

WEDDINGS

Website helps plan big day

By ANNE KYLE
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Don't let wedding bell jitters get you down if you are planning to pop the question today.

Not only do you have cupid on your side, but Trevor Chilton, too.

While the 33-year-old Regina bachelor hasn't experienced the trials and tribulations of planning his own wedding, his website is making life a lot easier for engaged couples planning their big day.

Chilton is the owner-operator of saskweddings.com, a website dedicated to helping happy couples plan their nuptials without the hassles of running all over town.

"Basically all my friends are getting married except for me. Everybody always thought I would be the one married first. That was the big joke," Chilton said.

"Even though I didn't get married, I kind of learned the (wedding) process and am letting people kind of piggy on the work I have done."

The website came about because of the horror stories he was hearing. He explained he kept hearing stories from his friends and couples using his wedding video service about their frustrations trying to plan the big event and how there was no Saskatchewan-based online service they could use as a one-stop resource. So he did a little research and constructed the wedding planner kit.

"They said there were thousands of wedding planning sites out there but they were all like North American sites where you have to click 100 times only to get to a dead-end. Maybe you get lucky and with that one click you might get to one person, who might be from Saskatchewan," Chilton said.

"Every province seemed to have had their own website dedicated to wedding planning except for us. We were a little slower off the mark, but being slower just meant we were able to design and perfect the website."

It is a user-friendly resource that features Saskatchewan businesses. The technology embedded in the web design also enables vendors to chat online to the person browsing their site just like the little Microsoft Wizard, he said.

"Basically it is a 100-per-cent free resource for the public. Couples can go to one location and get all their wedding information, post their wedding announcements, and download their free wedding planner kits. It kind of takes the headache out of all the planning," he said.

Chilton said he spent more than two years researching and developing the website, which has been up and running for the past two years.

"My guy friends laughed of course when they heard I was developing this website. The girls thought that it was really cool," he said.

Weddings are big business. The wedding industry pumps \$125 million into Saskatchewan's economy each year, he said.