



Bean Counters' Quarterly

March 2024



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GREETINGS! WELCOME TO THE MARCH 2024 ISSUE!

“Despite the forecast, live like it's Spring.” ~Lilly Pulitzer

Happy Spring! Are we now in Spring? Well, technically, yes, according to the calendar. Has the past week seemed more like winter? Yes. Is this normal...well, maybe. It might be the new normal.

Expect the unexpected. After a very mild, even spring-like winter in southwestern Ontario, the

pessimistic or realistic among us, were likely waiting for another round of winter before putting the winter tires away. However, there is something to be said for the mindset of the quote above...**live like it's Spring!**

We gave Steve a lot of power for this issue of **the Dialogue** section, by asking him when tax season filing **should** happen in the course of the year...pick a month, any month!? Okay, well maybe it wasn't real power, because CRA won't actually change the date, and we didn't fool Steve with the offer, but he gave us his well considered response.

There is brand new information from the **Ontario Budget for 2024** that was just presented March 26th, 2024. See the highlights and link we provide in our article section.

At this time of year, March and April, many people are celebrating or observing important faith rituals...perhaps it's **Ramadan, Easter, or Passover**, as well as other activities, often associated with sharing meals together and giving thanks. **Our Spotlight** section is focused on the need for everyone to have food! Every day, everyone, everywhere. At this time of year, it might be top of mind for everyone, to feel their own need or the needs of many others, and/or to feel grateful if hunger or starvation isn't a worry for you and your loved ones. **Hunger should not be political.**

If you can help, here is a short list of organizations that are doing the really hard work, to provide food to many people in many communities, locally or globally. These food providers need help - they need donations, so if possible, please consider donating to help feed others.

(see links in Our Spotlight - or choose your own preference)

Oakville's FareShare; FoodBanks Canada;

World Food Programme; World Central Kitchen

The title of our book recommendation is going to immediately appeal to some, while instantly rebuff many others. It might not obviously fit in with mindsets around endless to-do lists and hustle culture...however, if you give it a chance it may just help you do the important things you want to accomplish, while avoiding the burnout mode that might be keeping you from doing what you really hope to do. It's called -

SLOW PRODUCTIVITY: The Lost Art of Accomplishment Without Burnout by Cal Newport.

It might be exactly what we need, to bring meaningful accomplishment to our lives.

~ Do Fewer Things. Work at a Natural Pace. Obsess over Quality. ~

There are always interesting updates and plans ahead from the team in the **About Us** section. Plus, perhaps under the category of '**big news**' you'll see a picture in the header for About Us and a little update from 'someone' on the team regarding '**Anbu**'.

What or who is an Anbu you ask? Scroll down to see...you won't be disappointed!

We wish everyone a healthy and Happy Spring, celebrating the rituals and meaningful events that are important to you and your family.

“The flowers of late winter and early Spring, occupy places in our hearts that are well out of proportion to their size.” ~ Gertrude S. Wister

On behalf of,

Steve, Sherry, Ana, Andre, and Tanya



Dialogue Department

Here's our question/topic for this issue:

“Few people are happy about tax deadlines or when those deadlines happen on the calendar - if you, Steve, had the power to move the personal Tax Season filing deadline from April 30, would you move it, and if so, what month would you move it to, and why or why not?”

Our reply for this quarter is from:

Steve Kirkham

Steve: "If I had such power, not sure I would waste it on something like a deadline, but since that is the question..."

I would probably not change it. Although it is a very busy time, and the deadline is always



looming, not sure changing it would make it any better. And, given that I like summers at the cottage, it does fall at a pretty good time of year where the weather is generally not the best, so it almost makes going to the office "easier". The real problem is just how condensed the season is due to when various tax slips come out, etc. So perhaps if I could change one thing, I would change the deadline as to when ALL tax-related slips have to be issued, say by end of February. But, since I don't expect that to change, we'll dig in as we always do and get it done."

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

ONTARIO BUDGET

March 26th, 2024

The Ontario government presented their 2024 Budget:

Excerpt from CBC.ca

Ballooning deficit

Ontario is projecting a deficit of \$9.8 billion in the coming fiscal year, almost double what was projected in its fall economic update.

