

Joël Primeau, P.Eng. LEED AP

President ASHRAE Ottawa Valley Chapter, 1999-2000



Joël was born in Montreal in 1965. He graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1987 with a bachelors' degree in mechanical engineering. He is married and has two children. Joël and his family are avid campers who love to pitch the family tent in a provincial park and spend an extended weekend hiking, canoeing and swimming, or just hanging around in a hammock. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, squash and ball hockey. He's a competitive waterpolo player and regularly participates in tournaments all over Québec and Ontario. He spends many hours a week at a pool coaching young boys and girls how to play waterpolo. He plays guitar and sings in a band that will occasionally gig in local pubs.

Upon graduating, Joël served four years with the Canadian Military Engineers, where he managed the construction of a dam and an explosives demolition training range. He also traveled all over Canada performing energy audits and indoor air quality studies in military facilities. He has been employed as an HVAC designer (CFB Ottawa, Canadian Navy, Zenix engineering), a facilities manager and a part-time teacher (at La Cité Collégiale) and an equipment sales engineer (at Trane Ottawa). Most recently, he has focused his efforts on green buildings as the Director of Sustainable Design at GENIVAR. Joël is an energetic promoter of environmental practices, he was one of the very first mechanical engineers in Ottawa to become a LEED Accredited Professional. He continues to promote saving the environment one energy-efficient system at a time.

Joël's first involvement in ASHRAE was as a member of the Student Activities Committee, he soon became the chair of this committee, a position he held for three years. He then joined the Board of Governors and became our chapter's President in 1999. His presidency will be remembered for several accomplishments; he oversaw the transfer of our newsletter from a paper format to an internet document, his President's messages were well known for being incisive, funny and passionate, his Board of Governors' meetings, like the Chapter's monthly meetings, began on time and finished early, and he was instrumental in starting the (short-lived) Kingston section of our Chapter. From 2002 to 2007, he was our chapter's historian until his appointment as Regional Vice-Chair for Student Activities.

Apart from his work with ASHRAE, he's also been an active member of ASPE, NCGBA, BOMA and CaGBC. He's been a judge at several Engineering and Science Fairs and has been a volunteer lecturer at Algonquin College, Carleton University and University of Ottawa.