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

The beginning of the academic year is one of my favourite times of the year! The quickened pace to complete all our summer maintenance work, the final preparation and cleaning of the campus grounds and buildings, and that first exciting week in September when the students arrive and bring with them so much energy and enthusiasm. It is with a great deal of pride that we welcome a new academic year to our beautiful campus.

I often reflect on the exceptional skill and professionalism of our team. We continue to move many initiatives forward including the strengthening of our Project Management Office (PMO) and our Custodial team. I am pleased to announce that Carola Bloedorn AIBC, LEED AP will be joining our department as our Director Design and Construction on October 30. Carola brings a wealth of unique project management experience to our team ... and a big Thank You to Ron Kowalczyk who filled in as the interim Director over the past several months. I would also like to welcome new additions to the PMO including Project Managers and Project Coordinators and thank Denis Moore, Tristan Lowenberger, and Scott Maloney for their help over the past few months in supporting the PMO on an interim basis.

Our Custodial team has also strengthened with the addition of 15 new Caretakers to support our plan to improve the delivery of our cleaning services to the campus community. We are already seeing positive early results of this change within the campus buildings.

Also joining our Facilities team for an interim work term, while she completes her studies here at Queen’s in Drama and Media, is Jasmine Chapman. Jasmine is coordinating our Facilities social media outreach efforts and is already doing a great job revitalizing our website and Twitter presence while also creating a new presence on Instagram and Facebook. When we combine all of these along with our newsletter and Gazette articles, we have a wonderful way of connecting our department to the broader Queen’s community and a great means to celebrate the good work we all do in support of Queen’s.

Thank you again for all the hard work and extra effort that you put into your days on a regular basis. We are truly fortunate to have such a strong Facilities team.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of the newsletter and I look forward to a successful and rewarding year for our department.
Construction Update
BY RON KOWALCZYK, INTERIM DIRECTOR, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Fall is upon us and most of the summer construction projects have been completed. The new student street through Mackintosh-Corry is almost complete and is already becoming a focal point of the building. Many of our projects are not seen as they involve infrastructure such as new HVAC, fire alarm systems, and elevator upgrades. These types of projects, are imperative to the safety and comfort of both students and staff. Nicol and Fleming Halls are both going through extensive exterior renovations that will last through till next summer. Two of our largest projects, the Innovation and Wellness Centre and Biomedical Research Facility Revitalization Project are both progressing well and scheduled for completion by mid-2018.

The Project Management team has gone through a number of changes this year with the addition of Rachel Quittkat and Susan Dart as new Project Managers and the creation of a new Project Coordinator, which has been filled by Pierre Bartkowiak and Abhishek Sharma. We also welcome planners and designers Maridee Osolinsky, Lindsay Down and Stephanie Wardman to Facilities from the former Campus Planning and Development team.

We are constantly improving our project management processes to provide a more client friendly approach and to deliver projects in a more timely fashion. The consolidation of the design, planning, and project management teams will provide clients with a much improved project delivery model.

During the next month, we will continue the planning process for next summer’s projects to ensure that students, faculty and staff continue to have a beautiful campus to enjoy and one that is supported by reliable infrastructure and building systems.
Energy Management @ Queen’s
BY: NATHAN SPLINTER, ENERGY ENGINEER and CONNOR REED BALEN, ENERGY ENGINEER INTERN

Chernoff Hall Heat Recovery
This summer has been a busy one for the Energy Management group with electricity peak shaving, project development, and several Utility Metering projects which will serve to better direct future projects.

Our focus recently have been on our laboratories. Lab buildings are some of the largest energy users on campus so it’s exciting to be able to tell the story of the single biggest energy conservation project undertaken at Queen’s.

The project at Chernoff Hall involves installing heat recovery coils in both the exhaust and supply air ductwork and utilizing the coils to transfer energy that would otherwise be exhausted, back to the supply air.

The project, one of several on campus within the University’s “CAPit” project partnership with Honeywell, will save approximately $90,000 annually in steam and electricity costs and approximately 635 tonnes of Greenhouse Gases (GHG). For perspective, that is 1.4% of the total GHG emission for the entire Queen’s Campus.

The work was not without its challenges as in order to install the heat recovery coils, the ductwork was required to be modified while still keeping the building operational. Fortunately the Researchers in Chernoff and the Department Head, Peter Locke, have been extremely helpful, accommodating, and supportive of the project. The project could not have been undertaken without them. As such the heat recovery project will be commissioned later this fall.

