Message from the AVP Facilities

by John Witjes, AVP Facilities

How time flies…six months has passed since I was appointed AVP Facilities last September. It has been a wonderful experience for me and has provided me with increased exposure to the many great aspects of our university including our very capable and dedicated leaders. We truly are in good hands as we look forward to the future.

The challenges for me have been many and the job has been very demanding, however, I have received great support from our team here in PPS and many members of the campus community.

As I reflect on my journey here at Queen’s, one constant remains vivid in my mind - the great people I have met and worked with at Queen’s. We are fortunate within Physical Plant Services to work with colleagues that are supportive of Queen’s and proud of their individual and collective contributions to the university…and for this I am very grateful. We have a strong team of dedicated, proud and engaged employees which has made many of the challenges we face as a department less difficult to navigate. We are all truly fortunate to have the opportunity to work together and I personally appreciate your ongoing support and dedication.

We are poised to take PPS to the next level of performance and I will need the support of all PPS employees to achieve this. Our vision needs to be the further development of a great PPS team with an even higher level of professionalism. A team that has engaged its customers and understands their needs, and a team that has responded to these needs by providing transparent, high quality customer service and support to the campus community.

We’ve taken a number of steps already. The department has added key individuals in critical roles including the Director of Design and Construction, David Boughton, Project Manager, Isabelle Nault and Financial Reporting Officer, Jennifer Haystead. Our project delivery model is going to be the model that others look to as the standard. Also, in order to become more visible and available to our customers, we have launched a new website (http://www.queensu.ca/pps/) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/queensuPPS) presence. We have also created a Client Satisfaction Survey (http://queensu.fluidsurveys.com/s/PPS-winter-2015/) to ensure that we are providing services that our clients need and to a level that they expect. You will also see more regular internal and external communications, including this newsletter, related to departmental activities and initiatives.

These truly are exciting times for PPS and for Queen’s. I look forward to your continued support as we set a new course for our future in support of the university’s Strategic Framework (http://www.queensu.ca/strategicframework) and the campus community.
Richardson Stadium Revitalization

by David Boughton, Director, Design & Construction

Richardson Stadium has been approved for a major upgrade. In 1921 Richardson Stadium was originally built on main campus and for almost a century it has been a rallying point for Queen’s students and Alumni. The original structure was built at a time when the student population was no more than 2,000. The stadium was rebuilt at West Campus in 1971 using some of the original main campus stadium seating. After more than 40 years at this location, the stadium no longer meets the needs of the University.

The stadium revitalization, once completed for the beginning of the 2016 football season, will once again be the centre of attention for football at Queen’s university. The design currently being worked on by PPS will see the inclusion of:

- an artificial turf field;
- state-of-the-art scoreboard with Jumbotron video screen;
- modern stadium seating elevated for improved sight-lines;
- improved accessibility and parking;
- new sound system;
- elevated press box and
- enhanced lighting, on and off the field.

Not only will the new stadium be the home to football and the Gaels, it will provide much needed facilities for other field games, including soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and international rugby.

The design team is currently working with various stakeholders and the City of Kingston to meet the deadline for the first game in the 2016 football season. Construction will start in the fall of 2015 with the demolition and removal of the existing seating and field. Site work will start shortly thereafter with infrastructure services. The spring of 2016 will see the stadium taking shape with seating, lighting and the new main entrance being constructed. This will be an exciting time for Queen’s, with a new facility that will lead us through the next century.

For more information about this project visit the website: http://www.queensu.ca/connect/richardsonstadium/
New Residences Well Underway

by Larry Pattison, Director, Engineering & Operations

The new Queen’s residences are nearing completion. Graham Construction and their concrete forming subcontractor, Bellai, have made excellent progress despite the frigid temperatures last year. The buildings, patterned on Leggett and Watts, will have a combined occupancy of 550 beds. The exteriors of the buildings are almost complete with interior finishing well underway. Occupancy is scheduled for this July.

A bird’s eye view of the Stuart Street Residence construction project taken February 2014.

Stuart Street Residence construction update taken February 2015.
Transpass Program: Save time. Save money. Save our planet.

*by Aaron Ball, Sustainability Manager*

With current pump prices and an average vehicle fuel efficiency rating, travelling to work costs the average Queen’s commuter roughly $40 / month. The average greenhouse gas emission impact for a Queen’s commuter is 840 kg / year. Add all those commuters together and the GHG impact is roughly 2000 MT of CO₂e emissions every year. The financial and environmental impact is great, but the university now has a solution.

The [City of Kingston Transpass Program](#) has been in place at Queen’s for almost a year thanks to the efforts of Donna Stover and our Parking Office. The program is providing 215 participants with a transit pass at a discounted price that can be paid for through Queen’s payroll deduction.

The City’s transit system has recently been enhanced to include an express route with 15 minute service during peak times, with plans to expand the express coverage. The system offers further flexibility and convenience by providing ‘Park & Ride’ locations and bus racks for cyclists. Join the program, and no longer worry about finding a parking spot!

There are other benefits to joining the program, including:
- a more environmentally-friendly way to commute to reduce your carbon footprint
- saving your money - the base rate for the Transpass Program is **$53 per month** and the more people that join the larger the discount becomes
- convenient payroll deduction plan
  - unlimited monthly bus rides
- eligibility for the 15% federal public transit tax credit.

For more information about the program, or for enrollment inquiries you can contact Donna Stover in the Parking Office, 613-533-6979.

