



As I sit down to write this article I am reminded of Gay Byrne, Pat Kenny and many others who over the years lost large sums of money as a result of poor investing. Many wealthy people are not good investors and why should they be. Like Gay Byrne and Pat Kenny they have made their wealth from broadcasting, others from their careers, not from investing.

Gerard Keogh

Last Minute Strategies to Boost your Nest Egg

Gay Byrne relied on a close friend, an accountant, Russell Murphy to manage his nest egg. He placed so much trust in his friend that he gave him Power of Attorney over his finances. However after Russell Murphy's death in 1986 Gay found that most of his Nest Egg had been squandered.

In 2008 both Gay Byrne and Pat Kenny lost heavily as a result of the crash in the price of bank shares. If this wasn't enough both men had investments with Derek Quinlan, a former tax inspector turned financial guru. Mr Quinlan was so popular that he was voted "Property Personality of the Year" in 2004 at the Irish Property awards. NAMA now control a number of those investment properties and according to an article in the Irish Independent last Oct. 2010, Derek Quinlan has debts of over €600m and now lives in a rented mansion in Switzerland. We can learn many lessons from these men to strengthen and boost our own Nest Eggs.

• Work with an Independent Qualified Advisor

One should engage with a professional and proven consultant in the area of Pensions and Investments, not a GP. For me a GP is a General Practitioner who could be dealing in all areas including mortgages, life assurance, serious illness cover, pensions and investments, all things to all men as the saying goes.

You go to my GP when you are not feeling well but if you have a heart problem you will go to a Consultant, a heart specialist. If you do nothing else this is the singular most important and best tip I can give you to boost and protect your Nest Egg.

• Know your shortfall

Where are you today and where do you want to be in the future? Take stock of all your savings and investments, set out the lifestyle you want and with the help of your qualified advisor determine what you need to do to achieve this.

• Review your investments

Is your mix of investments in line with your risk profile? What are the annual costs of your investments and is there room for improvement here? Investments can be quite complicated and a qualified advisor can guide you through this process.

• Are you Debt Free?

Interest payments on loans and your mortgage is dead money. By restructuring it may be possible to get rid of them and maximise your net outlays.

• Eliminate unnecessary expenses

The less you spend on unnecessary the more you can add to your Nest Egg. Take a close look at how much you are spending, where you are spending and I know you will find areas where you can easily cut back or eliminate altogether.

• Maximise your tax breaks

Investing in your pension allows you to save net funds by reducing your tax bill. Your savings also grow free of tax as they attract no DIRT or Capital Gains Tax. What could be better than maximising your full benefit! Not many people do.

• Rent a room

A simple way of boosting your tax free income is by renting out a room in your home and letting this income boost your Nest Egg.

• Downsize your Home

Admittedly it is not a great time to sell but it is a great time to buy. Making the right property moves can give a great boost to your Nest Egg if you are lucky enough to sell. It can also save you a lot of money on maintenance and a lot of elbow grease!

• Delay Retirement

By delaying your retirement you are giving more time for your Nest Egg to grow while you are also continuing to put more money aside. You are also going to increase your pension payment because you are that much older when you start to draw down your retirement income.

• Keep Healthy

My final and really obvious tip is to make sure you take care of your health so that you are in position to really fully enjoy your Nest Egg.

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