

onQ

MARCH 2012



A magazine for Queen's University faculty and staff
PEOPLE, STORIES AND IDEAS

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL STATION





Nothing sharpens the senses like a walk across a frozen lake on a brisk February day. Last month, Frank Phelan, Manager and Senior Instructor, and Stephen Lougheed, Director coaxed me on to Lake Opinicon when I visited them at Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS). This place is a gem, not only because of its breathtaking beauty, but because of the research conducted there, and the comprehensive outreach program inviting the community to participate in studying our natural sciences. During my visit to QUBS, I was reminded of the very special place QUBS holds at Queen's, and of the significant contribution students, researchers and faculty continue to make to our community and to the world.

For a different sense-sharpening experience, the Kingston Canadian Film Festival (KCFF) presented a wide array of Canadian cinema last month. Queen's involvement in this annual event was expanded this year with many of our alumni featuring their own films; our professors serving as members of the KCFF Board of Directors, a team of student volunteers, and Alison Migneault, Marketing and Communications as Festival Director. The KCFF is a testament to the collaboration that thrives among Queen's and the Kingston communities.

I hope this issue of onQ will offer a little bit of calm during the most hectic time of the academic year.

Your comments are always welcome.

Anita Jansman

Do you
recognize
this?

Turn to p. 15 for the answer.



HIDDEN GEMS

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Commentary and expert opinions that address issues related to higher education and are consistent with the mandate of *onQ* are welcome to *Viewpoint*. The editor reserves the right to edit or decline submissions based on style, length, appropriateness, relevance, and legal considerations. Maximum 300 words.

Letters are welcome and should address issues directly related to stories that appear in *onQ*. The editor reserves the right to edit or decline submissions based on style, length, appropriateness, relevance, and legal considerations. Maximum 200 words.

All submissions must be original and addressed to the editor, and include your name, affiliation and phone number. Send submissions to anita.jansman@queensu.ca by the 15th of each month, to be considered for publication in the next issue.

ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION COORDINATOR

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If you would prefer to receive onQ electronically, please notify us at advert@queensu.ca

ON THE COVER: Mark Conboy, Operations and Research Assistant, skates on Lake Opinicon, Queen's University Biological Station.
PHOTO: Philina English, M.Sc. (Biology) '09

WORKING TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF A COMMON GOAL

BY TIM FORT, HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

At Queen's, our rich menu of common beliefs leads a huge (and humbling) number of us to support the inclusive mission of the Queen's Community Appeal — for which I am happy to serve as co-chair. Here at the university we have created a vibrant and diverse centre of excellence – supported in different ways by each of us.

I observed a similar dynamic in 1973 when I began my working career as an overly-enthusiastic young actor at the Weston Playhouse in Weston, Vermont (population 600). Within a week of my first performance, the tiny stream behind the theatre rose to record heights washing away roads, bridges, and the lower portion of the Playhouse – including its pianos, costumes, scene shop and cabaret.

