

→ 2022 ←

Weddings



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Cover Couple: Erika Pierce & Rene Bathalon. Read their story and details of their special day on pg. 6



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Our Couples

Erika Pierce & Rene Bathalon - pg. 6



We had dozens of entries in this year's cover photo contest. We chose a handful of entrants to interview for a behind-the-scenes peek into their courtship, wedding and the planning that went into their big day.

We loved talking with all our married couples and vendors!

Throughout this publication, their quotes have been edited for length and clarity.

Jonna & George Berry - pg. 8



Chantal & Caleb Derbyshire - pg. 10



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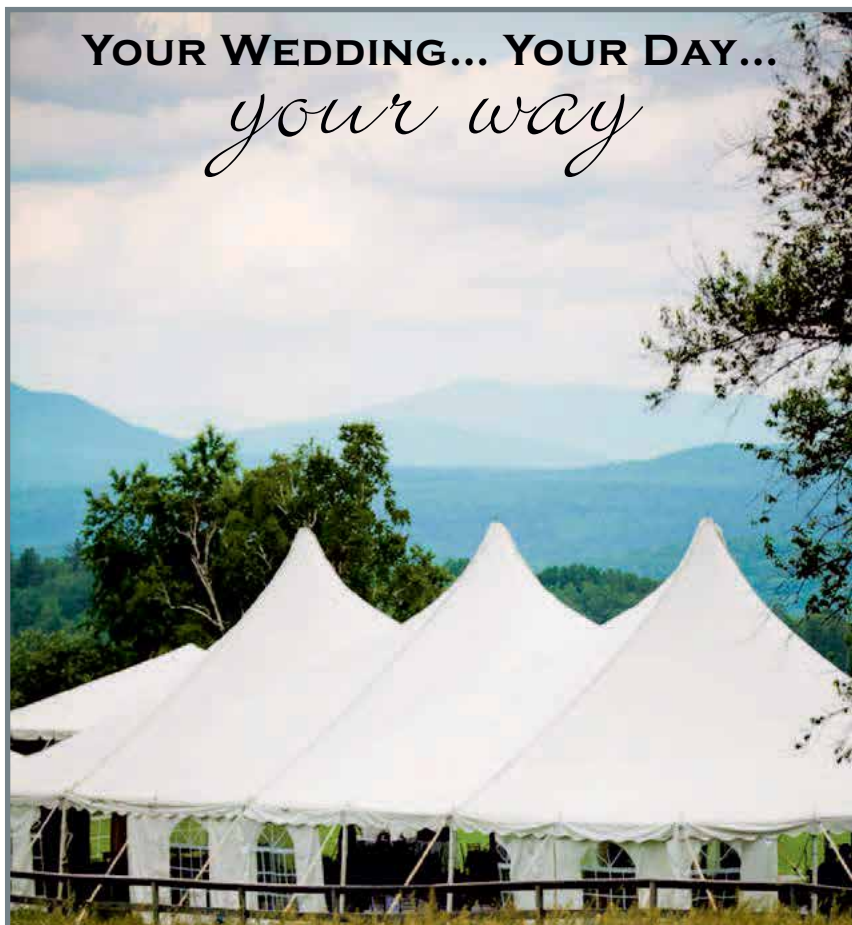
Thank you to the photographers whose work makes these couples and our Bridal Guide look so beautiful!

- Bathalon-Pierce:** Kimberly Messier Photography
- Berrys:** Kate Rautenberg Photography
- Derbyshires:** Sarah Gerry
- Holbrooks:** KLT Photography
- Langleys:** Jasmine Laice Newland
- Quirions:** Lily Pond Photography
- Taylors:** Lily Pond Photography

A yellow school bus parked on a road with trees in the background. The bus has "W.W. BERRY'S TRANSPORTATION, INC." and the number "90" on its side. A red stop sign is visible on the side of the bus.

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Erika Pierce & Rene Bathalon

A Digital Connection

"We met on Match.com. It was the best-est thing I ever heard on my phone," said Rene.

Rene and Erika each came into the relationship with two children from their previous relationships.

"We were slow about the whole blending of families," Erika said. "We took them to Orlando as a family just after a year we were together. That was a pretty big step for us. It's not the easiest thing in the world to have all these kids and make everything work."

The couple now also has two children together.



Popping The Question

Rene took Erika snowshoeing on her parents' land. Their



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daughter was seven months at the time and was strapped into a backpack on Rene's back. When Erika snuck off to use the bathroom, Rene hung a sign up on the tree that said "SHE SAID YES".

"When he hung it up, I hadn't said yes yet!" Erika laughed. After he asked and she accepted, they carved their initials into the tree.

Bathalon-Pierce

Bride: Erika (Pierce), 34

Groom: Rene, 41

Residing in: St. Johnsbury, Vermont

Began dating: January 2014

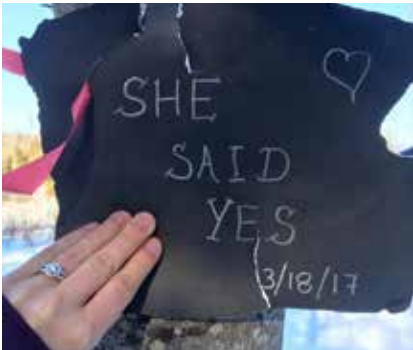
Engaged: March 2017

Married: Sept. 4, 2021

Fun fact: Erika has kept her maiden name so far because she needed to get a passport quickly and couldn't change her name and get the passport at the same time. "I might change it later. At the moment I have not changed my name."



On left, Erika and Rene show off the ring. On right, Rene and Erika on their wedding day.



Evolving dates

Erika and Rene first planned to get married in 2018, but when they found out Erika was pregnant with their second child, they postponed. “I absolutely did not want to have a baby and wedding in the same year,” Erika said. “I just wanted to have the baby and get through that.”

Once the baby was born, they set their sights on a new date: September 2020.

When Erika saw pictures of the newly-opened My Vermont Wedding Barn in Westfield, she knew it was the right place for their big event. “I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, let’s get married now!’” Erika said. “They had just published it and I was literally the first person that had inquired about the barn.”

There was even a family connection to the venue – Rene’s brother-in-law had grown up milking cows in that very barn as a child! The current owners bought the property and renovated the old post and beam barn into a venue that took Erika’s breath away, even in photos.

But then COVID put the brakes on their plans for

The Details

Budget: \$15,000-20,000
Ceremony and Reception: My Vermont Wedding Barn, Westfield, Vermont
Type of bar: Cash
Attendants: Seven bridesmaids, seven groomsmen, flower girl and ring bearer
Number of people invited: 225
Number of people who attended: 170
Wedding colors: Navy blue and burgundy
First dance song: “Nobody But You” by Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani

a 2020 wedding.

