



Foss Greg

A West Islander, Greg graduated from Macdonald High School before moving on to John Abbott in 1980, graduating two years later with a Science diploma. He was a member of the Islanders football team and played in the 1980 Bol d'or championship game. His academic and football career continued at McGill from which he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1986. Sensing the advantage of a change in direction he enrolled in Cornell University and graduated in 1988 with an MBA in Finance. The latter propelled him into a remarkably successful career in the world of finance.

It was during a reunion visit to the College in 2016 that Greg reconnected with JAC and memories from his school days. He decided then and there that it was time to step up and contribute to the school that got him started on his professional journey.

His first act was to contribute to the John Abbott College football program and the College Foundation. In order to help the student-athletes in the sport he himself played at JAC, a substantial contribution was made to allow the program to address the needs not covered by the College allotment.

Greg credits much of his personal and professional success to the support he had while at John Abbott. He is, in his own way, helping current student-athletes in true Abbott style, helping young people to be well-round members of the community.

Wanting to do more, and with many old connections re-established, Greg volunteered to lead the most important fundraising activity of the College Foundation. He became chairperson of the JAC Foundation annual golf tournament. He spent countless hours on this project, bringing an impressive number of alumni back into the fold. Following his lead, which included a whirlwind of ideas and suggestions for outreach ventures, many of those with whom he reconnected are now directly involved and contributing through donations, scholarships and bursaries. He raised the bar that John Abbott alumni have been striving to reach ever since.

As noted by one of his nominators, Greg is a man of big ideas, quick action and astonishing generosity. His monetary donations are all shared openly and easily but never with any thought to recognition or visibility. He is known to have said on many occasions *"we're all part of a community. I want to leave this world a little better off than when I got here"*.

Quick to acknowledge the positive impact of Abbott and football in particular, he has often mentioned the mentorship provided by his head football coach, and now fellow Hall of Distinction inductee, Mr. George Wall and the pivotal role that he played in his life.

That professional life has been extremely successful, carrying him through the corridors of the Canadian financial sector. He is currently a director of two venture companies, Validus Power and Lookingglasseseducation.com which promote futuristic strategies and the development of web-based marketing. He is a partner in the successful Montreal-area chain of seven pubs: Ye Olde Orchard Pub Group.