



Former Day aide learns politics of on-line dating

By JANE TABER

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Stephany Crowley used to have a job promoting the attributes of Stockwell Day. Though not entirely her fault, that enterprise proved not terribly successful. Now the former deputy press secretary to the former Alliance leader is promoting the attributes of on-line dating.

The 33-year-old single mother got interested after seeing a pop-up box about dating on her computer and deciding to try it out.

She has met 13,000 men in one year -- "without going on a blind date, jeopardizing a business connection or cruising bars." Voted Hottie on the Hill by the Hill Times, Ms. Crowley once lamented that she couldn't even get a date to the annual Parliamentary Press Gallery dinner.

So far, she has dated about 12 of the 13,000 men, who she says are all "quality guys" although not one has turned out to be the love of her life.

Still, enthused by her experiences, she has almost completed a book about them, *E-dating Secrets: How to surf for Your Perfect Love Match on the Internet*.

It's a how-to book -- how to avoid heartache and dating disasters. She also addresses the safety factor, something that has taken on new importance given reports this week about two Quebec women, one who was killed and another who has gone missing after on-line encounters.

Ms. Crowley says she carefully checks out her men, and has flown to Victoria for a date. A man is flying in from Calgary for another.

She says her political job helped her teach women how to "craft irresistible profiles . . . working in communications and doing press releases and trying to brand people with an image. Obviously you've got to do the same thing when you're on-line dating."

She cautions, however, that, as in politics, there are "your fakes, frauds and phonies, and then your wimps, whiners and wackos."