

Museum Charged Up by Latest Donation

By Janet Shulist, 2006 Museum Interpreter

This past summer, the Museum received some rather electrifying news: it was being offered an electrostatic generating machine, once the proud possession of a small-town physician known for his love of the latest technology.

Standing at seventy inches tall and about the size of an upright piano, the machine is made of oak and glass with brass fixtures. Manufactured about 1910 by the Waite & Bartlett Manufacturing Co. of Long Island, N.Y., the generator produced high-voltage static electricity. By turning the external cast-iron wheel, a static current was generated through two separate but interconnected machines: a Holtz-Toeppler machine consisting of 10 large rotating and fixed glass disks, and a Wimhurst machine comprising two smaller glass disks.

In the 1800s, doctors discovered the potential therapeutic benefits of a static electric current applied to specific areas of the body. These “electrotherapies” involved the application of a direct or indirect static charge to a patient by using various wood and brass electrodes connected to the static generator. Depending on the treatment, the charge could be quite painful. Electrotherapy was commonly used at the time to treat paralysis, muscle pain, rheumatism, migraines, depression and various skin conditions.

The static machines were built to be impressive and were often contained in large, ornate cases, to help convince patients of their effectiveness.

Upon discovery of the “invisible ray”—the X-ray—in 1895, the static generator’s high-voltage charge was pressed into service powering early gas-type X-ray tubes,

an important advancement in medical imaging.

The generator was donated to the Museum by the estate of the late Dr. Ross C. Mellow, son of the late Dr. Frank Mellow, a private physician who practiced out of his home in Uxbridge, Ontario in the early 1900s and purchased the machine around 1912.

Dr. Frank Mellow graduated from Queen’s University’s Faculty of Medicine in 1902 and, according to his granddaughter Elizabeth McMahon, he had a keen interest in new technology. Family lore relates that the doctor would dress housemaids in white coats and make them crank the wheel of the machine to create the desired charge. It is believed Dr. Mellow used the machine for therapeutic purposes up until about 1940. Until it was donated to the Museum in

2006, the machine remained in the same room in his home where Dr. Mellow originally used it.

The Museum is grateful to the Mellow family for the donation of such an extraordinary artefact; the generator is in excellent condition and is thought to be one of only five machines of its kind in Canada, a rare survivor of early 1900s electrotherapeutic apparatuses.

The electrostatic generator is the centrepiece of the Museum’s most recent exhibit, “Electricity and the Invisible Ray”, which was officially opened on October 26th to an enthusiastic crowd. Come see a highlight of early 1900s medical advancement!

—With files from Paul Robertson, Museum Curator



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Dr. Margaret Angus

A Decade of Fellowship

by Dr. Hugh Pross, Chair, Program Committee

2006 marked the 10th anniversary of the Margaret Angus Summer Research Fellowship program. The program was initiated in 1996 by the Board of Directors of the Museum of Health Care and named in honour of Dr. Margaret Angus, a charter member of the Board and one of the founders of the Museum. In setting up the Fellowship, the Board put forth a number of objectives that it was hoped would be accomplished by the young research Fellows. Perhaps the most important is the goal that the Fellow will “develop an appreciation of the value of the history of health care”. This goal has undoubtedly been accomplished in every case.

Every fall, when the Fellow has presented his or her findings, we have been given a fascinating glimpse into the past, and the enthusiasm of the Fellow for the topic has been infectious. A list of these topics, and the Research Fellows who researched them, is shown in the box above. It can be seen that they cover a broad range of subjects and periods in our history. My personal favourites have been those which have told us the story of individuals who have made history happen; people like Drs. Kenneth Fenwick and John G. FitzGerald, men who made great contributions to medicine in Canada in the face of considerable challenges, and