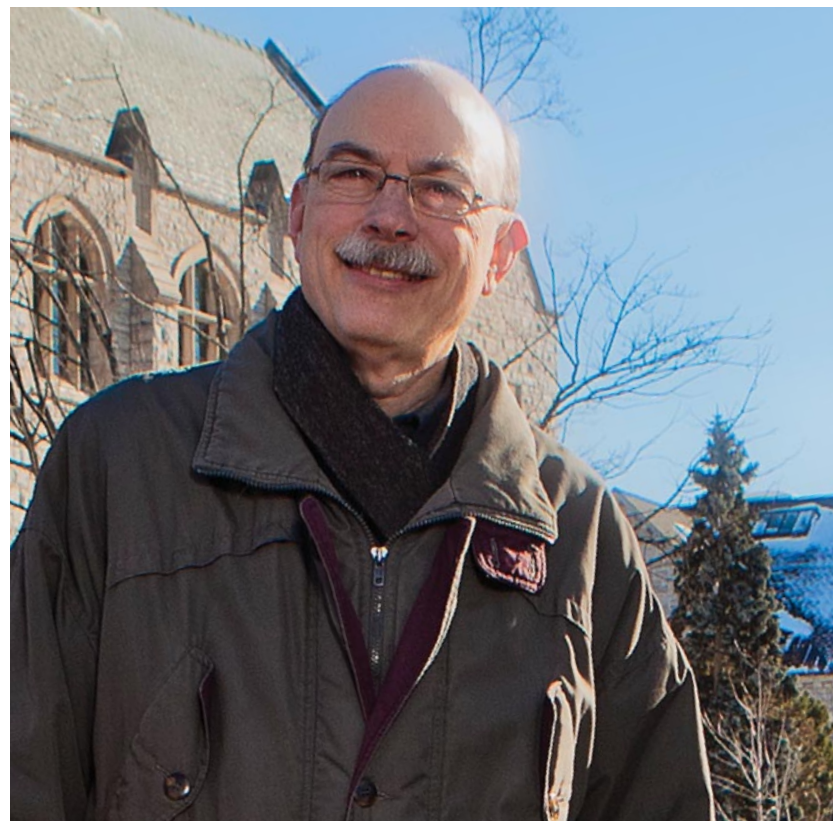
In a few hours, the entire community, from farmers to shopkeepers to artisans, had rallied behind our company – offering sandwiches, shovels, and generous amounts of sweat in support of the venerable arts institution that they all considered to be “their” theatre. That

evening the show, though soggy and bedraggled, went on, reinforcing our communal sense that we were all working for a common goal. We would later summarize that goal (lovingly recognizing our rural roots) as: “Quality. Community. Cows.”

Here at Queen's, as along that flood plain in rural Vermont, a diverse group of individuals chooses to work together naturally, generously, and unhesitatingly in support of a larger communal idea: one that includes the notion that great artistic, educational, and socially relevant experiences need to be available everywhere – not only in major urban centres.

In the end, we are greater than the sum of our parts, clearly sharing a belief we have created something special that even momentary flood waters don't stand a chance of diminishing. **Q**

To learn more about the Queen's Community Appeal and to get involved, please visit [www.givetoqueens.ca/Community Appeal](http://www.givetoqueens.ca/CommunityAppeal)



Tim Fort

CORRECTION In the February issue of onQ, Charles Beach, recipient of the Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision was incorrectly identified with the Classics Department. Dr. Beach is a faculty member of the Economics Department. We apologize for this error.

onQ welcomes commentary and expert opinions that address issues related to higher education. Email anita.jansman@queensu.ca or submit via www.queensu.ca/news/onq. Maximum 300 words.

