

Doug began his teaching career with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal and selected physical education as one of his subjects. A bonus was the opportunity to coach football, soccer, wrestling and skiing after school. He came to John Abbott in 1972 after responding to a search by the College to fill a teaching position to set up an outdoor education program.

After teaching physical education and other academic subjects in schools in Québec, Ontario and England, Doug felt that CEGEP students could benefit a lot from learning, developing and using skills for physical activities in an outdoor environment. The program quickly attracted students interested in developing the lifetime skills of canoeing, rock climbing, skiing and camping, in summer and winter conditions. As the program expanded, other teachers came on board offering a variety of courses. Program graduates often returned as volunteers to contribute to the success of the program.

The impact of the initiative presented by Doug resonated throughout the CEGEP system. During the early years, the other CEGEPs in the Montreal area developed outdoor education programs similar to the one at John Abbott. The instructors met yearly and worked together to improve the quality of the programs.

As an extension of the academic program which he founded, Doug was also able to develop the Outdoor Adventure Club. Several times each year, students would apply the skills learned within the club to enjoy weekend canoeing, camping and hiking adventures.

Retirement from John Abbott was Doug's choice in 1989. The programs he created are flourishing at the College.

Doug was himself an adventurer and among mountain climbing adventures in Switzerland, climbed the Matterhorn in Zermatt. He became involved in luge and bobsledding and took time off from skiing in Austria with a companion to compete in the World Luge championships in Poland, the first Canadians to compete in that sport. His greatest accomplishment came in the sport of bobsledding. After competing on the world circuit leading up to the 1964 Olympics, he and his teammates won the gold medal in Innsbruck. Shortly after retiring from competition he designed and helped build a luge track in the Laurentians offering Canadians the first opportunity for competition at home.

When Doug left John Abbott, he and his wife Mary Jean, who had been working in John Abbott's accounting department, settled in Windermere, British Columbia. Still active, he pioneered the Ski Mountain Friend program at Panorama Ski Resort, helped conduct outdoor programs at elementary schools in Invermere, and participated in the organization of hiking groups in the valley.

Unfortunately, Doug passed away in April 2020.



*Doug Anakin*

EMPLOYEE