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SPRING BRIDE



Model Laura Coppola wears a soft white wedding gown with a sweetheart neckline and mermaid-inspired bodice. Her pomander bouquet – also known as a kissing ball – is a modern take on the traditional bridal bouquet. She was one of the models at the Wedding Extravaganza, held at the Caboto Club in January.

- Ed Goodfellow: Special to The Star
.....See pg. 6

'13

Leave nothing to chance and trust the experts this year.

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61

Marriage can be forever. Just ask the Rocheleaus, married 61 years ago

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Novel

Looking for different? How about trying caricatures, gourmet fortune cookies and custom-made rings.

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Sharp

Groomwear for the destination wedding.

.....pg. 5

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013

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Leaving nothing to chance

Something old, something new
Something borrowed, something blue...

By KAREN PATON-EVANS
Special to The Star

There are so many superstitions around weddings. In the 13th year of this century, bridal couples should thumb their noses at the old unlucky 13 notion and put their trust in true love instead.

It's sensible to hedge their bets, however. The couple who are lucky in love would be wise to learn as much as they can from wedding professionals, the vendors and suppliers who have seen it all.

The one tip they all share? Start early.

Glowing Skin, Svelte Physique

Flawless complexions and slender figures seldom come naturally. Nature is given a boost at Tecumseh Laser Centre in Tecumseh. JoAnne Duff, owner and certified laser technician, has acquired the Venus Freeze. It doesn't actually freeze the skin in place "but it does stop the clock on aging," she says. The combined energy of magnetic pulses and radio frequency revs up your own collagen production to safely treat the face and body.

"It tightens the skin almost instantly," Duff explains. "The results are even better if you do a series, so the collagen stays."

Weekly treatments over six to eight weeks are typical.

"Venus Freeze is basically a replacement for Botox and filler—and it's your own body doing the work," says Duff. It helps grooms worried about photo close-ups. "It works if you have large pores or acne scars. It almost makes them disappear," she finds. It also "gives the bride an extra glow" and her mother a more youthful appearance.

Everyone in the wedding party wants to look trim. Tecumseh Laser Centre has the local exclusive on ZERONA, a rapid inch loss laser touted by Dr. Oz as "the miracle procedure to reduce fat." Directed on the problem area, "it perforates fat cells, which starts the fat leaking out," Duff says. The body safely flushes out the fat through its lymphatic system. "Wherever we have ZERONA's diode is where you'll lose the most but you'll also lose from the rest of your body as well." Duff recommends, "Come at least six weeks before the wedding."



On this year – lucky '13 – couples should leave nothing to chance when it comes to their wedding plans.

Tecumseh Laser Centre's Venus Freeze package starts at \$1,000 and a ZERONA package at \$2,000. "We have free consultations for both of them. If you mention this article, we'll give you special bridal pricing," Duff says.

Gorgeously Gowned Bride and Bridesmaids

Brides pour over endless photos of wedding dresses shown in publications and websites. Before clicking PayPal, Nelly Semaan cautions, "Designers do not sell online. They only sell to reputable stores." If you buy online, "what you're going to get is a knockoff that will look nothing like the picture." And it can't be returned.

She knows this firsthand from upset brides who turn up frantic in Se-

maan's His & Hers Wear And Bridal at 828 Ottawa St., Windsor. After wasting their time and money, "they have to buy a second dress because they didn't get the right one."

When in a bridal shop, Semaan recommends, "Always keep an open mind." She finds, "Most brides come in with an idea and walk out with something else." Try on several dresses, but not too many at a time or you'll feel overwhelmed.

"Bring your mother, maid of honour or best friend with you. Tops: three people," Semaan says. Otherwise, there are too many opinions to consider.

Just as a bride knows when she has found the person she is going to marry, when she slips on The Dress, she realizes it is "the right one," Semaan says.

When selecting the bridesmaid gowns, the bride should invite only two girls, each with a different body type. Set the budget beforehand. Narrow dress options down to three or four. Then bring in the rest of the bridesmaids for the final decision.

