



**CANADIANS** love their music at work. According to a new AOL Canada/Leger Marketing study, 74 per cent of workers listen to music while on the job, listening to about four hours of music per day on average. Metro Vancouver News Services



**OF THOSE** listeners, 90 per cent say music makes their day more enjoyable and 79 per cent feel music helps them be more productive on the job. Metro Vancouver News Services

# Matchmaker acts on her intuition

## 'Love coach' opens Divine Intervention

By TIA ABELL  
for Metro Vancouver

It doesn't matter if she's in a café lineup or mingling at a party, Susan Semeniw keeps her eyes open and her intuition on task.

After all, a matchmaker never knows where she'll meet someone's perfect mate.

"I'm out and about all the time," says Semeniw, 40, owner of the six-month-old Divine Intervention (*divine matchmaking.ca*), who recently found a promising match for a client while waiting for a table in a restaurant.

"But (approaching people) has to be very natural; you don't want to freak them out."

It's hard to imagine Semeniw freaking anyone out.

Warm, personable and statuesque, the former Mon-

trealer got her bachelor's degree in commerce from Concordia University and fine-tuned her networking skills first as a sales representative for Alberta Distillers' Jim Beam, then in sales for a daily newspaper in Vancouver. She followed up with three years as a sales and marketing consultant to emerging technology companies before the birth of her second child, Jack, now three (she also has five-year-old Max), had her considering a new career.

Semeniw did plenty of research, particularly into employment recruiting, but soon realized she'd been practising her new vocation all along. She'd already successfully set up four couples — and brought many friends and business colleagues together.

"One of my friends called me a 'love coach,'" Semeniw says with a smile.

Relationship coaching is, in fact, one of the services she now offers, as well as



Matchmaker Susan Semeniw checks her PDA for a post-date text message from one of her clients regarding a recent match.

meetings with image consultants and personal trainers.

"A lot of people look great for work, but their casual

look may be outdated," she explains, adding that if a

client has been out of the dating scene for a while, she'll set up a practice date to help him or her learn how they come across.

A few taboo topics while on a date?

"Your exes, bad dating experiences, how much money you have, or anything overtly negative," Semeniw says.

"You'd be surprised what people talk about — how they're trying to resolve their divorce ... It's got to be conversational and engaging."

While Semeniw has been with her husband David Bremner for 15 years, she says she'd have no hesitation going to a matchmaker if she was single.

"If I needed my rooms done I would hire a designer; why not get a professional?"

Her business does not, however, offer guarantees regarding love — just quality matches.

"Love is elusive," she says with a shrug. "To find that right chemistry — that's where intuition comes in."

## Open the door to college and university

Finish high school or pick up the prerequisites you need for college or university programs. Apply and register now for January classes in English, math, science, psychology, economics or law.

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### Join us

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 13 at 6 p.m.  
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For more information, call **604.871.7318**  
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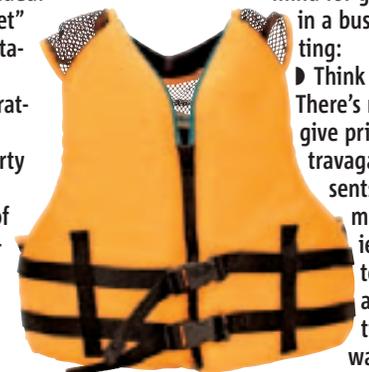


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### office gift exchange

Office gift exchanges can offer a few surprises for some coworkers. The Creative Group, a specialized staffing service, recently asked 250 advertising and marketing executives to describe the most off-the-wall gifts employees have bestowed on their colleagues. Some of their responses included:

- ▶ "A life jacket"
- ▶ "Frozen potatoes"
- ▶ "A stuffed rattlesnake"
- ▶ "A used, dirty vase"
- ▶ "A carton of cigarettes — for a non-smoker"
- ▶ "A stained potholder"
- ▶ "Someone gave me a stuffed likeness of his head mounted like a deer."
- ▶ "I received a painting of a coworker."
- ▶ "A wild turkey"
- ▶ "A pig"
- ▶ "Sea monkeys"
- ▶ "A goat"
- ▶ "A treadmill"
- ▶ "A personal training session"
- ▶ "A full-size statue of Cher"
- ▶ "Someone created a song about the employee."
- ▶ "One person gave out gold stars."
- ▶ "We received pictures of former executives with their



biographies."

▶ "A car was given by a CEO to his assistant."

▶ "Someone received a honeymoon vacation to an island."

▶ "Someone gave no gift — just the statement, 'It's all about me this year.'"

Here are a few to keep in mind for gift-giving

in a business setting:

▶ Think small. There's no need to give pricey or extravagant presents. Homemade goodies or small tokens of appreciation are always appropriate.

▶ Be practical. Items that can save your contacts time during the busy holiday season are bound to be a hit. Consider giving gift-wrapping kits, for example.

▶ Don't overlook the details. A gift has more of an impact if it's packaged nicely and comes with a thoughtful note.

▶ Set your sights on the new year. If time gets away from you in December, consider giving a calendar or journal in January with a "happy new year" message.