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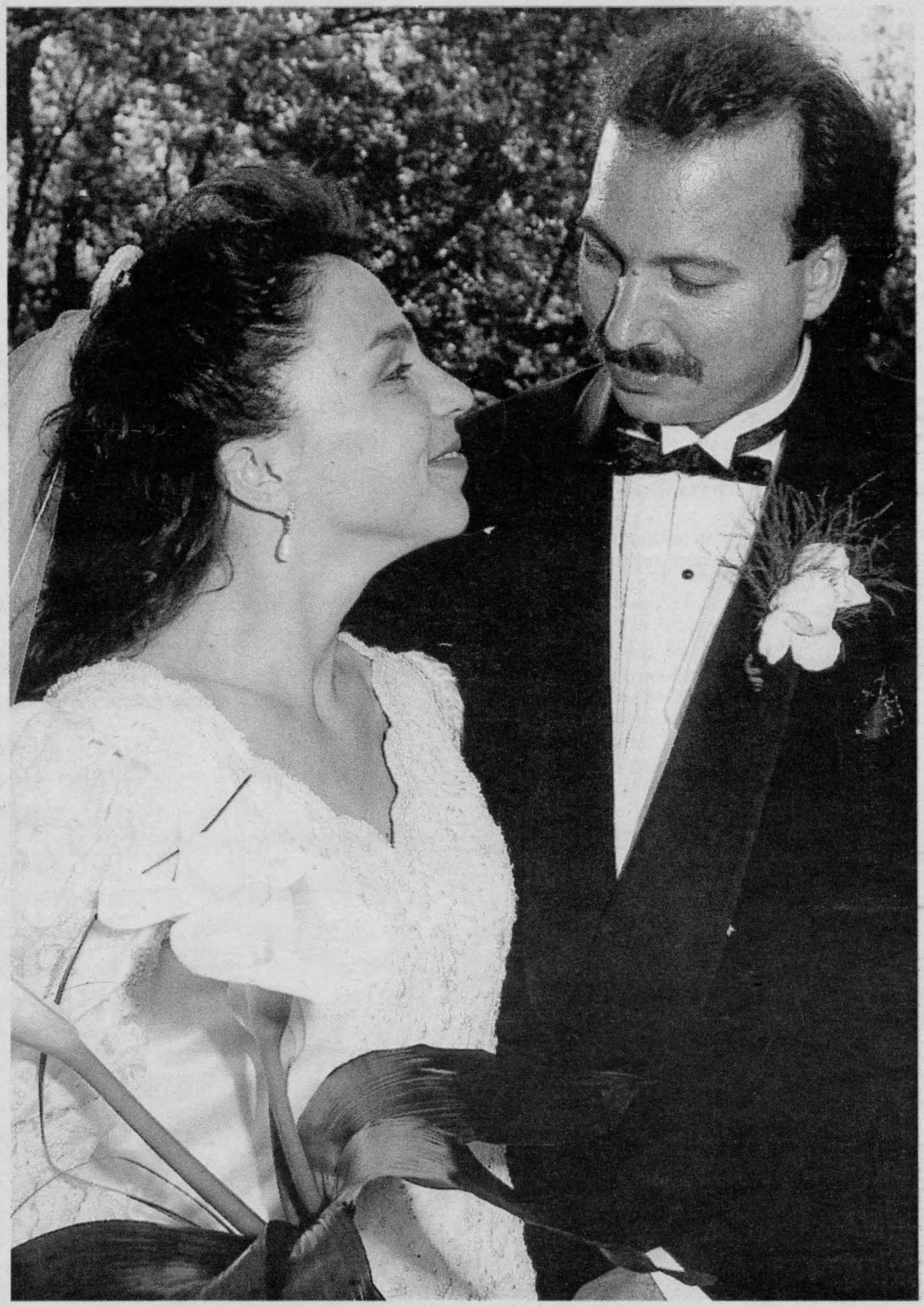

Making Arrangements For The Big Day

- Find Your Dream Dress
- Choose The Perfect Bridal Accessories
- Gift Ideas For Your Attendants
- Lining Up A Photographer
- Booking A Hall
- Catering For The Occasion
- Choosing A Honeymoon Spot
- And More...

WINCHESTER PRESS
Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Home business puts finishing touch on day

Liz Edwards
Press staff

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — Joyce Boyd and Shari Martin are the icing on the cake when it comes to weddings.

They are the people who add the finishing touch to halls and churches with bows, twinkle lights, pillars, arbors and other decorations.

Joy to Share, as they call it, is a sideline business for the two Mountain Township women who both work for dentists.

But they both had an artistic knack so, after a friend's urging, they decided to set up a part- time venture. But part-time is a matter of definition. Since they officially started the business a year ago, they've been all over the area decorating for weddings, parties and other functions.

Sometimes they're so busy, they can't do the decorating themselves but they're more than willing to rent the items and tell their customers how to do it themselves.