“We ended up canceling. We didn’t even move the date because we didn’t know what was happening with COVID and I didn’t dare,” Erika said. “Almost everybody that I had booked with were offering full refunds.”

But by January 2021, Erika had another rush of excitement about getting married and checked to see if the barn was available for September 2021.

“I wanted her to have that wedding,” Rene said.

On Sept. 4, 2021, after two cancellations and a worldwide pandemic, Erika and Rene finally got to have their special day.

Congratulations to our cover contest winners!

Advice For Newly Engaged

Get word-of-mouth recommendations and referrals for vendors.

Write down what pictures you want. There were a lot of pictures, but there were some we didn’t get that I wish we had. Think about what is super important to you. What is it that you’re going to remember from your wedding?

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Jonna & George Berry

On The Job Romance

Jonna and George met at work and have worked at the same company throughout their relationship. “We are each other’s sounding board,” Jonna said. “Normal couples work at separate jobs. They download at the end of the evening, and then it shuts off. For us it’s a little bit more difficult.”

The Berrys

Bride: Jonna (Brousseau), 36
Groom: George, 32
Residing in: East Concord, Vermont
Began dating: November 2012
Engaged: October 2018
Married: Aug. 21, 2021

Fun fact: George’s sister helped him propose to Jonna at the sister’s own wedding!

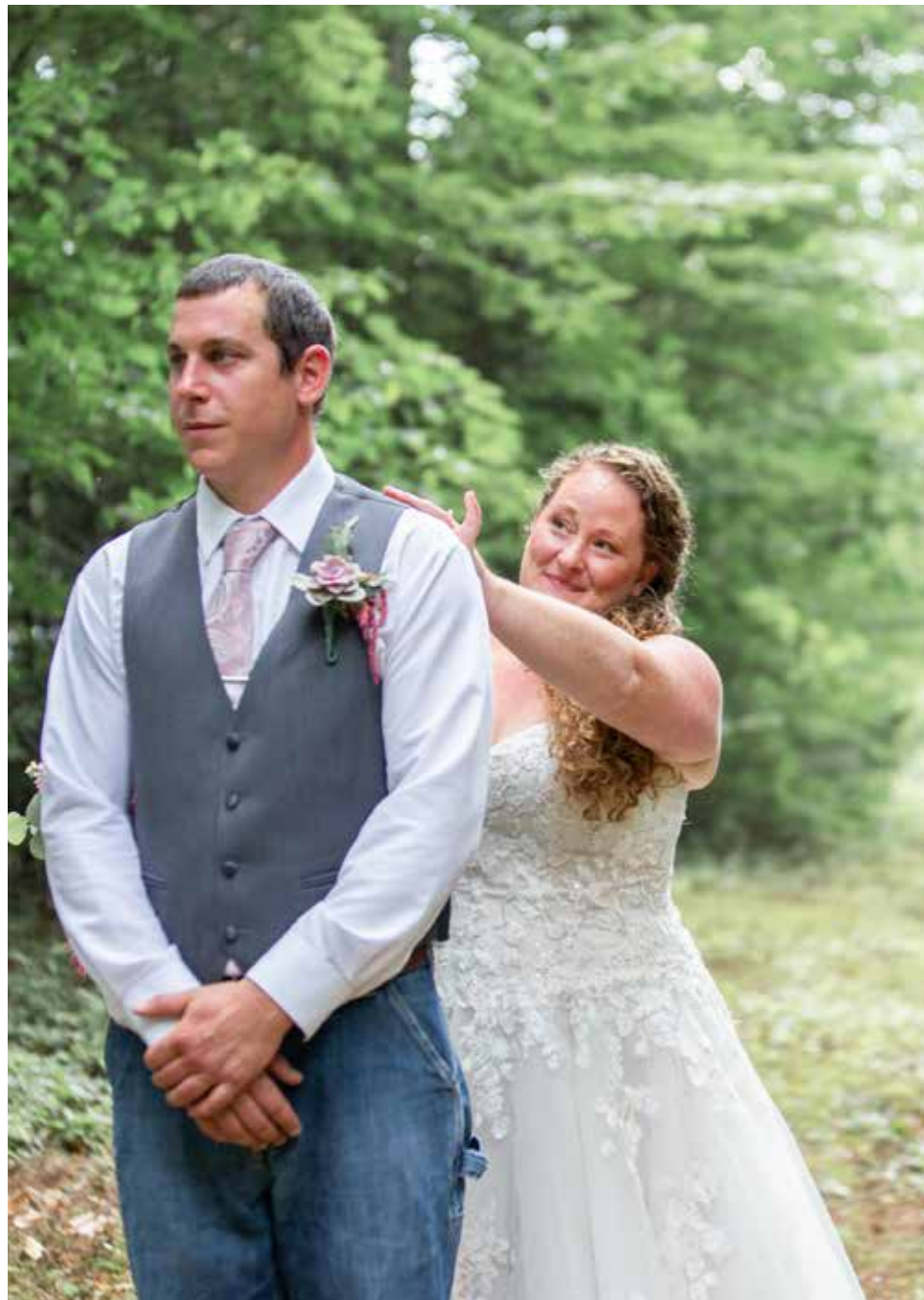
George waited six years to make sure the relationship was right before proposing. But once he decided, he went big!

“His middle sister had her wedding on October 20, 2018. She suggested that George do the proposal then. Apparently he had already purchased the ring and had it all in place, but didn’t know how he was going to do it,” Jonna said. “Instead of tossing her bouquet, she walked the bouquet up to me and he came up behind her and dropped down one knee.”

All in the family

While Jonna was able to postpone her 2020 wedding to the following year without a problem, her sister wasn’t so lucky.

“She was supposed to get married in June 2020 and I was going to get married in August 2020, so our weddings would be very close,” Jonna explained.



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Jonna’s sister had been planning a big wedding, but because of the timing no one in the family was able to attend. “It was not a safe time for everybody to be gathering, so she ended up doing a very small wedding with just her and her husband.”

But the delay in Jonna’s wedding gave them an unexpected opportunity.

“I got to share my wedding with her,” Jonna said. “She was my rock during planning. I coordinated with her husband and we announced them to do their first dance even before we did ours. And we did a father/daughter dance for her too.”

Jonna managed to keep the whole thing secret from her sister, who she said “was in tears” throughout.

The Shoe Game

“You’ve never heard of the shoe game?” Jonna asked with surprise.

If you are also unfamiliar with this family-friendly reception game, read on.

“George has two older sisters and I have one. They got together on a Zoom call and came up with 20 different questions for each of us and then matched them together.

