

## 18 January 2015

Much has been said along with great alarm about the current bottoming out of oil prices.

Contrary to the popular notion that oil and energy prices only go up, they have fallen historically during brief periods of time. What drives oil prices to fall and climb are the same; consumption, availability, future demand. Ecological awareness have pushed consumers to look for less polluting and better fuel mileage which results in less consumption of oil and energy. Alternative energy solutions have also reduced overall demand for oil and energy products of the hydro carbon variety. The single biggest attributor to the current glut in oil and gas prices is America's desire to become self reliant for oil and gas production. Government policy to make America not dependant on foreign oil beyond North American borders has succeeded.

However, established oil and energy producers of the past such as OPEC are not going to sit back and let this happen. Especially Saudia Arabia, as America still imports about 11% of the total oil consumed from the Arab region which accounts to 85% of all the oil sold in the region.

Arab nations see an energy independent America as a threat to their economic futures and also a change in American foreign policy. The good news in all of this is that this is a pricing war for which American policy will not back down from. America needs to be energy independent of foreign oil and government policy will support American energy producers and extractors; big corporations and small alike. As the new kids on the block, American energy producers and extractors have some of the lowest energy extraction costs and continually find new methods in cost reduction.

It is only just recently that our media was reporting how our Loonie is out of control and will not fall below 85 cent. Due to a strong stubborn Loonie jobs are being lost in Ontario. Our currency has become a petrodollar. Now that oil prices has bottomed and our Loonie has fallen below 85 cent job creation and economic competitiveness to manufacturing and industry will return for Ontario. Plus, Ontario has the lowest tax bracket for corporations in the G7.

Let's come to terms with this fact, Western Canada has always gone from boom to bust repeatedly. This will not be the first nor the last. Canada tar sands are competitive at even \$25 a barrel. Note that Canadian oil is being sold to Cushing Oklahoma at about \$33.00 a barrel. So there is lots of room for the oil sands from the current price of under \$50.

Canada is the second biggest benefactor to America accelerating economic growth. At present 95% of all the energy and products we make go the American market. As America's economic appetite grows, so will the need for Canadian products.

Lastly, the drop in oil is timely as the ability to provide economic stimulus through printing money and keeping interest rates suppressed has come to an end. The price of oil deflates and inflates just about everything economically. Our ability to save, travel and buy have just increased. The same applies to corporations as their profit margins have just grown and so has their ability to be competitive and expand.

As economic events develop and evolve so does the opportunity to grow capital. I look forward to the challenge.