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1969

Dear sir or madam:

My husband and I have memories of our first honeymoon in Niagara Falls although they might sound golden only to us.

As has happened to other young couples, we found ourselves expecting a child and being unwed. My future husband was 19, and as I was only 17 and just finished grade 12, I probably don't have to tell you that my parents were not very pleased. We had already been secretly engaged for 2 months because on our first date, Alan, my fiance, told me that he was going to marry me. So, we fought and convinced both sets of parents that no matter how young we were, we loved each other and wanted to be together. Although Alan had only been back in North Bay (our home town), for seven months, after some wild escapades in Toronto with his friends, he landed a good paying job and told my Dad that he was prepared to take care of me and the baby. So my parents signed for us to get married on June 7th, 1969.

We didn't have much money for a honeymoon, or even a car. My Dad lent us his car, and Alans Dad lent us his gas credit card and we left for Niagara Falls. I don't remember the name of the motel we stayed at. All I remember is that it was pretty bad, but it was cheap. The only meal we remember was when we had a chicken dinner (cheapest thing on the menu) at the Victoria Restaurant across from the Falls. It was so romantic eating on the open patio and feeling the mist. Back then they also had horse and buggy rides along the Parkway by the Falls, however, we could only afford half a ride, so we went one way, and walked all the way back. We were soaked by the mist but I don't remember minding at all. Mostly we did a lot of walking and looking, any thing that was free. We only stayed 2 nights and then headed to Woodstock to visit my Grandparents, not very romantic, but again, free. While we were there one of their roomers offered Alan a job in a factory paying almost \$ .40 an hour more than he was getting. He accepted and 4 weeks later we moved to Woodstock, July 1969.

Now, almost 24 years and two grown children later, we often talk of our honeymoon and of course we laugh. Some people might do it up better, but we did the best we could and at the time it was wonderful. I guess that's because my husband is probably the best and most dependable in the world. I know that the odds were against us back then and nobody expected our marriage to last but here we are, the kids are on their own and so are we. One thing my husband has always promised is that, someday we will go back to Niagara Falls and redo our honeymoon the right way, and I know that we will. But in the mean time its enough to know that we have each other and always will!!

Sincerely Yours:

*Catherine Smith*

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