Perhaps all of the dresses will

make the cut. A new trend is to dress bridesmaids in different gowns in the exact shade. "If you're going to do that, stay with the same designer so you can get the same colour," says Semaan. "All the bridesmaid dresses must be ordered at the same time at the same place" to ensure the gowns are made with fabric from one dye lot.

As her gift to her bridesmaids, the bride may make a \$50 or so down payment on each dress. If you are a bridesmaid, Semaan requests, "Be nice to the bride. Don't stress her out. Help her out."

Well-Suited Groom and Groomsmen

Tuxedo, tailcoat or morning coat? Bowtie or ascot? Pinstriped trouser or MC Hammer pants? The groom and his men only have one chance to get it right for the Big Day, so advice

from a pro is definitely in order.

The Merlo family of Merlo Formal Rentals & Sales has been dressing grooms for more than 40 years. At 3203 Walker Rd., Windsor, Rick Merlo says, "Because I've been doing this so long, I've done the grandparents' wedding, the parents' wedding and now I'm doing the grandchildren's wedding." He sorts out what is most appropriate and popular for today's wedding. There are many options.

For the ceremony occurring before noon, an excellent choice is a charcoal grey English morning coat with solid black trousers, white wing collar shirt, ascot and vest. Should the wedding be in the afternoon, the same ensemble would be worn with striped trousers. Some men change from black to striped trousers as the day progresses.

A black tailcoat and trousers would be worn with white pique bowtie and vest. "White tie is the most formal a man can wear," Merlo says. A gay couple wore tailcoats at their recent wedding and looked very handsome.

In tuxedos, classic black and heather grey are the way to go. Vests and ties can be matched to the colour of the bridesmaids' gowns. "The big look in tuxedos is the shawl collar," like James Bond, Merlo says. It is worn with the new larger bowtie with "a nice 2 1/2" spread."

The Windsor groom who is a "real artsy fellow" is donning a black short Spencer jacket, white shirt, bowtie and vest and black MC Hammer pants. Groomsmen wear the same jacket and pants with coloured polka dot bowties, vests and pocket squares. "It's very fashionable," says Merlo.

Black patent leather shoes are the only proper choice with men's formalwear.

This is the groom's lucky year to be in need of a tux. Merlo is no longer renting formalwear and is selling off the entire inventory of lightly used formal garments and accessories. A Calvin Klein tux that normally sells for \$1,200 is priced at \$300. "A ton of our tuxes are only \$99," Merlo says.

Please see *The Experts*, pg. 6

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A good marriage can be...forever!

By ANNA CABRERA CRISTOFARO
Special to The Star

Sometimes, marriage really is forever.

According to Statistics Canada, 71,000 marriages end annually – 43 per cent of them before reaching their 50th anniversary. The reasons for divorce include financial issues, unreasonable behaviour, infidelity, and sometimes simply falling out of love.

The statistics are daunting, and have caused marriage rates to drop over the years.

But although the divorce rate in Canada is high at 40 per cent, there is no shortage of couples who do believe that marriage is forever. These are the couples fiercely and madly in love, those who hope to defy the statistics and make it work – for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health.

Those couples would benefit from lessons learned from a couple who have stood the test of time: Louis and Rachel Rocheleau, who have been married for 61 years.



Mike Cardinal

On an unseasonably warm January morning, they sit together in the family room of the home they've shared for the last six decades, where they have loved madly, lost dearly, and where they are sharing in the sunset of their lives.

In the six decades since the Rocheleaus were wed in a beautiful River Canard church overlooking the water, they've had nine children, 21 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. They've survived difficult economic times and



Louis and Rachel Rocheleau are pictured here in the living room of their River Canard home.

- Anna Cabrera Cristofaro: Special to The Star

enjoyed joyous family celebrations. They have undergone devastating losses and trying medical conditions. Yet, through it all, they've remained loyal, faithful, and always in love.

Mike Cardinal, a local psychotherapist, marriage officiant and former Roman Catholic priest, says that the secret to a happy marriage like that of the Rocheleaus' is inspiration.

