

Physical Plant Services

2018 Winter Newsletter



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Message from the AVP

BY JOHN WITJES, AVP (FACILITIES)

Another year ... and more accomplishments for our team!

As we approach the holiday season and the beginning of a new calendar year, we often find ourselves reflecting on the past year and thinking about the changes that have occurred in our lives. Within PPS, the changes have been many.

Four exciting major capital projects are all nearing completion over the next few months. Mitchell Hall is another wonderful example of a heritage campus building being restored and modernized to include state of the art interdisciplinary spaces within the walls of the original 1930s and 1970s buildings. The Biomedical Research Facility Revitalization Project in Botterell Hall is now hosting leading edge world class research in brand new labs. The West Campus District Energy Conversion project will significantly reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions and help the university achieve a carbon neutral milestone by 2040. And finally, the Mitchell Hall located Institute for Disruptive Technologies will serve as a platform for leading edge research. Navigating the challenges associated with building these four unique projects and then operating, cleaning and maintaining them going forward is only made possible through the collective efforts of many members of our Facilities team ... and to all of those involved I would like to express my sincere appreciation ... your efforts reflect very well on our department and on Queen's.

We continue to build a strong team including some recent great additions in key areas of our department. I am continuously impressed by the talented individuals we attract to PPS and I am very proud of the extra efforts that our staff make to ensure that Queen's continues to lead as one of the finest universities in the country.

It has been a busy time for all of us ... the results have given us much to be proud of.

I would like to thank all PPS employees for their hard work and dedication to Queen's over the past year. I hope that you will find some time over the holiday break to relax away from our busy work lives and to enjoy time with family and friends.

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Mitchell Hall Update

BY FRANCO LORA, PROJECT MANAGER, MITCHELL HALL

In the summer of 2016 Queen's University embarked on an ambitious renovation of a building in the centre of campus known as the PEC (Physical Education Centre). The project, made possible by funding from the provincial and federal government as well as generous donations from alumni, focussed on the collaboration of various University programs and the wellness of the student body.

Ready for the December 2018 exam session, the building will serve Queen's undergraduate and graduate students by meeting both their academic and non-academic needs as a dynamic student hub in the heart of the campus.

The original PEC building, which originated in the 30's and was modified again in the 70's, was significant to student life and was always a main element of the historic streetscape and emblematic of the character of Queen's Campus. When one walks through the doors of Mitchell Hall, they will quickly realize that the project team was able to maintain the feel of yesteryear while introducing a vibrant, new and multi-faceted building that has been re-purposed to meet pressing space needs for health and wellness programs; new and existing engineering initiatives and innovative and interdisciplinary research and academic space.

The revitalized facility will enable students from all faculties and schools to collaborate and experience student life in a dynamic environment. The facility will provide enhanced and integrated counselling services including academic support services, tutoring programs, mental health education and literacy information, spiritual support, peer to peer support programs, exam accommodation, and care for international students.

The facility however was not realized without some design and constructability challenges such as:

- A design that needed to incorporate multiple stakeholders; Athletics, Health and Wellness, Innovation, Engineering, QUIC, the Registrar, the University Chaplain and the Beaty Water Research Centre, in a manner that was sympathetic to each of their programmatic requirements
- An interior demolition and reconstruction that needed to meld together a 1930s, 1970s and new building technology while addressing current code requirements.
- And a very complex relocation of the existing Bews Gym which was in the PEC Building's south end to the building's north end on the basement level, directly below the existing Ross Gym.

The building opened for all on December 4th of this year but work will continue into the spring of 2019 with the completions of deficiencies, paving of the exterior parking lot and in order to complete the fit up of the new Institute for Disruptive Technology.

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Custodial Services Update

BY DON CONNERS, INTERIM MANAGER, CUSTODIAL SERVICES
LARRY PATTISON, DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS

It has been a busy Fall for the Custodial Service group. Activities that we have been engaged in include:

- Preparation for the staged move in of Mitchell Hall
- Recruitment, training and deployment of 11 new staff to fill existing vacancies
- Additional recruitment will follow as our complement increases to staff Mitchell Hall
- Town hall meetings with custodial staff on all shifts

We are pleased that we have been able to offer continuing appointments to all of our new Custodial Services staff.

Thanks to all of the staff that work so well to get the fall season off to a good start and helped to prepare for events like Homecoming, the Fall Preview, Remembrance Day ceremony and Fall Convocation.

We are also pleased that we have been able to fill our second Supervisor position. Michael McLean will be working the evening shift. Matthew Rhymer will continue on the midnight shift. Mike and Matt will be able to resolve problems and will facilitate the work of our evenings and midnight staff.