Research Fellowships 1997 to 2006

- 1997 Elaine Berman “Beyond Ether - 150 Years of Anaesthesia”
- 1998 Daniel Sipes “Development of the Cardiopulmonary By-Pass Machine”
- 1999 Daniel Sipes “The History of Prosthetic Joint Replacement”
- 2000 David Kasserra “The History of the No.7 Canadian General Hospital”
- 2001 Viviane Paquin “Plants in the Development of Modern Medicine”
- 2002 Lauren Furness “Confining for Cure: A History of the Early Sanatorium Era in the Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Ontario: 1896 - 1918”
- 2003 Phaedra Livingstone “Snake Oil and Mothers’ Milk: The representation of a woman in Victorian patent medicine advertising trade cards”
- 2004 Jennifer Walker “A Blessing to the Neighborhood at Large”: Dr. Kenneth Fenwick and late 19th Century Surgery.”
- 2005 Christopher Webb “Protecting our Privates: Military Health Education and the VD Epidemic”
- 2006 Jennifer Lem “Dr. John G. FitzGerald: Canada’s Public Health Care Visionary”

These manuscripts are available as research resources in the Museum.

in spite of dying relatively early in their careers.

While the efforts of our Fellows in bringing these projects to fruition are much appreciated, we should not forget the “supporting cast”. Curators Paul Robertson and Kathryn Pankowski and their predecessors, as well as the assistant curators and former Museum Manager Mary Dunn, have been essential to their success. We are especially grateful to Drs. Jane Errington, Jaclyn Duffin and Jim Low who, as academic supervisors, have guided the Fellows and ensured that the end results have been scholarly and professional.

There are many benefits to the Museum from the Fellowship program. While the written reports serve as a valuable resource for future researchers and our own in-house exhibits, the most important benefit is less tangible; the fact that the Fellowship program helps to sustain an environment of scholarly enquiry and research which is essential to the life of a world-class facility. Many thanks go to Dr. Low and the founding Board of Directors for establishing this valuable and successful museum program.

Other Program Highlights...

- Over 170 first-year students in Queen’s Medicine and Nursing visited the Museum during the University’s Orientation Week in September.
- The Museum was pleased to welcome a delegation from the Irish parliament for a tour of the Ann Baillie Building exhibits and facilities on September 21st.
- Curator Paul Robertson wowed the crowd at the Kingston Antiques Group’s September meeting with his “A Zappy Evening of Electrotherapy” lecture.
- A Museum display was included as part of the Southeastern Ontario Health Science Centre’s Orthopaedic Care Conference in October.
- Education Officer Marjorie Bousfield braved the rainy October weather to staff a Museum booth at the MacLachlan Woodworking Museum’s Pumpkinfest.
- On November 1st, over 100 grade 9 students enjoyed a Museum display and scavenger hunt for Kingston General Hospital’s Take Your Child to Work Day.

Legacy of Health Care in Canada

By Dr. James Low, Executive Director

Executive Director's Message

The National Advisory Board (NAB) for the Museum, established in 2004, is co-chaired by Drs. Henry Dinsdale and Donald Wilson and includes physicians, representatives from nursing, academia, industry and the public. The NAB provides a nation-wide base for communicating to professions and the public the significance of the legacy of health care in Canada and the importance of its preservation.

As a Board with a national perspective, their objective is to increase the number of individuals and organizations who believe in the value of preserving the legacy of health care in Canada. To this end, the NAB developed a position paper on why the legacy of health care is important and what is required to preserve our legacy. A copy of this position paper is included with this newsletter. As the Board notes, the development of such facilities is severely restricted because of lack of commitment and funding for the legacy of health care in Canada.

The National Advisory Board presented this position paper to the Canadian Medical Forum, a meeting of the national medical organizations in November 2005. The presentation was well received. Speakers indicated that the national organizations recognized the concerns identified by this position paper.

In 2006, meetings and discussions were held with the Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Nurses Association, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, College of Family Physicians of Canada, Coalition of Canadian Healthcare Museums and Archives, and Canadian Society for the History of Medicine.

Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations – The President, Ms. Lynda Cranston on behalf of the Board of Directors wrote:

“The Association is pleased to provide your organization with a letter of endorsement and expressed support of the Museum’s desire to preserve the significant legacy of health care in Canada.”

