A Beautiful Beginning



Tradition still plays large role in wedding ceremony

One of your most important considerations is what you will wear on the day of your marriage. Despite a wide range of choices as to material and style, the type of wedding you are planning specifically dictates the type of dress you and your party should wear.

If you are a formal bride wear a long gown with a train and a veil (most often long but can be short - i.e. shoulder length). Your dress and veil are white or ivory. Shoes match the dress; your nylons are pale but not white. The time of day of the ceremony will suggest the length of the gown's sleeves and the length of the white gloves will vary accordingly.

The attendants to the formal bride wear long dresses in pastel colors. Shoes, headpiece and gloves match or blend with the dress. The bridesmaids' dresses may be all one color or different colors. The dress of your maid of honor, however, must be a different color from any worn by the bridesmaids. The length of glove is determined by those worn by the bride.

If you are to be a semi-formal bride wear a long dress with no train, even a ballet or street-length dress. Your veil is short and bouquet less elaborate. Attendants will wear dresses styled after the bride's gown as to the degree of formality.

If your wedding is to be informal wear a street length dress in a pastel shade. Rather than a veil wear an attractive but small hat. Flowers will consist of a corsage while gloves and shoes will be matched but more casual than formal.

The informal bride usually has one attendant whose dress is slightly darker than the bride's. Again flowers consist of a corsage. Both you and your attendants should use jewellery sparingly.

SEATING

The ushers are the first to arrive at the church - usually forty-five minutes before the ceremony begins.

Have your organist there approximately thirty minutes beforehand to play soft music as the guests are seated.

The groom arrives fifteen minutes before the ceremony. The parents of the groom will be seated approximately ten minutes before the ceremony and finally the mother of the bride will be seated five minutes before the ceremony. The usher will seat no one after the mother of the bride has been escorted to her seat. Latecomers must seat themselves quietly in the back of the church.

Proper seating has the friends and relatives of the bride on the left side of the church and those of the groom on the right side of the church. Women are escorted singly down by the aisle by the usher followed by the man partner if any. When several women arrive each is seated separately with the oldest being seated first.

The parents of the groom sit in the right front pew. The bride's mother is seated in the left front pew. If either the bride or the groom's guests outnumber those of the other the ushers should be instructed to balance the guests on each side of the church by asking the arriving guests for their help in doing so.

THE PROCESSION

When the bride indicates she is ready the procession begins. The ushers come first walking in pairs with a distance of at least three church pews between them.

The bridesmaids follow walking two by two. The maid of honor follows alone. The flower girl follows the maid of honor and the bride comes last, on her father's right arm.

The groom and best man await the bride at the right side of the aisle in the front of the church.

FORMATION DURING CEREMONY

When the procession reaches the front of the church the ushers move to the right of the groom. The bridesmaids move to the extreme left followed by the flower girl. The maid of honor moves to the bride's immediate left.

The father gives the bride to the groom who now stands immediately on the bride's right. The father then stands behind the bride until he responds to the question "Who giveth this woman?" Then he joins the bride's mother in the left front pew.

On completion of the actual wedding ceremony the minister leads the bride and groom to the vestry for the signing of the register. The maid of honor follows escorted by the best man and in turn the bridesmaids follow escorted each by an usher.

THE RECESSION

Once the register is signed the bride and groom reappear to the sound of joyful music to lead the procession back down the aisle. The bride and groom are followed by the flower girl, the maid of honor and her escort the best man, then the bridesmaids and ushers and finally the bride's mother and father followed by the groom's mother and father.

THE RECEPTION

Your reception will likely be held immediately following the ceremony. When the guests arrive at the reception they are greeted, in turn, by the bride's mother, the groom's father, groom's mother, the bride's father, the bride and groom, the maid of honor, the bridesmaids and the flower girl. The best man and the ushers attend the arriving guests to help with coats, seating and any other duties to ensure the comfort of your guests.

The reception dinner can either be a sit-down meal, or a buffet. In any case there must be at least a punch to toast the bride and the traditional wedding cake. Whatever type of dinner is arranged the food is served and eaten prior to the toasts.

Just prior to the toasts, however, the cake is cut. The groom stands at the bride's right.



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Speed replacing formality in receiving line

Tradition plays no better part than at the reception where, if the established order is used, the events go smoothly and enjoyably.

The line-up

The point of the receiving line, according to Drusilla Beyfus in The Bride's Book, is to enable the bridal party to greet all the guests and to make introductions to new members of the family.

The line-up is usually composed of the following people in this order: the bride's mother and father, the bridegroom's mother and father, the bride and groom, the bridal attendants.

One drawback to this line-up is that it lacks spontaneity and that the hand-shaking and kissing holds up the flow of the party. Widely practiced now are shorter lines, sometimes without the attendants and sometimes with just the bride and groom themselves receiving guests on their own.

After guests have been greeted the next step is for the couple to circulate among the guests, trying not to overlook anyone who might feel like an outsider.

The cake-cutting

The cake-cutting ceremony takes place immediately before the toasts and the speeches. The bride and groom cut the first slice of the wedding cake, which infolklore is a symbol of fruitfulness and fertility.

