



The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake

Civil Marriage Services Information and Planning Package

February 2021



Large Font applications are available, upon request, at the Municipal Office.

**Municipality of Red Lake
Civil Marriage Services
General Information & Planning Package**

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Civil Marriage Ceremony Applicant's Check List



- ☐ Obtain a valid Marriage License in Ontario. For information, contact your local Municipal Clerk's Office.
- ☐ Complete the Booking Agreement form for a Municipality of Red Lake Civil Marriage Service by contacting the Office of the Clerk at the Municipal Office. (see page 10)
- ☐ Complete the Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire for review with the Marriage Commissioner (see page 12)
- ☐ Review Civil Marriage Ceremony Guidelines (see page 6)
- ☐ Determine a location for the Ceremony.
- ☐ Make arrangements for 2 witnesses, preferably over the age of 16. (see page 8)
- ☐ If required, please make arrangements for an interpreter for the Ceremony. (see page 8)
- ☐ Choose Vows for your Civil Marriage Ceremony (included in package - see pages 16, 18, & 21) **Additional approved wording for civil marriage ceremony is available, please review with the Marriage Commissioner.**
- ☐ Choose or prepare personal vows. **If this option is chosen, please provide vows to the Clerk or designate prior to the pre-ceremony meeting for approval.** (see page 21-23)
- ☐ Pay for all required fees in accordance with this package (plus those to the Marriage Commissioner).
- ☐ Arrange for any music, videographer, photographer, and decorations.

REMINDER:

As part of the process to obtain a Marriage License, it is recommended that you complete an application form for a Marriage Certificate approximately three (3) months following the date of Marriage. Forms, fees, etc. will be included with your Marriage License or can be obtained on-line at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/getting-married>.

Municipality of Red Lake Civil Marriage Services

Municipality of Red Lake Civil Marriage Services

To be reviewed by the Applicants and discussed with the Marriage Commissioner at the Pre-Ceremony Meeting.



The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake

2 Fifth Street, Balmertown, Ontario, P0V 1C0

Phone: (807) 735-2096

Fax: (866) 681-2954 or visit www.redlake.ca

The Municipality of Red Lake currently offers civil marriage services. The Municipality of Red Lake's Civil Marriage Service is a non-denominational and dignified ceremony, which adheres to the requirements of the Marriage Act for the Province of Ontario.

Civil Marriage Ceremony:

Civil Marriage Ceremonies, available in English only, are simple and dignified. The Marriage Commissioner will conduct such services at any location in Ontario subject to certain conditions but are authorized to perform such services within the boundaries of The Corporation of The Municipality of Red Lake and the surrounding unincorporated area. The Ceremony can last up to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes depending on the vows chosen. The service time booked would be approximately one (1) hour to allow for photo opportunities etc. If an interpreter is required, more time would be needed.

Ceremonies can also be conducted in Council Chambers which provides an intimate and formal setting. While the Council Chambers may be available Monday through Thursday, Fridays are designated specifically for the provision of civil marriage ceremonies.

Same day service for a Civil Marriage Ceremony is possible provided a valid Ontario Marriage License is produced, the availability of a Marriage Commissioner, and a preferred location. It is recommended that ceremonies be booked in advance to allow for a pre-ceremony meeting at least three (3) days prior to the Ceremony.

The Marriage Commissioner is available to conduct marriages seven (7) days per week, based on availability.

To help make this important day as beautiful, dignified, and intimate as possible; this package contains information to assist you with learning more about the Civil Marriage Service and plan your Ceremony.

Enclosed you will find:

(a) Civil Marriage Ceremony Guidelines, including applicable fees:

The guidelines provide answers to frequently asked questions with regards to Civil Marriage Ceremonies at the Municipal Office including fees, restrictions, requirements, etc.

(b) Civil Marriage - Booking Agreement:

A booking is not confirmed until this Agreement is completed and returned to the Municipal Clerk's Office with full payment (cheque, cash, credit card or debit).

The ceremony booking fee does not include the Marriage License fee of \$140.00 which can also be obtained through the Municipal Clerk's Office.

(c) Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire:

This information will assist the Marriage Commissioner and the Applicants to plan and coordinate the details of the Ceremony.

(d) Frequently Asked Questions.

(e) Sample Vows:

We have included three (3) examples of vows which the Applicants can choose from. There is a provision to allow Applicants to write custom vows for the Service which can be inserted between the mandatory declarations required under the Marriage Act. **If this option is chosen, please provide vows to the Clerk or designate prior to the pre-ceremony meeting for approval.**

(f) Photo of Council Chambers.

Civil Marriage Service Guidelines

Municipality of Red Lake Civil Marriage Services

To be reviewed by the Applicants and discussed with the Marriage Commissioner at the Pre-Ceremony Meeting.



