

# retro love

*in the manor*

West Vancouver's Haverhill  
Manor comes alive with  
elegant 1960s style

by Laurie Jones  
Photographed by Jana Vackova





SUSAN PATTERSON AND BOB CABRAL  
WEST VANCOUVER, BC  
FEBRUARY 19, 2005

**I**N THE GRAND LIVING ROOM OF A WEST VANCOUVER MANSION KNOWN AS HAVERHILL MANOR, AMID THE GLOW OF 300 candles, yards of flowing organza and a décor reminiscent of the 1960s, Susan Patterson and Bob Cabral gazed lovingly into each other's eyes and exchanged traditional vows as family and friends smiled.

The date was February 19, 2005—eight years to the day since their first date.

"We knew fairly early into our relationship that we were going to be together for a very long time," says Bob. "It just took us ... well, me ... eight years to make sure everything was perfect."

While Susan and Bob lived together for seven of those years, he wanted to catch her completely off guard when he finally proposed. "We were going to visit her folks on Vancouver Island over the Easter weekend in 2004. Everything was very low key, except for the limousine waiting for us as we got off the ferry in Nanaimo," says Bob. "I made up an excuse that there were no taxis available to take us to Ladysmith, her home town, so we got in the limo and started down-Island. I had made arrangements for chilled champagne to be on board. Then while we were on the road, I got down on one knee in front of her and proposed."

Bob had barely begun his romantic request when Susan—at first confused with his actions—realized what was happening and began to cry and scream with joy. "When we got to her parents' house, it was a great celebration with all of her family."

After a 10-month engagement, during which time they looked at options for places to get married, they settled on bringing Bob's family out from Ontario creating an opportunity to have both families together for a few days.

"We found Haverhill Manor on the Internet and it turned out to be the perfect location," says Susan. "It is a private home in West Vancouver owned by Michael Dawes, and he rented the entire place to us for four days. It is 6,000 square feet with five bedrooms, so all the out-of-town guests could stay there."



Susan and Bob chose a 1960s 'retro' theme, and tailored their respective attire accordingly.

(above) In keeping with the retro formal look, Bob and his ushers wore traditional black tuxedos.

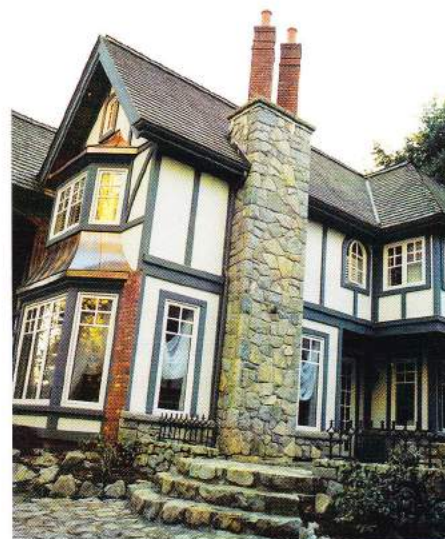




(right) Susan's father, Gord Patterson, escorted her down the staircase to the designated place where she and Bob declared their vows.



(above) The bridal couple and wedding party dressed in the 12,000-square-foot Haverhill Manor, with professional make-up and hairstylists on hand to replicate the 1960s look. Photographer Jana Vackova created glamour shots taking her cues from early black and white movies.



Stately Haverhill Manor is located in the Lower Caulfield area of West Vancouver.

The two families checked in on Friday and spent the day decorating and planning for the ceremony. That evening, friends and members of the wedding party gathered for a rehearsal and dinner. The next day, Bob managed to keep the honoured wedding tradition and he did not see his bride after 6 a.m. "It was a big enough place that my dad, John Cabral, who was my Best Man, the groomsmen and I got ready in another wing of the mansion."

Susan's mother, Glenda Patterson stood by her as Maid of Honour. "Everyone in the wedding party got ready at

the house," says Susan. "The master bedroom and ensuite were huge and served as the dressing room for the ladies. We had professional make-up artists and hairstylists on hand to create the 60s look I was going for."

Susan's halter-style cream dress as well as the black bridesmaids' dresses were created by Helen at As You Wish Bridal Salon in New Westminster. Her three flower girls' dresses were purchased in Los Angeles. Complementing Susan's elegant gown were her Stuart Weitzman rhinestone shoes.