The cake is then cut up during the speechmaking and handed round after the last joke.

The toasts

After the cake is cut and the food has been served, and after the glasses have been replenished, the toasts are proposed.

The bride's father or the best man or a close friend proposes a toast to the health of the couple with the words "to the bride and groom" or, more informally, 'to Marie and Tim'. Glasses are raised and the contents sipped.

The speech that follows can be brief and usually recalls incidents, anecdotes relating to the relationship between the bride and her family or the bride and groom.

The groom replies and thanks the bride's parents (even if they were not involved financially) for the wedding, including his own parents in the thank-yous. Everyone should be thanked for coming to the wedding and for their gifts.

The groom ends his speech with a toast to the bridesmaids.

As a general rule, there are no more speeches after this, but if there is a good speaker in the house and he or she hasn't spoken yet, now is the moment.

All speeches are best kept reasonably short.

After the last speech, the best man reads out any congratulatory telegrams that have been sent by absent friends and relations.



Mr. and Mrs. Ward Watts were married June 5, 1954 in Mountain at home.

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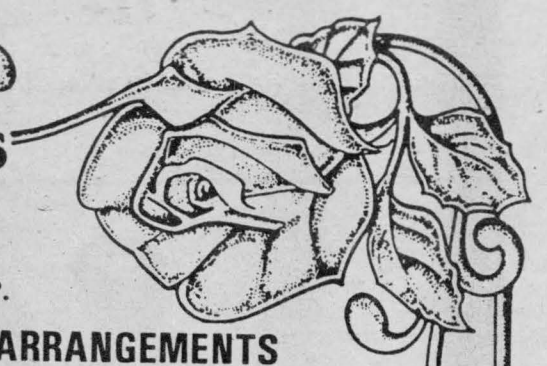
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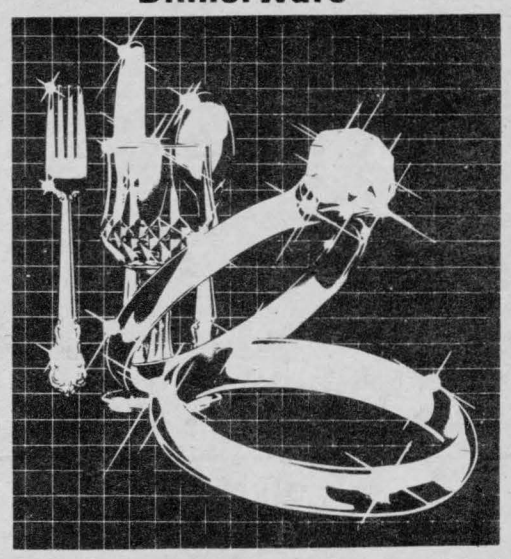
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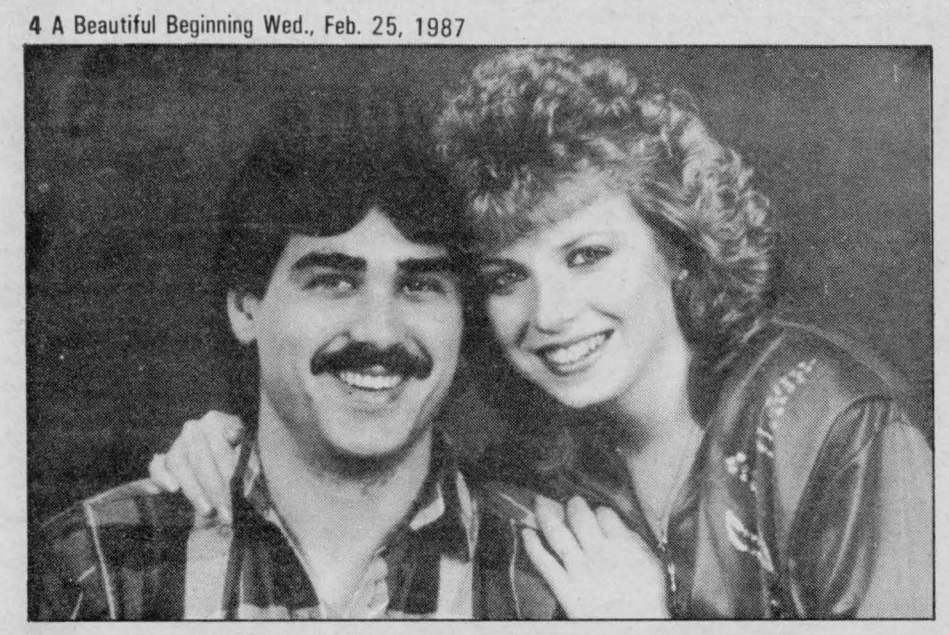
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Bernard and Virginia Patenaude are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Monique to Darin Riviere, son of Eric and Sandra Riviere, Cornwall, Ont. Wedding will take place on May 23, 1987 at 3pm, St. Mary's Church, Chesterville.



Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Barkley and Mr. and Mrs. Desmond Wheeler are proud to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children Penny Lea to Ronald William. The wedding will be April 18, 1987 at 4pm at Trinity United Church.

Photo by Wayne LaPrade

Inviting the question... who should be asked?

An invitation to your wedding - what will it be? Your choice will reflect your personalities and set the stage for that wonderful day. Are you traditionalists, happy with the accepted wedding protocol, or are you free spirited individuals who aren't afraid to try something different?

Fortunately for today's couples, wedding etiquette has changed with the times and has adapted to the less formal, modern lifestyles.

Who's invited?

The bride's parents traditionally issue the invitations even if the bride no longer lives at home. If both parents are deceased, then a close relative or guardian could sponsor the wedding. If parents are divorced, the parent with whom the bride is living issues the invitations. Today many couples choose to issue the invitations themselves.

The invitation list

Determine the number who are to be invited, and allocate a portion of the total to the bride's family, groom's family and the bride and groom. Usually this is one-third the number for each. But the division of the list depends on a number of circumstances: the size of the families (is one a great deal larger than the other?) the distance guests must come; large or small social connections.

The bride's mother should consult with the mother of the groom regarding the division of the list, and let her know the number of guests she may invite.

Folding the invitation

Invitations and announcements are folded with the printed surface outside - except for the modern style where the printed protion goes inside.

Envelopes

There are two envelopes used with wedding invitations. The invitation, along with the reply card, is inserted in the inner (smaller) envelope which is left unsealed. This is then placed in the outer envelope.

The inner envelope is addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. Jones" without names or addresses

When children are to be invited, their first names are written on the inner envelope under that of their parents. Children over twenty-one receive separate invitations.

The outer envelope should be addressed by hand (never typewritten).

Single friends with guests

There are two schools of thought regarding single friends who will be guests. One suggests that the friend should be contacted to determine his-her guest's name and address, and that a separate invitation be issued to that person. The other school contends it is quite proper to invite "Miss Doe and Escort" or Mr. Doe and Friend". Choose the style you prefer. Either is correct.

Invitation to the Clergyman

If your clergyman is a personal friend, he and his wife receive the regular invitation. Otherwise, if he is to be invited to the reception, a hand-written note is sent to him by the bride's mother. (This relieves him of the obligation of a gift.)

The wedding party

The groom's parents and members of the wedding party like to have invitations as keepsakes. A few invitations could be sent to the groom's parents, along with a note saying as you know they would want to see them as soon as they were off the press. The keepsake invitation could either be given by hand, or mailed, to each member of the bridal party.

Mailing date

Invitations should be mailed four to five weeks before the wedding date. This allows sufficient time for the replies to be returned to you. (If using a reply card, request a reply date at least ten days before the wedding.)

Announcements are sent to those friends and relatives who could not be invited to the wedding.



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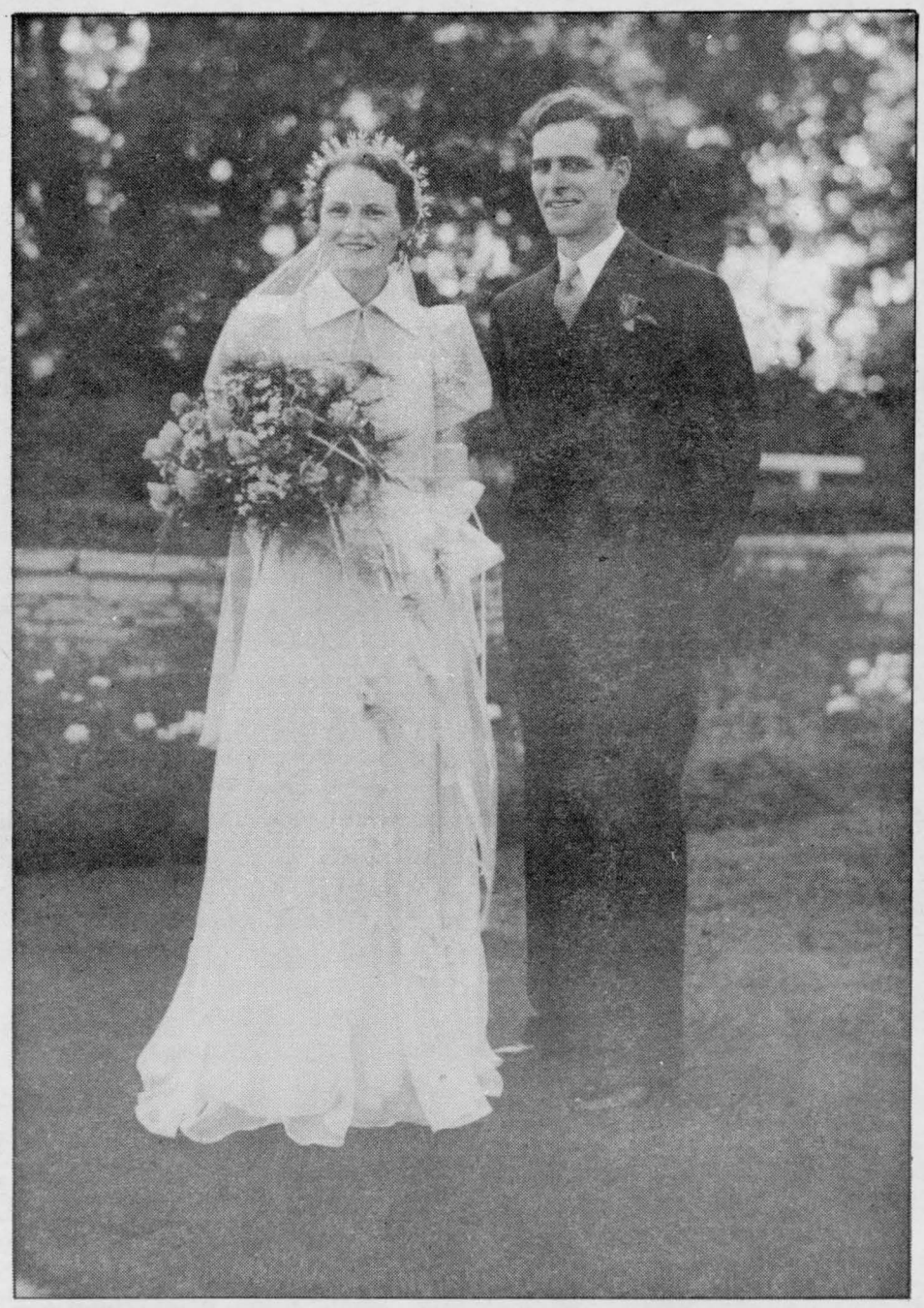
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Alma and Mansel Brownlee, now living in Chesterville, were married August 8, 1938 in Ottawa. Special Photo