You sit back-to-back. I have his shoe in one hand and my shoe in the other and they’ll read off their question.

Like, ‘Who’s the most romantic?’

So blindly we raise the shoe of the person we think is most romantic. And then based off the crowd’s reaction, we find out if we guessed the same thing or not.

I really enjoyed that.”

The Details

Budget: \$10,000-15,000
 Ceremony and reception: Family property
 Officiant: Jonna’s mother
 Type of bar: Open (beer and wine)
 Attendants: Five bridesmaids, five groomsmen, flower girl and junior groomsmen
 Number of people invited: 90
 Number of people who attended: 78
 Wedding colors: Gray, wine, blush
 First dance song: “Beyond” by Leon Bridges



Above left, George waits for his first glimpse of Jonna in her wedding dress. Above right, he sees her for the first time in her dress. Below, the wedding party and other family were in attendance at the first look photo session.



Photos and first looks

BERRY

“We did the first look. I’m so happy with that choice because it allowed me to actually to enjoy the ceremony more because we had that bond prior to the ceremony.
We actually had an audience. All the grooms-men and bridesmaids, everyone was down there for the first look, so it was almost like a private ceremony. It was really special.”

TAYLOR

“I hadn’t even thought about a first look until the photographer asked the week before the wedding. We did it in my mom’s front yard with a beautiful maple tree. The colors were just changing and it was beautiful.
We took pictures after the ceremony with our family behind the tent. Then we went across the road to a friend’s apple orchard and took the rest of the photos. It was fairly quick because we did

the first look, which cut off some time later.”

QUIRION

“I didn’t want to see Marc before the wedding. I wanted to keep that very traditional. When we left the rehearsal dinner the night before, I said, ‘See you at the altar.’
I really wanted to do a first look with my dad.”

LANGLEY

“I got a recommendation to give a list of photos that I wanted to the photographer. I started to make a list, but I never finished it and I didn’t give it to her. I wish I had the list to give her. I know if I had, she would have been like, ‘Okay, we need to get this done.’ I was still really happy — she took some good pictures and they were beautiful. I just wish I had given her a list, but I was just so overwhelmed.”

What was the most fun part of planning your wedding?

Bonding with my sister.

What was the most stressful part of planning your wedding?

Planning it by myself (*Calling to her husband in the other room*) Love you!
He had plenty of input, but when it came down to actual decision-making, I felt it bearing on me.





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Chantal & Caleb Derbyshire

On Military Time

Chantal and Caleb had to keep their relationship under wraps for the first year.

"We met at Northern Vermont University," explained Chantal. "I was the athletic trainer and he was one of the athletes. It was a little bit risky at first."

Caleb wasn't an ordinary incoming freshman, though. He had already completed a stint in the Marine Corps and returned to the Northeast Kingdom to use his education benefits.

"I was rolling back into college and trying

to get into the groove of things when we met," Caleb said. "I wasn't the typical student athlete ... I had the opportunity to grow up a little bit. I was just able to have a more mature friendship starting off with Chantal. And then from there, we were on the same wavelength and it was easy to progress."

The first year they were dating, nobody knew. The couple admits that the secrecy did make it fun for a while. But eventually it got old and they just wanted to be public with their relationship.

They had the necessary conversations and filled out the required paperwork so everything was above board. But they didn't flaunt their relationship.

"We were very much still athlete and trainer," Chantal said. "Nobody would ever have been like, 'there's something going on there.'"

After Caleb's graduation from the college in 2021, the Marines stationed him in Virginia. He was only able to come home to visit Chantal on occasional 72- or 96-hour leaves.

One weekend in mid-2020 when Caleb was home on a leave, Chantal let him know she was



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The Derbyshires

Bride: Chantal (Jean), 29

Groom: Caleb, 24

Residing in: Fredericksburg, Virginia

Began dating: September 2017

Engaged: August 2021

Married: Sept. 4, 2021

Fun fact: Caleb missed the plane connection that would get him to Vermont in time to get their marriage license on their wedding weekend.

pregnant and they were about to start a family.

"I was already three months into setting up a ring for her. I knew this was the woman that I want to spend my life with," Caleb said. The pregnancy sped up the process. "Her mom gave me a ring. I took the diamond out and set it into a ring that I thought was more suited to Chantal's taste."

Since their wedding, Chantal has joined Caleb in Fredericksburg. It's where they will finish her pregnancy and then wait to find out where life takes them next.

What was the most fun part of planning your wedding?

The speed of it – I didn't have time to change

Finding the food

DERBYSHIRES

“We chose the View Pub at Burke Mountain because they could take a dinner reservation for 20 people.”



TAYLORS

“We did a burger bar. It was a choice of chicken or a choice with a million different topping choices. Everyone was talking about how amazing it was, and it was very unique. For the amount of food we got, it was pretty cheap!”

BERRYS

“Neither of our appetite was really great because it’s kind of a nerve-wracking moment. But the bonus was his father did a pig roast. So we had plenty of leftovers! We still have some in our freezer.”

LANGLEYS

“My one request was that I wanted Buffalo wings, so they saved me some for when the wedding party got up to the barn. I didn’t end up eating it then, so I went to get it later and I had a few bites. As I was walking up the hill, I tripped on my dress and fell and my plate went flying everywhere. I never ended up eating!”

QUIRIONS

“I had time to eat the food, but I was just so anxious and nervous that I couldn’t eat any of it.”

BATHALON-PIERCE

“We wanted barbecue and it was fantastic! We got rave reviews about the food.”

HOLBROOKS

“We barbecued chicken, brisket, and then a couple vegetarian options. We had mac and cheese and veggies and roasted potatoes. It was good food.”



George’s father did a pig roast for the Berry’s wedding.



On left, Caleb Derbyshire wore his Marine dress uniform for his wedding. On right, Caleb proposes to Chantal after they found out they were pregnant.



my mind. It was like: Here’s a decision. Boom! That’s what I want!

What was the most stressful part of planning your wedding?

Keeping it small. We only had three weeks, so I couldn’t invite all my cousins from Florida. There was a lot of pressure of, ‘If you invite this person, you need to invite that person and that person.’ And I was like, ‘You’re not listening and respecting what I’m saying. This is what we want to do.’

The Details

- Budget: Under \$5,000
- Ceremony: South end of Willoughby Lake
- Officiant: Friend of the couple
- Reception: View Pub at Burke Mountain
- Attendants: Two bridesmaids, two groomsmen
- Number of people invited: less than 20
- Number of people who attended: less than 20



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The COVID of it all

HOLBROOKS

The Holbrooks originally planned their wedding for 2020 at Jay Peak.