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada – Dr. Nick Busing, President and CEO wrote:

“The preservation of healthcare history in Canada is important to all of us. It provides an important recognition of those who helped build our health care environment, it provides a tool for educating us today, and it provides lessons, which can point us into the future. AFMC supports initiatives such as yours

throughout the country, and we are pleased to lend our supportive voice.”

Canadian Medical Association – Mr. William Tholl, Secretary General and CEO wrote:

“The Canadian Medical Association believes that preserving and promoting the history of health care in Canada is an important undertaking and therefore lends its support to the Museum of Health Care at Kingston. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to indicate our interest in seeing how the Museum develops over time and advise you that we are pleased to offer our support.”

Canadian Nurses Association – Ms. Jane Ellis, Associate CEO on behalf of Ms. Lucille Auffrey, Chief Executive Officer wrote:

“On behalf of the Canadian Nurses Association, I am writing to endorse the National Advisory Board of the Museum of Health Care at Kingston’s statement on the Legacy of Health Care in Canada. CNA believes that nursing history, as an important component of health care in Canada, must be preserved, promoted and researched. As the Legacy states,

continued on page 6

Name That Artefact

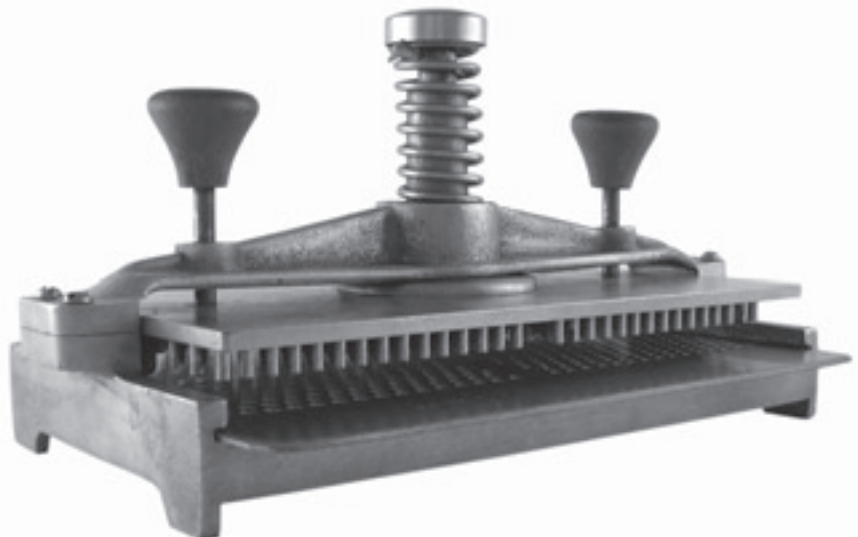
By Tim Gregory, Assistant Curator

We have another unidentified artifact on our hands!

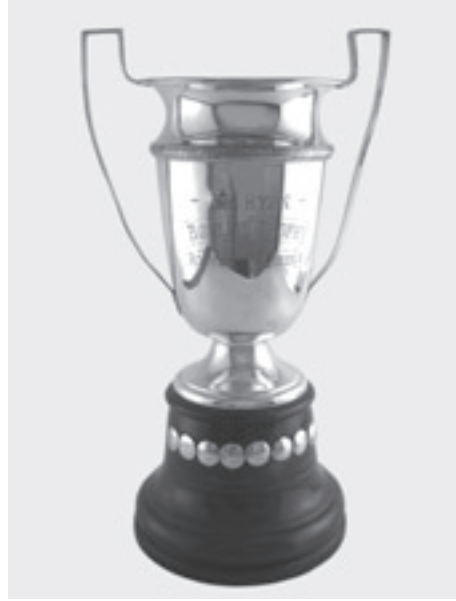
This seems to be some sort of a press, but what does it do? Who knows? Inside is a series of about 450 spokes which go through a pattern of holes on a removable plate when the machine is operated. Its maker’s mark says “A. Colton of Detroit”.

If anyone knows what this is used for, please let us know. The first person to provide a positive ID will win a Museum Pin and Membership (or renewal for existing members)!

