

Weddings *in the Finger Lakes*

Having hiked and photographed Watkins Glen several times, I worried that it might be overly ambitious to try to fit in a photography session between the ceremony and reception.

Photographers have a reputation for holding up the show. Hiking the glen can take all day, not to mention the risk of getting the gown dirty, or worse, slipping and tumbling into the gorge. The thought crossed my mind that this could wind up one of those weddings that goes viral on YouTube. But the bride and groom assured me that they were avid mountain climbers and could handle it. I wasn't so sure about myself though! I had equipment to carry and a tight schedule to keep.

I mentioned my plight to my friend Dan Belliveau, one of our region's best ambassadors and most knowledgeable tour guides, and he assured me that it would be manageable. So right after the ceremony, the bride and groom and I piled into my little Audi and drove over to the glen. We parked at the main entrance, walked to the gate, climbed 60 steps, and ... "there's your picture!" Dan's advice was spot on. We got our pictures in a most spectacular setting in matter of minutes and returned to the reception with time to spare before the party started.

— Neil Sjöblom