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1. Civil Marriage ceremonies last a maximum of thirty (30) minutes, depending on the vows chosen. The service time booked would be approximately one (1) hour to allow for photo opportunities and use of an interpreter, if required. Plan to arrive at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the Ceremony to allow time for review of final details.
2. Civil Marriages will be conducted in English only at any location within the Municipality of Red Lake and the surrounding unincorporated area, subject to confirmation by the Marriage Commissioner. If the ceremony is to be held anywhere else in Ontario, further approvals are required. The Marriage Commissioner is available to conduct marriages seven (7) days per week, based on availability.
3. Services can also be conducted in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Office, 2 Fifth Street, which provides an intimate and dignified setting. The Council Chambers, however, is only available during regular business hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday ONLY, subject to availability. The Municipality of Red Lake has set aside Friday afternoons for this purpose between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Council Chambers will NOT be available on weekends, holidays, or any time after 4:30 p.m. However, ceremonies at other locations can be held seven (7) days a week.
4. **FEES:** (All fees shall be subject to taxes as applicable)
 - a. Payments are to be made at the Municipal Office and can be done by cheque, cash, credit card or debit. All fees are payable in advance at the time of booking and require the execution of a Booking Agreement. A percentage of these fees are paid to the Marriage Commissioner. A blank Booking Agreement form is included in this package for your reference. The following fees for Civil Marriage Services, as approved by Council and identified in Schedule "H" to the Municipality of Red Lake User Fees and Charges By-Law:

Civil Marriage Service Guidelines – Continued

4. FEES: – Continued

Civil Marriage Services – Fees		
Monday to Friday –During Regular Business Hours (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)	Within Boundaries	\$ 312.00
Monday to Friday – After Regular Business Hours, Saturday and Sunday	Within Boundaries	\$ 364.00
Monday to Sunday	Outside Boundaries/on a boat	\$ 465.75
Renewal of Vows – Monday to Friday – During Regular Business Hours (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)	Within Boundaries	\$ 250.00
Renewal of Vows – Monday to Friday – After Business Hours & Saturday and Sunday	Within Boundaries	\$300.00
Renewal of Vows – Monday to Sunday	Outside Boundaries/on a boat	\$350.00
Rental of Municipal Council Chambers (dependent on availability and not available Saturday, Sunday, or holidays)		\$ 75.00
Marriage License		\$ 140.00 (no tax)
Cancellation Fee (applied should ceremony be cancelled prior to originally scheduled date)		\$ 50.00

- b. The Marriage Commissioner may charge for travel, accommodation, meals, and mileage costs, at their discretion, to attend a ceremony in any approved location, as well as an hourly fee over and above the approximate time allowed for a Civil Ceremony and for participation at a rehearsal, regardless of its location.

Please note: Fees referred to in 4 b. are separate and apart from the Municipality's fees and as such shall be paid directly to the Marriage Commissioner by the applicant.

- c. Municipal fees as shown in 4 a. are payable to the Municipality of Red Lake at the time of booking. Please note the Civil Marriage Service does not include the fee for the Marriage License or use of the Council Chambers.
- d. The fee for a Marriage License is \$140.00 (no tax, includes administration fee). More information regarding the application process for obtaining a Marriage License in Ontario can be obtained by accessing the Government of Ontario website - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/getting-married> or from the Clerk's Office at the Municipal Office.

- e. The fee for the use of Council Chambers is \$75.00 per ceremony and is only available for ceremonies conducted in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Office (the Council Chambers is not available after 4:30 p.m. or on weekends/holidays).
 - f. Changes to date and/or time are permitted at no additional charge, provided the location and the Marriage Commissioner is available and must be received a minimum of two (2) business days prior to the originally scheduled date and time. An administration fee of \$50.00 will be applied should the Ceremony be cancelled prior to the scheduled date. No refund will be issued if the Ceremony is cancelled on the day of the Ceremony, or the Applicant(s) fail to appear for the Ceremony. A Request for Refund – Civil Marriage Service form (available from the Office of the Clerk) shall be completed prior to any reimbursement of funds.
5. It is recommended that a request for a Civil Marriage Ceremony be received a minimum of three (3) days prior to the date of the Ceremony. The applicants are required to complete the Civil Marriage Booking Agreement and pay the appropriate fee at the Municipal Office. As well, Applicants must complete a Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire with the Marriage Commissioner.
6. A Pre-Ceremony meeting with the Marriage Commissioner is required and lasts approximately fifteen (15) minutes and is to be scheduled at least three (3) days prior to the ceremony (exception as noted in No. 6 above). Please ensure you have the following available for the Marriage Commissioner at this meeting:
- ✓ Both parties must be in attendance and provide photo identification.
 - ✓ Bring copy of the completed Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire.
 - ✓ Bring completed copy of Civil Marriage Service Booking Agreement (with receipt).
 - ✓ If specific vows are to be included, please provide a written approved copy to the Marriage Commissioner.
 - ✓ If an interpreter is to be used, provide an applicable form to the Marriage Commissioner with details.
 - ✓ Provide a valid Marriage License (with receipt) issued in the Province of Ontario is to be presented (date issued must be within three (3) months of ceremony).