Curatorial Corner



Gold Standard Care for the Museum's Silver



A silver Bowling Trophy circa 1923, before and after cleaning

My summer working at the Museum never failed to provide me with interesting projects, one of which involved the Museum's many silver artefacts. The Museum collection includes rubber objects and over time, rubber will off-gas sulfur, a primary agent in the tarnishing of silver. Knowing this, it is important to stabilize and properly store the silver objects to prevent any further damage.

The objects were cleaned using a soft-haired bristle brush and a very gentle non-abrasive cleaner, rinsed with distilled water and wiped down with a soft cloth or tissue. A jeweler's rouge cloth was used to polish each item before they were wrapped in acid-free tissue to absorb moisture, and placed in a polyethylene bag with a piece of tarnish inhibiting cloth. The cloth helps to prevent tarnishing by absorbing any impurities in the air that may be inside the bag.

These measures will ensure that the Museum's silver artefacts are available to delight and educate future generations.

Queen's Students Conduct Artefact "Physicals"

By Paul Robertson, Curator

Everyone knows that an important part of preventative health care involves an annual visit to the doctor for a physical examination. This general review of a person's health helps to identify any ailments or other conditions that may require medical attention.

Students from Queen's University have played the role of the physician to artefacts in the Museum's collections. For two years now, senior art history students studying conservation principles have conducted careful examinations of specific museum objects and prepared condition reports for each. Under the guidance of museum staff and their professor, art conservator Amanda Gray, the students survey the physical condition of each artefact, noting material types, structural weaknesses, and other physical defects.

The information they gather is then summarized in artefact condition reports containing detailed descriptions of the object's physical state and recommendations for conservation treatment and improved storage methods. The students also illustrate their documents with photographs and sketches. These reports are



a valuable tool for responsible collection management and form a permanent addition to artefact documentation.

Students are very much part of this museum's scene: we continue to benefit tremendously from the enthusiasm and interest of Queen's students who have offered their time and talents as artefact photographers, collections assistants, and educational interns. Although some are volunteers, many students are participants in the university's Work Study programme that allows them to have paid employment

funded by Queen's while registered for full-time study.

The artefact inventories conducted by students made it possible for staff to update collection records and relocate the collection to the new storage areas. Student photographers have spent hundreds of hours taking digital images of objects to add to the Museum's on-line database.

This becomes a bonus for all of us: students learn life skills while doing paid employment in a cultural institution and the Museum achieves its museological goals.

Storage Relocation Update

By Tim Gregory, Assistant Curator

We are still chugging away at the Collections Reorganization Project, and the end is finally in sight! We had originally set an 18-month schedule and it's looking like we'll finish right on time. The majority of the collection has now been moved, re-moved, sorted, and moved again. What remains is the daunting task of working through our huge collection of approximately 2,500 pharmacy-related artefacts, many of which still hold their original contents (or what's left of them after a century or so of decomposition).

Dealing with this collection will be particularly challenging because, as of right now, we really don't know much about the contents of these containers. It is essential that we address each object individually to ensure that its contents are not harmful, and that the containers are properly sealed to prevent leakage. Fortunately, former Curatorial Assistant Tanya Faulkner has completed a large portion of this analysis.

From a museum perspective we may eventually need to make a decision: is our primary interest in the packages or the contents? In the long run, it may be more beneficial to document and photograph some of the contents, and then safely dispose of them. This section will probably be the most challenging part of the whole reorganization project. This is why it was put off, um... I mean *saved* for last! But when all is said and done, the Museum will have not only a very well organized and workable collection, but a safer one as well.

Also, as the collection reorganization draws to a close, I have undergone a relocation of my own. At the end of 2006, I returned home to Halifax and thus resigned my post as Assistant Curator. It is my hope that I have left behind an organized and accessible collection that will benefit Museum staff and visitors for years to come!

