

# That Special Day

**Brides '85**

## Wedding etiquette tested by this quiz

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If the first sign of spring is the crocus, the second is just as surely the wedding invitation. Now is the time of year when any day is likely to bring an elegant envelope tucked in with your electric bill, supermarket circular and favorite magazine subscription.

So it's a good time to ask: How's your Guest-Etiquette? Take this quiz from BRIDE'S Magazine and see if you're up to the season ahead.

True or False:

1. Verbal acceptance of a wedding invitation is okay.
2. You don't have to send a gift if you don't go to the wedding.
3. You should bring the wedding present to the reception.
4. If you're dating someone, it's all right to bring him or her to the wedding.
5. A female guest shouldn't wear all-black or all-white.
6. The last person to be seated in church is the mother of the bride.
7. On the receiving line, you "congratulate" the groom, and offer "best wishes" to the bride.
8. You shouldn't leave the reception before the newlyweds do.

1. False - unless it's a very informal invitation. A formal, engraved invitation should be answered with a brief handwritten note on a double sheet of fine white note paper. If a response card is provided, use that.

2. True - If you're close to the couple, you'll probably want to send a gift, but it's not required.

3. False - Except if the gift is a cheque. Then you can bring it to the wedding and give it to the couple personally. Otherwise, send the gift to the bride at her home as soon as possible after you receive the invitation.

4. False - An invitation is only for those specifically mentioned. Unless it reads "and guest" or "and family," they only want you.

5. True - Although the rules are bending somewhat on this, especially since black is so fashionable right now. In general, judge what you should wear by the formality of the invitation. You can rarely go wrong in a suit and tie, for a man, and a street-length dressy party or cocktail dress, for a woman.

6. True - This is the signal that the ceremony is about to begin, so if you arrive later, stand unobtrusively at the back unless the ushers direct otherwise. It's best to try to arrive at least 10-15 minutes early.

7. True - You could cause offense if you reverse them. Other tips for negotiating the receiving line: Introduce yourself to anyone who isn't certain to know you. (Remember, the whole wedding party is in a daze by now.) Say something brief and pleasant to parents and other family members.

8. True - Although this was truer in the days when the bride and groom always left the reception early, in a shower of rice, to go directly on their honeymoon. These days, some newlyweds stay right until the end of the party, so an alternate rule might be: Don't leave until the cake has been cut and served. Remember to thank the wedding's hostess - usually the bride's mother - when you do go.



Christine Hodgson of Loretta Cres. South in Stouffville will be one of the models in three fashion shows held in conjunction with the third annual Bridal Fair and Fashion Show set for Sunday, Feb. 24 at the Heintzman House in Thornhill. *— Jim Thomas*

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## It's Bridal Fair time

It's an event no prospective bride should miss. The third annual Bridal Fair and Fashion Show will be held Sunday, Feb. 24 from noon to 9 p.m. in the beautiful Heintzman House, Baythorn Drive and Royal Orchard Boulevard, Thornhill.

The York North Wedding Guild is sponsoring the exhibit with tickets (\$8) available at The Wedding and Lingerie Room, 108 Main Street West, Stouffville.

Net proceeds will go to the Markham-Stouffville and York Central Hospital Funds.

Three fashion shows will be featured - at 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Stouffville models are Marlon and Christine Hodgson, Merle Mathewson, Jennifer and Jeff Cow-

ley. The commentator will be Tracey Chambers of Newmarket with accompaniment by John Brunke, (The Music Man).

The show's theme is "Let Us Make Your Special Day Memorable." Exhibitors from Stouffville are The Wedding Room, Bunny's Flowers, George Ross Photography and Stouffville Bakery.

## Traditional theme is in

Romantic and traditional are the two biggest trends in bridesmaid dressing today. More and more bridal parties are wearing either frilly off-the-shoulder Scarlett O'Hara looks or lacy covered-up Victorians, both of which lend an aura of charm and femininity to the wedding.

The most popular fabrics are taffeta and satin while chiffon still holds its own. Pastel shades are the favorites, with pink the leader, and aqua coming on strong, according to buyer Janice Gibney.

"Bright red looks like it will be an important color as well," Ms. Gibney notes.

Lengths are generally to the floor, although there seems to be interest in tea lengths, which end mid-calf.

Nearly as important as the dress itself are accessories. Gloves, both wrist and elbow length, are extremely popular, while hats, hoops, crinolines and jewelry all add a feminine touch.

Whatever the choice of style, shopping early is a must. To ensure that orders are met properly, Ms. Gibney suggests that the bridal party shop at least eight weeks prior to the wedding. As she says, "It's always good to choose early and be safe."

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