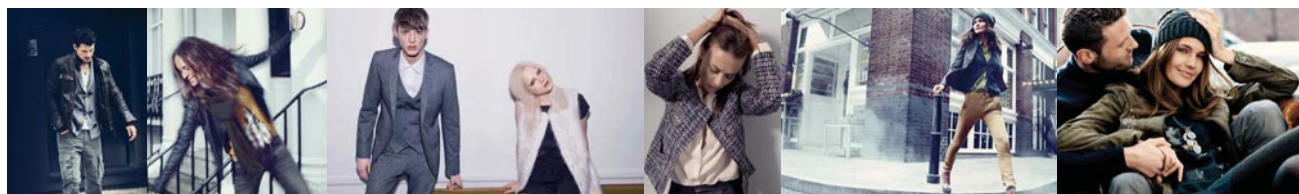


CHRIS JAMES
MENS/WOMENS
DEFINING CONTEMPORARY STYLE

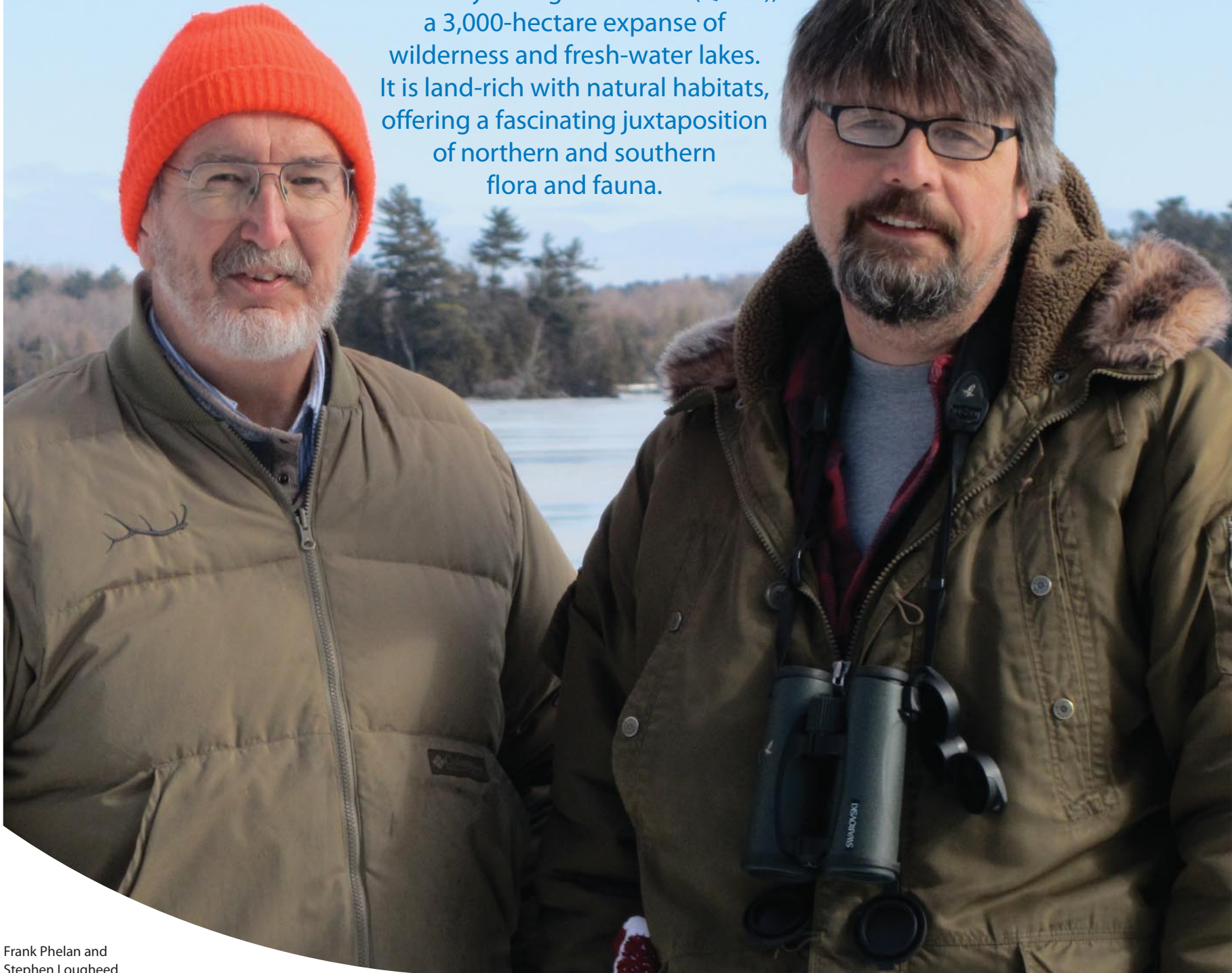
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A 50-minute drive from Kingston up Highway 15 transports you to a unique and wonderful teaching and learning facility. This is Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS), a 3,000-hectare expanse of wilderness and fresh-water lakes. It is land-rich with natural habitats, offering a fascinating juxtaposition of northern and southern flora and fauna.



Frank Phelan and
Stephen Lougheed

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL STATION

COVER STORY

Visitors can easily be lulled into a false sense of tranquility by the beauty of the land, the rows of quaint cabins, and the resort-like feel of the large dining room in the main hall. But make no mistake. Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS) is an intense research facility and the research done there results in the publication of titles such as "Field endocrine studies of tree swallows" and "Ecology of stress in wild fish."

Even during sleepy winter months, when most creatures find respite from the cold under the waters of Lake Opinicon or in the myriad holes, nooks and crannies nature offers, QUBS staff, faculty and students are busy participating in winter ecology field courses.

