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Jan. 25, 1993.

Golden Honeymoon Memories:

I just had to respond to your honeymoon memories, but I hope you take the time to read it all. Because I not only honeymoon in the falls I also got married and my experience was a three day weekend in your city.

My boyfriend and myself have planned a trip to Niagara falls two or three times a year for the last byrs. Just to get away and spend time together. We find its one hour from our home, and we like the atmosphere. My boyfriend had been asking me to get married and to set a date. But things always seem to get in the way. He had to have neck surgery, which they had to go through the front of his throat to repair a disc, and has been off work for three years. Then there was my job working as a health care aide in Simcoe hospital part-time and working most week ends.

How could we plan a wedding?

My boyfriend and myself had planned a weekend away for Aug 14, 1992. Just a relaxing trip. No shopping! Well. On Thurs. Aug 13 I was sitting at the dining room table and my boyfriend had gone to Jarvis to the bank. All of a sudden I got pins and needles in my hands and feet. A thought came to mind! Honeymoon Capital of the world! What better place to get married? But we have not made plans. He doesn't know? Can I pull this off! I get out the folders we have saved from our other trips to the falls. So I phone information. A man answers the phone. I tell him we are planning

a weekend trip. But if I wanted to get married what would I have to do. He was very helpful. He supplied me with phone numbers of the surrounding gardens, the mayors office and the judges of your city and city hall. He told me I would have to go to city hall and get a licence and register with the city for 24 hrs.

I found out your city has a lot to offer. you have gardens inside and out. Just in case of rain. And your city is very helpful to people in need. And what about our weekend of relaxing!

my next step was to call city hall. They in turn supplied me with the number for the judges office. They knew the mayor was busy on Sat. so I would have to get a city court judge. So I called to see if they had a judge available. which they did! what time would you like? I don't know I haven't asked my boyfriend yet! But say 5 o'clock Sat. And where should the judge meet you? I don't know I will have to call you back. my next step was to call the place that takes the bookings for the gardens. I asked if they had a opening for Sat Aug 15. 1992! They had an opening for the "winter gardens" at 5 o'clock. So I booked it. I called back to book the judge! She said the judge would see us at 5 o'clock. But how will we know what he looks like? It's his job to find you. She then asked about our witness? my boyfriend doesn't know and knowbody is coming with us. That's o.k. because we can supply a witness for \$5.00. She then told me to get the licence to her as soon as possible It has to be registered for 24 hrs. after you

take it out! So far I have a judge, a garden a time all in 15 mins. on the phone. But I don't have a groom. what if he said no. I'm shaken all over.

next the phone rang. It was my boyfriend. I asked him if he was ready for some news! He said sure. So I told him we were going to the falls on the weekend and we were going to be married. He thought I was joking! He said we can't marry because don't have a licence, and we didn't have any witnesses and we hadn't bought any special clothes. I said it's all taken care of, I made a few phone calls and in 15 mins the arrangements were made. The phone goes silent. I thought he had fainted. I looked at the clock it's 2 o'clock, I have to leave for work for the 3-11 shift. we said our good-byes. at work I was so excited, but I didn't want to tell anyone because none of the family knew. Someone might try and change my mind. Besides I couldn't believe it myself.

The next day we arrive in the falls by 12 o'clock, a little early to check in. So we decided to walk to city hall for the licence. On our way we stopped at a information booth. to get information as to where city hall was. we were two blocks away! I didn't have good walking shoes on and got blisters. we got to city hall with my shoe in my hand. The lady gave us a form to fill out. we got to the part in the form where it states you must have your divorce papers. The lady on the phone the day before forgot to mention this.

Now the trouble starts. We can not leave the falls and drive home to pick up the papers and be back to register by 4 o'clock. The time the register office closes. It's 10 o'clock what will we do. We both looked at each other and said I guess it wasn't meant to be. At this point we are not out of any money. We can still enjoy the weekend package.

But I wasn't going to give up this easy. So I asked the lady if they would except papers over a fax machine! She said they didn't have one, but upstairs in another Dept. They had one. She said this would be the first time, to receive papers this way. So she called up and got the number for us. But who do we call at home, no one knows we are getting married? So we end up phoning my boyfriend's lawyer. Who would have his papers in his office. But what about my papers, who would get them. They were in Cayuga Court house. The lawyer's wife was so excited when we told her the news, of our run away marriage, she said how romantic. She offered to drive to Cayuga and fax them from there! Within one hour we had our papers. Then we called a cab, and it was off to city hall. We told the cab to wait because we were in a hurry to get to the registers office. We registered by 3 o'clock.

We decided to go back to our motel room and walk to the mall. We had rings to be bought, I needed a dress, hair appointment and flowers had to be ordered. On our walk we looked over at the mall and there was a sign

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that read "Winter Gardens". Well we didn't need to ask, we had found the place where we were going to be married. It was rate across the road from our motel. It turns out we didn't have to move our car all weekend.

