

April began at Fleming College not with April Fool's Day but with our spring Open House events on April 1. Some people attending the April Open House are considering Fleming for the first time, but for many it is an opportunity to confirm plans, learn more and prepare for the Fall. Over 1,100 registered guests plus their families and friends attended. Thanks go to Carrie Truman and her team for all of the detailed preparation that goes into creating truly informative and engaging events.

The first full week of April was Colleges Week – a provincial celebration of the college system's 50th Anniversary. Two highlights were a meeting with the founder of the college system, Premier William Davis, and a gift of \$50 million to the 24 Colleges.

The week ended with Minister Jeff Leal announcing that Fleming College's share of this recognition of Ontario's colleges would be \$1.77 million. Also during that week Fleming's culinary students had an opportunity to join other college students in providing delicious samples of their work at a Queen's Park reception – a big hit!



Meanwhile, at the College the weeks of April 10 and 17 were Weeks 14 and 15 – the last two of the Winter, 2017 semester. This is a period of significant stress but also some celebrations. The Athletics Banquet (April 7) and the SAC (Student Administrative Council) Leadership Recognition Dinner (April 12) were key recognition events.

Speaking of recognition, at its April 26, 2017 In Camera Meeting, the Board of Governors approved Employee Recognition Awards in six categories. Full information will be provided once award recipients are notified and then announced. In the meantime, thanks to Governor Dan Marinigh for his role in the selection process.

And speaking of recognition and the Student Administrative Council, SAC were recipients of the Sustainable Peterborough Award in the Transportation category – a recognition of its bus pass initiative and recently announced Bike Share program. Congratulations to President Joel Willett and his Board, as well as General Manager Chris Smith.

As April progressed, two items were preoccupations for Physical Resources. One was air quality testing. The second was the final stages of preparation for summer construction through the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) initiative. Both have been reported on separately to the Board of Governors and the College community.

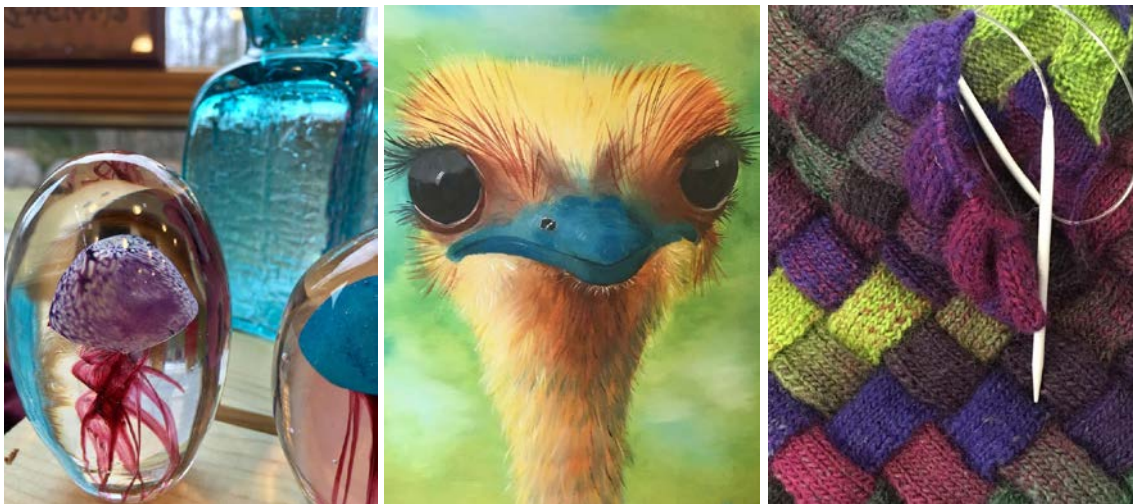
Similarly, our Finance Department had two preoccupations. The first was closing out the 2016/2017 fiscal year. The College is pleased to confirm a significant surplus; details will be provided to the College community. Second, the 2017/2018 budget was finalized and presented to the Board of Governors. The budget projects a modest surplus and includes a Change Fund to support selected initiatives that will strengthen quality and financial viability.

At the Frost Campus, April has ended with two key events. The first was the Women in Trees Conference on April 22, which attracted over 75 climbers, including prospective students, alumni and industry partners. The "climb like a girl" theme has attracted significant attention and is a strong catch-phrase for the very serious work of attracting women into non-traditional occupations. Congratulations to Katrina Van Osch-Saxon and Tom Mikel for their leadership roles.



Also ending the month at Frost is the signing of the Frost Student Association (FSA) Lease, an agreement that has taken some time to finalize. Thanks go to Kristi Kerford and her team as well as FSA President Rachel Bourne and her Board.

The Haliburton School of Art + Design wrapped up a successful semester with *I Made It!*, the annual end-of-semester art exhibition and sale. The April 22 event featured works from students in a variety of programs. The show drew a record numbers of guests.



April was also a time for preparing for the future. In Human Resources, a focus has been on preparing to hire into 26 full-time positions, including 14 faculty positions. This is a very important task, and we will put considerable effort into attracting and selecting strong candidates who will contribute to a bright future for Fleming College.

Also with respect to the future, the College community is reflecting on the first draft of the Strategic Mandate Agreement. There are some key decisions still ahead concerning the SMA which the Board will consider in June.

Returning to a more immediate focus, the daily statistics on applications for the fall semester show considerable strength. In fact, comparing Fall 2017 to Fall 2016, Fleming College has the best year-to-year percentage change in the college system. As part of that, it is also good to have our ESL programs in Peterborough and Cobourg doing very well and providing an important service, particularly to new arrivals in Canada including refugees.

In short, April has been a great month to launch our 50th anniversary celebration with a lot more to come!