The details of decoration are an important part of the wedding, they maintain, where the couple can incorporate personal touches that say something about them.

One couple they worked for liked motorcycles so they managed to incorporate one into the decorating scheme, adorning it with 100 metres of tulle, lights and arranging the bridal party's bouquets on the seat.

Boyd and Martin meet with the prospective bride beforehand to find out her likes and dislikes, to show her what they have, and to find out if there is anything special they can do. They meet at Boyd's home where a number of the decorations around her house are also often used in the displays. If they see something that appeals to them, Boyd can usually accommodate them. They like to use personal items that belong to the bride and groom.

"We ask people if they have anything they'd like to use...a grandmother's rocking chair, a shawl... and have them bring it in so it's special to them," says Boyd.

Boyd and Martin help their clients brainstorm to decide what they want. A lot of brides and grooms have ideas but they're not sure how to make them work. The two women like working together because they find it helps them be more creative when they're thinking up decorating schemes.

"We bounce ideas off each other, you know how sometimes two minds make three," says Martin.

Because some halls are large, the two women concentrate on focal points when they decorate. It can be too expensive and too overwhelming in effect to make up an entire room so they have their clients pick spots such as the head table, the entrance or the guest tables.

A list itemizes what types of decorations they will do and the cost of each. Labor is half the total cost of the rental fees.

Their decorations tend to be reusable. Yard sales are great sources of their stock, a place to find unusual candle sticks, baskets and many other items.

And the assortment is extensive. The arbor, an archway used as an entrance is one of their more popular choices, decorated with lights, flowers, ivy — whatever the couple prefers.

They will rent any of their items but to decorate themselves, they usually insist the job cost a minimum of $250. But whatever size job they do, Boyd and Martin say they enjoy their work.

"Everyone's so happy. It's such a nice business," says Boyd.



A creative mix

Shari Martin, left, and Joyce Boyd share their creative talents to concoct beautiful wedding backdrops. *Press Photo—Edwards*

The cover photo was taken by Heather Cooke Erwin. She has been photographing weddings for 13 years for Wayne LaPrade Photography. The bride and groom are Tessie Boretos and Lee Kargakos of Winchester.

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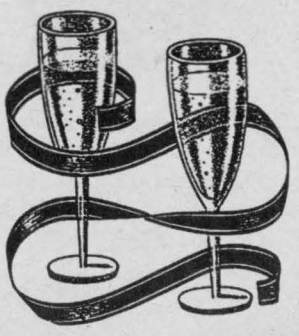

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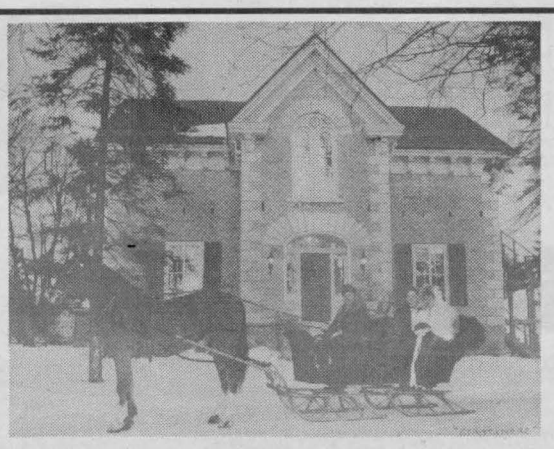

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Tried and true: Bride chooses 1880's gown

Kim Robinson
Press staff

MAPLE RIDGE — When Martha Hutchinson-Hackett was married last June, she was well covered in the tradition of wearing "something old."

Since the day she first discovered her great- grandmother's wedding dress tucked away at her grandmother's house over a decade ago, she had planned to wear it on her special occasion.

On June 30, 1995, she came down the aisle in the dress which was last used for that purpose more than 100 years ago.

Her attire had been kept a surprise to all but immediate family, so her mother Olive gave a speech to explain the origins of the dress. Alice Maria Hutt had worn it when she and Stephen Kittle were wed in March, 1882. Alice's daughter, Verna Derby, had carefully stored her mother's dress so that it was in wearable condition for her granddaughter Martha a century later.

Guests were very interested in this history and in the construction of the hand-sewn dress. Martha was constantly showing the hoop supports beneath the skirt to curious guests.

The refurbishing of the dress was a story in itself.

Martha recalls that when she first tried it on to show to her soon-to-be husband Doug, she could tell he was trying to be positive but he questioned the suitability of the outfit. However, after a few alterations, he was very impressed.

The dress, a deep brown in color, came in three parts, with separate top and bottom layer over a construction of wire hoops, and a detachable train. The bit of lace trim on the dress had browned with age and the front of the dress gaped open noticeably. Though she is a very petite young woman by today's standards, Martha found the top coat section too snug, so some seams were let out by the capable hands of Brinston seamstress Wilma Tibben. The old lace was replaced with fresh finery, and extra lace was added to lighten up the whole appearance of the dress. As well, the original brown buttons were removed and bright pearl buttons set in their place.