"There has to be a sense of, 'I'm a better person because I have you in my life,'" says Cardinal. "There's been a shift since the late '60s, early '70s, when women began to realize they didn't need a man to be economically successful, and when men realized they didn't need to have children to be considered men.

"These purposes of marriage basically evaporated... we've redefined marriage. It can't be about leaning on another person to fulfill some kind of expectation. It's about finding inspiration in the other person to

be the best person you can both be."

But Cardinal is quick to add that many couples misinterpret the excitement of sexual intimacy to be true love. He warns of "shallow marriages," partnerships created without a solid understanding of each other's views on finances, communication or parenting. These relationships, says Cardinal, are the ones which will need the most help.

"No matter what the trial, there has to be a sense of celebration and inspiration. You have to feel safe to be you, and to feel that no matter what irritant arises, you and your partner are inspired to always be better."

For Louis and Rachel, that desire to become better people and ultimately a better couple has been starkly obvious over the years. They have endured searing, painful experiences together, including the death of their youngest son from leukemia at six years old.

Several years ago, the fam-



Louis and Rachel Rocheleau married Nov. 25, 1952 at St. Joseph's Church in River Canard.

- Courtesy the Rocheleaus

ily was met with yet another trial, when Rachel was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The couple found their roles quickly reversed, with Louis now speaking on behalf of the woman who catered to him for so many years. But the dynamic of their relationship remained the same.

Although Rachel's memory deteriorates more and more every day, she still recognizes her husband, looking to him for comfort, security and love.

According to their daughter Chantal Bondy, this fierce loyalty

has been one of the greatest lessons they've given her.

"Through thick and thin – that's what they've taught me," she says. "It's too easy to quit. Even if you end up with another person, it's still going to be hard. There's no perfect relationship out there."

So is marriage really forever? According to Louis and Rachel, it can be.

"Be happy with what you have," Louis advises young couples eager to wed. "Don't look anywhere else to be happy. Be happy with what you have."



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Pushing the bridal envelope

By ANNA CABRERA CRISTOFARO
Special to The Star

Although weddings are usually about the same tried-and-true traditions, modern brides are on the lookout for something that will make their day just that much more memorable.

For Nancy Campana, owner of Nouveau Event Planning and producer of the annual Wedding Extravaganza, it's thrilling to be witness to new businesses that offer brides and grooms new ideas for the big day.

"We always love to hear that our show is a platform for new ideas," says Campana. "There's always something new and exciting, and it's great to be a part of that."

Here are some novel ways to make a wedding day even more spectacular and special.

Caricatures

Popular at carnivals, amusement parks and cruises, caricaturists are now making their way into the whimsical, wonderful, and sometimes wacky world of weddings.

Local artist Mike Sinkevitch, of Sinkevitch Art Studio, is a University of Windsor visual arts graduate and had been casually drawing people's images for the last 20 years. When a friend of the family approached him to create a caricature for their son's upcoming nuptials, "something sparked inside me," says Sinkevitch.

"I thought, people seem to really get a kick out of these things. Why not take it out there and make it more available?"

Sinkevitch's caricatures are quickly drawing significant attention. At the Wedding Extravaganza last month, brides, grooms and their families hovered over his booth, amused at the unusual and imaginative images which Sinkevitch creates using pencil, coloured pencil and chalk.

"A lot of people would stop, look at it, and then come back. They'd smile or laugh as they'd go by," says Sinkevitch. "Something like this is unexpected."



Fancy Fortunes' palm-sized fortune cookies can be a crowd-pleaser at a wedding.

- Courtesy Elisa MacIntyre

Since his appearance at the wedding show and as his work becomes the hot topic of conversation between brides and wedding parties, Sinkevitch's phone has been ringing off the hook with orders and inquiries. His work isn't just limited to large, framed images; couples have requested artwork to use on their invitations, thank-you cards and even bridal party T-shirts.

For more information, visit sinkevitchartstudio.com.

