

2,000 spectators made mayor's wedding 'perfect'

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Mayor Justin Altmann describes his wedding in one word: picturesque. Stouffville Mayor Altmann wed Jenny Hillier on Saturday, Aug. 6, in Civic Square in front of the Lebovic Centre for Arts & Entertainment – 19 on the Park. About 2,000 people attended, accepting the open invitation from the couple. The event drew nationwide attention.

"It was amazing," Altmann said. "It was better than planned. The staff at 19 on the Park did an amazing job, the public was absolutely phenomenal. Everything was just picturesque, it was perfect."

Altmann and Hillier have a full honeymoon planned for later in the winter, but for now the newlyweds are off to Niagara Falls for a few days.

Upon reflecting on what was his favourite moment of the wedding (besides seeing his bride walk down the aisle), Altmann couldn't decide on one specific event.

"There so many parts," he said. "When I saw the carriage it was emotional, when I saw the ring bearers and flowers, when I saw the brothers and sisters, it was all very emotional."

"From the veil blowing off to the speeches, there wasn't really one part that stood out, everything was really nice," Altmann added.

After the tragic loss of his mother, Tanis

Altmann, the mayor and his family were overwhelmed and in a state of mourning, but as per their mother's wishes, the family continued planning and organizing the wedding.

"It was good for the family," Altmann said. "It was nice to come out, see the public, hear condolences, and see the love and care. I think it helped heal the family."

After being in the receiving line for four hours, Altmann and Hillier went back home, got changed and immediately returned to Civic Square to clean up discarded water bottles, flowers and fans.

The mayor also announced the couple's new home, located adjacent to Civic Square on Church Street, is being demolished and rebuilt.

Contrary to rumours, the wedding was at "zero cost to taxpayers" the mayor stressed.

"Everything was right out of Jenny and mine's pocket," Altmann said. "Anything we asked for went back to the community for the mobile washroom trailer."

In lieu of gifts, Altmann requested that guests bring a donation for the mobile washroom trailer project the town is running on behalf of a request from Diane Ward, Derek Bunn and Wilf Morley, who presented the idea to town council earlier this summer.

More than half of the \$100,000 needed has been raised.



STAFF PHOTOS/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Stouffville Mayor Altmann wed Jenny Hillier got married at 19 on the Park Saturday. Debi Paterson performs the service. More photographs at yorkregion.com



More than 2,000 people filled Civic Square in front of the theatre to witness the wedding.



Blair Purcell delivers bride Jenny Hillier and cousin Brad Runitz to the service.

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