SMART MONEY MONTHLY

JULY 2025 EDITION

JULY MONEY MOVES

Summer Budgeting

Summer fun can get expensive fast, between trips, activities, and family outings. Create a simple summer budget by listing expected expenses and setting spending limits. This helps you enjoy the season without worrying about surprise credit card bills later.

Mid-Year Financial Checkup

July marks the halfway point of the year—perfect timing to check if you're on track with your savings, debt repayment, and financial goals. Have there been any big life changes? Adjusting your plan now can help you finish the year strong and avoid last-minute stress.

INVESTMENTS:

WHY DIVERSIFICATION MATTERS—EVEN IN A HOT MARKET

Markets can be unpredictable, and summer often brings unexpected shifts. Diversification—spreading your investments across different asset classes—helps reduce risk and smooth out returns over time. Instead of chasing hot stocks or trends, a diversified portfolio gives you a better chance of steady growth and protects you if one sector takes a hit.

👉 **Tip: If you haven't reviewed your investment mix lately, now's a great time to rebalance and ensure you're not overexposed to any single area.**

MORTGAGES:

SHOULD YOU REFINANCE WITH RATES CHANGING?

Interest rates can move quickly, and refinancing could save you thousands over your mortgage term. But refinancing isn't right for everyone—consider factors like penalties for breaking your current term, how long you plan to stay in your home, and whether you want to tap into your home's equity.

👉 **Tip: Even if you decide not to refinance now, knowing your options can help you act quickly when the time is right.**

INSURANCE:

CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE—YOUR SAFETY NET WHEN LIFE CHANGES

A serious illness can derail your finances overnight. Critical illness insurance pays a lump sum if you're diagnosed with a covered condition, so you can cover treatment costs, replace lost income, or adapt your lifestyle. It's an affordable way to protect your savings and keep your family secure during tough times.

👉 Tip: Many don't realize how quickly expenses can add up during an illness—having a plan can make all the difference.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

When we first met, my client was feeling overwhelmed by $20,000 in credit card debt at 19.99% interest—costing her thousands each year. She also had a TFSA with $25,000 earning just 3%, but she hadn't considered using it because it felt like untouchable savings.

Together, we looked at the numbers: the high interest on her debt was costing her far more than her TFSA was earning. By paying off her debt with her TFSA funds, she instantly stopped the spiral of growing interest charges. Now, she's using the money she used to spend on interest payments to rebuild her TFSA—and she'll have it back to where it was in no time, but this time with no debt weighing her down.