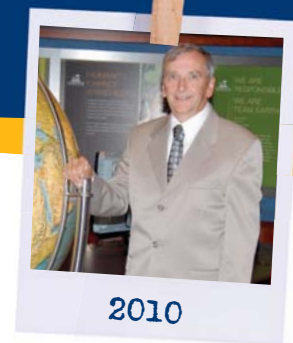


# Portrait of the *ambassadors*



1962



2010

## The 1960s

### Jean-Marc Malboeuf

**Retired physicist, teacher and engineer**

#### Exhibitor in 1962

In 1961, Mr. Malboeuf, then 16, was entering his final year of high school. In addition to skiing, tennis and music, he also enjoyed tinkering and reading biographies of scholars as well as introductory books on technical matters. In one of these books, he discovered the oscilloscope, an instrument for examining the shape of electrical signals on a cathode-ray screen.

His school laboratory had a cathode-ray tube, and he decided to make his own oscilloscope. Seeing that he was interested in science, his math and science teachers suggested that he take part in the Montréal Regional Science Fair in April 1962. This was Montréal's second such competition. Four days prior to the event, after a series of pitfalls, he was able to observe the first signals faithfully reproduced on his oscilloscope. "It felt as if I had won an Olympic competition," he recalls. This project earned him first prize in the Applied Sciences Category at the Montréal fair. The prize was a scholarship that paid his first-year university tuition and took him to the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

Mr. Malboeuf earned his bachelor's degree in physics and then pursued an active career in areas ranging from ownership of a small electronics equipment design firm to the teaching of electrical engineering at the CÉGEP level. In 1986, he was admitted to the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec after three years of intensive evening and weekend study. With his diploma in hand, he worked mainly in research and development in automation, computer technology and electronics as a designer, project manager and departmental director.

"The Science Fairs provided great moments of discovery and success," he said for the benefit of young people wishing to exhibit Science Fair projects. "They also involved plenty of effort, trial and error, and hard work. I discovered a secret: the greater the effort required, and the more you stumble along the way, the more thrilling the final achievement feels. I hope you have as exciting a life as I've had."