Assistant Curator Heads East

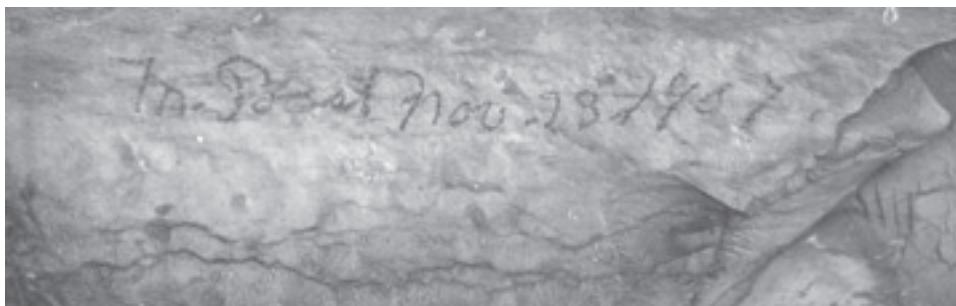
By Paul Robertson, Curator

The Museum has lost one of its most valuable assets: after two years as Assistant Curator, Tim Gregory has departed Kingston and returned to his home city of Halifax. Although he has long spoken of returning to Nova Scotia, we all secretly hoped he'd never leave us.

Tim has become the expert on all things "down under". He almost single-handedly organized and shifted thousands of artefacts from small, cramped Museum quarters upstairs into the newly renovated basement storerooms. The results are impressive and the new system actually works — the Curator can actually find things on his own without the need for Tim to tell him where to go! This transformation in object storage promotes collections management at the Museum into the professional class.

Tim got his feet wet in many areas while at the Museum, helping with artefact acquisitions, documentation, exhibits, and public programming. He most recently designed and mounted a temporary exhibit, "Medical Art through the Ages" showcasing the Museum's collection of anatomical teaching models.

Tim, we thank you for your tremendous contributions to the Museum. You will be sorely missed. Best wishes in your future endeavours.



A stereoscope slide showing the effects of small pox

The Stereoscopic Skin Clinic

By Tim Gregory, Assistant Curator

It isn't very often that you get to actually try out an artefact from our collection, but here is your chance! The Stereoscopic Skin Clinic is a learning tool from the early 20th century that lets you look at 3-D pictures of people with various skin diseases. Using one of our spare stereoscopes, we've put together a fun game where you get to diagnose patients! Based on his or her symptoms and complaints, you use a simple medical textbook to determine what is wrong with each patient. This interactive and educational activity, on display at the Museum, is fun for all ages, whether you want to spend time diagnosing each patient, or just look at the pictures!

The Writing's on the Wall . . . An Update

By Paul Robertson, Curator

In the June 2006 issue of *The Bailliewick*, we described our discovery of a small handwritten notation on the limestone wall on the east side of the second floor balcony door of the Museum. It appears to be a name and date reading "M. Poost Nov. 28 1907."

Recently we noticed another autograph by the same person to the west of the door. This signature appears to be "Poast." The mystery individual clearly wanted to make a mark in the world! As yet, we have uncovered no further information about the signature's owner. Was it a nursing student, hospital maintenance or other employee, a doctor perhaps?

All ideas welcome!

Back in the Classroom with Health Care History & Science

By Marjorie Bousfield, Education Officer

We started the new school year with a new look: a colourful brochure and poster, and corresponding changes to the web site, with revisions to match the changes in curricula and the desire for increased hands-on components for the programs.

The hard work of program revision paid off as students fully engaged in the presentation and activity stations of the first-requested Education Programs this fall: grades 6 and 7. Grade 5/6 students on Wolfe Island enthusiastically initiated our “Healthy, Active Living” program. By December, I had visited classrooms from Kingston to Trenton for all but the grade 8 program. I even got a chance to make combined WWI-Spanish Flu presentations to gr. 10 students at St. Theresa’s Catholic Secondary School in Belleville as



part of a special conference on the value of preserving our heritage.

Once again, we’re appreciative of support given from all quarters, and especially from our most recent sponsor, Brown’s Fine Foods.

I’m looking forward to winter and spring terms, and the introduction of our program on Diabetes, currently in the final stages of completion.

