Spring Bridal Showcase



Photo by: Sandra Lee Johnston

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Weddings are undergoing changes



Heading out on marriage trek, hand in hand.
Johnston Photo

Fake cakes are less popular this year as more people are opting for simple, edible cakes often with fresh flowers for decoration.

Fruit cakes are not as common as perviously and many couples are choosing different flavours of cake for each layer.

Rings:

Solitaries are still hanging in there and it is becoming trendy to take heirloom rings and have them redesigned or have the rings completely made to specific ideas the bride or groom may have.

While fifty per cent of all brides still take their husband's name. Of those who do not, a greater per centage hyphenate the names.

Gifts:

There is a move to the monetary from material items. Since couples are often on their own before marrying, they do not need the traditional appliances and such. Money is a safe alternative and the guidelines suggest an amount that reflects the cost to attend the wedding.

Honeymoon:

Where the bride and groom used to leave before their guests, nowadays, they are the last to leave the reception. They do not rush off and honeymoons are not gone on until a few days after the actual wedding. Honeymoon destinations vary from the sunny south to the mountains of the Laurentians, from surfing to skiing.

Out:

No more glass tinkling to get the happy couple to kiss. Now the fashion seems to be announcing rules and the master of ceremony will enlighten the guests, on what is deemed appropriate to get that kiss, from singing a song with love in it to poems or jokes, or something about the bride or groom that might embarrass them, depending upon how well the guests know them.

Appearel:

Blue is big this year in wedding parties, navy to be exact and it is often being teamed with gold, according to Brides magazines. As well muted tones of brown, green and grape are on the rise. Bridesmaids dresses are not necessarily the same style dress, but often the same colour.

Gender no longer dictates. Grooms have their sisters and female friends stand up for them on their side of the party and likewise, the brides now have their brothers and male friends on their side. Most common in second marriages children of either the bride or the groom take part in the wedding.

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Many bridal superstitions are known around the world

Bridal superstitions are as old as time. Every country in the world has its own particular favorites. More myths surround the bride than any other aspect of the wedding ceremony, most of them to ensure the lady has a long and happy marriage.

Here are some of the known and not-so-well-known superstitions.

The little verse....something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.....deals with the bride's ensemble. The something old should be her shoes or handkerchief, the new and borrowed have no stipulations but the blue should be sky-blue, the color of the heavens.

The bridal gown should be white denoting purity, and the wearing of her mother's dress will ensure good fortune for the bride. Colored dresses should be reserved for the bridesmaids, preferably blue, pink or gold. Colors to avoid are red -a short life- green -jealousy (unless you are Irish)- and materials to avoid are satin, which is unlucky, and velvet, which denotes poverty.

The dress should preferably be made of silk with no designs, especially birds which are unlucky and...heaven forbid...vines which signify death. If the bride makes her own dress or tries on the whole ensemble before her wedding day then she will be unhappy.

To avoid this, many brides-to-be leave off a part of their outfit when having a fitting. To ensure the ceremony goes off according to plan, it is said that a last stitch should be put in the dress as the bride is leaving for the church.

The veil was introduced to hide the bride's face until she was safely in church and in the care of her husband in case the evil spirits tried to snatch her away.

The bride's bouquet is to ensure a happy marriage as the flower symbolizes sex and fertility.

On the way to the church it is unlucky for the bride to meet a policeman, a physician, a lawyer, a priest or a blind man and on arrival the bridal party should always enter by the door they intend to leave.

After the ceremony it is unlucky for the bride to see a pig or a funeral party, but black cats, chimney sweeps and elephants are good omens.

Throwing rice or confetti on the happy couple will ensure fertility, which is also the reason behind the wedding gifts.

Finally, the bride must always be carried across the threshold of her new home in order to stave off bad luck.

It is interesting to note that there are no superstitions surrounding the groom which is possibly why, when a marriage fails, the man is always quick to blame his wife.....for not following all of the above perhaps?



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Something old and something new

Grooms are becoming more involved in the planning of their wedding day than ever before.

As we head to the new millennium, the groom is taking an ever more active part in his wedding day . Now, the blushing bride is not the only consideration when it comes to what? When? Where? and How/ of the big day. Grooms today want their share of the decisions. The days of only brides, brides and their moms, or brides and their girlfriends making the plans are one, move over, gals, the guys are moving in.