"This is a facility like no other," says Stephen Lougheed, director of QUBS and professor in the Department of Biology. "It attracts students from around the world. It's unique in size and in the level of research intensity, and one of the few places in Canada where students can get real, practical field experience."

Internationally, QUBS garners considerable attention and has earned an exemplary reputation among the world's leading specialists in conservation biology, ornithology, and herpetology. Dr. Lougheed, a renowned tropical biologist who regularly teaches field courses in South America and Africa, refers to numerous published papers from QUBS appearing in leading scientific journals.


"In the last two decades at least one paper from QUBS research has appeared each year in top journals such as *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Proceedings of the Royal Society*," says Dr. Lougheed.

Hard-earned international acclaim is critical to QUBS's ongoing contribution to the study of natural sciences, but so too are the relationships that QUBS staff and faculty have fostered through the years with neighbours. These landowners now regard Queen's as stewards of this important and beautiful piece of our natural world.

"We open the doors to community members. We host community dinners and invite our neighbours to hear lectures by visiting scientists," says Frank Phelan, Manager and Senior Instructor. "These relationships are vitally important. We're comfortable playing the role of community resource. When we want to get to a particular marsh that isn't on QUBS land, we feel comfortable enough to ask to gain access. There's lots of goodwill."

Since 1976, Mr. Phelan has witnessed QUBS's growth from a small parcel of 26 hectares to the sprawling 3,000 hectares it is today. He has played a key role in the station's land acquisition and in the creation and development of program offerings, which began as workshops and field trips for naturalists, and have grown to include undergraduate courses in biology and geography, graduate courses, and ongoing research projects. His background is biology but early on he had to apply his construction and building skills to get things running efficiently and safely.

Mr. Phelan and his wife live on site and his children grew up there. He oversees the station's operations, accommodating students, researchers and visitors on a year-round basis. He has seen countless students through the years. Some graduated students go on to other universities in other countries and return as experts with their own groups of graduate students.

Dr. Lougheed is keen to develop a more comprehensive outreach program during his four-year term as QUBS director, which began in January. He believes strongly that one of the roles of a university is to remain relevant to the public and to educate people from the very young to those in their senior years about the natural world. 

www.queensu.ca/qubs



The **Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre** is a partnership between Queen's and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to deliver outreach and education in biodiversity conservation and environmental studies.

The centre's 400-hectare tract is within the Frontenac Arch World Biosphere Reserve, lying between Frontenac Provincial Park and the Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS). Elbow Lake has facilities for 60 to 70 people (campsites and cabins), a central dining facility, a lodge and meeting place, plus two entire lakes, myriad wetlands, trails and a rich array of terrestrial habitats.

Last summer, the centre invited children aged 10-14 to the first Eco-adventure Summer Camp, with activities focusing on natural history, environmental and conservation issues, and outdoor sports. The camp is set to run this summer in July and August; a series of workshops for adults is currently being developed as well.

The Office of Advancement is raising funds to secure a permanent funding arrangement with The Nature Conservancy of Canada, in order to establish a long-term plan for educational outreach.

"The current infrastructure that we have at QUBS is at capacity at key times of the year, especially May and August," says, Stephen Lougheed, Director, QUBS. "The purchase of the Elbow Lake facility will allow us to host a greater array of field courses and field trips for lecture-based courses, potentially doubling the number of students currently served."

www.queensu.ca/qubs/about/facilities/elbow-2.html

DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS AT FACULTY OF EDUCATION TACKLE ORGANIC WASTE

BY KRISTYN WALLACE

When Brian Zufelt first heard about the campus organics program, he thought it would be a great fit for the Faculty of Education.

“This seemed like a good project here, where we teach students to become teachers,” says Mr. Zufelt. “I thought it would be a good idea for them to take out into the schools.”

As the facilities manager of Duncan McArthur Hall on west campus, Mr. Zufelt looked to four long time employees

The contents of the bins are deposited into a 40-gallon bin which is then put out with the building’s garbage and recycling for collection. The faculty is currently diverting about half of one large green bin per week.

