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A Holiday Wish



As we enter the new year, I would like to wish each of you and your families the best for this holiday season and look forward to continuing to build our partnership in education together.

Gary Unitas
Public School Trustee
Unionville / Markham

Organic food served at home dinner parties will be big in our new yogurt cities

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coming year.

"They're not putting (getting married) off, in case something ghastly happens," he explained.

Wedding dress styles for the New Year range from the ultra-modern and

low-cut necklines to rock and punk styles.

Laura Buckley, chef and cooking school co-ordinator for Upstairs at Loblaw's in Markham, predicts a fairly mundane year in culinary trends.

"It really depends on what hot thing people are buying," she said.

Ethnic, Thai and Chinese cuisine will remain popular, Buckley said, as will the move toward healthy, home-based cooking.

"Anything made with soya-based products and anything organic is big, too," said Buckley, adding people are also looking to make that healthy eating-healthy body connection. "It's the food is medicine (mentality). People are looking for ways to treat or prevent sickness through healthy eating. That's why tofu is big, too."

With a looming recession, Buckley said there will be a shift toward home-based dinner parties.

"People are still willing to entertain, but not necessarily by going to restaurants," she said.

While sweeping changes continue in different industries, the language is changing, too.

In her latest book, Dictionary of the Future, The Words, Terms and Trends That Define the Way We'll Live, Work and Talk, co-written with a marketing and advertising executive, Faith Popcorn discusses the ever-changing dynamic of lexicon.

In coming years, Popcorn, an internationally renowned American consumer trends forecaster and business advisor, foresees contemporary words merged to create a thought-provoking and engaging newly minted language.

If Popcorn is correct, it won't be long before such outrageous-sounding words such as "yogurt cities" (places where baby boomers retire), "admire-vy" (the condition of being envious and admiring someone at the same time), "mannies" (male nannies) and "DNAd" (bouncing from one relationship to the next) become part of our everyday language.

While motorized scooters were all the rage this past summer, Talbot said it is difficult to predict this year's latest craze.

"I don't see any huge Wow! items," said Talbot, who has been a consultant for 30 years. "If anything, it will come from new developments, partly from the business and entertainment field. New developments are happening in that field all the time. The DVD, for example, achieved in two years what the VCR did in 10."

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Richard Talbot, owner of Talbot Consultants International, a Unionville-based retail consulting company

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