



Glenn Ruiter

A resident of Hudson, Glenn graduated from McGill University in 1965 with a BA in History & Economics and in 1970 a Masters in History. He has always had a love for amateur sports and at McGill he played on three varsity teams: basketball, water polo and swimming. In 1965, he achieved McGill Scarlet Key Society Honours.

Glenn began his career at John Abbott College in 1972 hoping to become a history teacher but fortunately for the JAC students, he became the Assistant Coordinator of Continuing Education. From there he started a career in the College's Student Services division that lasted 31 years and included a five-year stint as a Professional in Student Activities and, for the most part, Sports & Recreation. Prior to joining the department he was also the head coach of the Lady Islanders hockey team in the mid-70s as well as an assistant coach of the Islanders football team.

It was in the Sports & Recreation department where he really made a name for himself both at John Abbott and across Canada. The Casgrain Sports Centre opened in 1980 and with Glenn at the helm, the Islanders teams began a tradition of flourishing both on and off the field of play. The Islanders teams were certainly always at the forefront, winning and hosting numerous provincial and national championships. Under his guidance, John Abbott has hosted the CCAA national championships in women's volleyball, soccer and basketball, men's basketball, volleyball and soccer.

Glenn was a true leader whose gentle and thoughtful manner was inspirational and integral to the success of the department and its athletes. He also understood that winning was not everything and that the very endeavour of participating was enriching to the development of our students and coaches.

Throughout his career, Glenn played a key role in the development of the FQSE and later the RSEQ, both provincial collegiate sports associations in Québec. On the national level, his involvement with CCAA (Canadian Colleges Athletic Association) started early and continues to this day, serving in the past as both vice-president and president of the association. Another indication of the immense contribution Glenn has made to Canadian college sports is illustrated by his writing of the book: "CCAA, The First Forty Years", a book documenting the history and challenges in the evolution of the CCAA.

In 2000, Glenn became the first recipient of the CCAA Athletic Director of the Year award. He was inducted into the CCAA Hall of Fame in 2018.

When Glenn left John Abbott in 2007, he never said he was retiring; he continues to volunteer his expertise and services to several other colleges hosting national championships. He continues to be a resource person for John Abbott as well as for many colleges across Canada.

Glenn always understood the importance of sports and recreation in the development of John Abbott students as individuals as well as the balance between participation and academics. Thousands of students have graduated from the College having benefited from his vision, commitment and understanding.