

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Editor: Hugh Paterson, 613-596-3664 • business@thecitizen.canwest.com

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BREAKING BUSINESS NEWS AT OTTAWACITIZEN.COM

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, SECTION D



China's state-backed media amp up the rhetoric in the Google dispute. D3

CANADA

Development bank buys GMAC notes

The Business Development Bank of Canada said Wednesday it has bought about \$1.3 billion in auto-loan receivables-backed notes from GMAC Canada, the auto financing arm of General Motors Canada. GMAC will use the funds to extend financing to GM and Chrysler dealers and their customers for vehicle purchases and leases.

Vidéotron to add 600 jobs this year

Vidéotron Ltd., the cable and soon-to-be wireless phone company, said it will hire up to 600 people this year, raising previously announced recruitment targets. The company controlled by Quebecor Media Inc. is building a wireless network in Quebec to compete with the three incumbents. Vidéotron expected to create 1,000 jobs overall with the expansion, but the latest announcement bumps that target to 1,200.

Miami stadium name rights go to Sun Life

Sun Life Financial Inc. has bought naming rights for the stadium owned by the National Football League's Miami Dolphins, site of next month's Super Bowl. The purchase price for the rights wasn't disclosed. Sun Life, Canada's third-largest insurer, wants to expand its U.S. business, which accounted for a third of Sun Life's \$15.6 billion in 2008 revenue.

UNITED STATES

Producer prices rise

Wholesale prices in the U.S. rose at a slower pace in December, showing the economy is recovering without the immediate threat of inflation. The 0.2-per-cent increase in prices paid to factories, farmers and other producers followed a 1.8-per-cent jump in November. The gain was more than anticipated and reflected higher food costs.

Buffett sour on Kraft's candy deal

Warren Buffett said Kraft Foods Inc.'s proposed \$19.6-billion acquisition of Cadbury PLC is a "bad deal" and questioned how chief executive Irene Rosenfeld chose to pay for it. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway holds a 9.4-per-cent stake in Kraft.

CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

A MOUSE IN THE HAND



Ottawa resident Mark Bajramovic, right, with his partner, Oren Tessler, show off the ergonomic computer mouse gloves that impressed a couple of Dragon's Den judges enough that they invested \$75,000.

A better idea: A strap-on mouse

An Ottawa business student and a Montreal surgeon convince the experts to back new ergonomic product, writes **JENNIFER CAMPBELL**.

Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door. Build a better mouse and it's the Dragons who come knocking.

That's what happened to Ottawa's Mark Bajramovic who took his high-tech computer mouse to the popular CBC show *Dragons' Den* last May. And last night, the show aired and his friends and family found out that he had convinced Dragons Robert Herjavec and Arlene Dickinson to pony up \$75,000 for 15 per cent of the company.

The Dragons were impressed that they were being asked for a relatively modest amount.

"The numbers were based on what had been invested in the company rather than some pie-in-the-sky number," said Bajramovic.

"We wanted their expertise and we actually said, 'Some people come on the show to fish, we came on the show to learn to fish.'"

The AirMouse straps on the hand like a glove with two fingers and a wristband. There are three designs, one for gaming, one specifically aimed at repetitive stress injury, and a third that's a middle ground between the two. All three models hold the optical sensor on the edge of the palm. The right and left click buttons are positioned on the index and third fingertips.

See **MOUSE** on PAGE D2

Low inflation sends dollar tumbling

Currency sheds 1.5¢ against U.S.; commodity prices follow suit

BY JOHN MORRISSY AND PAUL VIEIRA

The dollar lost more than a cent-and-a-half Wednesday as low inflation figures reduced the chance of Canadian rate hikes and China moved to tighten bank lending, casting global growth prospects into doubt and sending commodities broadly lower.

The dollar closed at 95.51 cents U.S., down 151 basis points from Tuesday's close. It was the currency's biggest drop in almost three months and sent the dollar to its lowest point against its U.S. counterpart in two-and-a-half weeks.

The U.S. dollar, meanwhile, rose 1.11 per cent to 78.36 against a basket of the world's major currencies, after Chinese authorities told their major banks to curb lending for the rest of January.

The move came as Statistics Canada announced that headline inflation rose 1.3 per

cent in December from a year ago, less than the consensus forecast.

Analysts polled by Bloomberg had expected prices to gain 1.6 per cent.

