

Jocelyne was my neighbour and best friend. You couldn't help but be affected by her when she was around. There are so many memories that fly through my mind, when I think of Jocelyne - where to begin?

Gardening! The Nowak yard was amazing. You always knew when summer was approaching because you'd hear Jerzy and Jocelyne arguing and bickering in the yard - just little things about what to change / take out / add in etc. We benefitted from their hard work and knowledge because when their yard was "used up", they moved to ours. Ours was a barren wasteland but not anymore. One time, when we were away, Jerzy and Jocelyne dug a bed the length of our yard and planted a hedge of 5" seedlings. That hedge is now 6 feet tall and going strong. They did it for us because of a few little things we had done for them. I also remember a time when we were getting ready to go to Neptune to see Francine perform. I had bought a maple tree to replant in our yard. Here we all were in our good clothes digging a hole to plant this tree because Jocelyne didn't want anything to happen to the tree. Working in the yard was never a chore when she was beside you, she made it a fun place to be. If they were home, they were gardening or.....

Entertaining! We used to get together for meals all the time. JoJo loved to cook and entertain. A great meal, a glass of wine and of course chocolate. No meal was complete without chocolate or at least a little something sweet - and a good cup of coffee. JoJo loved people and to be around people. She had a passion for communicating and we would often get into grand discussions about everything under the sun. As she was getting the francophone school operational, this was a great topic and she would also use these discussions to elaborate on the french language and culture that was so near and dear to her heart.

Teaching was how she would pass on her love of language to the rest of us. Besides the french, she used to have the kids in the neighbourhood over and do arts

and crafts with them. She would always encourage their "artsy" side. My kids loved to show off their creations to her and she would always be...

Enthusiastic!!! Bubbly, vibrant, energetic. All words you would use to describe her. If you met her, you would never forget her! She loved the outdoors. If not in the garden, then to the beach, go biking, swimming, walking the dog and more than a few trips to Magic Mountain to enjoy the slides with all our kids. In the winter she would be out shovelling, cross country skiing. Whatever, just active and energetic all day long.

Being a wife and mother was the most important thing to her. She loved Jerzy, Francine and Sylvie ferociously and fervently. They were the light of her life. She was so proud of the kids and had taught them to be strong. Jerzy told me that Sylvie was being very brave and was a big support to him so I think that being a great mother is another thing that JoJo was successful at. She babysat for me countless times and my kids adored her as did all the kids in the neighbourhood.

Her passing is so sad and tragic, made even more so, by the method of her demise. She was anti-gun, anti-violence, totally against hurting others in any way. I remember my husband and her arguing about the "violence of hockey" - she even had a hard time with that. "Violence of hockey" seems to be overstated now when you compare it to what she faced on Monday.

Now on Friday, there are no real answers and we will have our lifetimes to remember, no matter how long or short, a beautiful woman, devoted wife, loving mother, caring neighbour.

She will live in my heart until it beats no more.

I will always miss you Jocelyne - my best friend forever.