

# Lifestyles

Romeo Presutti and Albertina Maria Costa Galego, who met at the Milton Singles Dance, show one of their favourite dance albums.

Photo by  
GRAHAM PAINE



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## Pair finds love at singles dance

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

When he attended his first Milton Singles Dance, 73-year-old Romeo Presutti was just about ready to give up any dreams he had of finding love.

That chapter of his life had ended two years ago with the death

of his wife, he assumed.

When Albertina Maria Costa Galego arrived at that same dance for the first time, love was also the last thing on her mind. Staying with her niece while away from her homeland Portugal for a few months, Ms Galego attended the dance because the only other alternative was to sit at home alone. Separated from her husband for 14 years, Ms Galego, 63, wasn't expecting to meet any princes that night.

They were both very mistaken.

What started out as two half-hearted attempts to accept their fate — singleness — and get on with their lives, quickly led to a whirlwind romance in classic fairy tale style. Call it a modern — and slightly modified — version of Shakespeare's beloved play, as Romeo Presutti of Campbellville found his Portuguese Juliet.

"I looked and saw a lady at a table. She caught my eye right away," Mr. Presutti said. "I went and sat down. I said, 'Do you dance?' She said, 'Me Portuguese — no comprendo.'"

Fortunately, Mr. Presutti and Ms Galego soon discovered a language they had in common — Italian.

"I was laughing like crazy," Mr. Presutti said.

Ms Galego's niece, Candida Patoine, witnessed the exchange and has often talked with the couple about it.

"He said as soon as he saw her, his heart started beating so fast, he couldn't understand what was happening," Ms Patoine said.

### Couple gets closer during snowstorm

The next page in this love story is quite humorous in the eyes of all three characters.

A few weeks after their first meeting, Mr. Presutti invited Ms Galego to come over to see his house. That night, there was a large snowstorm and Mr. Presutti didn't think it was safe to take Ms Galego home. So she slept over... and has been there ever since.

"It's been a month-and-a-half and she still hasn't come home!" said Ms Patoine, laughing. "Every time you see them, they're like two love birds."

In fact, according to Ms Patoine, the happy couple is already discussing marriage. Although Ms Galego has a return ticket to Portugal for March, and by law must return by June, Mr. Presutti said he hopes the necessary paperwork can be completed so she's able to stay in Canada.

"One way or other, I want to keep her. I don't want to lose her," he said. "This is just like a dream. I never expected it. Just as I was giving up hope, all of a sudden she appeared. I think she's crazy in love with me, and I'm crazy in love with her."

Of course, none of this could have happened without the Milton

• see MILTON on page 11

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