Mr. Zufelt credits the staff members, who primarily work in the faculty’s mail room and are tasked with implementing the program, with its success thus far.

“They are an integral part of this community out here, and they do great work,” he says of the Organic Busters team.

This is by no means the first, or only, sustainability-related project the Faculty of Education has undertaken. Last summer, a long-neglected courtyard was turned into a garden. Old classroom tables were refurbished as surfaces on work benches in the Technological Education workshop, and their metal legs were used for student projects. A local farmer picks up the sawdust collected in the shop.

And, with time and the ongoing efforts of dedicated staff, the organics program is likely to grow.

“Waste diversion and cutting waste disposal will become more and more important in the coming years,” says Mr. Zufelt. “I would think in the near future we will be expanding it and putting some bins in other public areas.”

“Waste diversion and cutting waste disposal will become more and more important in the coming years”

to help spearhead the initiative: Harold Yntema, Ken Montroy, Troy Laporte and Brian Secker. The four staff members have a combined 84 years of service to the university.

Every Friday the group, known to those around them as the Organic Busters, collects the dozen or so small green bins located in offices, staff rooms and kitchens throughout the building.



(l-r) Troy Laporte, Harold Yntema, Brian Secker, Ken Montroy, Faculty of Education

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MINIU FOR YOU!

BY CHRISTINA ARCHIBALD



With its diverse offerings of fresh and exciting presentations, social activities, and interactive learning, MiniU gives Queen's staff, faculty and their families the opportunity to be Queen's students for a day or for a whole weekend.


"This year we've got over 45 sessions available and 70 per cent of our presenters are brand new to MiniU," says Melanie McEwen, Manager, Alumni Education. "Our experts range from theologians and historians to neuroscientists and engineers. This year alumnus and Vanier Medal winner Chancellor David Dodge delivers the *Last Lecture on Earth*. It promises to be an exciting and eye-opening weekend for everyone involved."

There are numerous personal learning and professional development opportunities offered over the weekend, including film and media professor Sidneyeve Matrix's take on how to turn social and mobile media marketing to your advantage; a look at the latest in learning environment technologies with an Emerging Technology Centre expert;

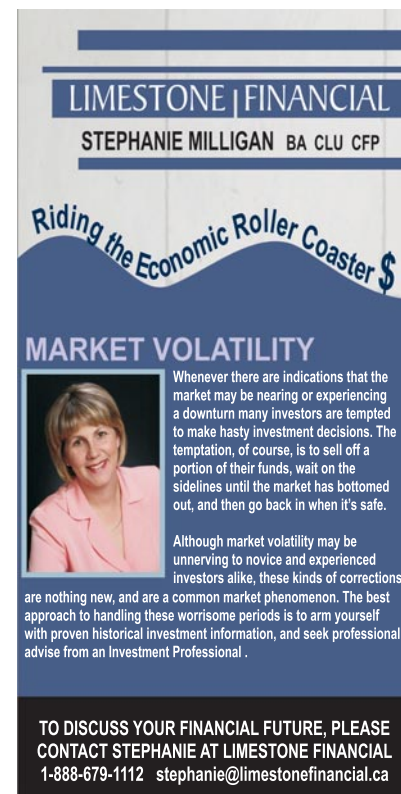
and an examination of brand new solar energy technology and green building ideas with the Solar Education Centre's Design Team. Attendees can request certificates of completion for sessions attended by giving the MiniU booking team advance notice of this preference when registering.

Participants wanting to loosen up after the lectures can enjoy a fencing tutorial, join a beer-tasting lunch downtown, or dance at the Saturday night ceilidh.

Registration packages range from full weekend access with accommodation to day passes and a flexible à la carte option. Each allows for choice among an exciting range of activities.

Mark your calendars and register for the fifth annual Queen's MiniU from Friday, May 25 to Sunday, May 27. 