There was work in improving not only the look of the dress, but the way it smelled as well. While it had been kept in a box with little sprigs of cedar, it still had a musty odor. Martha gives a lot of credit to Terry Sloane of Terry's Wash Mart for taking on the delicate job.

With the dress in order, Martha decided to arrange her hair to incorporate a decoration of silk apple blossoms which was also found in the dress box. For shoes, she wore an antique pair of lace-up boots that her mother had discovered several years ago at Reid's store in Winchester. As far as wedding footwear goes, they were a real bargain. They had been purchased for one dollar.

All that was left to do with the dress was to practise moving around in it. Martha found it fairly comfortable, but she notes she had the 20th century luxury of air conditioning during the reception.

Starting with the dress as a focal point, there were many other old-fashioned touches to the wedding. The invitations featured an old-style, sepia colored photo of the couple on a cream background which they designed with EKLO Photography.

In keeping with the antique theme, Martha and Doug included many traditional elements in their wedding ceremony, conducted by Rev. Brent Russett of Sunnyside Wesleyan Church in Ottawa and the bride's uncle, Rev. J.R Hutchinson of Georgetown, Ind. They had a difficult time finding traditional vows but they got some help from Winchester's Anglican minister, Rev. George Bruce, and *The Book of Common Prayer*. Older hymns were sung and the King James version of the Bible was used for Scripture readings.

"I felt by using the old King James version it was more poetic," says Martha.

As both bride and groom are teachers, an old school bell was used to get people's attention and to encourage the wedding couple to demonstrate affection during the reception.

All of this took place at Strathmere in North Gower. The ceremony was outdoors on the patio and the reception was held inside Strathmere Lodge with a backdrop of Victorian decorations created by Joyce Boyd and Shari Martin of Joy to Share.

Photos were taken in Strathmere's farmhouse, which dates from roughly the same period as the dress.

Martha says she was impressed with Strathmere's service, as well as by all the help she found in her immediate community to bring the event together. She says she and Doug didn't have to look far to find the resources for their traditional celebration.



Martha and Doug had pictures taken at Strathmere's circa 1875 stone farmhouse. *Courtesy Photo—EKLO Photography*

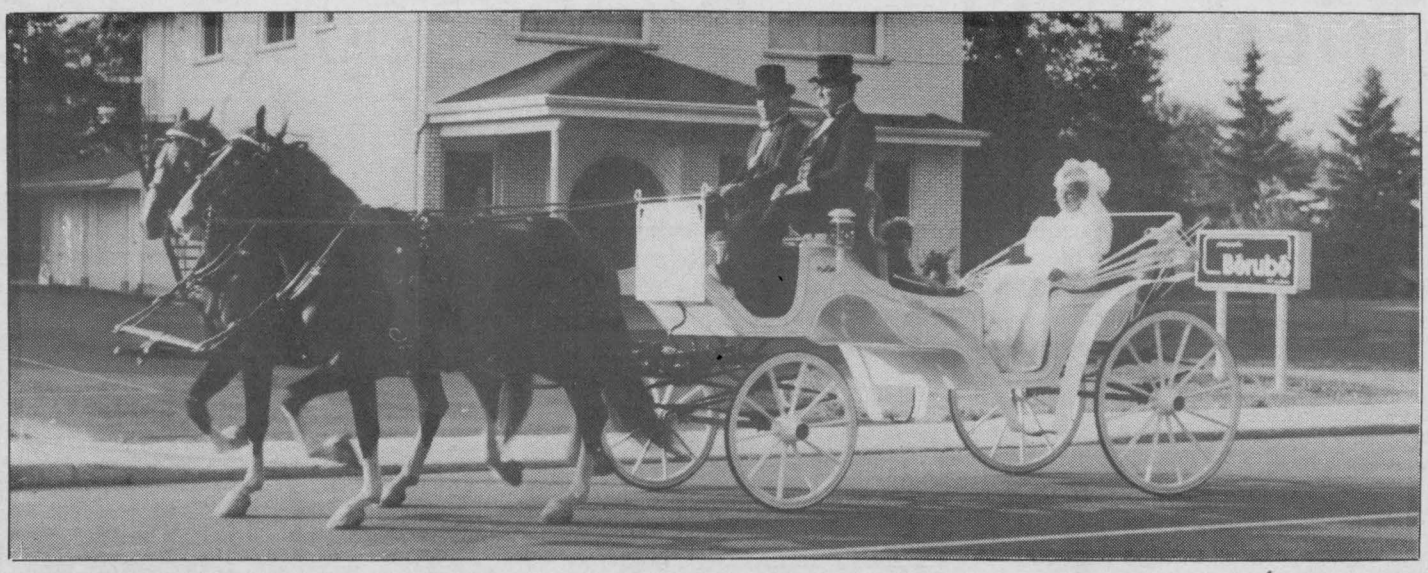




Above, Martha models the dress. Right, a series of hoops gave the skirt its shape. For the wedding, she added "something blue" —blue ribbons— to this part of her attire.