Wedding stress common

As anyone who has gotten married can tell you, the months leading up to a wedding can be a time of stress as well as happiness. There's just so much to think about and do!

You need to find ceremony and reception sites, to choose just the right clothes, to make sometimes touchy decisions about who will be in your wedding, to furnish a complete home for your life after the wedding - and all this while you're having the inevitable doubts about getting married in the first place.

While wedding jitters are about as common as weddings, there are ways to make sure the anxiety doesn't get out of hand. Bride's Magazine has these common-sense suggestions:

Don't be afraid to admit you're upset. Tell your partner what's bothering you, whether it's a serious question about your relationship or a relatively trivial worry that you'll go blank when it comes time to say your vows.

If you try to keep the stressful feelings to yourself, you'll only transfer them to something else, 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-martial workshop. Practice reciting your vows in front of a willing friend.

Share the wedding responsibilities. If you're the bride, don't assume you have to do everything yourself. This idea is old-fashioned, as well as exhausting.

Ask your fiance to join you in picking out a catering hall and registering for gifts. He can write a share 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're not forgetting something crucial.

Also gather any business cards, fabric swatches or magazine clippings you accumulate all together in one place - either a wedding planner made for this purpose or a simple manila envelope. Organization has the magical effect of reducing anxiety to a manageable level.

Have a system for each task. Say you're doing your invitations. First, see if the task can be broken down into steps. (You have to address the envelopes, stuff them, seal them, and stamp them.) Then, decide how you'll tackle each step: How long it should take and who will do it.

Next, set a completion date (invitations should be mailed six weeks before the wedding). Finally, take action by setting a time and a place to begin.

Pace yourself - don't plan to scout for reception sites the same day you have a report due at work. You'll make it through those pre-wedding months if you promise yourself you won't tackle more than one major job a day.

Guard your health. Don't let a hectic schedule keep you from eating right, or often enough. You'll feel even more jittery from the weakness that results from a drop in blood sugar.

Be sure to get enough rest and exercise too.

Anniversary

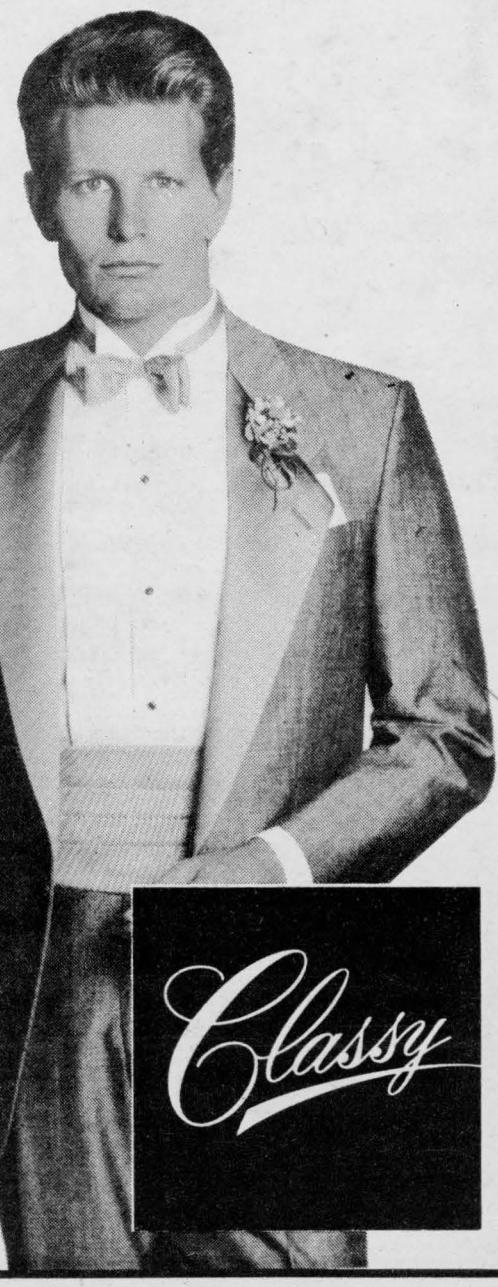
First -- Paper
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Third -- Leather
Fourth -- Linen
Fifth -- Wood
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Proper preparation prevents wedding surprises