And this seems only fair, since many weddings are using grooms finances as well. The days when the bride's family footed the entire wedding bill are over. Modern couples are marrying later in life. They go to school,repay loans and establish a career before taking the step into marriage. Thus, they are typically older and usually working and so are able to relieve their parents of the excessive cost burden that a wedding can incur. This shift is creating a change in what shape weddings take. Those footing the bills are also making the decisions, a freedom that allows weddings to take twists on traditional happenings, some that might be for the better...

Gone are the traditional aspects of the wedding, like the white gowns...and in come garish gowns, bright colours and themes, where respectability for taste and common items prevail, a western wedding complete with leather fringes, cowboy boots and hats are taking place. Hundreds of guests and elaborate feasts are being traded for intimate settings, personal ceremonies and receptions that suit the couple being married. There may be several reasons for such moves; the couple may be stretched financially and yet want to pay the shot, it may be that simplicity just happens to suit the couple, or it may well be a second wedding for one or both partners. Choice is the word and the couple have all the freedom in the world to choose what they want.



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Planning is the key to accomplish everything on time

It is your wedding, and there is so much to do and so little time to accomplish it all. Not only do you have to find the perfect dress, the one you have dreamed of and that will transform you into the bride of your dreams. Then, there is the reception to plan, a photographer to choose and let's not forget those well meaning, but often meddlesome relatives who need to be handled with kit gloves. Your heart is telling you to savour every minute of the next few months, but your splitting headache is saying something else.

Before you allow another negative thought to spoil this special time for you, consider...work is required to pull off the wedding of your dreams, but where is it written that it cannot be fun?

Some suggestions from Canadian Brides magazine will get you on the wedding planning "fun track."

1) The average wedding can take close to 200 hours to plan. If you and your fiance, your two mothers and whomever else has offered to assist feel that there is just no way you can do it all and retain your sanity, don't be afraid to hire a bridal consultant or planner.

There are options here as well; you can hire someone who will handle some of the details, like the flowers and hiring the caterer or you can do all the planning and just hire someone for the wedding day to take care of the details so you have little else on your day but to enjoy the event.

2) Imagine the fun you'll have picking out the china, linens, glassware and various pother items you will need to establish a new home. Now consider the added pleasure of knowing that you do not have to pay for these wondrous items. That is what "Bridal Registries" are for. Invite your groom to spend a day with you as you make those special selections at your favourite stores. Everyone will indeed thank you since it makes their shopping choices that much easier.

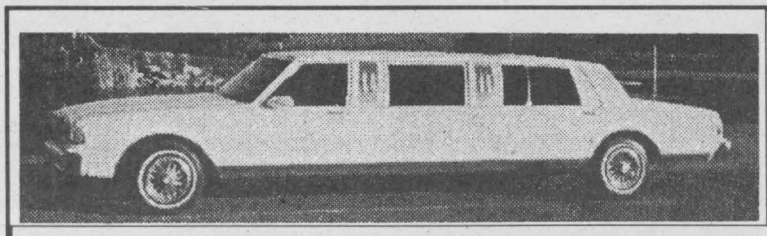
3) Have a luncheon for some of your married girl-friends. Ask them to come equipped with names and numbers of florists, caterers and other professionals who helped to make their wedding day a success. Those ladies who have been through the rigors of wedding planning have wonderful advice for sharing with you and they enjoy reliving their experiences with you.

4) Make a point of stopping by florists shops on a regular basis. Buy yourself a small bouquet of different flowers each time you do. Not only will it provide time to stop and smell the roses, but you will discover new kinds of posies and begin to realize which you are really drawn to and which you only thought you really liked.

5) Treat yourself to a day of beauty at your favourite salon. Invite your mom and new mother-in-law to be along. Have the experts do a trial beauty run on all of you. From hair to make-up and nails, you should not wait until your wedding day to find out what looks best on you, and besides a little pampering will not hurt right about now?

6)Keep a diary devoted to this special time. Write in it every night. Jot down all those things that you love about the man who will become your husband. Dream of your future and celebrate your love on paper. This is not just a keepsake, it can also serve as a reminder you are lucky to be marrying such a wonderful fellow. This will keep your feet on the ground as well as things start to overwhelm you.

