weddings 2018

February 2018

Your local WEDDING PLANNING RESOURCE GUIDE

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Press Photo – Schoch

Nine ways to survive the wedding show circuit

It can be a daunting task for some, but Anne Kotlarchuk, organizer of the annual Bride and Groom Show in Kemptville is here with helpful tips.

• Make a list of the wedding shows available in the next six months. This can be done by typing "Wedding Show Eastern Ontario" into your preferred online search engine. Write down how much each show is to attend, if you need to register and where the show is held. Then decide the ones you can afford. If the show is free, GO! The benefits will far outweigh the time taken to attend.

• In the weeks prior to each event, enter every single draw and contest that each wedding show offers. You will be amazed at what you can win. Not many people enter, especially at smaller shows, so your chances of winning are very high.

• Follow along on the shows social media pages. On Facebook, show that you're interested in attending or that you will be attending. This will automatically set you up for notifications and keep you up to date on what vendors will be in attendance, contests, and more.

• Make a list of wedding resources that you still need to research and bring it with you.

• Take your significant other, if they are as interested and involved as you. Otherwise your Mother or best friend are your ultimate resources!

• If you plan to try on a dress, wear clothing that is easy to change out of and for the sake of the bridal store, don't wear any makeup. They will thank you. Otherwise, bring a silk scarf to put over your head/face, when putting on or taking off the dress.

• Make sure you arrive early, so you have lots of time. Otherwise, go at noon, this tends to be a slower time for most trade shows.

• Find out if the show offers food for sale, or sampling. Bring a snack and bottle of water to keep yourself hydrated and energized.

• Slow down, relax, and enjoy every minute of the planning process. It is a time in your life that you will look back on forever.



On our cover

Featured on our cover is Jared and Brittany McLean who were married on October 14, 2017 at the Lone Star Ranch in Ottawa. Photo courtesy of Tom Schoch, Lil Red Barn Photography.

Living centerpieces set receptions apart

Centerpieces are one aspect of the reception where couples can get creative without breaking the bank. Opting for the following clever living centerpiece alternatives might not only impress guests, but also do so on budget.

• **Choose potted plants.** Potted plants can serve as both favors and reception centerpieces. Live plants also can be an eco-conscious decision for couples who are interested in incorporating "green" elements into their weddings. Couples tying the knot in the autumn can place mums inside of a hollowed pumpkin or gourd. Spring and summer weddings can be enhanced by miniature rose bushes. Winter weddings may be dressed up with small evergreen trees or potted holly.

• **Marine life draws attention.** Couples can opt for inexpensive freshwater fish to add ambiance and a focal point for the reception tables. Small goldfish bowls can be decorated with gravel that matches the color of the wedding theme. One lucky guest at each table can take home the miniature aquarium after the festivities.

• **Butterflies are whimsical.** Some cultures or religions view butterflies as a symbol of endurance, change, hope, and vitality. Incorporating butterflies into reception centerpieces can make guests feel like they are stepping into a living garden. Small, mesh-lined cages filled with foliage and butterflies might add that special touch.

Living centerpieces offer something different from floral centerpieces. However, because live plants and animals may be part of the display, couples need to account for their welfare. This means ensuring they will be cared for after the wedding, or in the event of butterflies, released into the evening sky.



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Press Photos – Schoch

Unconventional wedding menu ideas

Couples are increasingly feeling less beholden to traditional wedding reception menus as they look to infuse their personal tastes into the foods they plan to serve their guests. Many catering managers and chefs welcome the chance to work with couples looking to create unique reception menus.

Bite-sized bursts

Tapas and a movement toward small bites has started to take hold at wedding receptions. Such a choice allows guests to try many different flavors without filling up too quickly. From sliders to mini grilled cheese to soup shots to bite-sized pizzas, many of these small bites feature flavors borrowed from familiar comfort foods — just presented on a miniature scale.

Comfort stations and bars

Couples who love comfort food can put it on display with a crostini station, a mashed potato bar, a chicken and waffles station, a gourmet popcorn snack station, or a ramen noodle bar.

Food trucks/carts

Outdoor weddings can be enhanced with the addition of trendy food trucks. These restaurants on wheels can inject burgers, sandwiches, international delights, crêpes, noodles, and so many more flavors into a wedding.



Taste reigns supreme at weddings featuring creative menus.