All the stores in the mall had everything we needed. Our rings the man said he could have them in the morning, in one day sized and engraved. So my boyfriend and myself decided to split. He would make my hair appointment and order the flowers. I would look for my dress. By the way who would wait to the very last day to buy their wedding dress! All the winter clothes were out, and dark in colour. But I was lucky to find, a beautiful suit in Ivory, and in my size. It looks like its all coming together, and I still can't believe we are getting married. Most couples the night before the wedding are at rehearsal, we were at the bar in our motel, ~~and~~ having a party with strangers. They were all so excited for us, they got up and sang songs for us and wished us well. One couple who was celebrating their second honeymoon, and had the honeymoon suite offered to move into our suite, because they thought we should have the honeymoon suite. But since the wedding wasn't planned, we decided to stay in the room we had. We also met a couple from Pittsburg, the wife was a hairdresser and she offered to come to my suite in the morning to do my hair. They were leaving in the morning to go home, but would stay long enough for my hair. That way they would be a part of our special day. While getting my

hair done. Robert decided to go and get the flowers. But when he arrived they told him there had been a fireman's conference and the flowers were all gone. Robert told him he needed flowers, he was getting married at 5 o'clock. The manager was more than willing to help. He went to another store in the city and bought us our flowers, because he was so excited to find out it wasn't planned, and he knew we were out of town. It's 4 o'clock and were looking at each other, wondering if we want to change our minds, and still not believing it true, were getting married! At this time we both decide we need a drink. The both of us are dressed at this point for the occasion. So we head downstairs to the bar, were both shaken! The bar steward could tell how nervous we were, so she said the drink was on her. She said after the wedding is over to come back to the bar. We set off walking to get married. Inside the garden, there was a guard we asked what do we do! We are here to get married. She told us to have a seat on the bench and the judge would be here soon. The judge arrives. The lady on the phone was right he found us, and the guard was to act as our witness. The wedding was beautiful, we both started to cry, and the judge said we would stop for a moment to wipe away our tears. The witness took all our pictures. At the end of the wedding the judge gave us our certificate of marriage, and a certificate to honeymoon. Walking back to the bar we still can't

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believe that were married. When we walked into the bar the steward announced that we had just got married and there would be a toast to the bride + groom. She started to open boxes of champagne and put the bottles on the bar and on the tables. This was ~~all~~ all on the motel. So after a few glasses of champagne I thought we needed some music. So I got some change and went to the juke box. During the wedding we didn't have the wedding march. So looking through the songs there was believe it or not - the wedding march. So I put my money in and played it. Here comes the bride. I wonder how many people play this song after the wedding is over. This will always be special to me.

Now its time for supper. No plans made. So the bar steward said no problem. She made two suggestions we had already been at one place on one of our last visits. So the bar steward called the other place which was "the little river Inn" down by the falls. She offered to give us a ride, but she said it was two blocks away. So we decided to walk. She made all the arrangements. What a wonderful place! We had a beautiful dinner in a quiet corner. The waitress was more than willing to take our pictures, our first meal as husband + wife. After dinner, on walking outside we could hear the falls. We decided to go for a walk down along the falls. What a sight to see? In all the years coming to the falls, we had to save something for a special night. Other times we had taken in the wine cellars, the 4-

clock. The battle ship parks. Laura Secord's house. The old Niagara. The horticultural school, which is very hard to get into. The tulip season. The beautiful parks where you can go swimming. There is just so much to see you always have something to do. But this time we seen something for the very first time the American falls, and the surrounding parks. It was starting to get dark, but all the lighting on the water and through out the park was beautiful. There were lots of people sitting on the benches. And when we told them we had just got married in the falls, and could they take our pictures to show our family they were more than willing.

We got back to the motel at about 9:45 we went up to our room. You not going to believe the next story. How many people can say that they had "Fireworks" on their wedding night? Well we did! We were looking out our window and the sky lite up. The most beautiful fireworks, we have pictures because most people wouldn't believe us. Added to our luck, the 4th of July must of been cancelled, and they had ~~it~~ it on Aug. 15. What a beautiful wedding and honeymoon. Everything just fell into place.

There's only one thing on our walk we went into the little shops. We wanted a T-shirt that said "We got married and honeymooned in the falls. All on the same day." They had no marriage ~~at~~ only honeymoon.

When we got back home, we stopped by to tell some friends and family. We showed them the certificate to honeymoon. They

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just laughed! They told us you can buy these certificates anywhere in the falls. But when we started to tell them our story. They asked to see our rings. On Monday I had our wedding pictures and they couldn't believe it either. Fireworks and all.

So on Feb. 12-14 it will be 6 mths to the weekend of our surprize wedding. Just last week a friend hear the news and couldn't believe it. We haven't had a party or a wedding reception. But I wouldn't trade my golden memories, for anything. So when people hear of our story, and about the people of the falls how very helpfull they are. the paper said it all "A Great place to Start a happy marriage." because this is where I decided to start my marriage. How can you rejuvenate a city that already has everything to offer. Friendly people, good food, lots of parks and where in the whole world would you want to be. But Niagara Falls. Forget the planes, we have it here in our backyard. We love Niagara Falls. Always something new. other couples we talk to, say that's so easy. They are thinking of doing the same thing.

Always in my thoughts!

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P.S. Sorry it's so long, but it's hard to put Niagara Falls into 200-2000 words. Because I can talk for hours about the subject. And we as Canadians

should be very ~~prad~~ proud to have such a beautiful place. to enjoy without spending a lot of money to get there!