



MATT GREEN
PHOTOGRAPHY



WEDDING GUIDE

YOU'RE ABOUT TO TIE THE KNOT

First of all, congrats on your engagement. You're about to embark on a journey that will lead you down the aisle and onto your happily ever after. Despite the planning ahead, that's something to celebrate! Remember—during the frustrating moments of trying to pull everything together, always come back to the reason you're doing this: joining your life with the one you love.

I've worked as a photographer for many years, so I've seen how planning for your wedding day can be overwhelming. But do you want to know a secret? It doesn't have to be! I've compiled all of the tips and tricks I've learned over the years into this guide, and I'm here to help you have less stress during the entire planning process. When we get to your wedding day, I'm also here to ensure that your wedding images are simply stunning and that all of your concerns are addressed.

As both your friend and photographer, I want you to feel confident knowing that no matter what happens on your special day, we'll capture every heartwarming moment so you can look back fondly at them for years to come.

Let's dive in!





YOUR
JOURNEY
STARTS
HERE

SO WHERE DO YOU START?



BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION

A wedding can't happen without some kind of plan. Even if all you do is pick a date and choose a venue, hoping the rest falls into place, that's still something! But since winging it won't help you create the wedding of your dreams, it's best to build a solid foundation by getting clear on what you want and what's within your budget.

THE VISION FOR YOUR BIG DAY

The day you tie the knot is a momentous occasion and the perfect opportunity to plan something truly spectacular. From the décor to the entertainment, every detail should be just how you imagine it. But first...you have to imagine it!

Do you want your wedding to feel romantic and elegant? Or maybe adventurous and fun? What is your ideal wedding location? Do you want a grand entrance with fireworks to grab your guests' attention? Or are you more comfortable with an intimate, relaxed reception?

These (and more) are important questions to consider when talking about your shared vision. I've witnessed couples get derailed because, halfway to the wedding, they aren't clear about what they want and are looking at too many options.

Before moving forward, start a journal dedicated only to your dream wedding. Make a note of every little detail you can think of so you have a quick reference and won't forget any of your brilliant ideas. The journal will also help you stick to your vision so you can narrow your focus and feel less overwhelmed. For example, if you do want fireworks, there's no need to look at getting doves to release! You can narrow your search only to fireworks and ignore the rest.

SETTING A WEDDING BUDGET

Deciding on your vision is just the next step. Next, you need to tackle the budget. This can be tricky and overwhelming, but it's totally doable.

Start by creating a spreadsheet of your expected costs to keep track of what you're spending. Then, decide how much money you're comfortable investing in your wedding. You can research general vendor and venue costs to give yourself an estimate to work with, then adjust as needed.

HIRING HELP

Even though you've hired a few vendors already (like me), you can hire a planner at any step of the journey to take over. Of course, there are DIY options if you're trying to save money, but I can tell you from experience that even a little help goes a long way.

A wedding planner will make sure everything is running smoothly and on schedule, handle last-minute emergencies, coordinate vendors and guests, secure permits or licenses if necessary, keep track of all contracts and payments, provide décor suggestions, and a lot more.

At this stage of the game, it's important to remember that having an extra pair of hands to assist with planning makes life easier. You don't have to do it all yourself! Also, remember that day-of planners and coordinators are available. If hiring help for the entire planning process is out of your budget, many planners are available for one day only to lift the weight off your shoulders so you can focus on enjoying your special moment.

A NOTE ON "MUST-HAVES"

It's easy to get caught up in wanting everything you see on Pinterest, but your budget should be the deciding factor when it comes to upgrading or downgrading certain details. This is where research and communication become invaluable.

Sit down with your fiancé and make a list of what each of you deems most important. For example, if the flowers are important to you but you don't care about music, allocate more funds to flowers and find lower-cost options for music (like a playlist). Making this list is also good practice for your future marriage: if your fiancé ranks music as important and they absolutely must have a band, well, you'll need to find a compromise!

Finally, don't forget the hidden costs that might come up during the planning process (gratuities, taxes, credit card processing fees). Talk about these items too so when those moments arise, nothing is a surprise.





A FOREVER
KIND OF LOVE



MONEY SAVING TIPS



MAKE YOUR GUEST LIST THE A-LIST ONLY

It should go without saying that a smaller guest list is better for both your budget and your sanity! No matter how many guests you have, any amount you can trim will help you go from feeling overwhelmed to feeling everything is manageable. An intimate celebration usually requires less money and effort—plus it comes with a priceless bonus: more quality time with the smaller group of guests you invited!