It is preferred only the couple meets with the Marriage Commissioner during this session.

Please Note:

It is the Applicants' responsibility to provide an interpreter if they do not speak English and/or require language assistance. The interpreter cannot be one of the witnesses. The interpreter shall be required to sign a form confirming that he/she has interpreted the wedding ceremony.

There is no minimum age requirement for a witness, however, it is suggested they should be at least sixteen (16) years of age, as a witness should be able to understand and appreciate what is taking place and be able to give evidence of such at a later date, if required. It is the Applicants' responsibility to provide the witnesses.

The Record of Solemnization of Marriage provided at the ceremony is not a legal record. Approximately three (3) months after the ceremony you may apply to the Office of the Registrar General to obtain an official Certificate of Marriage. The appropriate form is included with the Marriage License that was issued to the Applicants.

7. Alcohol or stimulants are not to be used by the Applicants or their witnesses prior to or during the Ceremony. If the Marriage Commissioner has reason to believe that alcohol or other stimulants have been used, the Ceremony will not proceed.
8. In order to maintain the dignity of the Ceremony, clothing should be appropriate for the occasion.
9. Music will be permitted at certain times throughout the Ceremony and is to be determined during the pre-ceremony meeting. When selecting the type of music, consideration should be given to its appropriateness and contribution to the dignity of the occasion.
10. A maximum of twenty (20) guests (not including the wedding party) can be accommodated in the Council Chambers should this location be used for a civil marriage ceremony.
11. Photographs may be taken before, during and after the Ceremony. Videotaping of the Ceremony may be permitted subject to certain limitations at the discretion of the Commissioner.
12. No confetti, rice, bubbles etc. are allowed in the Council Chambers or on municipal property. Smoking and/or use of candles are not allowed in or on the Municipal Office property.
13. For use of the Council Chambers at the Municipal Office, minimal decorations are permitted (e.g. flowers, balloons). They may be placed 15 minutes prior to the Ceremony and removed within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the Ceremony. Use of decorations that are to be affixed to walls or furniture (i.e. tape, staples, nails, etc.) are not permitted. The Municipality of Red Lake will provide silk flower arrangements should it be requested.
14. The Applicants, as the renters of the Council Chambers for the Civil Marriage Ceremony, hereby consent to defend and indemnify The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake for any loss or damages incurred by their invitees. The Applicants agree that The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake will not be held responsible for personal injury or damage, nor for the theft or loss of any personal property of anyone attending on the invitation of the Applicants.
15. The Applicants, as renters of the Council Chambers for the Civil Marriage Ceremony, shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of all persons admitted to the Council Chambers and shall see that all regulations pertaining to the event are strictly followed.
16. The Council Chambers may only be used for Civil Marriage Ceremonies conducted by a Municipality of Red Lake Marriage Commissioner, or the Clerk or designate, if necessary. The Chambers will only be made available for a maximum of one and one-half hours per ceremony; minimal decorating permitted.



The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake

2 Fifth Street, Balmertown, Ontario, P0V 1C0

Phone: (807) 735-2096 Fax: (866) 681-2954

Website: www.redlake.ca

Civil Marriage Service – Booking Agreement

APPLICANT AND CO-APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Applicant's Name	
Co-Applicant's Name	
Date of Ceremony: _____ Time of Ceremony: _____ a.m./p.m. Day Month Year	
Telephone No: _____ Email Address: _____	

1. Date Marriage License Issued: _____ (valid for three (3) months from date of issue).

2. Require Council Chambers? **Yes** ___ **or No** __. Require silk flowers **Yes** ___ **or No** __.

3. If you are not using Council Chambers, please identify exact location/address of wedding.

4. Is the location within the Municipality of Red Lake boundaries? Yes ___ No ____.
If No, please ensure the appropriate location and details are noted in item #3.

5. Fee: \$ _____
Rental of Council Chamber (if required): \$ _____
Taxes: \$ _____
Total (including applicable taxes): \$ _____

6. **Travel/Mileage/Time/Rehearsal Fees will be charged and are to be paid directly to the Commissioner.**

7. The assignment of civil marriages to the Marriage Commissioner shall be based by the Clerk.

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 10 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, C.25, and the Marriage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M3 and will be used for the purpose of the Application only. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Office of the Clerk (Christine Goulet), Municipality of Red Lake, 2 Fifth Street, Balmertown, Ontario, P0V 1C0. Telephone (807) 735-2096 (Ext. 235).

