

Going back in time to fifteen years ago, which seems just like yesterday. It was a hot summer August day when my fiance and I decided to plan our wedding. Because we were both working and had used up our available vacation time during the summer, we decided to have a small reception on Friday, November 4th, and then spend the weekend in Niagara Falls.

We are both from this area and have the usual excuses for not having been on the Maid of the Mist, or the Cave of the Winds Walk, or just tour the Falls area. It seems like just because it is right here you can always do it another day, and that other day never comes. So we felt it was time we explored the falls to the fullest extent and would make a travel vacation honeymoon, and really be tourists.

What started out a simple reception ended up being almost 100 party animals and lasted until the wee hours of the morning. As we headed to the car bidding the last of our friends and relatives goodbye, we were surprised when we were greeted with the most uniquely decorated car we had ever seen. We didn't have the normal pretty paper flowers and streamers with the "Just Married" sign. No, we had a "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" sign on the back, with little plastic helicopters all over the hood, and every color balloon imaginable tied on the wipers and scotch taped all over the car. As we later found out, during the reception a group of our friends had gone to a grocery store and purchased whatever was available then took turns running out to the car so we wouldn't notice, and put their individual touches on the car. Next spring when we sold that car, the scotch tape was still stuck to it.

As we drove down the thruway, we laughed as the balloons flopped around and the helicopters rotor blades were actually spinning around in the wind (We still have the helicopters in our keepsake box). When we arrived at the customs, they just flagged us through knowing our destination was the honeymoon capital of the world and with a car decorated as ours there was not doubt.

We stayed at the Foxhead in a beautiful room overlooking the falls. It was numbered 707 and was on the 7th floor, so our lucky number from then on has been number seven, although can't really say how lucky it has been.

Our weekend was fabulous, we toured all day Saturday and had dinner that evening at the Skylon Tower. We purchased a large glass brandy snifter with our names and our wedding date engraved on it at a small shop in the base of the Skylon. For four years after that we went back to the Skylon on our anniversary date and each year purchased a small brandy snifter with the year on it. On our fifth year anniversary we splurged and purchased a brandy snifter candy bowl and had it engraved with Five Years and the date. Thank goodness we broke our trend that year because on our return for our sixth anniversary the little glass engraving shop had closed which ended our yearly ritual to purchase our glass remembrance. But to no avail we have returned to the Skylon for our anniversary dinner for every year since.

The last change in our routine came last year when at the Festival of Lights Auction I bid on two nights at the Skyline Foxhead and won the final bid. So our 15 year anniversary was truly celebrated by spending the weekend. We again had a beautiful room overlooking the falls. We went to dinner at the Skylon Tower and for the rest of the weekend shopped, toured and just enjoyed our time together.

I can truly say after fifteen years of marriage, it still seems like we were just married and we are looking forward to many more years of enjoying the Falls on our special day.

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