

Duncan McGeachy

Duncan McGeachy had a full and distinguished career. My friend and former colleague Hugh McKnight reminded me that he stepped into his first classroom 60 years ago and for the last 25 years, he has worked to further the interests of retired teachers. He is exactly the kind of person who deserves to be an Honourary Life Member of NBSRT.

Duncan Webber McGeachy was born and raised in Charlotte County and educated in St. Stephen schools. He attended Acadia, Mount Allison, McGill and the University of Maine in Orono. He will tell you candidly that his wife Flo is responsible for his continuing education.

Except for an inexplicable couple of years at the beginning, perhaps before his blood turned fully green and white, Duncan spent his entire career at St. Stephen High School, where he taught health and physical education for many years before becoming principal in 1960.

He was active in the cadet movement, and his contribution to high school athletics is nothing short of legendary. He coached almost every conceivable sport: soccer, cross country, track and field, and of course, basketball. His student athletes were provincial, national, and international champions.

Dunc was instrumental in planning the present St. Stephen High building and the surrounding sports facilities which now bear his name.

He was active in his professional association, holding the offices of Branch President and Provincial Director. And he single-handedly invented the Chocolate Festival.

Now, most of you have met Duncan, so you know that if you were asked to describe him, the words *joker* or *comedian* would not spring readily to mind. You can probably imagine how I felt at 13 years old in 1959 meeting him for the first time in the gym at SSSS - the gym would have held the entire one room school I attended at Crocker Hill. The first words he said were, "Duplissea, your mother was Christine Sproat and your Dad is Manny." It wasn't a question. I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "She was a really good basketball player and he's a boxer and a hockey player - you're probably a good athlete." Now, I had heard that Duncan was always recruiting, so I was

flattered, but standing before him at not quite five feet seven and 112 pounds, I was suddenly struck with a realization that might not be apparent to those who do not know him well; I realized that Duncan had a sense of humour.

Since his retirement in 1984, he has held several executive offices, chaired many committees, and organized two very successful biennials in St. Stephen.

As our first four year Provincial President in the history of NBSRT, he has overseen a review of the provincial constitution, and tirelessly worked to secure improvements to our group insurance plan.

During his term on the Provincial Executive, he helped create a climate in which we have seen the launching of the NBSRT website, a comprehensive review of the mission statement and goals of NBSRT, the establishment of a Political Action Committee, the distribution of *Reflections* to all members, and a huge increase in NBSRT membership.

In recognition of a quarter century of distinguished service and leadership at every level of our Society, it is my pleasure and honour to nominate Duncan McGeachy for Honourary Life Membership in NBSRT.

--Herb Duplissea, Charlotte Branch NBSRT