They were grateful for the communication from resort as COVID cases began to rise. “They were really good about it. They reached out and told us exactly how it would have to be,” Erika said. “They said they totally understood if we wanted to cancel and they gave us all our money back.”



With restrictions like not being able to have their masks off except when they were kissing or eating, Kirsten and Caleb felt they wouldn’t be able to have the wedding they wanted.

“We decided to do it the following summer and have less people and keep it more low key.”

They ended up with their wedding at their home with about 65 people rather than the 100-plus they had originally planned on. They gave guests small bottles of hand sanitizer as favors.

QUIRIONS

“We were supposed to get married Aug. 1, 2020. In March and April, I was in the midst of COVID patients working at the hospital. I was on the computer look at the different guidelines and we wanted this big wedding because Marc comes from a big French family and I’m one of 11 grandkids. So in April we made the hard decision to push it out a year.

I contacted all the vendors and everyone was over the moon okay with it. I contacted Marion at My Vermont Wedding Barn. I was like, ‘This sucks!’ She said, ‘It does, but I promise you, this will be even better next year.’ All of our vendors honored their prices.

I asked about having the wedding outside, but in the Catholic church you’re supposed to have



Eilish Quirion and her father dance during the reception.

the wedding inside or you can’t do communion. Thankfully there was a lull and we didn’t really have to deal with it.”

LANGLEYS

“I didn’t want to get married in 2021 because I didn’t want to deal with the COVID stuff. But my mom is terminally ill and I was reminded that she might not be here next year. So I was like, ‘Okay, let’s do it. I’ll figure it out.’ I’ll deal with the dress shopping with the masks and all so I can make sure my mom is there.

The ceremony was outside and we were in a barn that had big open doors. And it was a nice lull during the summer where it seemed like things might be getting better. Most people took their masks off. One person kept their mask on, that was it.”

BERRYS

“Our original plan was for 2020, and then we made a decision very early in the pandemic that we

needed to hold off. I had done a lot of the footwork, but I hadn’t confirmed any vendors at that point, so it was easy for us to extend the date. We reset it to Aug. 21, 2021 and it was great. It was that lull in the pandemic where things were opening up and it worked out nicely.”

TAYLORS

“We had originally been going back and forth on whether we wanted to get married this year or wait until 2022. At the end of it, we were just sick of dealing with COVID, so we just said screw it! We only invited close friends and family. Everyone was vaccinated and everything was outdoors, so it made people feel comfortable. We had hand sanitizer everywhere, and everyone was good about it.

A lot of people were pretty booked when we started planning things, but honestly, I wouldn’t change anything about how it turned out. I loved every single one of our vendors. And I knew that if I stuck with local people that I knew, I might have a better chance of them being able to do our wedding.”

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Sweet Creations By Faith

If there is such a thing as a Renaissance Child — a pre-teen with wide interests and expertise in multiple areas — Faith Packard is it.

You're as likely to find the Whitefield, N.H. 12-year-old in the ballet studio or flying on the aerial silks as you are on her snowboard, dirt bike or four wheeler.

But what makes Faith stand out even more is that she's a business owner. And not just any business owner — she's a professional baker who makes cupcakes and cakes for weddings and other events. We found out about her thanks to Jonna and George, who hired Faith for their wedding.

"She did cupcakes for the guests and a six-inch cake for us," Jonna told us. "It was amazing!"

Faith started baking at age nine and her business began at age 10 when a local teacher hired her to make a smash cake for her daughter's first birthday.

"After that we started the Facebook page," Faith said. "My grammy works at a school, so she would bring in cupcakes I made for the staff. People slowly started asking for orders."

At first, most of the orders came from people Faith already knew. But as her work became more popular, she started hearing from strangers.

"It was harder because I would have to call them and ask them how many, what flavor," she said. "And then when I had to go meet up with them and talk to them in person, that was definitely hard at first. My mom would drive me and she would help me start the conversation a little bit, because I wasn't good at that yet."

Faith is largely self-taught, learning from videos on YouTube and the occasional lesson from other local bakers. She especially loves hand-piping roses, talking excitedly about a cake that required 30 or 40 roses. "Once I got the hang



Faith Packard of Sweet Creations by Faith.

of it, it definitely went faster," she said. "But my first couple were kind of crazy."

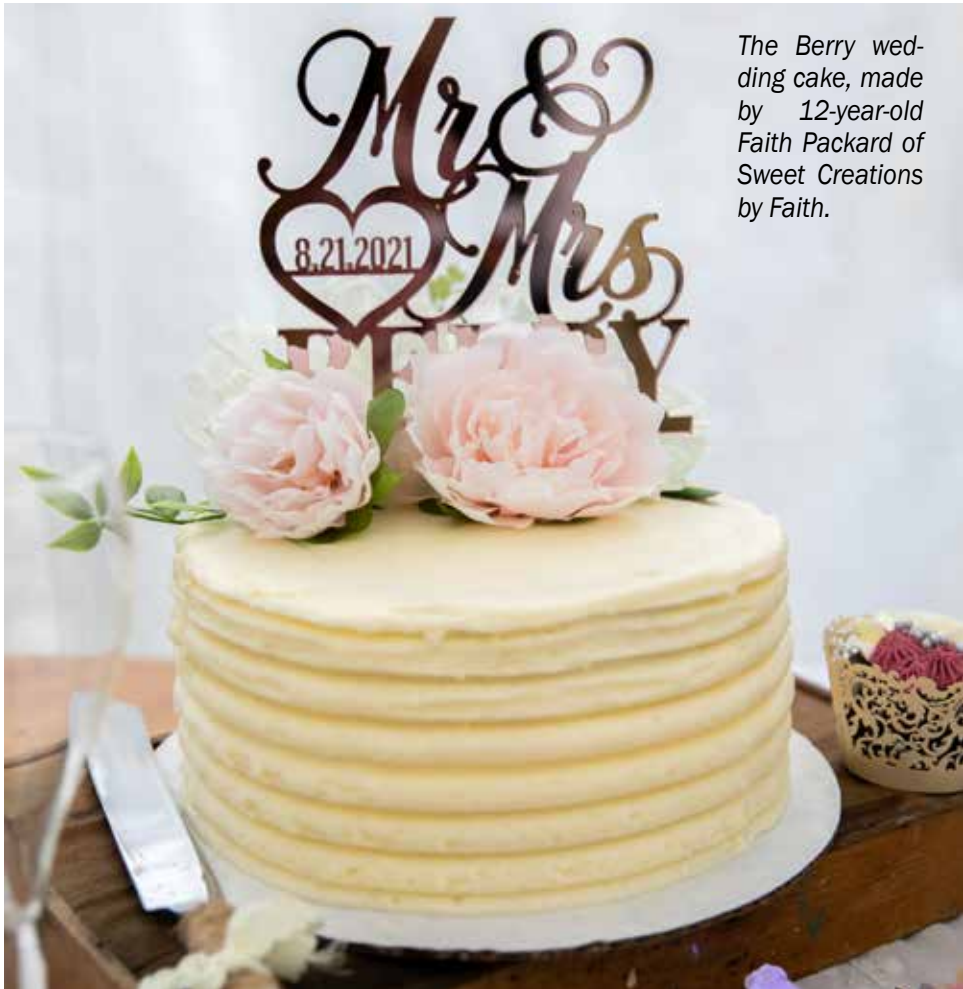
Recently she learned a trick from an online video that lets her create a different color along the top edge of the roses.