Here's how to trim your list:

- Make a list of your immediate family and very close friends. These are your "A-list" names that will definitely get invited. Using just this list, estimate your food costs and write down the total.
- Make a second list of B-list people who you will only invite if it is within your budget. These people may include friends that your parents want to invite, distant family members, and friends you haven't spoken to in over a year.
- Now, compare how much you'll spend on food for your A-list to what you have budgeted for food and drinks. If there's wiggle room, meaning your A-list people do not use your entire food budget, you can look at your B-list and decide if you want to invite a few more people to your wedding.
- Be honest with yourself about the numbers: decide how many guests you can comfortably host and be firm about sticking to it.

CHOOSE IN-SEASON FLOWERS AND FOOD

"Seasonal" and "local" are two words that will help you save money on catering and flowers. When you buy in-season, you're buying food and flowers at their peak supply, when prices are typically lower. Plus, buying local means flowers/food won't need to be shipped halfway around the world; not only will you save money, but also minimize your carbon footprint - it's a win-win situation!

PICK A LOCATION THAT LOOKS GREAT AU NATUREL

Allow nature's beauty to work for you in outdoor areas with stunning views! Venues that already have inspiring natural features, like a beach, garden, or barn, can save you hundreds (or even thousands) of dollars—all you have to do is supply the finishing touches. Scour wedding websites and Instagram for inspiration on how other couples used minimal decorations in beautiful venues. You might be surprised at what kind of impact just a few simple items can make.



FIND A VENUE THAT WILL LET YOU BYOB

For many couples, alcohol for their guests is a huge expense, so be mindful of cost-per-bottle when deciding on a venue. Look for places where you can purchase and serve your own alcohol so you can keep track of the price.



HAVE YOUR CEREMONY AND RECEPTION AT ONE LOCATION

Having both your ceremony and reception at the same place can save you a ton of money—not to mention simplify the planning process. If one site is just too costly, consider holding your cocktail hour in a separate area from the main venue or researching nearby spaces for rent that are affordable. If you can have the entire wedding in one spot, you'll also save on transportation costs.



KIND WORDS



Matt is an amazing photographer. We had him do both our engagement and wedding photos and both were a dream come true! He has the amazing way of being able to capture the beauty in every moment. He was absolutely amazing at knowing what lighting and positioning to have us in to truly capture the perfect photo! I would highly recommend him as a photographer for your special day! Our wedding and engagement photos he took are something we will cherish and be in awe of forever. I still love looking through them all!

BECCA & CALEB



THE WEDDING TIMELINE

Your wedding day is a beautiful experience to be enjoyed and remembered, so I always recommend to my couples that they have some kind of timeline to refer to. If you're working with a planner, they should have this for you; otherwise, about a week before the wedding, you should create a detailed, hour-by-hour wedding day timeline to ensure your big day runs smoothly. This will help you stay organized, calm, and on time.

Share your wedding day timeline with your wedding party, day-of coordinator/planner, photographer (me!), caterer, florist, and other vendors once you have completed it so that everyone is on the same page.

While most weddings follow the same format, the order in which events occur may vary depending on your preferences. It's not a one-size-fits-all situation. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me regarding the specifics of your day and I can help you work it out!

Here are some suggestions for how much time to give for each event, as well as a general order of events.

SAMPLE ORDER OF EVENTS

TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS: 10 TO 11.5 HOURS

GETTING READY AND DETAIL PHOTOS: 2 HOURS

This includes time for hair and makeup, getting dressed, and capturing detail shots of the wedding attire, rings, and other accessories.

FIRST LOOK AND COUPLE PHOTOS: 1 HOUR

Allow time for you and your partner to have a private moment and capture photos together before the ceremony.

WEDDING PARTY PHOTOS: 1 HOUR

Allocate time for group photos with the wedding party, including bridesmaids, groomsmen, and any other special attendees.

CEREMONY: 20 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR

The duration of the ceremony can vary depending on the type of ceremony and any special rituals or traditions involved.

COCKTAIL HOUR / FAMILY PHOTOS: 1 HOUR

Guests can enjoy a cocktail hour while you and your partner take photos with immediate family members and close relatives.

GRAND ENTRANCE: 15 MINUTES

This includes the announcement of your arrival and any special introductions.

DINNER: 1 TO 1.5 HOURS

Account for the time it takes for guests to be seated and served their meals.

SPEECHES AND FIRST DANCE: 30 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR

Allocate time for speeches from the wedding party or close family members and your first dance together.

