

Surviving the Widow's Jungle

In Arizona, seated in her comfortable living room at her winter residence, Sheila is on the phone to a radio station fielding questions about her two extremely happy marriages. The stylish and beautiful 75 year old is currently experiencing her second long term relationship set up with the help of a matchmaking service. "I was on a honeymoon for 11 years" she tells her hometown radio station's host on his morning show on Valentine's Day "he was the best thing that ever happened to me". Sadly the honeymoon ended with her second husband's death due to cancer. Rather than wasting precious time, Sheila went back to what had worked so wonderfully in the past -she hired a matchmaking service.

When she was first widowed, Sheila went the usual route entertaining prospective suitors from her church group and tennis club. "When I returned to the dating scene I felt like I was in some sort of widow's zoo.

It wasn't that I had a shortage of dates; it's just that I realized that I couldn't pick the right man; I kept falling for the wrong ones. I had always been a professional woman, so I thought I would hire a professional and let them do the job for me".

In 2001 Jane Carstens had just moved to Vancouver to open the West Coast branch of Hearts Canada, Ruth Claramunt's successful Toronto based traditional Matchmaking service with a 20 year history. From her office in downtown Vancouver Jane was there to answer Sheila's phone call; they arranged a meeting in Sheila's home. "I handle the entire west coast, and I'm on the road a lot throughout the lower mainland, the interior, and I usually spend a least one day every week interviewing clients from Victoria and Vancouver Island. "What makes my company unique is that I've meet all of my members in the comfort and privacy of their own

homes. When I go to someone's home I really get a sense of who they are." says Carstens, "They feel more relaxed and open in familiar surroundings. Together we go over a detailed questionnaire, I get a clear picture of my client, their lifestyle, and what they are looking for in a partner. I used all this information when I matched Sheila."

Sheila was impressed with Jane's no nonsense business like approach and wrote a cheque for \$1000 for a lifetime membership in Hearts. Jane went back to her Vancouver office, and, armed with Sheila's detailed bio she searched her client base and came up with three prospective matches. Sheila met the first two gentlemen and although they had much in common, there wasn't the magic Sheila was searching for. "I can qualify a lot, and match similar lifestyles and interests," says Jane "but chemistry is something that either happens or it doesn't".

Chemistry hit on the third date. Sheila: "The most important part of Merv and my first meeting is that we found out we could communicate on exactly the same level. We took it slow, but after the second or third week we knew we were on to something." That first date was back in August of 2002. Merv and Sheila exchanged vows at a wedding blessing at their church in front of a happy gathering of friends and family March 16 2004. "I am very keen on this approach," says Sheila in response to Phil's final question of his radio program, "I highly recommend using the services of a matchmaker, it has worked beautifully for me in the past, has made me very, very happy and I have advised many single friends to go that route."

To contact Jane...Hearts Canada, 1260 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 1W2, 604-488-1477, email jane@heartscanada.com

LIVE IT UP, TURN IT ON AND ROCK THE MOUNTAIN

AT MOUNTAINFEST 2005

Merrit, British Columbia, Canada. July is going to be a hot sizzling month at The 13th Annual Merritt Mountain Music Festival, July 12 - 17. The stars will be shining down on Merritt this summer as we welcome Nashville Star, George Canyon, Neal McCoy and Sugarland to the festival. They will be part of the power packed line up of **Tim McGraw, Chely Wright, Paul Brandt, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band,** and Canadian legend **Ian Tyson.**

George Canyon recently placed second in the USA Network's Nashville Star talent search, instantly making him a household name. His first single from the album, "I'll Never Do Better Than You," flew up the charts to #5 at Canadian Country radio. He was named the Chevy Trucks Rising Star at The Canadian Country Music Awards and will be showing Merritt why Nashville made him a star as he performs on Friday July 15th.

Sugarland is an Atlanta based trio whose first single "Baby Girl" is quickly climbing the charts. It's no surprise that three successful singer/songwriters with years of experience can make an album filled with solid, intelligent music. Four months after getting together, Sugarland played their first gig and were astounded by the audience reaction. By their fourth gig, they were

selling out 1000 seat venues. Two weeks later, they signed a contract with Mercury Records. Hop on board the Sugarland express as they make their way to Merritt on Saturday July 16th.

Neal McCoy has seen the winning side of the record industry with five #1 hits, including "Wink," "No Doubt About It," and "The Shake," and has recorded three certified platinum and one gold album to his credit. Neal has sold more than six million records, and has a fan base coast to coast. He is a gifted, charismatic live performer and no doubt will be treating the crowd to a stellar performance on Saturday July 14th.

Mountainfest is a hot summer week of fun. It's the place to meet friends, enjoy great music and have a guaranteed good time. There is something for everyone at Mountainfest including three stages of live entertainment, a variety of concessions, a spectacular nightlight extravaganza, a hardy pancake breakfast, camping in a spectacular setting, on-site activities and so much more. Get your tickets now at all Ticketmaster locations or by calling 604-280-4444. For more information visit our website at www.mountainfest.com or call 604-525-3330. You don't want to miss out on Mountainfest 2005. See you on the mountain!



The Matchmaker

Jane Carstens - Serving Clients on Vancouver Island



"I have the best job in the world; I get to make positive changes in my clients' lives. Our service is unique in that I personally and confidentially interview clients in the privacy of their own homes. In this way I get a feel for my clients' lifestyles and what they are looking for in a partner.

Through Hearts our clients feel confident they are taking a proactive, organized and business-like approach to finding the right partner."

JANE CARSTENS is the Managing Partner of the Vancouver office of HEARTS. Along with RUTH CLARAMUNT, President and Founder of HEARTS, they run a highly personalized boutique matchmaking service based in Vancouver and Toronto that matches clients in locations across Canada. Recently featured on Global National, The Vicki Gabreau Show, Breakfast Television, the Victoria Times Colonist, City TV's Colour TV, Vancouver Sun, CBC Radio

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101.9 CFUV's The Road Show and 100.3 The Q present... The 4th Annual Island Music Awards

Saturday,
May 14, 2005

Central Bar & Grill
708 View St.



Hosted by Spirit of the West's Vince Ditrich
Featuring performances by 13 Nominees:

Anne Schaefer Barley Wik Moneyshot
 Another Day Lived Christine Evans The Vendors
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 Tom Lang Alexandria & Amanda Maillot Nuvo Wavo

& Presentation of 11 Awards
 including Artist of the Year,
 Album of the Year, Song of the Year,
 and many others!

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