Wanting to stay with the retro formal look, Bob and his ushers wore traditional-style black tuxedos. "While we didn't request that the guests come in any particular attire, many of them arrived in black-tie formal wear which was great," says Bob.

The actual ceremony took place in the Haverhill Manor at 6:00 pm, with Marriage Commissioner Paul McKinnon playing lounge-style music on his saxophone as guests arrived. "I wanted our wedding to have the flair of an old Hollywood 1950s or 1960s era," says Susan. "There was a great atmosphere to the rooms. Because it was dark by the time everything started, we had 300 candles and fireplaces going. The organza was billowing around the room and strings of pearls draped off large pewter candelabras." Adding to the romantic scene were hundreds of rose petals scattered throughout the rooms while chairs were slip covered in white.

"While we did our nuptials, my mother sang *You Belong to Me* by Patsy Cline. At the end of the ceremony, our friend Jessica Baert sang *Ave Maria*," she adds.

Emotions ran high during the ceremony. "From the first moment I met Bob I knew that he was the one. So when it came time to be saying our vows, I was incredibly nervous," says Susan. "It was exciting, overwhelming and something I'd been waiting a long time for."



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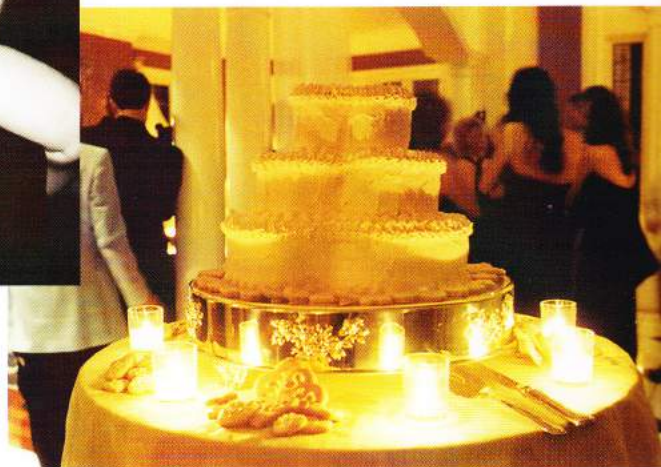
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(below right) Susan and Bob's three-tiered wedding cake was a chocolate confection with pink icing made by Emelles Catering. It was decorated with hearts and trailed small, monogrammed cookies containing the letters S+B



Bob had similar feelings. "It was not only emotionally charged between us—I remember during the ceremony I couldn't stop staring at Susan—but my mother and sisters were crying. Our wedding day has been long-anticipated by both of our families."

Rather than going the traditional route of church wedding, then photos and reception at another location, the bride and groom wanted to have a continuous celebration in one place. "After the ceremony the entertainment started right away in the same room while Susan and I stepped away to do the photography."

Photographer Jana Vackova was delighted to be a part of this celebration. "Prior to the wedding, we discussed the idea of doing old fashioned glamour shots—similar to the early black & white movies. Even though this house was recently built, the décor fit perfectly into our plans for the shoot."

In lieu of having a formal dinner, Susan and Bob brought in Emelle's Catering of Vancouver, who provided roaming waiters to serve seafood and pasta appetizers; a chef stationed in the main kitchen carved roast beef and offered mashed potatoes in martini glasses; and seafood, cheese and antipasto platters could be found on the dining room table. Of course, champagne flowed to complement all of the gourmet fare. "We didn't have much food ourselves because we were busy upstairs doing the photo shoot," says Susan. "That, and the fact that we had both been a bundle of nerves all day."

Adding whimsy to the wedding was a three-tiered heart-shaped chocolate cake done in baby-pink icing, with heart-shaped pink and white monogrammed cookies surrounding the creation.

Bob remembers the impromptu speeches that occurred after the main cocktail party were very special and emotional. "The words were really from the heart, like when Susan's father, Gord Patterson officially invited me into the family. Her brother, Gord Jr.'s words were very touching, as well as surprising. It was a wonderful, very intimate part of the evening that really brought everyone together as they shared stories."



