



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Shauna and Thomas first met online but quickly realized that fate had brought them together. While setting up their first date, the pair discovered that they worked in the same building! Thomas proposed to Shauna on a deserted island in Northern BC. Two years later they were married on August 8th, 2009 with the help of wedding planner *Geneve McNally* from DREAMGROUP PRODUCTIONS.

Shauna wore a *Lea-Ann Belter* gown purchased from **BLUSH BRIDAL** in West Vancouver. Her Tahitian pearl earrings were a design inspiration for the wedding day. “To me, pearls symbolize femininity, purity, light and wisdom so I wanted to keep it simple with just the earrings. I found a pair of large Tahitian drop pearl earrings at a store when I was

shopping with my mom on El Paseo in Palm Desert. Once I found my jewelry, pearls became a re-occurring theme in our wedding. There were pearls on the table in votive glasses, my bridesmaids wore pearl earrings, the invitations were on a pearl coloured paper, even the cake was decorated to look like it was covered with pearls,” recounts Shauna.

The wedding rings also had dual meaning for the international couple—Shauna being Canadian and Thomas, Swiss. “My ring is symbolic in two ways. The solitaire is a Canadian diamond and the setting was designed and made by a Swiss jeweler. The ring is 19 karat white gold and using yellow gold, the jeweler put a Canadian maple leaf and a Swiss cross on the inside of the band.”



GARDEN AFFAIR

The ceremony took place on the lawns of UBC's CECIL GREEN PARK HOUSE. The house and grounds were transformed into a garden wonderland with floral and decor by *Kim Raddysh* of WEDDING DESIGN STUDIO. The garden altar was bordered with two tall stone columns topped with urns. The urns were overflowing with white hydrangea, sweet pea and roses. Hand fans and pashminas were handed out to the guests for the ceremony. The bridesmaids walked down the aisle to the music of a live classical trio from MUSICAL OCCASIONS. Each bridesmaid wore a violet *Jenny Yoo* dress from FROCKS. They carried small posies of white calla lilies.

After the ceremony, guests enjoyed cocktails and appetizers on the lawns with the Pacific Ocean as the backdrop. In honour of Thomas's Swiss heritage, an Alpenhorn player took to the terrace with an official call to dinner! Seating cards by WINTONS SOCIAL STATIONERY were presented in gold wire holders (handmade by Shauna), set in a bank of maidenhair ferns.



#### FRAGRANT SETTING

Inside the house, the subtle fragrance of gardenias floated through the air as the reception began. **WEDDING DESIGN STUDIO** designed the dining room to be a vision of white and cream with hints of bright, lush green.

Banquet style tables were placed throughout the room with an abundance of floral running down the centre of each table. Avalanche roses, gardenias and white hydrangeas lined the tables alternated with votive candles in glass vases. Cream floral textured linens draped the long tables and matched the linen napkins and seat cushions. Beautiful buttery yellow satin bows graced the backs of the gold Chiavari chairs.

#### MEANINGFUL MEMORIES

Table names such as “Friendship”, “Laughter”, “Wisdom” were displayed in ornate gold frames. The bride made one special decor request in honour of a childhood memory. “I asked for a solid row of baby’s breath to be used on the mantle with some candles mixed in. My mom had always added baby’s breath to my hair for special occasions when I was growing up and it was nice to be able to incorporate it in a way that looked modern, unexpected and unique.”



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**A SURPRISE ENDING**

The guests enjoyed a sumptuous dinner before embarking onto the dance floor for the party portion of the night. Guests had some snapshot fun with **VANCOUVER PHOTOBOOTH**, leaving photos and well wishes.

The party ended with surprise for Shauna and Thomas courtesy of the best man who had arranged for the guests from Switzerland to sing the couple a popular love song, complete with Swiss flags. Upon the couple's departure, guests lined the walkway singing with beautiful long sparklers.

Shauna and Thomas kept the celebration going with a second reception in Zurich with the friends and family that couldn't make it to the Canadian nuptials. They honeymooned with an elaborate trip to Italy, which Thomas planned on his own to surprise Shauna. Their stops included Cinque Terre, Florence, Tuscany, and Venice. ~



**ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Sweet Pea Photography.** Vancouver photographer Lori Miles has been documenting fabulous weddings for over a decade. Her passion for capturing authentic moments is her signature style, resulting in classic, elegant and timeless images. She has been photographing gorgeous weddings and her images have graced the pages of many magazines. Visit [sweetpeaphotography.com](http://sweetpeaphotography.com) or email [lori@sweetpeaphotography.com](mailto:lori@sweetpeaphotography.com)

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