

*The  
Marriage  
Service*

of

XXX

&

XXX

XXX. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

## **Welcome and Address:**

Good Afternoon and Welcome to the Wedding Ceremony of XXXX XXX XXXXX and XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXXX. On behalf of XXXX and XXXX I thank you for gathering here on this beautiful Autumn day to witness and celebrate their marriage.

Many of you have given them much happiness, love, warmth, and guidance through the various stages of their lives. They would like to sincerely thank you all for being here to celebrate with them today.

A special and respectful acknowledgement must also be made to those friends and family members who were unable to attend, and those who have passed on, their Spirit remains alive and strong in all our hearts.

XXXX and XXXX, let your love for one another be the foundation of your marriage, not just at this moment, but for all the days to come. Treasure the hopes and dreams that you bring here today.

Dedication, love and joy can grow only when you nourish them. Have faith in your shared destiny just as strongly as you have faith in yourselves and one another this day. Only with this dedication, can you forge a union that will strengthen and endure all the days of your lives.

## **Announcement & Declaration:**

Dearest family and friends, we are gathered here to join this man and this woman in marriage. If any person can show just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined, speak now or forever hold your peace.

XXXX and XXXX, Do you solemnly declare before your family and friends that there is no reason why you cannot be joined in marriage here today?

XXXX: I DO

XXXX: I DO

## **Hand Ceremony:**

**XXXX** please face XXXX and hold his hands, palms up, so you may see the gift they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, warm and strong and vibrant with love, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life.

These are the hands that will work along-side yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams.

These are the hands that will love and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will countless times, wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow and joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly lift your chin and brush your cheek as they raise your face to look into his eyes; eyes that are filled completely with his overwhelming love for you.

**XXXX**, please hold XXXX's hands, palms up, where you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, smooth and carefree, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as she pledges her love and commitment to you all the days of her life.

These are the hands that will hold you tight through life's struggles, comfort you when you are sick, or console you in times of sorrow.

These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you to chase down your dreams. They are the hands that will love you and cherish you throughout the years, for a lifetime of happiness.

**When joined, these two pairs of hands become one strong union where anything is possible, where everything you wish for can be realized.**

**Bless these hands and the union they represent this day. May they always be held by one another. Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the darkness of disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture**

**each other in their wondrous love. Help these hands to continue building a relationship founded in grace, rich in caring, and devoted in reaching for perfection.**

### **Vows:**

XXXX and XXXX, you are about to make promises to one another. Today, these vows are beautiful words representing even more beautiful intentions. But you will find that as you live these vows over the years, investing your time, your love and your commitment to one another, the happy times of your life will be twice as joyous, because they will be shared. When life hits those tough spots, as it always does, it will only be half as difficult because there will be someone by your side to help carry the burden.

XXXX, please repeat after me:

I, XXXX, ask you XXXX to be my lifelong friend, my love and my wife. I promise to be faithful, supportive, and loyal and to give you my companionship and love throughout all the changes of our lives. I vow to bring you happiness, and I will treasure you as my companion. I will celebrate the joys of life with you. I promise to support your dreams and walk beside you offering courage and strength through all endeavours. From this day forward, I will be proud to be your husband and your best friend.

XXXX do you grant XXXX's request? **I Do**

XXXX, please repeat after me:

I, XXXX, ask you XXXX to be my lifelong friend, my love and my husband. I promise to be faithful, supportive, and loyal and to give you my companionship and love throughout all the changes of our lives. I vow to bring you happiness, and I will treasure you as my companion. I will celebrate the joys of life with you. I promise to support your dreams and walk beside you offering courage and strength through all endeavours. From this day forward, I will be proud to be your husband and your best friend.

XXXX do you grant XXXX's request? **I Do**

**Roy Croft in his Poem entitled 'Love' writes:**

*I love you, not for what you are, but what I am, when I am with you.*

*I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but what you are making of me.*

*I love you for the part of me you bring out.*

### **Exchanging of Rings:**

May I please have the rings.

May these rings worn by XXXX and XXXX be a reminder of their vows and an unending symbol of their steadfast love for one another.

XXXX, please take XXXX's ring, place it on her finger and repeat after me:

XXXX, take this ring as a seal upon the marriage vows I have spoken today, as you wear it, may it be a reminder of how much I love you, not only on this special day, but every single day of your life.

XXXX, please take XXXX's ring, place it on his finger and repeat after me:

XXXX, take this ring as a seal upon the marriage vows I have spoken today, as you wear it, may it be a reminder of how much I love you, not only on this special day, but every single day of your life.

May your rings be always the symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end. Love freely given has no giver and no receiver. You are each the giver and receiver. May your rings always call to mind the freedom and the power of this love.

## **To XXXX and XXXX:**

**For those times when life presents all of us with challenges, I would offer you these beautiful words from ‘The Art of Marriage’ by Wilfred A. Peterson**

*A good marriage must be created.*

*In the marriage, the little things are the big things,*

*It is never being too old to hold hands.*

*It is remembering to say “I Love You” at least once each day.*

*It is never going to sleep angry.*

*It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives;*

*It is standing together and facing the world.*

*It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.*

*It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.*

*It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.*

*It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.*

*It is a common search for the good and beautiful.*

*It is not only marrying the right person,*

*It is being the right partner.*

## **Pronouncement:**

For as much as XXXX and XXXX have consented this afternoon to join their love and lives in marriage and exchanged rings as a sign of their love for each other before their family and friends, by the power vested in me by the Province of Ontario, I pronounce, they are Husband and Wife.

**You may now seal your vows with a kiss.**

## **Closing:**

XXXX and XXXX, remember to treat both yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. By each of you taking responsibility for the quality of your lives together, it will surely be marked by abundance and delight.

Give to one another new experiences of joy. Challenge one another so that you may grow. May the love you hold for each other, now sealed in marriage, continue to mature with the passing of time. May you never take each other for granted, but always experience the wonder of your union. Be slow to anger, quick to forgive, leaving no tracks of resentment behind each day.

We, who are present today, hope that the inspiration of this moment will never be forgotten. May all days and years to come be filled with joy, may the love you now share continue to grow, and may the happiness you bring to each other be a continuing part of your life together. Laugh often and enjoy each other every day, steadfast in hope and confidence. May your love be a sanctuary and a source from which you draw strength to live your lives to the fullest. May the people you touch throughout your lives know how much you love and care for one another and may that love for one another last forever.

## **Signing of the Register:**

## **Introduction to those Present:**

**Ladies and gentlemen it gives me great pleasure to present to you, Mr. and Mrs. XXXX, husband and wife.**