Riding in style

Many couples look back in time for inspiration when it comes to choosing their wedding transportation. Driving away in a horse-drawn carriage can add to the romantic atmosphere of the day.
Photo—Studio Bérubé



Budget for wedding expenses

Having a wedding has become extremely expensive. It is difficult for the bridal couple to overcome the high cost of getting married in the '90s. Once upon a time, it was just assumed that the bride's family was to pay for "everything" (including the ceremony and reception), while the groom's family paid for the rehearsal dinner. These days, the division of expenses has changed greatly.

No longer are the parents of the couple required to pay for anything. The bridal couple pays for most of the cost themselves, and the parents contribute whatever they can.

Before booking a reception hall, ordering flowers and buying gowns, the couple must create a budget. First, they must decide how much they are planning to spend and, then, how the expenses are going to be divided.

Suzanne Kresse, author of "Secrets of Successful Brides" (St. Martin's), suggests that, when planning a budget, couples should allow an additional 25 percent more money for extras that they have yet to come across, but that are bound to come up. Some of these "unexpected extras" include tips, hairdresser fees, wedding favors, meals for the band and photographer during the reception, and presents exchanged between the groom and bride.

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Add a stroke of elegance

Weddings today range from small garden affairs at home to grand formal events and almost everything in between. Yet one thing holds true no matter the style — it's your day, and you want every detail to be perfect and personal.

One way to add an elegant or very creative look to your invitations, thank-you notes and cards is by using beautiful lettering known as calligraphy.

While this form of writing looks complex, it is easy to learn. One way is with any one of several available kits. These kits employ a learning process that includes a combination of classic lettering techniques and modern fast-track teaching methods. And, they include all the materials you'll need, like pens, nibs, ink cartridges and practice sheets.

Through a step-by-step process, you will learn the italic letter forms, their relationship to each other and detailed instructions on how to draw each letter. Exercises will make it easy for you to master this beautiful art form, so you will be able to write the alphabet with rhythm and beauty.

Some kits are project-oriented, with tips on layout and design that will prove very helpful when you begin to use your new skill as part of your wedding planning. Calligraphic projects include the etiquette and proper format for addressing envelopes for weddings, since they are the most formal occasions, often requiring two hand-addressed envelopes.

Designing invitations, place cards, thank-you notes and greeting cards, among other projects, also will be helpful as you entertain and complete your wedding correspondence. Detachable practice exercises and lining guides included in some kits will aid you in practicing and working on projects.



A wedding photographer helps capture the many memories of the special day. *Photo—Berube*

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Capture candid wedding memories

Millions of couples get married each year, and one of the most frequently heard complaints by all of them is that things happened so quickly they hardly even remember their own wedding!

That's why photography is so important. Next to the bride and groom, the most important person at the wedding is often the photographer. To help ensure wedding memories are recorded for years to come, we offer the following tips:

Going to the chapel — Some of the best memories happen even before "the big day," for example, the bride trying on veils, the flower girl rehearsing her part, the groom at his bachelor party. To make sure these spontaneous moments are recorded, delegate attendants as official record keepers. Arm them with one-time-use cameras, and let them snap away.

Bridal shower blues — Sure, the bridal shower is fun, but what's a girl to do when it's time to send out thank-you notes and she can't remember which guest gave which crystal wine decanter? As each gift is opened, have the maid of honor snap a shot of the bride with the gift and the guest who gave it to her. The benefits: There's no gift confusion, it's easier than writing everything down, and with a quick note scrawled on the back, the photos serve as personal thank-you cards.

Get the guests involved — One of today's biggest wedding trends is for brides to place one-time-use cameras on tables, inviting guests to capture candid moments.

Keep your photos organized — It's always important to keep your photos organized and in a safe place, but people often forget to store their negatives so they will be easy to retrieve and reprint.

The honeymoon doesn't have to end — Make your wedding day live on by using photos creatively. There are dozens of great ways to use the pictures guests take with one-time-use cameras. Consider using these candid shots as thank-you notes, for scrapbooks, home decorating,

Display your photos for a lifetime of memories — Don't settle for only one photo album — frame your wedding photos, so they can be viewed at all times. Also, friends and family will love receiving framed enlargements of special wedding photos that include them.



A park provides the perfect setting for wedding photographs.
Photo — Wayne LaPrade Photography



Gallery gifts

The Seaway Gallery of Art and Gifts sells everything from Nina Ricci jewellery, to decorative candles, to wedding ornaments in a one- stop shopping atmosphere.

Press Photo—Erwin

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The four C's of diamond buying

The diamond engagement ring has been a symbol of love and romance since 1477 when Archduke Maximilian of Austria gave Mary of Burgundy a gold ring set with a diamond as a token of his love. Today, the tradition of the diamond engagement ring continues. According to a new consumer survey, 70 percent of all brides-to-be receive one.