High-end options

Couples may want to give guests a taste of the lavish with olive oil and vinegar tasting stations, whiskey bars, French hors d'oeuvres, Kobe beef sliders, lobster tails, risotto stations, and more.

Childhood favorites

When it comes time for dessert, some couples opt to avoid or downplay wedding cakes in favor of something simpler. A cookie-and-milk bar, doughnut holes, soft pretzel stations, pie pops, or dessert shot jars push creativity and sweetness to new levels. Do-it-yourself dessert stations, such as s'more-making and ice cream sundae stations, also can be big hits.



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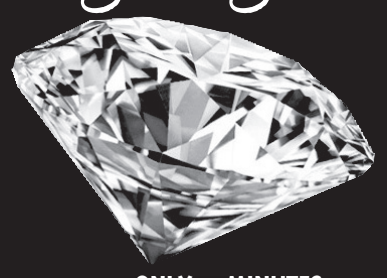

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Kids included!

Wedding ceremony ideas

by Bonnie James, ottawaweddingchapel.org

Sometimes couples have kids before they get married; with each other or from other relationships. When this is the case, the marriage ceremony takes on a whole new dynamic. It may be a blending of families. Aside from the obvious roles of flower girls, ring bearers and junior bridesmaids or groomsmen, there is a ton of other great ways to include the kids.



Take part in the vows

You can mention your children by name in your wedding vows, or even have the officiant address a question to them. For example, "Do you promise to work together and share your love with this new family being created today?"

Token or gift

You can include gifts for the kids in the ceremony to give them something tangible to remember the day and provide a feeling of inclusion. It can be jewellery, a rose, or some other token.

The procession

The kids can walk Mom down the aisle. Add bubble blowers, bell ringers, or sign carriers to the procession.

Signing

In Ontario, the Record of Solemnization is the portion of the marriage licence that you sign and keep after the wedding. (The officiant sends the other signed portion to the government for registration.) It is a keepsake and not a legal document, so it's okay if the kids sign too.

Sand ceremony

At the Ottawa Wedding Chapel, many of our officiants love to use a sand ceremony as a visual representation of the blending of families. Each member of the family has a colour of sand in a container. They slowly pour them into a clear communal container making a colourful final product that can be kept and used to remind the kids of their important place in the family. Just as the grains of sand can never be separated into their individual containers again, so the family will be joined together. This ceremony can also be done using candy if that will keep the kids' attention!

Caution!

Keep in mind short attention spans when planning for kids to take part in your ceremony. Standing up at the front on display for the entire ceremony might be too much for some kids. And the pressure of all those eyes might bring on a bout of shyness.

On the other hand, some kids will go to town once given the spotlight – they might carry on and be disruptive to the remainder of the ceremony. Be sensitive to the personalities of the children… And of nap times – a tired child is often a grumpy child.

Please consult with children before assuming they will want to take part in the ceremony. You don't want them to feel resentful of having to participate. The second marriage of a parent can be an emotional event, even if the child has a good relationship with the incoming stepparent – your child might prefer not to be at the centre of attention as they struggle with the feelings of the day.

By working together with your officiant and consulting with your partner and the kids, you will be able to find a ceremony that will fit your family perfectly.

The Ottawa Wedding Chapel is located at 3249 Yorks Corners Rd. in Kenmore, inside the onetime Baptist church building, built in 1907. For more information, visit www.ottawaweddingchapel.org or call 1-800-545-3681.



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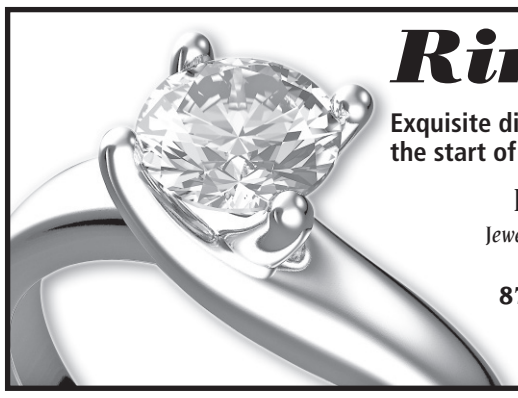

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Lasting impressions

The planning may take months and the wedding mere hours, but beautiful photos of your special day will last forever. Pictured here are Erika Cochrane and Damian Jaquemet who were married Sat., June 3, 2017.

