



THE BAILLIEWICK

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The Development of the Museum of Health Care under Dr. James Low's Leadership

By Marilyn Boston

Marilyn Boston served as a member of the Museum's Board of Directors from 1998 to 2013 as a representative of the KGH Nurses' Alumnae. She continues to support and volunteer at the Museum.

as an early examining table, a baby scale and the hospital's first iron lung, became a major problem. It was also in 1979 that the possibility of establishing a museum, as well as an archives was raised. The Committee, renamed the KGH Archives and Museum Committee in the 80's, and a KGH archivist developed procedures around what hospital records should be saved according to government regulations and hospital historical interests. Dr. Low, with his interest in

medical history, became the chair of the committee in October 1987.

KGH was built in 1838. The first nurses to graduate from the KGH School of Nursing did so in 1888. It

seemed appropriate to have combined 150th and 100th anniversary celebrations. When the historical 1988 celebrations were being planned, meetings were held between KGH and KGH Alumnae members. Many additional artefacts had been found and collected from many sources. These artefacts were displayed throughout the year.

Dr. James Low, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, came to the Kingston General Hospital (KGH) and Queen's University from Toronto in 1965. In 1967, the KGH Board of Governors launched a Canadian Centennial Project by establishing an archives committee. Everything from uniforms of past student nurses to portraits of hospital governors were found in various hidden sources in the hospital and around the city. A display of these items was organized by the committee. The project attracted community interest and other donations of medical artefacts were received.

Early 1979, the KGH archive collection was deposited in Queen's Archives for appropriate storage. The large three-dimensional artefacts, such

The large three-dimensional artefacts, such as an early examining table, a baby scale and the hospital's first iron lung, became a major problem.



MUSEUM OF HEALTH CARE
AT KINGSTON

ANN BAILLIE BUILDING
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
32 GEORGE STREET, KINGSTON, ON K7L 2V7

Phone: (613) 548-2419

E-mail: info@museumofhealthcare.ca

Website: www.museumofhealthcare.ca

Blog: <https://museumofhealthcare.wordpress.com/>

Charitable No. 87790 3989 RR0001

FALL/WINTER/SPRING: TUES.-FRI., 10AM-4PM

SUMMER: TUES.-SUN., 10AM-4PM

ADMISSION BY DONATION

Image: Ann Baillie Building (2004), home of the Museum of Health Care.

>> Continued on page 3

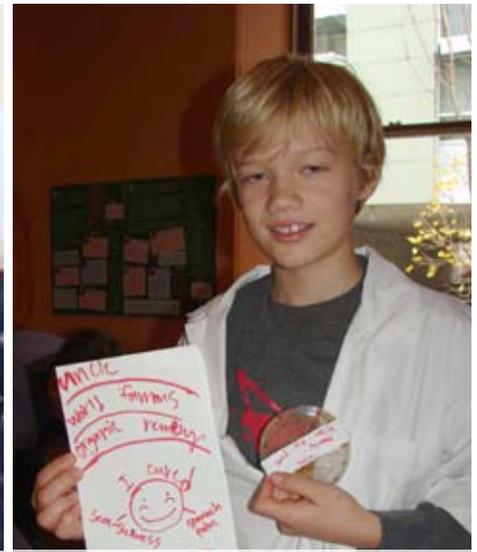
MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS



Onsite exhibit "Trench Menders: Health Care during the First World War" opened Feb. 26th and explores the the role of healthcare workers who saved lives at home and abroad.*



Queen's History of Medicine student Chantal Valiquette at "Medicine in the Making: A Museum of Health Care Showcase," which she planned and presented at the School of Medicine on Sept. 25.**



A participant displays a patent medicine concoction and advertising trade card of his own creation at November's PA Day Program "Potions Class."



Docent Shaelagh Cull shares psychiatric artefacts with a visiting class from St. Lawrence College during the education program "From Madness to Mental Health."



Visitors from the Guide Dog Users of Canada take a tactile guided gallery tour of the Museum and its collection.



2015 Margaret Angus Research Fellow Madeleine McKay explores the history of curative labour in Kingston at the free public lecture "Prisoners or Patients?" on Oct. 27th.



Curator Maxime Chouinard performs "The Doctor Will See You Now: 1890s medical demonstration," a free interactive event >>

Thank you to the kind volunteers, staff, supporters and participants who made possible another exciting year of Museum events, exhibits, and programs.