CAKE CUTTING, BOUQUET, AND GARTER TOSS: 30 MINUTES

Include time for the cake-cutting ceremony and any additional activities like the bouquet and garter toss.

DANCING: 2 TO 3 HOURS

Guests can enjoy dancing and celebrating on the dance floor.

GRAND EXIT: 15 MINUTES

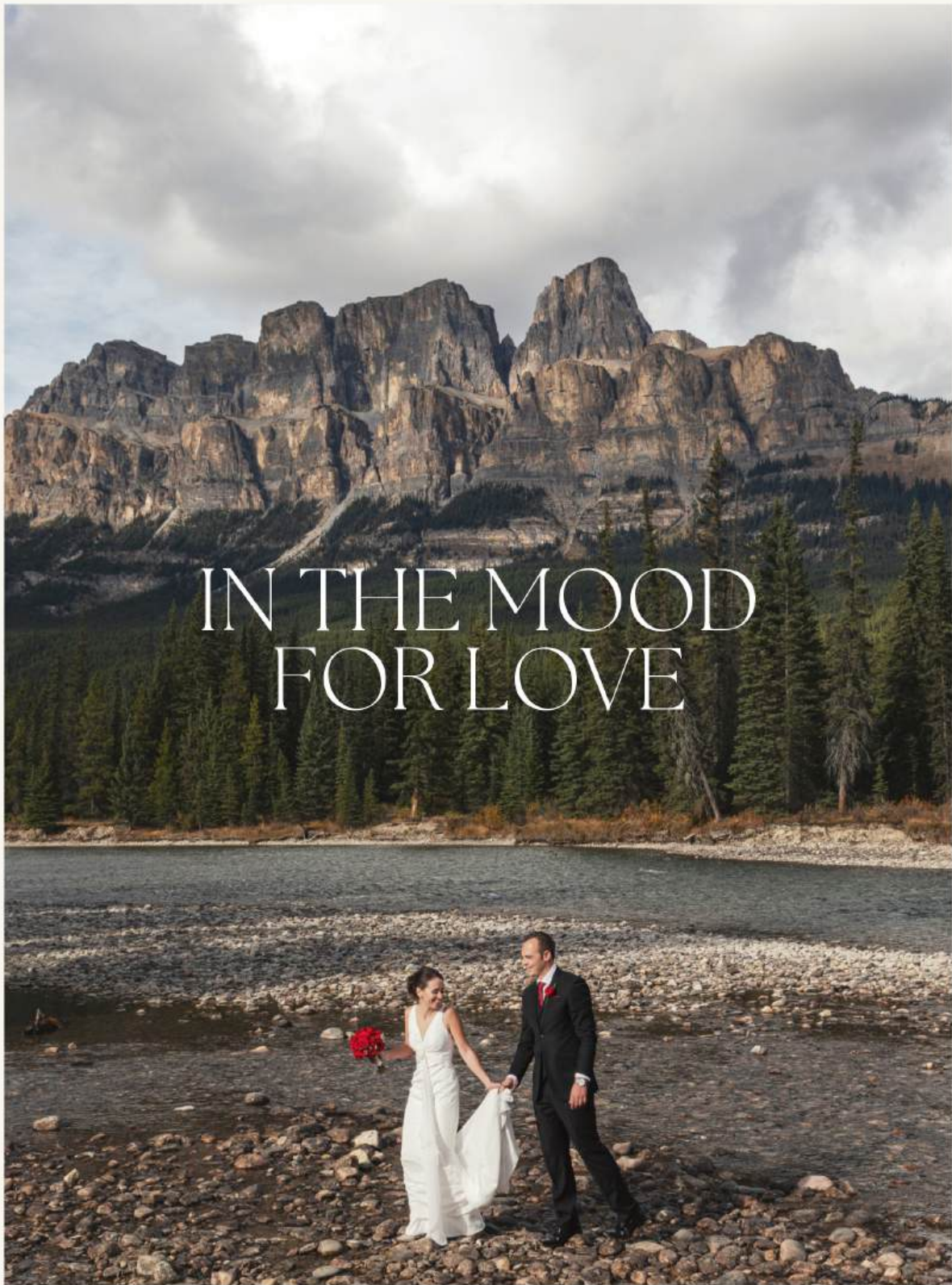
End the evening with a grand exit, such as a sparkler send-off or a farewell with your guests.

