Fall & Winter Bridal Showcase



Photo by Johnston

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Thank everyone who helped to make your wedding day truly special for you

In the weeks prior to the actual wedding ceremony, the bride's house will start to look like it does at Christmas.

Packages and boxes of all shapes and sizes from various guests and well wishers will be arriving daily. In this time of excitement, organization is needed to keep track of who sent what gift.

One of the most important tasks that the bridal couple must complete is the over-whelming job of writing thank-you notes to all who sent gifts.

Wedding gifts are given to both the bride and the groom. When writing a thank-you note, be sure the signature reflects both of them. Writing the thank yous is not just the task of the bride, so be sure to put the groom to work helping as well. One idea is for the groom to write to his friends and the bride to hers. It is fine to sign only one name, so long as the writer says, for example, "Ted and I thank you for the wonderful toaster."

Make sure the gift is specifically mentioned in the note, keeping in mind that monetary gifts should never be referred to by dollar amount. A guest should be able to see that the couple appreciated, as well as remembered the gift that was given to them.

The note should say exactly how the gift will be used. Additionally, if the gift needed to be returned, either because it was a duplicate or it simply could not be used, never inform the sender, a simple thank you is sufficient.

Be prompt in sending thank you notes. Although it is perfectly acceptable to send thank you notes up to there months after the wedding, couples should start writing before the wedding for gifts that were received in advance. This eliminates a lot of work and informs guests that their gifts got to the couple safely and were not lost in transit.

Finally, couples should share any special memories they have of their guests from the wedding.



Forthcoming Marriage

Dennis & Linda Whitteker and the late Larry Dowell of Morrisburg wish to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter ***Melissa to Donnie***, son of the late Ronnie & Doreen Summers of Chesterville. The wedding will take place on Friday, September 18, 1998 at 6 p.m. at the Trinity United Church in Chesterville. Open reception to follow at the Faucet in Chesterville.

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Chieftain photo by S.L.Johnston

A wedding can be stressful

As anyone who has been married can tell you, the months leading up to a wedding day can be a time of stress as well as happiness. There is so much to think about...so much to do!

You need to find ceremony and reception sites, choose just the right clothes to make your day perfect, those sometimes touchy decisions about who will be in your wedding and what role they will play, where will you live after the wedding, and then there is the look into the future about what lies down the road for you and your partner...and then those nagging doubts about whether you should be getting married at all!

While wedding jitters are about as common as weddings, there are no sure fire ways to make certain the anxiety does not get out of hand.

BRIDE"S MAGAZINE has some timely tips to assist with these pre-wedding jitters:

* Do not be afraid to admit you are upset. Share with your partner what is bothering you, whether it is a serious question about your relationship or a relatively trivial such as getting overly irritated at a late train, or a run in your stockings.

* Take positive action whenever possible; sign up for a pre-marital workshop. Practise reciting your vows in front of a willing friend. This is true especially if you write your own vows...do not try to recall what you wrote without first going over them numerous times.

* Share the wedding responsibilities. If you are the bride do not assume you have to do everything yourself. The idea is old fashioned and very exhausting. Ask your fiance to join you in picking out a catering hall and registering for gifts. He can write some of the thank you notes, handle all the honeymoon arrangements.

* Keep a calendar of everything you have to do. This kind of master plan gives you the secure feeling that you are not going to forget any detail no matter how small or critical.



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Personalize your day with creative ideas



Church always popular for traditional weddings.

Chieftain photo by S.L.Johnston

To turn your wedding ceremony into an occasion that says "you," Bride's magazine offers some memorable ideas for personalizing your special day.

As the guests arrive, set the mood with a unique musical prelude of popular songs or classics that you both have chosen.

Greet your groom at the altar with a boutonnière from your own bouquet. (Your florist can wire it in specially.) Slip the boutonnière into your groom's lapel after your father has escorted you to your place.

Also, before the saying of your vows, have the people close to you perform readings.

