

Jeff Lumby's view from the country

EMAIL JEFF AT LUMBY@HALTONCOMPASS.COM

I Do's and don'ts

By no means is this a scientific conclusion, but the way I see it, the demographic breakdown of wedding invitations through the average life span is as follows.

In your 20's you attend the nuptials of friends who've been dating since high school or friends who've had a bit of an oopsie. Your 30's will account for the bulk of your wedding stops because everyone you know is in that prime marrying age range of 25-40. At the beginning of your 40's you hope to have a bit of a respite from vow related occasions unless you're in court, you know, getting a divorce. But as you hit 45 the entire wedding cycle begins again.

First up are the kids of your friends who married in their 20's, then it's the second marriage of your friends who married in their 20's because they were too young the first time around. Once you make it through that stage, weddings from then on are a blur of 3rd timers, grandkids and people you hardly know. Whatever the case, I've been to enough of them to capably pass on a few dos and don'ts to ensure that your celebration translates to a tolerable experience for the guest.

This past weekend we attended the wedding of some rare 1st timers our age. It was a nice blend of casual friendliness and meaningful ceremony. The brief service was held in the same setting as the dinner, so there was no arduous schlep from place to place. They served up an awesome meal followed by a little dancing, some handshakes and, bingo, I was home early enough to catch MAD TV. Perfect!!! But looking back, when it comes to weddings, perfect rarely happens.

To start with let's examine the worst two words a wedding guest can hear. CASH BAR. If you can't afford an open bar, you can't afford to get married. It's that simple. There's nothing like saying to your friends who've traveled from Melbourne Australia, "Hey thanks for flying the 18 hours to join us in our celebration of love, now fork over 4 bucks for the Coors Light!" Hey, I purchased a new shirt and tie for your wedding, bought a gift, wrote off an entire Saturday that I could have been golfing and you're not going out of pocket for a couple of pops? Guess what Rockefeller, the gift stays in the trunk. And there's your first prudent guest rule. Never present the gift until you're certain it's an open bar.

The only thing worse than a cash bar

is no bar at all; as was the case with a wedding we had the good fortune to attend last year. Now I completely understand if your religion doesn't permit the consumption of alcohol, but don't try and be cute by plopping down a decanter of red grape juice and another of white. Now you're just taunting me. That night, not only did I watch MAD TV at home, I made it back for the 6 o'clock sports wrap-up. Now I'm not saying that every wedding needs to turn into a Saturday night at Nick Nolte's house. But if you're going to force me to endure a hot church, cold chicken and 40 minutes of non start laughs from your bitter, never married brother-in-law Lance, you've gotta give me something to take the edge off.

I actually find the entire cash grab of today's weddings an affront. From Stag and Does to pin money to passing the bride's footwear around. Hey, it's a wedding not a stock offering. I'm here to witness your love for one another and slip you a blender, not finance your summer home at Lake Rousseau. When I see that money-shoe heading my way, I'm tempted to toss a Laurier in it with an attached

note, "here's 5 bucks, enjoy your Egg McMuffin....hopefully there's enough left over for a side order of class!"

The KISS principal should also apply to all weddings. Keep It Simple Sweetheart. Too many things can go wrong with elaborate weddings that can only lead to disappointment. When you're relying on rose petals arriving unwilted and a Snowbird's flyby immediately following, "you may kiss the bride", you're there for the wrong reasons. And how many times have you heard about the wedding that went south when the drunken brother of the bride, upset about the cash bar, grabs the mic and insults the groom's father? What began as a day of love and the exchanging of vows, ended with arrests after the exchange of punches. A 5 x 7 of bloody handcuffs is always an elegant way to finish off the photo album.

If you're planning a wedding, keep in mind, your guests are there because they love you and want to support you, don't ask for anything more. In return, they deserve to be entertained somewhat. So keep the service and speeches short, the food and booze tasty and free, and for goodness sake make sure the emcee isn't going to fill his pants when he steps up to the mic. You do all of that, and I'll go open my trunk.



Gift of choice

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER

PLAY FOR POINTS, PRIZES, AND PRIDE

Starting August 17 - Every Wednesday

FREE REGISTRATION

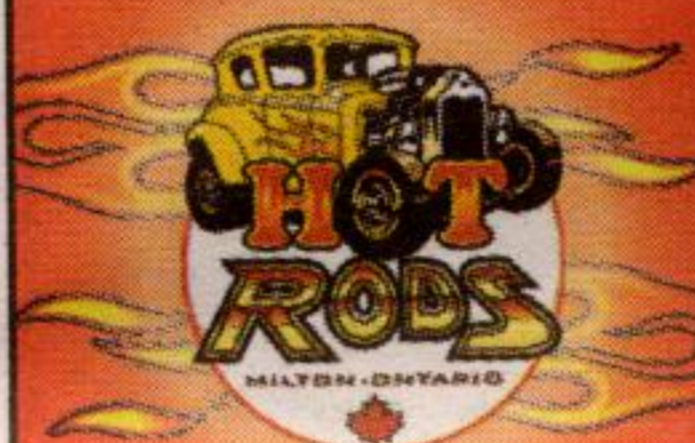
at 7:00 pm

Tournament Starts at 7:30 pm www.PiranaPokerTour.com



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Thurs. August 11 - Midtown
Sat. August 13 - The Pack Rats
Thurs. August 18 - D'Soda's
Sat. August 20 - Funk King Band



121 Chisholm Drive
Milton • 905-693-9397



Country Heritage Park

A Farm & Country Experience Milton, Ontario

Event of the week

Brawner's Farm
An American Civil War Re-enactment

August 20 & 21
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



- ◆ Authentic military camps
- ◆ Battle of Brawner's Farm
- ◆ Children's battalion
- ◆ Fashion show
- ◆ Ladies' tea

- ◆ Suttlers' market
- ◆ Period music
- ◆ Medical demos
- ◆ Embalming demos
- ◆ Artillery, cavalry
- ◆ Expert commentary
- ◆ Park exhibits open

Program subject to change.

... lots of fun for the whole family

Coming next week!

Discover Farm Animals

August 27 & 28
12 Noon - 5:00 p.m.



Can You Find the Farm Animals?

- ◆ Rusty & Carrot
- ◆ Wilbur & Babe
- ◆ Emma & Cassidy
- ◆ Pixie & Dixie
- ◆ Henny Penny & Chicken Little
- ◆ Benji & Windy Night
- ◆ Carli & Cam
- ◆ Libby & Breezie
- ◆ Bring your camera

Program subject to change.

8560 Tremaine Road, Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y3
905-878-8151 or 1-888-307-3276
Email: info@countryheritagepark.com
www.countryheritagepark.com

Check out our website

www.countryheritagepark.com

for event updates!



GREAT LAKES LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS INC.
OUTSTANDING QUALITY SINCE 1978

(519) 853-4994

- flagstone & interlocking brick
- decks of distinction
- landscape design & consultation
- rural estate management
- small woodlot management
- lawn & garden sprinkler systems
- pruning & hedge trimming
- tree & shrub planting
- ponds & waterfalls
- spring clean-up
- outdoor lighting

