**Seneca’s Important Dates: Historical Timeline**

**May 21, 1965** Provincial Minister of Education William Davis introduces Bill 153, an Act to Amend the Department of Education Act, creating a system of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology. Colleges are to be independent of existing systems, community-based, and fulfill the needs of business and industry.

**Aug. 30, 1966** During a meeting in the Talbot Room of Inn on the Park, Dr. Frederick Minkler is elected Chairman of the Board of Governors of a college to serve “Area 7”. Father A.J. Colliard is named Vice-Chair. The first Board includes Edmund C. Bovey; R. Norn Garriock; Dr. F. Rainsberry; M. Grace Carter; Dr. T.H. Leith; William V. Moore; Christopher M. Trower; Dr. Basil H. Hall; C.J. Palmer; and James D. Service. University of Toronto Engineering Dean Dr. Arthur Porter and Richmond Hill Reeve Donald Plaxton soon replace Rainsberry (who was recruited for a broadcasting role in Israel) and Palmer (who dies after the first meeting).

**September 1966** Seneca College is officially established to serve Area 7 – a region with a population of 550,000 people including North York and York County. Norn Garriock, who will become the second Chair of the Board of Governors, suggests the Seneca name. Forty-three-year-old William T. Newnham, the principal of North York’s Northview Heights Collegiate, is named the College’s first President in a unanimous vote.

**Dec. 22, 1966** William T. Newnham begins his job as Seneca College President. The first months of his job are spent in temporary offices at the North York Board of Education, the Woolworth’s Store at Sheppard Avenue and Yonge Street, and Lewis Beattie Secondary School.

**1967** A former factory at 43 Sheppard Ave. E. is renovated into the space for a college. The site becomes known as the Sheppard Campus, offering Occupational Training, Business and Industrial Training, and Manpower programs.

**Aug. 22, 1967** The Board of Governors unanimously agrees to purchase 25 hectares of land at the northwest corner of Finch and Woodbine avenues in North York, and creates an advisory committee to help develop a curriculum.

**September 1967** Seneca College’s doors open to welcome 852 full-time post-secondary students and 1,067 part-time students in 220 subjects that can be applied to one of 20 diplomas or certificates. Civil Technology student Raymond “Whitey” Hammill is the first in line at the registration desk.
**December 1967** President William T. Newnham presents the Board of Governors with a “Five Year Program of Development”. Seneca is one of 19 Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology in Ontario.

**May 3, 1968** William T. Newnham is officially inaugurated as President, in ceremonies at the Burton Auditorium of York University. The guest of honor is Education Minister William Davis, who introduced the Act creating Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology.

**May 29, 1968** Seneca College awards its first certificates to 12 graduates of the Fashion Merchandising Program. The ceremony takes place in the Sheppard Campus Library.

**July 1968** The first phase of construction at the Finch Avenue Campus creates a two-storey brick building to house a new IBM mainframe, as well as Secretarial, Engineering and Applied Arts programs. It will be fully operational by October.

**September 1968** Seneca College enrolls 1,800 students in the first and third semesters of 40 different courses, offering classes from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Sheppard Campus can only accommodate 800 students at a time, so students are scheduled in a three-day rotating cycle. Teachers are accommodated in temporary offices at the Woolworth’s store on Yonge Street.

**1969** Construction begins on Phase 2 of the Finch Campus, as enrollments climb to 8,667 full- and part-time students. The Occupational Training Division and Business and Industrial Training Division are created.

**June 1970** Seneca introduces the Mobile Intensive Learning Experience – MILE – during which students earn credits while on three-week excursions relating to their courses of study. The courses will be offered around the world.

**July 1970** Board Chairman Dr. Frederick Minkle dies, leading to the election of R. Norn Garriock as the second person to fill the post.

**Oct. 2, 1971** Phase 2 of the Finch Campus officially opens (even though it was fully operational as early as Sept. 1, 1970.) The four-storey concrete and metal-clad structure includes a library and the 1,114-seat Minkler Auditorium.

**1971** Seneca College purchases the 282 hectares of the Eaton Estate in King Township, establishing the King Campus. Eaton Hall, once used as a centre for British refugees and a rehabilitation centre for the Royal Canadian Navy, is a key feature on the property. W. Roy
McCutcheon, who will eventually become the College’s second President, is named the founding Dean.