The Applicants acknowledge that they have read the Municipality of Red Lake Civil Marriage Guidelines as attached hereto and shall adhere to the requirements established with respect to the provision of Civil Marriage Services by the Municipality of Red Lake.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Co-Applicant:

Date

Office Use Only:

Marriage Ceremony Confirmation

Name of Commissioner:

Ceremony Date:

Signature of Clerk's Office Representative:

Date:

Marriage License Number:

Payment of Fees:

Amount \$ _____ **Pd.** ☐ **Date:** _____ **Receipt No.:** _____



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Civil Marriage Services – Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire

Applicant:	Co-Applicant:
Last Name	Last Name
First Name, Middle Name	First Name, Middle Name
Occupation	Occupation
Phone Number	Phone Number

Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yyyy)	Time of Marriage
Location of Ceremony (be specific)	
Name of 1st Witness (Last, First, Middle) (Preferably 16 years of age or older)	
Name of 2nd Witness (Last, First, Middle) (Preferably 16 years of age or older)	
Selection of Vows (Please check) Simple: Option 1 (no rings): <input type="checkbox"/> Option 2 (rings): <input type="checkbox"/> Option 3 (personal vows & rings): <input type="checkbox"/> (Personal Vows – please provide written copy to Clerk at christine.goulet@redlake.ca) (Alternative Options – see Schedule A)	
Rehearsal? Yes or No	
If yes, Date & Time:	Location:
Will anyone be giving the applicant away? Yes or No	
If yes, Name:	Relationship:
Will rings be exchanged during the Ceremony? Yes or No	
Will there be a name change for the Applicant? Yes or No	
If yes, Name:	
If using Council Chambers will there be music? Yes or No (Music and equipment to be supplied by Applicants)	

If using Council Chambers are floral decorations required? Yes or No
If using Council Chambers – is there a formal entrance/wedding processional required? Yes or No
Is an interpreter required? Yes or No (Applicants must supply interpreter & complete additional form)
Number of Guests: (Council Chambers can accommodate a maximum of 20 guests)
Any additional comments or requests?

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 10 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, C.25, and the Marriage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M3 and will be used for the purpose of the Application only. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Office of the Clerk (Christine G. Goulet), Municipality of Red Lake, 2 Fifth Street, Balmertown, Ontario, P0V 1C0. Telephone (807) 735-2096 (Ext. 235).

Applicant's Signature: _____		Date: _____
Co-Applicant's Signature: _____		Date: _____

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What documents are needed for a Civil Marriage Service?

Before meeting with the Marriage Commissioner, you should have completed and paid for your Ontario Marriage License (valid for three (3) months following its date of issue), which you should show the Commissioner. You should have also completed the Booking Agreement Form with staff at the Municipal Office. The Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire you will complete during the pre-ceremony meeting with the Marriage Commissioner. Both forms are included in this package.

2. Who may officiate at our wedding?

For a Civil Marriage, the Municipality's appointed Marriage Commissioner(s) may perform the ceremony.

3. What would it cost to be married at my home on the lake on Saturday?

(All fees are subject to applicable taxes.)

Example 1: Location within Municipal boundaries:

• Marriage License issued in Red Lake	\$ 140.00
• Ceremony on a Saturday (within the boundaries of the Municipality)	<u>\$ 364.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 504.00*

* Plus Commissioner incurred expenses, if applicable.

Example 2: Location in unincorporated territory: (All fees are subject to applicable taxes.)

• Marriage License issued in Red Lake	\$ 140.00
• Ceremony on a Saturday (in unincorporated area)	<u>\$ 465.75</u>
TOTAL	\$ 605.75*

* Plus Commissioner incurred expenses, if applicable.

4. Does the Municipality offer “same day service” for a Ceremony?

Same day service for a Civil Marriage Ceremony is possible provided a valid Ontario Marriage License is produced, the availability of a Marriage Commissioner, and a preferred location. It is recommended that ceremonies be booked in advance to allow for a pre-ceremony meeting at least three (3) days prior to the Ceremony.

5. Where can we hold our wedding?

Our Marriage Commissioner will perform a ceremony anywhere within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Red Lake, and its surrounding unincorporated area. Ceremonies may also be held at the Municipal Office in the Council Chambers, based on availability.

6. Do we have to purchase our Ontario License in Red Lake to be married in Red Lake?

No. You may purchase an Ontario License anywhere in the Province of Ontario to be married anywhere in the Province of Ontario.

7. Are witnesses required for a Civil Marriage Ceremony?

Yes, all couples must have two (2) witnesses present during the ceremony, preferably over age 16.

8. May we include readings from the Bible or have a Blessing at our ceremony?

No, in keeping with the spirit of the Ontario Marriage Act which requires civil ceremonies to be “non-denominational” the Marriage Commissioner or any other person may not perform any type of religious ceremony.

9. Will Marriage Commissioners marry Same-sex Partners?

Yes, there is a constitutional requirement in Ontario to issue marriage licenses to solemnize civil marriages of same-sex couples.

