



## Expert sees B.C. rebounding during productive, 'powerful' Year of the Horse

BY IAN AUSTIN, THE PROVINCE JANUARY 29, 2014

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STORY PHOTOS (1)



Geomancy expert Sherman Tai, in his office in Richmond on Tuesday, is predicting a lot of fireworks in the coming Year of the Horse.

Photograph by: Steve Bosch, PNG

The Year of the Horse is galloping our way.

The Chinese zodiac works in 12-year cycles, with people born in each year said to take on the attributes of a particular animal.

Sherman Tai, an expert in Chinese geomancy — the study of the interrelations between the sun, moon and Earth — says horses are hard-working and productive, but at the same time stubborn and hard to control.

"They are powerful, outgoing, aggressive animals," Tai said in his Richmond office filled with many books and adornments. "Some horses can be elegant."

As for the coming year, Tai sees a six-month period of transition and change, followed by what should be the run-up to a productive Year of the Goat in 2015.

"This is a year that people are willing to change," said Tai, who believes B.C. is poised for a rebound. "There was a very difficult period from 2007 to 2008, and it takes about five years to come back.

"2014 is the first year for our big brother, the U.S., to recover."

With commodity prices heading downward — Tai predicts both gas and gold will fall further — he expects B.C. to fit in somewhere between thriving Alberta and struggling Ontario going forward.

"The Canadian dollar will drop another three to five per cent, and if the currency loses value, that will be good for exports and can spur the economy."

One damper for B.C. will be a predicted lowering of immigration from Asia, as Tai believes his Asian brethren will be more likely to seek their fortune in a newly vibrant U.S.

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The horse is a fire sign, so Tai is predicting a hot summer and lots of interpersonal fireworks with horses known for their hot temper.

Fireworks of another sort will be a frequent sight and sound in Vancouver's Chinatown as tourists and residents alike gather Sunday to watch the annual Chinese New Year Parade.

This year's parade kicks off Sunday at 11 a.m. in Chinatown at the corner of Carrall and Pender streets. Dragons, drummers and dancers will head east along Pender to Gore Street.

The sounds of gongs and drums and the many colourful lion dancers will then turn south on Gore, travelling as far as Keefer Street. Then the parade, which in recent years has become more multicultural with participants from many heritages, will carry on west along Keefer.

Organizers expect the colourful spectacle to last more than two hours before winding up at the corner of Keefer and Carrall.

The Year of the Horse kicks off Friday, but those wishing to celebrate the final hours of the Year of the Snake are invited to Richmond's **Aberdeen Centre** for a countdown celebration.

Entertainment will begin at 9 p.m. Thursday to officially ring in the Chinese New Year at midnight.

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[Year of the Horse](#)

**Year of the Horse** 馬

Chinese New Year begins January 31

- ▶ **Signifies:** Strength, energy
- ▶ **Positive traits:** Free-spirited, agile, quick-witted, charismatic
- ▶ **Negative traits:** Self-centred, impatient, prone to tantrums
- ▶ **Compatible signs:** Dog, Tiger

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