



THE BAILLIEWICK

NOVEMBER 2012

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1



Image: Medicine: An Illustrated History by A.S. Lyons and R.J. Petrucci, published by Harry N. Abrams NY 1978.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Museum Highlights	PG. 2
Collections Update	3
Welcoming New Faces	4
Hello & Goodbye	5
New Look at History	6
Curatorial Corner	7
Upcoming Programs	8



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

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

ADMISSION BY DONATION

A Century Gone: Joseph Lister, Antisepsis and the beginnings of Modern Surgical Medicine

By Pamela Peacock, Curator

Sir Joseph Lister, Bt. was born 1827 in Essex, England. He graduated from University College, London, with a Bachelor of Medicine in 1852 and, at age 26, entered the Royal College of Surgeons. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Edinburgh to pursue his career and practice. In 1860 he accepted the position of Chair of Clinical Surgery at the University of Glasgow. In this capacity, Lister found that 45-50% of amputation patients later died of infection. Spurred by this statistic, he undertook the experiments on the prevention of infection that earned him wide renown.

Drawing on the ideas of Louis Pasteur, Lister's experiments demonstrated that infection was avoided if a disinfect-

tant barrier – one that would kill micro-organisms – was applied in and onto open wounds. Throughout much of the nineteenth century it was believed that infections were brought on by miasmas, or bad air; however, the work of scientists came to show that it was not the air itself but rather the micro-organisms in it that were to blame.

This realization incited Lister to find ways to create a barrier between the airborne pathogens and the wound thus diminishing incidents of infection.

In 1867 he presented his findings in a paper to the British Medical Association in Dublin, which was later reprinted in the British Medical Journal. Lister stated:

“To prevent the occurrence of suppuration with all its attendant risks was an object manifestly desirable, but

In 1860...Lister found that 45-50% of amputation patients later died of infection.

>> Continued on page 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Alan Grant, President & Chair

Encourage everyone to read and discover what the Museum has been doing over the last little while. As you can see there has been a huge amount of activity and learning – for all ages and interests – taking place within and without the building that contains our artefacts and archives! The ongoing success of any organization is determined, in large measure, by how it engages and attracts a broad cross section to appreciate and support its Vision and Mission. The Museum of Health Care has been particularly successful in doing this – thanks to a dedicated, inventive professional staff that targets a cross section of ages and interests.

In addition to local events the Museum also reaches out through electronic and other means to engage, educate and entertain well beyond Kingston using its unique collections and expertise. Our continued success depends on outreach and, as I think you will agree, the Museum excels at this!

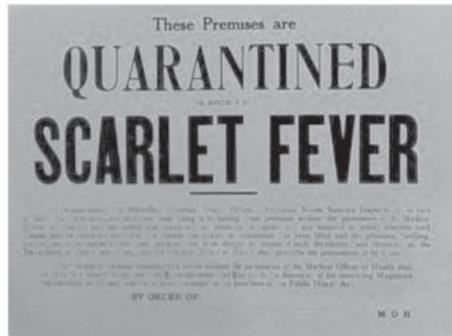
Earlier this year the Board of Directors and Staff updated the Museum of Health Care's Strategic Plan for 2013-2016. I will sign off with our updated vision of the Museum's continuing role:

The Museum of Health Care is Canada's centre for people of all ages to learn more about the cultural, scientific, spiritual and technological resources that preserve health and manage disease, pain and suffering.

Children's Gallery
Exhibition Opening:
The Skin You're In



- Families enjoyed the face painting station and hands-on activities at last May's exhibition opening.
- Thank you to all in attendance!



Blog series

This summer Curatorial Assistant Maddi McKay wrote the blog series "Would I Have Died?" about the intersection of medical history with her own family's health history. This personal exploration of scarlet fever, pneumonia, and meconium aspiration syndrome is available at <http://museumofhealthcare.wordpress.com>.

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS



On November 14, 2012, Queen's doctoral candidate **Samantha Sandassie** delighted & informed a packed room at the Museum with her lecture *Half gods, good Surgeons may be called*, which explored the risky business of early modern surgery and its professionalization in 17th-century England.

