



**MARRY ME** — Gavin Becker and his long-time girlfriend Olivia Toft are shown in this photo taken Jan. 7 by his father, Ed Becker, as they lay in the snow after the younger Becker proposed on Eight Crow Wing Lake near Nevis, Minn. The groom-

elect had his family's help etching out the big question with a snow blower in 25-foot-tall letters and a huge heart in the snow on the frozen lake. Then Becker rented a plane and took Miss Toft, who said yes, for a ride over the lake. (Ed Becker via AP)

## A lofty proposal: 'Marry Me' etched in snow, seen from above

NEVIS, Minn. (AP) — An aviation student in northern Minnesota pulled off a sky-high marriage proposal by writing "Marry Me" in the snow, then flying his long-time girlfriend over his handiwork.

Gavin Becker enlisted his family's help to pen the life-changing question using a snow blower on the frozen Eight Crow Wing Lake near Nevis.

Ed Becker, Gavin's father, tells KARE-TV that it took about 4½ hours to create the 25-foot-tall (7.5-meter-tall) letters and a huge heart.

Gavin Becker, a University of North Dakota aviation student, then rented a plane and took his high-school sweetheart, Olivia Toft, for a trip over the lake recently.

Toft, realizing it was snow joke, told him "yes."

Information from: KARE-TV, <http://www.kare11.com>



OLIVIA TOFT AND GAVIN BECKER

## Various ways to preserve wedding memories

Couples' wedding days are momentous occasions, and couples want their memories of the day they tied the knot to endure long after the final guest has departed.

Weddings can be amazing, but they only last a few hours. Memories can be forever if they are effectively documented. The following are some ways for couples to permanently memorialize their wedding days.

- Dry the bouquet. Wedding bouquets can be freeze-dried and/or chemically preserved so that the colors, textures and the volume of the blooms can appear just as vibrant as they were on couples' wedding days. After preservation, the bouquet can be displayed in a vase or in a specially prepared shadow box with other mementos.

- Create a custom locket. Brides can wear a piece of their wedding gown day after day with a custom necklace or locket. All they need to do is trim a small piece of the lace or other embellishment from the gown and enclose it in the locket. Jewelry designers also may be able to convert a section of the gown pattern into metal through a casting process.

- Have guests sign the label. Purchase a special bottle of wine or champagne and ask guests to sign the label or the bottle itself. Store the bottle until a special occasion, such as a memorable anniversary, and then toast to a happy marriage.

- Make a cake replica. Ask an artist to make a miniature replica of the wedding cake out of pottery. Put the clay cake out for display or ask for it to be made small enough to serve as a Christmas tree ornament.

- Teddy bear transformation: Have tuxedo fabric or wedding gown material turned into a keepsake teddy

### Did you know?

Longevity in marriage is something to be celebrated.

Couples who reach 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries often commemorate those anniversaries with big parties. But there are some around the world who would consider golden anniversary celebrants to still be newlyweds.

In December 2015, Karam Chand, 110, and his wife, Kartari Chand, 103, from Bradford, West Yorkshire (originally from India), celebrated their 90th wedding anniversary, becoming the world's longest-betrothed couple.

In America, John and Ann Betar, ages 104 and 100, respectively, had been married 83 years in 2016. The couple eloped in 1932. They have been named one of America's longest-married couples by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

## Mass. couple, married 70 years, renew vows, this time in church

UXBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts couple have finally gotten the church wedding they always wanted — 70 years after first tying the knot.

The Telegram & Gazette reports 90-year-old Edward Gouin and 89-year-old Lena Gouin renewed their vows recently at the Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Uxbridge thanks to some careful planning by their family.

Edward is Catholic and Lena is Congregationalist so a wedding in a church was barred when they were first married. In-

stead, they were wed in a church rectory. Attitudes have since changed.

Edward says, "Today, it can happen." The World War II veteran says the secrets to a long marriage are never go to bed angry and kiss your wife every time you leave the house.

The couple have three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Information from: Telegram & Gazette (Worcester, Mass.), <http://www.telegram.com>

## Make every anniversary count

Wedding anniversaries provide opportunities for couples to reflect and relive the excitement of their wedding days. Anniversaries can easily be forgotten amid the hustle and bustle of daily life, but many couples are making concerted efforts to ensure their anniversaries are celebrated as the special occasions they are.

A first wedding anniversary is a special one. Some couples celebrate their first anniversaries by enjoying a piece of wedding cake that has been properly preserved in the freezer. Couples may also dance to their wedding songs or enjoy a nice dinner at a favorite restaurant. The first anniversary also is a time to pull out the wedding video or photo album

and reminisce about the wedding day.

Anniversaries are a great way for couples to celebrate their time together by stepping away from emails, text messages, work obligations and even mundane everyday tasks to once again remember a day and moment that changed their lives forever. Those who may need a little inspiration celebrating their anniversaries can consider these suggestions.

- Have dinner at your reception site. Find out if the reception site, which may be a catering hall or restaurant, serves dinner or brunch. Make a reservation and enjoy celebrating in the spot where the memories all began.

- Take a second hon-

eymoon. Honor wedding memories by booking a second honeymoon at a special location.

- Throw a party. Use your anniversary as an excuse to have friends or family over for a party. Be sure to include your wedding song on the music playlist.

- Create a romantic evening. Rekindle the romance by pulling out all the stops, complete with a nice home-cooked meal, candles and mood music.

Wedding anniversaries present ideal opportunities for couples to reminisce about their trip down the aisle and all the entertaining moments from the wedding. They're also opportunities to connect as a couple and focus on each other.



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