Gourmet fortune cookies

Elise MacIntyre of Fancy Fortunes began her "fortune cookie factory" in her basement kitchen, creating nearly palm-sized fortune cookies dipped in chocolate and decorated in a myriad of colours to serve to friends and family. Today, brides are adding her mouth-watering cookies to their dessert tables and handing them out as party favours.

"They're such a crowd pleaser, and they're very different than what you'd traditionally find," says MacIntyre. "They're really charming. People have even proposed with them - I've wrapped up the ring and put it inside the cookie."

The handmade cookies can be ordered in one of two sizes: petite and grande. The petite cookies are approximately the size of a lemon, while the grande cookies are the size of a large coconut. All cookies are hand-dipped in delectable Belgian chocolate and covered in a variety of "finishes," including Oreo, peanuts, toffee or coloured candy.

Couples can request a specific message to appear inside each cookie, which are wrapped in colourful cellophane or packaged in ribbon-wrapped Chinese takeout boxes.

For more information, visit fancy-fortunes.ca.

Custom-designed, custom-made wedding bands

Not only can couples design their own wedding bands - they can also make them themselves.

See NEW, pg. 5



Chuck Sinkevitch stands next to his portrait of John and Merissa Gleason that was displayed at their wedding reception.

- Anna Cabrera Cristofaro: Special to The Star

Mooning after the honey

It has become tradition for married couples to jet off on a post-wedding vacation.

This honeymoon is a way for the bride and groom to enjoy quiet time together and start off their married life together on an intimate level. Although the word "honeymoon" has happy connotations today, the original meanings of the word may not be so blissful.

There are varying accounts of the evolution of the word "honeymoon," but many believe it to be a Norse tradition deriving from the word "hjunottsmanathr."

Northern European history describes women being abducted from their families and forced into marriage with a man from

a neighbouring village. This husband would take his new bride into hiding and stay there for a while until it was certain the bride's family had given up the hunt and retreated.

It was also tradition for Scandinavian couples to drink a sweet, honey-infused wine known as mead for a month after getting married. This may be where the "honey," for the sweet drink, and the "moon," for the one-month period of time, originated.

Others say "honeymoon" refers to a sarcastic quip that a marriage starts out sweet as honey, but then wanes much as the moon will each cycle.

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Fitting the groom

By KAREN PATON-EVANS
Special to The Star

With so much focus on finding the perfect bridal gown, the groom's attire can seem like an afterthought. It is, after all, pretty straightforward: Go to a formalwear shop and rent or purchase a tuxedo, shirt, shoes and accessories. Done!

However, when the knot is being tied in a tropical paradise, the formal formula changes. At Ease Men's Apparel owner Dean Short is just back from the Dominican Republic, where local friends chose to hold their destination wedding. "In two weeks, I'll bet you I saw three weddings a day," he says. "Some people were dressed appropriately and other people were clueless."

The clueless were visibly sweating in dark tuxedos, bowties and black shoes that burned their feet in the tropical heat. The guys in the know appeared cool and casually elegant in open collared shirts and linen pants.

In Short's shop in Tecumseh, the men of a destination wedding party can be suitably outfitted in the Tommy Bahama Wedding Collection. A blend of linen and silk creates "the perfect pant for a groom and his groomsmen to be wearing," he says. "You don't even have to iron it and it looks fine."

Shunning cummerbunds, "Tommy Bahama does silk short sleeved shirts that look great on the beach," Short adds. The shirt is worn loose over the pants. The long-sleeved Pintux shirt in a cotton silk blend is a sophisticated option, with pintucks and diamond-shaped embroidery on the front. A light jacket is optional. Appropriately, sand colours – beige, tan or white – are best for a beach wedding. The man's subtle ensemble lets the bride really shine.

The groomsmen may wear the same pants, topped with a different, quietly hued shirt. Brown leather sandals complete the look – almost. At the wedding Short attended, the planner gave the men boutonnières fash-



From Tommy Bahama's 2013 Wedding Collection, the groom wears a Fantastic Florals camp shirt and Sonoma pants and the bride has a Louella lawn halter dress.

ioned from pale pink flowers and greenery she had picked from bushes growing on the resort grounds.

