

CORRECTION

The telephone number that appeared for Rob McDonald in the Jan. 29th advertisement was incorrectly shown.

The correct telephone number is:

294-1990

We apologize for this error.

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This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Tribune

New Year's traditions harder to keep in Canada

From page 16.

"Much?!" she exclaimed when a visitor marvelled at the work she had done. "It's not even one quarter of the usual things I do for New Year's, because I have a big family."

Still, it's time-consuming, even with help offered by her college-age granddaughter. "Can't do it in one day, no way."

Many people prefer buying New Year pastries and don't eat as much, said Tso, whose mother, born in Canada like herself, taught her how to prepare them.

"She says, 'You're born here in Canada, don't forget your traditions'."

Many things you eat for New Year are considered lucky, said Avis Wong, a Markham mother of three. "And you never say a bad word against anybody and you never scold your child. This is a good time to spoil them."

Her 10-year-old son Chris knows to take a very good shower on last day of the year to wash bad luck away. "I like getting the money," he added.

In Hong Kong, the New Year period lasts 15 days. For the first two days, you only go out to see next of kin. On the fourth day, you start visiting other people.

There, you put money in a red pocket and give it to anybody that's younger than you and not married ("It's difficult if you're not rich") but in Canada you do this only with your own kids.

Keeping traditions going in Canada is harder, but it's important for children's sake to observe the New Year and not turn it into an ordinary day.

"When they grow up I want them to have memories of Chinese New Year," Wong said.

Wong took her children to the library celebration, where Frederick Yui, an amateur musician from Scarborough demonstrated the dizi, the Chinese flute, and Anita Leung of the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto told 40 youngsters about the Chinese traditions of knot-making and paper-cutting.

Such knowledge helps children to identify with Chinese culture, Leung said.

"I find it so natural that our kids will know about it, will celebrate and not be ashamed of it."

This year, Leung added, the dragon dance is a must-see. A 10-person dragon is usually the smallest performance, she said, noting that "50 people do it in Hong Kong. The co-ordination has to be perfect or else they would trip over one another."

Unlike dragons of the West, the Chinese dragon (always wingless with an enormous head) is not a symbol of evil but of luck and wealth.

"It's almost like a protector," young Richmond Hill artist Gigi Lui said.

Lui is one of several Unionville High School students who portrayed the dragon in paintings or other media through a project sponsored by Canada Post. The head of her dragon — tail in watercolour, midsection in pen and ink — leaps off a canvas in copper-coloured cardboard.

The days before the new year is a time when companies try to get new business and pay off debts, said Winnie Wong, president of the Scarborough-York Region Chinese Business Association.

Since it's traditional to ask for payment before year-end, a lot of businesses can fail. But with the economy stable this year, things aren't so bad, Wong said.

"I don't feel the pressure."

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CHINESE NEW YEAR EVENTS

Many public events are scheduled in York Region for the Year of the Dragon this weekend, highlighted by the spectacular Dragon Dance.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre (Main Street, Unionville)
6 to 8 p.m. — opening reception for show of Chinese artists. Show continues through Feb. 13.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

First Markham Place (Hwy. 7 east of Woodbine Avenue)
8 to 10 p.m. — Free photo with God of Fortune
10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. — Fairchild Radio New Year countdown show, with lion and dragon dance, entertainment, God of Fortune
Markham Square (Hwy. 7 and Warden Avenue)
11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. — Lion Dance
Pacific Mall (Steeles Avenue and Kennedy Road)
9 p.m. to midnight — CHIN Sing Tao New Year countdown show, with Lion and Dragon Dance, live band, God of Fortune

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

First Markham Place (Hwy. 7 east of Woodbine Avenue)
2:30 to 4:30 p.m. — Free photo with God of Fortune
Market Village (Steeles Avenue and Kennedy Road)
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Celebration with Lion Dance and Dragon

Dance at 2 p.m. Sunny Tang Kung Fu demonstration at 3 p.m.
1 p.m. — Chinese brush painting by famous artists Pacific Mall (Steeles Avenue and Kennedy Road)
2 to 4 p.m. — Fairchild Radio show with God of Fortune Times Square (Hwy. 7 at Leslie Street)
1:30 p.m. — Lion Dance
2 to 4 p.m. — Toronto Chinese Music Association and The School of Toronto City Ballet