10. Who registers our Civil Marriage?

During the ceremony all parties must sign the Record of Solemnization (to be retained by the couple) and the Statement of Marriage, both are included on the license. The Marriage Commissioner will ensure all documentation is delivered to the Municipal Office following the ceremony so it can be forwarded to the Office of the Registrar General in Thunder Bay within two (2) business days to register your marriage with the Province of Ontario.

CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY
OPTION #1 – NO RINGS

OPENING

We are gathered at this place for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman / these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

READING

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted. Therefore, if there is any one present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

Marriage Commissioner to 1st Person: Repeat after me please:

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

Marriage Commissioner to 2nd Person: Repeat after me please:

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

If either person is escorted forward, Marriage Commissioner states:

“Who is it that gives this _____ (man/woman/these individuals) in marriage?
Answer “I/we do”. (father, mother, children, relatives, etc.)

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND VOWS

Marriage Commissioner - Would you please face each other, join hands and repeat after me.

Marriage Commissioner to 1st Person:

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take
you, _____
_____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner/ spouse). To
have and to hold from this day forward. For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness
and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

Marriage Commissioner to 2nd Person: Repeat after me please.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you,

_____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner/ spouse). To have and to hold from this day forward. For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____ have pledged themselves to each other and have declared this symbolically by their vows. I, _____ by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be married.

You may now kiss your bride / kiss.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

At this time, the wedded parties and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

SERVICE CONCLUSION

I wish you a long life, happiness, prosperity and may the vows you made to each other today, sustain you forever.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the married couple.

The Marriage Act provides that no particular form of ceremony is required except that in some part of the ceremony, in the presence of the person solemnizing the marriage and witnesses:

Each of the parties shall declare and say to each other as per yellow highlight; and

The Marriage Commissioner shall say as per the green highlight.

If you wish to make changes to the civil marriage ceremony, please contact the Marriage Commissioner who has sample wording that has been approved by the Clerk. Personal vows or other wording may be used; however, they shall be approved by the Clerk or designate.

CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY
OPTION #2 – RINGS

OPENING

We are gathered at this place for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman / these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

READING

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted. Therefore, if there is any one present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

Marriage Commissioner to 1st Person: Repeat after me please:

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

Marriage Commissioner to 2nd Person: Repeat after me please:

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

If either person is escorted forward, Marriage Commissioner states:

“Who is it that gives this _____ (man/woman/these individuals) in marriage?
Answer “I/we do”. (father, mother, children, relatives, etc.)

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND VOWS

Marriage Commissioner - Would you please face each other, join hands, and repeat after me.

Marriage Commissioner to 1st Person: Repeat after me please:

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take
you,
_____ to be my Lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner/ spouse). To
have and to hold from this day forward. For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness
and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

Marriage Commissioner to 2nd Person: Repeat after me please:

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you,

_____ to be my Lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner/ spouse). To have and to hold from this day forward. For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

(Make provision for ring bearer)

Marriage Commissioner to 1st Person:

The ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.

_____, please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"I give you this ring as a symbol of the unending union of my life with yours and as a symbol of my love and commitment to you. I shall always love, honour and cherish you. With this ring, I thee wed.

Marriage Commissioner to 2nd Person:

The ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.

_____, please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"I give you this ring as a symbol of the unending union of my life with yours and as a symbol of my love and commitment to you. I shall always love, honour and cherish you. With this ring, I thee wed.

As you wear these rings may you find them reminders of an endless love which may grow more meaningful with each passing day.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____ have pledged themselves to each other and have declared this symbolically by their vows. I, _____ by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be married.

You may now kiss your bride / kiss.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

At this time, the wedded parties and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

SERVICE CONCLUSION

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes and peace and contentment of mind as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

I wish you a long life, happiness, prosperity and may the vows you made to each other today, sustain you forever.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the married couple.

The Marriage Act provides that no particular form of ceremony is required except that in some part of the ceremony, in the presence of the person solemnizing the marriage and witnesses:

Each of the parties shall declare and say to each other as per yellow highlight; and

The Marriage Commissioner shall say as per the green highlight.

If you wish to make changes to the civil marriage ceremony, the Marriage Commissioner has approved wording. Please contact the Marriage Commissioner to review. Any other information or personal vows may be used; however, they shall be approved by the Clerk or designate.

CIVIL MARRIAGE CEREMONY
OPTION #3 – PERSONAL VOWS & RINGS

OPENING

We are gathered at this place for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman / these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

READING

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted. Therefore, if there is any one present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

PERSONAL VOWS: 1st Person

PERSONAL VOWS: 2nd Person

Marriage Commissioner to 1st Person: Repeat after me please:

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

Marriage Commissioner to 2nd Person: Repeat after me please:

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

If either person is escorted forward, Marriage Commissioner states:

“Who is it that gives this _____ (man/woman/these individuals) in marriage?
Answer “I/we do”. (father, mother, children, relatives, etc.)

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND VOWS

Marriage Commissioner - Would you please face each other, join hands, and repeat after me.

