high of US\$1.1038/CDN before retreating 8% to end the year at US\$1.0122/CDN.
- **Crude Oil** began the year at \$61.20 and closed 2007 at \$96.30, a 57% increase.
- The **Bank of Canada** cut rates a quarter of a point in the fourth quarter of 2007. David Dodge indicates that the risk of recession is higher.
- The **Montreal Exchange** has agreed to be taken over by the TSX Group for \$1.3B.
- The **US Federal Reserve** lowered the fed fund rate by 25 basis points on October 31 and again on December 11 bringing the fed fund rate to 4.25%.
- **Gold** surged past the \$800 (US) an ounce level – the first time in 27 years – on continued erosion of the U.S. dollar coupled with record-breaking crude oil prices.
- The minority Conservative Government of Canada announced plans to reduce the **GST** to 5% effective January 1, 2008.
- Europe's **inflation rate** rose to 3% in November, the fastest acceleration in about six years, putting pressure on the European Central Bank to raise interest rates.
- United Kingdom's **housing market** saw prices fall 1.1% from a month earlier, the worst performance in over a decade.

My quarterly travel/meeting schedule appears on Page 4. If you haven't booked a review and would like one, please call the office at 1.888.834.3311.

Thanks for reading,  
**Richard**



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If you know anyone who would like to receive a copy of this newsletter or be added to our mailing list, please contact **Shauna Peterson** at (250) 847-6680. Please contact Shauna Peterson if you would like secure internet access to your accounts. Use our toll free number 1-888-834-3311 from anywhere in North America.



## *The Flight of the Canadian Snowbird*

Canadians who head south every year in search of sunnier skies, an uninterrupted golf season or for general relaxation, are known as snowbirds. Snowbirds are generally aged 55 and up and live outside Canada for at least 30 days a year.

Most snowbirds choose to winter in the United States because it is close enough to provide all the comforts of home with a common language and culture, yet is far enough away from the biting Canadian winter weather.

What you have to realize is that living part-time in the United States isn't as easy as it may seem. Travelling to the United States for an extended holiday, or any country for that matter, requires careful planning to ensure you make the most of your time away, stay safe and healthy and properly maintain your financial obligations and personal property.

### **INSURANCE**

One of the first steps in getting organized for your trip is to review your insurance needs.

Purchasing emergency travel medical insurance is one of, if not, the most important decisions you, as a traveller, can make. Consider

this, a provincial plan generally pays out between CDN\$75 and CDN\$400 per day for hospital care whether you become ill or injured in Canada or elsewhere. In the U.S., the average hospital stay can often exceed US\$1500 per day. What's more, you are personally billed for your treatment. If there is a shortfall, you must either forego the treatment or muster up the funds yourself. Emergency travel medical insurance is a simple and cost-effective way to avoid potentially devastating financial setbacks that can result from medical emergencies that catch you unprepared.

If you own a home or condo you should review your policy before you leave so that you fully understand what coverage you have and any restrictions you need to be aware of. Many companies require that you inform them in writing of your plans to be out of the country for an extended period of time, as well as providing them with appropriate contacts in case of emergency.

### **TAX ISSUES**

Tax issues can confuse even the most seasoned investor and when you live part-time in the United States,

as many snowbirds do, taxation may become more complex. It's a good idea to speak to your own qualified tax advisor before leaving.

### **CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DRIVING YOUR OWN VEHICLE TO THE UNITED STATES**

- **Licence renewal** – Don't forget to check the expiry date on your driver's licence before you leave and renew if necessary.
- **Roadside Assistance** – It can be costly and dangerous to break down on the side of the road, especially in unfamiliar surroundings.

### **PRE-PLANNING YOUR FINANCES**

Before you set out, take time to assess your overall financial picture. This includes making a list of all your investments, savings and chequing accounts, credit and banking cards. It's also a good idea to make sure your Will is up to date and that you've established a legal power of attorney and living Will.

Renewing your Canadian term deposits and GICs while in the U.S. doesn't have to be troublesome.

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## MAPLE CRANBERRY CHICKEN WITH PECANS

8 chicken drumsticks  
8 chicken thighs  
½ cup cornstarch  
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste  
5 tbsp vegetable oil  
2 tbsp chopped fresh ginger  
1 cup maple syrup  
1 cup chicken stock  
½ cup white wine  
½ cup balsamic vinegar  
1 tsp herbs de Provence\*  
2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries  
1 cup pecan halves  
2 medium onion, halved and thinly sliced

Season chicken with salt and pepper.  
Place cornstarch in a medium bowl.  
Add chicken and toss to coat. Heat 3  
tablespoons of the oil in a large skillet  
set over medium to high heat. Shake  
excess cornstarch of chicken, add  
chicken to skillet and brown on all sides.  
Divide the chicken among two 9 x 13  
casserole dishes. Preheat oven to 375  
degrees F.

Heat remaining oil in a pot set over  
medium heat. Add onions and cook for  
3 – 4 minutes. Add ginger and cook for  
another minute. Add syrup, stock, wine  
and vinegar. Increase heat to medium  
high and bring to a boil. Remove from  
heat and divide and pour mixture over  
the chicken. Sprinkle chicken with  
herbs de Provence. Divide and nestle  
the cranberries and pecans around  
the chicken. Cover and bake for 60  
minutes or until the chicken is cooked  
deliciously tender.

*\*Note: Herbs de Provence is a French style herb  
blend that can be found at specialty food stores  
and in the spice isles of most grocery stores.*



## OUT OF TOWN SCHEDULE

**Terrace/Prince Rupert/Nass Valley**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> & March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Houston/ Burns Lake**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**

## WORDS AND PHRASES WOMEN USE – AND WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN

**FINE** – This is the word women use to end an argument when they are right and need you to shut up.

**FIVE MINUTES** – If she is getting dressed, this means a half an hour. To help men understand this better, this is the same “five minutes” that are left in a football game before a man can do chores around the house.

**NOTHING** – This is the calm before the storm. This means ‘something’, and usually you should be on your toes. Arguments that begin with ‘nothing’, usually end in ‘fine’. (refer to #1 for the meaning of Fine).

**GO AHEAD** – Watch it! This is a dare, not permission. Do Not Do It!

**LOUD SIGH** – This is actually not a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A loud sigh means she thinks you are an idiot and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you about nothing. (Refer back to #3 for the meaning of nothing).

**THAT’S OKAY** – This is one of the most dangerous statements a woman can make to a man. “That’s okay” means she wants you to think long and hard before deciding how and when you will pay for your mistake.

**THANKS** – A woman is thanking you, do not question, or faint. Just say, “You’re welcome.”

**WHATEVER** – This is a woman’s way of saying scram!

**DON’T WORRY ABOUT IT, I GOT IT** – Another dangerous statement, meaning this is something that a woman has told a man to do several times, but is now doing it herself. This will later result in a man asking “What’s Wrong?” For the woman’s response refer to #3.

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