

Couple still smitten after 60 years

Peel Biography: MORANO, Carmela and Vito
By SANDY MCLEAN
Special



Photo by Peter Thompson
Carmela and Vito Morano recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Sixty years after they were married in their home town in Italy, Carmela and Vito Morano are still smitten with each other.

"If my mother is in the hospital, my father is there every day and night," said their daughter, Ninetta Ferrante. "He comes home and it's like he's a lost puppy, and she's the same. It's so nice.

"They're so used to being together, that if one's not here, the other one looks lost."

According to Carmela, the secret to their long-lasting love is that they understand each other.

She also thinks years of hard work played a part in keeping them together. It's different today, she told Ninetta, in a time when both the husband and wife seem to do what they want.

Born in the town of Pisticci in the province of Matera, Carmela and Vito were both born in January of 1911.

Dating wasn't a custom 60 years ago, so when Vito fell in love with Carmela, he visited her at her parents' home. He asked her parents for her hand in marriage.

They're life together has not been easy, Ferrante said. Her father came to Canada in 1951 at the urging of friends who said life here was better. A year later, Vito sent for his wife and children.

But life wasn't better at first, having exchanged their grocery store at home for a jobless beginning in a new country.

Vito, a brick layer, walked from job site to job site in search of work, living on bread alone. When his family joined him, finding an apartment proved difficult because no one would rent to a couple with children.

Dec. 14/94
Eventually, with help from a relative, Vito and Carmela bought a house. Tragedy struck hard, twice, as two young sons died.

They also had two daughters, and today they have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

And despite the hard times, the couple have lived a long and fruitful life.

When Ferrante and her husband bought a house in Mississauga, Vito and Carmela joined them.

They live together on Rayfield Cres., near Central Parkway Mall. The couple's other daughter lives in Etobicoke.

Among their fondest memories is their lone trip back to Italy to visit relatives and friends.

"They had a great time," Ferrante said.

Vito and Carmela celebrated their wedding anniversary Dec. 1.

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MORANO, Carmela and Vito

the miss. News

Dec. 14/94