

Robert Woodrow – A Cheerful Friend and Devoted Colleague

Remembering Robert Woodrow

September 2025 (Vol. 57, No. 4)

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Dr. Robert Woodrow was truly one of the great pillars of the Canadian Mathematical Society, a steadfast presence whose joy, friendship, and spirit of collaboration enriched our community beyond measure. For more than three decades, Robert dedicated himself with remarkable devotion to the Society, serving in countless roles, especially in the realms of education and competitions. His tireless commitment, his unwavering encouragement of younger generations, his gracious and caring manner toward every colleague, and his boundless generosity stand as a shining example for us all.

I first met him during a summer meeting, in the early days after I had joined Laval University. Passing through the lobby, I saw Graham Wright, Robert Woodrow, and David Rodgers gathered around a table, deep in animated conversation. They warmly invited me to join them. When I eventually departed, despite it being my very first encounter with Robert, I felt as though we had already been close friends since the earliest days of our youth. Such was his warmth, his openness, and his extraordinary gift for making others feel instantly at home. From that moment onward, Robert's cheerful spirit and camaraderie, together with those of his close companions, became for me a lasting source of inspiration. I have since tried, in my own small way, to carry forward the torch of kindness, generosity, and dedication to our community that Robert bore so naturally and so gracefully.

Robert will be remembered with the deepest affection, gratitude, and admiration for generations to come. His light, his laughter, and his legacy of service will forever remain woven into the very fabric of our community.

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