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Message from the AVP
BY JOHN WITJES, AVP (FACILITIES)

Ah spring at last! … a time of rebirth and inspiration … of change and opportunity. The campus will soon be alive with colorful flowers and plantings to accentuate the end of another great academic year and the spring convocations that will follow. I would like to thank you for all of the work that you have done this past year to ensure that this academic session was a success for Queen’s.

Spring also marks the beginning of one of the busiest times of the year for our PPS team. Our annual suite of deferred maintenance projects and regular preventative maintenance work begins soon after students leave for their summer break. All of our fall and winter planning for this important work will become obvious on campus over the next several months.

This spring we celebrated the grand opening of Mitchell Hall. The building represents a tremendous accomplishment for our team and for those individuals that have worked tirelessly to make it a reality for the Queen’s community. I am extremely proud of the work that our PPS team has done on this project in cooperation with campus stakeholders, external project management, architects, and contractors. If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit the building, I would suggest you take a few minutes to walk through it … we have helped to create a truly special space on campus for all.
Greenhouse Gas Campus Reduction Plan

This spring, the Sustainability team in conjunction with the PPS construction team will wrap up the largest Carbon reduction project ever undertaken at the University. The project, called the West Campus District Energy Conversion Project, is a $10.5 million retrofit that will replace an inefficient 46-year-old underground steam line with new heating systems. West Campus, Donald Gordon Centre, and St. Mary’s of the Lake were previously supplied heating from a 2.5km steam line which ran underground from the Central Heating Plant on Main Campus. New more efficient boiler systems are being installed at these locations to permit the decommissioning of the steam line.

The project has been supported by our internal controls staff, our project managers and our engineering staff. Truly a collaborative effort from all PPS members to make an idea become a successful project.

Transitioning to the new infrastructure will reduce Queen’s University’s greenhouse gas emissions by 1,500 tonnes of CO2 per year. That reduction is over 3% of Queen’s current emissions and is equal to saving 8 rail cars of coal per year. The project was made possible through an $8.9 million provincial government funding contribution along with internal funding.
Building Accessible and Inclusive Environments

BY: MARIDEE OSOLINSKY, PLANNER

Revealing and Renewing the Past: Theological Hall’s Convocation Hall

Originally built in 1879-1880, Theological Hall’s Convocation Hall is currently undergoing a major renovation and renewal project that will be completed in summer/fall 2019. (Photo 1 - original design)

Convocation Hall was first used for major Queen’s celebrations and church services, and in the 1970’s, Convocation Hall was renovated to a performance theatre where the original front stage area was covered (Photo 2 – 1970’s stage area).

As part of the new renewal project, the original arched windows and circular window (with stained glass detail in the shape of four crowns) in the stage area are being uncovered. The two-tone brick detailing over the arched windows and band on the wall will also be restored, creating a modern functioning space with the past details once again prominently featured. (Photos 3 and 4 show these architectural features revealed during the construction phase)

The renovation will also update the performance theatre space to also function as an innovative teaching and learning space that will also be more accessible and inclusive. The existing theatre seating is being replaced with approximately 170 theatre-style seats with tablet arms, along with 5 wheelchair accessible spaces with electric height-adjustable work surfaces and prime viewing positions to the new projection screens. A new barrier-free lift is also being added to make the main stage area accessible to all.

The PPS team members leading this project are Project Manager Isabelle Nault, Designer Lindsay Down, and, Project Coordinator AK Sharma. The lead consultant on the project is Kongats Architects, from Toronto. Stay tuned for the official opening date and exciting reveal of the fully renovated space!

Photo 1 - Interior view of Old Convocation Hall - The Standard (Montreal), 16 December 1911, Queen’s University Archives, Picture Collection

Photo 2 - Previous Proscenium Stage

Photo 3 – Revealing The Original Wall

Photo 4 – Stained Glass Window
Grounds Update

BY: MATTHEW BARRETT, GROUNDS MANAGER

Springing Ahead

Well, it has been another unpredictable winter with the up and down temperatures and freeze and thaw cycles keeping the grounds crew busy salting and plowing. With the warmer daytime temperatures and longer days, we have started to look forward to the spring.

We have already started thinking about our planting beds for this season, with a number of tulip, daffodil and allium bulbs being planted last fall for our first spring show of flowers. In December we started design and choosing annual flowers for our upcoming summer displays in the annual planting beds around campus. We have been working closely with Sunharvest Greenhouses who will be growing our annuals and giving our hanging baskets a head start in the greenhouse.

This summer we will also be focusing on tree trimming, pruning and maintenance around both main and west campus. The west campus is starting to show signs that the emerald ash borer is affecting a number of ash trees in and around Duncan McArthur Hall and Jean Royce 1 and 2. The ash borer damages the layer just behind the bark of the tree. This prevents the movement of water and nutrients between the roots and the leaves, untimely girdling the tree.

The grounds department will continue to treat some ash trees and start the removal process on infected and damages trees. We will also be starting an aggressive tree planting program with 60 new trees being planted around campus started this summer with the bulk of them being planted in the fall.

Ash Borer Damage
Below the Bark

Woodpeckers Damage After Feeding on Ash Borer Larva
Operations Update

BY LARRY PATTISON, DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS

Spring

This has been an unusually challenging Winter and, like everyone else, I am pleased to see clear evidence that Spring is beginning. The long, cold and snowy winter has taxed all aspects of the services we deliver but the people of Physical Plant Services came through in a big way.