**February 1972** The King Campus welcomes its first 60 full-time and 300 part-time students.

**Feb. 1, 1972** North York Mayor Basil Hall officially opens the Sports and Community Centre that features a triple gymnasium and arena.

**Oct. 15, 1972** The Honourable R.L. Stanbury officially opens Phase 3 of the Finch Campus, which includes a cafeteria, arena, triple gym, boutiques, fashion labs, and offices for Admissions, Registration and Continuing Education.

**September 1973** Seneca acquires the former North York Regional School of Nursing in Willowdale, which operates in conjunction with North York General Hospital. Soon to be known as the Leslie Campus, it supports 367 nursing students – one of the largest nursing programs in Ontario.

**January 1974** Approximately 254 students register for 11 programs offered through leased space at the former Hardington Public School, which will later be known as the Lawrence Campus. The space is leased for five years until being closed.

**1974** The Underwater Skills Program is established to train commercial divers for deep-sea exploration. Facilities include a dive lab. The first dive barge will be added to Lake Seneca in 1977, assembled from salvaged pontoons.

**November 1974** An Equestrian Centre is opened at King Campus, supporting Seneca’s Harness Horse Industry Operations Program. It includes 24 stalls and an indoor training arena.

**Spring 1975** Seneca opens newly leased space in the former C.B. Parsons School of Dufferin Street, and the Phase 1 Annex of the Finch Campus. The Jane Campus is created for training in metals machining, tool and die, and mould-making.

**Sept. 8, 1975** The first students are accepted into new Dental Assistant and Dental Hygiene Programs offered in leased space at Dufferin Street and Finch Avenues. Other programs at the new Dufferin Campus include the Radio and Television Program, and Community Outreach programs.
Sept. 10, 1975 R. Norn Garriock leads a ground-breaking ceremony for a new building on King Campus. It will later become known as Garriock Hall.

1977 The new 137,000-square-foot brick and wood structure on the King Campus is officially named Garriock Hall. It includes a library, visual arts studios, indoor dining facility, classrooms and labs.

Construction begins on the Jane Campus located on Beverly Hills Drive.

The Centre for Independent Learning is created at the Finch Campus, offering post-secondary educations for those who can’t attend scheduled classes. Self-paced programs are offered in Computer Programs, Business, and Travel and Tourism. A computer at the Finch Campus is used to support 250 terminals from Vancouver to Halifax, offering Computer-Assisted Instruction.

1978 Eaton Hall is converted into an education centre to specialize in management development.

A campus is opened at Jane Street and Highway 401, with programs designed for the region’s under-served multicultural community.

1980 The Phase 1 Annex of Finch Campus opens to welcome the Centre for Independent Learning.

The new Yorkdale Campus opens to house Design Arts and Cartography Techniques programs.

1981 The York Region Learning Centres opens to serve the Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Aurora, Stouffville and Markham regions.

The Jane Campus is opened in conjunction with the North York/York Region Community Industrial Training Committee to provide training in the Tool and Die and Machining trades.

1982 The Glen Rush Campus at Bathurst and Lawrence offers English as a Second Language and an Early Childhood Education Observation Laboratory.

April 1982 A joint venture with the Department of National Defence introduces the Canadian Forces Community College, offering studies to military personnel and their dependants at bases around the world.

December 1983 Dr. William Newnham, Seneca’s founding President, announces that he will resign in 1984. Academic Vice-President W. Roy McCutcheon is named Newnham’s replacement.

1984 The Board of Governors votes to re-name the Finch Campus in honor of retiring President Dr. William Newnham.
The Seneca Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre opens to promote a closer connection between industry and education, under the stewardship of George Jamieson and Dr. David E. Coates.

1986 New campus locations are opened in North York (at Caledonia and Lawrence Avenue), replacing the Glen Rush Campus, and in Newmarket (Hillard). The College also opens the Ontario Skills Development Office at Dufferin Street and Finch Avenue.

1987 Further Ontario Skills Development Offices (OSDO) open in Markham, Newmarket and Vaughan.

The Board of Governors is expanded to include representatives from faculty, administrative and support staff, and the student body.

The President and Chairman of the Board of Governors travel to Singapore to sign a twinning agreement with Singapore Polytechnic.

September 1987 The School of Communication Arts opens with 550 students at a new campus on Finch Avenue, west of Dufferin Street. Students learn creative uses of computer-assisted technology in the production of advertising, design, radio and television.

