



Bean Counters' Quarterly

December 2023



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GREETINGS! WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE!

“There’s no experience quite like cutting your own live Christmas tree out of your neighbour’s yard.” – Dan Florence

Can you believe it, we are less than two weeks from a new year...2024! We do this every year, don't we? No matter how we plan and notice the calendar moving towards the end of December, it just never really seems real...until you're suddenly into the holidays. Once you hit Hannukah/Christmas/Kwanza it all becomes very real. The end

of the current year is about to become THE NEW YEAR! How does the New Year happen for you?

Is it a loud, celebratory, boisterous event (I don't mean the Dec31st activity...I mean January 1st) or is it thoughtful, quiet, and solemn? Do you feel a sense of embracing the new, or maybe more of a leaving the old behind (for some, the back end of 2023 can't get here fast enough)? Are you hopeful or are you anxious? **The new year brings a blank slate**...sort of. Sure, we bring history, some definitely from 2023 and all the other years that come with us, but we also have an opportunity for *something new*, as the quote below says...'**full of things that have never been**'. We should never waste this opportunity, to dream something different, to do something different, to be something different. That doesn't mean more, just different. *Maybe it means less striving and more enjoying*. **Life is short**...we only get so many new years and we don't know how many that is...let's make the most of them.

We're doing a little version of A Christmas Carol in **the Dialogue** section by having the whole team **choose** whether they'd like to be visited by the ghost of past, present, or future (hypothetically, of course, as we don't actually have ghosts ready to visit, lol) you might be surprised by some of the choices. Check it out and see who you align with in your choice!

The deadline for your **CEBA Loan Repayment** is January 18th, 2024. See our article section for more information about the deadline or options to extend your repayment.

Our Spotlight section during the holidays continues to link to **Oakville's FareShare** because food insecurity is an ongoing and serious issue for many people and families, no matter the time of year. Fareshare currently provides food to 2800 individuals per month!!

The number for people who used **FoodBanks Canada** in one month (March stats) is 1.9M (600,000 are children). If there is a time to give, if you have anything to share/spare, it would be good now, as they need all the help they can get to fill the shelves with food!

Do you know the ending of A Christmas Carol? (Spoiler Alert) It's wonderful at the end of the story, when Scrooge turns into a generous, kind, and giving person, who at one point says "I don't deserve to be so happy". I wish we could all have that feeling, helping others when we are able to do so, makes US feel so happy...

Please consider one of these food bank organizations or choose any organization or individual that needs help and is meaningful to you.

Our book recommendation is not only seasonally well-timed, but it's also a topic that's relatable for a lot of people...difficult times. The New York Times best seller is called **Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times** by Katherine May.

The book states, that sometimes it feels like you slip through the cracks; unforeseen circumstances like an abrupt illness, the death of a loved one, a break up, or a job loss can derail a life. These periods of dislocation can be lonely and unexpected. The Wall Street Journal says it 'proves that there is grace in letting go, stepping back and giving yourself time to repair in the dark'...'**“Every bit as beautiful and healing as the season itself. . . . This is truly a beautiful book.” ~Elizabeth Gilbert**

You 'll definitely want to hear about the busy Fall life of some of our team and the many plans for holiday activities in the **About Us** section. Tanya actually sent her contributions in from the airport (thanks, Tanya). The rest of the team have a variety of things going on next week.

We feel very grateful for all of our friends, family, and clients most especially at this time of year. Thank you to so many of you who read this collective of stories and updates about our team, as we try to connect with all of you.

We wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday and a very Happy New Year!

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.”

—Rainer Maria Rilke

On behalf of,

Steve, Sherry, Ana, Andre, and Tanya



Dialogue Department



CEBA Loan Repayment Deadline Extension

Here's our question/topic for this issue:

“Holidays past, present, or future - if you were going to be visited by a ghost of holidays, which one would you prefer and why?”

Our reply for this quarter is from:

The Kirkham Team

Steve: “Well, the past would generally be the “easy” go to (with all the great memories), but I’ll take the **ghost from the future**.....simply the unknown of what things will be like in 5, 10, 50(?) years intrigues me. Not just what my immediate family situation will be like, but what the world will look like. As for Christmas’ to come, I wonder if many of the old traditions will hold on..... stockings, trees, actual presents (or will everything turn into a “virtual” world). Guess we’ll all just have to stay tuned!”