Register before May 1, 2012 and you'll be entered in our prize draw for a Tourism Kingston 'Kingston Getaway' for two, including accommodation, dining and attractions. events.queensu.ca/miniu
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Although market volatility may be unnerving to novice and experienced investors alike, these kinds of corrections are nothing new, and are a common market phenomenon. The best approach to handling these worrisome periods is to arm yourself with proven historical investment information, and seek professional advice from an Investment Professional.

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WHAT'S YOUR THESIS ABOUT? YOU'VE GOT THREE MINUTES

Graduate students will test their power as public speakers this spring in a challenging new university-wide competition that asks them to present their thesis projects in three minutes or less.


"The competition is an important exercise for graduate students, pushing them to think critically and quickly while presenting," says Jillian Burford-Grinnell, President, Society of Graduate and Professional Students. "It also encourages participants to be concise yet engaged when discussing their work."

The Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT) requires participants to distill complex research into short, clear presentations, which they present to a general audience and a panel of non-specialist judges.

Brenda Brouwer, Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies, says the exercise would have been very useful when she was a graduate student. The skills learned during the competition –

particularly the ability to convey ideas in a convincing, understandable way – will help students propel their careers forward.

"It's one thing to describe your research in 20 minutes or so, but to pare it down to three minutes is a real test of effective communication," says Dr. Brouwer, a professor in the School of Rehabilitation Therapy. "It forces you to be selective and prioritize."

Originally developed by Australia's University of Queensland in 2008, the 3MT competition at Queen's is the first of its kind in Ontario. The mid-April competition is open to master's (thesis only) and doctoral students. Participants will only be allowed to use one static PowerPoint slide. No additional electronic media or props will be permitted. Judging will be based on communication style, comprehension, and audience engagement. 

www.queensu.ca/sgs/3mt.html

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SCENES FROM THE KINGSTON CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL



Blaine Allan, Professor,
Film and Media, and
Chair, KCFF Board



The 12th annual Kingston Canadian Film Festival ran March 1-4 in downtown Kingston and on the Queen's campus. An event with many Queen's connections, including four feature films and numerous short films by alumni, the festival included 29 screenings, six workshops and several special events throughout the weekend. With attendance increasing more than 10 percent over 2011, the event was a resounding success for all involved.



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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT DUNCAN CREE



Growing up in the Mohawk settlement of Kanestake in Quebec, Duncan Cree never imagined he would one day become the first Aboriginal Canadian to earn a PhD in mechanical engineering, a role model for indigenous people, or the director of the Queen's Aboriginal Access to Engineering Program. In fact, he assumed he would follow his father's footsteps and become a car mechanic. This was until he was accepted in an airplane mechanics program at the John Abbott College in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

After completing college, Dr. Cree's uncle, an expert in oral surgery, encouraged him to study mechanical engineering at Concordia University. Persevering through his undergraduate and master's degree, he went on to earn his PhD in 2009.

"I struggled through those years in university but was determined. I didn't give up. I never thought I would be a role model, but it feels good," says Dr. Cree.

Between his years of study, Dr. Cree spent time in the flight research laboratory at the National Research Council in Ottawa. He became the first Aboriginal Canadian to be accepted into the summer Space Studies Program at the International Space University located in Strasbourg, France in 2007, and was chosen to participate in the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference the following summer. Dr. Cree is also a long-time collaborator with the Quebec Aboriginal Science and Engineering Association and a judge at its annual Aboriginal Science Fair.

In 2009, Dr. Cree was awarded a two-year postdoctoral fellowship by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada which he chose to complete at Queen's. Just as his research position was finishing, the positions of assistant professor in Civil Engineering and director of Aboriginal Access to Engineering Program became available.

The boy who loved to tinker in his father's garage, build tree houses and push sleds made with two downhill skis and a board has become, in the words of Roberta Jamieson, president and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, "a global role model, not only for our people, but for indigenous people the world over." 

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT BARBARA RUSSELL


Barbara Russell is the finance and information clerk with Career Services, and you might think she sits in a quiet office far removed from the heavy student traffic that passes by the reception desk in Gordon Hall every day. In fact, her days are filled with lively interaction with students, a role in which she thrives. Yes, she crunches the numbers, sends reports to Financial Services, and helps to organize numerous job fairs Career Services hosts throughout the year. However, in the 20 years Ms Russell has worked at Career Services, it is her passion for students, including international students, that inspires her most.

