

If time is money, take time to read about it. By Jennifer Murrant. Information Services. Over the past months the reality that a majority of the population is spending beyond their limit is very evident. As Canadians watch their American counterparts, drowning in credit debt, lose their homes we need to take an honest look at our own finances. Is it possible many Canadians could be facing the same predicament? The Orillia Public Library has an extensive collection of financial resources to educate every age group.

The Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough was written by a group of five young Canadian women who, despite having successful careers each had a major financial problem. After a year of meeting once a week these five women were able to turn around their financial picture. Because they wanted to help women everywhere they included the strategies they used, the lessons they learned and the expertise they gained through research and interviews in this excellent guide for financial security.

Gordon Pape's newest book is called Sleep-Easy Investing: Your Stress-Free Guide to Financial Success. Stress levels have peaked recently as many people have watched their investment dollars take a beating on the stock market. Pape discovered that very few people have a rational approach to investing money. The rest fall under three categories: the greedy, the blissfully ignorant and finally, the fearful. Pape addresses all of these groups and teaches them how to invest and sleep soundly every night.

In the next two decades the number of retirees will escalate in this country. Smoke and Mirrors: Financial Myths That Will Ruin Your Retirement Dreams by David Trahair is written in plain English so that the everyday investor can confidently fight back against the scare tactics used by banks and financial planners. Instead of becoming dependant on the financial advice of the "experts", Trahair encourages the investor to take control over their own financial decisions.

Many children growing up today have no real connection with money other than it spends great at the mall. Kelley Keehn has written The Prosperity Factor for Kids. This is a parent's guide to assist teaching their children how to develop positive saving, spending and credit habits. Starting at age two, parents can teach their child about money while keeping it fun. Keehn divides this useful tool into the various age categories with age appropriate lessons on how to manage and enjoy money.

Greater Fool: the Troubled Future of Real Estate by Garth Turner examines another myth, the myth that real estate is the perfect investment. Real estate prices have escalated to the point where the average family cannot afford to buy a home. While millions of families are forced out of their homes in the US, Canadians are told it can't happen here. Believing that real estate values will always increase many families borrowed heavily to finance their home taking out 40 year mortgages that drained much of the family income. When prices drop the equity in their home can be reduced to zero or even less than their mortgage amounts. Turner is hoping to ensure that the prospective real estate investor (which includes all homeowners) is able to make informed decisions.

This is just a sampling of the many financial books the library has available to its users.
“Ignorance is not bliss - it is oblivion.” - Philip Wylie. Take the time to educate yourself
so that every investment you make will be a well informed investment.

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