Photo courtesy – Heather Cooke Erwin Photography



Preserving wedding memories

A wedding is a special day that people want to remember forever. Wedding photos and videos are two ways to preserve those cherished memories. The following are more ideas for couples to permanently memorialize their wedding days.

• **Dry the bouquet.** Wedding bouquets can be freeze-dried and/or chemically preserved so that the colors, textures and the volume of the blooms can appear just as vibrant as they were on couples' wedding days.

• **Create a custom locket.** Brides can wear a piece of their wedding gown day after day with a custom necklace or locket. All they need to do is trim a small piece of the lace or other embellishment from the gown and enclose it in the locket.

• **Have guests sign the label.** Purchase a special bottle of wine or champagne and ask guests to sign the label or the bottle itself. Store the bottle until a special occasion then toast to a happy marriage.

• **Make a cake replica.** Ask an artist to make a miniature replica of the wedding cake out of pottery. Put the clay cake out for display or ask for it to be made small enough to serve as a Christmas tree ornament.

• **Teddy bear transformation:** Have tuxedo fabric or wedding gown material turned into a keepsake teddy bear.

• **Create bouquet jewelry.** Encapsulate favorite wedding flowers into a resin pendant, bracelet or earrings.

• **Frame the invitation.** Display the wedding invitation in a beautiful frame with custom matting.

• **Revisit the site.** On their anniversaries, couples can visit their ceremony site or have brunch or dinner at the venue where the reception took place. Take an "after" picture to display with the "before" shot from the wedding day.

• **Design a greeting card scrapbook**. Turn all of those special handwritten messages and well-wishes into a scrapbook so that memories can be revisited time and again.



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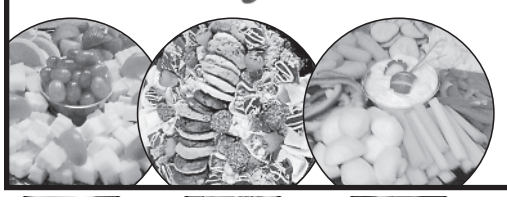

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So you're getting married. But where? At home or abroad?

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Here's a snapshot of things to consider:

• Winchester Travel handles three to six destination weddings per year.

• This year, four have been booked, including that of Shortt's daughter, Carly, who was recently married at the Bavaro Princess in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

• When you compare Stats Canada's average cost of a wedding here in Canada of $31,000 for a one-day event to a full week on a beach, it is an easy choice, Shortt said.

• Heading elsewhere to be married becomes a week-long wedding reception that starts on the plane leaving Canada.

• More and more hotels offer weddings, but Winchester Travel, Shortt noted, is focused on some of the most beautiful wedding locations in the Caribbean.

• All hotels will have wedding planners who are the main contact between the resort and the couple getting married, offering assistance with everything they may need.

• Weddings can accommodate between 10 and, as has been the case with Winchester Travel, upwards of 90 guests, Shortt said.

• Keep in mind that each country will have different rules and laws.

• Winchester Travel has become a specialist in handling group travel.

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Website dos & don'ts

Technology continues to infiltrate all areas of life. So it should come as no surprise that apps and digital organization play a prominent role in many couples' weddings. Couples may now feel it is necessary to design a wedding website to keep their guests up-to-date.

Though they're useful when planning a wedding, websites are not a must-have, according to bridal etiquette experts. However, those who choose to delve into the world of wedding websites can keep these pointers in mind when navigating.

DO use the wedding website as a central hub for putting pertinent information about the wedding that may not be covered on invitations or save-the-date cards.

DON'T ignore the potential for identity theft and privacy. Wedding websites can put quite a deal of personal information out for public consumption. Not only will the website advertise when the wedding takes place (when your home and the homes of all your guests will be empty), but also it could include birthdays, maiden names, and other information that would normally be more difficult to track down.

DO use a wedding website provider that gives you the option to password protect your website. Urge guests not to share this protected information with others.

DON'T caption engagement photos, bachelorette party photos, and more with dates and names on the wedding website and on other social media.

DO skip the wedding website if you are strongly opposed to it. When properly composed, a wedding invitation will convey all the pertinent details. A group email or phone calls can alert guests to any changes after the fact.

DON'T forget to link to gift registries.

DO use the wedding website to collect responses and then make a table seating arrangement online. This will help you stay more organized and streamlined.

Wedding Announcements



Richer - Prescott

Melanie Prescott and Daniel Richer were united in marriage on June 24, 2017 at Russell United Church. Melanie is the daughter of Doris and the late Clarence Prescott. The happy couple reside in Ottawa.