The deficit is projected to come down to \$4.6 billion in 2025-2026 before the province posts a modest surplus the following year.

Billions for home and community care

The budget pledges \$2 billion over three years to the home and community care sector, which sees care provided at home or in a community setting by nurses, personal support workers and others.

The budget says the funding will increase compensation for personal support workers, nurses and other front-line care providers, and will "stabilize" expanded services.

York University medical school and nursing enrolment

The budget says the government will support a new York University medical school based in Vaughan, Ont. It says the medical school would be the first in Canada primarily focused on training family doctors.

The Ontario Medical Association estimates up to 2.3 million people are without a family doctor, with that number expected to nearly double over two years. Citing job postings, the OMA said in January there were more than 2,500 physicians needed in the province.

With major nursing shortages also hitting Ontario, the government says it will also invest an additional \$128 million over three years to boost nursing student enrolment at universities and colleges.

The budget says the money will help support enrolment increases of 2,000 registered nurse seats and 1,000 registered practical nurse seats.

Money for sport, recreation and community facilities

The budget earmarks \$200 million for a new application-based fund for new and revitalized sport, recreation and community facilities.

It says the investment over three years will help address the "critical need" for infrastructure support in sport and recreation sectors.

Parks and Recreation Ontario, a non-profit, estimated in its pre-budget consultation report that the province's recreation infrastructure deficit nearly doubled since 2007 from \$5 billion to \$9.5 billion in 2021.

The consultation report says the infrastructure investment backlog for recreation facilities ranks only behind roads.

To read the Ontario Budget 2024:

[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](#)

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](#)

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

<https://www.wfp.org/>

WFP programmes not only provide assistance in emergencies to meet immediate food and nutrition needs, but they also support communities to build resilience in the long-term by addressing the root cause of hunger. By combining humanitarian assistance seamlessly with investment in resilience-based activities, we can break the recurring cycle of crisis and response and empower people to build a more prosperous future.

WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN

<https://wck.org/>

WCK responds to natural disasters, man-made crises, and humanitarian emergencies around the world. We're a team of food first responders, mobilizing with the urgency of now to get meals to the people who need them most. Deploying our model of quick action, leveraging local resources, and adapting in real time, we know that a nourishing meal in a time of crisis is so much more than a plate of food—it's hope, it's dignity, and it's a sign that someone cares.

Recommended Reading:

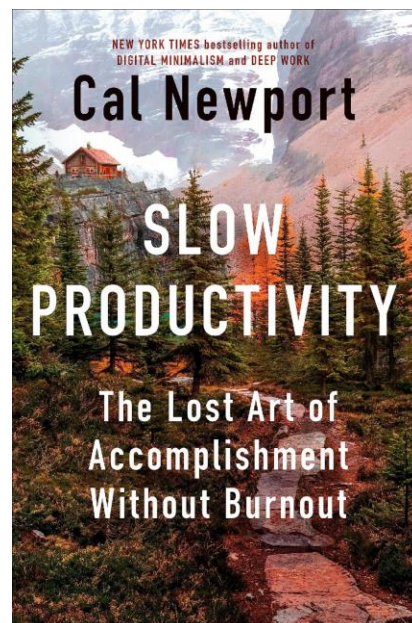
SLOW PRODUCTIVITY: The Lost Art of Accomplishment Without Burnout

By Cal Newport

ABOUT

From the New York Times bestselling author of Digital Minimalism and Deep Work, a groundbreaking philosophy for pursuing meaningful accomplishment while avoiding overload

Our current definition of “productivity” is broken. It pushes us to treat busyness as a proxy for useful effort, leading to impossibly lengthy task lists and



ceaseless meetings. We're overwhelmed by all we have to do and on the edge of burnout, left to decide between giving into soul-sapping hustle culture or rejecting ambition altogether. But are these really our only choices?

