

As an innovator in education, John was undaunted by the challenge presented by the introduction of the CEGEP system in Québec. His role as a high school teacher and principal offered opportunities for the development of an innovative approach to education. This skill was invaluable when he became the first academic dean of John Abbott College and was on the front line for the tumultuous and no doubt exhilarating times to come. The philosophical and structural development of a new level of education required the considerable skills of blending together the administrators, faculty and staff. Those early years saw the development of programs and courses and the recruiting of faculty members who would contribute to the success of this concept.

### **JOHN ABBOTT COLLEGE**

- Co-founder of John Abbott College
- First academic dean
- Faculty member, Humanities and Law Foundations courses

### **INNOVATOR IN EDUCATION**

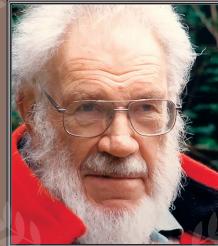
- Introduced into the Québec education system the concept of student promotion by subject at the high school level. Monitored by the department of Education, this innovation was then instituted province wide.
- Brought a Drama Arts program into a high school which included student productions and travel to Stratford.
- Reacting to the Parent Commission's requirements for vocational course, he introduced double shift and individual learning modules.
- A proponent of experiential learning contributing to a worldwide view, travel became a teaching tool bringing students to Denmark, East Germany, and northern Indigenous communities.
- Contributed to a CIDA project in Swaziland with the participation of the Southern African Nations.

### **COMMUNITY**

- President West Island Teachers' Association
- Board Member – Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers
- Member of West Island task group studying Québec education issues at the time of the Parent Commission.
- Advisor to the Christian Education Committee
- Member of Cedar Park United Church.

When faced with the challenge of overcoming obstacles in the pursuit of the development of educational opportunities for students, John often referred to a phrase which he had once heard – *“anything that is educationally worthwhile is administratively possible”*. That was his guiding principle throughout his career and perhaps was the legacy which he would have most cherished, to be pursued by those who followed in his footsteps.

John's career at John Abbott extended from 1971 through 1987.



*John Abbott*

**EMPLOYEE**