



## Joanne Elizabeth Gillespie

June 24, 2023

On Saturday, June 24, 2023 Joanne Elizabeth Gillespie of Unionville, Ontario took her final breath with her sons Jeff and Adam by her side. Joanne began her years in the Willowdale area where she began school at Cameron Avenue Public School. Later she would attend Northview Collegiate, all in the North Toronto neighbourhood.

Joanne spent many of her working years as an intellectual property executive in both the private and corporate setting. These included significant tenures at Bereskin and Parr, Magna, and CIBC. She finished her career advising for numerous corporations internationally prior to her retirement. When not working, she spent memorable times at the family cottage where she enjoyed nature's beauty at Oxtongue Lake.

Joanne was a dedicated and devoted mother, and she cherished being actively involved in the lives of her granddaughters. Alongside this, she passionately took interest in helping others' causes, contributing to charitable organisations, and her hobbies. Her inquisitive mind, coupled with her sharp witty humour, could always be counted on to brighten a room and make everyone feel welcomed. Joanne's thoughtfulness and generosity touched too many to list.

Joanne was predeceased by her parents (Ken & Jean Gillespie). She is survived by her two brothers Doug (Dawn) and Brian (Mildred); Niece and Nephew Shannon Pirrotta and Michael Gillespie; her two sons Jeff and Adam Hortogianni (Shawn MacDonald) and two granddaughters Millar and Collins

Hortogianni (Julia Still).

Given Joanne's numerous causes and charitable contributions, we ask that in lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Joanne's memory to a charity of your choosing.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Russ Madigan** - November 08, 2024 at 04:22 PM

RM

“ I first met Jo in the late 1990s. Truly a beautiful, funny lady. She will always hold a soft place in my heart. RIP my friend. A part of me will always love you. ❤️

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**Russ Madigan** - August 26, 2024 at 01:24 AM

SH

“ You left way too soon Jo. I will miss our chats. I will miss our sneaky Covid coffees at Timmies. Not sure I would have made it through those years without those. I will miss your great advice when I needed it. I will miss our morning coffees on the deck at the cottage, and our laughs over a glass of wine later with Mom (Aunt Diane), sharing memories about the McAlister sisters. Barely a day goes by that I don't think about calling you for one of our chats. You were more than a cousin...you were a great friend in every sense of the word. See you down the road.

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**Sherry** - July 12, 2023 at 06:57 AM

JB

“ It is hard to choose just one memory from the many years that I was fortunate to call Joanne my friend but our epic cycling trip in France stands out. It was 20 years ago this month and not long ago Joanne spoke optimistically of celebrating that anniversary.

Cynthia and I dedicated ourselves to pre-trip training - Joanne on the other hand simply bought padded pants and fared as well as us without any significant preparation. But that perhaps was typical of Joanne who easily took on challenges in life.

We began and ended that trip in Paris and Joanne spoke of how she looked forward to taking her granddaughters to Paris when they reached a certain age.

So cheers to Joanne, a strong and independent woman, an inspiring and generous friend, an intelligent entrepreneur, a photographer (she was the only person I ever knew with her own darkroom), and last but certainly not least a very caring mother, daughter and grandmother.

She will be oh so missed.

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**Jill Bradbury** - July 08, 2023 at 05:06 PM

MH

“ As a child we spent many times visiting Aunt Jean, Uncle Ken Doug Brian and Joanne, lots of fun time, and great memories. Even as I aged and no longer able to make trips to visit with Joanne, we kept in touch by phone and social media. The world had lost a gem, Joanne will be missed by her family and many friends.

Joanne was one of my favourite cousins.

Margaret

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**Margaret Hill** - July 07, 2023 at 07:24 PM