

Archer Wealth Management

Holistic wealth planning for you and your family: Estate and will planning, discretionary portfolio management, charitable gift plans, life insurance protection. For today and tomorrow...



Welcome to our regular newsletter, where we do our best to keep you informed with financial planning articles, estate planning tips, investment management and market news, tax saving strategies and maybe even a fun recipe and photograph or two. We welcome your feedback as well as your referrals of friends, colleagues, clients and family!

John & Mauricio

The protection of some of

Montreal's iconic signs

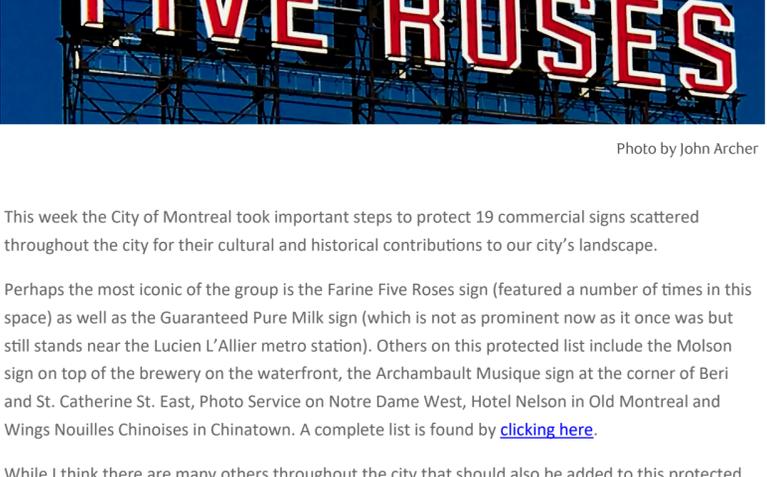


Photo by John Archer

This week the City of Montreal took important steps to protect 19 commercial signs scattered throughout the city for their cultural and historical contributions to our city's landscape.

Perhaps the most iconic of the group is the Farine Five Roses sign (featured a number of times in this space) as well as the Guaranteed Pure Milk sign (which is not as prominent now as it once was but still stands near the Lucien L'Allier metro station). Others on this protected list include the Molson sign on top of the brewery on the waterfront, the Archambault Musique sign at the corner of Berri and St. Catherine St. East, Photo Service on Notre Dame West, Hotel Nelson in Old Montreal and Wings Nouilles Chinoises in Chinatown. A complete list is found by [clicking here](#).

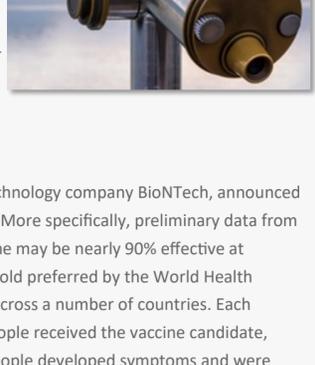
While I think there are many others throughout the city that should also be added to this protected list, this is an excellent first step by the city and I am sure they will see fit to add more in the future as well!

John Archer

Market News:

Addressing Market Volatility

Investors have turned their sights back to the coronavirus, where a two-sided story developed further this past week. On the one hand, a second wave of the virus continues to present significant challenges, putting pressure on health care systems around the world and forcing governments to adopt policies they were hoping to avoid. On the other hand, the odds of a vaccine getting approved for use in 2021 have grown meaningfully, suggesting there may be an end to this crisis in sight.



Science on verge of medical breakthrough

U.S. drug maker Pfizer along with its partner, German biotechnology company BioNTech, announced a positive development on the vaccine front this past week. More specifically, preliminary data from a Phase 3 clinical trial which is still ongoing suggest its vaccine may be nearly 90% effective at preventing infection. This is well higher than the 70% threshold preferred by the World Health Organization. The trial itself involved nearly 44,000 people across a number of countries. Each person received two shots, 28 days apart. Some of those people received the vaccine candidate, while others received a placebo (a fake shot). To date, 94 people developed symptoms and were confirmed to be infected with the coronavirus, with the majority of them occurring among people who received the placebo.

Many questions remain. Namely, what is the efficacy when factoring in asymptomatic cases? Can it prevent severe disease or complications? Does it fully prevent infection or simply reduce the degree of symptoms? What is the duration of protection? And, how effective it is with the elderly? The data has yet to be reviewed by the rest of the scientific community. Nevertheless, it is a significant step forward and has provided a much needed sense of hope and relief.

What's next? The companies expect to reach an important trial milestone by early December, at which point they plan to file an emergency use application with U.S. regulators and produce up to 50 million doses by the end of the year. They expect to be able to produce 1.3 billion doses in 2021. Notably, Canada has preordered 20 million doses from the companies over the next year, suggesting it would have enough to vaccinate 10 million people.

Governments around the world are likely to prioritize certain groups – elderly and health care professionals – for first inoculation once available. The challenge thereafter becomes one of manufacturing sufficient quantities, transportation, storage and distribution as this vaccine needs to be handled with particular care (stored at -70 degrees Celsius for extended periods), and logistics given the need for two doses within a pre-defined time period. Widespread availability, particularly in the developed world, appears to be a realistic possibility as early as next spring.

Traditionally, vaccines have been made from the virus itself – an inactive form of it. The vaccine then triggers the body's immune system to produce antibodies, which can help fight any future infection. However, this vaccine is different. It does not use the virus, but rather coated molecules that carry a set of genetic instructions that the human body uses to make a certain kind of protein that would normally be found in the virus. The immune system detects these proteins, recognizes that they are foreign, and builds a response to protect against infection. An approval of a vaccine using this novel approach would be a first, and could mark a new chapter in vaccine development.