Marriage Commissioner to 1st Person: Repeat after me please:

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take
you, _____ to be my Lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner/ spouse). To
have and to hold from this day forward. For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness
and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

Marriage Commissioner to 2nd Person: Repeat after me please:

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my Lawful wedded (wife/ husband/ partner/ spouse). To have and to hold from this day forward. For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

(Make provision for ring bearer)

Marriage Commissioner to 1st Person:

The ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.

_____, please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"I give you this ring as a symbol of the unending union of my life with yours and as a symbol of my love and commitment to you. I shall always love, honour and cherish you. With this ring, I thee wed.

Marriage Commissioner to 2nd Person:

The ring is a symbol of your marriage and a symbol of your love and life together.

_____, please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"I give you this ring as a symbol of the unending union of my life with yours and as a symbol of my love and commitment to you. I shall always love, honour and cherish you. With this ring, I thee wed.

As you wear these rings may you find them reminders of an endless love which may grow more meaningful with each passing day.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____ have pledged themselves to each other and have declared this symbolically by their vows. I, _____ by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be married.

You may now kiss your bride / kiss.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

At this time, the wedded parties and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

SERVICE CONCLUSION

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes and peace and contentment of mind as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

I wish you a long life, happiness, prosperity and may the vows you made to each other today, sustain you forever.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the married couple.

The Marriage Act provides that no particular form of ceremony is required except that in some part of the ceremony, in the presence of the person solemnizing the marriage and witnesses:

Each of the parties shall declare and say to each other as per yellow highlight; and

The Marriage Commissioner shall say as per the green highlight.

If you wish to make changes to the civil marriage ceremony, the Marriage Commissioner has approved wording. Please contact the Marriage Commissioner to review. Any other information or personal vows may be used; however, they shall be approved by the Clerk or designate.

Council Chambers at Municipal Office – *beautiful, elegant, intimate ...*



The Council Chambers is located in the Municipal Office, 2 Fifth Street, Balmertown, Ontario.

There are many parks and facilities in the Municipality of Red Lake that may be available for civil marriage services.

Please contact the Parks and Recreation Supervisor @ 727-2089 or email @ recreation@redlake.ca for more information.



Appendix “A”

The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake Alternative Wording

OPENING

Option #1

We are gathered here today to take part in the most time-honored celebration of the human family, uniting a man and a woman in marriage. _____ and _____ have come to witness before us, telling of their love for each other. We remember theirs is a love whose source is the affection of those who loved them into being.

Option #2

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, and to cherish the words which shall unite _____ and _____ in marriage.

Option #3

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, the joining of two hearts. In this ceremony today we will witness the joining of _____ and _____ in marriage.

Option #4

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to cherish the words which shall unite _____ and _____ in marriage.

READINGS

Option #1

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 promises and agreements in an informal way.

All those conversations were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks – all those sentences that began with “When we’re married” and continued with “I will and you will and we will” – those late night talks that included “someday” and “somehow” and “maybe” - and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart.

All those 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 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, and even teacher. Now you shall say a few words that take you across the threshold of life, and things will never be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this is my husband, this is my wife. (this is my life partner)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

Option #2

Marriage is the promise between two people who love each other, and who trust in that love, who honor one another as individuals, and who wish to spend the rest of their lives together.

This ceremony will not create a relationship that does not already exist between you. It is a symbol of how far you have come in the past ____ years. It is a symbol of the promises you will make to each other to continue growing stronger as individuals and as partners, no matter what challenges or success you encounter together in the years before you.

Today, your lives, which began on separate paths, will be joined as one.

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

Option #3

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding today.

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

Option #4

_____ and _____, in the days ahead of you, there will be times of difficulty and conflict. When you find yourselves in these situations, I ask you to reflect on this marriage advice.

Let your love be stronger than your anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend than to break.

Look for the best in your beloved rather than the worst.

Confide in your partner and ask for help when you need it.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

Give your spouse the same courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends.

Say “I love you” every day.

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

Option #5

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 a day. It is never going to bed angry. It is never taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon; it should continue through all years. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel.

It is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow. It is finding room for the things of spirit. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal. It is not marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner.

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

Option #6

Today is the day you will always remember – the greatest in anyone’s life. You will start off the day just two people in love and end it as husband and wife. It’s a brand-new beginning, the start of a journey with moments to cherish and treasure. And although there will be times you both disagree; these will surely be outweighed by pleasure.

You will have heard many words of advice in the past, when the secrets of marriage were spoken, but now you know that the answers lie hidden inside, where the bond of true love lies unbroken. So live happy forever as lovers and friends, it’s the dawn of a new life for you, as you stand there together with love in your eyes from the moment you whisper, “I do”. And with luck, all your hopes, and your dreams can be real, may success find its way to your hearts. Tomorrow can bring you the greatest joys, but today is the day it all starts.