* This project was supported in part by the Kingston Association of Museums, City of Kingston, and Veterans Affairs Canada.

** This project was funded in part by Queen's Undergraduate Medical Education

At the Museum's annual "Teddy Bear Hospital" Family Day Program >>
Photo courtesy of The Great Waterway





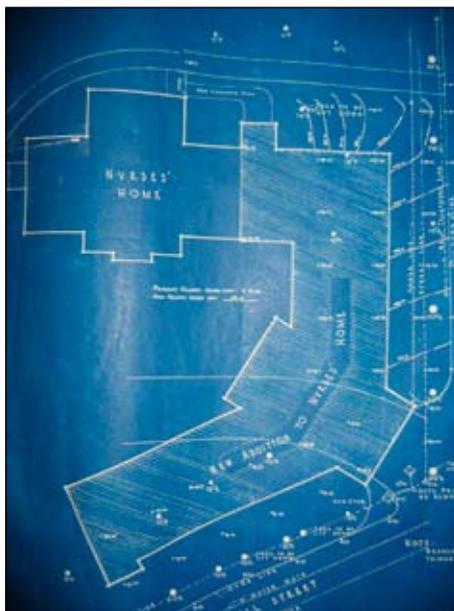
One of the Museum's earliest collected objects: pediatric weight scale (1900).

Following the year-long celebration, the question arose again of what to do with the artefacts – particularly the three-dimensional artefacts. Queen's Archives had indicated they were only interested in “paper.” Under Dr. Low's leadership, the committee discussed the possibility of a museum and displaying artefacts in the hospital. A curator was contracted to advise on the storage and care of the artefacts and how they could be displayed in the hospital. Advice of many consultants was also obtained during each step of the process. A 50-page report was sent to the KGH Board of Governors in 1990. In the meantime, with changes in medical equipment producing obsolescences and additional nursing artefacts being received, it became apparent that larger storage and display areas were needed. The hospital provided a workroom and the large artefacts located at Queen's Archives were transferred. Cataloguing of artefacts was started in October 1991. The Museum of Health Care at KGH became official at that time. As more and more artefacts were received, the lack of workroom and storage space became a major problem. Museum displays as an educational outreach were set up in the KGH Hall of Honour in the spring of 1994.

With interest from hospitals in the area in the Museum of Health Care and possibilities for growth, the name was changed to the Museum of Health Care of Eastern Ontario in November 1993. A Joint Liaison Committee with members from other Kingston hospitals was set up to explore

the future development of the Museum. Applications were sent to organizations, such as the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine for operating funds. Space requirements continued to be a major problem for KGH.

During the early years of the KGH School of Nursing, the students lived in areas of the hospital, such as the Nickle Wing. This was not a good arrangement because of crowding and lack of privacy. In 1904, a nursing residence separate from the hospital and supported by the KGH Nursing Alumnae was opened. In 1927 a large addition was built from the side of the 1904 building which curved in front of it. Ann Baillie, who graduated from KGH in 1910 became the Director of Nursing at KGH in 1924 and continued in that position until her death in 1942.



1927 blueprint of nurses' residence expansion. Courtesy of KGH Archive.

In her honour, the nursing residence complex was named the Ann Baillie Residence. With the opening of another larger residence in 1969, these buildings were then used for other purposes. In 1991, it was announced by the hospital's Planning Committee that the 1904 and 1927 buildings were to be demolished. The original residence was considered impressive architecturally but was hidden behind the 1927 wing. The interest of the local Historical Society led to the preservation of the 1904 structure. The 1927 addition was demolished in 1992.

During early 1994, the KGH Board considered the possibility of the 1904 structure, now called the Ann Baillie Building, as the site for the Museum. The transfer of artefacts started in December 1994. Donations of medical artefacts continued to be received, many from family members of former KGH physicians. The Museum continued to develop both administratively and technically. In the spring of 1995, the KGH Alumnae wrote Dr. Low and the Archives & Museum Committee at KGH with the suggestion that this now historical building be used permanently as a Museum to display KGH and Nursing artefacts. The Committee concurred and the letter was sent to the Board of Governors for their consideration. In January 1996 the Board officially agreed to the long-term commitment of the Ann Baillie Building as a Museum with the understanding the Museum would be responsible for operating costs and renovations. The building is now officially designated as historically and architecturally significant under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Dr. Low, now retired from his clinical practice and Queen's and because of his interest in history took charge of the transition of artefacts from historical interest to produce actual displays of medical artefacts. By 1996 small exhibits of artefacts were on display on the first level of the Ann Baillie Building as well as in the KGH Hall of Honour. During their reunion in June many Alumnae members toured the Museum. Other small tour groups visited the displays as well. The first public open house was held in May 1996. With the increase in medical artefacts and the development of exhibits, obtaining full-time staff again became a priority. In February 1997, the Museum was incorporated in the Province of Ontario and given charitable status. Membership in the Museum could now be established. The Museum became independent from KGH and developed its own Board of Directors in that year.