2012 Dr. Margaret Angus
Research Fellowship

Evening Presentation

Diana Gore delivered a public presentation entitled *Cultures of Birth: Midwifery in 19th- and 20th- century Ontario* to an engaged audience on October 18, 2012. Inspired by the Museum of Health Care's vast collection of obstetrical instruments, Diana explored several changes in birth cultures over the course of her four-month fellowship.



Midwifery washbasin 1927.1.1



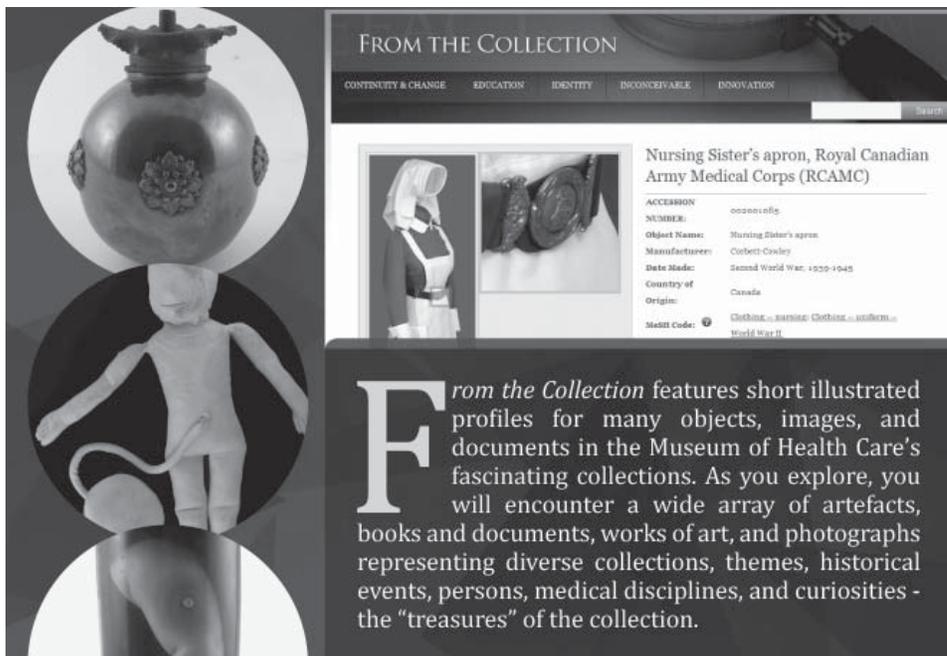
Volunteers (from L to R) David, Christina, Marilyn, and Claire delight young program participants



- A strong turnout of St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae members attended last May's nursing history event "The Women Religious Orders and the Catholic Hospitals in Canada."

Collections Outreach

By Kathy Karkut, Collections Manager



Details from online artefact profiles feature "From the Collection."

This fall I was invited to contribute to the Ontario Museums Association (OMA) Certificate in Museum Studies Collections Management Course held at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on 26 September, 2012.

I provided information on the collections management cataloguing software in use at the Museum, InMagic DB/Textworks InMagic Version 4 (1999). Four other local museum staff discussed their preferred software, ranging in capabilities from Access,

to MIMSY, to Past Perfect. While other software offers Windows based features, DB/Textworks has suited the Museum's needs very well over the past 20 years.

In a second presentation, I discussed the Museum's recently completed digitization project "From the Collection," now available on our website at <http://artefact.museumofhealthcare.ca>. This project acts as an introduction to the 32,000+ objects on the on-line collections database, presenting concise studies of

a variety of objects gathered under five themes. Each study links back to the on-line catalogue to allow for further exploration of similar themed objects. The "Zoomify" magnification feature allows for truly close up views of each featured object.

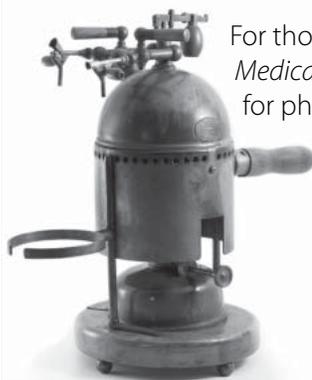
To complete the day of learning, the 28 OMA participants enjoyed a close-up look at the Museum's storage areas, viewed slide shows of collections storage solutions created for the unique objects in the medical and pharmaceutical collections, and toured the galleries. There was still time for networking amongst the group and museum staff prior to leaving for their dinner reservations.