Vojinovic - Shortt

Bev and Owen Shortt are proud to announce the marriage of their daughter Carly, to Ivan Vojinovic. The ceremony took place January 30, 2018 on Bavaro Beach in Punta Cana. The evening beach reception was highlighted by a full blue moon. The happy couple reside in Riverside South.

PS: Carly says, "Thanks Winchester Travel for making it a stress-free wedding!"

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Forthcoming Marriages



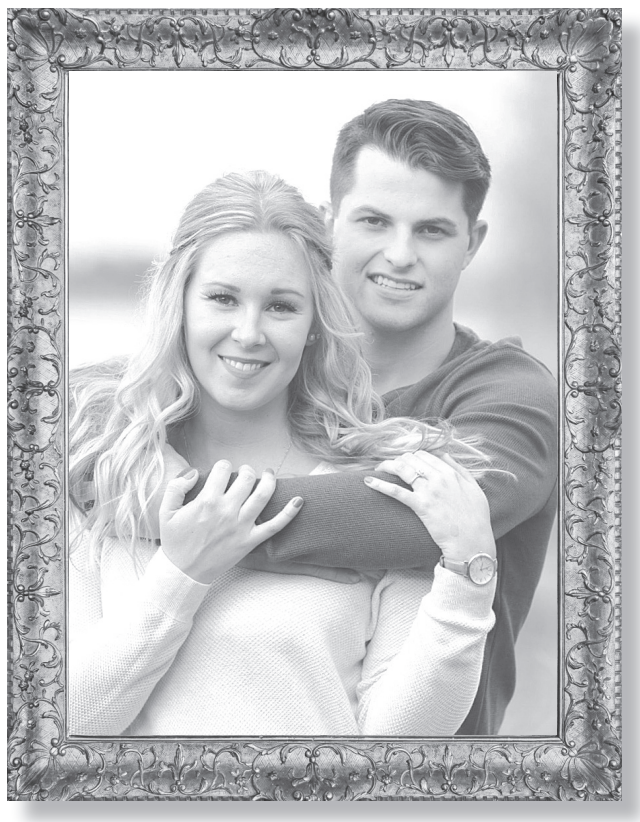
McMillan - Havekes

Kiersti, daughter of Larry and Melisse McMillan from Morewood, and Parker, son of John and Joanne Havekes of Mountain are very happy to announce their upcoming marriage on July 21, 2018 at the home of the groom's family farm.



Griffith - Chaput

Madison & Adriaan are proud to announce that their Mom Tina Griffith was engaged to Stéphane Chaput on July 30, 2017 in Ottawa. Proud parents are Linda Carmichael and André & Hélène Chaput all of Russell.



Barrette - Kirkwood

Lesley Bolton from Kemptville and Luc Barrette from Oxford Mills, and Lynn and Todd Kirkwood from Winchester Springs are proud to announce the engagement of their children, Makayla Barrette and Mitchell Kirkwood. The wedding is to take place on Sat., July 7, 2018 at the groom's parents' home.

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Forthcoming Marriages



Wickwire - Pilon

John and Kim Pilon of Winchester are pleased to announce the engagement of their son Steven to Amelia Wickwire daughter of Tom and Rose Wickwire of Brinston. The wedding is planned for June 9, 2018 at Saunder's Farm in Munster, Ontario



Cooper - Moss

Kathy and Steven Cooper of Winchester are very excited to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Brittany Lynn to Joel Moss, son of Normand and Adele Moss of Russell. The wedding will take place on June 29, 2018 at Bean Town Ranch in Plantagenet. Brittany and Joel currently reside in Findlay Creek. Brittany works at the Ottawa Airport as a pre-board screening officer and Joel works at the Ottawa Livestock Exchange, as well as helping out on the family farm. A Stag and Doe will be held on May 26, 2018 at 8:00 pm at the Joel Steele Community Centre in Winchester. Tickets $10 each in advance or $15 at the door.

Come on out to the Stag and Doe and help us celebrate with the soon-to-be newlyweds.

Did you know?

Since Ancient Roman times, June has been a popular month for couples to tie the knot. The month's namesake, the goddess Juno, was said to be the protector of women in every aspect, but most notably in regard to marriage and childbearing. Therefore, it made sense to get married and take the first step toward creating a family in June. For practical reasons, June also has been a prime month for marriage because the month is neither especially hot nor especially cold in many areas of the world.

