



Lauren & Klem Knezacek

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It was August of 2019 when we got engaged and started planning our wedding. We set the date for September 12, 2020 thinking it would be the perfect amount of time to plan the perfect wedding.

Very quickly into 2020, we all realized that this wouldn't be a normal year. When summertime came around, we announced we were changing our wedding date to the next year! Everyone was so understanding, kind, and encouraging. Still, I felt so heartbroken and discouraged, this was not how it was supposed to go. It felt like nothing about this year was going right.



**ORIGINAL WEDDING DATE:
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020**

**ACTUAL WEDDING DATE:
SEPTEMBER 26, 2020**

We called immediate family and let them know the wedding bells were not far away, as September 26, 2020 would be our new wedding date! We kept our news away from the spotlight of social media for no other reason than we wanted this to be for us and us only. I got in touch with city hall, got our marriage certificate, and called Tiffany Party rental to reorder our tables and chairs, slowly it felt like things were falling into place!

In August, my fiancé and I went out to celebrate our three and a half year anniversary, and we got chatting about what it would be like if we were still getting married in September. The thought of it stirred us as we imagined what it would have been like with our dream wedding just a few short weeks away.

The reality that it wasn't happening set in and my heart sank, even farther than it had before. Later in the conversation, my now husband then took my hands and said to me "Why don't we just do it?", I started to laugh just at the thought of how crazy that was. But sure enough by the end of that evening, we started what would be our 5-week wedding plan!

Before we knew it, we were just about a week away from our big day! I was running some errands when I got the call from my cousin (who was also a bridesmaid) with news that would change everything. An announcement had just been made that all outdoor gatherings would be further restricted from 50 to 25, taking effect days before our wedding.

I felt every emotion under the sun in a span of a minute as I processed what we would need to do. I went to my bestie's house (who was also my photographer) Magna, she made tea and we BOTH sobbed on her couch.



I kept saying "How am I supposed to have my perfect day when everything keeps stopping us from having it?". My husband to be was also devastated. We knew we had more calls to make, including Tiffany Party rental only this time to bring our rental numbers down from 50 to only 25. The worst part was we would have to call family and friends, and one by one uninvite those who didn't make the cut. How were we supposed to do that to your family and friends? We had already sent out the invitations and everyone had RSVP'd. Imagine having to choose which cousins got to be a part of the most important day of your life and which ones didn't.

Luckily we managed to get in touch with a police officer who felt bad about our situation and offered some useful advice. It was 25 people allowed on each property... We spoke to our neighbors (whom we've known for quite some time) they understood the rollercoaster we had been on and offered us to use their backyard which allowed us to host an additional 25 people!

After all that was said and done, the day went perfectly. It was intimate and small, but beautiful in every way. I look back on it with such pride and joy! We got married through one of the hardest years. With almost every obstacle in our way, we pushed through. Everyone enjoyed pizza and wings thanks to Dominos, and delicious donuts thanks to a local bakery in Elmvale. It wasn't what we expected, but it was better than we could have imagined!



THE DETAILS

Lauren's tips in planning a wedding amid a pandemic

Have a backup plan (even if the thought kills you, it will hurt more when you don't expect it).

Give yourself grace, trust God's timing and let Him lead you.

You and your spouse will have lots of decisions and it's tricky planning a wedding when you have to consider both sides of the party, so be patient. Don't forget to have fun! It's sure to be the best day of your life so far, so don't let a pandemic stop it!

No matter what it looks like, it will be perfect!!!



ORIGINAL WEDDING DATE:

September 12,2020.

ACTUAL WEDDING DATE:

September 26,2020.

NUMBER OF GUESTS:

25+

VENDORS

VENUE

Parent's backyard in Phelpston

FLORIST

Elm flower shoppe

CATERING

Dominos Pizza

DESSERT

Elmvale Bakery

PHOTOGRAPGER

Magna Arnot Photography

RENTALS

Tiffany Party Rental