In response to the numerous queries regarding the safe practices of handling this type of potentially hazardous object, we sent resources on how to correctly store vintage pharmaceutical items to the students.

We wish to thank the course director, Bev Dietrich, Curator at Guelph Museums, for inviting our staff to share our collections management projects and for including a visit to our collections storage as part of the course.

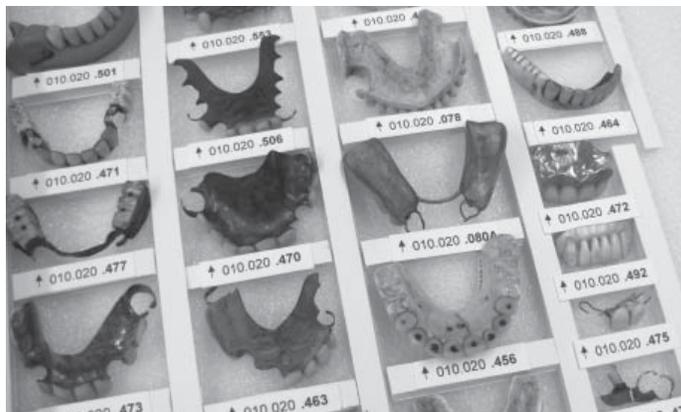
"From the Collection" was funded by the Ontario Museums and Technology Fund. The support of the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, is acknowledged.

Contributions to *The Medical Post*



A carbolic acid sprayer (1934.12.3) was featured in September 2012

For those of you subscribed to *The Medical Post*, a bimonthly publication for physicians, watch for Museum of Health Care artefacts featured in the segment "Artefactual." Each object, chosen because of its intriguing history, is accompanied by a multiple choice quiz as well as historic background elsewhere in the issue.



Queen's Work Study student Aimee Sims, 1st year Masters of Art Conservation, completed new collections storage to house a range of dentures from the Dr. Ralph & Mrs. Olga Crawford Canadian Dental Collection. The dentures include a variety of materials from early hand carved ivory with human teeth, to partial dentures with gold and sterling, to a mixture of plastics.

WELCOMING NEW FACES



Education Programs and Curatorial volunteer **Cynthia Cotton** is a PhD student at Carleton University in the department of

Anthropology. She studies medical anthropology and is particularly interested in the social side of organ transplantation. One day, Cynthia hopes to become a museum exhibit designer or educational specialist.



Beatrice D'Angelo is delighted to be back at the Museum as a Work Study Bilingual Translator. This past summer, she had the opportunity to

work at the Museum as a Public Programs Assistant.* She is currently in her fourth year in Philosophy and Art History at Queen's University, and hopes to pursue Philosophy further in graduate school. She is excited to help make the Museum more accessible to visitors and school groups through her French translations. In addition to working at the Museum, she volunteers at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, and loves attending and volunteering with various events in Kingston's vibrant cultural sector.



Melissa Ducharm recently joined the Museum as a volunteer docent. She received a degree in Kinesiology from McMaster University

and is currently in the process of completing her masters at Queen's in Anatomy. Melissa hopes to teach anatomy in the future and enjoys playing soccer in her spare time.



Alexandra Galanis has joined the Museum this fall as a bilingual docent. She is currently a undergraduate student in French

Studies at Queen's University, and plans to write her LSAT's next year. She looks forward to helping run children and adult programs in the two languages closest to her heart!



Education Programs and Special Events volunteer **Rhona Gale** retired from teaching with the Limestone School Board in June, 2011. Her experiences

and enjoyment of teaching led her to look for volunteer work in education, particularly in teaching history. She enjoys helping out with the children's programs, as well as the lecture series.



Varsha Jayaraman is a Curatorial Assistant at the Museum. She received a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History from Queen's University in Spring 2012. She loves

medical history and learning about the history of surgery. Varsha hopes to one day work in the medical field.