While June is a still a popular month to get married, the wedding resource The Knot indicates that autumn, in particular the months of September and October, has overtaken summer as the most popular wedding season. Warmer-than-average temperatures in autumn over the last few years as well as a dazzling display of natural color help make the fall a popular time for nuptials. Interestingly enough, perhaps due to a slightly cooler climate, a 2015 survey from *Wedding Bells* found August to be the most popular month to get married in Canada, and that 67 percent of weddings in Canada that year occurred between June and September.

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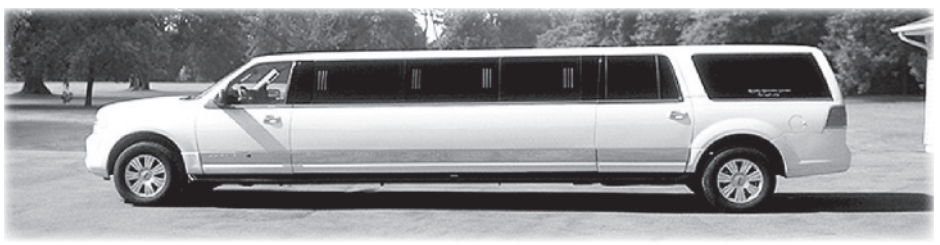

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Should I DIY my wedding?

by Bonnie James, ottawaweddingchapel.org





Planning for summer and fall weddings is in full swing.

Brides (and grooms) are deciding on colours, themes, venues, officiants, invitations, table centrepieces, favours, and more! And more importantly, they are deciding which wedding projects they want to tackle themselves. The do-it-yourself movement is huge in the world of weddings.

The Internet is full of wedding décor inspiration – much of it handmade. Hit a few blogs or magazine sites and you'll see stunning, Pinterest-worthy projects. Even the least crafty soul will want to run for the burlap ribbon and scissors.

If you are thinking about a do-it-yourself wedding, here are some things to consider.

Consider why

Why do you want to DIY? Is it because you're on a budget and want to save some coin? You love to craft? You think you can't get your signature look any other way? Whatever the motivation, make sure you achieve your desired end result. Preparing for your wedding should be enjoyable and satisfying, so if the headaches and stress of DIY are going to outweigh the positives, step away from the glue gun!

Time

Make sure to leave yourself enough time to accomplish these do-it-yourself tasks. Depending on the number of DIY projects and their complexity, the time investment could be significant. If you don't have a lot of free hours in your regular schedule, DIY may not be for you. Brides who are crafting paper flowers or decorating their own wedding cake shaped cookie favours the night before their nuptials are, for the most part, grouchy brides. If you are a natural procrastinator, this can add an extra layer of stress to your wedding preparations. So, start early, like now, for next summer.

Don't overestimate your abilities

If you're not a crafty person, don't expect to become one overnight. Some projects are tougher than others. Take a look at www.pinterestfail.com to see just how wrong things can go! That's not to say that you shouldn't try, but choose one or two wedding projects you think you can realistically accomplish.

Support team

It's a great idea to have back-up. If your bridal party is full of competent crafty folks, by all means, throw some wedding bee nights and work together on your handmade invitations or wedding favours. It's a great way to build anticipation for the big day and bond with your best girls/guys. Remember though, some bridesmaids are just better at "tying one on" than tying bows!

DIY projects can be a great way to involve people outside of the bridal party as well. When you can't have all your friends and family in your wedding party, you might be able to find special projects or tasks that will make them feel included. Make sure it's a job that's suited to them!

Expense

Just because you're making it yourself, doesn't make it less expensive. If you don't already have some of the tools and supplies, you can quickly rack up a big bill at your favourite craft shop. Consider your finances and the raw materials you may already have access to. Maybe you have a rural connection that can supply some rustic wood. Perhaps you have a stash of empty mason jars. You could save soup cans and spray paint them gold or plant succulents in cheap thrift store teacups. The best way to save money is to use what you've got or source some of the raw materials from your circle of friends.

Capitalize on the work of others

Your local Facebook wedding groups and Kijiji ads are full of the homemade props and décor of brides whose weddings have come and gone. Sometimes they are great deals. Keep an open mind when viewing these sorts of items. Even if they don't match your colours or aesthetic exactly, think about how you could adapt or revamp them to suit your needs.

