

SPECIAL REPORT PROVIDED BY: **MARILEE'S BRIDAL**

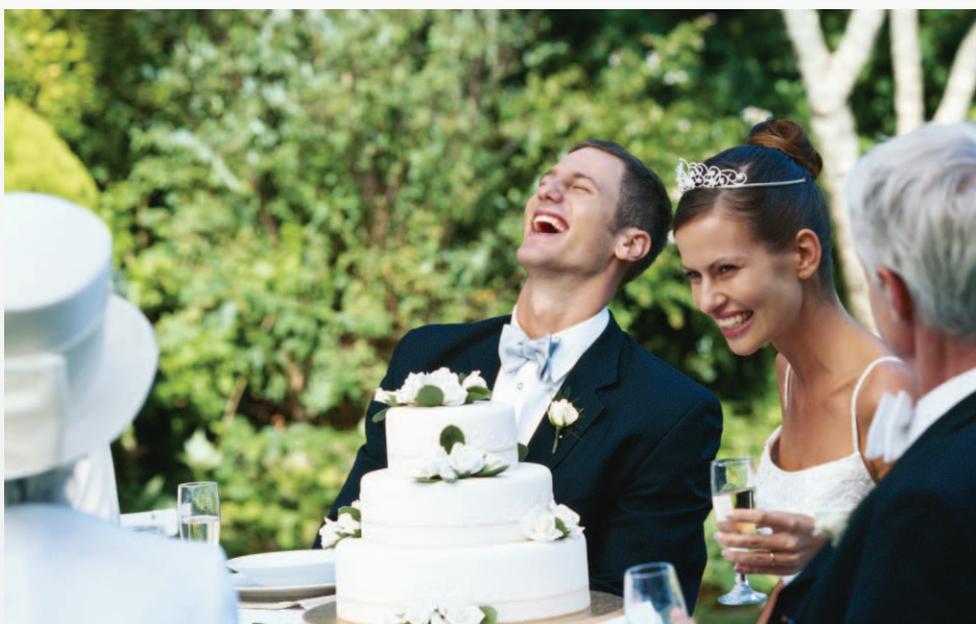
A photograph of a bride and groom figurine set. The groom is in a black tuxedo with a white shirt and black bow tie. The bride is in a white, off-the-shoulder wedding dress with a full skirt and a white veil. They are standing on a surface of US dollar bills, with a large yellow rose in the foreground. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the money and the rose.

Your Wedding Budget Planner

by Mary Marr

The average cost of an wedding in Canada today is approximately \$25,000. In these economic times, you may be planning on spending more or less than this median, but regardless of the amount you will spend to celebrate your love and union, one thing is certain: A budget is critically important and sticking to it even more so. To help you plan for the wedding of your dreams, and stick to your budget, please use this wedding budget checklist to help you write out and plan your overall wedding costs.

Everyone in your family and your fiance's family likely has a different idea of what the perfect wedding should entail. The most important feedback you should get once you are engaged is to find out what is important for both you and your fiancé. Once you have established your priorities, you'll be able to better determine what to include and what isn't as necessary so you can know how much you can spend in each area. Obviously, if others are contributing to your overall wedding budget, you'll want to listen to their feedback as well (so keep that in mind when considering who will be providing financial assistance and what role they want in planning the wedding). There are four main factors that you and your fiancé should carefully discuss as you plan the details of your wedding. These are:



1. The Wedding Location and Reception Venue (indoors or outdoors)
2. How You'll Look – this is a very special occasion so you'll both want to look your best. Brides typically spend at least 10% of their total budget on their wedding gown and many times much more. You'll look back on these pictures with great fondness so be sure to pick attire for you and your fiancé that you will always treasure and love.
3. The Time of Year or Week– some locations are more popular and thus higher priced at different times of the year or different days of the week.

4. The Number of Guests You'll Invite (biggest contributor to overall cost since most wedding vendors charge on a per guest basis). As a general rule, make sure that you invite people that are important to you and that will make your wedding day and reception memorable. You can go overboard with this (as your parents and his parents will likely want to invite many of their friends to celebrate your wedding as well) so do your best to keep this number in control as it will affect your total costs more than any other single thing.

Here are eleven areas of your wedding that you'll want to consider for your wedding budget. Use this Wedding Budget Worksheet to plan out what you will spend at your

wedding. To the right of each item is listed the total percentage amount brides nationally spend on each category for their weddings. Remember, you can always shift around your actual budget percentages for your wedding based on what is most important to you and your fiancé, but once you've set the budget, do your best to stick with it or adjust other areas (instead of allowing the budget to keep ballooning bigger and bigger). This is very easy to do, so be firm or you will likely regret it later.

We look forward to helping you find your wedding gown as you begin your journey to the perfect wedding so call us at 905-892-6634 to schedule your appointment now! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Your Wedding Budget Worksheet

My Total Budget _____

Expenses	% of total budget	Your estimate	What you actually spent	Who is paying for this?
Ceremony Location fee, officiant fee, marriage license, musician's fees, ring pillows	3%			
Reception Reception Site, Food, Drinks, Rentals, Cake, Favors	48%			
Bride's Attire Dress, Headpiece/veil, undergarments and hosiery, shoes, accessories, jewelry, hair and makeup,	10%			
Groom's Attire Tuxedo or Suit, shoes, bow tie, cuff links, studs, suspenders	2%			
Rings His and her rings, engraving	3%			
Flowers Ceremony, bride's bouquet, maid-of-honor and bridesmaid bouquets, corsages and boutonnieres, centerpieces, flower-girl basket	8%			
Music Ceremony Musicians, Band and/ or DJ, cocktail hour musicians, sound system rental	8%			
Photography Photographer and Videographer's fees, albums, additional prints, disposable cameras for candid	11%			
Transportation Transportation for wedding party, guest shuttle and/or parking attendants	2%			
Stationery Invitations, response cards, thank you notes, postage, calligraphy, guest book	3%			
Gifts Bridesmaid and groomsmen, parents, welcome baskets for out-of-town guests.	2%			



Mary Marr is the owner or Marilee's Bridal - Niagara's #1 choice for brides, located at 1507 Pelham St., Fonthill, ON. She can be reached at mary@marilees.com or by visiting www.marilees.com.

We sincerely look forward to helping you prepare for your wedding and thank you for trusting our store as a part of this preparation. We wish you the best in every endeavor you undertake and invite you to call us at 905-892-6634 to schedule an appointment to find your dress. Thank you!

Mary Marr