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WELCOMING NEW FACES



Hello!

Deanna Way is the Museum's new Communications and Finance Coordinator. Deanna is a recent graduate of the Applied Museum Studies program at Algonquin College and has a degree in History and Philosophy from Carleton University. She has experience working in a variety of museum roles and is excited to join such a unique and fascinating museum. Some of her favourite things include office supplies, social media, and data entry. Deanna is delighted to keep you informed about all museum events, and happily answer any questions about becoming a member.



Viktoria Bobovskaia is a motivated Work Study student for the 2015-2016 school year has actively taken part in activities involving

nonprofits in hopes of enabling them to further grow and help society. Getting involved with the Museum allows her to use her abilities to make a lasting impact in the Kingston community. Graduating in 2016 from Queen's Commerce program, she hopes to keep getting involved with cultural and societal causes while developing skills in business development.



Shaelagh Cull was a Public Programs Assistant* for summer 2015. She is in her third year of Concurrent Education at Queen's

University, with a major interest in History. Over the summer, Shaelagh enjoyed giving tours to visitors at the Museum and hearing about peoples' diverse experiences with health care. Her interests include writing and running.



Lucy Gall worked as a Public Programs Assistant* for summer 2015 and loved every minute of it. She completed her undergraduate

degree in Concurrent Education as a history major last spring and began teacher's college in September at Queen's. Lucy is grateful for the teaching experience she gained through planning and running education programs at the Museum this summer.



Jayne Henry is in her final year at Algonquin College in the Applied Museums Studies program and will be a Public Programs

Intern at the Museum in 2016. Before coming to the college she completed an undergraduate degree at the University of Ottawa, where she graduated with a Major in History. Her main interest in the field is to promote and encourage interest in museums.



Paul Hodgetts is excited to be the new collections photographer for the Museum! Paul studied photography for two years at

Georgian College before coming to Queen's University. He is currently in his second year and is studying psychology and philosophy.



Sierra MacDonald enjoyed working as a Collections Technician** this past summer. She has worked on two archaeological digs

in England in 2014 and was excited to expand her knowledge to the other side of artefact care in museums. She is currently studying at Queen's writing her thesis on the archaeology of Viking-Age settlement in Scotland. (Here she is holding the remains of a Roman glass bottle in Fishbone museum, Southern England).



Colleen Maillet joined the Museum on her placement with the Faculty of Education, and enjoyed the opportunity to learn

more about teaching history within a museum. Colleen's teaching focus is high school History and English. She enjoyed the experience of teaching history and health to a variety of ages and participating in our March Break program "Pump it Up!"



Rosemary Rankin is a current undergraduate student with Queen's University's School of Nursing. She is excited to be

involved with the Museum as a Museum Intern through the Department of History. Rosemary fell in love with the Museum's collections when she visited us in her first year, particularly the dental section. Rosemary enjoys knitting, juggling and anything puzzle related.

Welcome to new Program
Committee member
Brenda Bass!

* Our thanks to Dr. Jacalyn Duffin and the Queen's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) for their support in the creation of this position. // ** Funding for this position was made possible in part through a contribution from the Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations program, Department of Canadian Heritage. / Le financement pour ce projet a été rendu possible en partie grâce à une contribution de Jeunesse Canada au travail dans les établissements du patrimoine, une initiative du ministère du Patrimoine canadien.

Call for Objects: Queen's School of Nursing



One of the few Queen's Nursing artefacts at the Museum (1977).

The Museum is creating a display to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Queen's School of Nursing. In the 1930s and 40s a movement of reform was shaking the world of nursing education as

many universities were now taking up the challenge of training new nurses. Queen's followed in 1941 with the establishment of Queen's University School of Nursing. After celebrating the history of the other schools of nursing in Kingston with annual events from 2011-2014, it is now time to celebrate Queen's. The Museum of Health Care needs your help.

