



Poll STATION

With Linda Banister

Many of us are on the quest to find that special someone, but life is busy and it can be difficult to find the time to meet that perfect partner on our own. To compensate, new forms of matchmaking are constantly emerging and becoming increasingly popular. This month's *Poll Station* focused on the new ways of dating.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC IN A MATE OR PARTNER?



To begin the survey, respondents were asked to identify what they believed to be the most important characteristic in a mate or partner. The most frequent answer was honesty (31 percent), followed by compatibility (14 percent), personality (10 percent), trust/loyalty (nine percent) and compassion (eight percent). Appearance was only mentioned by two percent of the respondents, and 11 percent were unable to provide a response.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO MEET SOMEONE?



Next, respondents were asked for the best way or place for someone to meet a prospective date. Most frequently, respondents thought meeting someone through their friends was the best way (20 percent). Respondents also mentioned work (15 percent), through hobbies and clubs (nine percent), at a social event (eight percent), or at church (six percent). Interestingly, 30 percent of respondents did not know the best way or place to meet a prospective mate or partner.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT DIFFERENT DATING SERVICES?

Before respondents were asked about a number of different dating services, they were asked if they believed there were any negative perceptions surrounding dating services in general. Sixty percent believed there were, while 27 percent indicated they believed there were not.

Respondents were then asked if they, or someone they knew, had ever used an online dating service. Sixty percent indicated they did. Interestingly, the same question was asked back in 2006. Since then, there has been approximately a 30 percent increase in respondents that have tried it, or have known someone who has (61 percent versus 31 percent in 2006). Of these respondents, 85 percent ended up dating, or knew someone who had dated, the person they met through the online dating service (compared to 81 percent in 2006). Furthermore, 48 percent married, or knew someone who married, the person they met online.

Respondents were then asked about speed dating, where men and women rotate to meet each other over a series of short "dates", usually lasting from three to eight minutes. Not quite as popular, only 14-percent indicated they, or someone they knew, had participated in speed dating. Of these respondents, 43 percent indicated they had, or known someone who has, dated the person they met while speed dating; of those, one person married the person they met.

Finally, respondents were asked if they, or someone they knew, had ever used a professional dating service to meet a prospective partner. Eighteen percent indicated they had tried a dating service. Of these respondents, 94 percent dated, or knew someone who had dated, the person they met; and 40 percent married, or knew someone who married, the person they met through the service. ✓

Monthly Poll Station Online Question

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Want a question included in the Edmontonians Poll?

Contact Linda at 780.451.4444 or e-mail

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