

# IN MEMORIAM

**Robert E. Wilkinson  
(1924-1993)**

On January 2, 1993, Robert E. (Bob) Wilkinson passed away at home following a brief battle with leukemia.

Bob grew up in Victoria, served two years in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and then moved to Montreal to study for his B. Sc. degree (Physical Education) at McGill University. Upon graduation in 1948, he joined the Department of Athletics and Physical Education at the university. He completed his Master's degree at Columbia University in 1952 and his doctorate at Springfield College (Massachusetts) in 1965.

Bob taught at McGill over a period of thirty-eight years and served as chair of the Department of Physical Education for thirteen of them (1965-1977). His areas of specialization included administration of sport and physical education and the psychology of sports and motor behaviour. He was a skilled athlete and an adept teacher, with particular interests in racquet sports, track and field, soccer, golf, and gymnastics. He was a visiting professor at the University of Malaya, in Malaysia, and participated as one of the leaders in Overseas Study Programs in the U.S.S.R. and China. He was instrumental in the establishment of a graduate program of study at McGill in 1986 in three areas of physical education: psychology of motor performance, exercise physiology, and biomechanics. Adapted physical education was added later.

At the time of the union of the McGill School of Education with the Institute of Education in 1957, Bob was deeply involved with the development of undergraduate program curricula, and continued to do so when the university degree programs became three instead of four years, in 1970, following the establishment of CEGEPs in the Quebec educational system. At one time or another, Bob was a member of all of the department's standing committees, as well as many of the committees of McGill's Faculty of Education. From its beginning in 1970, and for seven years, he served on the Canadian Association of University Deans, Directors and Chairmen of faculties, schools, and departments of physical education.

In addition to the above university committees, Bob was an accreditation inspector for the Quebec Camping Association (English-speaking section). This involved visiting 45-55 organized summer camps each summer, from 1973 until 1977. Out of this experience came his most important publication, *Camps: Their Planning and Management*, published by C. V. Mosby.

Camp Nominique had a special place in Bob's heart. He spent many happy summers (1953-1964 and 1967-1971) there, sharing his love for the out of doors with young people. He began as section head, later program and personnel director, for the entire camp of approximately 275 boys and 80 staff members (1967-1971). His wife and seven children were fortunate to be able to participate in this wonderful camping experience as well.

Bob's many hobbies included music, theatre, art, and photography. He enjoyed story-telling and performing magical tricks for his children, fifteen grandchildren, and colleagues. He was also a master of do-it-yourself home repairs and renovations.

Robert E. Wilkinson was an inspiration to all who knew him. His qualities of leadership, hard work, commitment, integrity, and sense of fair play are well recognized and remembered. He leaves behind a rich legacy for future generations of physical educators, campers, and young athletes. His wife, Mary, was a very strong supporter of all his enterprises throughout their 43 years of marriage.

**Graham I. Neil  
Dorothy Nichol**