



Poll STATION

With Linda Banister

The pace of society seems to be faster than ever. Contrary to predictions made many years ago, the average work week has not been reduced—in fact, some people suggest it has increased. In the midst of our busy lives, people continue to look for the perfect partner. In this month's *Poll Station*, we asked about relationships and wondered if matchmaking has kept up with life's frantic pace.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A PARTNER?



To start with, survey participants were asked what they felt was the most important characteristic in a mate or partner. Not surprisingly, a range of characteristics was offered. Approximately one-quarter of respondents (24 percent) said honesty is the most important quality. Eight percent suggested a sense of humour is very important. Compatibility, respect and good communication skills—each at four percent—also made the list.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO MEET SOMEONE?

Next, respondents were asked to identify the best way to meet a prospective mate or partner. Through friends (11 percent) was seen as a great way to meet someone, as was school (eight percent), and church (seven percent). Interestingly, seven percent of males suggested a prospective mate or partner could be met anywhere and everywhere; no females suggested this. Perhaps more telling, 35 percent of respondents did not know the best way to meet a prospective mate or partner.

We also asked respondents if they—or anyone they know—have used an on-line or Internet dating service to help them meet someone. About one-third (31 percent) said they or someone they know had tried this method of dating. Furthermore, 81 percent of the people who had tried on-line dating

had actually dated someone they met through the service.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN "LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT"?

Thinking about our busy lives, we asked whether the respondents believed in love at first sight. Over half (55 percent) said they do believe love at first sight is possible, and almost two-thirds (62 percent) of these believers said that it had happened to them. Males were more likely (70 percent) to say they have experienced love at first sight than females (56 percent).

WHAT IS THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP?

Finally, respondents offered their best advice to ensure a long and happy relationship. While respondents provided a diverse list of advice, about one-quarter (22 percent) said honesty is key to a successful relationship. Good communications (16 percent), and knowing yourself and your partner (nine percent) were also suggested. Eleven percent of males suggested compromise is important compared with only four percent of females. However, 12 percent of females suggested having fun would ensure a long and happy relationship... no males offered this advice.

The Poll Station surveyed 100 City of Edmonton residents on the topic and, while the results of the research are not statistically reliable, they do provide a qualitative indication of what Edmontonians are thinking. ✓

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