



Bean Counters' Quarterly

March 2023



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GREETINGS! WELCOME TO THE MARCH 2023 ISSUE!

Spring is here (technically). April is almost here! Tax deadline is almost here...

That means good things, even the 'tax deadline is almost here', because we all need to file our taxes, and we are happy to help our clients complete their taxes in the most beneficial and efficient way, then we can all enjoy the rest of Spring. As a reminder, our deadline for receiving your tax information in order to file your return on time is **April 8th!**

As we begin to experience real signs of Spring this past week (intermittent with Winter), some of us are feeling hopeful. The end of Winter-March seems to be coming to an end.

Steve tells us his favourite part of Spring in **the Dialogue** section, and the answer is pretty 'unique'. You won't hear this one too often (unless you hang out with accountants).

Ontario Budget Day and Federal Budget Day have both just happened in the past week and we share a few brief highlights that you may be interested in...do we call it the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly or is it really Much Ado About Nothing?

Our Spotlight section once again provides links to **Oakville's FareShare** and **Kerr Street Mission**. If you are in a position to donate, please consider one of these local organizations or choose any organization or individual that needs help and is meaningful to you. Even small amounts can make an impact.

How's your reading list going in 2023? We'd like to add a great book that is perfectly timed with Spring. What better time of year to be inspired to look around and be full of awe... **AWE: The New Science Of Everyday Wonder And How It Can Transform Your Life by Dacher Keltner**. Dacher was the consultant on Pixar's *Inside Out* movie and brings the science of emotions to real life.

"...during a moment in which our world feels more divided than ever before, and more imperiled by crises of different kinds, we are greatly in need of awe."

Check out the team updates in the **About Us** section. It has been a jam-packed time of things happening for the team. From moving, to puppies, to travel, find out who went away to find sun, who's barely hanging in waiting for Spring to fully transition, and who's looking ahead (Summer is coming).

We wish everyone a **Happy Spring** full of wonder and awe!

On behalf of,
Steve, Sherry, Ana, Andre, and Tanya.



Dialogue Department

Here's our question/topic for this issue:

"What's your favourite part of Spring? Is it the warmer weather; the budding, snow-melting changing landscape; or the removal of coats, boots,



and warm clothing; is it opening windows at home or in the car to breathe in the 'spring air'; is it the sight and sound of birds returning and chirping, even early in the morning; or is it feeling like there's more time to the day with the clocks moving forward; or is it something specific for you?"

Our reply for this quarter is from:
Steve Kirkham

Steve: "I think this goes without saying, but my favourite thing about spring is that it is also tax season! Beyond, that I guess I would have to say my next favourite thing would be May 1 (the end of tax season). Bring on cottage season."

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

2023 ONTARIO (March 24) and FEDERAL (March 28) BUDGET (Brief) HIGHLIGHTS

Federal Budget Highlights

Federal Budget 2023 assumes a moderately positive fiscal outlook, expecting that the “looming” recession will be “shallow.” The Minister of Finance’s speech mentioned “remarkable” recovery from the COVID recession, with the “strongest economic growth” in the G7 and also states a recovery of 126% of the jobs lost during the first months of COVID, compared to 114% for our neighbours.

Tax measures, which are described in more detail below, are modest. Please see the link below for a detailed look at the Federal Budget and tax measures.

- A few measures target cost of living issues for middle and lower income Canadians. These include a grocery rebate, a deduction for tradespeople tool expenses, and modest amendments to the Registered Education Savings Plan and the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

- There are several clean energy tax credits to foster the green economy.
- Finally, there are one or two measures that commit to ensuring that the wealthiest Canadians pay their fair share. These include an expansion of the alternative minimum tax regime and new rules to implement the tax on share repurchases first introduced in the Fall Economic Statement.