But she smart enough to know her limits. "If someone asks for a pomegranate-flavor cake, I would probably say I couldn't do that. I would be able to figure it out, but not for a first order."

Chocolate cake with peanut butter frosting is a favorite among her clients. Given her preference, though, she loves when people order chocolate cupcakes with a raspberry coulis or raspberry frosting in the middle. "That's my favorite because I would make extras and then I'd get to eat them."



Cupcakes at the Berry wedding, made by 12-year-old Faith Packard of Sweet Creations by Faith.



The Berry wedding cake, made by 12-year-old Faith Packard of Sweet Creations by Faith.

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Alicia & Connor Langley

Persitence Pays Off

When Alicia's roommate got a flat tire, Connor was the friend who came to fix it. He knew he liked Alicia immediately and started showing up at her work to ask her out.

The Langleys

Bride: Alicia (Leach), 37
Groom: Connor, 33
Residing in: Barnet, Vermont
Began dating: July 2012
Engaged: December 2020
Married: Aug. 21, 2021

Fun fact: One of Alicia's bridesmaids surprised her by flying in from Texas for her bachelorette party. Unfortunately, that same bridesmaid got COVID and was unable to attend the wedding.

"I was like, 'Nope, I don't have time.' And then he kept bugging me until I was finally like, 'Fine,'" Alicia remembers. "He took me on

"It's a conversation we'd had over the years because we'd been together so long," she said. While she wanted something like a promise ring to demonstrate their commitment, Connor didn't believe in it. "He always told me it was stupid."

Then one morning when they were in the kitchen, he said he wanted to spend their lives together. "He pulled out a ring," Alicia remembers. "And I responded, 'You got me a stupid ring!'"

Planning a wedding when you hate planning

How do you plan a wedding if you hate planning? Make sure your bridal party is made up of people who have your back, like Alicia did.

"I'm not a good planner. I stress out for birthday parties! I get so much anxiety. So this whole trying to plan a wedding ... ugh.

But I had my whole bridal party. They were helping me the whole time. I had one that called places and helped me narrow things down. Or like, 'This is what you need to do.'

And then the other girls were sitting there in my face when I was saying, 'My God, I can't do this!' They'd say, 'Alicia, calm down and breathe.'

I'm not a party planner, so planning a wedding was stressful. But in reality, from the time we got

a date to look at the stars in the middle of a cornfield in Barnet. It was so sweet."

The Langleys had already been together for eight years without getting married, so Alicia assumed a proposal would never come.



engaged in December, I think we had all the major stuff in place by January."

If you had it to do over, what would you do differently?

I would have given a list of photos I wanted to the photographer. That's my biggest regret.

What was the most fun part of planning your wedding?

The time we got to spend together – wedding dress shopping, and then a girl's day to do alterations. It was even fun when I rode with all the guys to pick out tuxes.

The Details

Budget: \$10,000-15,000
Ceremony and Reception: Creek Hill Barn in Irasburg, Vermont
Officiant: The person who introduced Alicia and Connor
Type of bar: BYOB
Attendants: Two matrons of honor plus five bridesmaids, six groomsmen (one bridesmaid withdrew due to a positive COVID test)
Number of people invited: 130
Number of people who attended: 100
Wedding colors: Sage green and light pink
First dance song: "I Can't Help Falling In Love" by Ed Sheeran

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Dress shopping

TAYLORS

“I have worn a dress four of five times in my life total. I refused to spend money on my dress because I knew I would never wear it again. I ordered from a third-party website and then had it altered. In total I spent about \$160 on my dress.

We got bridesmaid dresses for a friend’s wedding there before, so I was familiar with how their sizing works. I sized up so that if anything happened it would still be okay. In the end all that needed to happen was it needed to be shortened. I’m 5’9” but it’s for a 6’2” woman.”

LANGLEYS

“We went to Needleman’s in Newport. I tried on as many dresses as they allow you to, then left to have lunch without having decided. The woman stayed open for me and kept the two dresses in the dressing room for me.

When we went back, I told her that I loved the top of one and the bottom of the other. She grabbed another dress and said, ‘Why don’t you try this one?’ I put it on and we all cried. It was super light and had pockets! And then it turned out it was on clearance.

I ended up losing about 15 pounds by the time we got married, so they ended up having to take it

in for me. It was a big pain because it had buttons all down the back and boning, and there was no way to take it in on the sides, so she had to take all the buttons off. But it worked.”

BATHALON-PIERCE

“I was engaged before Rene, but we never got married, so I actually had a wedding dress that I loved. But that was 10 years ago and I was much smaller. When we were supposed to get married in 2020, I lost a bunch of weight so I could fit into the dress. And I did. But then we postponed the wedding, and I gained all the weight back.

Rene’s aunt works at Needleman’s in Newport, so she helped me find a dress that was gorgeous.”

BERRYS

“I wanted more of a flowy, Bohemian-style dress. I thought it would be perfect, but I hated every one of them I tried on. My sister came in with this sweetheart neckline, sleeveless, ballgown. Nothing I wanted at all. I was like, ‘It’s really beautiful, but that’s not going to look good on me.’ I stepped into it and it was like it was made for me.”

DERBYSHIRES

“I had two weeks until the wedding and I wanted to wait as long as possible because I was preg-



Alicia Langley

nant and growing. I didn’t want to get it too far in advance because then it wouldn’t fit.

My sister and I went to Needleman’s in Newport and we knew it had to be off the rack. We were very lucky to find something I liked. I walked out of the store that day with it. It was a little bit snug the day of, but it worked.”

HOLBROOKS

“I brought my bridesmaids, my mom, and my aunt. I tried on three dresses and I really liked



them. When I came out with the fourth one on, everyone started bawling because they knew that was it. I knew when I put it on too, and it reassured me when I walked out to see everyone react like that.”

QUIRIONS

“I didn’t want a lot of people – I just wanted my mom, my sister, and Marc’s mom. I tried on five dresses and I bought a dress within an hour!”