“As an international person myself, I reach out to these young people so far from home. I’ve opened my heart and home to them,” says Ms Russell.

Born in Jamaica, Ms Russell left her country when she was 18 years old and made Kingston her home, having recognized the economic and social advantages of immigrating to Canada. Lawyer, Angie Kemp, BA, J.D., ’00, has been a beneficiary of Ms Russell’s generosity.

“Barbara’s smile, sincerity and spirit make her one of the most special women I know. Barbara gives students the support and comfort of family when they are away from their homes and country – not because it’s her job, but because she genuinely cares about them and wants them to succeed at Queen’s. Barbara was always there for me and still is, years later,” says Ms Kemp.

Customer service is at the heart of Ms Russell’s approach to her role in Career Services and she admits that it is “in her blood.” When students, employers at job fairs, and colleagues are satisfied, she is satisfied.

Ms Russell loves her adopted city, where she enjoys spending time with her teenaged daughter. She admits, however, that Jamaica is still home and returns to Montego Bay regularly to visit her family. 

An advertisement for Anna Lane downtown condos. The top half features a 3D architectural rendering of a modern multi-story building with balconies, set against a blue sky. To the left of the building is a white church with a steeple. A circular badge in the top left corner of the rendering area says "30% SOLD". On the left side of the advertisement, the text "A Downtown Lifestyle You Can Afford" is written vertically in red. Below the rendering, the name "Anna Lane" is written in a large, stylized font, with "downtown condos" in a smaller font underneath. To the right of the name, it says "Register on-line for our next Sales Information Session". At the bottom, there is a blue banner with the website "www.annalane.ca", the "Options" logo (a red flower-like shape), and the phone number "613.546.8252". The text "FOR HOMES | EASTERN ONTARIO" is written in small letters below the Options logo. On the right side of the banner, it says "Sales Office: 248 Wellington St. Open Wed. - Fri., 10 am - 4 pm".

Would you like to suggest someone for Employee Spotlight? Email anita.jansman@queensu.ca

WELLNESS AND FITNESS PROGRAMS



Queen's faculty and staff are a fitness-conscious bunch if their response to the wellness programs offered by Human Resources (HR) in partnership with the Athletics and Recreation Centre is any indication.

According to Shannon Hill, Learning and Development Specialist, Human Resources, the response to the partnership has been overwhelming.

"We saw a need to formalize and expand wellness-based programs that accommodate work schedules and help employees cope during challenging times," says Ms Hill. "We are thrilled that so many people have signed up and have indicated they want more."

Last summer, Ms Hill and Tiffany Bambrick, Coordinator, Fitness and Wellness Programs, Athletics and Recreation, created a series of programs

designed to appeal to many types of fitness requirements. These programs have been expanded through fall 2011 and winter 2012 to include various types of yoga, strength training, and stress management.

"We appreciate the importance of regular physical activity and the role it plays in employee wellness," says Ms Bambrick. "Along with HR we aim to promote a healthy lifestyle for the Queen's community."

As spring and summer approaches, Ms Hill and Ms Bambrick are seeking input for future program offerings, and invite staff and faculty to contact them by email at bambrick@queensu.ca and hills@queensu.ca or look for a survey that will be posted soon on the HR website. www.queensu.ca/humanresources
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KEN CUTHBERTSON

BY ALYSE KOTYK

Every weekday morning at 5, Ken Cuthbertson is up and writing. For the past 25 years, he has reserved a two-hour time slot for his craft in the early hours before he heads to his office at Queen's.

"The morning is quiet and my brain is fresh," he says.

Mr. Cuthbertson, who works in the Department of Marketing and Communications as the editor of the *Queen's Alumni Review*, has recently re-edited and restored a daringly honest edition of Emily Hahn's 1933 travel memoir, *Congo Solo* (McGill-Queen's University Press).