1988 The Early Childhood Education Lab School opens at the Glen Park Campus.

Ontario’s first “Articulation” program is initiated with Georges Vanier Secondary School in North York, allowing high school students to take courses credited toward College diplomas. Teachers from both institutions harmonize curricula to make the agreement a reality.

An agreement with the Toronto Dominion Bank Visa Division creates an Affinity Card, returning 0.5 per cent of charges for a scholarship fund.

1989 The Student Federation Council (Newnham Campus) officially becomes SFC Incorporated, initiating a new era of autonomy and responsibility in student government.

A Computer-Assisted Design and Production Centre is introduced, offering Fashion Arts students to design fabrics and garments, and generate patterns. Seneca is the first college in Metro Toronto to acquire the equipment.

Seneca joins with Sir Sanford Fleming College in a trade and technology mission to Japan, helping to increase the number of foreign students to four per cent of the student body.

The Board of Governors receives a consultant’s reports calling for a campus “West of Yonge” to serve about 3,000 students. The Downsview Airport is one of the first sites to be considered.

Phase 3 of the Newnham Campus is connected to the Sports Complex, and introduces such things as the Senecentre activity centre, and a Health and Fitness Centre. Students and alumni groups pledge $600,000 toward to building.

Seneca can now boast 29 co-operative programs, and has more Business Studies placements than any other Ontario college.
The Business Studies and Computer Studies divisions combine to provide courses in Systems Analysis and Information Systems for IBM Canada. Many of IBM’s manufacturing personnel are retrained for software applications support positions.

A new campus for the FUTURES program is opened in Richmond Hill.

The Lawrence Campus closes and its programs are moved to various sites including Yorkdale, Sheppard, Newnham, Newmarket and Richmond Hill.

Articulation programs are extended to the York Region Board of Education, while Seneca’s approach to such agreements is honored by the Association of Community Colleges of Canada.

**1990** Dr. Tony Tilly is appointed Dean of the new Centre for Educational Effectiveness, introduced by President W. Roy McCutcheon to improve teacher training.

The first students are enrolled in three joint degree-diploma programs involving the York University Faculty of Arts and Seneca’s School of Communications Arts.

College marketing, market research, fundraising, publications, photographic, and video production units are combined into the College Institutional Advancement Department, to ensure consistent professionalism in corporate communications.

**December 1990** President W. Roy McCutcheon announces his retirement.

**Feb. 1, 1991** Stephen E. Quinlan is named Seneca College’s third president.

**1991** Plans to re-develop the Sheppard Campus are put on hold, and Seneca leases a former IBM site on Don Mills Road to house the School of Computer Studies. The new space houses about 800 students.

Construction begins on a new Childcare Facility at the Newnham Campus.

Leases expire at the Fairmeadow Campus and Glen Park Campus, and Newmarket programs are moved to a new location on Yonge Street.

New programs include Human Resource Administration, Microcomputer (Business) Specialist. Seneca becomes a smoke-free environment.

**1992** Seneca College celebrates its 25th anniversary in a reception attended by more than 700 people.

A project known as UNICAAT is developed to enhance the transfer of credits between Seneca and York University, creating interconnected degree-diploma programs, and improving the efficiency of facilities, equipment and instruments.
Seneca athletes Luisa Protocarrero (gymnastics) and Madonna Gimotea (rhythmic sportive gymnastics) compete in the Barcelona Olympics. Physical Education Chair Slava Corn attends the Games in her role as President of the Canadian Gymnastics Federation.

The Energy Training Office established with the Ministry of Energy acts as a central clearing house for information on building operation – including heating, refrigeration, air handling, electricity, water treatment and controls.

Fifteen officials from the People’s Republic of China participate in the North American Business Program, which offers six weeks of training on the market economy and a five-week practicum. Eleven Russian banking officials attend a week-long seminar on the Canadian banking system.

1993 Computing and Communication Services develops the Electronic Information Project to “bring on board a system to give easy access to a great deal of information of interest to the Seneca Community (both Seneca specific or via other software Information Services worldwide).” Client services software allows the information to be retrieved by modem.

Responding to a call from the province, Seneca commissions a “West of Yonge” study to determine the most efficient method of providing post-secondary programs in the area.