Hands-on-Heritage Summer Day Camps

By Marjorie Bousfield, Education Officer

Whether it was chewing old-fashioned “breath fresheners”, comparing real root beer with synthetic, replicating an Egyptian medical papyrus, sitting on the verandah stitching up a dream pillow stuffed with dried herbs, viewing behind-the-scenes in the museum, or relaxing with a foot bath, this year’s campers had lots of fun!

The variety of activities, relaxed atmosphere, and quiet activities made our Friday afternoons a time to look forward to each week.

Already we are thinking ahead to next summer’s camps and hoping to repeat the fun we had in 2006.

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“History gives perspective to the present and insight into the future ... there is much to learn from past accomplishments ... and mistakes.” Please accept CNA’s endorsement of this important statement.”

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada – Dr Michel Brazeau, Chief Executive Officer following a meeting of the Executive Committee wrote:

“The Royal College agrees with the importance and urgency of preserving the legacy of health care in Canada. Further more the Royal College endorses the proposed vision of the Museum of Health Care and recognizes that it will complement a number of existing institutions.”

Subsequently the Royal College has assisted in the communication of this message to the Fellows of the Royal College. A poster booth was provided at the Annual Meeting of the Royal College for the Museum to present the vision, mission and initiatives to enhance public understanding of health and health care to the Fellows attending the Meeting. The Royal College publication, Outlook, accepted and published in the Fall Issue an

article entitled “Preserving the Legacy of Health Care” written by Drs Henry Dinsdale and Donald Wilson.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada – Dr. Calvin Gutkin, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer following a meeting of the Executive Committee, wrote:

“The College of Family Physicians of Canada would endorse the National Advisory Board’s statement ‘Legacy of Health Care in Canada.’”

Dr. Gutkin also advised that the College of Family Physicians of Canada agrees that the Museum is important. The decision was made that the College would become a Sustaining Patron of the Museum of Health Care at Kingston for five years beginning in 2007.

The organizations directly concerned with the preservation of the Legacy of Health Care, the Coalition of Canadian Healthcare Museums and Archives and Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, have considered and endorsed this position paper.

Dr. Allan Marble, Chair, Coalition of Canadian Healthcare Museums and

Archives following the annual meeting wrote:

“The Coalition of Canadian Healthcare Museums and Archives gave unanimous approval to the motion in support of the National Advisory Board’s Statement regarding the Museum of Health Care.”

Dr Paul Potter, President of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine wrote

“On behalf of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, I would like to assure you of our members support and endorsement of the important work that you are doing to preserve the legacy of health care in the national setting.”

The Museum of Health Care is indebted to the National Advisory Board for the development of their position paper that has placed the preservation of the legacy of health care on the agenda and obtained the endorsement of all the national health care organizations in Canada. Our challenge is to sustain and build on this momentum of concern for and commitment to the preservation of the legacy of health care by the health care disciplines.

Work Study Students

Chelsea Heaven is a first-year Queen's University student studying Psychology. She is very happy to be working as an Artefact Photographer at the Museum. Chelsea is also involved in ASUS Graphic Design, the Queen's Heavy Metal Society, and the Women's Center on campus. She enjoys reading, photography, concerts, general silliness, and jewelry design.



Chelsea

Azadeh Hoor is a graduate student at Queen's. She enjoys painting and photography and, having moved to Canada, she wants to know more about the history of the country. Azadeh is happy to have the opportunity to work as an Artefact Photographer at the Museum and she is looking forward to the many experiences that the Museum will bring for her.



Azadeh

Samantha Mundell joins the Museum as a Public Relations and Administrative Assistant. Samantha is currently studying at Queen's in General Arts and hopes to pursue a career in curatorial work. She is eager to learn as much as she can about all aspects of the museum. When she is not working and studying, Samantha enjoys riding and competing horses.



Samantha

Alison Plouffe is a third year Queen's student majoring in Art History. She hopes that her work as a Collections Assistant will be helpful in the future as she hopes to have a career in a museum or gallery one day. Alison enjoys art, reading, and hanging out with friends.



