

André became a member of the John Abbott College community in 1977. It is reasonable to suggest that, through his forty years on campus, he became one of the most popular members of the staff. His primary task was to be the college bus driver. During the academic year, this became more than a full-time occupation. Thanks to the bus and dedicated driver, teachers could plan field trips and intercollegiate teams could compete away from campus due to the flexibility of André's availability.

It was not unusual for André to take on more than one field trip in a day but his major contribution was felt in the Outdoor Education program. They sometimes travelled twenty weekends per year. Those and team trips were primarily undertaken outside the regular operating hours of the college.

André became an important volunteer for the Outdoor Ed program. As noted by one-time chairperson Peter Cruchet: "... field trips, considered highlights of Outdoor Education courses, would be impossible...without the help of trip assistants. These assistants usually have very specialized qualifications."

Many students remember André helping them prepare for their adventures, driving them to the site and then actively participating in kayaking, canoeing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and winter survival camping in a support role. It takes a special type of person to volunteer to sleep in a hole in the snow!

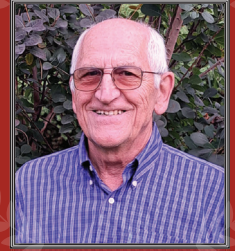
Having chosen to make these contributions, André ensured that his skills were up to par undertaking many certification programs on his own time that faculty were required to follow. First aid, CPR and canoe-paddling were just a few of said programs.

Student-athletes were delighted when their road trips included André and the college bus. He became an 'Islander', helping out and lending additional support to coaches. It was not unusual to see him at a hockey game handling the door for the players. Team photos are wonderful memories and in many with the swim team you can see the team draped all over the bus with André right in the middle.

His resourcefulness and background as a mechanic meant he could also contribute to the operation of the Casgrain Sports Centre. André had the ability to 'fix anything' which included the Outdoor Education equipment, random problems in the Casgrain Sports Centre as well as the bus.

André thoroughly enjoyed working with students and thought of the John Abbott community as his family. He was an active participant in college activities and generously gave his time at events such as the JAC Foundation Loonie Line and the Athletic Awards Night where the athletes he had come to know so well were celebrated.

A retired member of the Physical Ed department fondly reflected on the extraordinary level of kindness and patience displayed by André and his remarkable contributions in so many of John Abbott.



*André Marceau*

EMPLOYEE