With this project well underway the Energy Management group is now looking to the future and reviewing locations where additional heat recovery has potential on campus.
Summer Sustainability Review
BY: AARON BALL, SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

Campus Carbon Inventory
The Sustainability Office continues to track the university’s carbon footprint on an annual basis. The full report will be published in September, however, the results show the university emission increased by roughly 1000 MT. This is largely due to a small increase to the provincial grid emission factor and a full year of operation in our two new residence buildings. The total for 2016 is 43,925 MT CO2e.

Dropbike
Early in the summer we worked with the City and a new company, Dropbike, to implement a bike sharing program on campus and within the broader city. Bike sharing provides flexible access to a bicycle at any time. Users get convenient access to bikes that will be spread throughout campus and the downtown core of Kingston. Membership can be accessed via a smart phone application and riding costs as little as $1/hour. Campus Dropbike locations include; Biosciences Complex, Botterell Hall, Duncan McArthur Hall, Mackintosh-Corry Hall (secure bike parking area), Queen’s Centre and Victoria Hall. Since the program start-up in early July the membership has grown to nearly 700 users.

Sustainability Week
This year, the Sustainability Office took on full responsibility for running Sustainability Week. The event ran from October 1st to 5th, and the office teamed up with roughly 30 individual student groups and clubs. The week featured a field trip, career networking, several information booths, and tours of the Solar Home.

Summer Students
Finally a large thank you to Katharina Holt and Bill Poldon, two very sharp and dedicated students that interned with the office this summer. Their efforts were essential for Sustainability Week planning and coordination, carbon reporting activities, recycling audits and a variety of other tasks. I wish them all the best in their future pursuits.
Grounds Update
BY: MATT BARRETT, GROUNDS MANAGER

It’s been another busy season in the grounds department with the celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary. The university has the red and white on display in our annual planting beds all around campus with some of these displays still showing some queen’s colors as well.

This summer season has been a total opposite to the hot dry summer we had last year at this time. The wet weather made cutting grass and weeding beds difficult however, we did not spend the whole summer watering. Last summers’ dry weather was hard on some on the mature trees around campus. We have been working closely with Timber Tree Service to help manage the maintenance, pruning and removals on campus. This photo shows Timber trimming a Gymnocalcus dioicus Kentucky coffee tree that dates back to 1898. The trimming was completed to reduce the weight of the canopy on the south side of the tree that was cabled together in the 1970’s.

The grounds department also had a number of construction projects this summer, with the much anticipated replacement of the walkway on Ban Righ hill. The interlocking brick was removed and a new concrete walkway was installed and a paver border was added. There was also a number of point projects as well with masonry repairs being made to the lower half of Richardson Hall to help stop water from entering older joints.

Stone repairs were also made to the pillars on the east side of Summerhill. With stone repairs being made to stones that were missing pieces. The top spheres on the four pillars were original stone but in the 1960’s were damaged and replaced with concrete. This past winter stone spheres were made in Ottawa and shipped down to return the pillars to their original look. This work was completed by Edgewater Stonemasons from here in Kingston.
PPS Provides Accessibility Tour on Campus for University of Gondar Representative
BY: MARIDEE OSOLINSKY, PLANNER

I was recently contacted by Ms. Ndinda Msiska, Student & Faculty Liaison for the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program Ethiopia, International Centre for the Advancement of Community Based Rehabilitation, at the School of Rehabilitation Therapy at Queen’s University. Ms. Msiska requested an accessibility tour on campus for the Academic Vice President, Dr. Asrat Atsedeweyn (Dr. Asrat) from the University of Gondar in Ethiopia.

During my time at Queen’s, I have provided a number of tours, but this was my first request for an accessibility-specific tour on campus. I have planned and designed accessible spaces for over twenty years, so any opportunity to highlight inclusive space that respects the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities on campus is an exciting prospect. I learned from Ms. Msiska that the purpose of the tour was to show Dr. Asrat how the campus infrastructure has been made more accessible to persons with disabilities, and ideally, accessibility features seen on the Queen’s campus could then be implemented at the University of Gondar.

So why the visit to Queen’s? Ms. Msiska informed me that thanks to a generous 10-year, US $24.2 million grant from The Mastercard Foundation, the University of Gondar has partnered with Queen’s University to advance inclusive education for young people with disabilities in Ethiopia and other countries in Africa. This partnership includes the University of Gondar providing high-quality education to 450 students and next-generation African leaders, with special care to recruit young people with disabilities and young people from conflict-affected countries. As well, 60 faculty members from the University of Gondar will have the opportunity to study at Queen’s, where they will advance their skills in innovative pedagogy and in leading collaborative research between African and North American universities. And, the University of Gondar and Queen’s University will collaborate to develop Ethiopia’s first occupational therapy program.