The Langley wedding party is off the races.



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Help your venue help you

Running an event venue in the middle of a global pandemic has not been easy, but at Burke Mountain Resort they continue to make it look beautiful. We asked Director of Sales Susan Scheibenpflug about what couples should be thinking about when touring venues, as well as one innovation couples have been employing in the age of COVID.

What's your budget?

Scheibenpflug recommends being clear on your budget before setting up an appointment with the venue.

"We can build an event around what their budget is," she said. "We can look at a la carte menu options, or maybe help them with adjusting their guest count to fit within their budget."

While the average couple spends about \$15,000 for a 150-person wedding at Burke, they've done small weddings for 20 people that came in closer to \$3,500.



One of Burke's indoor ceremony sites. (Photo courtesy of Burke Mountain Resort and Hotel/Conference Center)

What's your vision?

You'll also be ahead of the game if you come to your meeting with an idea of what you want your wedding to look and feel like.

Do you want an indoor reception with an outdoor reception? Everything inside and safely protected from the weather? Or perhaps you want your wedding to happen on the trails with your wedding party on skis beside you.

Whatever you want, Burke can make it happen.

"What is the theme they're trying to achieve?" Scheibenpflug asked. "Look on Pinterest and get lots of ideas before they come, because we

can help them achieve that, but we need to know what their thoughts are so we can put them in the right space."

What's included?

When you're speaking with a venue, be sure to ask what's included with the rental. Do they provide tablecloths? Servers? Water pitchers?



Burke's Outdoor Ceremony Spot Has A Stunning View Of The Willoughby Gap. (Photo Courtesy Of Burke Mountain Resort And Hotel/Conference Center)

At Burke, a lot is included in the base package, and then there are many options to add on.

"Our packages come with the ceremony site, either outdoors or indoors, your reception site, and your cocktail hour," Scheibenpflug said. "It also includes all your linens, tableware, flatware and glassware. A lot of places you have to rent that separately, but ours is all included."

The meal is also included, as are the bartenders and servers. You can bring your own cake from a licensed caterer.

The couple also gets a complimentary stay in the bridal suite the night of their event.

"Everything is included in the package, and then they just pick whatever level package they want. And there are plenty of add-ons to include, like doing an open or cash bar," Scheibenpflug said. "We have the facilities to do every aspect, from allowing their guests to stay, to a welcome party, to a brunch the day after. We can follow them all the way through an entire weekend."

Virtual guests

"We've had some interesting events where people prepare Zoom for their ceremony and part of the reception so people [who can't travel during COVID] can participate virtually," Scheibenpflug said.

While the venue is prepared to provide any A/V needs people might have, she said that most people are Zoom-savvy enough now that they do it themselves.

"I would suggest they have someone who is computer savvy to be the point person the day of the wedding," she said. "And it should be someone who is *not* in the wedding party."

Yes, that's a lesson learned from experience.

When planning to involve virtual guests, you'll want to have a clear itinerary and stay as close to the schedule as possible.

This allows you to turn the camera on for the most important parts of the day, but not subject those on Zoom to an hour of watching people eat. "Provide [virtual guests] with a whole itinerary," Scheibenpflug suggested. "Then people can come in to see what they want to see."

To book an in-person or virtual tour, contact Wedding Sales Manager Cedelle Sirjane at (802) 626-7432 or weddings@skiburke.com.



The Burke Ballroom holds up to 225 people. (Photo courtesy of Burke Mountain Resort and Hotel/Conference Center)

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Eilish & Mark Quirion

It Starts With Friendship

Marc works at his family’s business, the Newport Farm and Garden Agway in Newport. Eilish applied for a job during a summer break while she was in nursing school.

“He was very quiet,” Eilish said. “At the end of my first summer in 2013, I was talking with his dad. I said, ‘My goal for next year is to be friends with your son. He doesn’t talk, and I’m going to get him to talk and we’re going to be best friends.’”

They officially began dating in 2014.

March and Eilish had been dating for five years and purchased their home in the summer of 2019.

The night before Thanksgiving, Marc took Eilish out to their favorite restaurant for dinner.

The Quirions

Bride: Eilish (Muir), 27

Groom: Marc, 26

Residing in: Derby, Vermont

Began dating: August 2014

Engaged: November 2019

Married: Aug. 7, 2021

Fun fact: The Quirions hired The Dancing Sail to cater their food. It turned out that owner, Dena Gray doubled as an excellent wedding planner as well!

Combs song *Better Together*, which had just been released. When the song got to the lyrics “Your first and my last name/Would just sound better together/And probably always will,” Marc got down on one knee.

“It was super sentimental, and it was nice that it was in the home we purchased together.”

Communication Frustration

Eilish and Marc had to cancel their 2020 wedding due to COVID, and while their vendors were all excellent about the arrangements, they still had to communicate with all of their guests.

“We had already sent Save the Dates. I really didn’t want to send Save The Dates, then Cancel Dates, and then another Save The Date set. I had made a wedding website on TheKnot.com, so when we cancelled, I updated everything there. Then I shared it to Facebook. And then I went through our list for anybody who wasn’t on social media and I personally reached out to them. Everyone got wind of it from April to August.

Then we re-sent out Save the Dates in October or November. We had another set of photos done for that. Marc didn’t want them, but I was like, ‘I had to cancel my wedding, I’m getting two sets of photos!’”

Advice For The Newly Engaged

If there’s something that you are dead set on having, do what you can to get it. For instance, I wanted to get married at Disney, but that wasn’t going to happen. So we incorporated some things into our wedding in different ways.

At the end of the day, you’re marrying your best friend. It doesn’t matter if you have a \$1 wedding or a \$100,000 dollar wedding, you’re still going to end up with the love of your life.

If you had it to do over, what would you do differently?

Absolutely not. Everyone was so ready to gather together and have a good time because of the pandemic. Everyone was grateful to be together as a community. I think it just made it that much better.

What was the most fun part of planning your wedding?

Knowing that I got to marry my best friend at the end.

What was the most stressful part of planning your wedding?

Trying to please everybody. For instance, two weeks before the wedding my mom said she really wanted chicken cordon bleu. And I’m like, ‘Sorry, it’s already chosen. It’s done.’

And then one side said we should invite this person, then we should invite this person. We were like, ‘We’re already at almost 300 people. We can’t keep inviting people!’

