

Bachelor Canada says he's happy now

By Debra Yeo
Toronto Star

On the phone, Tim Warmels, the new Bachelor Canada, sounds confident, personable and sensible. So sensible that you can't help but ask why a successful, seemingly well-adjusted man like him would go on a TV show to find a potential mate.

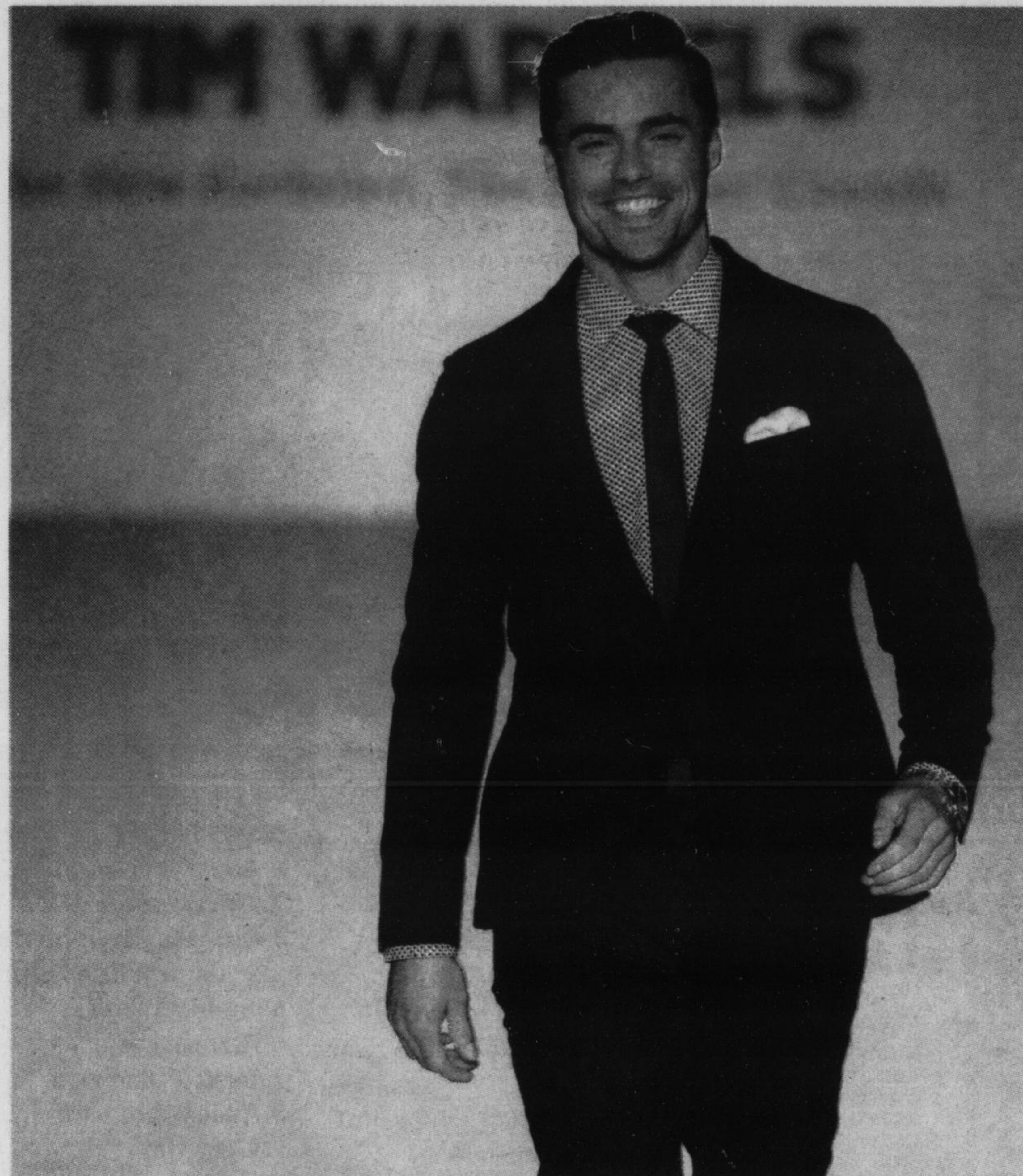
"I was 28 and I was single. The choice in front of me was keep doing for the next two months what you've been doing for the last six years or try something different for the next two months," said Warmels, who is a native of Campbellville. "It was pretty simple to me."

Warmels had tried more traditional dating methods, including online, and had been in two serious relationships that made him happy day to day, but he "knew that they wouldn't leave me satisfied in the long term." He figures that, if you consider the many thousands of potential datings choices in a city the size of Toronto, "having 25 women who are chosen because somebody really thinks that you could have a connection with them" seems like the better option. "It's like online dating on steroids."

Even with the "vagician," which is how one of the 25 has described herself?

Warmels laughs. "You never know."

We'll all find out how those connections



Tim Warmels is seen on the runway for a celebrity fashion show for SickKids in August.
Steve Russell / Toronto Star file photo

played out as The Bachelor Canada premiered its second season last Thursday on CityTV.

Warmels, who attended the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario, moved to Toronto to become an investment banker and then became an entrepreneur, with tech ventures and a con-

tracting business.

He describes himself as "not a big TV watcher," so he didn't know much beforehand about The Bachelor franchise: a going concern with 18 seasons completed in the U.S., a couple of spinoff shows and international versions (some now defunct) in a dozen other countries, including Canada.

But when a friend suggested he would be a good fit for the series and put him in touch with producers, Warmels was all in. It was about two weeks between the exploratory conversation and the signing of the contract. And then, there were two months of shooting that Warmels described as "really stressful" though "not necessarily in a bad way."

"What I was doing, it's going to affect me for the rest of my life," he explains. "My wife might be standing beside me right now amongst these 10 or 15 women. ... That level of seriousness, to have to deal with in such a concentrated manner is stressful. You want to make the right decision."

The fact Warmels had done some part-time modelling didn't prepare him for the realities of making a TV show.

For one thing, the modelling was a peripheral part of his life; for another, "the amount of cameras that you have on you at all times, I don't think anything can prepare you for that."

Yet, with the gravity of "trying to find somebody to spend the rest of your life with," the cameras and other aspects of the production melted away very quickly, Warmels says.

Or course, a truly successful Bachelor season always ends with a proposal, but Warmels isn't allowed to say if he found the love of his life on the series.

"I'm happy now, yeah," is all he'll admit.

So was Brad Smith, Canada's first Bachelor, when he became engaged to Bianka Kamber at the end of his season. They split up 16 months later.

But Warmels isn't bothered by the franchise's rather dismal track record for lasting matches; he doesn't even know what the success rate is.

"I want this to be my own journey, I don't want anything to bias me about what happened in previous seasons," he says. "For me, this was more about I'm a different guy; I've always kind of marched to the beat of my own drum in life and this was something that kind of fit in there pretty congruently." **A&L6**

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