

### **WELCOME and INTRODUCTION**

We have gathered here today to witness and celebrate the legal wedding ceremony of Joan Gardiner and Roger Blackwell. Roger and Joan will be holding a second ceremony celebration with their families in July, and today we are celebrating their legal marriage to each other, in the presence of their witnesses, Jan and Raul – who will also be with them for their family celebration.

Mary introduces herself as a Humanist Officiant of the Ontario Humanist Society, licensed to marry couples in the Province of Ontario.

### **HUMANIST STATEMENT**

Humanism is an ethical philosophy of life, affirming that we have the capacity and the responsibility to lead meaningful, ethical lives based on reason and compassion, for the greater good of all humanity and the natural environment we inhabit and respect.

It is a Humanist principle that there is equality between [men and women] in every way, and marriage is a cooperative relationship based on love, respect, and a determination on the part of each partner to adjust to the other's temperaments and conditions, in health or sickness, joy or sadness, ease or hardship. It is with this understanding of the shared responsibilities of marriage that this couple come to be joined.

### **STATEMENT OF MARRIAGE**

We all rejoice with JOAN and ROGER that out of all people in the world they have found each other, and they will now that they will henceforth find the deeper meaning and richness of human life in sharing their life with each other. This ceremony is a public statement of the private commitment Roger and Joan have already made to each other, to share their lives in the contract of marriage.

### **WITNESS AFFIRMATION**

To Jan and Raul: Joan and Roger are getting legally married here today, before having a second ceremony in British Columbia in July. We'd like to thank for witnessing their wedding, for your love and support. Are you both willing to be legal witnesses for the marriage of Jan and Roger? We are.

### **INTENTION TO MARRY**

Joan and Roger please face each other

I will now ask each of you if you have come here freely to accept each other as husband wife, affirming that you have no knowledge of any impediment to your being lawfully joined in marriage? Response: I do

### **VOWS**

Will you please join your hands, and say that you accept each other as your legal spouse:

Roger: "I Roger take you Joan into my heart as my wife."

Joan: "I Joan take you Roger into my heart as my husband".

Officiant: and you have so bound your lives into each other's keeping.

### **RINGS**

Joan and Roger will be exchanging rings at their wedding ceremony in July

### **DECLARATION**

"Forasmuch as Roger and Joan have consented together to join their lives in the bonds of matrimony, and have witnessed the same before this company, I now pronounce, by the authority vested in me by the Province of Ontario, that they are husband and wife."

### **KISS/EMBRACE**

We will now sign and witness the marriage license.

### **SIGNING OF MARRIAGE LICENSE, PRESENTATION OF COUPLE**