The other ladies in Bob's life—his mother Isabel and his three sisters Laura, Ligia, and Elizabeth—passed on saying a speech and chose to let pictures speak for them. "They produced a great slide show of old pictures of Bob growing up through the various stages of his life to date," says Susan. "There was a great mix of very funny pictures, some compromising, with shots of him as a youngster, some really bad-hair photos with his buddies in the late 80s, and more recent images of the two of us together."

In the early stages of planning the wedding, Bob opted to be the coordinator of music for the evening. "We started off with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and other lounge-style singers, then moved to a more upbeat tempo with groups like the Gypsy Kings. As the evening went on, we added music that Susan and I grew up on—70s and 80s retro—then we closed with more modern techno music that would appeal to the younger people."

Adding to the fun was a midnight round of antics in the back yard. "Many of the adults were having a great time bouncing on a huge trampoline that was set up behind the house," says Susan.

As the ceremony in Vancouver was for immediate family and close friends only, Gord Sr. and Glenda Patterson, and other friends and family members organized a second, larger celebration in Ladysmith. "From the time the first guests arrived in Vancouver to the time the party was over on the Island, it was a ten-day event," says Bob.

Due to the timing of their wedding, Susan and Bob delayed their honeymoon to Europe for better weather at the end of May. "We were in Paris for nine days, then Lisbon, Portugal for six days and ended in the Algarve south of Portugal for five days," says Bob. "It is kind of a full-circle scenario because when I first met Susan, I asked her if she would go with me to Portugal. It took longer than I thought, but we finally made it." ■

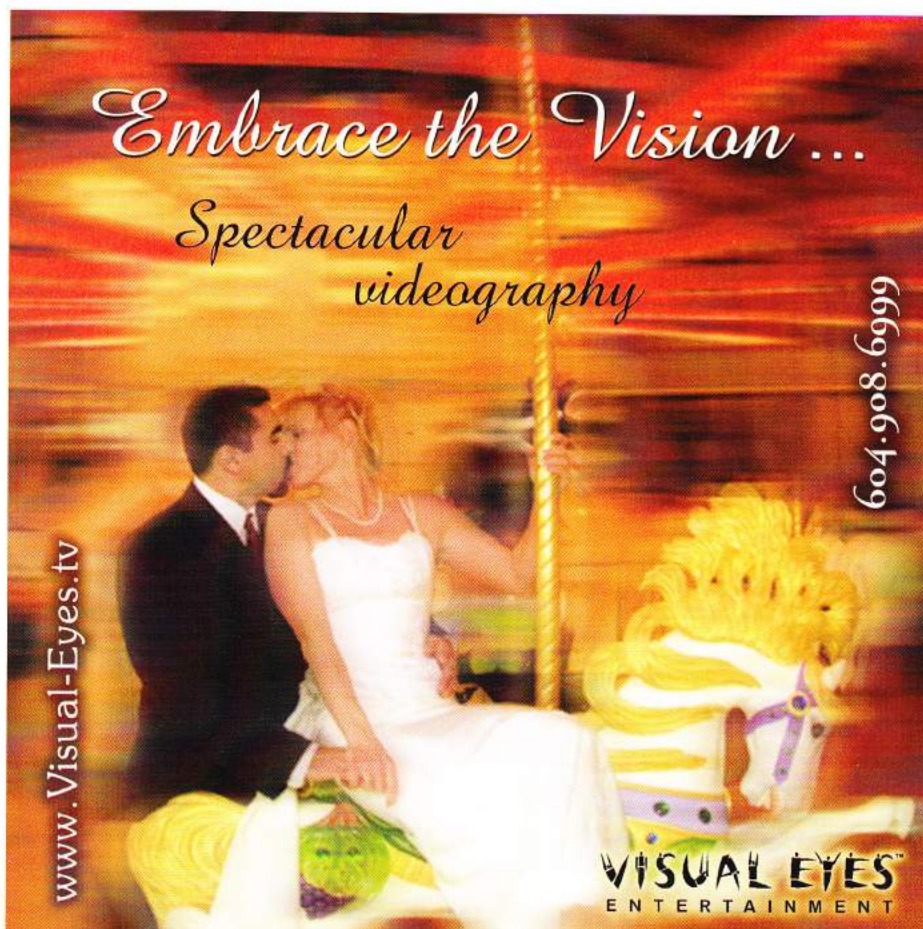


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