Alison

Michelle Redwood has joined the Museum team as a Collections Assistant, a position she knows well having worked at the Museum previously in the 2004-5 school year. Michelle is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Music (Hons.) degree at Queen's. She enjoys music and drama, as well as sailing and skiing.



Michelle

Algonquin College Internship

Elizabeth McDermott is an Applied Museum Studies student from Algonquin College. She is currently doing her final 2 month placement at the Museum. Elizabeth grew up in Kingston and graduated from Trent University, focusing on Anthropology. Although Ottawa is her home now, she is enjoying her time at the Museum and learning about everything it has to offer.



Elizabeth

New Committee Member

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Elva McGaughey as a new member of the Program Committee. Elva Richards McGaughey (BA Queen's 1966, MA Carleton 1967) began teaching history in North York in 1968. She and her husband Bob moved to Kingston in 1975. During time away from teaching while her children Andrew and Jane were small, Elva did contract research on Homewood in Maitland and the Bethune-Thompson House in Williamstown for the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Elva is Head of the Liberal Arts Department at KCVI where she has taught since 1987.



Elva

New Volunteers

New Volunteer Amanda Sault is studying Classics at Queen's and says that she enjoys the environment of both the Museum and Kingston itself. Amanda has been volunteering since the summer, helping to check the accuracy of the Museum's collection location records, as well as assisting in inventorying the pharmacy collection. Amanda hopes to continue to volunteer throughout the New Year.

We would also like to thank Janet Shulist for staying on as a volunteer following her work with the Museum in the summer as a Museum Interpreter. Janet contributed this newsletter's front page article and we look forward to her involvement in other upcoming projects.



Amanda

New Board Director

In October 2006, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the appointment to Director of Dr. Hugh Pross, filling the vacancy left by the departure of Board member Dr. Nicholas Delva. Dr. Pross is a long-time friend and supporter of the Museum who has served on the Program Committee since 2002 and is the current Chair.

The Museum wishes to thank Dr. Nicholas Delva for his tremendous support and his tenure as a member of the Museum's Board of Directors since 2000.

List of Donors

The Board and Staff of the Museum thank the following for their generous donations of time and resources to Museum activities in 2006:

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Michelle Podhy
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Department of Canadian Heritage - Museum Assistance Program
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and all of our new and renewing **Members, Sustaining Patrons, Donors and Volunteers.**

We are grateful to all who have helped the Museum. If we have omitted someone, please let us know, and we will be sure to add his or her name to the list in the next *Bailliewick* issue.



THE BAILLIEWICK

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Coming Up...

- In celebration of Heritage Week, join us February 20-23 at 2pm daily for *free* guided tours of the Ann Baillie Building National Historic Site (home of the Museum). Hear what life was like for students at the KGH School of Nursing and those who lived in the Ann Baillie Building when it was a nurses' residence.
- On March 15, 2007, a new outreach gallery exhibit, "Rockwood Asylum – Refuge and Renewal 1878-1905", will open in the Westwood Building of the Providence Continuing Care Centre's Mental Health Services site on King Street West. This exhibit examines life in the stately stone buildings on Lake Ontario that once housed Kingston's asylum and the state of institutionalized mental health care in the late 1800s.
- The Museum will be partnering with the Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Public Health Unit for World TB day, by offering Health Care Professionals an educational evening on Tuberculosis, Wednesday, March 28, 2007 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Health Unit. To find out more about the past and present challenges of 'Fighting the White Plague' visit the Museum's exhibit in the KGH Hall of Honour, or visit the Stop TB partnership website, http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/, or the KFL&A Public Health Unit website, <http://www.healthunit.on.ca/>
- The Astonishing Past of Kingston General Hospital Walking Tour begins its 6th season in May 2007. In the meantime, you can book group tours of the Museum's home, the Ann Baillie Building, one of Canada's most unique National Historic Sites. A portable, slideshow version of our walking tour is also available for your event or community group. Give us a call for fees and other details.