



Something Old, Something New, Something on Trade, Just for you!

By Cheryl Ibbotson

It's the day that every girl dreams about, from the perfect gown, to the flowers and the cake; beginning a new chapter in her life, having the picture-perfect wedding. From quick-fixes to extensive wedding planning, Tradebank is here to provide tips and ideas for a blissful start to happily married life.

In a perfect world, everything would easily fall into place. In reality, it's going to take some time and effort to pull together the dream wedding. You'll find plenty of guides and checklists in books, magazines and online to get you to the altar, through the ceremony & reception, and off on the honeymoon.

The wedding industry is booming, so here are some of the latest trends and how-to's for both the bride and groom, because traditional never goes out of style. Don't sweat it! You don't have to spend a fortune on high-priced, extravagant supplies and wedding planners. Even on a limited budget, you can have all of the essentials for your ideal wedding day.

Wedding Planning - A perfect destination wedding at your favourite resort?

Whether you're eloping or inviting guests, destination weddings are fun and intimate. What better way to start your marriage than on a beautiful resort that gives you a wedding and vacation all in one? Many resorts will provide all the services you'll need, offering you a basic package that you can customize and add on to.

Some resorts offer a selection or list of wedding officiates. Whether you have them provide one or hire outside, be sure to discuss religion and the ceremonies available. Non-denominational clergy and ministers will give you plenty of freedom to write your own vows and plan the order of your ceremony.

What to Look for in a Wedding Gown

Previously worn bridal gowns are rising in popularity and are a great way to save money. Owners of resale shops are reporting that the secondhand bridal gown market is up 50 to 70% in the last several years. Brides are not always in a position to part with \$4,000 or more for a new wedding gown, and more and more newly married women are choosing to resell their dresses. Whether going new or used, factor in other costs, and remember to add the cost of cleaning, alterations and shipping (if applicable) to your purchase. What may seem like a great deal may end up being almost as much as retail. Of course we can't forget the groom, and there are plenty of rental tux shops with a huge selection of styles, colors, and patterns to choose from.



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Wedding traditions

Many of the wedding traditions celebrated in Canada have their origins in other cultures. Every bride knows “something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.” Originating in Victorian England, this tradition helps the bride prosper in her new life. Something old represents the bride’s family and the past. Something new symbolizes prosperity. The borrowed item reminds the bride that her family will be there to help her. Blue is the ancient color of loyalty and faithfulness.

Renting a Limo

Add some elegance to your wedding by renting a limo. Do some research on limousine companies ahead of time, to find out which one is best for you to get the general idea of the quality of car, driver, and overall service. Ask your broker about limo services in your area on trade. Some of our limousine clients include; [Hamilton Limousine](#), [Mr. J’s](#), and [Dennis Limo](#).

Wedding Videography and Photography

Most couples want to capture their special day on video. What better way to reminisce and remember the wedding day than to have it available on a DVD or tape? Of course photography is also a very important consideration, as well as the perfect locale to take the pictures. Clients available to take photos on trade include [Portraits Plus](#) in Mississauga, Ontario and Photo Artist - [Brian Geller](#).

Disc Jockey

DJ’s give you the most versatility, however the song choices will be limited by what CDs he/she has available. DJs that have extensive wedding experience know the proper cues for music during pre-dinner drinks, the dinner and the dancing. They’re more likely to have the music of your choice and know when to start the dances for the bride and groom, attendants, parents, etc. Ask your broker for details on DJ’s and musicians in your area, including [Chase’s the Entertainer](#) in Sudbury, Ontario.

Choosing a Wedding Caterer

The food that is served at your wedding reception will be something your guests will talk about and remember. One sure way to please them is to impress them with a delicious, well-planned menu. You can save money by serving a sit-down luncheon in lieu of a fancy dinner. Find out if the caterer provides tableware, linens, utensils and the cake table. If so, what are the additional charges? Why not consider getting your catering on trade? [Cafe Amore](#), [Reader’s Café](#), [Mastro’s Restaurant](#) and [Banquet Hall](#) offer their services for your special day. Call your broker for catering and banquet facilities in your area.



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Wedding Themes & Ideas

If you want your wedding day to be one step ahead of traditional, incorporating a theme is memorable and fun! Coordinating your attire, invitations, decorations, party favors and setting around a specific motif or culture is becoming ever more popular.

Wedding Favours

Wedding favours are a nice addition to every party and can be special keepsakes for your guests. Since there are favours for every pocketbook and every style, they are a must-have for every reception. You can create unique favours for all of your guests without breaking your budget. For homemade favors, allow plenty of time to put them together. Traditional wedding favours that are still popular are candles, picture frames, personalized, engraved items and small floral centerpieces.

The Wedding Party

Tradebank has a variety of hair care and spa locations to prepare for that special day. From up-dos to manicures, to a relaxing massage, clients like **Pina B's** in Etobicoke, Ontario offer the full treatment.

Gifts to the bridesmaids are usually presented at the bridesmaid's luncheon, bachelor-ette party, or at the rehearsal dinner. Jewelry such as a necklace and/or earrings to compliment their dresses to be worn at the wedding is a popular choice. Traditionally, the groom gives gifts to his attendants at the bachelor party or rehearsal dinner. Sentimental gifts include cuff links, a money clip, engraved stein, or pen set.

Indoor Weddings

Weddings held indoors are not at the mercy of weather and you won't have to worry about your plans or decorations being ruined. You can bring in some of the outdoors by adding flowers and greenery. Consider exotic silk plants or trees decorated with clear strings of lights to add elegance to the reception.

Outdoor Weddings

Outdoor weddings can have their drawbacks, but allow you more freedom with space and decorations. For hot weather, look for a location that offers shade, or rent a tent which will create the perfect locale. You can add silk ivy or vines to columns, tables or a gazebo for a sophisticated wedding. Tradebank has clients who rent outdoor tents for a variety of events. Call your broker for details.



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Book Well in Advance

Don't wait until the last minute to book the limo, food, and location for your wedding. If you wait too long, the venue or service you desire may not be available. Ask about wedding package plans and sales for the off-peak season.

Wedding Decorating Ideas

There are many options available when it comes to decorating for your wedding ceremony and reception. Contemporary or classic, decorations can be as simple as possible or intricately detailed.

Be creative with crafts and save money by making your own centerpieces, party favors and table decorations. Look in craft and hobby stores for beads, inexpensive jewels and semi precious gemstones, and candles to dress up tables. Large discount stores have many do-it-yourself craft items in addition to guest books, wine glasses, and other wedding accessories. Consider [Simply Flowers n Things](#), [Flowers by Leenie](#), [Blossoms](#), [Alta Vista](#), [Martins Flowers](#), [Flowers By Nature](#) for the perfect arrangements for your day.

For more information on what services are available for the perfect wedding on trade in your region, please call your broker, or call 1-866-704-1121 for more information.