



Kirk MacGeachy

Kirk is a native of Anstruther, a fishing village in the region of Fife, on Scotland's east coast. He studied geology at the University of Edinburgh and came to Canada in 1972. He took a postgraduate position at McGill and completed his PhD in marine geology. From there he came to John Abbott in 1978 and was a member of the faculty for 28 years.

Kirk taught the science option and complementary courses in geology, oceanography and earth systems science. He was the sole occupant of the Jones building which overlooks Memorial Field. He kept his rock collection there and, on occasion, was heard to say that the chilly temperature reminded him of his childhood in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

He introduced and was well noted for his fascinating intersession course in the Caribbean where the class hopped between islands on a schooner studying geology, volcanoes, coral reefs and island wildlife. Kirk was the first John Abbott faculty to offer an international and experiential learning opportunity.

Kirk was an original member of the Geosciences department and was its chair from 1996 through 2008. He was an active member of many college committees and a major contributor to the major revisions of the Science program and the planning of the new science building.

Kirk was legendary within the music community for his passion for Celtic music. A talented composer, guitarist and singer, he and musical partner Dave Gossage and his band Orealis were a regular feature at clubs and folk festivals around Montreal. He and Dave took to the stage weekly at the Old Dublin and then Hurley's over a fifteen year period. Also successful as a recording artist, he recorded five albums as a solo performer and with Dave Gossage.

Kirk and Orealis often played at folk festivals in the Montreal area and throughout Canada and the United States. There were frequent tours throughout the Maritimes and on numerous occasions Great Big Sea opened for them. In 2006, the band was recognized with a Juno nomination in the Best Roots and Traditional Groups category.

Never forgetting his own roots, Kirk often shared his music with the College community. Orealis and Smoked Meat music night was a popular event in the Faculty Lounge for many years. He also performed for the students and at College ceremonies and memorial services.

Kirk performed during the finale of the Pittenweem Arts Festival in Scotland in August of 2006. Then shortly after, he offered his last performance at the Ottawa Folk Festival during the weekend before his premature passing.