Mr. Cuthbertson met Ms Hahn while conducting research for *Inside: The Biography of John Gunther*, a 1992 book that was shortlisted for a Governor General's Literary Award. Ms Hahn was working at *The New Yorker* at the time and when Mr. Cuthbertson asked if he could write a biography of her, she agreed. She had written more than 53 books and hundreds of articles, essays, short stories, and poems. Her life was one of adventure and constant perseverance, and her story caught Mr. Cuthbertson's attention.

After publishing her biography, *Nobody Said Not to Go*, two years following Ms Hahn's death, Mr. Cuthbertson felt it was time for the real story of Ms Hahn's adventures in Africa to be published. With the help of Ms Hahn's daughter Carola Vecchio, he began to tackle the project.


Congo Solo hadn't appeared in its original intended format until Mr. Cuthbertson's edition arrived in bookstores. When the memoir was first released, Ms Hahn was pressured by her publisher and from the family of the man who had been her host in Africa to eliminate some details of her story.



THE LIVES OF QUEEN'S PEOPLE OFF CAMPUS

While the reconstruction of Ms Hahn's story was a lot of work, the end result is an important insight into the history of the Congo.

"*Congo Solo* is a good story and a good read," says Mr. Cuthbertson. "It is also one of the most compelling eyewitness accounts we have about the harsh realities of life in colonial Africa."

Mr. Cuthbertson is a Queen's alumnus with a BAH in Modern American History and a degree in Law. He also received his MA in Journalism at the Western University. 



Are you involved in projects outside of Queen's? Do you know a colleague who is? Share your stories with *onQ*.

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"Alyssa had such a phenomenal time at Albert. Albert College has truly made an impact on who she is both academically and personally. I too enjoyed all my interactions with everyone at Albert. I don't know who is going to miss Albert more, her or me!"

- Eric LeBlanc, Alumni Parent

AND FINALLY...

NOTES on Q

Do some grocery shopping on campus and pick up your prescriptions too! Grocery Checkout Fresh Market is now open for business in the Athletics and Recreation Centre. The store sells everything from meat and produce to tea and coffee, and offers many products sourced from local Kingston suppliers.

"This is a really exciting for Queen's," says Ashley Eagan, Vice-President (Operations), Alma Mater Society. "Grocery Checkout's wide array of fresh and competitively priced products will make healthier eating options a lot more accessible for students with incredibly busy schedules."

DrugSmart Pharmacy, which will include a dispensary and a variety of athletic and healthy lifestyle items, is scheduled to open this month.

New email and calendar service coming for staff and faculty

The university will be rolling out a new integrated mail, calendaring and task management service for staff and faculty beginning this spring. Microsoft Exchange is expected to increase productivity with its email and calendar system, and will deliver greater email storage capacity and more mobile-friendly features. For more information, visit: www.queensu.ca/its/works/projects/emailcalendaringstaff.html

After a very busy and successful cutover weekend, authorized HR PeopleSoft users started accessing the new HR administration system on February 22. For the latest updates and information, including details about the new pay slips employees will be receiving, visit www.queensu.ca/humanresources

Queen's is currently developing its Climate Action Plan that will assist the university in achieving many of its sustainability goals. Faculty, staff and students can offer ideas and comment on priorities at a community forum later this month. For the date of the meeting and more information about CAP, visit the Sustainability Office website. www.queensu.ca/sustainability



Bernard Clark

Live and Work in Kingston Day, hosted by Queen's Career Services and the Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) took place on February 1 in Grant Hall. The second annual event connects students with employers looking for full-time, part-time and summer employees. Fifty-six employers and organizations participated and more than 1,500 students attended.

From p. 2 **HIDDEN GEMS**

Visitors to the food court in Mackintosh Corry Hall can enjoy their cold water from the tap with bubbles or without from Q Water. When renovations took place at the food court last fall, Queen's Hospitality Services made the decision to move the station from behind the service counter to its present location. "In keeping with our commitment to a more sustainable approach to delivering food services, Queen's Hospitality is delighted to offer the campus an innovative approach to accessing bottle-free water. The option of sparkling, calorie free water is consistent with our healthy eating initiatives," says Joli Manson, General Manager, Queen's Hospitality Services.



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