



# For Your Special Day

## Brides '84

### Anything goes - do your own thing

For bridal fashion this spring and summer, anything goes.

At least that's what consultant Helen Top of Diamonds in Markville Plaza says.

"There's basically no set rules or trends this year," she explained. "We will go for what the individual wants — high necks, puffy sleeves, frills or long trains — we can co-ordinate them all."

Mrs. Top says today's bride-to-be wants a gown that is unique and above all, a reflection of her own personality. Although a certain neckline or veil is said to be in style, a woman should prefer one that is best suited to her own individuality.

"There is no way a person can follow all the trends," explained Mrs. Top. "They should come in and try all types of waists, sleeves, trains, necklines, then we can combine a look best suited for the person from all of the styles."

One look that will forever be in fashion, said Mrs. Top, is the traditional dress appropriate for large, costly weddings.

"When many young women decide to get married, they get emotional, and decide they want a big wedding like their parents," she explained. "The average wedding today has five or six bridesmaids, and the bride wears a dress that is more expensive, with a fussier look." The most popular look for the groom still is the classic tuxedo.

Diamonds offers gowns designed from all over the world, including Canada, France and the United States. Mrs. Top says the biggest and best selection of styles come from California or New York. The shop also offers dresses for bridesmaids, flower girls, and the mother of the bride.

Mrs. Top says brides usually prefer American satin, which is heavier than Canadian-made satin, and has a "feel of tafetta." Bridesmaids may prefer the lighter Canadian satin for hot summer weddings.

With all the beautifully tempting designs available, Diamonds advises the bride-to-be to set a budget, or she may end up paying a lot more than bargained for. Wedding gowns can cost from \$200 and upwards, depending on material and trimmings.

"The girl may want to spend \$500, but could suddenly find a dress she falls in love with for \$1000," explained Mrs. Top. "She has to be realistic." She said many women order dresses to be made up to three years in advance.

"It doesn't matter when you buy the dress...you have to like your gown forever," she said. An obvious advantage of ordering a dress in advance is the option of paying it with a layaway plan.

She said Diamonds can help provide the "total look" by arranging discounts for makeup, photographers, shoes and

fashions with other merchants in the plaza for their customers.



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Grant Johnston of Ballantrae and Patti Hodgson of Stouffville model father-of-the-bride and bride outfits, respectively

at the recent Bridal Fair and Fashion Show held in Thornhill. The show featured 50 exhibitors. — Jim Thomas

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