

1976

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Golden Honeymoon Memories  
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It was September of 1976. The fall had become a beautiful Indian Summer. Two young people, madly in love, were married by a Justice of the Peace in the presence of friends. It was a magical day - she in a white gown and veil, he looking very handsome. She was 18, he was 21. The young couple were starting with nothing, but felt they could handle any challenge that life sent their way.

Where to go on a Honeymoon with a very limited budget? At that age romance was high on the list so why not go to the most romantic city in Ontario -- NIAGARA FALLS! Christine and Rob wanted to make it a memorable visit, full of fun and excitement, that would get their marriage off to a good start. Both had wonderful childhood memories of visiting Niagara Falls and felt it would be a great place to start their new life.

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Instead of picking one hotel for our stay we changed places each day. The first night was spent in a motel that Rob stayed at when he was younger. The next night was spent on a waterbed. Neither of us had ever slept on one before and we thought it would be exciting. It was a night of laughs. The waterbed was so full that it was raised in the center. We started out holding tightly to each other in the middle, but woke up sleeping on the outer edges. We had let go during the night and rolled down the sides. We still laugh about that today and have never slept on a waterbed since. Another night we took a hotel with a round bed. That was very romantic because it was so different. No matter how you curled up you never found the edge.

Each day we also ate at different restaurants (when we ventured outside) trying various foods. This was fun as we were both good eaters. It was discovered that Niagara is a very friendly city - my new husband was flirted with in McDonald's. I was not with him, but he told me about it with astonishment in his voice.

Marineland was a high point in our visit, with the deer trying to nibble on us as we fed them. A trip along the river to Fort George was also on the agenda as Rob is a war history buff. The usual round of museums was completed. The special highlight was seeing Niagara on a Honeymoon Bus Tour. We still have the certificate that was presented to all honeymooning couples.

Unfortunately our Honeymoon ended earlier than anticipated. Rob became sick and it was necessary to leave before our week was up. I drove us back to Woodstock, Ontario not knowing what was wrong. The diagnosis was partial pneumonia! Since it was such an unusually hot September the businesses still had their air conditioners on high. Going from hot outside air to cold inside air several times a day played havoc with Rob's system. My first roll as a new wife was playing nurse for a week. It was just one of the many events that brought us closer together during the beginning months of our marriage.

Our Honeymoon may not seem spectacular when compared with the places young people visit these days. We did not spend a fortune or visit somewhere exotic. No one knew where we were. It was two people alone in a magical place! Rob and I made it memorable just by being together. We experienced many new things as a couple, and learned a lot about ourselves and each other. Our time in Niagara Falls was the foundation on which we built our married life.

Over the years we have been drawn back for visits -- sometimes alone, sometimes with our children. Niagara Falls has a majestic beauty that always makes us stop and remember that special September. No matter what our problems at the time we remember our hopes and dreams, the plans we made, the laughter and passion we shared in a very special place that God created for lovers -

NIAGARA FALLS!

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