SAMPLE TIMELINE

10 HOURS OF COVERAGE WITH A FIRST LOOK

11:00	Getting ready and detail photos
1:00	First look and couple photos
2:00	Wedding party photos
3:00	Ceremony
3:30	Cocktail hour / Family photos
4:30	Grand entrance
5:00	Dinner begins
6:00	Speeches, first dance
7:00	Cake cutting, bouquet & garter toss
8:00	Dance party
9:00	Grand exit

NOTE: DEPENDING ON THE TIME OF YEAR, WE CAN PLAN A QUICK "GOLDEN HOUR" SHOOT FOR YOUR COUPLE PHOTOS. ALSO, KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE ARE JUST ROUGH TIME ESTIMATES AND CAN VARY DEPENDING ON YOUR SPECIFIC WEDDING PLANS.



IN THE MOOD
FOR LOVE

THE DETAILS

This section is all about the photos. There's something special about capturing your wedding day memories. As a photographer, I focus on telling your story in the way that's most meaningful to you, by documenting all of the special moments throughout the day—from getting ready to walking down the aisle to dancing with your guests.

You've probably spent hours carefully picking the various details of your wedding, and I will enjoy photographing them as part of your day's story! Example details you may want me to capture are listed below.

Please gather all of your wedding details and have them available for me when I arrive. After greeting you, I will begin taking detail photographs while your hair and makeup are being done. To save time, I suggest gathering the important items that you want documented the day before.

Quick tip: If you want clutter-free images, designate a room at the venue or a section of a room as the "bag area" and keep most of your belongings there.

FOR THE BRIDE

- Shoes
- The rings
- All other jewelry
- Headpieces
- Perfume
- Bouquet
- Garters/handkerchiefs
- Pretty Dress Hanger
- Wedding stationary with envelopes i.e., invitations, programs, thank you cards.

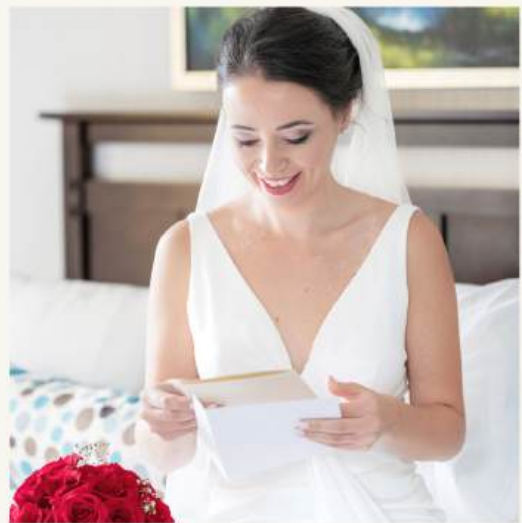
FOR THE GROOM

- Shoes
- Pocket square / Tie / Bowtie
- Belt
- Socks (If patterned)
- Cologne
- Cufflinks
- Watch

OTHERS

- Vow Books
- Ring Box
- Any other special details

DETAILS BOX



GETTING READY

I love capturing your excitement and emotion while you prepare—those priceless moments with your bridesmaids, mother, sister, or anyone else who is assisting you. These photographs are often my favourites. There's something about the jitters leading up to the wedding, the small moments of "this is it," and the sometimes booze-induced laughter with your best friends.

Getting ready photos are primarily candid. However, I try to make sure everyone is mostly ready before I start photographing them. You probably don't want a photo of yourself with half-done makeup or hair! So just relax and focus on preparing, knowing that I won't capture anything unflattering.

GET READY IN A WAY THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO BE CAPTURED IN PHOTOS

It's completely up to you how you go about doing so. For some brides, having their bridal party wear matching outfits is the way to go; others may decide to give everyone a customized shirt or robe to wear while getting their hair and makeup done. After all, you're not only making memories on your wedding day—you're also preserving them. By the time I enter the room, you should all be looking and feeling fantastic!





THE LOCATION

After your reception and ceremony location(s), the “getting ready” space is the next most important. It's where you'll spend the morning with your wedding party, prepare, and have photographs taken. When picking a place, look for an open space with plenty of natural light. Consider renting out a lovely Airbnb or boutique hotel room if the space provided by your venue doesn't seem suitable.





GRAND
DECISIONS
& TINY
MOMENTS

FIRST LOOK



Let's face it: your wedding is both the best and one of the most stressful days of your life. I usually advise my couples to do a first look since it allows them to have a quiet moment with their partner away from the crowds at the ceremony. They get to take a break from the hustle and bustle to spend some quality time together and soak up the love and excitement.