Your wedding can run like a charm if you take the time to make up your itinary beforehand. Plan everything down in proper sequence and, if possible, appoint a close friend to make sure you get to the church on time without forgetting anything. This same friend might act as prompter at the reception if a hostess or maitre d' is not supplied by the hall or hotel, (hostess or maitre d' takes care of reception details from the organization of the receiving line to the last dance and final goodbye.) Your best man or master of ceremonies could also carry out these functions very nicely.

Prior to Your Wedding Day: Appoint a close friend or relative who is not involved in the bridal party to act a runner on your wedding day (there are all sorts of last-minute errands to be done). This saves panic.

YOUR WEDDING DAY

-Wedding Date
-Time of Ceremony
- Church

TIME

- Go to hairdresser
- Arrange to have going-away clothes delivered to reception location. Lock suitcases, to be taken on honeymoon trip, in trunk of car
- Have cosmetician apply makeup if this is your choice
- Bridal party and parents should be dressed in good time for pre-wedding photography session. (Allow 1½ hours before ceremony time).

BEFORE LEAVING FOR CHURCH

- Bride transfers engagement ring to right hand
- Groom's wedding band given to maid of honor. (She wears this on her finger for safekeeping until it is needed at the ceremony)
- Ushers leave for church (arriving ¾ hour before ceremony time)
- Groom and best man leave for church (arriving 15 minutes before ceremony time). Best man has bride's ring, and minister's fee
- Groom's parents leave for church (arriving 10 minutes before ceremony time)

TIME

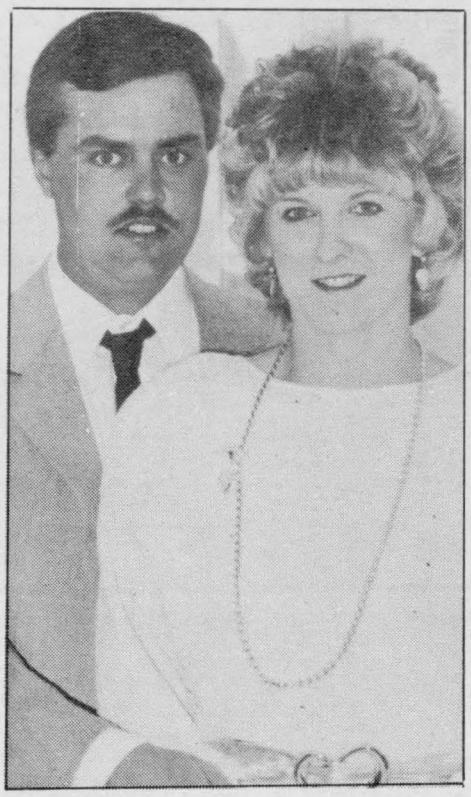
- Bride's mother leaves for church (arriving 8-10 minutes before ceremony time)
- Bridesmaids leave for church (arriving just after bride's mother)
- Bride and father leave for church (arriving 5 minutes before ceremony time)
- Groom's parents seated (front row, right aisle) - 5 minutes before ceremony time
- Bridal party lines up in pairs, followed by the youngest bridesmaid up to the maid of honor. If there are a flower girl and a ring bearer, these two will immediately precede the bride and her father.) The maid of honor should adjust the bride's train. The bride takes her father's right arm.

Prior to the ceremony

- Head usher seats bride's mother (front row, left aisle). When bride's mother is seated, the groom, best man and clergyman take their places at the front of the church.
- Wedding ceremony
- Signing of register
- Recessional
- Picture-taking in pre-arranged cars
- Arrive reception location
- Receiving line: Allow at least ½ hour to receive 100 guests. First in line is the mother of the bride, followed by the groom's father, groom's mother, bride's father, bride, groom, maid of honor, best man, bridesmaids and ushers.
- Photography session: This will take about ¾ hour. After the group and family pictures, the photographer will probably take a picture of the bride and groom cutting the cake.
- Dinner precessional when: When guests are seated the bridal party lines up to be seated and guests follow
- Cake cutting ceremony: The cake cutting ceremony is followed by the wedding toasts.
- Toasts: After the introductions, the master of ceremonies calls on the person who is to give the Toast to the Bride. This is usually given by a close friend of the bride's family. (The bride does not rise to drink this toast). The groom responds to this toast and ends his speech with a toast to the bridesmaids. The best man then stands and responds to the bridesmaids' toast. Other toasts, if any, follow. Telegrams are read. And any special guests...usually those who have come a long distance or the very elderly, are introduced. The mast of ceremonies then closes this portion of the festivities, and announces that dancing (if any) will begin shortly and invites guests to enjoy the rest of the evening