The Details

Budget: Over \$20,000

Ceremony: St. Edward’s Catholic Church, Derby Line, Vermont

Officiant: Priest

Reception: My Vermont Wedding Barn, Westfield, Vermont

Type of bar: Open during cocktail hour, then cash

Attendants: Five bridesmaids, five groomsmen, ring bearer and flower girl

Number of people invited: 290

Number of people who attended: 235

Wedding colors: Navy blue, dusty rose, sparkly gold

First dance song: “Forever After All” by Luke Combs



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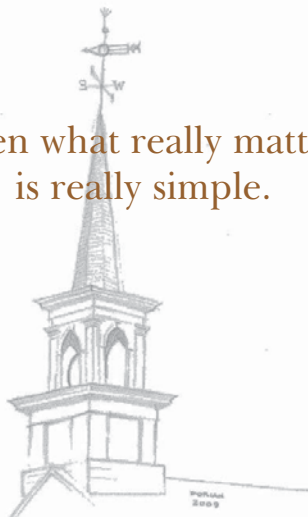
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The Quirions and their wedding party.

Minding their money

BERRYS

"Each receipt would come in and I'd store it in my book, but I found I lost track with the Amazon purchases. You don't think about the little things you spend to get our ring bearers their suspenders, that type of stuff."

Originally it was supposed to be around \$5,000. It ended up around 12 or 13. We ended up having to put a couple extra tables in, so the tent rentals went up a little bit. I originally budgeted one port-a-potty and we upgraded to a larger port-a-potty and a hand-washing station. We made improvements to what I originally envisioned."

TAYLORS

"Once we knew we weren't renting a venue, we knew we had some room to play with because it can be up to \$10 to \$12,000 for just the venue. And I didn't get a really fancy dress, so that's when we started to invite a couple more people that we might not have before."

Food was the biggest thing for us. We love food, so we wanted that to be stellar. The tent came with tables, chairs, dance floor, the lighting. That was the other biggest chunk of it. It was great because all those things were included and they put it up and took it down so we didn't have to do any crazy cleanup."

HOLBROOKS

"She had a list – DJ, photographer, tents. She basically had it all listed," Caleb said. "Yeah, I just had a notebook. We didn't

really do a spreadsheet or anything. Everything adds up very quickly!" said Kirsten. "We wanted to splurge on food and the DJ. We got a photo booth, which was really fun and we have so many fun pictures to look back on. We were going to do an open bar, but that ended up being an insane amount of money."

"We did kegs, so that saved on alcohol."

BATHALON-PIERCE

"We tried to be logical, but we definitely went over budget," Erika said.

"We had connections that helped make it more inexpensive," Rene agreed.

"Our caterer gave us a really good deal because he was just starting out. Before us he had only catered one other wedding. He did a phenomenal job. My old boss owns a distillery, so St. Johnsbury Distillery did our bar service and treated us really well," Erika continued.

"The photographer was my math teacher in school," Rene said. "It was a hobby for her, but she does phenomenal stuff."

LANGLEYS

"I kept a binder and every time I paid for something, I put it in there and it had the total amounts in it. I also used an app so I knew what we were spending."

I made sure we had the venue,

food and DJ. I definitely went back and forth with the florist to go the cheapest I could and still get real flowers."

QUIRIONS

"We wanted a really good meal. We had done boirsin chicken and a filet mignon."

The bar was pretty enough, so we didn't do any decorations. We rented the tablecloths from the barn because I didn't need to buy 23 tablecloths."



The Quirions during their cake smash.

Budget Worksheet

	Budgeted	Vendor Estimate	Actual		Budgeted	Vendor Estimate	Actual
Apparel				Photography/Videography			
Bridal Gown				Formals			
Veil/Headpiece				Candids			
Alterations				Extra Prints			
Bride's Shoes				Photo Albums			
Bride's Hosiery				Videography			
Bride's Garter				Other			
Jewelry				Total Photography:			
Groom's Suit				Music			
Groom's Shoes				Ceremony Music			
Engagement Rings				Cocktail-Hour Music			
Wedding Rings				Reception Music			
Other				Sound System Rental			
Total Apparel:				Dance Floor Rental			
Flowers/Decorations				Other			
Bridal Bouquet				Total Music:			
Bridesmaid Bouquets				Favors & Gifts			
Boutonnieres				Hotel Gift Bags			
Corsages				Attendant Gifts			
Ceremony Flowers				Bride/Groom Gifts			
Flower Girl Buds				Gifts For Parents			
Ring Pillow				Gifts For Readers, Etc.			
Pew Decorations				Other			
Table Decorations				Total Gifts:			
Reception Decorations				Stationery			
Lighting				Save The Date Cards			
Candles				Invitations/RSVPs			
Balloons				Programs			
Other				Seating Place Cards			
Total Flowers:				Menu Cards			
Reception				Thank You Notes			
Venue Rental				Postage			
Table/Chair Rental				Guest Book			
Food				Reception Napkins			
Drinks				Calligraphy			
Linens				Other			
Cake				Total Stationery:			
Favors				Other Expenses			
Staff And Gratuities				Wedding Coordinator			
Other				Rehearsal Dinner			
Total Reception:				Engagement Party			
Ceremony				Showers			
Site Fee				Salon Appointments			
Officiant Fee				Stag/Hen Parties			
Other				Brunch			
Total Ceremony:				Hotel Rooms			
Transportation				Other			
Limousine Rental				Total Other Expenses:			
Out-Of-Towners				Grand Total:			
Parking							
Other							
Total Transportation:							

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Taylor & Charlie Taylor

An Online Connection

They met through mutual friends on Facebook, but they quickly realized that their families had known each other for years and their parents went to school together.

“We both had to make sure that we weren’t related!” Taylor laughed. “I was praying to God because it’s slim pickings around here these days.”

The Taylors

Bride: Taylor (Ward), 28
Groom: Charlie, 31
Residing in: Lyndonville, Vermont
Began dating: April 2019
Engaged: November 2020
Married: Sept. 18, 2021

Fun fact: Taylor’s married name is Taylor Taylor. Her middle name is Nicole, so her initials are now TNT.

Taylor and Charlie were planning a vacation to Aruba, which is where Charlie was going to propose. But when COVID shut down travel, they took a long weekend to the Essex Resort and Spa instead.

He told her that he had a gift for her, and she assumed it was a late birthday present. Instead, it was a tree ornament that had the date on it and said “engaged.”

There are no rules

When you’re planning your wedding, you get to make the rules.

And if that means unusual footwear, so be it.

“The guys went to Needleman’s in Newport and rented tux tops. They had a white shirt with a vest and tie, no jacket. They wore black Dickie’s jeans and hats. And they all wore camo Crocs.

Charlie is half bald and he refuses to go out in public without a hat on. That was his one condition – he wanted to wear a hat, and no dress coat. I was fine with that and I wanted them to be comfortable, so they all wore jeans.