Erin Kraus has recently become the Digital Photographer at the Museum of Health Care. She is working towards a Master's in Art Conservation

in the paper stream. Prior to working at the Museum of Health Care, she was the digital photographer at a fine art museum in Kansas. Working with fine art was fun, but working with medical instruments will be particularly interesting. She hopes to make great progress in photographing the Museum's collection.



Julia Lubczynski was thrilled to complete her Alternate Practicum placement with the Museum as part of her education training

at Queen's University. During her time at the Museum, Julia created an in-museum educational program for students in Grades 7 and 8. This 5 part presentation introduces students to the fascinating world of waterborne pathogens, as they explore the history of waterborne diseases in Kingston, and learn about the importance of clean and safe drinking water in our modern society.



Amanda Martyniuk recently joined the Museum as a volunteer docent. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario this

spring with an Honours Bachelor of Science and is now a M.Sc. Candidate in Anatomical Sciences at Queen's University. She is looking forward to using her passion for teaching and learning in her field to help get others excited about science and health!



Having spent an incredible summer working as a Curatorial Assistant* in the most amazing museum with an unbelievable staff, **Maddi McKay** has

now returned to the University of Ottawa where she is majoring in Anthropology with a minor in the Social Sciences of Health. Maddi misses the museum constantly and wishes them all the best!



Collections Assistant **Aimee Sims** is a first year Queen's Art Conservation student focusing on artifacts. She moved to Montreal from England in 1997

and received her undergraduate degree in Art History from Concordia University. Her previous museum experience includes working in the art conservation department at the McCord Museum associated with McGill University. Aimee loves sports especially horse riding, reading mystery novels and travelling to new countries.



Cassandra Tran recently joined the Museum as a Digital Photographer Assistant. She is currently in her fourth year at Queen's

University, majoring in Classical Studies. Her passions lie in archaeology, which is why she is very excited with her work in the Collections Department. In her spare time, Cassandra enjoys rock climbing and cooking.

Welcome to Our New Board of Directors Members:

Kate Kahn
Dr. Walter Rosser

* Our thanks to Dr. Jacalyn Duffin and the Queen's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEPE) for their support in the creation of this position! // ** Funding for this project has been 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.

Community honours James Low, founder of the Museum of Health Care



Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and John Gerretsen, M.P.P- Kingston and the Islands present Dr. James Low with a scroll to recognize his retirement and service. (Photo courtesy of Office of the Honourable John Gerretsen)

At a reception on April 17, 2012, the community honored Dr. James Low's contributions as the Founder of the Museum of Health Care and his 20 years of service as its volunteer Executive Director. Dr. Low stepped down as Executive Director

this year but remains with the museum as a part-time advancement officer.

To recognize his lifelong dedication to preserving medical history, the Museum of Health Care introduced the *Dr. James Low Legacy Fund*. Gifts made to this fund will contribute to the long term stability of the Museum.



Hello & Welcome

A previous volunteer and the 2012 Margaret Angus Research Fellow, **Diana Gore** is thrilled to be joining the staff this fall. A recent graduate of the Master of Museum Studies program at the University of Toronto, Diana will be replacing Jenny Stepa as the new Communications and Finance Coordinator. A fan of all things social media and databases, Diana will keep you informed about museum events, and happily answer any questions about becoming a member.

Volunteer spirit strong at the Museum



At the Volunteer Appreciation Reception last spring.

We have been very fortunate to have incredibly strong voluntary support this year-- from our long-standing volunteers and from the influx of new faces. They lend their unique skills and knowledge to help in several areas of the Museum, from education programming to collections, and increase our capacity and effectiveness as an organization.

Why the wonderful showing of volunteer spirit? While individual benefits vary from person to person, including career training and giving back to the community, all of our volunteers cite a dedication to the Museum of Health Care's fascinating and unique work. For information about how to volunteer, please visit our newly revamped website or drop us a line!



Catherine Toews poses with two young participants at her 2011 March Break Family Program "Snot & Whatnot"

Congratulations & Goodbye

Best wishes to **Catherine Toews** and her family after their move to British Columbia last summer, and congratulations on the birth of their son! Catherine contributed to the Museum in Health Care in many wonderful ways during her four years as Museum Manager & Program Director. Her graphic designs, program development, and mentoring of volunteers and staff are just a few ways her work will endure. Thank you, Catherine, from everyone at the Museum!