Brothers, sisters, or attendants might speak on aspects of marriage which they feel are important—friends and family, for instance—or offer Bible passages.

Traditional vows are beautiful. However, words you've written yourselves may hold special meaning.

Get inspiration on what to say to one another from poems or love songs, or see your minister, priest, or rabbi—he or she is often the best source of ideas.

After you have become husband and wife, spend a few minutes alone together, either in a quiet corner of the church or in the car on the way to the reception.

You'll want a peaceful moment to reflect on your new married life before all your guests surround you with their good wishes.



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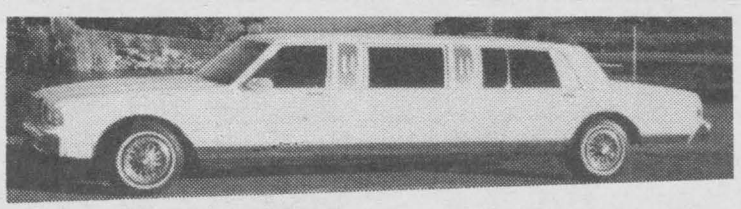
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Photo by Johnston.

Today, I marry my best friend...

Spice up guests memories with different party favours

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

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

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

While there is nothing wrong with giving flower vases, some couples want to give something a little more unusual.

Creative favours do not necessarily mean expensive favours. There are plenty out there that you and your guests will enjoy and surprisingly cost very little.

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

Following are some items that your guests will enjoy and will not be too expensive either.

* 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.

* Live seedlings ready for planting that can grow strong and last for many years to come. These favours allow you to share your love with a gift that grows. Aside from being unique, these favours help give something back to nature.

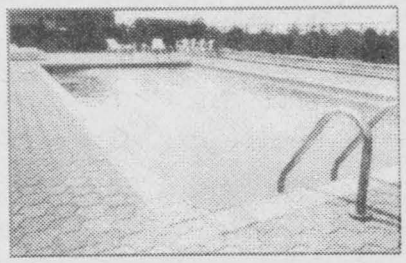
* Small fishbowls filled with live goldfish. These pets make a great gift for guests to take home to the kids and hopefully, can ensure that people will not put it on a shelf and forget about it. Every time they look at the fish, they will be reminded of your wedding.

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Don't miss a moment

More than 25 million 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 remembered their own wedding! That is 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, the Eastman Kodak Company offers some tips that may well be just what are needed.

* 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 throw-away cameras and encourage them to snap away.
* Bridal Shower blues- Sure, the bridal shower is fun, but what's a girl to do when it is time to send out those Thank You notes and she can't recall which guest gave which crystal wine decanter? As each gift is opened, have the maid of honour snap a shot of the bride with the gift and the guest who gave it to her. There will be no gift confusion, it is 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 user cameras on tables and invite guests to capture candid moments.
* Keep your photos organized-It is always important to keep your photos organized and in a safe place, but people often forget about storing their negatives. Then, they want to make reprints and the process is a nightmare! Realize what will work for you and do it.
* The honeymoon does not have to end!- Make your wedding day live on by using photos creatively. There are dozens of great ways to use the pictures guest take with their one timers. Consider using them as thank you notes, for scrapbooks and for decorating your home.
* Display your photos for a lifetime of memories. Do not settle for one album, frame your wedding photos, so they can be viewed at all times. Friends and family will love receiving framed enlargements of special wedding photos that include them.



Forthcoming Marriage

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Sandy & Verna Gibson of R.R.#2 Iroquois are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their youngest daughter ***Shelley to James,*** son of Alan & Marilyn Byers of Morrisburg. Their marriage will take place October 3, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. at the Iroquois United Church, Iroquois, Ontario.

