



For Immediate Release

Ask him to take the leap this Feb. 29

From the quirky to the downright strange, Tartan Group looks at the five most unusual places for her to pop the question to him on Leap Day

Jan. 24, 2012, Victoria, BC – Sick of waiting for a rock, presented to you from bended knee? Consider taking a page from the book of old Irish traditions and ask him to marry you this Leap Day, Feb. 29, 2012. And to make it an unforgettable occasion, the team at Tartan Group, a quirky bunch of PR professionals in Victoria, BC, has listed off the five most unusual situations to pop the question.

While riding a magic carpet on Mount Washington, BC

Lacking a genie to grant you that one wish of living happily ever after? Go for the next best thing and head to the snowy slopes of Mount Washington Alpine Resort, located just 25 km (15.5 miles) outside of Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, and pop the question while riding a magic carpet. No, really.

The goal of the resort's four airport walkway-esque magic carpets is to transport beginner skiers and boarders uphill. Ranging from 91 to 198 metres (299 to 650 feet) in length, Mount Washington Alpine Resort's network of carpets is one of the largest in North America. (And since they've only been open to the public since December 2011, you'll have the distinction of being one of the first – if not *the* first – to get engaged on Feb. 29 while riding a magic carpet. Just think of the stories you can tell the grandchildren.)

And if you've blown the holiday budget on his ring, cash in on some of the ski-and-stay deals being offered by many hotels in the Comox Valley region. With package prices starting at \$109.95 (per person, per night) and add-ons that include lift passes and hot breakfasts, the only thing you have to worry about is him saying "yes." For more information or to book, visit www.discovercomoxvalley.com.

While he's wearing a skirt in Victoria, BC

If your man cries at all the right parts in *Twilight*, why not propose while he's really getting in touch with his softer side, while wearing a skirt? (A *kayak* skirt, that is.) Ocean River Adventures has been a fixture of Victoria, BC – a West Coast kayaking mecca – for the past 30 years, giving lessons in watersports like kayaking and SUP (stand up paddle boarding) and leading adventure-seekers on expeditions through Vancouver Island waterways and to far-off destinations, such as the Scottish Hebrides.

So if you're ready to make him be your (water-wing) man, call Ocean River Adventures and book a private Victoria Harbour Urban Kayak Exploration Tour (day trips are generally available May through September, but private tours can be booked by request, year-round). While waiting for the perfect time to propose, you and your main squeeze will experience Victoria's rich contrasts of city life and wildlife, getting unique perspectives of The Fairmont Empress, seaplanes and seals while learning about the city's historic waterways. Bring some spending money and stop for celebratory toast over some of Victoria's best fish and chips.

The Victoria Harbour Urban Exploration tour costs \$75 per paddler. For more information or to book, visit www.oceanriveradventures.com or call 1-800-909-4233.

While hanging ten and being gnarly in Tofino, BC (duuude!)

Get pre-wedding cold feet out of the way and ask him to be your one and only while riding a surfboard in Tofino, BC, a spot that's earned the designation of being North America's best surf town by *Outside* magazine.

Set in Cox Bay, just 7 km (4 miles) from Tofino, Long Beach Lodge Resort is the perfect post-proposal landing pad and is one of the Canada's top rated (and most romantic) destinations. Catering to adventurers and lovers of all types (from storm watchers and beachcombers to surfers and fishers), this property includes eight-acres of beachfront property, 41 lodge rooms and 20 cottages, a full-service dining room and lodge (called The Great Room) and a fitness facility. The resort also has its own on-site charter tour company, Private Marine Adventures, and Surf Club – meaning the two of you never have to go far to fully experience the surrounding land and sea.

And if you're nickname is Speedy Gonzales, consider getting proposed and married within the same vacation, thanks to Long Beach Lodge Resort's intimate elopement package. For about \$1,500, you'll receive two nights in a deluxe beachfront room, a romantic dinner for two, a two-tiered wedding cake, breakfast in bed, a wedding favour and all the marriage essentials, from the venue to the commissioner and flowers. For more information or to book, visit www.longbeachlodgeresort.com or call 1-877-844-7873.

While navigating whitewater rapids in Turrialba, Costa Rica

Yes, love is a battlefield. So why prep him for a lifetime of marital bliss by heading to the Costa Rican mountains and proposing while navigating Class II and III rapids down the Pejibaye River? A hotspot for whitewater rafting, the nearby Pacuare River even served as the hosting grounds for last year's World Rafting Championship. Think of it this way: if he faints with surprise, at least he'll be safely secured in a lifejacket.

To relax after the shock, settle in at Turrialba's Hacienda Tayutic, a romantic and private boutique hotel that features just five guestrooms, a gourmet restaurant, a swimming pool and new spa; lush gardens and a macadamia nut, sugarcane and coffee plantation; and great views of the constantly rumbling and fuming Turrialba Volcano – Costa Rica's most active volcano.

Rates start at \$295 per night (low season; includes breakfast and snacks each day). For more information or to book, visit www.tayutic.com or call (506) 2538-1717.

While suspended from a bungee jump bridge in Nanaimo, BC

If popping the question on Feb. 29 has brought on a sudden case of cold feet, you'll appreciate this opportunity to bide your time and build up your nerve. Arrange your Leap Year proposal via a bungee jump into the Nanaimo River Canyon during WildPlay Element Parks' one-day *Unleash Your Leap Year* sale.

To save \$29 on the price of a regular bungee jump (save twice, if you go tandem), muster up your courage and call one of WildPlay's Guest Service Agents on Feb. 29 to book the date and time you'll take the plunge (offer is valid for regular jump times booked between March 1 through 29, 2012). After all, the two of you have your whole lives to spend together, so what's the rush?

Prove you're crazy in love with a proposal that neither of you will ever forget. To book a bungee jump during WildPlay's one-day *Unleash Your Leap Year* sale, call 1-888-716-7374 on Feb. 29, 2012 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. For complete offer details, visit www.WildPlay.com.

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Photo Credit: Mount Washington Alpine Resort

Note to Editors: High resolution images available.

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