Since a destination wedding rolls right into the honeymoon, the groom also needs to consider how he is going to look beside his bride for the remainder of the trip. "The big thing is colour this year," Short says. Tailored shorts stopping a little above the knee are in happy hues: French blue, tango pink and cucumber, although Short suspects his best seller will be the neutral stone. The outgoing groom can get into the island spirit with red linen pants or go for a European look with calf-length capris.

To top off the bottoms, Short suggests linen shirts in turquoise and other bright tones; checked shirts in green and blue or pink, grey and white; and fitted high V-neck Ts. The groom whose skin has grown pale during the Canadian winter would be smart to pack long-sleeved shirts in lightweight fabrics. Sunburn never looks attractive in wedding photos.

Lighting it up in style

By ANNA CABRERA CRISTOFARO
Special to The Star

"Lighting design is new to the conversation," says Adam Marz of Marz Media. "You've always seen (lighting) in concert, where it can enhance the mood and feel of the songs."

"Now, the concept has come to corporate events and weddings, and it's making a huge difference in the ambience and overall feel of the event."

Countless local couples have turned to Marz to take their weddings from dim and drab to spectacular and stunning. With state-of-the-art equipment and brilliant design concepts, personalized for each couple and each event, Marz has the ability to transform any space, no matter how basic and unadorned, into an illuminated wedding fantasyland.

"It's rare that the house lights will do your décor any good. So many couples spend so much money on a decorator, but without good light, you'll end up with beautiful décor under warehouse lighting," Marz says.

"I like to compare it to having a really nice home with not-so-nice lighting. Without it, even the most beautiful home just doesn't look right."

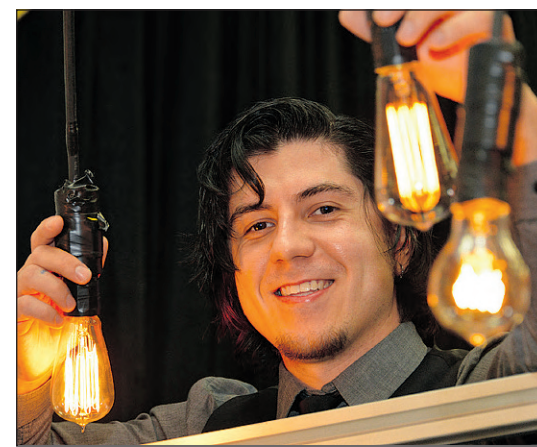
According to Marz, coloured lighting is highly requested by today's modern couples. Some choose lights that incorporate or complement the bridal party colours, while others choose hues that complement all skin tones, providing a flattering, candlelit effect.

Marz says that couples don't have to stick to a specific colour for the entire evening. With lighting designers available for the duration of the event, it's easy to take advantage of a multitude of colours.

"The atmosphere changes through the night," says Marz. "You can have a certain type of light during the couple's entrance, another during dinner, and then a splash of another sexier, edgier colour at the end of the night, when everyone's on the floor dancing."

"This kind of detailed design can really change the mood of the room. And it becomes a show."

Other options for couples include "detail highlighting," which ensures that the newlyweds are



As part of the lighting design for their booth at The Wedding Extravaganza, Adam Marz and his team at Marz Lighting assembled two pendant chandeliers of vintage Edison lightbulbs of different sizes and shapes to envelope booth visitors in warm white light, emitting a sense of nostalgia and romance.

- Ed Goodfellow: Special to The Star

lit under flattering light amidst stronger lighting surrounding them, and initial lighting, a popular feature which allows the couple's initials to be a focal point in the room.

A newer option for couples is "light wallpaper." Marz describes it as a projection of a pattern which creates a texture on bare walls.

"It's like having printed wallpaper," he says. "Again, it adds to the overall design of the space."

While the cost of lighting starts as low as \$445, the average couple purchases packages priced at approximately \$2,000. For many couples, the cost is worth it – the ambient lighting sets the stage for a most memorable event.

