

SUNDAY SPECIAL

Not a dry eye at fairy-tale wedding

Story by Clare Ogilvie • Pictures by Nick Procaulo

WHISTLER — It was the stuff dreams are made of.

Miles of antique white tulle, airy heavy with the fragrance of rare South American Leonidis roses, and, of course a prince and princess vowing to live happily ever after.

It was a fairy-tale ending to the courtship of former Grizzlies basketball cheerleader Janella David by former Grizzlies co-owner Arthur Robert Griffiths.

The couple met almost two years ago at a Vancouver health club when Griffiths, 43, was at a low point in his life. He was going through a divorce and his personal fortunes were up and down like the basketballs at GM Place.

David, 23, was a member of the Grizzlies Extreme Dance Team and working toward a career in public relations.

Yesterday, dressed in a creation by the salon Something Blue — the type of wedding dress every girl dreams of — David took a spectacular Whistler mark and made it breathtaking with her beauty. With a tender caress she wiped a tear from Griffiths' cheek as the ceremony got under way. Behind Griffiths his youngest son, Christian, the ring-bearer, also let a tear or two fall.

Pretty soon there wasn't a dry eye under the canopy protecting the 152

guests from the brilliant sun at Lost Lake Park. Just as well the wedding programs had gold and white tissues tucked inside.

As the ceremony continued, curious bikini-clad bathers were kept behind red velvet security ropes by employees of **Whistler Wedding Planners**.

With afternoon turning to early evening the smell of roses was replaced by the aroma of hot dogs as beach-goers got ready for a summer feast.

The wedding party set off by bus for the Westin Hotel where the reception and dinner were set to take the event well into the night.

Each guest at the reception received a jar of raspberry jam and a CD filled with the couple's favourite music.

And, of course, there was a basketball hoop. If you wanted the couple to kiss you had to sink a basket instead of the more traditional clinking of glasses.

Guests enjoyed either rack of lamb or sautéed sea bass for dinner. And no dry fruit cake either. It was chocolate cake with chocolate icing and Ben and Jerry's vanilla ice cream.

It's rumoured the couple have a bit of a passion for Ben and Jerry's. At the rehearsal dinner, guests were given a tub of Cherry Garcia or chocolate fudge and a spoon.

Definitely the stuff of dreams.



Beaming bride Janella David stole the show as she and Arthur Griffiths, son of the late, great broadcasting and sports magnate Frank Griffiths, were married in Whistler.



A nervous-looking Arthur Griffiths waits for the wedding ceremony to begin.



More than a few tears fell during the exchange of vows.



Arthur Griffiths' youngest son, Christian, was the ring-bearer for yesterday's nuptials.