



# Your Wedding

*Barthau*  
JEWELLERS  
294-4844  
78 Main N., Markham

## Be careful when buying your engagement ring

Shoppers should be careful to check the cut, color and clarity of the diamond when looking for engagement rings, according to local jewellers.

If a stone has a yellow tint or is clouded it is probably a poor quality diamond, says a Markham jeweller who asked not to be named.

"It has to be clear and you don't want anything with a single cut (only 17 sides)," he said. "They don't reflect the light well and that is where the glitter comes from."

Most diamonds are cut with 58 facets and it is the cut along with the lack of color in the stone that allows it to reflect light effectively.

He said buyers should not purchase anything less than an SI diamond, meaning no imperfections can be seen with the naked eye. Shoppers should also look for black spots — small carbon deposits — inside the stone, he said.

Buyers should be careful about where they shop as well, according to Lillian Nixon, manager of the Markham Birk's store.

"People have to go to a reputable place they can trust," she said.

Mrs. Nixon suggests people be careful not to overspend. "They should pay what their pocket allows," she said. "Don't buy it if you can't afford it."

Mrs. Nixon said prices are set according to the size and quality of the stone and cover a large Sue Williamson, a saleswoman with London Jewellers, said the upswing in the economy in recent years has people willing to spend more on rings.

"Most people buy around the \$1,000 level," she said. "They're looking more for quality, something that will last."



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Spring is for lovers and a very popular time of year to get engaged. Kathleen Barthau, of Barthau Jewellers on Main St. Markham, models a variety of engagement rings available to couples. They range from 35-pt. to 60-pt.

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