

Portrait of the *ambassadors*



The 1980s

Martin d'Amours

President and Co-Owner – Laser Registration / Showcare

Exhibitor from 1981 to 1983

Martin d'Amours has been passionate about science since early childhood. From age 10, he spent almost his entire summer every year at the *Camp des jeunes écologistes*, first as a camper and later as a counsellor. He was therefore highly motivated when a high school teacher helped him discover the Science Fairs – so much so that he exhibited projects in each of the three following years.

The first project enabled him to enhance his knowledge of botany. The second involved examination of a quadrat environment, a square land surface on which flora are surveyed, and this earned him second prize in his category in the Québec final. For the third project, he created computer software enabling him to do his own analysis of data he collected over two summers in more than 160 quadrats, earning him a gold medal in the Canada-Wide Science Fair. As one of the few Québec exhibitors at the event, he campaigned upon his return for a larger delegation of his comrades to take part in it.

During his junior college studies in science and university studies in electrical engineering, Mr. d'Amours remained involved in the Science Fairs as an organizer and Chair of the Technical Committee at the first international final in Québec City in 1987. He also accompanied the Québec delegation to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Winnipeg in 1988. On that occasion, young people from Québec were well represented, a source of great pride for him.

At the professional level, he owes some of his first jobs to contacts he made at the Science Fairs, including a job with the principal Science Fairs sponsor, Bell, where he worked for 10 years. Today he is co-owner and President of a company with more than 120 employees that provides technological business solutions for large professional conferences. He regards the Science Fairs as a key experience in his life: “There is a very direct cause-effect relationship between the Science Fairs and my life today,” he says. “The people I met there, the leadership qualities I acquired and work methods I developed in conducting my projects were all key factors in making me what I am 25 years later.”