



Tribute to Nello Giavedoni from lifelong friend John Michaluk ...

... hello, all! ... our good friend Nello Giavedoni passed away yesterday ... Nello meant so much to so many of us and we'll greatly miss the happiness he brought to us all ... much to remember about Nello; his deep love of family, his patient, colourful, vivid storytelling, his wonderful music; he could write, play, and sing! ... his guidance and effort organizing the 1983 Brightside Reunion - all the meetings were at Nello and Marie's home! ... how could you not help but feel good when his broad, happy smile, with the gap between those two front teeth, beamed out at you! ...

... and, so proud was he of Brightside ... Nello knew the history, the people, saw the changes and he could regale you with deep, secret, tales especially, in his lovely backyard garden and pool, on a warm, sunny summer afternoon with a bottle of homemade merlot and small round of Friuli cheese! ... Nello was a terrific athlete ... as a young kid from Brightside, I remember when in 1951, he left Hamilton for Albany, GA in the St. Louis Cardinal system to play Georgia teams from Valdosta, Brunswick, Macon, and others in the deep South ... all of us young kids were so proud that one of ours was taking a shot at big league baseball ... we figured if you worked hard and played well like Nello maybe you'd get a chance ... his stories and encouragement were important and an inspiration to us ... and later so too was his long tenure as a coach of youth teams at Mahony Park and in Stoney Creek ...

... true love travels on a gravel road and so did Nello's love of baseball ... Nello travelled the road playing on teams like the Brightside Barons, Slater's, Peller's, Rosefield's, Nicky's, and others like Sovereign Potters, Dominions, Crawford Cartage, Kent Tile & Marble ... the 1953 Pellers team competed in Montreal for the Canadian Championship ... Nello's biggest fan was his mother; his father wasn't too sure about his son playing baseball ... Nello tells the story about his mother and father debating the merits of his continuing to play ... his mother finally wins out saying, 'ah Valentino, give him his chance, he's young; he'll be ok!' ... Incidentally, as fate would have it, Nello's wife, Marie played baseball, for Rosefield's women's team! ...

... Nello never uttered a disparaging word, he always wanted to be fair, he enjoyed time with long time close friends, he often said to them, "my door is always open to you" ... he loved his family and was so proud of their accomplishments ... you can't make old friends, you can only lose them ... Brightside lost a beautiful one; I've lost a great one; the merlot won't be as good without him! ... here was a man! ... later

