

The Bean Counters' Quarterly

Steve Kirkham C.A. Professional Corporation

October 2015

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Greetings!

Welcome to the Fall 2015 issue of The BeanCounters' Quarterly!

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend! The weather has been fantastic even if it looks like it's turning colder now. Although who can talk about the cold, while we're still enjoying the heat from the red hot, Blue Jays?! What an amazing win!!

Baseball seems to have been a theme of this newsletter if you read some of the About Us section. What a great year to be a baseball/Blue Jays fan!

Also find out what Ana's answer is to our Dialogue question. It's a focus on the charitable/giving season we're headed into. Read below about the annual event that the whole team participates in that brings much joy to under-privileged children in the form of a shoebox!

Fall is for fun, and family time, and food, giving, outdoor time, and sports...Enjoy everything it has to offer!

Best regards,

Steve Kirkham

The Dialogue Department!

The idea is to open the lines of communication on a topic or question that may be light and breezy or deep and serious, in an otherwise busy and hurried world. We'll start on our end by telling you about our thoughts on a particular topic or question, and then we'll wait to hear back from you - just hit the link "Here's What I Have to Say" and send us a quick reply.

Here's our question/topic for this issue:

"Now that we're in the middle of the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, many people have a mindset and focus on 'thankful' and 'giving'. What are your thoughts about how people can have a 'thankful' and 'giving' season?"

Our reply for this quarter is from **ANA MANCINI**: ***"I know that during the Thanksgiving & the Christmas seasons I personally am always thankful that I have a loving and supportive husband, family and friends. I am especially thankful this season due to the new additions to the family due to marriages***

and the birth of a new niece. I know that we as Canadians are thankful that we live in a country that is welcoming and giving, especially in these turbulent times. I hope all of us experience joy, love & happiness."

Here's What I Have To Say - (send reply to) steve@kirkhamca.ca

Canada Votes 2015

CFIB - Canada Votes 2015

Policy over personality: small business on the federal election:

According to CFIB's latest survey conducted October 5th to the 7th, small business owners are looking for substance over style when deciding which party will be getting their vote.

To see the interesting results (%) to the questions below - please click link at the bottom:

+ When deciding which party to vote for in a federal election, which of the following most influences your choice? (% response)

For instance: Do people vote for Party Platform or Party Leader? Turns out they vote 64% Party platform, and 20% Party Leader

+ How much discussion has the federal election campaign generated in your workplace? (% response)

+ Do you feel that your priorities as a business owner are being reflected in the federal election campaign? (% response)

+ Do you watch the federal leaders' debates? (% response)

+ Do federal leaders' debates influence your vote? (% response)

[CFIB](#)

Spotlight On Charity

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR CHARITY:

Operation Christmas Child - The Journey of a Shoebox
Every year, for the past 5-6 years, the whole team at Steve Kirkham C.A. volunteers together for a rotation of packing shoeboxes for under-privileged children around the world! And they have a lot of fun doing it! They will sort and check and re-pack potentially hundreds of shoeboxes, making sure that everything in those boxes is appropriate and safe for the intended recipient. They will open shoeboxes that identify whether for a girl or boy, age 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. They will check for items not allowed to be included and then repack the school supplies, stuffed toys, plastic cars, soaps and toothbrushes, small tools, or

puzzles. It's an amazing feeling to put these boxes together and imagine the child who will open it up and be so happy to see the gifts inside for them!

Operation Christmas Child was started in 1990! To date, Operation Christmas Child has collected and distributed over 100 million shoebox gifts worldwide. In 2014, Canadians donated more than 700,474 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for hurting children around the world.

Each shoebox is given to children regardless of gender, race, or religion. When culturally appropriate, copies of a book entitled *The Greatest Gift*, which has been translated into 130 different languages, are offered to children after the shoeboxes have already been distributed.

You may also contribute to an 'online' version of the shoebox, in case people don't have time to make one themselves, you can put it together virtually.

[Operation Christmas Child](#)

Recommended Reading:

The Advantage: Why Organizational Health Trumps Everything Else In Business by Patrick Lencioni

Organizational health will one day surpass all other disciplines in business as the greatest opportunity for improvement and competitive advantage.

