

Brighten your day with fresh flowers

There's nothing like flowers to add that special touch to a wedding party.

Fresh flowers are always popular with brides, who like to walk down the aisle with a bouquet of sweet-smelling blooms.

Although roses and miniature carnations are the best-sellers at Georgetown's Fendley's Florists, exotic flowers like orchids, freesias, alstromeria and stephanotis are coming into their own, said manager Nancy Craigie.

The traditional style of a cascade or round posie bridal bouquet is still around, she said. However, the newer style of fewer flowers, where the bouquet is smaller and more delicate, without a concrete shape so that the flowers dictate where they're going to go is also requested.

Besides the bride, bouquets are also carried by the maid of honor and the bridesmaids or flower girls. The groom and his ushers wear boutonnières which may be embellished with a sprig of baby's breath. The mothers of the bride and groom and any grandparents or special relatives also wear a corsage.

"Bridal parties seem to be getting larger so that weddings as events are coming back," Ms. Craigie said.

Many brides also order large floral displays for the church and decorative bows and greenery for the first few pews of the church.

Bridal bouquets run from \$25 and up and florists offer packages ranging from \$99 up to \$299. Of course, a bride can always spend more.

"Pink is back for the spring, and

there's not as much burgundy as there was last year," Ms. Craigie said of bridal party bouquets. "For the summer, they seem to be going for the pastel pinks and blues."

Flowers should compliment the style of dress, the people they're for, and the type of wedding it is.

Usually flowers are ordered two to three months early, with a six week deadline before the wedding.

"People tend to look at what their friends have done in the past for ideas," Ms. Craigie said.

In the Georgetown Marketplace, Vanderburgh Flowers owner Hank Vanderburgh has found the number one choice of brides is roses, followed by miniature carnations, then daisies.

Dutch imports like freesias, alstromeria and lilies are gaining in popularity, Mr. Vanderburgh said.

Last year, dusty pink was the popular color with brides. It's too early to tell what this summer's color will be, he said.

Flowers, instead of blending with the dresses of the bridal party should contrast with them and stand out on their own.

Although fresh flowers are by far the first choice of most brides, silk flowers are gaining in popularity. Mr. Vanderburgh said 30 per cent of the brides at his shop are choosing the longer lasting silk flowers.

"You can not beat a real flower for beauty," he said, indicating his personal preference for the real thing.

On the day of the wedding, the flowers are delivered to the bride's home, the church, the groom's home and to the reception hall.



Freedom fighters

These young writers of freedom were recently honored with a dinner and awards at the Optimist Hall. They all entered the Georgetown Optimist Club's Essay Contest. The topic was "Freedom, Our Most Precious Heritage". Seen here are (front left to right) Georgetown District High School teacher Ross Lambourn, Anita Boomsma, Erik Hopkins, Kim Dryden, teacher Tom Ramautarsingh, (middle) Ian Matsuura, Michelle Bailey, Julie Nilpper, Jessie Ramautarsingh,

Rebecca Lovelace, Optimist Ontario District Governor Al Axford, (back) Jeff Talbot, Karen Reynolds, Eileen Corrigan and John Hatzi. Missing essay writers include: Maria Abulnar, Lori Brading, Phillip Carriere, Sharon Cowling, Andrew Delroy, Andrew Fisher, John Gray, Carl Johnston, James Hodgins, Diana Krascic, Lillian Krascic, Howie McCarthy, Lisa Monchamp, Leanne Rivers, Debbie Ross and Mandy Tsui. (Herald photo)

Where to go for a honeymoon?

Couples planning their wedding should think about booking their honeymoon as far ahead as possible, at least six months in advance, according to Suzanne Lake, travel agent with Goliger's Travel in Georgetown.

The date for a wedding and therefore the honeymoon is not flexible. It is necessary to book far in advance to ensure that the desired destination is not filled, said Ms. Lake.

Currently, the most popular destination for couples on their honeymoon is the Caribbean. The seven day cruise is a nice trip for those who don't mind spending \$1200 to \$1600 per person for an all-inclusive week.

Also popular are vacations at Jack Tar Villages. There is one in the Dominican Republic, one in the Bahamas, and two in Jamaica.

Many people go to the United States for their honeymoon. Hawaii is an expensive but beautiful choice. Florida is a less expensive choice for couples who want a warm vacation at a lower price. Also, the Poconos in Pennsylvania are a common choice

for honeymoon couples.

In Canada, the various lodges and inns in Northern Ontario offer a unique but closer to home honeymoon. Two good choices are the Deerhurst Inn and the Sherwood Inn.

The inns are open year round but are more popular in the summer. Swimming, tennis, and fishing are some of the activities available in the summer, while cross country skiing is the most common winter activity.

The inns are pricey, but most people only get married once, so they are well worth the cost, said Ms. Lake.

The old stand-by, Niagara Falls is still a popular place for honeymoons.

Many couples who postpone their honeymoon until later, spend the weekend of their wedding in a downtown Toronto hotel.

The most important factor in deciding on the destination of a honeymoon is often the cost. Couples should shop around at various travel agencies so that they can find the honeymoon that fits both their budget and their idea of a good time.

Hope Chest has marriage tips

If you're getting married and want some coaching from a professional on what it's all about, there's probably a book for you.

At Georgetown's Hope Chest, a Christian bookstore that also sells music tapes and gift items, you'll find a number of selections on getting married.

Says the proprietor of the Wesleyan Street store, Linda Ryan, there's a wide range of books on marriage, some of them recommended by ministers taking courses on the subject.

Most popular are the counselling type books, but each book serves its own purpose, she says.

Two books that are top sellers from the counselling type are "Com-

munication in Marriage" and "The Active Marriage", she says.

Another popular choice is a book called "Marriage Takes More Than Love", she says.

"I like to highly recommend books that stress communication because that's what I think is important," Mrs. Ryan says.

The Hope Chest also has books for people who are having trouble with their marriage and are seeking advice on ways to help, she says.

If you're looking for wedding invitations the store also carries a wide variety plus other items needed for the wedding. You'll find goblets, garters, pillows, knives and plaques that can be engraved for gifts, Mrs. Ryan says.

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