

Chinese New Year

Uncertainty abounds in the Year of the Horse

Fortune teller Sherman Tai hopes he's wrong this time around

by Martin van den Hemel

Staff Reporter

When it comes to predictions, fortune teller Sherman Tai mostly hits home runs, sporting a batting average of about 90 per cent.

But when it comes to what the Year of the Horse—in the Chinese Zodiac—holds for Richmond residents in 2014, he's rooting against himself.

"I hope this year is not correct," Tai told the *Richmond Review* Monday afternoon from his office on Hazelbridge Way. "Frankly speaking and honestly speaking, this is not a very wonderful year."

While the Chinese New Year will be celebrated on Jan. 31, that doesn't mark the commencement of the Year of the Wooden Horse.

It's not until Feb. 4, at 7:15 a.m., that the Year of the Horse begins, he said.

Those born prior to that are still considered born in the Year of the Snake.

"We have too much fire this year," Tai said of Richmond's outlook.

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Martin van den Hemel photo

Longtime local fortune teller Sherman Tai said for once, he is hoping he's wrong when it comes to predictions for the Year of the Horse.

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Chinese New Year

The Year of the Wooden Horse

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Since Richmond is in the southern part of B.C. and Canada, and south symbolizes the element fire in the Chinese Zodiac, Tai see fire will be in abundance, not good considering this is the Year of the Wooden Horse. "This will be a very fluctuating year overall," he said.

On the plus side, Richmond is surrounded by water and situated at sea level, which will mitigate things, quench the fire and cool things down.

"We are still one of the best cities amongst B.C. but we still have to face changes," he said.

Back in 2007, Tai predicted the worldwide economic calamity that came true in 2008, and he recalls being asked when that financial downturn would end. His answer: 2014.

But before the economy really begins to improve, the messy fallout from 2008 will first need to be cleaned up, and that will occur this year, Tai said.

"This year is a year with a lot of unpredictability," he said. "In Richmond, the retail market is still exciting. But relatively (speaking), we will have a little bit of difficulty with export businesses."

Tai predicts the Canadian dollar will slip another one to two per cent compared to the U.S. dollar, and that precious metal prices will also decline.

Uncertainty, short-temper, arguments, fighting and a lack of direction will plague people this year, he said.



Martin van den Hemel photo

Sherman Tai is predicting unpredictability.

But for those who are unafraid of hard work, there's a light at the end of the tunnel.

The horse is a very energetic animal, and though the year ahead will be difficult, those willing to put in the effort will be rewarded.

On the real estate front, Tai said people should retain their holdings, which remain a good investment for those who are shopping for a new home.

Generally, real estate buyers will be conservative in their purchasing decisions, he said.

The Lingyen Mountain Temple wishes the community of Richmond a happy and prosperous Chinese New Year

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the richmond REVIEW

Sherman Tai's predictions for
the Year of the Wooden Horse 11



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014

24 PAGES



Martin van den Hemel photo
Prabjot Nijjer was reunited with her dog Axel Monday, who despite three months of separation, didn't forget who was boss, almost immediately rolling onto his back and asking for a belly rub.

Owner visits death row dogs

Dogs deemed
dangerous get
new assessment

by Martin van den Hemel

Staff Reporter

One's a playful, friendly rock star, the other a shadow of her former self, courtesy lingering pain in her right hind leg.

Animal behaviour specialist Dr. Rebecca Ledger, hired by Prabjot Nijjer and her son Nav who are fighting a City of Richmond destruction order, assessed the family's Rottweilers on Monday and praised Axel while revealing the worst fears of the Nijjer family.

"He is obviously a lovely dog and he knows it," Ledger said of Axel.

Having assessed thousands of dogs in her 20-year career, Ledger said she saw nothing that would warrant Axel being labelled a dangerous dog

Axel's sister Paris was obviously in pain, to the point she couldn't even sit while trying to comply with Ledger's requests.

Paris was very guarded, and when offered a treat and asked to sit down, she would get half-way, and then her back end would tremble, Ledger said.

The pain appears to be the result of a lack of post-operation therapy following surgery Paris had on her leg in August. Dr. Jatinder Rana, of Lansdowne Animal Hospital, had expressed his concerns in November to both the City of Richmond and the Richmond Animal Protection Society. "Treatment needs to be continued in order to prevent any type of health setback."

Despite making two appeals to both the city and RAPS, he was denied access to the dogs.

"I think this is shameful how they've handled this," said lawyer Joe Peschisolido, whose law firm has been hired by the Nijjer family.

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Haggis and the Year of the Horse



Amanda Oye photo
Accordion player Todd Wong and bagpiper Joe McDonald helped usher in two big cultural festivities in one event as Gung Haggis Fat Choy came to South Arm Community Centre. The event combines Robbie Burns Day and Chinese New Year. See story, p. 23.

Container ship runs aground off Steveston

by Matthew Hoekstra

Staff Reporter

A container vessel ran aground in waters near Steveston Saturday, escaping damage but prompting questions about the safety of tankers in the Fraser River.

Cap Blanche, a cargo ship destined for Fraser Surrey Docks, became hung up in an area known as Steveston Bend around 10 p.m. in dense fog.

Transportation Safety Board of Canada deployed a team of investigators to the accident site. Senior investigator Paulo Ekkebus said the crew was able to power the vessel off the high ground after about 30 minutes.

A river pilot—required by cargo ships to navigate the Fraser—was on board the vessel at the time, according to Ekkebus. He noted the board gets reports of 3,200 occurrences in the transportation sector in Canada each year, but not all are investigated.

"We evaluate every occurrence to see if we can find things that would advance transportation safety," he said.

No damage was reported in this case, but Coun. Harold Steves wondered if the accident could have been worse had the vessel been a bulk carrier.

"Imagine if it was jet fuel, or coal," he said.

Last month the province issued an environmental assessment certificate for a project to ship jet fuel up the river.

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