

"IN FULL BLOOM"

TRUE LOVE. TRUE LUXURY.

SUMMER LOVE

Jacqueline and Rob first met in 2003 at McMaster University through a mutual friend. It wasn't until six years later, after Jacqueline moved to Toronto to start a job, when it started to be clear that they were meant to be much more than friends. In the summer of 2009, Rob rode a bicycle across Canada to raise money for cancer with his soon-to-be best man. It was during this summer apart that Rob and Jacqueline realized they were meant to be together. "That summer the two months that he was riding across the country seemed like eternity," says Jacqueline. "Our relationship began as soon as he got back to Toronto and we haven't looked back since."



JACQUELINE and ROB

PHOTOGRAPHED BY KRISTA FOX + MELANIE GALBRAND-CHEN

THE ULTIMATE DATE

While dating, the pair had started a tradition of taking turns planning "date nights" for each other. Plans ranged from simple dinners and movies, to concerts and speed skating lessons. One Friday night in March of 2011, Rob told Jacqueline to make sure she was available because he had a date planned.

Jacqueline explains what unfolded that night! "Upon arriving home from work I found an empty condo and a note on my bed saying, 'Welcome to your date adventure.' The note instructed me to pack a bag (including a bathing suit) and use the subway token provided and go to King Subway Station. I was to text him once I got there, for further instructions. At this point, I had a feeling something special might be happening, but I tried to convince myself that it was all just part of our regular date nights. Once I arrived at the station, he texted

me directions to the **COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL** and told me to ask the front desk for a key under my name. When I arrived, there were rose petals, champagne, chocolate-covered strawberries, and a fantastic view of the Toronto skyline. Again, I tried to stay calm by convincing myself that this was just a really great "date night." Rob sat me down, told me how much he cared about me and explained that no matter where he ended up getting into residency, it would be fine because we would be together. When he got down on one knee and pulled out the most beautiful Birks Amorique engagement ring. I instantly burst into tears and starting giggling and screaming "YES! Of course!" He then informed me that we would spend the night in the beautiful hotel room and enjoy a private meal in our room and a couples' massage the following morning in the hotel's luxurious spa."



UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE

To start the theme, stationery designer Beckee McCann from **PAPER & POSTE** created a luxurious letterpress invitation on beautiful cotton stock, in tones of grey. The envelopes were lined with a teal and white crosshatch pattern, which matched the colour of the bridesmaids' dresses.



HEIRLOOM TOUCHES

Jacqueline and Rob each had a family heirloom with them during the ceremony. Jacqueline incorporated her late grandmother's pearl brooch into her bouquet (by **FORGET ME NOT FLOWERS**) and she also pinned one of Rob's late grandmother's handkerchiefs in her dress. The handkerchief was especially significant as four generations of brides had carried it with them on their wedding day. Rob wore his late grandfather's cufflinks.



GRAND ENTRANCE

The ceremony took place at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Toronto. Fragrant white floral arrangements topped with glass trumpet-shaped vases were filled with lush buckhorn branches, white cherry blossoms and a collar of white hydrangea lined the aisle creating the feel of a "tree lined alley" for Jacqueline's entrance.



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RECEPTION

The raw industrial brick interior of **THE CHATHAM ARMOURIES** was transformed into a fresh, sophisticated white setting for the evening reception by Frank Rea of **FORGET ME NOT FLOWERS**.

"In early meetings with Frank, I had a hard time nailing down specific things that I wanted. I was shocked when I walked into the church, and reception hall. It was the vibe I was trying to achieve, only ten times more luxurious than I ever imagined. It was so wonderful!"

One of the things Jacqueline mentioned to Frank was happy childhood memories spent in Blenheim, a town in Ontario renowned for their cherry festival. With that in mind, the reception centrepieces were all crowned with soaring cherry blossom branches.



CLEVER COCKTAILS

During cocktail hour, in addition to the regular bar, three specialty bars served cocktails.

One featured Caesars—a family favourite of both the bride and groom. There was also a raspberry martini bar, (in honour of the bride) and a citrus martini bar, (in honour of the groom).



CAKE TOWER

Amy Bourgon of **BAKE ME A CAKE** created a seven-tier tower of treats that included cupcakes, assorted cake pops, cookie sandwiches and mini cakes in the shape of presents. Take-home boxes were also available for guests to take the sweet treats home. The top tier—a red-velvet flavoured cake—was saved for their one-year anniversary. A specialty coffee bar, by **COFFEE AND CREAM**, served espresso, cappuccinos and other specialty drinks.



ROMANTIC DANCE MIX

The first dance was a mix of songs that Rob and Jacqueline felt best described them. Rob purchased a mixing program to make the compilation himself. Songs included: Ingrid Michelson's "The Way I am," Ellie Goulding's "Your Song," Van Morrison's "Into the Mystic," Bob Marley's "Is This Love" and Dave Matthews's "Crash."



LOVE AND LUXURY

The menu was chosen at a tasting dinner hosted by **FOUR DIAMOND CATERING COMPANY** (the same company owns the Chatham Armoury) when Rob, Jacqueline, and their parents had gathered there to celebrate the engagement.

An exotic honeymoon awaited the couple in Zambia and South Africa, but the entire journey was a complete surprise to Jacqueline until the morning of the trip. "My husband planned the whole trip and told me the location and details as we woke up on our first morning as husband and wife."

"Our wedding was full of love and luxury. We have never felt more loved by everyone as we did on that day—people went out of their way to make the day special for us, and it was truly the best day of our lives. Everything came together perfectly, and once I finally got to sit down and observe everything around me—I couldn't believe how stunning everything was. It was just like something from the pages of a magazine..."

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

KRISTA FOX + MELANIE GALBRAND-CHEN shoot weddings with a clean and classic editorial style. Known for their ability to use natural light to capture intimate moments, they unobtrusively record the emotions and spontaneity of the people around them. Krista's work can be found at KRISTAFOX.COM | 416.824.7659. Examples of Melanie's work can be viewed at VERVEPHOTOCO.COM | 416.587.8906.