Mysterious Mexican Disease May Rewrite History of Spanish Conquest

By Danielle Ruffolo, Public Programs Assistant

My absolute favourite thing about being a history student is having my previous assumptions about historical narratives dashed. During my first year at Queen's I quickly learned that what was deemed "fact" in my earlier education is actually just one of many historical narratives to consider – history isn't as cut-and-dried as I had thought.

I learned this lesson very clearly in my class "The Atlantic World", during our discussion of the Columbian Exchange – the transfer of ideas, people, plants, animals, and pathogens between the European settlers and the Native populations of the New World. While each of the transfers that occurred in this exchange is fascinating to study, the pathogen transfer generally receives the most attention. By 1600, the vast majority of the Native population in Mexico was decimated due to exposure to European diseases, most famously smallpox. The Natives had not had any exposure to these European diseases and, therefore, their bodies were not equipped to fight them.

Smallpox is almost always credited as the biggest, and sometimes the only, disease that wiped out the Native population; however, research published in 2006 suggests a possible unidentified and deadlier New World disease, the origins of which remain a mystery even today.

Dr. Rodolfo Acuna-Soto, a Mexican historian, poured through old Spanish records detailing the events of the settlers' arrival in New Spain, now Mexico, and the epidemics that followed. He noticed something odd; while the first epidemic of 1518 was described in the records using the Native word for smallpox, the disease responsible for the 1545 and 1576 epidemics were given an

entirely different name, *cocoliztli*. This led Acuna-Soto to suspect that the outbreaks of 1545 and 1576 featured an entirely different disease than that of 1518. Acuna-Soto also translated a text that was written by a Spaniard sent to the New World to record details of the epidemic for the Spanish King. This text detailed several major Mexican

the European population was not susceptible to *cocoliztli* if it was a Native disease to which the Europeans had no immunity. How could this disease have bypassed the Spanish population if it did not originate from Europe? Acuna-Soto's theory is that the disease was carried by rodents who were numerous in the fields where Native

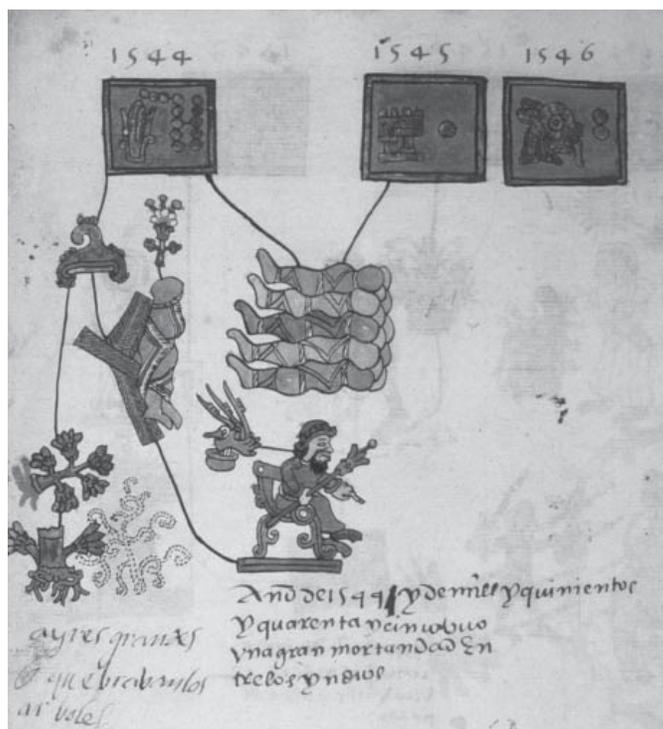
youth worked. In discovering that huge rainfalls had hit in the years when *cocoliztli* broke out, he posited that this would have brought out rodents to the fields, infecting the Native population with the disease.

Medical historians today continue to discuss this mystery, and whether it may prove relevant in the future. If *cocoliztli* is indeed the largest perpetrator of the decimation of the Mexican Native population in the 1500s, we have identified a pathogen that came out of nowhere only to retreat to obscurity, that we know very little about, and that could very well come back again with unpredictable consequences.

