

# BE YOUR OWN MATCHMAKER

## Jane Carstens Matchmaker

You're single, profiled on multiple Internet dating sites and still you're facing the prospect of another Valentines Day without a date. You can always hire a professional service like mine to find you a mate, but with a little work and a little knowledge I'm confident you'll be able to do it yourself. I'm a professional matchmaker, and in my twenty-year association with Hearts Canada I've learned a lot about finding, interviewing and matching the right people for long and satisfying relationships. The biggest secret to finding the right mate is the ability to be proactive. You do this by identifying the kind of person it is you want to meet, get that message out to the world, and then deciding amongst the respondents who you want to date.

Deciding the kind of person it is you want to meet may seem obvious but most people have only a vague idea of what it is they want in a mate. Take some time to write it down,

then, list which qualities are negotiable and which are not. Begin by making a list of all your past relationships. Write down the role you played in each relationship, what your responsibilities were, how the relationship ended, and lessons learned. With this information, a picture will emerge of who you are and what you're looking for in a potential mate; this list of qualities will be your Soul Mate Wish List.

When building your Soul Mate Wish List, make sure that the criteria you choose for your potential mate are reasonable.

Unreasonable expectations include: some sort of spark between the two of you, you want someone who finds you amusing and exciting, you want someone that shares both your basic view of the world and a willingness to be in a long term relationship. Reasonable expectations include: some sort of spark between the two of you, you want someone who finds you amusing and exciting, you want someone that shares both your basic view of the world and a willingness to be in a long term relationship.

Now that you have your Soul Mate Wish List, you need to get it out in the world. You do this by utilizing

your existing network of family and friends. Write a short note telling your network what you intend to do and include your Soul Mate Wish List, then email everyone in your address book. Ask them to read your Soul Mate Wish List carefully and ask them to get back to you if they know anyone that fits your description then ask them to forward your email to their network of family and friends and so on.

Another way of getting your message out to the world is to place an ad in the local paper. Costs can range anywhere from fifty dollars for an ad in the personal section, to a thousand dollars or more for a stand alone ad in the front section of a newspaper. The secret to writing a compelling ad is honesty. State your intention in the first line of the ad, go on to describe yourself, describe what you are looking for in a mate, and end it with a call for action statement. For examples of these kinds of ads you can visit the Hearts website at [www.heartscanada.com](http://www.heartscanada.com) follow the links to the Private Search Ads.

You've written a Soul Mate Wish List, told the world of your intentions, you're getting replies, now it's time to pick who you'll go on a date with. One of the big lessons

I've have learned over the years is to never share pictures of potential matches. I have numerous examples in my work of couples that would never have met the people they are married to today if they had followed their first instincts and not met because they saw each other's pictures. The truth is 99 percent of us take a less than flattering picture. Don't discount a potential partner because of their phone manner; I always insist that the people I match meet each other, even if their initial contact on the telephone did not go well.

Now for the fun part, get out there and start dating. There is no secret in finding the right partner (I do it every day); persistence, and the ability to be proactive are all you'll need to narrow the search, fulfill your Soul Mate Wish List and meet that someone special.

*Jane Carstens is the Western Regional Managing Partner of Hearts Canada a boutique Matchmaking Company with a 23-year history of serving clients throughout Canada.*

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