

1982

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Our Life together is the "Honeymoon". Niagara Falls is where our married life began.

We were not kids when we married and we did not plan a traditional marriage. It was a decision made by the two of us and was based on what wedding vows meant to the two of us. That didn't include the normal trappings of a bridal gown, invitations, who not to invite, ad infinitum. We wanted to elope and have an untraditional wedding in a very traditional spot to start a honeymoon.

The actual details of the wedding ceremony and the honeymoon just fell into place. We live in Ontario, we had been to Niagara Falls a lot and the license requirements allowed us to be married there if we wished. Then we read an article in a newspaper depicting just what a honeymoon suite in Niagara Falls was supposed to include. Not being entirely sure if they were serious or not, we decided that we would follow their recommendations and be a bit "traditional". Whatever that meant.

That's how we happened to get married on September 13 1982 at City Hall in Niagara Falls with a Justice of the Peace and two last minute witnesses (selected from their Traffic Department). That's why we had a honeymoon suite in the Oakes Inn---high enough up that the Falls was slightly visible---in a room that had mirrors on everything but the toilet seat. And to celebrate our anniversaries, we return to the scene of the crime each September.

We are lucky enough to have a life full of honeymoons. We never get tired of seeing the Falls area. We return to that relaxed comfortable hand-holding stage. We stroll the different gardens comparing this season's planting and these weather conditions with other years and all the while realize everything just gets better.

In Niagara, it's OK to be in love. We can kiss in public and not be conspicuous. We watch other couples young and old and try to guess who just got married last Saturday afternoon and who are vacationers celebrating an anniversary or an occasion. You can usually tell if you are paying attention. The knowing reassurances between two people in love transcends all external things. Love in the faces of two younger people makes you feel smug. Love between two older people gives you confidence in your own future together. Love in the eyes of the one you love is so gratifying. You have time to hold onto each other, to whisper sweet nothings and to be kids again together. That's a Honeymoon.

Carol + José Nosella