Senior PPS leadership recently met with a group of Deans and Business Officers about the services provided by PPS. There was general agreement about the importance of cleaning services to Queen's as well as a clearly stated desire to see PPS deliver our services at a high level consistently. In order to move our service delivery towards the desired goal, we have recently gone out to tender for services of an expert in modern management and quality systems as they relate to cleaning services. We will use the services of this consultant to modernize our operation and to identify any barriers to achieving our service goals. We will have more information to provide early in the New Year.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the service of Doug Graham who is retiring. Doug joined Queen's in March of 1987 and has been a member of our cleaning staff for just short of 32 years. Doug also spent many years as an active member and as co-chair of the Physical Plant Services Joint Health and Safety Committee. We appreciate his contribution in both roles.

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Winter Shutdown

BY SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

With the holiday shutdown quickly approaching, we would like to take the time to ask everyone to help power down our office and work spaces. By turning off and unplugging our equipment we can avoid wasteful energy consumption and its damaging carbon impacts.

Last year we saw an energy reduction rate of between 30-40%. This year we would like to surpass these numbers and we can't do it without you! This is why we have provided you with some hints and tips of how to save energy during the holidays.

Like the 12 days of X-mas, here are 12 ways to help us save!

12 Ways to Save

1. Turn Off Computers
2. Turn Off Monitors
3. Turn Off Lights
4. Unplug Heaters
5. Unplug Power Bars
6. Turn Off Other Electronics
7. Unplug Copiers and Printers
8. Unplug Small Appliances
9. Unplug Shredder
10. Clean Out and Unplug Fridges
11. Turn Down Thermostats (18C/65F)

AND

12. Shut Your Window!!

The infographic is set against a dark blue background and is decorated with various festive icons: a starburst, a round ornament with blue and white sections, a bell, a Christmas tree, a Santa hat, and a candy cane.

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Grounds Update

BY MATTHEW BARRETT, GROUNDS MANAGER

Well it's hard to believe that the winter season is upon us already, with our first major snow storm of the season falling so early in November. Along with the record breaking cold weather too, the grounds department is getting ready for another long winter of snow removal and winter maintenance around campus. Believe it or not the planning for this winter season started much earlier in year with some of the preparation work starting in July and August.

With the rumors of an industry wide salt shortage for the 2018-19 winter season the Grounds Department has worked with suppliers and other landscape professional members of Landscape Ontario to source the salt required to keep campus safe for the winter months.

Some of you may be asking "We have a salt shortage? But winter just started, how can that be?"

There are a number of factors that have contributed to this shortage, one being the late spring freezing rain storm which occurred in the middle of April. This storm along, a mid-summer labour disruption at the world's largest salt mine in Goderich, Ontario and reduced capacity at other mines depleted stockpiles of most suppliers. Salt suppliers are obligated to allocate and supply municipalities and road departments with salt before private contractors.

The grounds department took an average of salt purchased over the past five seasons to determine the amount of salt needed for an average winter. With this average the grounds department worked with a supplier and a local contractor to secure the salt need for this season. We also build in a contingency just in case Mother Nature decides to toss us another curve ball in early spring again.



Tony Nizman, from the grounds crew inspects the new walkway salter purchased by PPS

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Thank You's

Hi,

In the University Avenue lobby of Dunning Hall, there is a built-in planter – that is now filled with poinsettia & calla lilies. What a beauty!!

Thank you for lifting our spirits during this busy time of year.

Sincerely,
Phil

Hi John,

I just wanted to write you and express my admiration and thanks to PPS, and especially Neil and Jeff. They were beyond amazing, and the installation of the 4D Window could not have been better. They understood my vision, improved on it, and created something that ... well frankly, is just incredible.

I really enjoyed the process, and I think they did too. I hope that there are many other projects that the School of Computing and the team at PPS can do together.

Thanks again, and Merry Christmas.

Aaron Visser
School of Computing

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Announcements

New Custodial Team Hires

Mashell Brissett, Michael Brown, Marconius Crockett, James Cyr, Paul Homer, Kianna Johnson, Barry Olmstead, Mike Wilkinson, Ray Woodman.

Welcome Back to: Terry Tinkess and Chris Carleton

Retired

Douglas Graham, Custodian, December 31, 2018

Wesley Kennedy, Custodian, December 31, 2018

John Thompson, Custodian, December 31, 2018

Robert Van Heddegem, Plumber, November 31, 2018

Thinking of Retirement?

Queen's Human Resources offers a Series of Pre-Retirement planning courses designed to encourage Queen's employees to begin planning earlier in their lives so that they can live the way they want to when they retire. For more information, check the online catalogue located at <http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/policies/employment/retirement>

We Want to Hear From You!

Do you have a news story or an announcement you would like to make, a cartoon or photograph you'd like to share? We're always looking for submissions for future publications.

Have an idea on what we should name our newsletter. All suggestions are welcome. Submit your ideas to any of the newsletter committee members:

Tracy Elliott, tracy.elliott@queensu.ca and/or Larry Pattison, pattison@queensu.ca

If you would like to start receiving an electronic version of the PPS Newsletter send an email to one of the newsletter committee members and you will be added to the email distribution list.