



Bob McEwen

Bob McEwen was a student at John Abbott College from 1973 to 1976 where he also played on the Islanders hockey team.

He was hired by McGill-Macdonald College where he was ultimately given the responsibility of the poultry division. Upon retirement, he expanded his horizons becoming part-owner of Cunningham's Pub in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. He also served as town councillor.

After Abbott, Bob coached hockey at Dawson College for a few years before stepping behind the bench as assistant coach of the men's Islanders hockey team. He left an indelible mark as head coach in the late '90s.

Bob is fondly remembered by many student-athletes. He emphasized teamwork and discipline, employing a "tough love" approach. There are many stories offered by players who credit Bob with helping them understand the importance of the contributions they would or could make to society. One student-athlete who was suspended by Coach Bob returned a few years later to thank him. He had found his path as a youth worker and shared that Bob's dedication and input had been pivotal in his life.

It is in Bob's nature to provide assistance. In 1996, his son Tim suffered a serious hockey injury and was treated at the Montreal Children's Hospital. While there, the family met young Brent Mingo, a meningitis survivor. Brent's dream was to become a member of a hockey team but given his ailments, that would not be possible. Bob was determined to help this courageous youngster.

Brent and his family became part of the Islander hockey program. On occasion, Brent took part in Islander practices and attended games. The creation of the Mingo-McEwen Fund became a practical method to contribute to the neuroscience ward of the hospital that had played such a valuable role in the lives of both Brent and Tim. The project began with a hockey game heavily promoted within the college and supported by the West Island. In the final year, the event raised \$18,000.

This was just the beginning. Many different fundraising events for many local charities continue to this day. The annual golf tournament, comedy nights, auctions and other events have raised more than \$1,000,000! The Montreal Children's Hospital, the Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence and the Veteran's Hospital have been primary beneficiaries.

Bob is the recipient of the McKesson Award, presented to a community representative for outstanding leadership and service to the Montreal Children's Hospital for many years.

He is one of the founders of the annual Remembrance Day ceremony held on the Mac-JAC campus along with Bill Mahon. They are keeping the tradition alive.

Bob has been married for 46 years to Marg, a graduate of McGill's Macdonald College. They have two children, both of whom attended JAC, along with four healthy grandchildren....life is good!