

# Woman's compassion wins competition

BY SIMONE JOSEPH  
Staff Writer

Jaycee Manning never thought in a million years it could happen to her.

After all, she and her family had already lost her husband, Roger, after an agonizing battle with cancer.

Hadn't they suffered enough? When Ms Manning's husband died seven years ago, her friend Lori Johnson was there.

And she was there again in 2004 when Ms Manning was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I never thought that would happen to me. It wouldn't be fair," Ms Manning said.

The 50-year-old Markham resident has known Ms Johnston for 32 years. They met as teenagers one summer while working at the same engineering company in Toronto.

After Ms Manning was diagnosed, Ms Johnston was there for doctor appointments and chemotherapy. On the night she had to tell her children she had cancer, Ms Johnston was there.

"She helped me make decisions at a tough time. She was my strength," Ms Manning said.

This friendship has earned

**'She's more than a friend. She's always been a breast friend. Now, she's a bosom buddy. Like the sister I never had.'**

Jaycee Manning  
on friend Lori Johnson

them a trip to London. They entered the Breast Friends contest, an international initiative that celebrates the special friendship between women with breast cancer and those who support them.

The contest, sponsored by Roche Canada and Canada AM, encouraged women across Canada to share stories of how their "breast friend" made a difference in their lives. The exhibit will be on display in England from July

20 to 30 and then will embark on a world tour.

Here's an excerpt from Ms Manning's application:

"I would never have gotten through this ordeal without my dear friend beside me every step of the way. I have no family in Canada to help, so she was with me on the worst night of my life when I had to tell my children that their mother had cancer, she was there with me on the day of my surgery.

"She was there through six months of chemotherapy and five weeks of radiation. And she was there when my hair fell out and I cried.

"She was there when I screamed and ranted in fear and anger at the unfairness of it all. She is an angel and I will be forever thankful for her steadfast friendship and love. I love you, sister."

Today, doctors have found no evidence of the disease in her. She still gets checkups every six months.

While she may be feeling healthy, she will never forget the

kindness and support Ms Johnston provided.

"She's more than a friend. She's always been a breast friend. Now, she's a bosom buddy. Like the sister I never had."

The photo exhibit is coming to Canada in October.

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## Design with Windows

Changing windows has become a dreaded but certain reality for many homeowners. The very windows that helped convince couples to buy their dream homes have slowly been deteriorating over the years. Wood has become damp and spongy, paint no longer stays on, glass panes have fogged up, weather-stripping has come off, and they no longer keep out the elements.

This was the case with Joanne and Rob's Unionville home when they decided to replace the windows.

"We had to take everyone's opinions and try to sort them out for ourselves" says Rob. "By getting several quotes, we became more familiar with some of the window choices and options, so when it came to making a decision we felt we made an informed one."

The family picked a local company from Stouffville, Fieldstone Windows.

"Simply put, we felt comfortable with them," said Joanne. "They seemed to know what they were doing and offered suggestions no one else had. Repairing brickwork, creating new openings, even picking a colour that better suited the house were all ideas we hadn't heard."

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The couple both agreed the biggest visual change was replacing the original standard height double doors with a more welcoming 8' tall door and sidelights. The door boasts a hand-made wrought iron panel and matching grip set.



"Some other changes included creating a novelty window in the kitchen backsplash and dressing up the dining room with french doors rather than the old sliding ones. Upgraded mouldings and 3-dimensional s.d.l. grills were the final touch. "We're thrilled with the results," says Joanne. "We get a lot of compliments"

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