Federal Budget Canada.ca

Ontario Budget Highlights

Building Ontario's Economy for Today and Tomorrow

- Launching the new Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, which would provide a 10 per cent refundable Corporate Income Tax credit to help local manufacturers lower their costs, invest in workers, innovate and become more competitive.
- Improving competitiveness by planning to enable an estimated \$8 billion in cost savings and support for some Ontario employers in 2023, with \$3.6 billion going to small businesses.

Building Highways, Transit, and Infrastructure Projects

- Delivering on the most ambitious capital plan in Ontario's history, with planned infrastructure spending of more than \$184 billion over 10 years including:
- \$27.9 billion to support the planning and construction of highway expansion and rehabilitation projects such as Highway 413, a new 400-series highway and transportation corridor across Halton, Peel and York regions, the Bradford Bypass, a new four-lane freeway connecting Highway 400 in the County of Simcoe and Highway 404 in York Region, and the new Highway 7 between Kitchener and Guelph.

Better Services for You

- Helping more Ontario students become doctors by investing an additional \$33 million over three years to add 100 undergraduate seats beginning in 2023, as well as 154 postgraduate medical training seats to prioritize Ontario residents trained at home and abroad beginning in 2024 and going forward.
- Starting in fall 2023, expanding the program to allow pharmacists to prescribe over-the-counter medication for more common ailments, etc.

- Continuing the 2022 Budget commitment to invest \$1 billion over three years to get more people connected to care in the comfort of their own home and community.

Ontario Budget



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



Kerr Street Mission
 Oakville's Mission of Hope

KERR STREET MISSION **A True Catalyst to Changing Lives**

Providing care and a community of support for those in Oakville that are struggling and in need, improving their current and future well-being.

For 25 years, Kerr Street Mission has been connecting with families and youth, offering programs and services that are needed in the community.

KSM has become a gathering place and a hub of care, offering help for the present and hope for the future.

Our Programs Focus:
 Kerr Street Market
 Children's Programming
 Youth Development
 Family Services
 Neighbour Care Network

Recommended Reading:

AWE: THE NEW SCIENCE OF EVERYDAY WONDER AND HOW IT CAN TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

by Dacher Keltner

ABOUT

"Read this book to connect with your highest self."

—Susan Cain, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Bittersweet* and *Quiet*

"We need more awe in our lives, and Dacher Keltner has written the definitive book on where to find it."

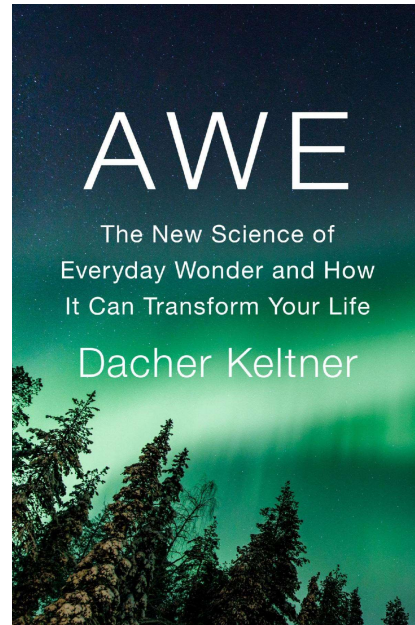
—Adam Grant, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Think Again*

"*Awe* is awesome in both senses: a superb analysis of an emotion that is strongly felt but poorly understood, with a showcase of examples that remind us of what is worthy of our awe."

—Steven Pinker, Johnstone Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, and author of *How the Mind Works* and *Rationality*

From a foremost expert on the science of emotions and consultant to Pixar's *Inside Out*, a groundbreaking and essential exploration into the history, science, and greater understanding of awe

Awe is mysterious. How do we begin to quantify the goose bumps we feel when we see the Grand Canyon, or the utter amazement when we watch a child walk for the first time? How do you put into words the collective effervescence of standing in a crowd and singing in unison, or the wonder you feel while gazing at centuries-old works of art? Up until fifteen years ago, there was no science of awe, the feeling we experience when we encounter



vast mysteries that transcend our understanding of the world. Scientists were studying emotions like fear and disgust, emotions that seemed essential to human survival. Revolutionary thinking, though, has brought into focus how, through the span of evolution, we've met our most basic needs socially. We've survived thanks to our capacities to cooperate, form communities, and create culture that strengthens our sense of shared identity—actions that are sparked and spurred by awe.