The Museum holds many objects from KGH and Hotel Dieu schools, but holds few from Queen's. In order to celebrate its 75th, we ask former students and family members to help us find some of these material testimonies from their lives as students. We are looking for uniforms, pins, badges, pens, shoes or any objects which might help us communicate the history of this institution. More precisely we are looking for the early crimplene uniform, which would have been issued in the early days of the integrated program in 1969. We are also looking for examples of the

CURATORIAL CORNER

white uniform used between 1985 and 1990. These objects do not have to be donated to the Museum, and can simply be loaned for the duration of the display, which is planned for April 2016.

If you were or know former students and own some of these treasures, please do take some time to communicate with the Museum at 613-548-2419 or email museum@kgh.kari.net.

Name That Artefact:



- a) Medical cup
- b) Pill silverer
- c) Opium lamp
- d) Lebenswecker

Answer at bottom of page.

Online Collections Catalogue: Celebrating 15 years

By Kathy Karkut, Collections Manager

The Museum of Health Care collections catalogue has been growing and evolving since cataloguing began in 1991. Initially we catalogued artefacts on paper but it was hard to share our data or search manually for information. In 1999 electronic software was purchased to catalogue the collection, and after that digital imaging of the collection began. Since establishing an electronic presence for the collection on the World Wide Web, our web host Queen's University Library Services has provided updates to our online collections catalogue. Our online collections catalogue database fulfills our mandate to make our collections accessible to a wide audience through our website and on Artefacts Canada. A variety of



<http://db.library.queensu.ca/hosmus/index.html>

researchers, museums and students use our online database to search for suitable items for object loans, image requests, research, exhibits and documentaries. Other museums use our online collection to identify their unknown medical objects.

We are in the process of upgrading our electronic cataloguing software to more current technology with improved search capabilities and the capacity to attach media such as videos, oral histories and links to other resources. Further details about this exciting project will be available in 2016.

Throughout the past fifteen years, Judy Young Computer Support Coordinator was our web-host contact at Queen's. As we upgrade our software we are also changing web hosts.

Our thanks and a round of applause from all the staff, board members and museum supporters goes out to the staff at Queen's University Library for their continued support of the museum. Thank you to Judy and Gene Clevenger, Systems Librarian (retired), both in Library Systems, now a division called Discovery and Technology Services, and Paul Wiens, University Librarian (retired).



Answer: c) Opium lamp

A Mere Appendix: Pioneering Surgery in Grand Valley Ontario

By Maxime Chouinard, Curator

The appendix represents quite a mystery. For many years it was believed to be a vestige of our distant ancestors; the trace of a cecum, a part of many animals large intestine. This theory was put forward by Charles Darwin, but was mostly refuted in 2013.

Another theory claims that the appendix acts as a safe haven for gut bacteria in case of disease; the bacteria could regenerate from this point into the rest of the intestine.

Whatever its true function, the appendix can cause severe problems when it becomes infected. In such cases the most common response is to remove the appendix, a procedure called appendectomy. While today it is considered a relatively common procedure, more than a century ago it would have been quite a feat.

In this article we will present a story of a spectacular and early appendectomy. This is a story that was passed down through the family of Mr. Stephen Shimeal, who came to the museum this summer to share it with us.

In 1896, the young Violet Minetta Simpson, then 6 years old, was suffering from an acute appendicitis. Her family was at the time living in Grand Valley, Ontario, and decided to consult the local physician. Considering her condition to be fatal, the physician told them that the best course of action would be to attempt an appendectomy; a procedure that was first named and executed only a decade before.

A significant problem remained: the physician had never done nor observed any abdominal surgery before. However, he did own a copy of an American medical journal which described, in detail, the process of an appendectomy...

Realizing that they had nothing to lose, the Simpsons agreed to the procedure. They took a photo of their daughter, knowing that it might be their last chance to do so. Taking a photograph at the time was quite expensive, and many families only managed to take pictures post mortem. They were instructed to give her no food after dinner, and only clean water until midnight.

They then proceeded to clean their kitchen, which was to be transformed into an operating theatre. The physician was a strong believer in Listerism, and so every bed sheet in the house was boiled, soaked in carbolic acid, and then used to line the room with and create makeshift surgical gowns.

The table was thoroughly scrubbed with boiling water and doused in carbolic acid as well. So much of the substance was used that the entire house reeked of tar for months. Even though the physician was not fond of anaesthesia, Violet's father was put in charge of administering the ether, while the mother was holding up the journal and turning the pages so that the physician could follow the instructions.