A diamond is an expression of individuality. Just as love is unique, no two diamonds are alike. Each diamond has its own personality and sparkle. Therefore, when purchasing a diamond engagement ring, it is important to become an informed consumer.

A little knowledge can go a long way to help unearth the best-quality diamond within a budget. Understanding diamonds requires knowledge of the four C's: cut, color, clarity and carat weight. These four variables are key to answering the elusive question as to why two diamonds of equal size may not be of equal value.

• Cut — Although diamonds can be cut in several shapes, like oval, marquise, pear or round, it is the quality of the cut that gives the stone its brilliant sparkle. Light is reflected best when all of the facets are perfectly proportioned.

• Color — The best color is no color. A totally colorless diamond best allows white light to pass effortlessly through it and be dispersed as rainbows of color.

• Clarity — The term "clarity" refers to a diamond's lack of naturally occurring inclusions, often called "nature's fingerprints," most of which are not visible to the naked eye. The fewer the inclusions, the more valuable the diamond.

• Carat — Carat refers to the weight of the stone. There are 100 points in a carat. Therefore, a diamond of 50 points weighs one-half of a carat.

Deciding how much to spend on a diamond engagement ring is very personal and obviously depends on income. Most people find the two months' salary guideline to be helpful in determining how much to spend. Most importantly, choose the finest-quality diamond affordable, because a diamond engagement ring is a unique symbol of commitment that will be treasured for many years.

To find out how to get the best diamond, consumers should visit a reputable jeweler whom they know and trust. The diamond engagement ring is an investment in a couple's future and, like love, can grow more precious with time.

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Planning makes perfect wedding sense

When it comes to their wedding, the bride and groom want everything to be perfect. From the ceremony to the reception, they consider all the details, and while this makes for a beautiful wedding day, it also causes months, and maybe even years, of stress.

The best way for a couple to remain calm while planning the big day is to get organized. By making a list of things they need to do, they can allot time in their schedules for each task — and they can feel a sense of accomplishment and relief each time they cross something off the list.

This basic checklist can get them started on their way to a beautiful wedding day.

• Set the date — As soon as possible after getting engaged, the couple should select a wedding date and decide on the type of wedding they would like to have. From a traditional ceremony in a church to a surprise wedding, where guests are invited to a "party" that turns out to be a wedding, couples are personalizing the event and planning weddings that reflect their lifestyles and interests.

• Reserve a location — The couple should reserve the church or location of the ceremony soon after setting the date to ensure they can get married on the day they want. Then, they need to reserve a reception location. Party houses and halls specialize in party business and feature catering directors who will assist a couple in planning their dream wedding. Hotel receptions are becoming increasingly popular, and hotels also have catering directors on staff. Independent caterers are a good choice for home weddings or garden receptions.

• Select a photographer — Every photographer has a different style and a different way of covering weddings. The couple should choose one who will accommodate their wishes, like taking the types and number of shots they want, attending both the ceremony and reception, and offering the album design they would like. The most important quality of a photographer is his or her personality. The couple will be spending an entire day with this person, so they should choose someone who will make them feel comfortable.

• Book reception entertainment — The couple should select a disc jockey or band that will cater to everyone at the reception — both the younger and older generations. The musical selections should be diverse, and requests from the guests should be taken.

• Arrange wedding transportation — Whether it's a Rolls Royce, stretch limo, horse and buggy, or double-decker bus, the couple should plan for transportation to and from the ceremony and to the reception for themselves and their attendants. They should make reservations early, especially if they want a white car.

• Order dresses — Shopping for a wedding dress, headpiece and bridesmaid dresses is one of the most fun parts of the planning for the future bride. She should choose a wedding dress that reflects her style and personality — and makes her look beautiful. When considering dresses for her attendants, the bride-to-be should opt for a style that complements her dress, as well as the girls in her party.

• Choose a florist — Flowers can add an elegant touch to the wedding day, and every florist has a unique style. The couple should select one whose arrangements they like and who offers them helpful, creative ideas about bouquets, corsages and centrepieces.

• Decide on a bakery — The couple should select a bakery based on the flavor of the cakes baked there and the look of previous work. They should ask for a taste of the different types of cake offered, and they should see if the bakery will be able to create the design that they want.

• Select formal wear — Whether it's a basic tuxedo or a top hat and tail coat, formal wear completes the look of the wedding party. The couple should select a formal-wear provider who offers the style they want, has a variety of sizes available to fit all of the men standing up, and offers a large selection of bow ties and cummerbunds or vests.

• Order invitations — Invitations come in many different styles, so the bride and groom will have a number of books to look through. They should decide on a style that best suits their wedding, based on its formality, the time of day and the wedding colors.

With these important decisions made, the future bride and groom only have a few things left to do, like selecting favors, writing a wedding bulletin and buying thank-you gifts for their attendants. They're well on their way to the wedding of their dreams.

Engagement



Merkley—Amsing

Doug and Beverly Merkley of Morewood and John and Phyllis Amsing of Avonmore are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Lyann Alison to Michael John. The wedding will be held at the bride's home on August 24, 1996.