If there is anything I have learned from my experiences

working at the Museum of Health Care and as a history student it is that history is not static. Historians are constantly uncovering new evidence and reworking narratives. Counter-histories arise to challenge commonly held truths. History is an ever-changing subject—it is alive and very relevant. In the case of *cocoliztli*, we will have to wait and see precisely how relevant this alternate historical narrative will be.

Danielle is a fourth year History student at Queen's University and a 2012 Public Program Assistant at the Museum. Many thanks to Dr. Jacalyn Duffin and the Queen's Summer Work Experience Program for their support in the creation of Danielle's position!



Detail of Mexica/Aztec Chronicle, Codex Telleriano-Remensis: 1544-46
From the Collection of Andres Resendez

epidemics including the epidemic of 1545 that had wiped out 45% of the Native population. The disease was described as having very different symptoms than the full-body rash and pustules that are characteristic of smallpox. According to the text, the casualties of the epidemics of 1545 and 1576 bled from the ears and nose, went insane and died within a week, and when examined post-mortem were found to have blackened internal organs.

The story remains a mystery. Casualties were almost entirely Native youth. Critics question why

till lately apparently unattainable, since it seemed hopeless to attempt to exclude the oxygen which was universally regarded as the agent by which putrefaction was effected. But when it had been shown by the researches of Pasteur that the septic properties of the atmosphere depended not on the oxygen, or any gaseous constituent, but on minute organisms suspended in it, which owed their energy to their vitality, it occurred to me that decomposition in the injured part might be avoided without excluding the air, by applying as a dressing some material capable of destroying the life of the floating particles. [...]

The material which I have employed is carbolic or phenic acid, a volatile organic compound which appears to exercise a peculiarly destructive influence upon low forms of life, and hence is the most powerful antiseptic with which we are at present acquainted.” Joseph Lister, “On the Antiseptic Principle of the Practice of Surgery” (1867)

Through the application of such dressings, as well as flushing the wounds with antiseptics, the mortality rate of Lister’s ward decreased to 15% by 1870.

In addition to sterilizing wounds, a carbolic acid spray was employed for a time in the attempt to disinfect the air in the surgical room. This practice was discontinued, though, because the effects of acid inhalation proved severe.

In 1877 Lister was appointed professor of surgery at King’s College, London. Though he retired from medical practice in 1893, he served as the President of the Royal Society from 1895 to 1900 and of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1896. He was also a founding member of the British Institute of Preventative Medicine, now the Lister Institute of Preventative Medicine. Lister died 10 February, 1912.

Lister further advocated for the sterilization of surgical instruments, for the cessation of the use of porous natural materials in surgical instruments, and for surgeons to sterilize their hands. Through his efforts and inventions antiseptics became a basic principle of surgery and medical practice.

Summer Exhibit: Friendly Fire Cabinet

By Pamela Peacock, Curator

Friendly Fire and Friendly Fire Cabinet were two art exhibitions jointly curated by and held at, the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and the Museum of Health Care, respectively, from 5 May to 3 September 2012. Award-winning artist Howie Tsui was contracted to produce three original works and a research cabinet based on his interaction with medical artefacts from the War of 1812 in the



Detail of Howie Tsui: Friendly Fire Cabinet
(Photo: Paul Litherland)

collection of the Museum and on a broader study of the War of 1812. Tsui created thought-provoking pieces that explore how warfare is written on the body through insightful, and sometimes irreverent, explorations of war-wounds, of British-Aboriginal alliances, and of self-injury and factitious disease as a way out of service. Tours were offered of the exhibits, a related education program was developed, and an exhibition catalogue was produced.

At the Museum of Health Care, *Friendly Fire Cabinet* presented an arrangement of sketches, works in progress, and influential secondary sources that inspired the artist, providing insight into the artist’s process. From anatomical drawings to contemporary racial hierarchies, several of the sources that inspired Tsui were presented in juxtaposition with early drafts of his work, allowing viewers to see the ideological underpinnings of each piece.

Text panels explained the medical theories and practices of the day. Typical health problems and the

treatments and surgeries based on the humoral theory of medicine were addressed, including the propensity to liberal bloodletting and the induction of violent purging. Amputation, the most frequent surgical intervention, was described and the reasons for its frequency explained. A ‘research nook,’ containing printed secondary source materials and an evaluation book was also included. A number of educational programs, including an afternoon of speakers, tours, and youth programming, supplemented and enhanced the exhibits.