In *Awe*, Dacher Keltner presents a radical investigation and deeply personal inquiry into this elusive emotion. Revealing new research into how awe transforms our brains and bodies, alongside an examination of awe across history, culture, and within his own life during a period of grief, Keltner shows us how cultivating awe in our everyday life leads us to appreciate what is most humane in our human nature. And during a moment in which our world feels more divided than ever before, and more imperiled by crises of different kinds, we are greatly in need of awe. **If we open our minds, it is awe that sharpens our reasoning and orients us toward big ideas and new insights, that cools our immune system's inflammation response and strengthens our bodies. It is awe that activates our inclination to share and create strong networks, to take actions that are good for the natural and social world around us. It is awe that transforms who we are, that inspires the creation of art, music, and religion.** At turns radical and profound, brimming with enlightening and practical insights, *Awe* is our field guide, from not only one of the leading voices on the subject but a fellow seeker of awe in his own right, for how to place awe as a vital force within our lives.

AWE: The New Science of Wonder

ABOUT US



Sherry says that in January, she and Grant had their first tropical vacation since January 2019. They finally made it back to their favourite All Inclusive resort in Cancun. They had amazing weather, good food and plenty to drink. Even the entertainment seemed better this year. At home they are enjoying their curling season. She says it's always fun at the Burlington Curling Club. It's a very social way to enjoy winter. If you haven't tried it yet, she would highly recommend it.

Ana says she is so looking forward to spring really staying. (adding - if she has to shovel out the drive way one more time she will scream!!!). The warmer days, putting away boots & heavy coats, planting and best of all summer vacation will be just around the corner. Nothing exciting has been happening with her and her husband, just work, home, shovelling snow. Thinking of summer and hopefully planning trips with friends.

Tanya says the past few months have been filled with some new adventures. She and her husband began fostering a couple of dogs, while in the process of adopting a new one. It has been so rewarding and entertaining to say the least (at the expense of losing a few chewed windows and door frames!). They also just welcomed a new adorable baby nephew, who is already being spoilt as the only grandchild. She managed a quick trip down to their family condo in Barbados before the start of tax season and it was so nice to see some sun after the dreary winter weather. With the start of Tax Season, it also marks one full year of Tanya working at SKPC! Congrats!

Andre says the biggest event was to move house from Toronto to Markham in March, just across the street but to another city. When he bought that small townhouse in Toronto, he had not expected that his family would live there for over a decade. Now kids have grown up and they no longer need to go to the schools in the community, therefore it was time to move.

They suddenly found that it was really a challenge. After so many years, their small house appeared to be a "cave" with thousands of necessary or unnecessary items. He feels that with an environmentalist mindset, he always want to keep and recycle whatever that he could, however that has led to now where he has had to clean "mountains" of old stuff. After two weeks of intensive and exhausting struggle, they

have, at last, emptied the old house and moved in to Markham. Now they are busy setting up their new life.

Steve says (un)fortunately it was not a very cold winter. Which for Steve meant not as much ice, and therefore not as much ice fishing. He did get out a few times with friends for some good times, and although the fishing was definitely nothing to brag about, he's looking forward to a colder winter next year. Sherry managed to keep busy finishing up some small renos at the house and has been eagerly planning her next Camino for this coming May/June (likely choosing the Italy route this time). Erin got back to Vancouver after her xmas visit and has been enjoying winter life out there while working away to pay the rent. Justin has moved out on his own, but just to the edge of Mississauga, so enough freedom, but also close enough to home for a few visits. Gavin is wrapping up 2nd year at Mac, and hopefully(!) landing a job for the summer. All are looking forward to getting back to the cabins, but that won't be until the heat of July/August arrive.

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