

A native of Montreal, Bob graduated from McGill with a Bachelor of Science and from the University of California at Berkeley with a Master's degree .and a PhD in Mathematics. Bob attended Berkeley on a Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship. An original member of the Mathematics department, he began teaching at John Abbott in its inaugural year in 1971. Few of the faculty members of John Abbott can speak of a longer career than Bob who retired in 2011 after forty years of contribution to the College.

Bob was instrumental in developing all of the College's mathematics courses and was the force behind the establishment of the Math Lab, still an important component of the learning process within the department. Among his roles, he kept his colleagues up to date with the most recent learning materials. Long before the College had an IT department, Bob was everyone's tech guy. He was the main mover in getting the Math department online even before the College had developed an online presence.

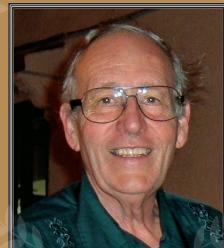
Bob also played a major role in the installation of a permanent reminder of "Mathematics and its place in the world". Designed by a John Abbott Fine Arts teacher, the stained glass window above the door of the department depicts several mathematical themes and principles.

A very dedicated teacher, he was always available and keen to work with the students, particularly those who found math to be a bit of a challenge. He was very popular with the Technology programs whose students required specific courses as a foundation but did not have a strong math background. His ability to encourage these students and take them through the courses is well noted. While it may be easier to teach the high end math courses with students bringing a strong math background, Bob chose to accept the challenge of working with those students who had no background or who found that they could list math as something of a phobia. His remarkable patience, respect for each student, and sense of humour, presented a wonderful and rewarding classroom experience for many students.

Bob has on many occasions been recognized by his fellow teachers and students for his excellence in teaching.

Bob was very involved with his children's schooling as they were growing up; first as the Secretary to the School Committee at École Joseph-Henrico, and later as Chair of the Governing Board at Macdonald High School. He also has for many years been active in St. Timothy's Anglican Bible Church in Pointe-Claire, where he is Church Secretary and Chair of the Mission Committee.

Bob is enjoying retirement with his wife Lois within the Sainte-Anne's community where he takes long walks to be outdoors and stay healthy.



Bob De Jean

EMPLOYEE