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____
_____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____.

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND VOWS

Option #1

“_____, will you take _____ to be your wife/husband/partner/spouse? Do you commit yourself to her/his happiness and self-fulfillment as a person? Do you promise to love, honor, and trust her/him in sickness and in health, in adversity and prosperity, and to be true and loyal to her/him so long as you both shall live?”

Wife/Husband/Partner/Spouse – “I do”

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse).

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #2

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse). _____, I promise to be faithful, supportive, and loyal and to give you my companionship and love throughout all the changes of our life. 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 endeavors. From this day forward, I will be proud to be your wife/husband/partner/spouse and your best friend.

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #3

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse). I choose you, _____, to be my (wife/husband/partner/spouse), as my friend and love. On this day I affirm the relationship we have enjoyed, looking to the future and to keep and strengthen it. I will be yours in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, in failure and in triumph. Together, we will dream, and live as one while respecting one another, we will stumble but restore each other, we will share all things. I will cherish, comfort, and encourage you, be open with you, and stay with you as long as I shall live.

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #4

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse) from this day forward, to have and to hold as equal partner in my life, to whom I give my deepest love and devotion. I humbly open my heart to you as a sanctuary of warmth and peace, where you may come and find a refuge of love and strength. I will love you enough to risk being hurt, trust you when I don't understand, weep with you in heartache, and celebrate life with you in joy. I will receive you as my equal throughout all our days.

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #5

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse), my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust and honor you. I will laugh with you and cry with you. Through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. Whatever may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep.

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #6

_____, do you take _____ to be your husband/wife/partner/spouse? (I do)

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him/her, forsaking all others and holding only unto him/her forevermore? (I do)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse)

(Repeated by both parties)

Option #7

_____ and _____, I remind you that marriage is a precious gift; a lifelong dedication to love and a daily challenge to love one another more fully and more freely.

With this understanding do you _____, take _____ to be your beloved husband/wife/partner/spouse?

Do you promise to be a tender, faithful husband/wife/partner/spouse?

Do you promise to love and cherish her/him, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, for better or worse, and keep yourself only unto her/him? (I do)

Would you please face each other, join hands, and repeat after me.

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse).

(Repeated by both parties)

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Option #1

_____ and _____ have chosen rings as outward symbols of the commitment they make today.

The wedding ring is a symbol of unity, a circle unbroken, without beginning or end. And today _____ and _____ give and receive these rings as demonstrations of their vows to make their lives one, to work at all times to create a life that is whole and unbroken, and to love each other without end.

_____, take the ring which you have selected, place it on the third finger of _____'s left hand, and say to her/him these words.

"This ring, a gift for you, symbolizes my desire that you be my wife/husband/partner/spouse from this day forward." (slips ring on)

(Repeat opposite him/her)

Let these rings serve not as locks binding you together, but as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and thus bringing you closer together forever.

Option #2

_____, take the ring and as you place it on the third finger of _____'s left hand, please state your pledge to her/him repeating these words:

"I begin my life with you today knowing that we have developed a trust and commitment that is strong enough to last through good times and bad. With this ring, I offer you my hand, my heart, and my soul as I know they will be safe with you." (slips ring on)

(Repeat opposite groom/bride)

Option #3

Officiant: May I have the rings please? _____, please place this ring on her/his third finger of the left hand and repeat after me:

“ _____, I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you.” (slips ring on)

(Repeat opposite groom/bride)

Option #4

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love, freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Please place this ring on her/his third finger of the left hand and repeat after me:

I _____, take thee _____, to be my husband/wife/partner/spouse. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my husband/wife/partner/spouse, for as long as we both shall live. (slips ring on)

(Repeat with opposite husband/wife)

Option #5

Wedding rings are an unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this couple in marriage.

_____, this ring is my sacred gift, with my promise that I will always love you, cherish you and honor you all the days of my life. And with this ring, I thee wed. (slips ring on)

(Repeat opposite groom/bride)

PRONOUNCEMENT

Option #1

_____ and _____, as a collection of words, this ceremony would count for little, were it not for the love and commitment you have pledged to one another. Your vows may have been spoken in minutes, but your promises to each other will last a lifetime. Having witnessed your vows for marriage with all who are assembled here, I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be married.

You may now kiss your bride / kiss.

Option #2

You have made your marriage vows to one another, witnessed by your friends and family. You have sealed your vows with the giving and receiving of these rings.

I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be married.

You may now kiss your bride/kiss.

Option #3

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know, that in your hearts, you truly want what is best for each other. It will take dedication, to stay open to one another – and to learn and grow together. It will take faith, to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future brings. And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged to today.

I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be married.

You may now kiss your bride/kiss.

Option #4

May the sun bring you new energy by day.
May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your worries.

And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.

I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be married.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Option #5

_____ and _____ I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness, and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage – as they do to every relationship at one time or another – focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and happiness.