Long before the arrival of pinging inboxes and clogged schedules, history's most creative and impactful philosophers, scientists, artists, and writers mastered the art of producing valuable work with staying power. In this timely and provocative book, Cal Newport harnesses the wisdom of these traditional knowledge workers to radically transform our modern jobs. Drawing from deep research on the habits and mindsets of a varied cast of storied thinkers – from Galileo and Isaac Newton, to Jane Austen and Georgia O'Keefe – Newport lays out the key principles of “slow productivity,” a more sustainable alternative to the aimless overwhelm that defines our current moment. Combining cultural criticism with systematic pragmatism, Newport deconstructs the absurdities inherent in standard notions of productivity, and then provides step-by-step advice for cultivating a slower, more humane alternative.

From the aggressive rethinking of workload management, to introducing seasonal variation, to shifting your performance toward long-term quality, *Slow Productivity* provides a roadmap for escaping overload and arriving instead at a more timeless approach to pursuing meaningful accomplishment. The world of work is due for a new revolution. Slow productivity is exactly what we need.

[SLOW PRODUCTIVITY: The Lost Art of Accomplishment Without Burnout](#)

ABOUT US



Sherry says she's preparing for tax season and has a good feeling about it this year. She's already told her friends and family to not make any plans for her until May so she can concentrate on getting taxes done and out the door for the April 30 deadline. She also has her final Curling meeting April 22. As she's the treasurer for the Business Women's section, she has to submit a financial report to justify their bank balance at the end of the season. So far everything is running smoothly. She will have more to report next quarter. Happy Easter everyone and she looks forward to hearing from everyone soon.

Ana says she's really looking forward to Spring and warmer weather, even though winter this year hasn't been too bad. She just wants to shake off the bad memories of the past few months.

It started with Christmas. She had all her husband's family over on December 23. All went well then everyone left & she felt drained. Next day was so-so. Then her husband got sick, then her sister, then her mother-in-law and so on. Seems that Ana was patient ZERO. She had COVID and passed it on to everyone. She wasn't so bad but it seems her husband, sister and 2 nieces got the worst of it.

Then on New Year's eve while she was making dinner, her oven blew (no she's not a bad cook). She called in for repair (fortunately her warranty didn't expire until January 16). Long story short she's still waiting for the repair, seems the part is not available. She is looking forward to spring, even though she's lost an hour of sleep from the time-change.

Tanya says the first few months of 2024 have been a whirlwind! In January & February almost every other weekend was occupied playing in Curling Bonspiels, which also allowed Mike & her to reconnect with some old friends to play (and win!) a Charity Bonspiel at the Burlington Gold and Country Club. She did manage to squeeze in a short trip back to Barbados in March, while other family members were down visiting. Always great to see everyone and the weather as usual was

wonderful! She's been busy preparing for her parents' upcoming 50-th Wedding anniversary and a trip to Ottawa to celebrate her nephew's 1-st Birthday, so a lot of exciting times to come this month before fully settling in for tax season.

Andre says this was the first full winter that he spent in his new house. He learned to use the fireplace to warm the house. During last fall they cut a tree in the backyard, and stocked lots of woods. Then he cut them to use in the fireplace.

Their life in winter is busy but also calm and quiet, even in the Chinese lunar new year. William came home stayed for couples of days but only in Jan, then Martina came in Feb. The only change...oh yes, his swimming memberships got discounted after the new Toronto mayor took her place.

Steve says I think Steve's (and Sherry and Gavin's) last 3 months can be summed up with one name.....Anbu. Unbeknownst to anyone, on Christmas morning, Gavin walked into the rec room with a new puppy! Having "avoided" a dog throughout all the years when the kids were younger, it was a bit of a shock to everyone to say the least. But he definitely was quite cute and very friendly and immediately became part of the family. There have definitely been some learning curves throughout, but Steve will give credit to Gavin as he has taken on virtually all of the duties, although Sherry too has been very good with him, especially on making sure he gets his walks in (as she trains for her next Camino in May). Anbu has definitely added some "purpose" to all of them at the house, as well as breaking up some of the monotony that they all fall into. They look forward to many years of enjoyment with him (even though officially it is Gav's dog and if he moves out.....).

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