The procedure went well and Violet stayed in bed for several weeks. She eventually recuperated, in full health, and went on to live 80 more years.

The appendix itself was first illustrated by Leonardo da Vinci in 1492, and was described by da Capri and Vesalius later on. However, until the late 19th century, appendectomy was an extremely rare procedure.

The first recorded instance of such a surgery was in 1735 London, where the French Huguenot surgeon Claudius Amyand undertook the removal of a young boy's appendix. Amyand had previously served in the British army,

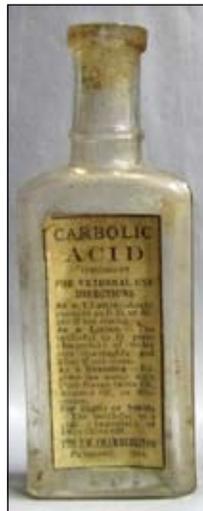
and was named surgeon-in-ordinary for George II.

The patient was Hanvil Anderson, 11 years old, and suffered from a hernia. Upon opening the abdomen, the surgeon saw that the appendix was badly inflamed and even perforated. Fearing for the boy's life, Amyand decided to do something that had never been done before; remove the appendix. The consequences were uncertain, would the patient survive and would he be able to live a normal life afterwards? The surgery was conducted at St. George's Hospital and was a success. Amyand later presented his procedure to the Royal Society, of which he was a fellow. Upon examining the appendix he found a pin, which had been swallowed by the boy and thus caused the appendicitis.

Curiously, Amyand's work subsequently fell in obscurity, and appendectomy was not to be tried again until the 1880s. By then the advent of anaesthesia and antiseptics gave rise to more complex surgeries. The first to try the procedure again was Robert Lawson Tait in 1880's Edinburgh. Tait was treating a seventeen year old girl suffering from acute pain and showing a characteristic swelling in the right lower abdomen. Tait decided to operate and found the appendix to be inflamed and even gangrenous. He decided to remove it and close off the opening with fine silk.

Even though this procedure proved successful, most surgeons recommended it only when an abscess was formed. Such a cautious approach unfortunately caused 35 percent of patients to die from acute peritonitis, as Reginald Hebert Fitz demonstrated. Fitz, a pathology professor at Harvard, was the first to coin the term appendicitis, and suggested the appendix should be removed at the earliest stage.

This approach was imitated by most American surgeons, while Europeans maintained the conservative approach until 1902, when King Edward VII was operated at an early stage of swelling. His fast recovery convinced many surgeons of the importance of acting quickly.



A bottle of carbolic acid. Museum of Health Care, 010020404.

>> *Continued on page 7*

Museum... *continued from page 3*

In 1998 a Research Fellowship was established for post graduate students to research medical history relating to specific artefacts. The first newsletter for members of the Museum was produced and distributed in late 1998. During the summer of 1999, brochures were distributed. This resulted in an increase of out-of-town visitors to the Museum. The Museum also developed a website.

In May 1998, the Ann Baillie Building was designated a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for its significance as one of five nurses' residences in Canada which symbolize the establishment of careers for women in the field of health care. A restoration fund was established to upgrade the interior of the building to reflect Museum standards and also to incorporate an elevator for easier access and manoeuvrability of large artefacts. It soon became apparent that the Museum was becoming of interest nationally and the name was changed officially to the Museum of Health Care at Kingston in 2000. The Museum continued to grow at a rapid pace. Renovations and restoration of the building were essential as the need for space continued to grow. Fund raising continued. The Museum maintained seven outreach exhibitions in three institutions, while education programs were presented to students in local schools. Additional staff and volunteers were gradually acquired as interpreters and tour guides. In 2001, the annual summer research fellowship became the Margaret Angus Research Fellowship. A National Advisory Board was appointed in 2004. This Board of distinguished representatives from across the country serves as a valuable advisory group to the Board of Directors of the Museum. During June 2004, the KGH Nurses Alumnae held a tea on the front lawn of the Ann Baillie Building, celebrating the Building's 100th anniversary. The long anticipated renovations to the Ann Baillie Building with renovations to the basement as storage areas were completed in 2005.

Public lectures regarding the growth and changes in health care have taken place over the following years.