You'll want to have enough space and time to really be present when you see the teary, emotional reaction from your partner when you gaze at each other for the first time on your big day. When you're in front of an audience, it's difficult to concentrate on anything other than the faces staring at you.

I've discovered that having a first look gives you a safe space to be emotional and enjoy the moment. After seeing each other, you can hug, kiss, twirl, and get a good look without feeling rushed. First-look photos give you a pause in your crazy day to share your love for one another in private.

If you can't tell, I'm a sucker for first looks! But this isn't about me, so if you prefer to stick to the traditional way of first seeing each other at the altar, that's perfectly okay. I never want my couples to feel like I'm pressuring them; I simply want you to be informed.



NOSTALGIA
THAT LASTS

COUPLES PHOTOS

If you choose to have a first look, we'll capture some photos of just the two of you before the ceremony. If you're skipping the first look, we'll get these straight after the ceremony.

I suggest that you ask your friends and family to give you space during this part; most people find it easier to relax when they're not in front of an audience. However, if you prefer to have your own personal hype team with you, go ahead! Either way, you'll be overflowing with joy and love, and these images will prove it!

"BUT WHAT IF WE'RE ALWAYS AWKWARD IN PHOTOS?"

Don't stress! That's one of the most common worries I hear. Whenever a couple brings this up, it typically means "I've never had professional photos taken before" or "I'm awkward / nervous in front of the camera." It's one of my favourite questions to answer because I always say, "It doesn't matter!"

This isn't like getting a portrait. You won't be stiffly posed or nervously standing in an uncomfortable position long enough to wonder what your hands should do. I'm sure you've had enough of that with school photos. Expect to be reminded of the power and beauty of your love story by laughing until it hurts and running around like weirdos. I will never try to change you into something you're not; instead, I will give you the freedom to be the fullest version of yourself—that's where beautiful imagery emerges. This isn't a photoshoot for *Vogue*; you're much more interesting than that!

You'll end your wedding day with hundreds of photographs capturing your love for each other. Believe me when I say you're going to look amazing in all of them!



THE WEDDING PARTY

Once your photos are taken before or just after the ceremony, it's time for the wedding party. I'll capture some shots of just one partner's side, then the other's, and then a group shot of everyone. I will also make sure to grab individual shots of the two of you with members of your party. If you're skipping the first look, we'll also get some photos of just the two of you after the ceremony.

I know you want your wedding to be a blast for all of your best friends, so, like with the couple's shoot, I will avoid stiff poses. One of my favourite wedding party prompts is to have the couple kiss while everyone else cheers.

GET EVERYONE'S BOUQUETS READY AND BOUTONNIÈRES ON, BECAUSE THESE PHOTOS ARE GOING TO BE FUN!

THE CEREMONY

You made it! This is the moment you've been looking forward to for months. It's easy to get caught up in all the preparations and stress, but remember that the most important thing is that this is the beginning of your lives together. Savour this moment!

The usual ceremony lasts approximately 30 minutes, but if you want to incorporate any particular traditions, I'd suggest allowing yourself an hour.

Two important tips:

- Ask your officiant to move out of the way before the first kiss so they aren't in the background of the photo
- Hold your kiss longer than usual for plenty of shots!



TELL YOUR FAMILY ABOUT THE PHOTOS

Make sure the family members who will be in your group shots are aware ahead of time. You can also have your officiant make an announcement, asking family members to meet for photos after the ceremony in a designated location.

THE FAMILY

My goal is for you to have the most enjoyable and efficient family photos possible. Although they may seem daunting, I am here to make them go smoothly.

Here's what to know:



PREPARE A SHOT LIST

Before your wedding, I will request a shot list so I can get all of the family photo combinations you want. That way, I can have my assistant or a friend of yours call out who is up next and we won't forget any shots that you have listed.

DESIGNATE SOMEONE TO BE IN CHARGE

Having a friend or family member who knows your family can be a huge help in making sure everyone is present and ready for the photos.

WE WILL WORK BIG TO SMALL

I suggest starting with the largest group and working your way down to smaller groups so that any guests who are no longer required can be dismissed. I also recommend taking photos of grandparents or older guests first, so they can be dismissed earlier.

ASK EVERYONE TO PUT THEIR PHONES AWAY

When a guest takes a photo over my shoulder, it can confuse folks about where to look and slow down the process. Please ask guests to refrain from taking photos with their phones. They will have plenty of time for that once we're done, I promise!