Marz encourages couples to shop around for a good light designer instead of attempting to do it themselves.

"You need to have a good designer, one who can choose the right colours and the right application," says Marz. "A good designer can help you determine what's best, whether it's modern and colourful, or all white and really soft."

"It's limitless, the effects of what lights can do."

New ways to mark occasion

Continued from pg. 4

Greg Dehetre, owner of Ring Weavers, has opened up a studio where brides and grooms can sign up for a personal workshop during which they can design their wedding bands. Couples have a choice between a basic model workshop, which shows them how to make a conventional wedding band, or a more advanced workshop, in which they begin with wax models, carving, engraving and customizing the rings to their hearts' content. Couples can even include a fingerprint on the inside of their bands.

The price for a workshop starts at \$300 per couple, plus the cost of material, which can vary depending on the choice of metal. Couples can choose from silver, platinum, 10k, 14k, 18k or 22k gold.

"It's another thing the couple can share and do together," says Dehetre, whose workshops are offered to one couple at a time. "You not only have the ring, you have the experience."



Madelaine Dehetre (left) and her cousin Amelia hold a ring that was custom-designed and custom-made by Ring Weavers.

- Photo courtesy Jason Dehetre, Dehetre Photography

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The 2013 LOOK

- Photos by Ed Goodfellow: Special to The Star

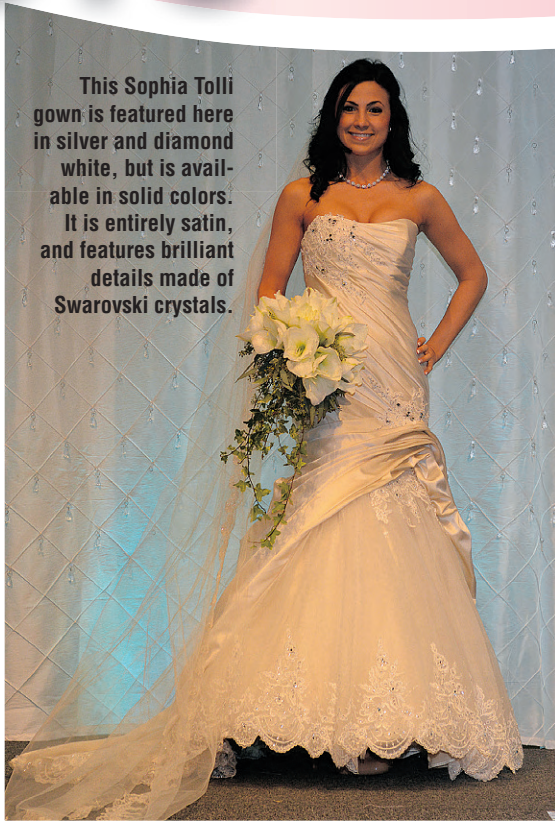
By ANNA CABRERA CRISTOFARO
Special to The Star

From encrusted bodices to embroidered skirts, romance is back for Spring Bridal 2013.

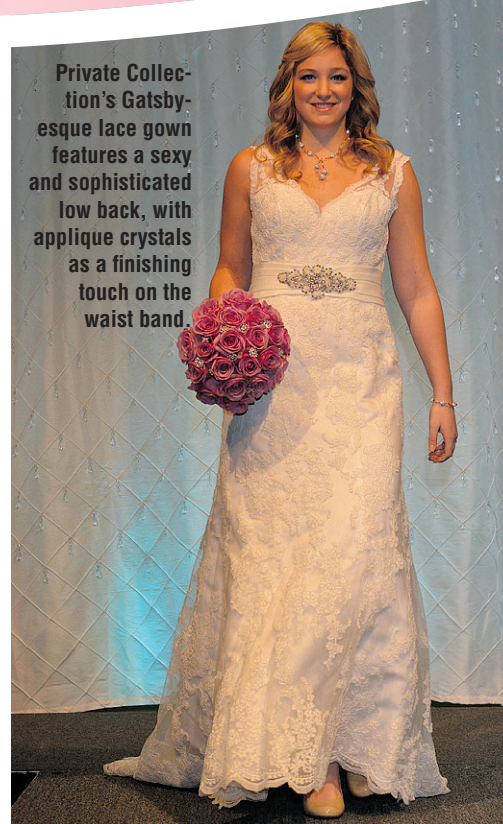
"For spring, it's all about that princess look, that vintage feel," says His and Hers Wear and Bridal owner Nelly Semaan. "There's a lot of lace and tulle, a lot of romance to the dresses."

