

Please be seated.

**Brad & Jocelyn – February 7, 2015**

Good afternoon. My name is Melissa Taylor and I have the privilege of performing this wedding ceremony today. I encourage each of you to take many photos throughout the ceremony in order to preserve your memories of this special day.

Jocelyn and Brad stand before you to declare their commitment to each other in front of their family and friends and to celebrate with you on this wonderful occasion.

Many of you have given them much happiness, love, warmth, and guidance through the various stages of their lives. Thank you for joining them. We would also like to acknowledge those who could not be here today as they are certainly missed but not forgotten.

### **Union Reading**

I would like to share with you a reading which Jocelyn and Brad have chosen for this occasion. It is called “**Union**” by Robert Fulghum and outlines so perfectly the importance of today to Jocelyn and Brad.

"You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes, to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making commitments in an informal way. All of those conversations that were held in a car, or over a meal, or during long walks – all those conversations that began with, “When we’re married”, and continued with “I will” and “you will” and “we will” – all those late night talks that included “someday” and “somehow” and “maybe” – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, “You know all those things that we’ve promised, and hoped, and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word.” Look at one another and remember this moment in time.

Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion...even teacher, for you have learned much from one another these past few years. Shortly you will say a few words that will take you across a threshold of life, and things between you will never quite be the same. For after today you shall say to the world – This is my husband. This is my wife."

### **Intent**

**Brad**, Do you take Jocelyn to be your wife from this day forward? To live together and to comfort her in times of need? Do you promise to build a life filled with love and laughter, sharing all that is to come? If so, please say "I will."

**Jocelyn**, Do you take Brad to be your husband from this day forward? To live together and to comfort him in times of need? Do you promise to build a life filled with love and laughter, sharing all that is to come? If so, please say "I will."

*(Jocelyn can now hand flowers to maid of honour)*

### **Vows**

The vows that Jocelyn and Brad are about to make reflect their understanding of life's ever-changing circumstances. Life does not always go where we plan and no matter how much arranging is done, sometimes, you just have to follow your heart. Love constantly grows as well, and Jocelyn and Brad are prepared to grow along with it, together.

**Brad**, please repeat after me: Jocelyn you are my best friend./ I promise to laugh with you/ cry with you/ and grow with you./ I will love you when we are together/ and when we are apart./ I promise to support your dreams/ and to respect our differences,/ and to love you/ and be by your side/ through all the days/ and nights of our lives."

**Jocelyn**, please repeat after me: Brad you are my best friend./ I promise to laugh with you/ cry with you/ and grow with you./ I will love you when we are together/ and

when we are apart./ I promise to support your dreams/ and to respect our differences,/ and to love you/ and be by your side/ through all the days/ and nights of our lives."

### **Ring Exchange**

May we have the ring please? (*Jocelyn and Brad exchange rings*) May those who wear these rings live in love through all their days.

### **Hands Reading**

Please take each other's hands in your own and remember these words:

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy. In your final years, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

### **Declaration and Reading**

May you both remember that Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Never forget the joy of this day. I now declare that you are husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

### **Signing of the Register**

### **Announcement**

Following the ceremony Jocelyn and Brad will be taking some formal pictures with their photographer. They ask that you remain in this area of the inn to enjoy cocktails and even join them in some of the photos.

### **What is a Family Reading**

Throughout the wedding planning, Jocelyn and Bradley have always kept Justin, Daylene, Aidan and Arianna in mind. They asked that I share a poem which they feel reflects the importance of this day to their children as well as themselves. It is called What is a Family.

A family is ...../The sweetest feelings/The warmest hugs/Trust and togetherness  
Unconditional love/The stories of our lives written on the same page/The nicest  
memories anyone has ever made/Treasured photos/Thankful tears/Hearts  
overflowing with all the years/Being there for one another/Supporting and caring  
Understanding, Helping, Sharing/Walking life's path together/And making the journey  
more beautiful because ...../We are a family ...../And a family/Is Love.

### **Introduction of the couple**

So at this time it is my personal privilege and joy to be the first one to introduce to you Mr. and Mrs. Brad and Jocelyn Wright. Please join me in congratulating this new family.