



Eric Muller
Brock University

Le 5^{ème} prix Adrien-Pouliot
The 5th Adrien-Pouliot Award

Citation

The Adrien Pouliot Award recognizes significant and sustained contributions to mathematics education in Canada. Many members of the Canadian mathematical community are aware of Eric Muller's work to the extent that they could provide a list sufficient to justify his selection for the award. Yet they are likely to be aware of only some of things he has done to enrich the mathematics education environment in Canada and beyond. These include: development of numerous courses at Brock University, courses with a wide range of target students; creation and sustained support of Math Trails, and Math and Science Camps, and teacher workshops with regional and provincial scope; service in a variety of executive and planning roles on behalf of the Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group, of International Congresses on Mathematics Education, of the International Commission on Mathematics Instruction, of the Fields Institute, and of our own Society.

But a breathless list of some of Eric Muller's service and contributions does not do justice to the personal qualities that augment the impact of his work. People who have worked with him know of his passion for teaching and learning mathematics, of his vision, coupled with the energy to make that vision real, of his wonderful blend of imagination and practical acumen, his focus on the needs of the community he serves, and of his ability to bring people together on behalf of a stronger mathematics education community. In presenting to Eric Muller the 1999 Adrien Pouliot Award, the Canadian Mathematical Society speaks on behalf of an extended community that is grateful for all he has done on our behalf.

Le prix Adrien-Pouliot est décerné à une mathématicienne ou un mathématicien pour sa contribution importante et soutenue à l'enseignement des mathématiques au Canada. Nombreux sont les membres de la communauté mathématique canadienne qui connaissent le travail d'Eric Muller au point de pouvoir fournir une liste suffisamment longue pour justifier son choix comme lauréat. Mais ces personnes ne connaissent probablement qu'une partie de tout ce qu'il a fait pour l'enseignement des mathématiques au pays et à l'étranger. Il a notamment élaboré de nombreux cours à l'Université Brock à l'intention d'un vaste éventail d'étudiants; il a créé et appuyé de façon soutenue des Sentiers mathématiques, des camps mathématiques et scientifiques, de même que des ateliers pour enseignants à l'échelle régionale et provinciale; il a occupé divers postes de nature administrative et organisationnelle au sein du groupe de travail sur l'éducation mathématique au Canada, de congrès internationaux sur l'éducation mathématique, d'une commission internationale sur l'enseignement des mathématiques, de l'Institut Fields et de notre propre Société.

Mais une liste interminable, quoique partielle, des réalisations d'Eric Muller ne rendra pas pleinement hommage aux qualités personnelles qui accentuent le rayonnement de son oeuvre. Ceux et celles qui ont travaillé avec lui connaissent sa passion pour l'enseignement et l'apprentissage des mathématiques, sa façon de voir les choses et l'énergie qu'il déploie à les concrétiser; son merveilleux mélange d'imagination et de perspicacité; son attachement à répondre aux besoins de sa communauté, et sa capacité de rassembler les gens pour créer un milieu dynamique dans le domaine de l'éducation mathématique. Au nom de la communauté mathématique élargie et en remerciement de tout ce qu'il a fait pour elle, la Société mathématique du Canada est fière de remettre le prix Adrien-Pouliot 1999 à Eric Muller.

Biographical Information

Eric Muller completed his M.Sc. under Hanno Rund at the University of Natal and taught at Rhodes University before going to Sheffield University to complete his Ph.D. under Norman March and John Tucker. He came to the Mathematics Department at Brock University in 1967. He was promoted to Full Professor in 1980. He has spent leaves at the University of Adelaide, at the University of South Africa and with the research group of Transport Canada. Examples of his activities in mathematics education include the development and sustained teaching of large enrolment non traditional mathematics service courses, the development of innovative mathematics programs for the education of future teachers, the provision of mathematics in-service for school teachers at both the elementary and the secondary

levels, the support of science and mathematics camps for grade 6, 7 and 8 students and a similar camp for Aboriginal students, the organization of a year long mathematics and visual arts celebration in conjunction with an exhibit of Escher works in St. Catharines, and the making of a Niagara Falls and a Welland Canal Math Trail for use by school classes and the general public. Eric's contribution to the teaching of mathematics has been recognized by three awards. His support for the mathematics education community has been maintained through his work with OAME, CMESG, CMS and the ICME Congresses. He is presently co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Fields Institute Mathematics Education Forum and is the ICMI representative for Canada.

The Adrien Pouliot Award was inaugurated to recognize individuals or teams of individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions to mathematics education in Canada. Such contributions may be interpreted in the broadest possible sense and might include community outreach programmes, the development of new programmes in either an academic or an industrial setting, publicising mathematics so as to make mathematics accessible to the general public, developing mathematics display materials, and supporting mathematics conferences and competitions for students, etc. The first award was presented in 1995.

Le prix Adrien-Pouliot rend hommage aux personnes ou aux groupes qui ont fait une contribution importante et soutenue à l'enseignement des mathématiques au Canada. Le terme "contributions" s'emploie ici au sens large: activités locales de sensibilisation, élaboration de programmes adaptés au milieu scolaire ou à l'industrie, activités promotionnelles de vulgarisation des mathématiques, conception d'outils pour présentations mathématiques, organisation de conférences ou de concours à l'intention des étudiants, etc. Le prix a été décerné pour la première fois en 1995.

Recipients / Récipiendaires

1995
1996
1997

1998
1999

Edward J. Barbeau
Bruce Shawyer
Edwin Anderson
Donald C. Attridge
Ronald G. Dunkley
Ronald G. Scoins
Bernard R. Hodgson
Eric Muller