

Entering the Year of the Dragon

True North figures to do better than most nations, says fortune teller

by **Martin van den Hemel**

Staff Reporter

Fortune teller Sherman Tai said 2012 figures to be an unstable year, as it's the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac, and specifically the water dragon.

While the year will see major storms, natural disasters and unstable temperatures, Tai predicts B.C. will be very lucky, with relatively little snow here.

He sees the Canadian dollar remaining steady at about 95 or 96 cents compared to the U.S. greenback, and an economically stable first half to 2012.

The third quarter of 2012 will see an improvement in consumer confidence and more economic recovery.

Asia will perform better than any other place in the world.

On the bad news front, 2012 won't be a good one for American president Barack Obama, who Tai said will lose the election on Nov. 6.

And a serious infectious disease will hit Asia and the southern part of the world, though not as severe as SARS but more akin to the avian flu.

"This year, everyone needs to be careful especially when eating and drinking," he said.

The U.S. economy won't improve significantly, Tai said, and as a result that will dampen and slow the recovery in neighbouring Canada.

"But Canada will be good compared to other nations," he said.

The Dragon is the sole mythical creature in the Chinese zodiac, and its origins date back to stories that are hundreds of years old.

Farmers blamed severe weather conditions, ranging from flooding to drought, on the mythical fire-breathing monster.

To curry favour from it, the dragon was adopted as a guardian angel symbol, and farmers hoped for a good harvest and fruitful results.

While 2012 is the Year of the Dragon, the most powerful of the 12 Chinese zodiac symbols, there are a total of five types of dragons: water, wood, fire, earth and metal.



Martin van den Hemel photo

Sherman Tai believes Canada will do better on the economic front than most nations, and that B.C. will be very lucky on the weather front.

This is the year of the water dragon, and those born this year are considered to be powerful and energetic.

The water dragon is sentimental and passionate but emotionally unstable, the metal dragon is strict, the earth

dragon is stubborn, conservative but considerate. The wood dragon is more intelligent, but overly careful and has difficulty making decisions. The fire dragon has a bad temper, but has lots of energy and is very powerful.