7) If finally deciding on a honeymoon location is getting you down, try those travel videos available at most outlets. Through the magic of your own television screen you both can savour the romantic attractions of Italy, Mexico or the Caribbean without leaving the comfort of your living room. You are bound to come up with a destination you both agree is perfect.



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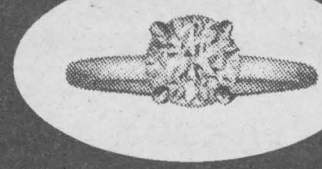

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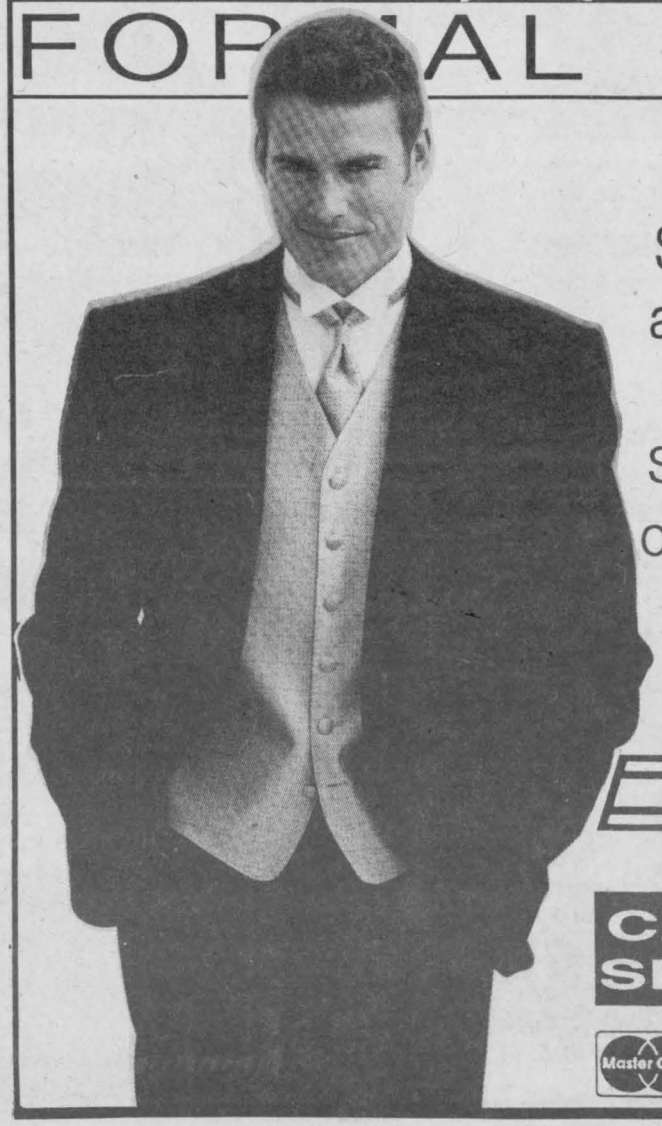

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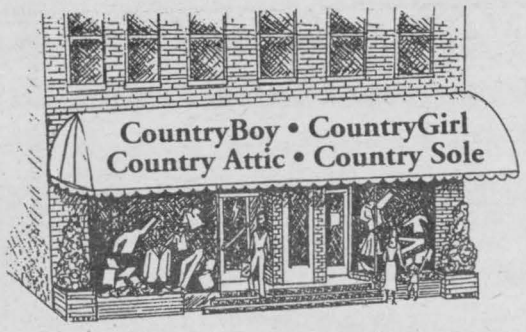

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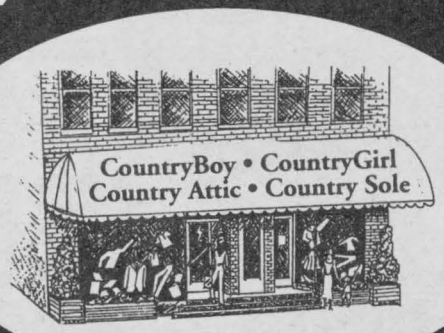

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