



Farm News from November

I am so proud to share, the wedding of my son Donovan to his mate Lisa.

Both from organic farms, they are organic food producers with their "Homestead" booth at the Grande Prairie Farmers Market. They tailored their wedding plans were to their values and certainly turned the event into a grand celebration. Here's how it happened:

Friday was the day of the actual marriage for invited guests only. It took place in a wood heated log building on their farm. The ceremony began with a waltz played on accordion. This brought the groom to an alter constructed from old barn wood. At the alter sat a banjo which Donovan picked up and sang a song as his bride entered the room. An arrangement of log spirals with candles brought the two together. A Justice of the Peace summed up



their times together in a way which had us all laughing. Vows were exchanged and then Lisa sang a song for Donovan. They became Mr. and Mrs. Kitt.

Organic, biodynamic wine celebrated the event along with organic grilled pork chops, chili, fantastic salads and a Tiramisu cake.

The next day was open to all. At 11 AM folks started to gather at the Demmitt Hall. Uniquely constructed, the hall is made from straw bales and pine timbers with solar electricity and composting toilets. It holds 299 people and eventually there was not a chair left. The large kitchen became a flurry of activity as guests donned aprons and started preparing the wedding feast. Roasted vegies and potatoes from Donovan and Lisa's farm, roast turkey from ours, stuffing, hams from Lisa's folks, Norwegian Lefse, salads, baked beans, and so much more started filling the hall with delicious anticipation of what was to come.

What did happen to the waiting hall started with music which announced the arrival of the newlyweds. An upbeat song brought them dancing into the hall, shaking hands and hugging as they worked their way through the guests to the front. As did the bride and groom, the guests wore plaid which was the requested dress code. After a welcoming address and the introduction of the food, the feast began.

Donovan and Lisa wisely chose the MC's for the event, his sister Kari and Lisa's good friend Kolby. Their stories brought us from laughter to tears, to smiles and applause. Following dinner were speeches from the families and friends of the bride and groom. With so many good friends and neighbours gathered, conversations were joyous.

The music for the event was supplied by one of Alberta's best blues bands, "Boogie Patrol". They had everyone on their feet dancing. A special guest and Lisa's good friend Jennie Thai had played Massey Hall in Toronto the week before and with a bit of coaxing, got up on stage to absolutely blow us away with her voice, keyboard and commanding presence. Breaking with the tradition of a garter being tossed, Lisa chose a plaid "Homestead" hat which she threw into the waiting group of single girls. Jennie caught it. Folklore says she is the next to be married.

It was a great event, a 10/10. But more important than that, it was 2 people in my life



that I hold such great respect for that joined forces together. Their dedication to the future of farming and the future of food humbles me. The farm continues and so will the events that make the "Farm News"