THE RECEPTION

Finally, some rest and relaxation. You're married, and it's time to celebrate! During this time, a lot of things happen and I'll photograph everything. I'll take some candid and group shots, so if you have any friends or extended family members you need photos with, now is the time. So don't worry about me because you have the freedom to make the reception yours. The possibilities are endless!



HERE ARE THE USUAL RECEPTION EVENTS:

- grand entrance
- toasts
- first dance
- parent dances
- bouquet toss
- garter toss
- cake cutting
- grand exit



UNPLUGGED WEDDING

When you marry the love of your life, you ask all of your closest friends and family to be there to rejoice and witness your union, sharing this special moment with you and your partner. You want to see their faces, their grins, and their tears of joy and excitement as you walk down the aisle.

You probably don't want to glance around and find people taking pictures of you with cameras and phones obscuring their faces.

Unfortunately, I've witnessed many situations where a guest's phone is sticking out into the aisle, obstructing not only the moment but also the images I'm capturing as your photographer. I strongly recommend having an unplugged ceremony to avoid phones popping up in the background of shots and to allow guests to be more present.

There are a few ways to inform your guests if you decide to have an unplugged wedding:

- Tell them early through the invitation. Add a line that reads, "We would love for you to be there, but we are having an unplugged wedding; we kindly request that you do not take any photos during the ceremony."
- Ask the officiant to make a brief announcement. Before the ceremony, your officiant can request that guests turn off their phones and refrain from taking pictures for you enjoyment.



SELF CARE

Don't forget about the most important person at your wedding: you! Wedding planning isn't just time-consuming; it can also be intimidating. You might be feeling stressed, overwhelmed, and spread a little (or a lot) thin as your big day approaches.

Self-care is a vital aspect of wedding planning, as well as life, which many people overlook. No matter how overwhelmed you may be with wedding planning, your physical, mental, and emotional well-being shouldn't be taken for granted.

Sure, there may be snags along the way or even on the big day, but the most important thing is that you're getting married and all of your friends and family will be there to celebrate with you. Couples that have the most fun during their weddings are those who focus on the important things and don't sweat the small stuff.

Self-care tips for your journey:

- Take a break from wedding planning and do something that you love.
- Try yoga or meditation to relax and reconnect with yourself.
- Spend quality time with your partner, friends, and family. Don't forget to go on dates!
- Talk to a therapist or counselor if needed.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING
ME AS THE PHOTOGRAPHER
FOR YOUR SPECIAL DAY. I
HOPE YOU FOUND THIS GUIDE
FILLED WITH PRACTICAL TIPS
YOU CAN USE, AND I HOPE
YOU FEEL MORE INFORMED.

IM SO EXCITED TO
DOCUMENT YOUR DAY!



VENDOR LIST

PLANNERS

confettiand.co
maeckweddings.com

VIDEOGRAPHERS

princeadehstudios.com
(for more information talk to
Matt)

VENUES

Puddicombe House, New Hamburg
Elora Mill, Elora
Langdon Hall, Cambridge
Graydon Manor, Toronto

DESIGNER/DECORE RENTAL

picnicsinthe6ix.com
divinedesignbynoshi (insta)
styleyoureventskw (insta)

FLORISTS

www.budsandbloomskw.com

CATERING

Chef Duff at River Song

HAIR & MAKEUP

@Kaviaronjames (Insta)
Gina's Spa Waterloo

MY SHOT LIST

GETTING READY

dress
suit
shoes
jewelry
bouquet
boutonnieres
rings
invitations
getting makeup done
putting on wedding attire
putting on jewelry
putting on shoe
candid photos of everyone

RECEPTION

grand entrance
cake
decorations
guests interactions
toasts & speeches
first dance
parent dances
guests dancing
cake cutting
bouquet toss
garter toss
grand exit

BRIDAL PARTY

each side separately
individual photos
entire party

THE COUPLE

shot of rings
individual photos
couple together
first look

CEREMONY

ceremony site & details
everyone walking down the aisle
each partner's reaction
exchanging of rings
reading of vows
first kiss
guests

FAMILY

Every family situation is different.
Please prepare a list of family
combinations that you want
photographed.

YOUR SHOT LIST

Please write your must have shots here. You can send me a photo afterwards and we can brainstorm!

Note: This will also be a part of your questionnaire.

FAMILY

OTHER

COUPLE

Journal

Journal

GET IN TOUCH

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else I can do to assist you beyond this guide! As a reminder, one month before your wedding, we will have a final phone conversation and walk through everything. In the meantime, happy wedding planning!



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LET'S GET
YOU MARRIED

