

That happy occasion has a big price tag attached

SIDEWALK

SALE DAYS

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Georgetown Market Centre

SAVE - SAVE - SAVE AT STEVENSON'S

SIDEWALK SALE

**By Doris Lindauer
Staff Reporter**

The cost of a wedding has been soaring in price, right along with the increases in sugar and milk, a survey conducted by The Herald has revealed.

An average wedding in Halton Hills, with 100 people attending, could cost over \$2,500. It makes one wonder if all those tears shed are out of happiness or grief?

Surveying the local stores and businesses in town, (whose prices are no higher, and in some cases, even lower than most out-of-town prices) that figure of \$2,500 was easily accumulated.

Fortunately, the cost is not always burdened entirely by one family. According to proper rules of etiquette both halves are hit equally as hard. (It is important to keep in mind that the more elaborate a wedding, the more money it costs.)

It all begins, of course, with the giving of a diamond ring. An average solitaire diamond ring in John Boughton Jewellers could cost anywhere from \$250 and up.

Lingering even longer in the jewellery department wedding bands are next on the agenda. Usually the bride and groom split on these expenses. McNamara Jewellers stock plain wedding bands from \$40 to \$50 each while diamond set bands start at about \$100.

For the cost of invitations, reply cards, etc. we stayed close to home and got prices from the Herald. For a party of 100 people and, if moderate stationery and print is used, the prices could be close to, \$45 for invitations, \$25 for reply cards, \$8 for table napkins, \$10 for matches and \$10 for wedding scrolls. All the accessories bear the bride's and groom's name and the wedding date.

A floor length bridal gown, which can be ordered from a bridal book at Image Fashions, runs anywhere from \$150 and up, again depending on style and material desired.

Remaining at Image Fashions, attendants' dresses range from about \$45 and up. Of course, along with the dresses go shoes, gloves (if desired) and a shawl or coat if these are needed.

What is a wedding without beautiful bouquets of flowers? Fendley Florists have a large selection of bouquets from which to choose, however, the price of flowers has had to keep in line with the prices of everything else.

A bride's bouquet of roses costs about \$25; bridesmaids' bouquets are in the \$15-\$18 bracket; arrangements for the church, \$15-\$20; boutonnières about \$1 a piece and corsages range from \$4 to \$12. The price depends greatly on the flowers and the arrangements used.

The ladies are ready, next on the list is mens' clothing. Tuxedos for weddings are seldom bought by the gentlemen and rental of the suits is the customary procedure.

Silver's Clothing Store is one of the many rental outlets in town. A man's tuxedo can be rented for the day for anywhere from \$25 to \$50, once again depending on how elaborate a style is chosen.

Once the wedding ceremony is through and the confetti has been thrown the wedding moves on to the reception hall.

At a local private club a complete roast beef dinner for one person costs \$7.20 (this includes tax and gratuity). A turkey supper costs \$8 per person. A buffet is also \$8 a person.

If a dance follows the meal there is a \$100 rental charge for the room. Supplying the music can either be a disc jockey costing about \$75 for the evening or a live band which costs at least \$350 a night.

If beverages are served, the club supplies a bartender and a bar waitress for no additional charge. For an attendance of 100 people a usual limit of \$500 is set for the bar by the brides' parents. This allows at least four or five drinks per person.

To captivate all these memorable moments photographs are needed. Garrard Photos supply a basic unit of three albums with colour prints for around \$160. Prices, however, vary greatly depending on the type of photographs wanted, the type of paper used, the number of prints required and the finish desired on the prints.

Well, that is the rundown on a basic, moderate wedding. Yet, there are still some necessary costly items not mentioned. Attendants' gifts, thank you notes, wedding cake, rehearsal dinner, marriage licence, the minister's fees, bridesmaids' luncheon, hairdresser fees, lodging (if necessary) for out-of-town guests, wedding gifts and, naturally, the honeymoon.

But when it is all over and done with, it is probably well worth the expense.

After all, weddings hold treasured memories which linger for years, not only for the bride and groom but for the parents and the guests as well.

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