

# Vows Renewal Ceremony

Reaffirmation of vows between Patrick and Rhonda on their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

(By Dr. Joshua Lam, [www.drlam.ca](http://www.drlam.ca))

I was given the honor twice by Patrick and Rhonda, first to officiate their elegant wedding ceremony on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2003 and then to officiate their reaffirmation of vows at a beautiful Vows Renewal Ceremony on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, when they reaffirmed their love to each other after ten years of happy marriage.

## A message by Rhonda

A message by Rhonda opened the ceremony, in which she shared with us how she and Patrick had enjoyed their life in marriage in the past ten years. Patrick and Rhonda then reaffirmed their vows to each other by repeating them after me.

## Reaffirmation of Vows

Patrick to Rhonda: “On September 6, 2003, I took you Rhonda to be my wife. Today I, Patrick, in the presence of these witnesses renew my vow to you.

Loving what I know of you, I promise to laugh with you, to stand by your side, to nourish you with my gentleness, to uphold you with my strength, to encourage you to achieve higher goals, to bring out the best in you always, to protect you from harm, comfort you in times of distress, to never take you for granted, but always give thanks for your presence, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you through every circumstance that life may bring, with all that I have, in the only way I know how.

I promise you this from my heart, for all the rest of my days to be your friend, your love, and your partner, for all the days of our lives.”

Rhonda to Patrick: “I, Rhonda, in the presence of these witnesses renew my vow to you, my husband Patrick.

Loving what I know of you, I promise to laugh with you, to stand by your side, to nourish you with my gentleness, to uphold you with my strength, to encourage you to achieve higher goals, to bring out the best in you always, to protect you from harm, comfort you in times of distress, to never take you for granted, but always give thanks for your presence, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you through every circumstance that life may bring, with all that I have, in the only way I know how.

I promise you this from my heart, for all the rest of my days, to be your friend, your love, and your partner, for all the days of our lives.”

### Exchange of rings

Before Patrick and Rhonda exchanged their rings, I explained to them the symbol of their rings: “Traditionally, the marking of the passage to the status of husband and wife is marked by the exchange of rings. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love between you, Patrick and Rhonda.

Love freely given has no beginning and no end. Love freely given has no giver and no receiver—for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have taken here today.”

### Closing remark

In closing, I shared with Patrick and Rhonda: “Love is always a gift and this great gift has been given to you. Patrick and Rhonda, you have once again declared your love for each other before family and friends. Remember always to give to one another new experiences of joy. Challenge one another so that you may grow.

May the love you hold for each other, now sealed firmly with this vow renewal, continue to mature with the passing of years. May you always experience the wonder of your union. Be slow to anger, quick to forgive, leaving no tracks of resentment behind each day. May your love consist not only of gazing into each other’s eyes, but also looking outward in the same direction.

May your life together be a source of strength and inspiration to yourselves, your families, and your friends.

All of us here tonight, hope that you always have peace of heart and strength of spirit so you may honor these vows that you make here today.

And we know that your love for each other will gently guide you through your lives.

### Celebration

The reaffirmation of vows was sealed with a kiss as Patrick and Rhonda celebrated their love. Congratulations, Patrick and Rhonda!

### Post-ceremony reflection

Marriage is a precious gift. It takes total devotion and lifelong commitment to each other to make the marriage work. If we pay close attention to the vows of Patrick and Rhonda, it will not be difficult to see the secrets of their success in marriage. What a celebration of love this is! It was my honor to present Patrick and Rhonda once again as husband and wife at their Vows Renewal Ceremony as they celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of happy marriage!