

ESSENTIALS

lifestyle *

can't buy happiness? you're not looking in the right place

Henry Ford once said, "The highest use of capital is not to make more money, but to make money do more for the betterment of life." Sure, the industrialist was referring to bettering the lives of others, but what's the point of success if you don't pamper yourself from time-to-time? Redeploy some capital to one of these services and you'll not only be spoiling yourself, but you'll be freeing up some valuable time for philanthropy.



personal cfo northwood stephens private counsel inc. Over a century ago, über-rich European families would keep a cabal of lawyers, accountants, bookkeepers and planners in-house to handle their diverse personal affairs. The modern day family office of multi-disciplined experts developed out of this and Northwood Stephens is the top shop in Canada – at least according to *Euromoney* magazine. Should you have at least \$2 million in investable assets and a net worth of \$5 million, give president and CEO Tom McCullough (pictured) or vice-president Brian Ginsler a call. Their team of MBAs, CFAs, CAs and experts – with more designations than you can shake a ledger at – will handle all your family's business from taxes, investments and estate planning to arranging that lavish vacation and keeping tabs on that contractor building your second or third dream home. www.northwoodstephens.com

personal shopper holt renfrew

The person with everything may be hard to buy for, but that doesn't mean he doesn't check out the malls and boutiques now and again. Besides carrying the latest styles in luxury fashion, Holt Renfrew offers a personal shopping service that will help you decide between Gucci and Prada. You can tag along with your shopper or simply fax them your list. www.holtrenfrew.com

personal chef canadian personal chef association

Whether you crave pan-seared tilapia with chile lime butter or bologna sandwiches, you can find your own personal chef through the Canadian Personal Chef Association. They'll help you get in touch with someone to plan your meals, buy the groceries and sweat over the stove. All you need to worry about is saving room for dessert. www.cdnPCA.com

pr handler susan blond inc.

Need someone to help promote your memoirs or spin that not-so-flattering photo of you and the woman that's not your wife? Susan Blond can help. The former protégé of Andy Warhol has deftly taken care of the public musings of Michael Jackson, Ozzy Osbourne and Bob Guccione Jr. There's nothing this lady can't handle. www.susanblondinc.com

personal concierge quintessentially

The company's co-founder boasts that Quintessentially can find you everything but the meaning of life. For an annual membership of \$36,000 US, members get access to some very well-connected folks who can secure tickets to the hottest shows, track down a case of that vintage wine or book a superstar musical act for your kid's birthday, among other things. www.quintessentially.com