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Salt Spring Fusion

By [Stephanie Enns](#)

Photography by [Reine Mihtla](#)

When BC-born Amanda Jennings applied for a job at a Michigan company, she knew she might have to relocate. What she didn't know, however, was that she would fall in love with an American.

Soon after settling into her new job, Amanda started hearing about her employers' son. "There was hype around the office that Cable was so handsome," laughs Amanda. "All the girls in the office would get really excited if he was coming to town, and as soon as I saw him, I couldn't help but agree!"

The pair's chemistry was instant, and after dating for a year, Cable moved across the country from Colorado to be with Amanda in Michigan. Two years later, they moved to Washington, DC, and on December 30, 2003, Cable proposed.

Amanda and Cable decided on a June wedding and chose the charming Hastings House on Salt Spring Island as their ceremony location. Not only is the island enchantingly romantic, it is also home for Amanda's mother and stepfather, Margaret and Ed de Boer.

"As a little girl growing up in BC, I always dreamed of a beach wedding on the ocean," says Amanda. "Hastings House on Salt Spring was a perfect fit because I got my dream wedding, and I was able to share it with my family and friends." In a tribute to the relaxed beat of island life, Amanda's parents hosted the rehearsal dinner in the casual style of a family barbeque. Invitations were hand-painted by Cable's mother, Susan Moore, and featured the de Boer family barn and pastures. The feast highlighted the island's fresh organic fare and world-renowned Salt Spring lamb, served up amid the soulful harmony of bluegrass music.

The Farmer's Almanac forecasted rain, but the afternoon of the wedding was bathed in sunshine. Since the island's hotels were booked for every weekend of the summer, the wedding was planned for a Monday to ensure space for the guests.

Planning a BC wedding from Washington DC had its challenges so Amanda enlisted Salt Spring-based wedding consultant, Kirsty Oliveira of Easy Elegance to help coordinate the event. "It was hard trying to organize it all from the United States," explains Amanda. "But as soon as we found our first few vendors, they recommended the rest and it gave the whole wedding a wonderful feeling of closeness and community."





The morning of the wedding, Cable planned a Polar Bear Swim, a tradition that he and his friends share to celebrate each other's significant life events. Chartering a sailboat, the men cast off for a frigid swim in the Pacific Ocean, while Amanda spent the morning with close friends in the soothing yoga class of Salt Spring's Celeste Mallett. "The sun was pouring in the windows of the yoga studio," says Amanda, "We had the view of the ocean and the mountains. It was amazing."

A calming Reiki massage at Skin Sensations Spa gave the bride-to-be time alone with her thoughts to channel her energy and savour the day to come.

Serene and energized, Amanda spent the next few hours having her hair and makeup done. With the final touches applied to her face, she slipped into her Vera Wang dress, an exquisite white gown that matched her aquamarine earrings perfectly, the latter a gift from Cable in honour of "something blue."

Accompanied by her father, Ken Jennings and stepfather, Ed, Amanda piled into a friend's antique Rolls Royce for the short trip to Hastings House. Cable, invigorated from his Polar Bear swim, stood surrounded by his groomsmen on the sloping lawn of Hastings House awaiting his bride-to-be. Petals were strewn as young relatives of the bride and groom preceded the bride down the aisle. Each girl's head was garlanded with a wax flower wreath and each boy waved a flag signifying the blending of two lives and two countries.



Amanda floated across the lawn to strains of Pachelbel's Canon. With eyes locked, She and Cable recited the deeply personal vows they had written and exchanged rings.

"At that point, I looked around and saw the faces of my family and friends," remembers Amanda. "Getting married to Cable was a dream come true but it was even more important to us that we had the commitment of our family and friends to support our union." As the couple walked back down the aisle as husband and wife, the guests followed, grabbing miniature Canadian and American flags from buckets, and glasses of champagne to toast the couple.



Embracing the island's culinary offerings, the evening's dinner was catered by renowned Hastings House executive chef, Marcel Kauer, and served on the wooden veranda overlooking the ocean. Complementing the five-course feast were two red wines and two white wines selected from regions across Canada by the bride's father. A delectable cake created by pastry chef Christine Godlonton topped the meal. After dinner, Salt Spring guitarist Allan Micelli gave the stage over to the swinging rhythms of the island blues band, Old Dog New Tricks.



"I am normally a real early bird," insists Amanda. "But I stayed up and danced until three-thirty in the morning on my wedding night!"

As the celebration finally wound down, and the last Purdy's chocolate wedding favour disappeared, the bride and groom retired to their suite. And in the moonlight, two tiny flags, one Canadian and one American, fluttered in the breeze.

