

# according to alison



When people find out what I do for a living, there's always a giddy chorus of questions that follow. Is your job super-fun? (Yes!). Do you attend lots of weddings? (No). Do you wear wedding dresses around the office? (No). Do you eat lots of cake? (Sometimes). Do you have any advice on getting married? I call this one the million-dollar question because it's probably the one I get most often from both women and men.

My most recent inquiry came from an eager groom-to-be seated beside me at a malt-shop counter in Walt Disney World. My friend Catherine—a *Weddingbells'* contributing editor—and I had just arrived in Disney and were chattering on about the fun to come over the next few days. Our neighbour got in on our chit-chat, offering us advice on what to see and do. One thing lead to another and the fact that we worked at *Weddingbells* came up in conversation—we then had one ecstatic groom on our hands. He told us how he proposed to his girl on top of the Eiffel Tower; how their black-tie wedding was set for next September; how he loved wedding planning and was involved in choosing everything from the flowers to the venue to the menu. Then came the million-dollar question, and he seemed rather surprised by my answer.

“just *relax* and enjoy it.”

I know this may sound a tad trite, but this is my standard answer to the million-dollar question, and the reason I say it time and time again is because relaxing and enjoying are two things many couples don't factor into their wedding planning. From your engagement onwards, you can easily put yourself on a punishing schedule of wedding to-dos. There's finding a date, venue, caterer, photographer, dressmaker and transportation company. Then there's choosing the bridal party, place to register, honeymoon destination...the list goes on. Yes, this is a big party you're planning, but party is the operative word! Never lose sight of the fact that your wedding should be FUN, and you should take time to savour all the brilliant moments along the way.

So, getting back to my words of wisdom, now is one of those times to relax and enjoy the beautiful new issue of *Weddingbells* you hold in your hands. Before you dive in and discover the inspiring pages that follow, I need to give props to Jennifer, our new art director, for making us look so gorgeous! Enjoy the issue and please let me know what stories and ideas you loved—I'm always looking to hear how *Weddingbells* inspired you. Drop me an email, or better yet, let's have a chat on my blog at [weddingbells.ca](http://weddingbells.ca). See you there!

*Alison*

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## 5 my wedding essentials

**1 Wedding-Favours.ca**  
“Love is Blooming” wildflower seed favours (\$16 for a set of 12, [wedding-favours.ca](http://wedding-favours.ca)). Go green and give these precious seed papers as your favours.

**2 Baume & Mercier**  
Diamant watch (\$2,895, [birks.com](http://birks.com)). A pretty pink watch with just a touch of bling will get you to the church on time.

**3 Euoko**  
Extreme Cellular Nutrition Masque (\$70, [euoko.com](http://euoko.com)). This luxurious hydrating masque (made in Canada!) will give your skin a dewy glow.

**4 Hermès**  
Bolduc au Carré silk scarf (\$400, at Hermès boutiques). A chic scarf to take you from your honeymoon to the office in style—it's a fashion classic.

**5 Portmeirion**  
Botanic Blue toast rack (\$25, [portmeirion.com](http://portmeirion.com)). Serve toast the traditional British way in this toile tray.

etc. WANT MORE STUFF? VISIT OUR DAILY WEDDINGS AT [WEDDINGBELLS.CA](http://WEDDINGBELLS.CA).



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