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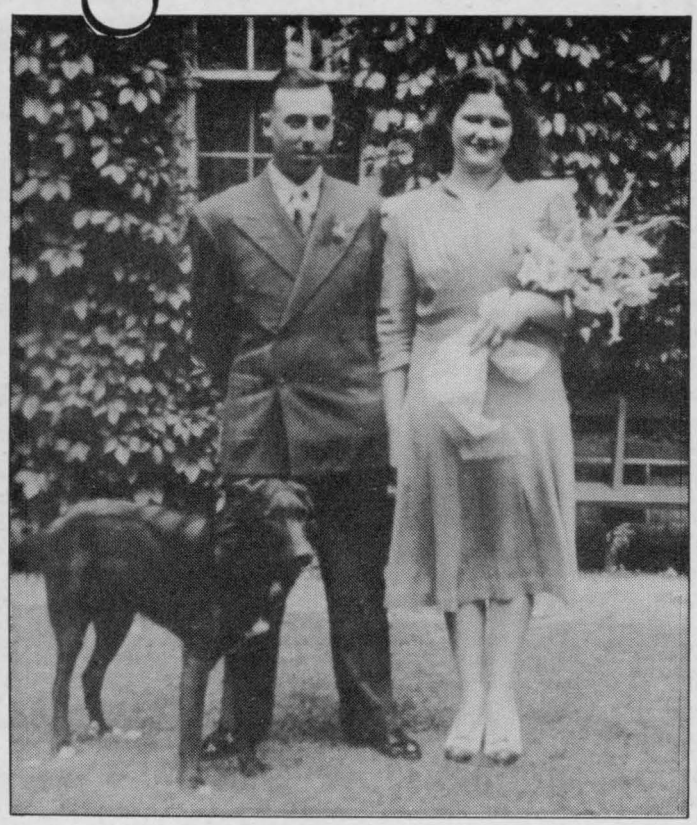

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Couples beginning to break tradition

NORTH GOWER —Old habits can be costly.

Mary McGill, Head of Strathmere, has a word of advice to couples wanting to keep their wedding costs lower.

"Keep in mind, you don't have to get married on a Saturday," she says.

Strathmere, a pre-Confederation stone house and lodge (circa 1875) set on a 200-acre estate in nearby North Gower, has offered alternatives to the tradition for a number of years.

Although most couples do prefer Saturday, Friday and Sunday have also become popular during the last few years. Some weddings take place on Thurdays. Friday evening weddings, she suggests, are ideal for those wanting a cocktail reception with a dance, instead of a full sit-down dinner.

A 7:30 pm ceremony, followed by champagne toasting, very appetizing hot and cold hor'doevres, and dancing with a late night buffet, makes a memorable event at a very economical price.

More and more couples, too, are favoring luncheon weddings over evening ones. Friday, Saturday and Sunday are very popular for either brunch from 10 am to 2 pm, or lunch from 11 am to 3 pm.

Another way couples are economizing while still having a wonderful wedding day is to choose a low- season Saturday. The pictures in Strathmere's wedding albums show how attractive a winter wedding can be, especially if there's a snowy setting for a horse-drawn sleigh. It is possible from January through April, moreover, to negotiate much better prices with most professionals who assist with wedding arrangements.

Smaller weddings have become more popular. It is a regular occurrence for the wedding couple to have the immediate family, close relatives and friends for the ceremony and dinner, with invitations to others to join the party later.

Strathmere books as many luncheon and cocktail reception weddings today as does for Saturday affairs. Economy does not have to mean lowering the experience of a very special day.

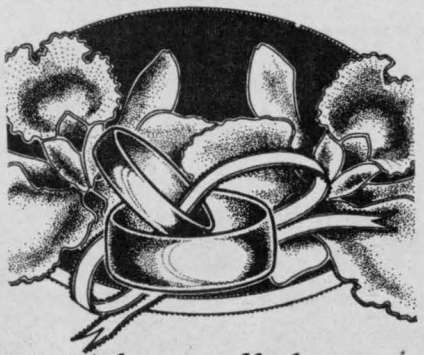
Engagement



Lobb—Holmes

Fred and Kathy Lobb of Chesterville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Tania to Tony Holmes, son of Mrs. Carol Guitard and the late Eldon Holmes of Winchester. Wedding to take place July 20, 1996, Winchester, Ontario.

Sparkling Choices To Have And To Hold



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Favors take new shapes

Many of the guests coming to your wedding have attended various other weddings during their lifetime. So, you probably will want to give them something to make your special day stand out in their memories.

There are many different favors you can give your guests, the most common being personalized bud vases, picture frames and silk flowers in vases. It is wonderful for guests to receive wedding favors to help keep the memory of the night alive.

Seeing as it takes a lot of thought and time to find the right favor for your wedding, you might as well choose something that the guests will want to take home. There is no sense in buying favors that will be left at the end of the night. No couple wants to be stuck with 50 leftover favors.