This is the promise of *The Advantage*, Patrick Lencioni's bold manifesto about the most unexploited opportunity in modern business. In his immensely readable and accessible style, Lencioni makes the case that there is no better way to achieve profound improvement in an organization than by attacking the root causes of dysfunction, politics, and confusion.

While too many leaders are still limiting their search for advantage to conventional and largely exhausted areas like marketing, strategy, and technology, Lencioni demonstrates that there is an untapped gold mine sitting right beneath them. Instead of trying to become smarter, he asserts that leaders and organizations need to shift their focus to becoming healthier, allowing them to tap into the more-than-sufficient intelligence and expertise they already have.

The author of numerous bestselling business fables including *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* and *Death by Meeting*, Lencioni here draws upon his twenty years of writing, field research, and executive consulting to some of the world's leading organizations. He combines real-world stories and anecdotes with practical, actionable advice to create a work that is at once a great read and an invaluable, hands-on tool. The result is, without a doubt, Lencioni's most comprehensive, significant, and essential work to date

[The Advantage](#)

Stuff To Know About Our Team

-Sherry says that this has been a great summer. She and her husband, Grant, were lucky enough to attend the first Blue Jays game with David Price as their pitcher.

Unfortunately all the seats for the balance of season were sold out so they had to watch the rest from home. Sherry recently joined the band wagon but Grant has been a faithful watcher all along. He has the uniform shirts to prove it too. Also, an update on their puppy, Stella. She is just starting level 3 of puppy training and they are happy with the results so far. Sherry will let us know if she does anything amazing. Other than that, this Fall has been about closing the pool and cleaning the yard to prepare for fall. Sherry is going to try and continue to ride her bike into work for as long as she can this year. Her legs are getting used to the workout and she says it feels good too. She really believes exercise feeds the brain so encourages everyone to get out there. You'll be glad you did.

-Linda says baseball, baseball, baseball. All summer long! They went to a couple of home games and were lucky enough to see two extra inning walk-off wins! A camping trip to Manitoulin Island to hike in the La Cloche mountains rounded out the summer.

-Ana says that she loves the fall & all the changes in the leaves and the crispness in the air. However, she is NOT looking forward to the bagging those leaves. Fall arrived with an additional surprise for her family as their nephew's wife gave birth to a healthy baby girl, their first child. Now Ana is a "great aunt" once again.

-Andre says that in the last few months, clearing and retrofitting his house took most of his spare time. He is now trying to sell his house in North York (he feels it's an ideal location for parents looking for top-rated schools in Toronto), and the house is ready for weekend Open Houses - so perhaps a good chance for any interested buyer/reader. His daughter, Martina passed the exam to join the Toronto District Youth Orchestra in September, thanks for the recommendation from Mr. Lappano. She is very excited about that and she hopes that she'll have chance to go on the trip to Vienna with the orchestra next year.

-Steve says - That was a GREAT summer! After a long, cold winter, and busy tax season, it did not disappoint. Steve and the family were able to spend some quality time in August down at the cabins with their new toy - a wakeboard boat. The kids were extremely excited to get pulled behind a "real" boat, not dad's old fishing boat. And they were not let down. Wakeboarding, wakeskating, tubing and the latest craze, wakesurfing kept everyone outdoors and away from the electronics. There's a fun, wipeout video Steve put together at [WIPEOUT REEL 2015](#). He's still working on the "real" video, so stay tuned. Now that reality has sunk back in, everyone is falling back into their regular routines. Erin is off for another school term at Waterloo. Justin is entering his grade 12 year at White Oaks, and Gav is in grade 7 (and hoping to make both the vball and bball team this year!). Sherry just finished helping her sister put on a 50th wedding anniversary party for their parents and is also getting back to coaching at OAK. Counting the days til next boating season.

Quick Links...

- [The Bean Counters' Quarterly Home Website](#)
- [Canada Revenue Agency - for Business](#)
- [More About Steve Kirkham C.A. and Our Team](#)
- [View previous issues of our Bean Counters' Quarterly](#)

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