

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
M/SUNNY  
20 °C



4 Day Forecast | Traffic

**Disney MOVIE CLUB**

Exclusive Titles Available

**4 Disney Movies**  
for \$1.99 each  
plus FREE SHIPPING



CLICK HERE

Sunday, August 03, 2008 | Today's Toronto Star | Login

PHOTOS VIDEO COLUMNISTS BLOGS PODCASTS RSS MOBILE NEWSLETTERS ALERTS



the star.com Web find a Business  
Advanced Search | Full Text Article Archive

DEATH NOTICES  
CAREERS  
CLASSIFIEDS

HOME NEWS OPINION BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIVING TRAVEL WHEELS HEALTHZONE YOURHOME PARENTCENTRAL

Today's Markets | Fund Centre | Fund Lookup | Portfolio Manager | Money 911 | Small Business | Investing | Science-Tech

## Patience, perspective aid success

Aug 03, 2008 04:30 AM

Comments on this story (1)

ELLEN ROSEMAN

When I kicked off this Sunday series last April, I said you needed time, knowledge and discipline to be a successful do-it-yourself investor.

Now I realize I left out patience and perspective – two things that keep you sane when the economy slows and the S&P/TSX composite index gives up all its gains since the start of the year.

If you can sit and wait as stock markets gyrate – and keep the faith by remembering other times when your investments came roaring back from a slump – you'll be fine.

But if you keep playing with your portfolio, even if you pay only a few dollars for each trade, your performance will suffer.

In this last column on managing your own money, I asked some people who are experienced investing on their own for their best advice.

Don't rely on second-hand sources, says Gail Bebee, author of *No Hype: The Straight Goods on Investing Your Money*, which she self-published last fall.

"My top tip when making investment decisions is that the most accurate information is provided by the organization that originally created the information," she says.

When does the Royal Bank of Canada issue its next dividend payment? What stocks are included in the Sprott Canadian Equity Fund? What did the federal budget say about tax-free savings accounts?

Instead of getting the information from someone else, she advises using the Internet to key in an organization's name. Then, surf through its website to find what you're looking for.

Ram Balakrishnan works as a software developer in Ottawa. He and his wife, an information technology consultant, save heavily, contribute religiously to their retirement accounts and prepay their mortgage.

He started a blog, [Canadiancapitalist.com](http://Canadiancapitalist.com), in 2004 to share personal finance tips with others. He posts something almost daily.

"I find myself referring to the following books all the time," he tells me. They are:

*The Intelligent Investor* by Benjamin Graham.

*A Random Walk Down Wall Street* by Burton Malkiel.

*The Four Pillars of Investing* by William Bernstein.

*Unconventional Success* by David Swensen.

*The Little Book of Common Sense Investing* by John Bogle.

If he had to pick one book, says Balakrishnan, it would be Graham's classic text on value investing, still worthy after 60 years.

(I like the 2003 edition of *The Intelligent Investor*, revised by *Money* magazine editor Jason Zweig. Also worth investigating is Zweig's book, *Your Money and Your Brain*, and his voluminous website, [www.jasonzweig.com](http://www.jasonzweig.com).)

Marc Ryan, a Montreal lawyer and former executive with the Quebec Securities Commission, launched a website ([independentinvestor.info](http://independentinvestor.info)) this year for independent investors.

Charles Whaley has a PhD in cognitive and quantitative psychology. He has studied different trading approaches and developed his own way to compare stocks and sectors against the index using relative trend analysis.

You can find his weekly reports on the S&P/TSX index at <http://ITT.ProfitTrend.com>.

Money 911 takes a break next week and returns Aug. 17.

Email story  
Print  
Choose text size  
Report typo or correction  
Email the author  
License this article

BOOKMARK

Advertisement

**All digital cameras on SALE.**

Only at Future Shop

Save \$50

**▶▶ 149.99**

10.2MP Digital Camera.  
Offer ends August 7, 2008

▶▶ **FUTURE SHOP**

### MORE IN THE NEWS

**WTO spells failure**  
Patience, perspective aid success

**GM pension faces shortfall**  
GM's \$15.5B loss in Q2 far worse than forecast

**Do-it-yourself revival**  
Some battles can't be won

**Canadian auto sales back in gear**

**Nissan profit plunges 42.8%**

**BMW earnings skid 33%**

**Wal-Mart denies vote coercion**

### RECENT SPECIAL SECTIONS

Desi Life summer issue  
Golf 2008  
Do It! summer guide  
HDTV  
Digital Photo  
Diabetes

More Specials

Advertisement

TELUS

BlackBerry® Pearl™

Courriel personnel et messagerie instantanée illimités.  
15 \$/mois

Détails

\* À la signature d'une entente de service de 3 ans.

### MOST POPULAR ON THESTAR.COM

Most Read Most Emailed

- Police tape leaked, beheading victim mourned
- Beheading victim's family speaks out
- Woman found dead in 'crack central'
- Beheading victim was a 'free spirit'
- Horoscopes for Sunday, August 3

Ellen Roseman's column appears Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. You can reach her by writing Business c/o Toronto Star, 1 Yonge St., Toronto M5E 1E6; by phone at 416-945-8687; by fax at 416-865-3630; or at [eroseman@thestar.ca](mailto:eroseman@thestar.ca) {it}mailto:eroseman@thestar.ca? by email.

Comments on this story are moderated | [Login to Comment](#) [Commenting Guidelines](#) 

### Treating Personal Investing As A Serious Hobby

Take the hobby you are the most passionate about (golf, boating, gardening, etc.), and see if it matches the following: - constantly learning as much as you can so you can perform as well as you can - taking advice from others 'in the know' but confirming by doing your own research - setting goals and taking action to achieve those goals - mimizing risk and learning from your experiences and those of others - putting current situations into perspective of similar situations in the past - seaking out wide variety of sources and resources of information from all media sources including books, the internet - searching for the latest and greatest trends within your hobby but them comparing them to time honoured success - knowing you won't be an expert right away However, unlike a hobby, success in personal investing will directly impact your quality of life down the road. Dan DailyHomeRenoTips.com

Posted by Dan\_DHRT at 8:33 AM Sunday, August 03 2008

[Agree](#) | [Disagree](#) | [Offensive](#)

#### SPECIAL



#### Seth Rogen sells

Seth Rogen radiates a kind of quiet confidence that might seem surprising, until you realize that his recent string of super-successes ...



#### Goodness without God

Long before he became Canada's top atheist, Christopher diCarlo was an altar boy.



#### Activities for children

With August's arrival, the race is on to fit in as much summer fun as possible. Make the most of long warm days with these great ...

[More Specials](#)

[TheStar.com](#) [Corrections](#) | [Contact Webmaster](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#) | [Desi Life](#)

[Toronto Star](#) [About Us](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Self Services](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Star Internships](#) | [Careers at the Star](#)

[Advertise With Us](#) [Media Kit](#) | [Online Advertising](#) | [Print Advertising](#) | [Special Sections](#)

[Initiatives](#) [Santa Claus Fund](#) | [Fresh Air Fund](#) | [Classroom Connection](#)

[Torstar Sites](#) [toronto.com](#) | [ourfaves.com](#) | [Pages of the Past](#) | [Star Store & Photo Sales](#) | [New In Homes](#) | [More...](#)



 © Copyright Toronto Star 1996-2008 [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Code](#)