While there is nothing wrong with giving flower vases, some couples want to give out something a little more unusual. One way to help ensure that all favors will be taken and enjoyed by guests is to order unique gifts that your guests may not have seen before. Creative favors do not necessarily mean expensive favors. There are plenty out there that you and your guests will enjoy and, surprisingly, cost very little.

Giving out creative favors not only improves the chances that every guest will leave with a gift, but that your wedding will be remembered for a long time to come.

Because most couples need to buy between 50 and 100 favors, keeping down the amount spent on them is important. The money you save on favors is money that can be spent on some other aspect of the wedding.

The following favors are fun items that your guests are sure to enjoy, but are not too expensive.

- A small box of delicious dark and white chocolates, personalized with the couple's name and wedding date on the box.
- A customized mini champagne bottle that comes complete with a label bearing the couple's name, wedding date and a personalized message.
- Glass fortune cookies in which the couple's name, wedding date and a special message are inscribed on the fortune. These "cookies" are packed in authentic Chinese food takeout boxes.
- Live seedlings ready for planting that can grow strong and last for years to come. These favors allow you to share your love with a gift that grows. Aside from being unique, these favors help give something back to nature.
- Small fishbowls filled with live goldfish. These pets make a great gift for guests to take home to the kids and, hopefully, can ensure that people won't put it on a shelf and forget about it. Every time they see the fish, they'll be reminded of your wedding. A pet shop should be able to give you a good deal for buying the bowls and fish in bulk.

Unique gifts for the



• Bride
• Wedding Party

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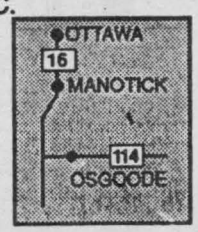

Hours:
Mon.-Fri., 9-5;
Sat., 9-1

Tel. 826-2616

Bridal fairs show options

WINCHESTER — If the thought of your wedding is overwhelming, there's help.

Two local bridal shows will give couples some idea of what they need for the big day.

Invitations have been issued to prospective local brides for Winchester's event on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The Bridal Showcase runs from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Winchester and District Arena hall.

The Morrisburg Bridal Preview is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 4 at the Operating Engineers Training Institute on Hwy. 2. The doors open at 12 noon and Bridals by Al-Mor will hold a special fashion show starting at 3 pm.

Both shows will feature everything from florists to caterers, make-up and hair consultants, jewellers, photographers and many other professionals who help make it a day to remember.



Dan Lecours shows one of the many Freeman tuxedos available at the CountryBoy shop in Winchester. *Press Photo — Robinson*

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Wedding Plans?

Start planning
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The Bridal Collection Jewellery
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• Bridal Party Gifts
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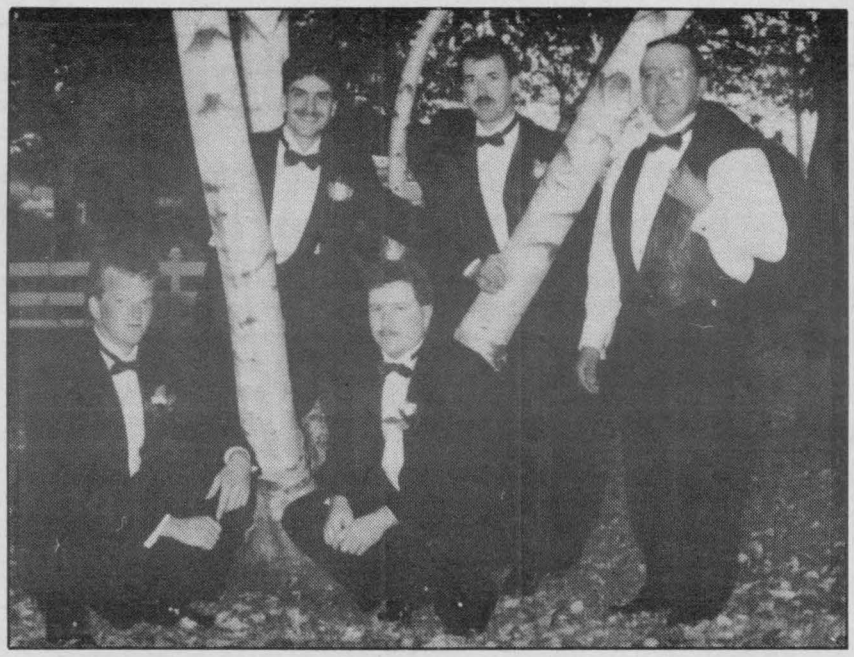

Where the boys are

Don't forget to bring your male attendants together for their own photo. *Photo—Wayne LaPrade Photography*

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Winchester

Personalized bridal party gifts popular

How do you repay those friends and family members who, through the stress of it all, helped you get ready for your wedding day?

You want each gift to be the perfect gift to say thank you and so much more to these special people.