Tsui’s intimate study of the war compliment and complicate the nation-building narratives told through other commemorative events and engage us with little discussed aspects of the War, including the medical theories and practices

brought to the battlefields.

Thank you to Jan Allen, Acting Director at the AEAC, and Paul Robertson, former MHC Curator, for the conception of and work on this project. Funding from the City of Kingston Arts Fund and the Government of Canada is acknowledged.

View Tsui’s Artist Talk online at:
<http://museumofhealthcare.ca/explore/exhibitions/friendlyfirecabinet.html>

Howie Tsui: Friendly Fire Catalogue Available to Pre-order!



Including articles by Jan Allen, Steven Loft, and Paul Robertson, and designed by Vincent Perez, this catalogue is a fascinating record of Tsui’s creations. Each article skillfully interweaves art, history, memory, and critical reflection, illuminating for the reader the myriad ways that Tsui has explored the War of 1812.

Coming soon to our Gift Shop. Pre-order catalogue by contacting us at 613-548-2419 or info@museumofhealthcare.ca

64 pp 30 col. ill. 9x8 in softcover 978-1-55339-263-7 \$22.00 Can. \$25.00 U.S.



Teddy Bear Hospital

Family Day Program for Ages 3 to 8

Back by popular demand! Bring your teddy bear or other special stuffed animal to the Museum of Health Care this Family Day! Our trained teddy doctors and nurses will be on hand to examine and treat your beloved toy's bumps, lumps, and bruises! Learn, laugh, and discover why doctors and hospitals aren't so scary after all! The event will include a special storytime, tasty snacks, and a hands-on craft activity. Suitable for ages 3-8, with adult accompaniment. Pre-registration required. To register call (613) 548-2419 or e-mail info@museumofhealthcare.ca.

Monday, February 18
10:30 am to noon OR 1:00 to 2:30 pm

At the Museum (32 George St.)
\$5/child (no charge for adults)



Pump It Up!

March Break Programs for Ages 6+

Get your heart pumping and your brain working with hands-on activities about physical fitness! Participate in action-packed learning about your respiratory, circulatory, and muscular systems—and find out why your body in motion is so amazing! Suitable for ages 6-12 (parents welcome). Pre-registration required. To register call 613-548-2419 or e-mail info@museumofhealthcare.ca.

Wednesday, March 13 from 10am to noon OR
Thursday, March 14 from 10am to noon OR
Friday, March 15 from 10am to noon OR 2pm to 4pm

At the Museum (32 George St.)
\$5/child (no charge for adults)

Stay in Touch!



Social Media allow us to reach out to the community and share information on a daily basis. It is our way of checking in and letting you know what we are up to, whether it is a new event we are planning or a photo of our hard working volunteers. We post videos, articles, information from other local and national organizations, as well as fun tidbits about the daily operations of the Museum. To follow along,

- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Twitter @MuseumofHealth
- Subscribe to our blog museumofhealthcare.wordpress.com

Give a Museum Gift Membership



This is the perfect gift for those who want to connect with a museum community and are passionate about the preservation of the legacy of health care. In addition to regular member benefits, the recipient of your Gift Membership will receive a welcome package explaining their gift. If you make an additional Gift Circle donation on behalf of your Gift Membership recipient, they will also receive a complimentary Anne Baillie Building pewter collectable ornament (while supplies last) and, as with any donation, you will be supplied with a charitable tax receipt.

To give a Museum of Health Care membership, download the Gift Membership form at:

www.museumofhealthcare.ca/get-involved/membership.html, or call us at 613-548-2419.

Explore a Canadian Hospital's Fascinating Past in Upcoming App

Throughout 2012, the Museum of Health Care and iSTORM New Media have been developing a virtual walking tour of the Kingston General Hospital, to be released as a free mobile application next year. With an interactive map of KGH as their starting point, the public can step “inside” each of the original buildings to experience themes within the history of Canadian hospital care from 1835 to 1914. *Funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation is acknowledged.*

