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BLAKE  
GROUP

**The Week of March 25<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**  
**“A Brief Look Back Into Tomorrow”**

**Good Morning**

The 14<sup>th</sup> week of 2013 was most notable in that after seven previous attempts this year, the S&P 500 Index finally joined its senior cousin, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, in finally closing at a new all-time high by surpassing its previous pre-recession closing high established in October, 2009. For the record, **the S&P 500 Index closed last Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 1,569 while the Dow industrials also established another record high of 14,578.** This leaves the DJIA and the S&P 500 up on the year by 11.24% and 10.02% respectively and came about after the U.S. Commerce Department revised their nation’s 4<sup>th</sup> quarter economic growth for the up by 0.3% to 0.4%, and that their consumer spending rose in February by 0.7%.

So why aren’t we jumping for joy along with Friday’s closing bell people on CNBC. Why aren’t our accounts chalk full of issues trading at new all-time highs? Why aren’t the clients phoning in to exclaim that they’ve never seen the value of their accounts so high? Why doesn’t this just feel like a market reaching new record highs? Could it be because other than search engine giant **Google Inc. (GOOG-Q)** and tech giant **Apple Inc. (AAPL-Q)**, we’re have a difficult time identifying any companies that are trading above their highs of 2007. Could it be that because of where we sit here in Canada, **the resource rich TSX Composite Index is still some 2,400 points below its 2008 record high of 15,155, and the speculative TSX Venture Exchange is still more than 2,270 or 67% below its 2007 high of 3,372.** Record highs they may be, and while it is certainly encouraging that the American markets have come back from such a deep trough, we won’t be shouting until more issues join the parade and the Canadian markets catch up to their American counterparts.

We also watched with great interest how the **people of Cyprus** so calmly waited in line to get to their money after their banks had been closed for 2-weeks, and that, if they were one of the wealthy few, **their government had confiscated without any consultation or recourse, up to 40% of their funds,** and they were allowed to withdraw only a few hundred euros. The other amazing thing about all of this was how most commentators proposed that this was just a one-off event and that was little likelihood of it ever happening anywhere else....

Statistics Canada reported that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) reversed December's unexpected 0.2% downturn and increased in January by 0.2%, helped along by increased manufacturing and ...now wait for it....the return of National hockey League gains.

Beleaguered smartphone manufacturer, **BlackBerry Ltd. (BB-T)** handily beat the street when it reported a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter profit of some \$98-million or \$0.19-a-share. The company also announced that company founder and the man behind the BlackBerry experience, Mike Lazaridis, was leaving the company by stepping down as vice-chairman and retiring from the board of directors.

**Suzuki Canada Inc.** announced that after some 30-years of trying to gain market share, it will no longer sell its automobiles in Canada after the 2014 model year, and instead will focus its attention on its more profitable motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle and marine divisions.

**Suncor Energy Inc. (SU-T)** announced that because of changing economics, it will not proceed with the \$11.6-billion Voyager upgrader that would convert Alberta's raw oil sands bitumen to refinery ready synthetic crude oil, and instead, look to shipping the product directly to hungry refineries in Eastern Canada. (One can only wonder of the amount of good paying jobs and economic activity that this project would have added to the Canadian economy).

Canaccord's Debbie Lewis - "If it wasn't for my incredible willpower, I would be exercising right now."

**And Finally** - Under the heading of 'Bottoms Down' - After much soul searching and perhaps a little too much voyeurism, **Lululemon Athletica Inc. (LLL-T)**, stated that those looking to return their faulty high priced yoga-wear pants would no longer be required to don the said garment and bend over to prove to others that the fabric was indeed ....too sheer.

Interesting times.....and thanks

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