If you've considered all the facets of a DIY wedding, and still think it's the right move for you, good luck with your crafting! Enjoy creating something special and personalized that's just for your unique day.

The Ottawa Wedding Chapel is located at 3249 Yorks Corners Rd. in Kenmore, inside the onetime Baptist church building, built in 1907. For more information, visit www.ottawaweddingchapel.org or call 1-800-545-3681.

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Theme weddings:
Yay or nay?

by Bonnie James, ottawaweddingchapel.org

It can be great fun to run with a theme. From attire to decorations to food and favours, some motifs lend themselves to all aspects of your wedding planning. And yes, finding the perfect cake topper to complement your theme may be cause for a small celebration. If you are someone who enjoys the planning, a theme can seem like a good idea.

The officiants at All Seasons Weddings have seen and done it all – including many theme weddings. Officiants have dressed up as wizards, Santa, and a Star Trek officer just to name a few. They have also presided over ceremonies in some unique and sometimes challenging locations, including a baseball diamond, a roller coaster platform at Canada's Wonderland, and at the end of a muddy all-terrain vehicle trail.

If you're considering a theme wedding, whether it be *Harry Potter*, Day of the Dead, *The Great Gatsby*, or something else that catches your fancy, here are some things to think about.



Country and rustic-themed weddings have never been more popular.

Don't be upset if your guests don't play along

If you are having hundreds of guests, they won't all want to play your game. Some of them will just politely decline to dress up or get involved themselves. Others may just be puzzled by the whole thing – especially if your theme is drawn from current pop culture. Maybe Grandma hasn't read *Harry Potter*.

Remember the photos last a long time

While not as permanent as a tattoo, wedding photos have a way of sticking around. If you think you might ever get tired of explaining your wedding theme to curious relatives, or your kids, or grandkids, every time someone throws back to your big date on social media, maybe a theme wedding isn't for you.

It's better if it means something

A wedding theme should speak about your personality or your love story in some way. Maybe you both really love *Game of Thrones*. Is that enough to remind you in 25-years why you were wearing fur and chewing on a turkey leg with your direwolf by your side during your wedding reception? It has to mean something.

Baseball makes sense if you met playing on a beer league team and bonded over your favourite pro team. Maybe all your dates were to superhero movies and your guests will know that you have both dressed as superheroes at Halloween since you were little.

Maybe you are both world travellers with a bucket list of destinations you plan to visit together. Pull an element from your real life and go with it.

Make sure you have an officiant who is on board

While some officiants will be excited to dress up or change the ceremony wording to support your theme, others may not be comfortable doing so. These are questions you want to ask before putting down your deposit.

Don't get carried away

Those "have to have" extras that match your theme might seem like a good idea at the time of purchase, but have a way of adding up. Do you really need those *Cinderella* carriage table number holders or the fairy wings for the flower girl? Pick a couple of theme elements that won't break the bank.

Sometimes less is more

A theme can quickly become overwhelming. Your guests may appreciate small nods to your motif, such as a creative line or two in your ceremony or a particular style of cake or hair accessory, more than a full-blown Tim Burton-esque fantasy world.

Your theme can be fun!

After perusing the pages of bridal magazines and blogs you might start to think that weddings with themes are the norm. Phrases like "*Wizard of Oz*-inspired nuptials," "whimsical *Cinderella* scene," and "opulent 1940s styled wedding" abound. Don't stress. Many amazing weddings take place without a theme. Focus on friends, family, food, and your day will be memorable and fabulous.

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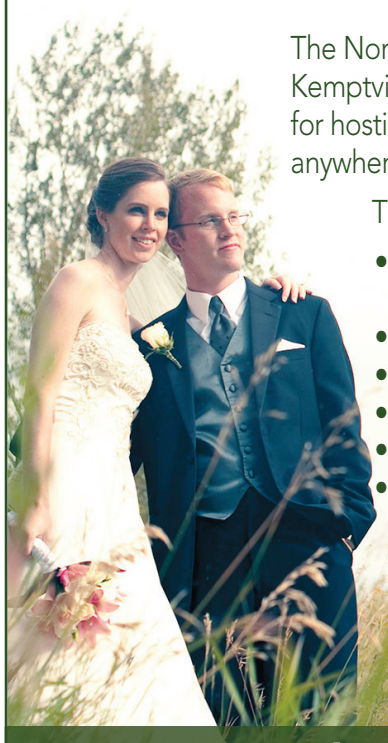

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