Dancing begins

- Hostess or friend should see that all members of bridal party and parents are ready
- First dance announced by orchestra leader or disc jockey
- Bride and groom start the dancing
- After circling the floor, they are joined by their parents
- Next, bride's father dances a few bars with bride while groom dances with the bride's mother
- The groom's father dances with bride while groom dances with his mother
- Maid of honor and best man join dance
- Bridesmaids and ushers follow
- Then all guests are invited to join
- Throwing bouquet and garter: This should take place about ¾ hour prior to departure time. Orchestra leader or disc jockey calls guests' attention to this event. Bride throws bouquet over her shoulder to single female guests. Groom removes bride's garter (which she wears just below her knee) and throws it over his shoulder to single male guests
- Bride and groom change to going-away outfits. (Best man and maid of honor help them change and look after their wedding attire.)
- Last dance: Arrange for hostess or friend to signal orchestra leader or disc jockey that bride and groom are ready for their last dance.



Richard and Fanny Casselman of Morrisburg are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Ruth, to Ian Lang, son of the late Sterling and Daryl Lang of Avonmore. Wedding is to take place July 25, 1987 in Morrisburg.

Special Photo

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Carol Bergeron and Pauline Deguire were married August 18, 1962 in Russell and are now living in Vars. Mrs. Bergeron is the sister of Mrs. Andree Desormeaux of Chesterville.

Special Photo

Mother of the bride important behind the scenes

The mother of the bride is probably the most important person behind the scenes during any wedding. She is her daughter's right hand in all phases of preparation, planning, dreaming, and consoling.

It's a good idea, though, for mothers to check up on their behavior a bit before the wedding rush begins, or the right hand might turn out to be all thumbs!

Before the wedding, it is her responsibility to help her daughter compile the guest list, arrange the ceremony and the reception details, keep track of the incoming gifts and keep the groom's family informed of all plans.

The bride's mother should also be on hand to help her daughter select her wedding dress and plan her trousseau. Just remember if you're the mother of the bride that you're there to support and offer advice when requested. It's your daughter's big day that's coming up, so let her keep it as close to her dream as possible.

You'll be needing to do some preparation of your own to look your best for the wedding festivities (and pictures!)

Consult with the groom's mother and agree upon the style of dress you wish to wear. This will, of course, be dictated in part by the time of day of the wedding. But make certain that whatever the setting, you and the groom's mother wear the same length and basic style of dress - this is no time for one-upmanship!

Agree also on your colors - it is assumed that the mother of the bride will have first choice, but don't make a mountain out of a molehill.

If she is absolutely adamant about wearing robin's egg blue, your favorite color, see if you can't find another flattering dress - you might be surprised. Or, if worse comes to worse, wear the same color! No one will really notice that much, and it might even prove to be attractive!

The whole point is: The absolute best gift that you can give to your daughter during the rush of wedding preparations is a cool, level head and a soothing loving touch.



R.D. and Mary Chisholm are happy to announce the engagement of their youngest son, Allan Michael Beckstead, to Elizabeth Margaret, youngest daughter of Ward and Margaret Morrison of Scarborough. Marriage to take place June 6 in Scarborough.

Photo by Wayne LaPrade



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On Jan. 21, 1950, Eva Elizabeth Weegar and Earl John Eligh were married in Williamsburg. The couple now lives on the sixth concession, Newington. Special Photo

The four C's of diamonds

The beauty of simplicity is most often associated with quality. Whether the solo performance of a concert pianist, a single line of a famous poem, the proverbial basic black dress or a perfect solitaire diamond, all share a common factor - the quality that is highlighted when they stand alone.

An exceptional quality diamond is also in a class by itself, and one that weighs a carat or more is truly one in a million. The Diamond Information Centre notes that while each jeweller may have his or her own interpretation of design in a piece of diamond jewellery, they will all certainly agree that it is the quality of the diamond alone that determines its beauty.

Cut: This is perhaps the most important of the 4C's because the beauty of the diamond is dependent on its ability to reflect light. Cut refers to the shape of a diamond as well as to the arrangement of its facets. Marquise, pear and oval shaped diamonds may seem larger than an emerald or round (brillant) cut stone. The round cut has the greatest brilliancy and fire and in comparison the other shapes may seem to be of lesser value.

Clarity: Most diamonds contain imperfections - spots, bubbles or lines included in the stone when it was crystalized from carbon millions of years ago. Where such "inclusions" do not interfere materially with the passage of light through the stone, they do not affect its beauty. The fewer inclusions in a diamond, the more valuable it is. A "flawless" diamond - one that shows no imperfections to a trained eye using 10-power magnification - is very rare.