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

First Markham Place (Hwy. 7 east of Woodbine Avenue)
2 p.m. — Wushu demonstration and Lion Dance
Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham (Main Street, Unionville)
1:30 p.m. — Lion Dance
2 p.m. — Tai Chi performance and Fan Dance, followed by demonstrations of art, calligraphy, cooking, and children's games
Market Village (Steeles Avenue and Kennedy Road)
2 to 5 p.m. — Fairchild Radio program
Markham Civic Centre (Town Centre Boulevard at Hwy. 7)
noon to 5:15 p.m. — Celebration with singing contest, Dragon Dance, God of Fortune, magic show. Sponsored by Canadian Asian Business Information Network and Toronto Chinese Community Services Association
8:30 p.m. — Fireworks
Pacific Mall (Steeles Avenue and Kennedy Road)
2 to 4 p.m. — Panda Dance Group

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Market Village (Steeles Avenue and Kennedy Road)
2 to 4 p.m. — Xing Dance Theatre of Canada; unveiling of student art celebrating Canada Post stamp for Year of the Dragon

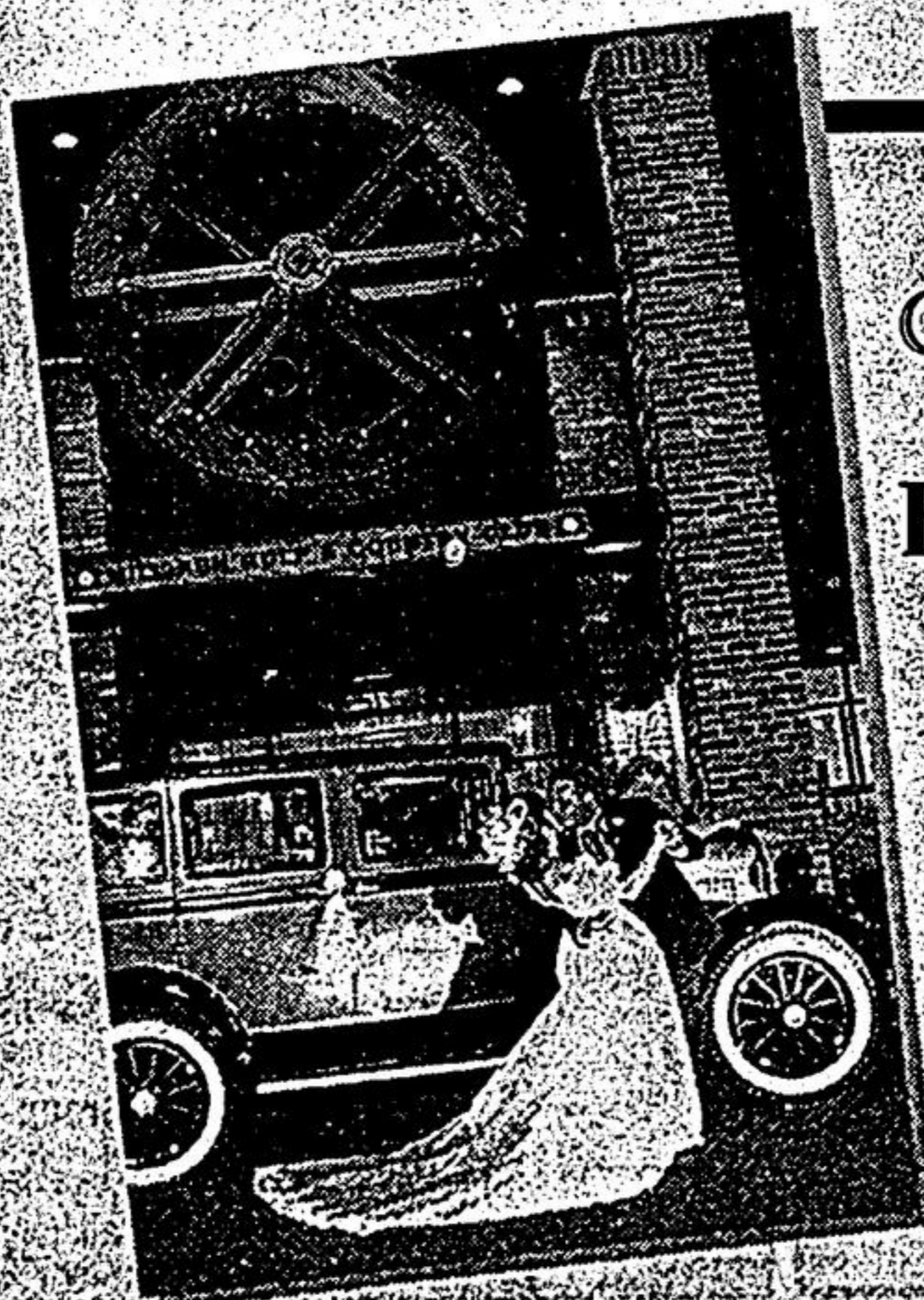
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