The Museum continued to grow under Dr. Low's full-time leadership. His passion and determination has brought the Museum to its position as the only dedicated medical museum in Canada with over 40,000 artefacts and about 50,000 visits to the website each year. Dr. Low "officially" retired from the Museum in December 2011 after 20 years as the major promoter of the Museum and its volunteer Executive Director. Even though retired, he continued to be involved with the Museum for several more years. He was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2014 for his work at the Museum and was invested privately in January 2015. Dr. Low, after a long illness, passed away in February 2015.

James Low is missed by the Museum's board, staff, and volunteers, past and present.



Dr. James Low at the Museum of Health Care. Image credit: Queen's University

IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences to KGH Nurses' Alumnae members for their recent losses.

*Vera Mumford - Class of 1934
On October 17th*

*Nonna Weaver - Class of 1960
On October 25th*

*Fran Morris - Class of 1940
On November 2nd*

Vera and Fran kindly shared stories of their experiences at the KGH School of Nursing during the development of the Museum's nursing galleries. The Museum is fortunate to have their interviews on record.

Appendix... *continued from page 6*

Today appendectomy has become a common procedure. The introduction of antibiotics and laparoscopy made the recovery much quicker for many patients. Even today new innovations are being made, namely with single-

incision laparoscopic surgery. Thanks to these discoveries, appendicitis is now easily treatable. New research shows that appendectomy might be superfluous in many cases where antibiotics can do the same job just as effectively.

Museum of Health Care: 25th Anniversary

In 2016 the Museum turns 25 and we are planning a yearlong celebration with the communities who have helped us come so far. Work has already begun on an exciting series of events and initiatives to excite our wonderful supporters, engage diverse audiences on local, national, and international levels, and further the Museum's mission to tell the story of health and health care in Canada.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Stay updated as details are finalized by visiting our Calendar of Events online, signing up for our free BAILLIEbytes E-newsletter, or contacting us at any time (613-548-2419 or info@museumofhealthcare.ca).

Our 2016 line up will include:

Heads and Femurs, Spleens and Toes PA Day Program for ages 6-10 on **February 4**

Teddy Bear Hospital Family Day Program for ages 3-8 on **February 15**

Heritage Week Collaborations falling **February 15-19**

March Break Family Programs for ages 6-12 on **March 16-18**

Queen's School of Nursing Exhibit and Event during **April 4-8**

Annual General Meeting on **April 12**

Volunteer Appreciation Event in **April**

Museum hosts *Beyond Classrooms* **May 2-13**

Success By Six Week Program in **May**

Kingston Regional Heritage Fair Contributions on **May 12**

PA Day Program on **May 20**

First Capital Day Activities in **June**

Doors Open Kingston Activities on the theme "Medical Science and Innovation" on **June 18**

Summer Family Programs on **selected summer weekends**

Culture Days Activities during the last weekend of **September**

Research Fellowship Presentation Evening in the **fall**

Artefact or Artefiction Gala in the **fall**

...and more exciting activities to be announced!



CONNECT WITH US

The Museum is going mobile in 2016 by introducing FREE public WiFi in our galleries. Connect with us on social media to share your stories and experiences and stay up to date with all we have to offer. From featured artefacts and insightful blog posts to stimulating events and educational programs, we are dedicated to preserving the history of health care. To follow along or join the conversation:



• Like us on Facebook (Museum of Health Care)



• Follow us on Twitter @MuseumofHealth



• Follow us on LinkedIn at linkedin.com/company/museum-of-health-care



• Subscribe to our blog museumofhealthcare.wordpress.com

• Subscribe to our e-newsletters from our website

SUPPORT A LEGACY OF CARE

The Museum of Health Care was founded to be the premier institution devoted to the preservation of the history of health care in Canada. Your support is vital to safeguarding this dynamic heritage and to ensure the Museum is here for future generations. There are many ways you can show your support such as becoming a Museum Member, giving a Gift Membership, providing a donation, or honour a family member or friend with a Commemorative Donation.

Please consider supporting the Museum of Health Care today. Call us at 613-548-2419 for information or visit www.museumofhealthcare.ca/donate

Have you visited the Museum?

Your experience is valuable and we'd like to hear about it. We invite you to share your stories and insights.

Here's how:

- Write to us at 32 George Street, Kingston, ON K7L 2V7
- Give us a call at 613-548-2419
- Look us up on TripAdvisor and post your comments
- Write a review on Facebook

Your feedback helps us improve (or keep doing what you like) and encourages others to visit us as well.