The School of Legal and Public Administration seals articulation agreements with York University. Credits from the two-year CTA program can be transferred to the university’s Law and Society Program, while York honours graduates with a double major in Law and Society may complete the CTA program in one year.

The Board of Governors approves the College’s Strategic Plan.

Seneca President Stephen Quinlan and Dick Grannan receive the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Canadian Federation.

Seneca’s BES certificate program is offered through colleges across the province under the government’s Energy Training Ontario – Building Initiative. The program that offers a course on energy efficiency in public and commercial buildings wins an award for “outstanding and creative programming” from the Learning Educational Resource Network.

An articulation agreement with the University of Guelph offers advanced standing toward bachelors of sciences degrees to graduates of Seneca’s Biological, Pharmaceutical and Chemical Technology Programs.

Seneca connects to the Internet.

Physical Education Chair Slava Corn receives the Donald King Memorial Award from the Canadian Sports Council, for her volunteer efforts in gymnastics.

The Scouts (Women’s) Softball Team wins gold in the OCAA Championships. Carrie Lanning (catcher) and Tara Mouder (third base) are named League All Stars.

The Richmond Hill Campus moves to the former Central Library, which offers 12 classrooms, a shop and faculty office – providing a home for the provincial FUTURES Program and pre-employment training through jobsOntario.
A partnership with Markham’s Ford Electronics Manufacturing Corp. leads to custom-designed training for 1,600 workers. It addresses fundamental skills in English and mathematics, computer and electronic skills, and peer-group training techniques.

**1994** Premier Bob Rae announces funding for Seneca@York Campus of advanced technology. The Government of China and Seneca sign agreements with institutions in China to provide business training for Chinese government employees. Yorkgate Campus opens in the Jane-Finch neighborhood, offering personalized learning with an emphasis on skill assessments, training, career counseling, and assistance in job placements.

**1996** Enrolment grows to more than 100,000 full- and part-time students in more than 230 programs of study.

A Three-Year College Action Plan is introduced with 57 recommendations to adjust to provincial funding cuts.

The Seneca Foundation is created to raise funds for the College.

President Stephen Quinlan and Board of Governors Chair Peter Ross sign educational agreements with Coal Economic College, Nanjing Polytechnic College, and the Chinese Ministry of Internal Trade.


**June 1997** Construction begins at the York University site that will become the Seneca@York Campus.

**1997** Seneca International, a for-profit corporation, is approved by the provincial government. The corporation allows Seneca to participate in international business opportunities.

**1999** Seneca@York opens, accommodating more than 3,000 students. There is a computer workstation for every three students. It becomes home for the School of Communication Arts, School of Computer Studies, School of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry, and Centre for Professional Communicators. And the Learning Commons integrates the library, learning centre, and open computer lab.

Residences are completed at the King Campus, offering 220 private bedrooms.

**2000** President Stephen Quinlan announces his early retirement.
June 2001 Dr. Rick Miner is appointed the fourth president of Seneca College, following his work as Vice-President of the University of New Brunswick. “Seneca College’s academic foresight, program diversity, and reputation as a key provider of quality education attracted me to this exciting opportunity,” he says. “I look forward to leading this dynamic and innovative college.”

2001 Construction begins on the Ontario-government-funded Newnham Campus and TEL Building SuperBuild projects.

September 2002 Seneca becomes the first college in Ontario to offer a bachelor’s degree, offering classes through its Bachelor of Applied Business – Financial Services Management Program.

2003 Seneca’s offerings of bachelor’s degrees expand to include Bachelor of Applied Technology – Integrated Environmental Site Remediation, Bachelor of Applied Technology – Software Development, and Bachelor of Applied Technology – Flight Program.

2004 Seneca’s TEL Building is officially opened.

The College purchases a 10-storey office building to house its Markham Campus.

A new Animal Health Facility is opened at the King Campus.

2005 The animated short film Ryan, produced in association with Seneca, is awarded an Oscar. September 2005 Seneca opens its Markham Campus on land at the intersection of highways 7 and 404. The area is one of the fastest-growing regions in Canada.

2006 Seneca receives authorization for three new degrees: Bachelor of Applied Business – International Accounting and Finance; Bachelor of Applied Business – Human Resources Strategy and Technology; and Bachelor of Applied Technology – Informatics and Security.

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

Seneca awards its first Honorary Degree to former Ontario Premier William Davis.