At the Wedding Extravaganza in January, the dresses that brides saw down the runway featured ethereal clouds of fabric grounded by sophisticated details made of pearls and crystals. Shades of off-white dominated the show, including alabaster, ivory, champagne and blush. While the strapless, Cinderella-inspired ball gown still seems to be today's most popular type of gown, every shape appeared for Spring 2013, including mermaid, A-line, side-drape and structured.

This Sophia Tulli gown is featured here in silver and diamond white, but is available in solid colors. It is entirely satin, and features brilliant details made of Swarovski crystals.



Private Collection's Gatsby-esque lace gown features a sexy and sophisticated low back, with applique crystals as a finishing touch on the waist band.



This stunning Christina Wu gown in ivory and silver features a billowing tulle skirt, and a crystal and pearl encrusted bodice.



The experts

Getting to the Church on Time

It's not good for wedding day jitters to be standing at the altar, wondering if his or her beloved is going to show up on time or at all. A limousine large enough to transport the wedding party helps keep everyone prompt.

"It makes for a better day," says Peggy Laliberty, office manager for Butterfield Limousine Service of Windsor. The chauffeur usually picks up the groom and groomsmen and takes them to the church. Then the limousine retrieves the bride and her attendants, delivering them in style.

Laliberty asks the bridal couple for their itinerary in advance so the driver can plan the route and reduce travel time, an important factor in an action-packed schedule.

Serving Windsor-Essex County and the Greater Detroit Area, Butterfield Limousine Service has two models in wedding white. The 14-passenger excursion limo boasts a sunroof, two bar areas, fibreoptic lighting, two 15" TVs, intercom and DVD, iPod and MP3 ready system.

The 22-passenger bus limousine impresses with leather seats, a 15" and a 50" TV, touch screen music system, fibreoptic lighting, four bar areas and window shades to lower "if you're trying to get photos and it's really bright out," Laliberty says.

"My advice would be to book at least a year ahead because you want that date available," she says. "We only require \$113 to reserve."

The Ideal Venue

As hosts of their special day, the bridal couple are responsible for the comfort of their guests, so their choice of venue is critical. Lou Villalta, general manager of the Fogolar Furlan Windsor, believes the venue staff should inform and assist the couple, whose inexperience makes them vulnerable.

Couples can be "nickel and dimed" through unex-



The newly renovated Windsor Hall at Fogolar Furlan Club includes this elegant head table setup.

pected costs, Villalta says, should a venue charge additional fees for cutting the cake, renting screens and multimedia equipment, skirting the head table or wine corkage during dinner. Although the Fogolar doesn't charge for those services, other venues may. The bride and groom need to ask.

The venue's appearance sets the reception's tone. Fogolar recently renovated indoors and out. Catering intimate parties to events for 750 guests, the club offers formal banquet halls, a trendy lounge area, bars lit with LED lighting in the wedding colours, his and her preparation rooms for the bridal party, large outdoor patios and a gazebo. Should it rain on an outdoor ceremony, chairs are arranged quickly in the hall.

The safe is also made available to the bridal couple. Guests' cards and gift envelopes are put in a sealed packet and secured in the Fogolar's safe. "As a result, we've never had an incident with envelopes," says Villalta.

Fogolar's event coordinators request a list of the couple's other wedding suppliers "because if something goes wrong on the afternoon, we want to know who to call," Villalta says.

After all, no matter how fortunate the couple, it helps to have backup.

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