Color: A diamond may be any color of the spectrum; but most diamonds are "white" with a tinge of color. Completely colorless diamonds are rare and therefore more valuable. Like a prism, a diamond breaks light into "fire" - every color of the rainbow. The best way to see the true color of a diamond is to look at the stone through its side against a white background.

Carat: This is the unit of weight used for diamonds, a word devised from carob seeds used to balance scales in ancient times. There are 100 points in a carat, so a diamond of 27 points weighs a little more than a quarter-carat. The average rough diamond weighs less than a carat. Because the larger stones are rare, they have a greater value per carat. No matter which jeweller you visit, it's important when buying a diamond that you go to a reputable one. He or she will explain thoroughly the 4C's as you compare a variety of stones. Understanding what makes one diamond more beautiful than the next is recognizing and understanding quality - an attribute precious in itself.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harper are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Debra May, to Jory William, the son of Mrs. Jean Dewe. The wedding will take place at the Morewood United Church on July 25, 1987. Special Photo



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Duties of attendants important on wedding day

Almost as important as the bride and groom themselves are their attendants: the maid or matron of honor, the bridesmaids, the best man and the ushers. Their duties are extremely important to the organization of the wedding. Just one unreliable attendant and things can start to go wrong. Here is a list of their duties, compiled from various etiquette books:

Maid or matron of honor

She should be someone who is very close to the bride - usually the bride's sister if she has one the right age - or a very good friend. The bride needn't ask her fiance's sister to be her honor attendant unless she happens to be a very close friend.

The honor attendant is expected to help the bride as much as possible.

If the bride wishes, she can assist in addressing the invitations, and the recording and displaying of gifts.

She proceeds the bride and her father down the aisle, arranges her train, and holds her bouquet during the ceremony.

If the ceremony is a double-ring one, she carries the groom's ring for the bride, unless there is a ringbearer.

The Bridesmaids

Together with the maid or matron of honor they should:

Help the bride in any way they can.

Be at the bride's home at appointed time and dress there or before, whichever the bride prefers.

Be ready for photographs, if desired, one hour before the service begins.

Best Man

The bridegroom will welcome the best man's help and advice throughout the weeks before the wedding. But is is on the wedding day itself that the best man's alertness and moral support mean most to the groom. If the two live in the same city or town, the best man can also be specially helpful during the week before the wedding.

Last day before the wedding

Check details of the groom's plans; do last-minute shopping; help with the new home.

Attend bachelor party, rehearsal and rehearsal party.

Offer to meet planes or trains of visiting guests, drive members of the party who require transportation, etc.

On the wedding day

Check that flowers ordered by the groom have arrived.

Help the groom to complete packing; pick up bride's luggage and lock it, with the groom's bags, in the going-away car.

Take the groom's going-away clothes to place of reception.

'Get the groom to the church at least 20 minutes before the ceremony.'

Help the groom to dress. Get him to the church at least 20 minutes before the ceremony.

Have the ring safe and accessible; have the licence to the church.

Pick up the boutonnieres at the church for yourself and groom.

Have the outdoor clothes of men of the wedding party brought to front of church after ceremony.

Give the gratuities to clergyman and organist.

Help groom change into going-away clothes; put away groom's wedding clothes.

Be prepared to be toastmaster and timekeeper at the bride's table during the reception.

Reply to groom's toast to the bridesmaids; propose the health of the mothers of the bride and groom. It is appropriate and thoughtful to include the fathers as well. In some cases, the best man proposes the toast to the bride's attendants, and the head usher then assumes responsibility for the best man's reply and toast.

Ushers

The only absolute requirement before the wedding day is to have the necessary clothes ready, and to attend the rehearsal.

On the wedding day, ushers should be at the church at least a half-hour before the ceremony.

They pick up the boutonnieres in the vestry, and then are ready to escort guests down the aisle.

Ushers should have typed list of guests who will be occupying reserved pews.

They meet the guests at the door, offering each woman their right arm - giving preference to the eldest if many arrive at the same time.

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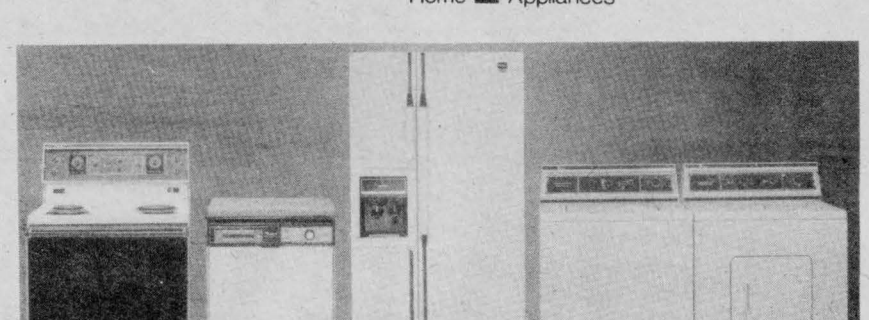
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Lyle McMillan and Ethel Smirle were married Nov. 30, 1939 at the Presbyterian Manse in Finch. Special Photo

Sharing of costs growing in popularity

It's traditional in Canada for the parents of the bride to cover the entire cost of a couple's wedding. But according to Bride's magazine, this situation is changing.