We have received many compliments for the snow clearing on pathways, parking lots and building entrances. Equally important but less visible is the way PPS staff responded to the sudden changes in weather and temperature that challenge building climate control systems. We’ve had our share of frozen pipes and equipment that failed due to unusually long cold spells.

Whether you are a member of the Fixit Team and helped to coordinate our activities, a member of the Custodial Team who kept entrances safe, a member of the Grounds Team who kept the roads, pathways and sidewalks safe and passable, a tradesperson who dealt with the challenges that very cold temperatures bring to our buildings, an Operating Engineer in the Central Plant who made sure we have a reliable steam supply or a part of the Engineering and Management Teams that facilitated our weather response, your efforts are appreciated.
## Thank You’s

| Hi Todd,  
| I just wanted to pass along that the electricians (Kyle, Mark, and some others) were exceptionally helpful today and went way above what we had expected and solved a number of problems with that screen lift. They had their lift yesterday afternoon all ready to go this first thing this morning and we were quoted a significant sum by an AV company to do that work and they completed it all in just a couple of hours. Please pass along my thanks to them and their manager if possible (and useful)!  
| Many thanks,  
| Brad  |

| Good morning all,  
| I just wanted to send a quick email to say how great cleaning was this weekend! All requests were well fulfilled. It’s greatly appreciated. Thank you!  
| Rachel  |

| Dear Mr. Witjes,  
| On behalf of the Dan School of Drama and Music I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for how Area Coordinator Dave Clark and his amazing team in Physical Plant Services recently stepped up to handle emergency repairs in Harrison LeCaine Hall.  
| On the Sunday of Family Day weekend (Feb 17), I was dismayed when a staff member texted me a photo of water damaged roof tiles in the basement of HLH. I contacted Campus Security, who in turn contacted PPS and, within hours, compromised hoses along the affected corridor had been replaced by your diligent staff who came in on a long weekend to get the job done.  
| Tuesday morning, our custodian, Jay, cleaned up the debris on the floors then Dave and team showed up to assess the corridors and two classrooms where yet further repair and maintenance work were required. They arranged for a scissor-lift and scaffolding to be brought in order for repairs to take place over reading week so that scheduled classes would not be affected. In addition to making the repairs, they replaced lighting and added batten to reduce noise from heat-pumps in the classrooms. They really went the extra mile.  
| All of this to say that Dave and team handled what could have been a disastrous situation in a timely, professional, coordinated fashion and kept me apprised every step of the way. Talk about excellent customer service! You and your staff in Physical Plant Services are to be commended on providing Queen’s University with such a high standard of support. I really can’t thank you enough!  
| Sincerely,  
| Katherine  |
Good morning Todd,

If you get an opportunity to pass along compliments – they’ve done a wonderful job. I was very happy to see clear passages this morning.

Cheers,
Gladys

Dear Todd:

I would like to commend Physical Plant Services and Custodial Services on their snow and ice clearing on campus. I walked downtown on Monday and was astonished at the terrible state of the sidewalks through the park and on busy streets (King Street). It was nearly impossible to walk on them due to the ice. I did walk beside the sidewalks in the snow at times. It was a relief to get back to campus where the sidewalks and parking lots were totally clear of ice and snow.

Thank you all for doing such an incredible job.

Regards.
Robin

Hi Todd,

Thank you for sending these winter updates out. It is very helpful, and the work of the custodial and grounds crews is much appreciated! It is nasty weather to be outside in.

Lauren

Your team has been exceptional at helping us to settle in to our new space in Mitchell Hall.

Thanks very much,
Steacy

John

The campus walkways and parking lots were well cleared and accessible today. I know that you make this a priority. It would have been hard work today with the cold and wind. Please extend my appreciation to your team.

Tom

Hello,

Thank you so much for proceeding quickly with the addition of a door stopper to the door in Dunning 10. The stopper works beautifully and will ease flow of students between classes.

Best,
Heather
Hello John,

Please pass along my appreciation to all the staff of PPS who are responsible for clearing snow and ice throughout the winter. I’m continually impressed with the excellent job they do, typically early in the morning and when the weather is the worst, to ensure the campus is safe and accessible.

Thank you!
Chris

Hi John,

I just wanted to thank you and your team for the great job you did on the campus grounds during the recent icy weather. The sidewalks, pathways and steps to buildings were all in great shape and safe when I arrived on campus early yesterday morning. I know it meant crews working around the clock to stay on top of the conditions and I really appreciate it. The contrast between our campus and the city sidewalks is remarkable.

Well done to all and thanks!
Ann

Hello,

I just wanted to express my thanks to PPS staff for all the hard work they did making campus safe for everyone after the freezing rain that we got the last few days. It’s got to be a hard job and it’s appreciated.

Lindsay

Hello John:

I just wanted to send you a note to say that your folks do a wonderful job keeping up with our crazy weather. It’s always a relief to be able to safely get to and leave your workplace. No matter what challenge the elements throw at you, we’re able to get where we need to go safely.

Thanks again to you and your staff,
Laurie

Hello Todd,

Thank you to everyone involved in keeping us all safe around campus.

Regards,
Carol
Announcements

New Hires

Caretaker Hires: Ryan Whan, Ruth Wilkinson, James Strang, Jennifer McCormack, Amanda Thurston, Kyle Kish, Stacey Harpell, Kyle Hartlen, March 18, 2019

Fixit Assistant: Heather Dubois, April 1, 2019

Retiring

Susan Dart, Construction Project Manager, April 30, 2019

Joe DeGroot, Draftsperson, May 31, 2019

Debbie Gilliland, Projects Assistant, May 31, 2019

Phil Johnston, Area Manager, June 30, 2019

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/apps/training/

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.