Its apparent success may bode well for the prospects of several others in Phase 3 trials that are using a similar approach. In fact, Moderna, another company employing the technique, confirmed this past week that it too is close to having enough data to provide a similar interim update in the very near future. Ultimately, we may see a few companies with potential vaccines that get approved in the year ahead, which could help meet the significant demand that is expected. This potential breakthrough serves as a reminder that innovation is alive and well. More importantly, it suggests that global collaboration among the scientific community has real potential to help us overcome this virus.

Coronavirus update

The development above couldn't have come at a better time. The current situation with respect to the coronavirus remains very challenging. The U.S. is now seeing rapid growth. To put things into perspective, the country's 7-day moving average of new daily infections is over 123,000. That is 40% higher than the level of nearly 88,000 new daily infections from a week ago. And it is relatively widespread with most states seeing rising infections. With the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday just a few weeks away, we expect the country to struggle to get this trend under control.

Canada too is facing growing infection rates. Its 7-day moving average of new daily infections has now grown to over 4,400 from nearly 3,200 the week before. The provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba saw some progress this past week. At the opposite end of the spectrum were Alberta and British Columbia, both of which saw relatively stronger growth in new infection rates. Ontario and Quebec also saw a worsening in their trend. The East Coast and northern territories remain stable. Not surprisingly, many provinces continue to add new restrictions to try to slow the spread.

In Europe, it has been less than two weeks since the majority of restrictive policies took hold. But, recent data suggests some early signs of improvement across a few countries like France and Spain. We expect next week to begin to provide more substantial clues as to whether a peak in new infections has been passed.

Undoubtedly, challenges remain over the winter months to come. But, we continue to believe that the year ahead holds the potential for less uncertainty as opposed to more. The U.S. elections, while not yet resolved, will be relatively soon. Central banks remain steadfast in their commitment to being as accommodative as possible to nurture an economic recovery. More aid and stimulus is likely on the horizon. And most importantly, the odds of vaccines being available by the spring continue to move higher. All this suggests a more stable backdrop for the economy and the markets as we move through 2021.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.



"People" by John Archer

Virtual Photography Exhibition—coming soon

We are very proud and excited to share this new project with you. We have been working on a virtual photography exhibition called People, with beautiful photos taken by John all over the world. Using the magic of technology, we have recreated the ambience of an art gallery that allows you to access it from your computer, iPad or smartphone.

More information to come next week.

Quinoa salad with roasted pumpkin cubes, beets and grilled chicken

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of the Quinoa of your preference
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 chicken breasts in cubes
- 2 small to medium beets
- Half a Butternut Squash or Pumpkin (approx. 400 gr.)
- Olive oil
- One squeezed lemon or lime
- Salt and pepper

Preparation:

The Quinoa: Cooking quinoa is similar to cooking rice. We use twice as much water as quinoa and salt to taste. We boil the quinoa uncovered at moderate temperature until all the water has been absorbed, then we remove it from the heat and cover it. Let steam for around 5-10 minutes.

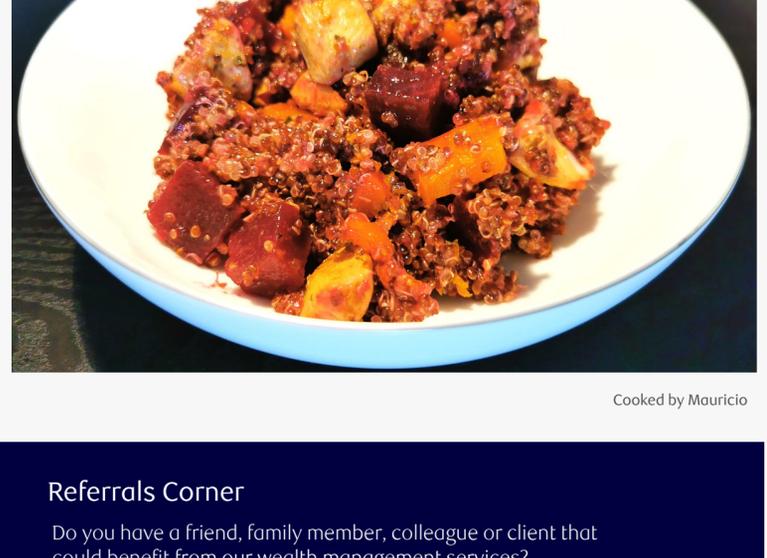
The butternut squash: First slice the butternut in cubes, place them on a baking pan over parchment paper with some olive oil. Bake at 400°F for around 20 minutes until cooked. This will result in some butternut roasted cubes that will not smash that easily.

The beets: This one is easy! Wash the beets under water to remove the dirt they may have. Boil them until well cooked (when it is easy to insert a knife completely inside). Under cold water, peel the beets already cooked and chop in cubes.

The chicken: add salt a pepper to the chicken cubes. In a frying pan at high temperature add a little bit of cooking oil and stir fry the garlic with the onions. Then add the chicken and saute until brown.

Finally, mix all the ingredients in a big bowl, adjust salt and pepper to taste, add the lime juice and some extra olive oil.

Enjoy ;)



Cooked by Mauricio

Referrals Corner

Do you have a friend, family member, colleague or client that could benefit from our wealth management services?

Perhaps start by forwarding to them this newsletter?

The link to our website is: johnarcher.ca

John Archer

Portfolio Manager & Wealth Advisor
john.archer@rbc.com
 Phone: 514-878-5040
 Fax: 514-878-5070
[LinkedIn](#)

Mauricio Bonaguro

Associate
mauricio.bonaguro@rbc.com
 Phone: 514-878-7527
 Fax: 514-878-5070
[LinkedIn](#)