The Marriage Act contains subsection 31, "Marriages solemnized in Good Faith". This means that a marriage license cannot be issued if a previous ceremony has already taken place.

Examples of previous ceremonies are:

Informal ceremonies

Spiritual ceremonies

Symbolic ceremonies (e.g. destination weddings or ceremonies performed by an officiant that is not registered)

If this applies to you, please contact Service Ontario at 1-800-461-2156 to get more information on how to legalize your marriage.