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The butler does it

By DHARM MAKWANA, 24 HOURS



Mr. Belvedere.
Alfred
Pennyworth.
Geoffrey Butler
of Fresh Prince
fame.

Donning either
cardigans or
coattails, each
character
embodies the
butler tradition,
but
misrepresents
the nature of
the now-
lucrative
profession in
contemporary
urban settings.



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"Today's modern butler is a jack of all trades," said Mary Westendorf, operator of Bizzy Butler, a concierge service with clients across the Vancouver region. "Whatever a client needs we can do or organize."

Westendorf, who doesn't offer live-in service, gives clients a laundry list of options including catering, care-giving, house cleaning, personal shopping, home staging as well as other client requests.

Though the tasks may be time-consuming, Westendorf insists a personal concierge must have a certain mindset to be successful.

"You have to have it part of your makeup to do this kind of work," she said. "It is really a glorified servant to the people who need help."

"But it's a win-win situation. For people who like to help other people this is a perfect job."

The wage isn't bad either.

Westendorf charges clients between \$35 and \$50 an hour.

With proper training, people looking to earn a living as live-in butlers are tasked with

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managing a client's home.

Live-in butlers manage a service staff, negotiate contracts for renovation services and do anything else to keep the home running.

This career can potentially earn upwards of \$120,000 and those who choose it often find work in exotic locales.

Linda Samis, CEO of Butler's of Canada, is holding a six-week training program, also to be broadcast as a reality television show at Galiano Inn, for global placements.

She believes, "Who would you like in your home, whether you're in Hong Kong or Dubai, than a Canadian butler?"

If you had a butler what would that person do for you?

Brandon Wedgewood

Anything from the dishes to my laundry.

Carly Bentall

He'd make me oatmeal in the morning

Travis Arychuk

Have to drive me around.

John Lagourgne

Do my shopping.

Christy Ewers

Clean my apartment.