Sherry: “If I were to be visited by a **ghost of holidays I would prefer the future**. Haa haa. I already know what happened in the past and I’m always curious about the future. I just like to be prepared for what’s coming up. If I visited the ghost from the past it would only remind me of the friends and family that are no longer here and that would make me sad. So, this coming year I’m hoping to spend lots of time with friends and family and making more magical memories.”

Ana: “If I was going to be revisited by a ghost of Christmas I would choose the **ghost of Christmas past**. Being with all

As of September 14, 2023, the repayment deadline for eligible CEBA loan holders to qualify for partial loan forgiveness was extended to January 18, 2024.

What are the repayment terms for the \$40,000 and \$60,000 loan and the \$20,000 expansion?

Eligible CEBA loan holders in good standing have the following repayment terms:

Interest:

- 0% per annum interest until January 18, 2024
- 5% per annum interest starting on January 19, 2024; interest payment frequency may vary by financial institution

Repayments & Maturity:

- No principal repayment required before January 18, 2024; if loan remains outstanding on January 19, 2024, it will convert to a non-amortizing term loan with full principal repayment due on December 31, 2026

Debt Forgiveness:

- If the outstanding principal, other than the amount of potential debt forgiveness, is repaid by January 18, 2024, the remaining principal amount will be forgiven
- If you have submitted a refinancing loan application to the financial institution that provided your CEBA loan by January 18, 2024 but require a

my family – the jokes, the food, the wine, the sense of home, happiness and the simplicity of youth.”

Tanya: “If I were to be visited by a ghost of holidays I would hope it was the **ghost of holiday past**. Looking back on time and reminiscing on past experiences and traditions always brings about good feels. It would be so nice to see the special people in our lives that we have lost and to refresh the great memories we had.”

Andre: I would name **Jacob Marley as a ghost** I would want to visit me. He was the only one that I really know about. Christmas was not a tradition in my home country, but reading the novels of Charles Dickens were required for students taking English language as a major.

Here’s What I Have To Say - (let us know your answer, send reply to)
steve@kirkhamca.ca

grace period in order to finalize the payout of your CEBA loan, you can still qualify for partial loan forgiveness if the outstanding principal of your CEBA loan, other than the amount of potential debt forgiveness, is repaid by March 28, 2024

Does CEBA loan forgiveness need to be reported in my income tax filing? If so, when?

The forgiveness portion of your CEBA loan is taxable. Please discuss with your accountant (Kirkham CPA)

CEBA FAQ's



SPOTLIGHT

KIRKHAM Chartered Accountants:



We are using this edition to promote two charitable organizations.

FOOD SHARE Food Bank

The bulk of our non-perishable food comes from food drives held at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas and ongoing donations from churches, schools, businesses, supermarkets, and others in our community.

Financial donations are vital to our existence. We need them to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables, fish meat, eggs, cheese milk, and a variety of other items.

Monetary donations are vital to our existence. We need them to buy non donated perishable food such as chicken, ground beef, fish, cheese and fresh and frozen vegetables and fruit. A portion of the money pays for the Supermarket gift cards we provide to families at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Being volunteer run, we pay no salaries.

[FareShare Oakville](#)

FOOD BANKS CANADA

We need your help to ensure that no child, no family, no one in Canada has to spend this holiday season hungry.

Faced with record-high demand, declining food donations, and the increasing cost of food, it's becoming harder and harder for food banks to be there for everyone who needs them.

Their stats show that in one month (March 2023) they had 1.9M people access Food Banks Canada across the country (with 600,000 being children).

[Food Banks Canada](#)

Recommended Reading:

Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times

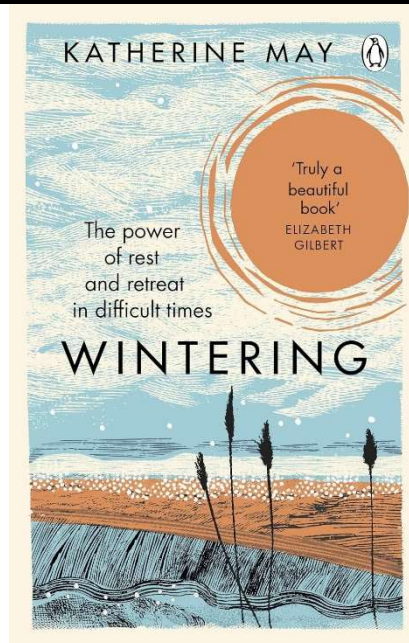
By Katherine May

ABOUT

From the bestselling author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age*, this is an intimate, revelatory exploration of the ways we can care for and repair ourselves when life knocks us down.