For the first time, there's a definite trend toward the sharing of wedding expenses, says Bride's. The groom's family, as well as the bride and groom themselves, are taking on a chunk of the financial responsibility.

One reason for this may be changing attitudes toward the nature of marriage. In this era of liberation, a bride's parents are no longer considered to be "marrying off" their daughter. Rather, the wedding seen as the joining of two people, and two families, with everyone contributing to the festivities.

A second reason is frankly economic: the cost of a formal wedding these days, according to a 1984 Bride's Reader Profile Study, runs on average around $6,009. (It can go as high as $10-$15,000 in some urban areas.)

Rather than cut back on their idea of the perfect celebration, many couples and their families are instead finding new ways to meet the expenses.

Especially where the bride and groom are on their own and earning money themselves (increasingly common as the average age for marriage goes up), it only makes sense for them to pitch in.

The actual dividing up of the costs can be done in several ways. An easy, tactful method that Bride's recommends is to settle on specific expenses in advance, rather than to just split the cost of the whole wedding down the middle.

For instance, the groom's family might agree to cover the flowers, the music and the liquor. They would then discuss the general budget for these items with the couple and have the bills sent directly to them.

This eliminates the need for money changing hands or for further talking about costs between families.

An alternative idea would be for one family to pay for the ceremony (flowers, church rental, limousines), the other to pick up the reception tab. Each family then hs complete jurisdiction over their part of the celebration.

There are many possible arrangements and the options should be discussed openly and early in the engagement, so an agreeable plan can be worked out.

It's also important to remember, says Bride's that it's still the prerogative of the bride's family to decline an offer to help if they wish. If this happens, the groom's family can celebrate the marriage in another way, such as hosting the rehearsal dinner or throwing an engagement party.

Incidentally, the idea of sharing wedding expenses is not really a new one. In many countries, the practice has been followed for centuries. For instance, in Spain, fathers of the bride and groom traditionaly issue the invitations and host the wedding together.

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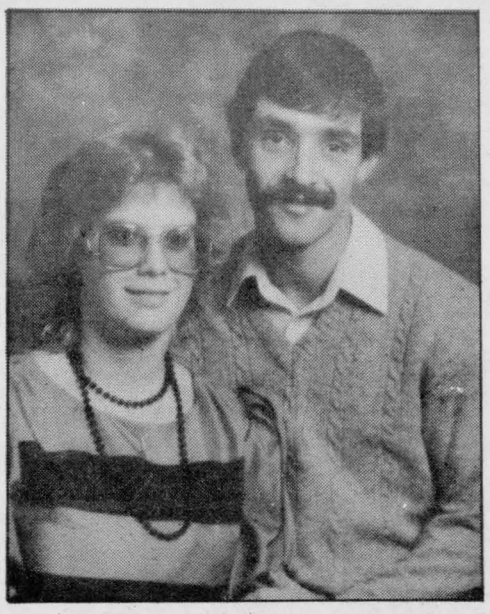
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The engagement is announced of Judy Lang, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Lang, to Jeff Ouderkirk, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ouderkirk. The wedding will take place on May 2 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Avonmore.



Mr. and Mrs. Lyal McDermid of Berwick are happy to annouce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Debra June, to Yves Dominique, son of Mr. and Mrs. Germain Baker of Morewood. The wedding will take place Sat., Sept. 12, 1987 at Chalmers United Church, Finch at three o'clock.



Hubert and Lila Tupper, now living in Dunbar, were married June 28, 1959. Special Photo



Stan and Betty Vanden Bosch were married May 26, 1962 in Perth. They now live in Chesterville. Special Photo

Tuxedos add formal touch

WINCHESTER (Staff) - Domani, Aventura, Nobile, Avorio and Placide, all names one might find in an Italian phone book.

But they're not names of people, they are of styles of tuxedos designed by Classy formal wear, available at The Country Boy store here.

It unabashedly bills itself as "the foremost European-inspired formal wear collection in Canada."

It's becoming quite popular, said store employee Lynn Kelly. Classy is the only brand of tuxedos the store deals in, she said, adding the store "did very well" renting the Canadian-produced wedding wear last year.

Grey was probably the favorite color last year with black also being popular, Kelly said. As for this year's wedding requests, most of them have been "pretty basic" -- nothing too unusual -- but the year is still young, she added.

For between $72.50 and $100 a guy can get suited up with everything but shoes for a wedding he's attending. The complete outfit includes a jacket, pants, shirt, tie, cummerbund (that thing that goes around the waist) or a vest, cuff links, and last of all, shirt studs. The newer the outfit, the more expensive it usually is to rent, Kelly said. The new '87 styles would probably be about $100, she added.

The store usually does whole wedding parties at a time, the participants being fitted at the store and the outfits ordered from Montreal, she said. "Everything's measured to a tee."

It usually takes about six weeks to receive an order so they have to be ordered in advance, she said.



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