

Meet Alan and Durline Melanson..... One of Nova Scotia's "Most Romantic Couples"



Love at First Sight

Durline and Alan were selected by the *Chronicle Herald* as one of the province's three "Most Romantic Couples" on Valentine's Day in 1997.

"Alan and Durline Melanson of Annapolis Royal have been married for five years, but they could still be in the early love-struck stage," wrote Rick Conrad of the *Chronicle Herald*. "Durline... is as bubbly as a case of Dr. Pepper (her favourite drink) when she recalls the day she first met Alan."

"It was like God hit me in the head with a baseball bat," she said with a grin.

A Fairy Tale Romance

Durline escorted a Texas travel group to Nova Scotia, and Alan was their guide at Fort Anne. She was in Annapolis Royal only thirty minutes, but she knew she was going to marry him. They corresponded by letter and phone. Alan wrote an Acadian fairy tale, "*The Magic Prince*," and proposed to Durline at the Olympics in France. They got married in Dallas in 1992, nine months to the minute they met. Alan was later interviewed for the "Best Places to Kiss in Canada" television special.

Alan Melanson

Alan is a proud 10th generation Acadian whose ancestors founded what is now the Melanson Settlement National Historic Site of Canada. He is President of the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal and has over 26 years experience as a professional heritage interpreter for Parks Canada. A sought-after speaker and emcee for heritage events, he was one of ten people selected to welcome members of the G-7 Summit on behalf of Canada when the international event was held in Halifax. Alan is a knowledgeable tour guide and creator of the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal's popular Candlelight Graveyard Tour and Acadian Heritage Tour. He is a graduate of St. Anne's University and recipient of the prestigious Governor General's Medal for academic excellence.

Durline Dunham Melanson

Durline is a first-generation "Texadian." She hails from Dallas, Texas and has been a proud Canadian citizen since 1996. She is a highest honors graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington, selected to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" and later "Who's Who of American Women." Owner of Trans World Travel, a full-service travel agency, Director of the Trans World Dance Company, and Editor of the *Explorer* newspaper, Durline was chosen "Business Person of the Year" in 2003. With over 26 years experience in the travel and tourism industry, she has escorted groups all over the world. She does the National Historic District Tours and teams up with her "handsome hubby Alan" for the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal's Acadian Heritage Tours.

And the Rest, as they Say, is "History"!

Durline and Alan Melanson can be seen, strolling hand-in-hand along Annapolis Royal's scenic, riverside National Historic District sharing their love of history, and of each other, with area visitors. "I grew up in a sort of Doris Day world, Durline continued" wrote the *Chronicle Herald*. "I like this live-happily-ever-after-bit. It's neat to know that fairy tales do come true."

The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal

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