

Despite Loughlin's Firing, 'When Calls the Heart' Fans Remain Loyal

What could end up as the biggest family reunion ever will take place Oct. 4-6, 2019, in Vancouver, British Columbia. That's when "Hearties," fans of The Hallmark Channel's top show, *When Calls the Heart*, and its soon-to-come spinoff, *When Hope Calls*, will gather for the fifth Hearties Family Reunion.

Change marked the just-concluded season, which included Hallmark's release of actress Lori Loughlin (Abigail Stanton) after she and her husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, were charged in a college admissions bribery scheme. But the half-million identified Hearties stand firm in their love for the family-friendly show. "When Hope Calls the Heart," the theme of this year's reunion, describes the fan base as well as the shows themselves.

Hearties who attend the reunion will have the opportunity to visit the set of Hope Valley, meet cast and crew members and interact with other Hearties from across the globe. And the fan base includes a wide range of people, says the show's executive producer, Brian Bird, in an interview with Dr. Steve Greene on the "Greenelines" podcast. "We get teenagers on up to grandmas at the Hearties family reunion. The male Heartie factor is growing," he says. "I will say when I meet a man who likes the show ... you don't lose your man card when you watch *When Calls the Heart*. In fact, you get you get an extra one."

Check out for more information on this one-of-a-kind event. And listen to the podcast below for more Hearties insights from *When Calls the Heart* executive producer Brian Bird!