The tour was held on September 18th as part of Dr. Asrat’s first trip to Queen’s. Building highlights of the tour included the David C. Smith House residence, as the University of Gondar is planning to build a new residence on one of their campuses; Stauffer Library and the Adaptive Technology Centre (ATC), where Michele Chittenden, Coordinator for Library Services for Students with Disabilities, provided an overview of the accessibility services available to students and a demonstration of some of the accessible software programs; and, the Athletics and Recreation Centre (ARC), where Iain Pope, Coordinator, Facility Operations, provided a detailed tour of the facility and the accessible features and services at the ARC. The tour was well received and it was a pleasure to meet Dr. Asrat and Ms. Msiska. I hope that this is the first of many opportunities to collaborate with the University of Gondar.
Tool of the Quarter
BY: SHAWN MILNE, MECHANICAL ENGINEER

The Fall 2017 “Tool of the Quarter” is the GPI A1 Series Flowmeter.

The A1 Series flowmeter provides instantaneous pipe flow measurements for flows ranging between 3 and 50 GPM. The unique package combines the turbine and LCD display into a self-contained, compact, battery powered unit allowing for a versatile and easy to use device. On Queen’s campus, the flowmeter can be used to measure the condensate return for the steam system within a building. The installation of the flowmeter can assist when: identifying leaks and losses in the system and determining a building’s steam consumption. The flowmeter features an aluminum casing with two threaded ends which allow for easy installation of the meter. The A1 Series flowmeter uses technology similar to the meters that are being installed as part of the Campus Metering Project. However, the A1 Series flowmeters cannot be connect to a metering software platform that tracks historical data.

The **GPI A1 Series Flowmeter** is available from the engineering group to all PPS personnel.
Thank You!

Larry,

I bumped into a fellow wearing a Queens PPS hoodie at Tim Horton’s this morning and I asked him what PPS stood for and he told me. Then he went on about how proud he was of how the campus was in terms of readiness for students and how great it looked and I thanked him as I now have two daughters here. Anyway this encounter reminded me that you had joined Queen's and I looked you up. I was wan of Tony and Graham's MSc students around the same time as you, maybe a year behind, along with Pat Cusack in the late 80's Anyways, thanks to you too for keeping the university running so well - at least that's what it looks like to me!

Paul Choudhury

Larry Pattison is the Director, Engineering and Operations

I know more often than not we only get reports when things aren’t going well. So I wanted to just make mention of one of your staff members that I think is quite stellar, Todd Hartrick. Honestly, he is so helpful and often remembers to follow up on things before I have to. Really, he’s a star! Best wishes, Nancy Petri

Todd Hartrick is the Fix-it Supervisor

Hey Davin, 
Just wanted to share with you how great the custodial staff on the 3rd floor have been the last few months! Our lab hasn’t had service like this since 2013! And the women’s washroom is actually pleasant to go into now! 
Thanks! Leslie

Dear Matthew, 
We were just visiting the newly-renovated rooms for the School of Urban and Regional Planning on the third floor of Macintosh Corry Hall and noticed that PPS had removed the weeds and debris from the roof of the main street. 

We appreciate your response to the requests from the students in Professor Donald’s class at the Grounds Committee last year. Your clean-up will certainly improve the view from the many rooms that look onto that roof, including the new offices for all the SURP graduate students. Thanks for listening and making our new home more attractive. We look forward to other initiatives to make our campus greener and more sustainable.

Best regards Dave Gordon

Matt Barrett is the Grounds Manager

Dear Leah, 
You and your team did an outstanding job supporting the convocation ceremonies recently. Thank you for the attention to detail, and the many tasks carried out to make things run smoothly. People are always pleased when things go well and look good, but do not always remember those behind the scenes who work to make that happen. I’m grateful to you all for your hard work and professionalism. Please pass on my thanks to your colleagues in PPS. I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Sincerely, Daniel Woolf

Leah Neff is an Assistant Manager in Custodial Services


Announcements

New Hires
Johnathan Dillon, Plumber, June 12, 2017
Abhishek Sharma, Construction Project Coordinator, September 11, 2017
Pierre Bartkowiak, Construction Project Coordinator, September 25, 2017
Andrew Richmond, Electrician, October 2, 2017
Carola Bloedorn, Director, Design and Construction, October 30, 2017

Retired

David Lynch, Electrician, August 31, 2017

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

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.