Photo Credit: Wayne Laprade



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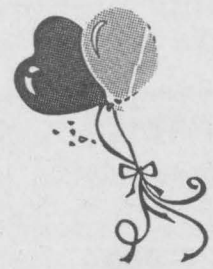
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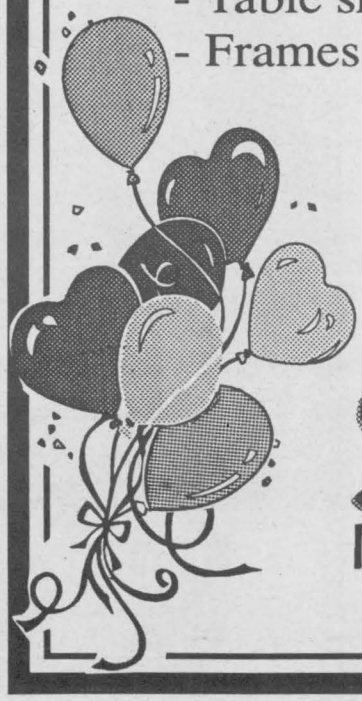
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Wedding days today are being reinvented and redefined

If you are a bride-to-be, the way you plan your wedding may affect future traditions for centuries to come. The reason? Weddings are being reinvented and redefined now. While some engaged couples enjoy consulting books of etiquette either for fun or to follow to the letter, many insist on creating a unique wedding that expresses what's special about their union.

Vows you can live by

One of the most common innovations is altering or rewriting the wedding vows. Some modern women think the part that goes "love, honor and obey" sounds more like a doggie training school oath than a wedding ceremony. Others object to "I now pronounce you man and wife" instead of "husband and wife" or "wife and husband." in the twentieth century, a bride should no more have to choke out something objectionable than she should have to marry someone not of her choosing.

On the other hand, the old-fashioned vows do have some charming attributes. For example, nothing is more intimate than the outmoded use of the second person singular, as in "with this ring, I thee wed." These days, 'thee' is strictly reserved for God and one's betrothed.

Not-so-traditional gown

Not every woman looks good in white and therefore some choose an off-white or light pink or an even less traditional color for their gowns. After all, the object is to be beautiful. One bride who had lovely legs comes to mind. She wore the traditional white veil and white satin bodice, but the gown' stopped at her hips and flared out into a tulle tutu. She was stunning. Another reason for taking up the hem is that floor-length gowns were designed for graceful dances such as the waltz. Few people waltz nowadays and those massive skirts look awkward jiggling about to modern music.

Even the food and drink served at receptions are undergoing scrutiny. Some couples, who have observed one too many scenes made by drunken relatives at other peoples' weddings, eliminate the possibility by not serving alcohol. And, the thought of guests driving home drunk is an added worry the already nervous couple doesn't need.

Setting trends

When divorced or widowed couples wed, including their children in the ceremony is often a positive start in establishing good 'step' relationships what roles the children will assume is a wide open field waiting to be sown with the seeds of tradition. Your new idea today may become the norm for second weddings in a hundred years.

However you plan your wedding, this time in history allows you to be the director with full creative freedom. And it can't get bad reviews. The only requirement is that the players enjoy themselves.

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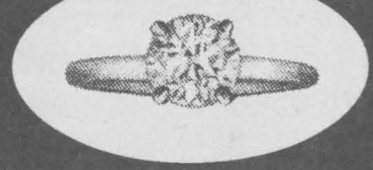


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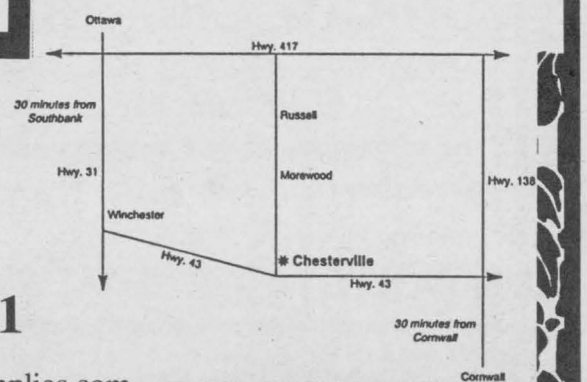
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