**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**STEVE BONNELL**

Hi everyone, my name is Steve Bonnell and I am Peter’s best man.  For those of you who may be wondering, “Who’s Peter??? I mean, I **KNOW** I’m going to a wedding, and **I KNOW I MUST** know at least **ONE** of the happy couple, but really, **WHO IS Peter**???” … believe me, I feel you. I mean, I’m standing here, the **BEST** **MAN**… you would think I know **A LOT**, Right??? Well, I had no idea who Peter was for the **FIRST TWO YEARS** of our friendship!!! **I SWEAR**!! So I get it!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It’s all good…. And just think…. The invitation served several purposes…. It let you know where to go… it told you the time… and it graciously provided the groom’s **actual** first name!!! **GOOD TIMES**!! … and no matter what you may call him…. \*ahem\*…. Peter/Stretch is an incredible person, a great friend, and now a phenomenal, loving father and husband…. And let’s not forget, to paraphrase Shakespeare, “What is in a name??? Stretch by any other name would be as sweet!!” (**Wait for the laugh**).

As I thank Peter and Shannon for having this wonderful wedding, I would also like to acknowledge all of you who helped make this day possible; for your patience, and resilience, support and great ideas… between postponements and pandemic, I think it’s safe to say we all had to “wait a **stretch**…. **GET IT**??? See what I did there?? Fortunately, for these two, and all of us, love and anticipation stayed strong… didn’t “Peter out,” and here we are (**Wait for the laugh**)…. true love holds up, knows no time limits, and provides blessings beyond imagination…. namely a beautiful daughter, Vivienne.

Although today signifies new beginnings, I must say that Peter and I go waaaaaayyyyy back. You might say our friendship is as long as his hair used to be …. back then… the follicles may be gone, but, ahhh those memories will be with us forever!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). We met in University about 18 years ago when Peter, Lee Noseworthy, and I were assigned to a group project together.  We quickly realized that we had a lot in common…. our love for hockey, golf, George Street, and, of course, we all wanted to do well in University, but, naturally, with the **LEAST** amount of effort possible. With that, a real **BOND** was established. For all future assignments, we were able to get creative and convince the smarter kids in class to do most of the work for us.  As I look back on those days, I realize it all served a purpose and as we sharpened those skills, and began to appreciate the power of persuasion, I see now that we were actually developing critical professional techniques… I mean… how many of us know, appreciate, and respect Peter’s incredible salesmanship and his gift for sharing those stock tips???? In a perfect world, man we were slick, but life’s **NOT** perfect and OOPS!! That all fell apart in our second to last year when we got assigned to different groups for our final finance project.  I had the smart kids in my group complete the project, and I then gave a copy of it to Peter and Lee to use as a starting point for their report… **SURPRISE**!! They got lazy and rather than changing things around to make it look somewhat different, they decided to just remove our names, add theirs, and submit it.  The professor quickly realized what was going on, we got reported, had to meet with the dean of the business school, ended up on academic probation and were close to getting expelled from University.   It was definitely a good wake up call!!

After University, the “bromance” that featured Peter and me saw twists and turns, but we stayed connected. When Peter moved to Calgary he lived with me until he found his own apartment.  A couple of years after that he and I bought a condo and moved into together.  We even opened a joint bank account.  Dress rehearsal for what was to come with Shannon?? Maybe so!! Over the years Peter and I have continued to cement our friendship, and for that, I am very grateful…. Through much travel, to places like Vegas, Phoenix, NYC, and Montreal, believe me when I tell you, what happens in those places, **STAYS** in those places!!! Yes, they were party cities. Yes, they were guys’ guys trips, and **YES**… we sowed some wild oats… and then one day, I heard about someone named Shannon.

To know Peter is to love Peter. He has always been the most sociable person I know, and he clearly knows his way around a party. In many ways, when he was younger, he demonstrated his “selflessness” by playing the field… sharing his “gifts,” giving “equal time” to all those he would meet, and then, one day, the name Shannon came up. And it came up again and again. At the time, I was newly single and looking forward to Peter and I living the “wild and crazy” life, but fate had other plans for my best friend. He and I were at Craft (our go to at that time) and Shannon came there later that night to meet up with him.  I remember it like it was yesterday. I immediately fell in love with her too.  She was and still is, so down to earth and fun, and seemed like an all-around good girl.  I knew after that night that my single friend was gone, that she was the girl he would marry, and I couldn’t have been happier for him.  Peter was single for most of his life. One might say he was set in his ways and kind of stubborn.  Shannon was and is the perfect match for him.  She loved being with him and she enjoyed her time alone with her friends as well.  She wasn’t … and still isn’t, afraid to lay down the law when she wanted him to do something, and he knew better than to say no to something when she made requests.

It’s really so great to have been a witness to Peter’s life and love… we went from two wild and crazy college guys to guys who dreamed… guys who golfed… and guys who made it… professionally, personally, and emotionally. It’s been a wild ride, but I wouldn’t have traded it for the world…. I **MAY** have been willing to trade it for some better stock tips…. (**Wait for the laugh**)…. But, eh… what’s a few thousand when you have a friend like Peter???

With that, I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Shannon and Peter… Here’s to a lifetime filled with love and happiness, good health, great real estate, friendship, partnership, and more than you might ever wish for!!! Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you!!