



## Gilles Arseneault

December 14, 2024

Gilles Arseneault (May 1955- Dec 2024)

The family of Gilles Arseneault is sad to announce his departure from this realm on Saturday December 14, 2024 at the age of 69.

Born in Dalhousie New Brunswick, he was the son of Léon Arseneault and Annie Bella Arseneault (née Lapointe). He is mourned by his brother Jacques Arseneault (Toronto), his sisters Lorraine Bean (Toronto), Estelle Arseneault (Gatineau) and Monique Arseneault (Moncton), and several nephews and nieces. His youngest sister Sylvie has gone before him, earlier this year.

Remembered as a feisty advocate for his classmates at the then new high school Aux Quatre Vents in Dalhousie, Gilles went on to study political science at Université de Moncton, with a particular fondness for revolutionary ideas in recent history, and later completed his apprenticeship as a carpenter. He worked extensively in high rise construction, then, in association with his friend Brian Milani, as a demolition expert and revaluing of architectural remnants, notably in colourful and imaginative animal representations. His artistic bent became a great source of comfort and satisfaction during the long years that followed the massive injury to the head that led to his death. He was a frequent visitor at the ROM and produced great numbers of works on paper, plywood and canvass.

In a moment of confidence, he told of having had a choice to live or die at the time of his injury, and had chosen to survive for a bonus of years, since the

adventure of dying was something that was sure to come. And it has come, and we weep to see him go while rejoicing in the end of his suffering.

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ Hey Bro, I miss you so much already, but don't feel you're really gone since your spirit still seems so alive. Those memories of union meetings, reno jobs, art exhibitions, Green Coalition meetings, blues concerts, TFC games, movie nights, George Carlin rants, Hot Docs festivals, social justice protests and much more will never die. But mostly it's that the spirit, energy, and generosity you radiated for me, and sparked in so many others, still lives. I learned so much from you—about friendship, positivity in even the most difficult circumstances, creativity and commitment to something larger. I'll always be thankful for it all. Many thanks. Carry on.

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**Brian Milani** - January 23, 2025 at 12:38 AM

BM

“ 2 files added to the album tribute wall



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**Brian Milani** - January 23, 2025 at 12:32 AM

J(

“ *These memories I'll cherish for life.  
The one and only Gilles Mr Lovely!*



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**Juliet Thompson (Caregiver)** - December 28, 2024 at 02:07 PM

JU

“ *One step a head and you're up  
You've got to be where that spotlight is shining,  
One day you won't hear a sound  
And there'll be no one around.  
Because you are gone where the spotlight is shining.  
Rest well and shine brightly my lovely you'll always be in my heart  
❤️ (juliet).*

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**Juliet** - December 28, 2024 at 01:46 PM

LA

“ I will remember you for your free spirit, creativity thinking and your great sense of humour that brought smiles and laughter all around you. I never did understand why you always beat me at chess but appreciated how gracious you were in victory. You showed me, by example, that there's more to life than winning or loosing. You will be missed by all your family and friends. Thank you for being more than a cousin, a friend. May your spirit continue to live on.

*Louis*

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**Louis Arseneau** - December 22, 2024 at 09:31 AM

JA

“ *Dearest Brother*

*Another step in our lives.  
So much time spent together over the years.  
I keep fond memories of you especially in the support you provided to me in a distant past.*

*Be at peace on this journey.  
Jacques.*

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**Jacques Arseneault** - December 21, 2024 at 02:34 PM

EA

*Cher Gilles, va rejoindre ceux qui nous ont déjà quitté, tu seras bien accueilli...Bon voyage!*

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**Estelle Arseneault** - December 27, 2024 at 11:48 AM

CJ

“ Thinking of our family and all those who were close to him during this difficult time, and sending love to everyone. Uncle's Gilles will be deeply missed, and his memory will always hold a special place in our hearts. During this time of loss, we can hold on to the memories that connect us. His presence may be gone, but the love he shared will remain with us always. Rest in peace, uncle gilles.

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**chloe jung** - December 21, 2024 at 12:41 PM

JA

“ 2 files added to the album tribute wall



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**Jacques Arseneault** - December 19, 2024 at 10:29 PM