

HISTORY

In May 1965, then provincial Minister of Education William Davis introduced Bill 153 which created the province's community college system to provide a post-secondary education alternative for those not wanting or able to attend university. Colleges were to be independent of existing systems, community-based and fulfil the needs of business and industry.

In August 1966, Seneca College was officially established at its first Board of Governors meeting.

On September 6, 1967, Seneca opened its doors with founding President William Newnham. That first year had 852 full-time and 1,067 part-time students enrolled in 20 diploma and certificate programs. Classes were offered at a number of sites including the North York Board of Education, a Woolworth Store at Sheppard Avenue and Yonge Street, the Lewis Beattie Secondary School and a renovated factory at 43 Sheppard Avenue East.

MILESTONES

1968 Ground was turned on a 62-acre parcel of land at Finch Avenue and Woodbine Avenue (now Highway 404). The first phase of construction created a two-storey brick building containing the college's computer, secretarial, engineering and applied arts programs. At the same time, the Air Flight Technology Program began at Buttonville Airport. College enrolment grew to 8,667 full-time and part-time students.

1971 Seneca purchased Lady Flora Eaton's King Township estate and the adjoining 650 acres. This would become Seneca's King Campus.

1972 Seneca's Sport Centre, featuring a triple gymnasium and an ice arena, opened at Newnham Campus.

1975 Construction of the 137,000 square-foot Garriock Hall began at King Campus.

1980 The Newnham Campus Annex was opened. A new facility at the Jane Campus was created for instruction in the metals machining, tool and die and mould making trades.

1984 The Board of Governors voted to rename the Finch Campus in honour of the retiring President William Newnham. The Vice-President Academic, W. Roy McCutcheon, was named his successor.

1988 Seneca was the first college in the province to enter into a joint articulation agreement with a secondary school. The agreement with Georges Vanier Secondary School offered academic and skills upgrading programs as credit courses for high school students.

1989 An extension to Newnham Campus connected Phase Three to the Sports Centre. The Student Federation Council and alumni groups pledged more than \$600,000 for its construction.

1991 President McCutcheon announced his retirement. Senior Vice-President Stephen Quinlan was appointed Seneca's third President effective February 1, 1992.

1994 The province announced it would provide capital for the development of the Seneca@York Campus of advanced technology, located on the grounds of York University, and the Yorkgate Campus in the Jane-Finch area.

The Yorkgate Campus officially opened as a community-based campus in the Jane-Finch area. It offers program development based on on-going consultation with the community; a strong emphasis on skills assessment; training and career counselling; assistance with job placement, and links to local services and referral agencies.

1996 Seneca offered 230 programs of study. Enrolment had grown to more than 100,000 full-time and part-time students.

1999 Seneca@York opened its doors to the first semester of students. Designed by renowned Canadian Architect Raymond Moriyama, the campus is home to Seneca's School of Communication Arts, School of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry, School of Computer Studies and Centre for Professional Communications.

2001 Construction began on the Ontario government funded renovation of Newnham Campus and Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Building SuperBuild projects. President Stephen E. Quinlan retired. Dr. Rick Miner was appointed Seneca's fourth president.

2002 The provincial government granted Seneca College the ability to offer bachelor's degrees. In September, Seneca became the first college in Ontario to offer a degree program when classes began for its Bachelor of Applied Business – Financial Services Management Program.

2003 Seneca offered three additional degree programs: Bachelor of Applied Technology – Environmental Site Remediation, Bachelor of Applied Technology – Flight, Bachelor of Applied Technology – Software Development.

Seneca offered the Liberal Arts program (formerly the General Arts and Sciences program) for the first time at the Seneca@York Campus.

Seneca became a founding member of Polytechnics Canada.

2004 Seneca's TEL Building officially opened.

Seneca purchased a 10-storey office building at Hwy. 7 and Hwy. 404 that would become its Markham Campus. Seneca opened its new state-of-the-art Animal Health Facility at King Campus, complete with kennels, an X-ray room, an operating room and labs.

2005 Seneca opened its Markham Campus, becoming the first post-secondary education facility in the town, to better serve York Region's educational needs. Full-time, part-time and corporate training classes are offered.

Ryan, the ground-breaking computer animated film, produced by Copper Heart Entertainment and the National Film Board (NFB) of Canada in association with Seneca College was awarded the Oscar® for Best Short Film – Animated.

2006 Seneca received authorization to offer three new degrees: Bachelor of Applied Business – International Accounting and Finance, Bachelor of Applied Business – Human Resources Strategy and Technology, Bachelor of Applied Technology – Informatics and Security.

Financial Services Management students became the first graduates of an Ontario college degree program.

2007 Seneca College celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

Seneca College's Board of Governors received the Maytree Foundation's Diversity in Governance Award.

2008 Seneca launched a new degree program, Bachelor of Applied Arts – Child Development.

Seneca is named one of Greater Toronto's top 75 employers.

President Miner announced his retirement.

2009 David Agnew became Seneca's fifth President on July 1, 2009.

Seneca's Board of Governors appointed Dr. Miner as President Emeritus.