

Retirement Planning

October 11, 2006

I received a number of emails asking for resources on retirement planning.

The web offers extensive resources on retirement planning. My favourite online planning tool is BMO's Investorline [retirement planner](#). You will need an active account to use the tool. The other major banks and insurance companies offer similar tools. Diane McCurdy, author of [How Much is Enough?](#), offers an online tool [here](#). Even the government of Canada has an [online planning tool](#). I keep going back to Investorline.

I have read over 50 books on retirement planning. From Bach's [Smart Couples Finish Rich](#), to Eisenberg's [The Number](#), there is no shortage of books to help you pull together a plan.

If you are relatively new to planning and investing, Bach is a pretty good bet. He offers a Canadian version of his financial planning books.

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Thanksgiving

October 10, 2006

The long week-end. Turkey. Family. And more turkey.

When I wasn't eating turky, I was working on two major activities: the Arizona photo shoot and the retirement plan.

The Arizona trip resulted in roughly 1,500 frames. I shoot RAW which means that each image is about 16 Megabytes. I get 120 frames per 2GB card. Roughly 25 Gigabytes of storage for the Arizona shoot.

When I travel, I carry a 100GB external hard drive. The images get downloaded from the Nikon to a laptop and then backed up on to the drive.

When I get back to my office computer, my first step is to take all the RAW files and burn them to DVDs. Critical step. I now have my digital negatives secure.

I have a Terabyte of storage for my digital photos. And I keep a simple directory structure: one folder keeps a chronological collection of RAW images, the other keeps a chronological collection of processed images.

I use Adobe's Bridge as my image management software. With digital photography, I find it absolutely essential to manage the data. I have tens of thousands of exposures on disk. And I fully expect to go into the hundreds of thousands. I know of photographers who manage into the millions.

I also spent time updating the retirement plan. This took a major effort as I plotted scenarios and performed various forms of analysis against the data.

I am targeting retirement in my mid-fifties. And I have to assume 30 years to draw from capital. The good news is that we have prepared well. I have been tracking progress of my portfolio since I turned forty. I