What are the hot bridal-party gifts today? Traditional gifts still seem to be the most popular: pendants and crystal or porcelain boxes for bridesmaids and pens, tankards and flasks for groomsmen. Picture frames, money clips, clocks and key rings are also popular gifts. For the flower girl and ring bearer, carousel horses and train banks are always well-received. Engraving the gift and adding your personal message remains very popular for bridal-party gifts.

Monogramming gifts is becoming very popular, in addition to the traditional engraved gifts. Silver-plated trays and engraved solid brass door knockers also make special wedding gifts.

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Free wedding consultation

Co-ordinated services ease planning stress

Kim Robinson
Press staff

CHESTERVILLE — It's a marriage of convenience in the best possible sense.

When Bridals by Al-Mor, The Brookslyn and Marion's Flowers co-ordinated their bridal services three and a half years ago, they had their customers' convenience in mind.

Couples have shown that they appreciate this integrated experience. Al-Mor's Joyce Sharkey says brides from Ottawa, Kingston and Cornwall come to Chesterville for the service because it's much easier than running around to separate stores. All three businesses are housed in the same building at 20 King Street.

The trio was even featured on CJOH television's *Regional Contact* for its unique approach in looking after couples' needs every step of the way, from engagement rings to thank you cards.

The Brookslyn offers rings and wedding bands, attendants' gifts, a crystal and china registry, wedding stationery and decorations. Marion's Flowers creates bouquets as well as decorative floral arrangements and accents using silk and preserved flowers.

The bride's and groom's attire is the domain of Bridal's by Al-Mor. Having both men's and ladies' fashions under one roof allows for on-the-spot co-ordination of the whole wedding party's look.

"So often it's the women who do the selection of the cummerbund style, so they can choose that while they're here for their dresses," says Sharkey.

A perfect match for these ensembles can be made with jewellery from The Brookslyn, and with the selection of flowers at hand, couples can get a good picture of what their wedding will look like.

Sharkey notes that this convenience doesn't mean higher costs. The boutique offers various savings on wedding gowns, bridesmaids' and mothers' dresses. Also offered is a package special on tuxedo rentals.

One more benefit of the service is that if couples decide on a complete wedding package they receive a gift valued at $100.

Having been a key player in the wedding planning process for many couples, Sharkey's main advice is to get started early. She suggests a year as a good timeframe.

"If they allow themselves enough time they'll be able to enjoy the planning much more."

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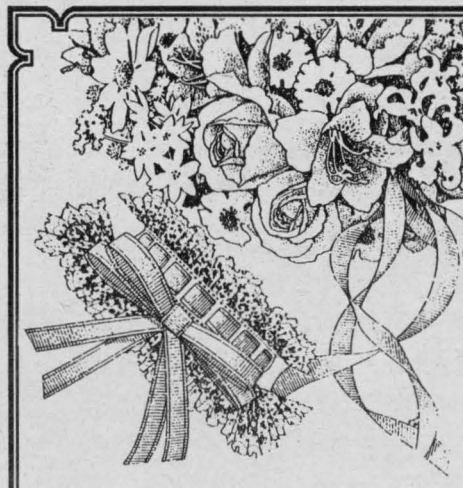

Winchester Bridal Showcase

A special evening is planned at Winchester Community Centre, Winchester
on Tuesday, February 6th
from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
to honor area Brides and Grooms of '96

You are cordially invited to attend. This event is sponsored by Winchester & District COC and is at no charge to you.

Come join us for the displays of:
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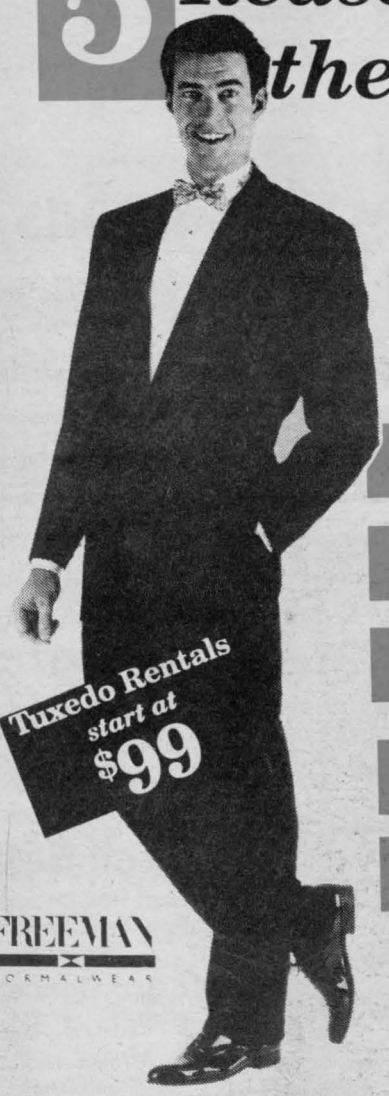
5 Reasons to rent your tuxedo from the Country Boy this year





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