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April 1, 2005

The Fool's Society  
2664 East 7th Avenue  
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Canada

Dear Society of Fools:

In exactly six months from today I am going to marry my Sweetie! THIS IS NOT AN APRIL FOOL'S JOKE! I am going to marry my fiancée and she is going to marry me and we are going to be married!

I have always considered myself to be an April fool, mainly because my birthday is in the month of April. I won't tell you which day, because I don't really want you to know, but by the time April 30th has come and gone, rest assured, I will have celebrated my birthday! Isn't that a wonderful thing to have an April Birthday? I wonder how many members of your Fool's Society share this distinct honor. Can you tell me?

I saw information about your society as I was browsing the Internet at my local public library. I was trying to come up with some good ideas for new April Fool's Day pranks to try out this year. I am growing tired of the old prank of trying to secretly pin a little paper fish onto the back of some poor unsuspecting sap. That was always a favorite of mine as a child, but I am grown now and I want to move on to bigger and better (but still harmless) pranks and jokes. I didn't find any **good** ideas online, but maybe your group has a few Canadian pranks that you would be generous enough to share with your friendly neighbors to the south.

I tried to organize a Citizen's Day parade and party in honor of Canadians last September, but the liquor control department regulations forced me to cancel my plans. I could not justify having the party if there was no Molson involved.

I actually belong to a local grass roots group originally called the Benevolent Society of April Fools. One year -- as a joke (**of course** as a joke... that is our **entire purpose** for being) -- we reversed the two interior words and called it the Benevolent April Society of Fools. We did that just to create some head scratching confusion, kind of as a joke of a joke. But then the weirdest thing happened... the name actually caught on! So we now call ourselves the Benevolent April Society of Fools all the time and sometimes offer our shorthand code as the BASF group. This

probably sounds pretty foolish to you I am sure! Which of course was our whole intention in the first place.

But anyway, to get back to my story. I have gotten quite the reputation of being a prankster among my family and townsfolk. When I told them that I was getting married, they thought I was just joking. When I showed them the engagement ring, they just figured it was a good fake. Even the church and reception hall reservations they think are an elaborate prank.

I needed to find some way to convince my family and friends that I am taking a wife for real. Kind of like that line in the kids' song *The Farmer in the Dell* when the farmer takes a wife (except that I am not a farmer and I do not have a Dell, I have a Gateway -- but the beauty of it all is that my Sweetie has a Dell computer!)

So I decided to get married on October 1st and here is my reasoning. The date 10/01 is the one day farthest away from April Fool's Day - 04/01 (give or take a day and depending on how you count individual days, of course). It is exactly six months after April 1st and also exactly six months before April 1st. You cannot get any farther away from April Fool's Day without getting closer. Surely, October 1st should be the most serious and solemn day of the year, wouldn't you agree? I think it should be renamed October No-Fool(ing) Day. That is how Sweetie and I will always think of it in our home.

I regret that I cannot invite you to the wedding. If my family and friends saw a contingent from the Fool's Society making the trip all the way from Canada to attend my wedding, they would certainly begin to get very suspicious again. So I will not be sending any invitations to you, but you can still send a gift if you want.

Please tell me how I might apply for a Foolish License and if I have to be a Canadian citizen to get this license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rusty Lucas".

Rusty Lucas

p.s. Do you have any free FOOL baseball caps? I was hoping to get one and maybe wear it every year on April 1st, and then maybe get a NO FOOL baseball cap and wear it every year on October 1st. Please send me a free FOOL baseball cap (but not as my wedding present as Sweetie might be offended by any insinuation by you or anyone else that I am a fool for getting married).