Wednesday's sharp drop in the dollar followed a 40-basis point slide the day before, after the Bank of Canada announced it was holding its benchmark lending rates at 0.25 per cent in the face of a recovery still very dependent on stimulative fiscal and monetary policy.

However, in a morning note Scotia Capital currency strategist Camilla Sutton said: "We do not think today's run-up in (the U.S. dollar against the Canadian currency) is a reflection of the Bank's comments but instead has to do with fears over the impact on global growth and commodity prices of tighter policy in China."

Oil and gold both fell sharply.

See **DOLLAR** on PAGE D2

Updated document readers to speed travellers along

BY BERT HILL

Canadian border guards will soon get updated traveller document readers under a \$2-million contract with the Ottawa operation of a major multinational company.

The new smaller hand-held device puts all the available passport, drivers licences and other documents on a single screen.

The result will help border guards spot suspicious travellers quicker and speed the processing of other travellers.

It was developed and manufactured by the 70-person 3M Canada operation on Carling Avenue which has been making and selling passport-reading technology for 37 years.

The first 150 readers will be shipped to Canadian airports and border crossings next month under a five-year deal.

The reader can generate high-resolution images from documents regardless of their size, thickness, lighting and the angle of view.

The device takes up little desk space and allows for one-hand use, both essential features given the limited time and space available to border guards, 3M said.

3M bought the former AIT Advanced Information Technologies for \$41 million in 2002. The operation now sells document readers around the world.

Security: Little effect on business travel, D2

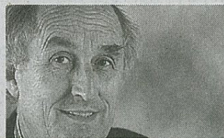
THE MARKETS

MARKETS/STOCKS: D5
MUTUAL FUNDS: D2

S&P TSX	11679.32	-84.10
S&P TSX 60	682.62	-4.14
Dow Jones	10603.15	-122.28
S&P 500	1138.04	-12.19
Nasdaq	2291.25	-29.15
TSX-VE	1590.69	-22.17
Nasdaq Can	712.25	-16.46
Tokyo	10737.52	-27.38
London	5420.80	-92.34
Hong Kong	21286.17	-391.81
Dollar (U.S.¢)	95.5110	-1.5104
Dollar (euro)	0.6772	-0.0011
Oil (W. Tex Int)	77.62	-1.40
Gold (U.S.\$)	1112.60	-27.40
Silver (U.S.\$)	17.87	-0.84

TSX: Bad economic news drives market prices down.

Scotia Capital sharpens its Strategic Edge portfolio



KEITH WOOLHOUSE
FAIR SHARES

This is the time of the year when money managers and investment advisers roll up their sleeves and revamp the portfolios that served them well in the previous 12 months. But, hey,

this is a new year and what worked in 2009 could flop in 2010.

Need a better reason to shuffle the deck?

Scotia Capital has massaged its Strategic Edge model portfolio of Canadian stocks by removing five companies and adding four. The Strategic Edge is worth noting. It had a total return of 42.1 per cent in 2009 compared with the S&P/TSX composite index's 35.06 per cent.

The additions are Sun Life Financial (SLF), Canadian

Real Estate Investment Trust (REFUN), Telus Corp. (T), and NAE.UN (NAL Oil & Gas Trust).

Three of the ousted companies are in the energy sector: Nexen Inc. (NXY), Daylight Resources Trust (DAYUN) and Cenovus Energy Inc. (CVE). BCE Inc. (BCE) and Fortis Inc. (FTS) make up the list.

Scotia Capital Markets strategist Vincent Delisle cautions clients not to expect a repeat of last year's outstanding returns in 2010. While he's forecasting that

the global economy should get back on its feet with growth around 3.5 per cent this year, he's cautioning clients to remain wary and take risk off the table.

He could be right. January's performance has been wobbly, and the composite index has struggled to climb above its yearend close of 1,746 points.

Small cap, emerging markets and cyclical sectors led markets higher from their multi-year lows last March and there's every indication that this trend will continue.

"It was a sector performance that provided a textbook illustration of late-stage recession and early-stage expansion leadership," says Delisle, who expects cyclical to outperform for the next few months, albeit to a lesser extent.

Delisle expects technology, industrials, energy (oil) and materials (mining and fertilizers), to do well. Financials and discretionary will likely trail until the economy tightens.

See **FAIR** on PAGE D6

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