Sometimes you slip through the cracks: unforeseen circumstances like an abrupt illness, the death of a loved one, a break up, or a job loss can derail a life. These periods of dislocation can be lonely and unexpected. For May, her husband fell ill, her son stopped attending school, and her own medical issues led her to leave a demanding job. *Wintering* explores how she not only endured this painful time, but embraced the singular opportunities it offered.

A moving personal narrative shot through with lessons from literature, mythology, and the natural world, May's story offers instruction on the transformative power of



rest and retreat. Illumination emerges from many sources: solstice celebrations and dormice hibernation, C.S. Lewis and Sylvia Plath, swimming in icy waters and sailing arctic seas.

Ultimately *Wintering* invites us to change how we relate to our own fallow times. May models an active acceptance of sadness and finds nourishment in deep retreat, joy in the hushed beauty of winter, and encouragement in understanding life as cyclical, not linear. A secular mystic, May forms a guiding philosophy for transforming the hardships that arise before the ushering in of a new season.

WINTERING: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times

ABOUT US



Sherry says that she's curling now but she also took time off to go to Mexico on a girl's trip to celebrate her girlfriends' 60th birthday in October. Then in December she and Grant went to Barbados for another week. So, she obviously had to get the tree up and the house decorated before they left. Both trips were fantastic. They had great weather both times and had so much fun. Unfortunately, she also got Covid in November. She was registered to play in a curling bonspiel but had to miss the whole

event as she isolated at home for the weekend. Luckily it only lasted a few days, and she was back to work. She also belongs to a fantastic book club and their latest book “The Forgotten Bookshop in Paris” didn’t have any questions at the back, so one of the members contacted the author and she provided them with questions through Instagram. The girls gathered around and took a picture and sent it to the author so she could see her fans. They all now follow her on Instagram and hope to read another one of her books. Sherry is also still working on getting ready for Christmas. Just a few more gifts to buy and wrap and she should be ready. Fingers crossed.

Ana says that as children they enjoyed a 3-day celebration (Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas Day Lunch and Boxing day leftovers). But as an adult, Christmas was always a hectic, stressful time for her. Splitting time with her immediate family and then with her husband’s family. Now things are easier as both her parents are gone, and her siblings & cousins live far away. The only worry is preparing for Christmas for her husband’s family, which will all gather (22 of us) at her house on the 23rd! She doesn’t know what she was thinking?! But hopefully they will survive.

Tanya says that the Fall season seems to have flown by (yet some days the weather feels as if it’s still here). She jumped right back into the busy days of curling and in November they went down South to their place in Barbados with friends. They had a great time and perfect weather! She and Mike will be escaping the holiday craziness spending Christmas on a cruise to the South-East Caribbean but will be back in time to celebrate New Years with their family and friends.

Andre says it’s very hard to describe the feeling he has when he’s thinking that the end of 2023 is less than 2 weeks away. It seems that there are many items in his to-do-list from the beginning of 2023 that haven’t been done yet.

His work-and-life is still busy but quiet and peaceful, with kids living away from Toronto. He misses them and recalls the nice memories of their Halloweens in their childhood. It also gave him time to fill his professional course hours, he has kept taking online webinars, one of the interesting courses introduced how to use ChatGPT AI to perform accounting analysis... but he still feels that he only has a shallow knowledge on this respect.

Steve says it’s been a relatively quiet last 3 months. A few Fall trips to the cabins to take advantage of some very quiet weekends and closing them down for the winter (but with hopes to still get down there a few times over winter now that one of them is somewhat insulated and has a nice stove to keep things warm). Family life is pretty status quo, Erin in BC, Justin working locally and Gavin getting thru first half of 3rd year at Mac. Sherry has been working at an Xmas pop-up store for the season (to save up for her continuing Camino journey resuming next spring). With Christmas and New Year just around the corner, things are starting to get a bit more hectic with last

minute, year-end work filings to do, and of course last-minute shopping! He's looking forward to some family time and holiday cheer over the break and wishing all the best to you and yours!

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