### Transpass Rate Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Employees Enrolled in the Transpass Program</th>
<th>Transpass Rate per Month</th>
<th>Adult Monthly Unlimited Ride Pass Jan. 1/2014 Rate</th>
<th>Savings $</th>
<th>Discount %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-10 Employees</td>
<td>$62.00</td>
<td>$72.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-25 Employees</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-100 employees</td>
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<td>101-250 employees</td>
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<td>$72.00</td>
<td>$19.00</td>
<td>26%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
So far, our winter this year hasn’t been as bad as last year but still has presented its challenges with two major snow storms happening during the workday. Daytime snow storms make it harder to clear sidewalks and pathways effectively because the crew must compete with increased pedestrians and vehicle traffic. However, in spite of this, the Grounds crew has managed to keep sidewalks cleared and passable while other University departments and businesses were closing.

The University is now using different types of ice melt and road salt on campus this season. These different salts and salt additives improve the effectiveness of the salt on ice and snow and also reduce the amounts of salt used. The Grounds department is following guidelines set out by the Smart about Salt Management Program and hope to have the campus certified within the next few years.

The Grounds crew has done an excellent job this winter keeping the campus clear and safe for staff, students and faculty. They’ve had many earlier mornings, late days, and weekends on campus clearing snow to ensure the safety of everyone on campus.

Don’t worry, we’ll be cutting grass and planting flowers soon!
Fix-it. How Can I Help You?
by Llynwen Osborne, Recycling Coordinator

Fix-it is the name assigned to the operations hub at Physical Plant Services (PPS). The team consists of Sharon Posadowski (Fix-it Coordinator), Angie Briceland (Clerk), and Todd Hartrick (Clerk). This group serves as the PPS front-line, providing customer service for over 25,000 people who are working, teaching and learning in 100+ buildings at Queen’s.

Angie is the first on the phones and the first on dispatch. On an average day, Angie is almost always on the phone and generates close to 100 work orders. Angie has been a part of the PPS team for over 37 years, giving her a rich knowledge of the department, our customers and the university as a whole.

Todd is second on the phones and dispatch. Todd closes out work orders, prepares special and project work orders for billing, monitors requests from Ontario One Call, sends out shut-down notifications, maintains fleet and driver lists, and prepares purchase orders for outside contractors. Todd has worked for PPS for just over three years and has quickly become an important resource at PPS.

Sharon oversees all aspects of Fix-it including: facility inventory, equipment tagging, fire safety systems, preventative maintenance programs, operational maintenance programs, creating work orders, invoicing, and keys among many other duties. In short, Sharon is the guru of all things relating to PPS.

This dynamic group is not just the nerve centre for PPS operations but also for the whole campus ensuring that as the calls and e-mails roll in, work orders are generated and that urgent repairs are given immediate attention. This year Fix-it has been given new tools to reach the campus audience and improve the services offered by PPS including a new and improved (http://www.queensu.ca/pps/) a twitter account @queensuPPS and a customer satisfaction survey (http://queensu.fluidsurveys.com/s/PPS-winter-2015/).
Tool of the Month: SeeSnake Micro Inspection

by Michael White, Mechanical Engineer

The SeeSnake Micro Inspection camera by Rigid, allows you to easily perform visual inspections in hard to reach areas.

The camera will fit into holes as small as 3/4 inch in diameter, which allows you to look behind walls, down drains or ductwork, inside machinery, or hundreds of places saving costs and time consuming disassembly or demolition.

The camera cable lengths are adjustable from 18 inch all the way up to 6 feet long. The cable can be manipulated into any position, it will obediently stay in a set position and the lens and cable are submersible for underwater use. The cable also allows the camera head to go around bends (like plumbing traps) and will provide a picture even if submersed in water. To expand the usefulness of the camera an angled mirror, magnet or hook can be attached to the cable end.

The SeeSnake Micro Inspection Camera along with training materials are available from the engineering group to all PPS staff. For more information, ask the Fix-it desk staff.

Clothes for Kids — PPS Donation

by Donna Stover, Parking Manager

This year, the PPS Christmas Party raised $205 for Clothes for Kids from the raffle that was held for two tickets to the Ottawa Senators hockey game.

A special thanks to Water Management Consultants Inc. for the donation of the hockey tickets and to everyone that purchased tickets.

Congratulations to the winner - Gary Sitoski

Money order issued to the Children’s Wish Foundation from Physical Plant Services.
Tell Us What You Think!

Do you have a news story or an announcement you would like to make, or a cartoon or photograph you’d like to share? We’re looking for submissions to add to the next publication that will come out in June, 2015.

All ideas and suggestions on the newsletter’s name, design and content are welcome. Submission deadline for the next edition is May 1, 2015.

You can submit your ideas to any of the newsletter committee members:

Larry Pattison, pattison@queensu.ca
Llynwen Osborne, lrao@queensu.ca
Tracy Elliott, tracy.elliott@queensu.ca

Career Fair—ARC

I wanted to thank you so much for all your help and the help of your staff in making our Career Fair in the ARC run so smoothly. Everyone was on time, professional and had the set up done so efficiently and timely it was amazing. Tear down and cleanup also went great and the day was a huge success. We really appreciate everything your team did for us to make it run so smoothly.

Thanks a lot.
Debbie

Science Discovery Day A HUGE Success!

“Just finished getting re-organized after our HUGE Science Discovery Day --and now want to sit down and THANK all the wonderful support I have been given to make the day happen smoothly. This includes a BIG THANK YOU to Physical Plant Services.

Please thank Ron Oomen for me--he was friendly and helpful--and I am so glad he was there to help during and after the event. Thanks also to you for arranging it”!

Regards,
Diane

Ron Oomen is an Area 1 Custodian

Twitter @queensuPPS

Thanks to @queensuPPS for the stellar snow clearing around Stauffer Library this a.m.! Very easy getting into work in my manual wheelchair. #A11y