I (Officiant's name) by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be married.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

SIGNING OF THE REGISTRAR

At this time, the wedded parties and their witnesses will sign the Official Marriage Register.

SERVICE CONCLUSION

Option #1

It gives me great pleasure to present to you, for the first time as husband and wife, Mr. _____ and Mrs. _____.

Option #2

Please put your hands together to congratulate the newlyweds! _____ & _____
(Last Name)

Option #3

I would like to introduce the happy couple _____.

Option #4

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you, for the first time as husband/wife/partner/spouse _____ and _____
(Last Name).

Option #5

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you, for the first time _____ and _____
(Last Name).

ALTERNATIVE CEREMONIES

1. Love/Wine Box

At this time, I'd like to draw your attention to the box beside _____ and _____. They have written letters to each other expressing their feelings as they begin their marriage. They have detailed why they fell in love and what they truly admire about the other person.

These letters were sealed before they could be read. We will include these letters in the box along with a bottle of wine and two wine glasses. Together we will seal the box, and on the happy occasion of their anniversary, they will open the box, and read the letters.

By reading these love letters, you will be given an opportunity to reflect upon the reasons that you fell in love with each other.

(love letter carriers) _____ & _____ will you please bring up the letters?

_____ and _____, I now ask you to place the letters in the box and seal it shut.

2. Sand Ceremony #1

We now celebrate _____ and _____'s union with a symbolic sand ceremony. First, we will pour sand from this beautiful beach where _____ and _____ stand today as they commit their lives to each other, representing the strong foundation of their relationship. That foundation includes their families, their upbringing, and all the important steps on their journeys that led them to be who they are today. This foundation will support them in their love as they grow and change together. *(If you are not having a beach wedding, the foundation sand can be from your hometown, or just a neutral white sand.)*

_____ and _____, today you are making a lasting commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other. That commitment is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand; one that represents _____ *(who now pours in some of his/her sand)* and the other that represents _____, *(who pours some of his/her sand on top)*.

Each of you comes to this relationship with unique strengths, vulnerabilities, and histories. As individuals, you are beautiful people all on your own. Yet when the two of you are blended together, you form something even more beautiful. Those strengths can blossom, those vulnerabilities can be cared for, and those people can soar.

As the two containers of sand are poured into the vase, (both _____ & _____ simultaneously pour their remaining sand in the central vase) the separate colours of sand now blend into a new colour.

You have now blended your families into a new family, as you start your journey in marriage, loving and strong as husband and wife, as inseparable as these grains of sand.

Sand Ceremony Wording #2

Love is a force more formidable than any other. It cannot be seen or measured, yet it is powerful enough to transform you in a moment and offer you more joy than any material possession ever could. But although this love joins you together as one, remember the gift of your individuality. Cherish and affirm your differences as you love each other. Be supportive of your strengths, and tender towards your weaknesses. Laugh together, cry together, be comforted by each other's presence, and secure in each other's absence.

To symbolize the importance of each of you within the marriage and the joining of your two lives into one marriage, 3 colours of sand will now be combined in a sand ceremony.

We begin with a layer of white sand, which symbolizes the foundation of the relationship. (Officiant pours some of the white sand into vase)

Then _____ and _____ will each separately pour their sand into the vase, symbolizing who they are as individuals. (Groom pours some of his sand into the vase and then the bride does the same)

Then, they will pour together, blending their two colors as a symbol of their joining together forever in love. (Bride and groom pour remaining sand at the same time)

Lastly, I will add another layer of white sand, representing you, their community, supporting them in their marriage and holding them in love. (Officiant pours remaining white sand)

Though the vase may be moved around, and the colors may shift and blend in new ways, the grains of sand cannot be separated. They will remain joined in a harmonious whole. (*The officiant holds up the completed vase, presenting it to the guests*)

May your love be as eternal and as inseparable as this sand.

Sand Ceremony that Includes Children

_____ and _____, today you are making a lasting commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other, joining your two families into one.

First, you will each separately pour a layer of sand into the vase, representing who you are as an individual. (*First one person pours, then the other, forming two distinct layers of sand*)

Then, you will pour simultaneously, blending your two colors as you will blend your lives in marriage. (*The couple pours simultaneously*)

As the individual grains of sand can no longer be separated, may your bond also be inseparable.

But you are also making a bond with your children, _____ and _____. As they also contribute their unique personalities and strengths to this new family, they will also individually add a layer of sand to this unity vase. (*Pause as the children pour their sand individually, forming separate layers over their parents' blended sand*)

Then everyone, _____, _____, _____ and _____ will pour together, representing their commitment to each other. (*Everyone pours simultaneously*)

Though the vase may be moved around, and the colours may shift and blend in new ways, the grains of sand cannot be separated. They will remain joined in a harmonious whole. (*The officiant holds up the completed vase, presenting it to the guests*)

May your love be as eternal and as inseparable as this sand.