We have a joke in our group – we’re all obsessed with Crocs. You can wear them any time of year. It was something unique that I thought would be really great for us to do.”

If you had it to do over, what would you do differently?

Breathe and take your time. If something doesn’t work the way that you had planned it, maybe it just wasn’t meant to happen that way.



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The men in the Taylor wedding work tux tops, black jeans on the bottom, and camo Crocs on their feet

What was the most fun part of planning your wedding?

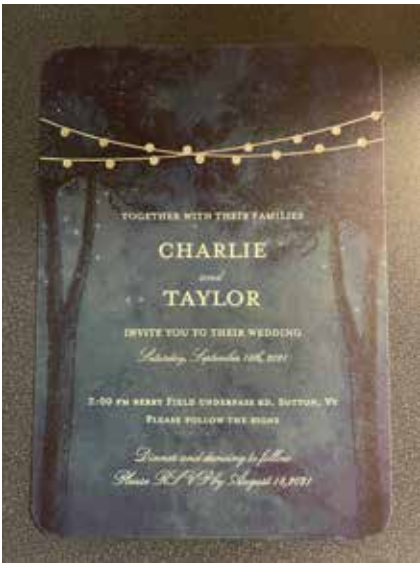
Our Jack and Jill party was really great. We had about 30 people in my parents' front yard. We started at one and I think we were up until midnight.

What was the most stressful part of planning your wedding?

Getting the vendors nailed down was stressful. We chose within the same year, so the first couple DJs that we went to were not available. I was afraid things wouldn't all fall into place, but once they did, I was like, 'This is a breeze now.'

The Details

Budget: \$5,000-10,000
Ceremony and Reception: Family farm in Sutton
Officiant: Family friend
Type of bar: BYOB
Attendants: three bridesmaids, three groomsmen
Number of people invited: 120
Number of people who attended: 100
Wedding colors: Navy and silver
First dance song: "Anchor" by Skillet



On left, Charlie gave Taylor a tree ornament to commemorate the date of their engagement. On right, their wedding invitations.



The Taylors at the moment of their first look.

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Kirsten & Caleb Holbrook

A Long Time Coming

Kirsten and Caleb met in preschool!

Kirsten was a year grade above Caleb and they didn't become friendly until middle school. They started dating soon after. "We've kind of been together from there," Kirsten said.

They broke up a couple times during college, but always came back together. "We wanted to

The Holbrooks

Bride: Kirsten (Smith), 26

Groom: Caleb, 26

Residing in: Hardwick, Vermont

Began dating: July 2011

Engaged: December 2017

Married: July 24, 2021

Fun fact: One of the party favors the couple gave their guests were mini bottles of hand sanitizer.

Make your wedding fit you, not the other way around

"Our ceremony was pretty informal and it was only about 10 minutes. We went down there, did our stuff, and got out.

We had my uncle, who is my godfather, marry us. We told him we just wanted it short and sweet. He said a little something in the beginning. We're not good with public speaking, so we just said what we had to for our vows. We just wanted it to be as short as possible."

What was the most fun part of planning your wedding?

Checking out the venues, even though we



take the next step of getting a place together, and we both knew that we wanted to get married and have kids one day," Kirsten said.

On Christmas Eve 2017, when they were both about 21, Caleb got down on one knee by the Christmas tree.

"We were together so long up to that point, we just knew this is what it was going to be."

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didn't go that route. It gave us ideas of how weddings work, because I had never been behind the scenes before. And we really liked doing the taste testing!

What was the most stressful part of planning your wedding?

Money. It was close to the wedding that we found out how expensive the open bar would be the way we were planning it. But other than that, everything went pretty smoothly.

The Details

Budget: \$10,000-15,000
Ceremony and reception: At their home
Officiant: Kirsten's godfather
Type of bar: Open
Attendants: Five bridesmaids, five groomsmen
Number of people invited: 100
Number of people who attended: 65
Wedding colors: Salmon and mint
First dance song: "It's Your Love" by Tim McGraw and Faith Hill

Our Couples' Local Vendors

These are the local vendors our couples used. Contact them to learn about their services for your upcoming events! *Not every couple utilized every category. In some cases, a couple's family and friends offered their services, or out-of-state vendors were hired.*

BATHALON-PIERCE

Venue: My Vermont Wedding Barn of Westfield, Vermont
Flowers: Artificial flowers from Etsy
Food: Smokin' Somethin' BBQ
Photos: Kimberly Messier Photography
Hair and makeup: Katelyn Mosher, True North Salon
Music: Boom Box Band

BERRYS

Flowers: Lori Mahoney, Deeper Roots
Food: Alburritos Mexican Restaurant of Littleton, New Hampshire
Cake: Faith Sweet Creations of Whitefield, New Hampshire
Photos: Kate Rautenberg Photography of Stockbridge, Vermont
Music: Kristen Clark DJ of Littleton, New Hampshire
Rentals: Abbott Rental & Party Store of Littleton, New Hampshire

DERBYSHIRES

Venue: View Pub at Burke Mountain

HOLBROOKS

Flowers: Amy's Artistic Floral of Hardwick, Vermont
Food: Black Diamond BBQ of Morrisville, Vermont
Cake: North Country Donuts of Morrisville, Vermont
Photos: KLT Photography of Cabot, Vermont
Music: Green Mountain Sounds of Northern Vermont
Rentals: Scenic Tents of Lyndonville, Vermont



Table settings at the Quirion's reception.

LANGLEYS

Venue: Creek Hill Barn in Irasburg, Vermont
Flowers: Artistic Gardens of St. Johnsbury, Vermont
Food: Everybuddy's Casual Dining of Lyndonville, Vermont
Cake: Sugar Buckets at Gingue Farms of Waterford, Vermont
Photos: Jasmine Laice Newland
Hair and makeup: Ann Dufresne-Howland of Creek Hill Barn venue
Music: Ned D Mobile DJ

QUIRIONS

Venue: My Vermont Wedding Barn of Westfield, Vermont
Flowers: Price Chopper
Food: The Dancing Sail of Newport, Vermont
Cake: Laura Bouchard of Newport, Vermont
Photos: Lily Pond Photography of Northern Vermont
Hair: Moira Quirion, ReCreations Styling Salon of Newport, Vermont
Makeup: Katelyn Cole, Salon C'est Beau of Newport, Vermont
Video: Dale Nelson Film of Vermont
Music: ETA (Evansville Transit Authority) of Vermont

TAYLORS

Flowers: Price Chopper
Food: Apple Cheddar Catering of Lyndonville, Vermont
Photos: Lily Pond Photography of Northern Vermont
Music: Ned D Mobile DJ
Rentals: Scenic Tents of Lyndonville, Vermont

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