

# BRIDAL CORNER

## New trend: Receive RSVPs online

**TRESA ERICKSON**  
Special to The IFP

Picture it. After hours of addressing the envelopes for your wedding invitations, you finally send them out, complete with RSVP cards. Three months later, you have only received responses from three-quarters of your guests, and in order to get an accurate head count for the caterer, you must spend a few hours calling all of those who failed to respond.

This is the scenario that many brides face every year. In spite of their best efforts to get an accurate head count through RSVP cards, some guests misplace or lose the cards and forget to respond.

All of the time and money the bride put into those cards is simply gone.

To reduce the risk of misplaced or lost RSVP cards, many brides are now giving guests the option to reply to their invitations online. Guests simply go to the website listed on the invitation, fill out the required information and

submit their RSVP.

The advantages of online RSVP are numerous. The bride does not have to provide RSVP card envelopes and stamps, which saves on the budget, nor does she have to worry about guests

misplacing or losing RSVP cards. The bride also receives responses faster through the Internet.

Of course, not all people are Internet savvy. For brides that have a mix of Internet savvy and not-so-savvy guests, sending out invitations with the website address listed for online RSVP, along with printed RSVP cards, may be the best option.

Guests can either RSVP online or by mail. Because there is the option of online RSVP, brides can forgo putting stamps on the RSVP envelopes and let guests who use the printed cards take care



of the matter themselves.

While brides may set up online RSVP through e-mail or a free website, experts recommend they use an RSVP service provider. Depending upon whom they choose, brides may receive any number of special features, including the ability to set up RSVPs for multiple events surrounding the wedding, 24-7 access to all reports, e-mail confirmation for

guests, meal tracking and more. Of course, RSVP providers will require a fee, but for brides with hundreds of guests, it may be worth it. Who knew how simple responding to a wedding invitation could be?

Online RSVP makes it so easy for guests who use the Internet often and speeds up the process significantly for brides. The bride can confirm the number of guests attending her wedding at any given time in a matter of minutes rather than sitting around waiting for the mail to arrive.

## Create unique centrepieces on a budget

**TRESA ERICKSON**  
Special to The IFP

You've been working on your wedding for months now and it is finally getting down to the wire. You can't put off selecting the centrepieces for the tables at the reception any longer. Your budget is tight, so live floral arrangements are simply out of the question. Lucky for you, there are hundreds of ideas for inexpensive reception table centrepieces.

A search through bridal magazines, shops and online will provide you with hundreds of ideas for wedding centrepieces, some traditional and some not so traditional. Here are some ideas:

- Balloons
- Baskets of artificial flowers
- Birdcages
- Bowls of fruit
- Board games and puzzles (these work especially well for children's tables)
- Candles with artificial greenery
- Cards received prior to the wedding
- Champagne buckets
- Dishes of personalized chocolates or other candies
- Fish bowls
- Glass bowls with floating candles
- Hurricane globes with sand and seashells
- Old books and maps
- Pens and journals for guests to write their good wishes
- Picture frames with various photos of the couple
- Placemats featuring artwork from the couple
- Potted plants
- Scrapbooks of the couple's childhoods
- Straw hats
- Wooden hearts and love poems

To save even more money, you might want to consider having centrepieces that will serve a double purpose. For example, the personalized chocolates could serve as wedding favors, while strawberries dipped in chocolate could work as a pre- or post-dinner treat.

Another trend is to have cakes on every table as centerpieces, which the guests can then eat at their leisure. The wedding cake can be smaller, and with various flavored cakes at each table, you're sure to offer something that will suit every tongue. Guests will enjoy comparing and sharing cake flavors.

The sky is the limit when it comes to inexpensive wedding centrepieces.

Depending upon what you decide, you may even be able to create them yourself and save yourself even more money.

The Warmth and Ambience of a 19th Century Setting



**HALTON REGION MUSEUM**  
(in Kelso Conservation Area)

905-875-2200 ext. 23 • 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866) • www.halton.ca/museum



Newly renovated historic venue in Milton. Wood burning fireplaces in both rooms. Seasonally decorated.



Accommodates up to 100 for dinner; 120 for cocktail receptions; meetings from 10 to 80 persons. A/V equipment and furniture included.



Cozy fall and winter setting beneath the Niagara Escarpment. Free parking. Wheelchair accessible.

Need accommodations for your wedding guests?



**INN ON THE HILL**

365 Guelph St. (Hwy. 7)  
Halton Hills (Georgetown)

905-877-6986 1-800-563-2476

www.bestwestern.com/ca/innonthehill

**Bea Shawn FASHIONS**

THE BRIDAL SPECIALISTS

Special Bridal Event

**MAGGIE SOTTERO TRUNK SHOW**

**NOVEMBER 1 - 3 2007**

Bea Shawn Fashions will feature an **EXCLUSIVE** collection of **MAGGIE SOTTERO** Wedding Gowns direct from the showroom!

Join us for this exciting event and you will receive a

**FREE VEIL**

with the purchase of your Wedding Gown.

389 Main Street North, Brampton

905-457-3363

www.beashawnbridal.com

**YOUR DAY YOUR VISION A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES**

*We make them happen*

"HALTON & PEEL'S BEST KEPT SECRET"

Share a romantic and memorable day with your guests on our picturesque grounds with lush greenery and a winding walkway. Our stone fireplace, spiraling oak staircase and sunken dining area make for a perfect intimate reception.

**WORRY FREE WEDDING PACKAGE!**

*Indoor or Outdoor Ceremonies*

*3-tier Real Wedding Cake*

*Invitations and Reply Cards*

*Champagne Toast*

*Wine on all Tables*

*7 Hour Full Bar Service*

*Full Sit Down Dinner*

*Seconds and Thirds for Dinner*

*Baked Alaska for Desert*

*Sweet Table or Sandwich Buffet*

**BOOK TODAY!**

**905.873.2277**



**ROTARY GLEN CA**  
WEDDING & CORPORATE EVENTS