

## When Medicine Met Science 2.0 – Refurbishing a Favourite

By Paul Robertson, Curator

What a little housekeeping will do! While doing some routine spring cleaning of our longstanding exhibition *When Medicine Met Science*, we decided to replace a number of the artefacts on display with others from the reserves. In an effort to bring some of the pieces to life we have enhanced the showcases with additional illustrations drawn from our collection of nineteenth and early twentieth-century instrument catalogues.

The exhibition features many items from the incredibly rich Toronto Academy of Medicine collection acquired by the Museum in 2002. We drew most of the replacement pieces from the same collection.



One of the enhanced showcases. PHOTO: DIANE RICHARDS

Our thanks to Collections Manager Kathy Karkut for taking the lead on this re-launch of the display and her creative design and artefact mounting skills.

Come and see what's new! Among the gems is the 1870s carbolic acid spray invented by Joseph Lister (1827-1912) in the belief that most infection-causing germs were in the air. The steam spray covered everyone and everything in the operating room or hospital ward with a vapour of carbolic acid or phenol, creating an antiseptic environment.



The 1870s carbolic acid spray.

**New!**

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new and improved website. Visit us online at [www.museumofhealthcare.ca](http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca) and see pg. 8 for more details.

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**SUMMER HOURS (JUN. 20-AUG. 30/09):**

TUES. - SAT., 10AM - 4PM \* SUN. NOON - 4PM

**WINTER HOURS: TUES. - FRI., 10AM - 4PM**

**ADMISSION BY DONATION**

# Doors Open Kingston

By Cathy Neilson, Museum Interpreter



Above: Cathy provides a tour to a group of visitors while another visitor enjoys a self-guided visit.

Below: Visitors enjoy a rare sneak peek at the Museum's collection storage rooms.



June 20th was an exciting day for the Museum of Health Care. More than 130 people faced the rain to visit the Museum for Doors Open Kingston. The day was filled with fun and learning for the visitors (and staff).

Many of the visitors indicated that this was their first visit, even though they had wanted to come for years. It is fantastic that Doors Open motivates Kingston residents to finally visit the historic sites they pass by every day.

A highlight for many visitors was the chance to explore the collections storage rooms. They really liked the idea of going behind the scenes at the Museum. The collections storage room tours were very popular; almost every visitor to the Museum took this tour!

Guided tours of our galleries were also quite popular; at least eight

groups of people chose this option. Several visitors were so interested in the Museum's collection of wax anatomical moulages that they decided to follow up their tour of the gallery with a tour of the collections storage rooms.

A special room was set up for families. This room contained a guessing game, the "What is it?" bag of mystery artefacts, and a special scavenger hunt for children. These activities helped keep children engaged during their time at the Museum.

Doors Open was definitely a success for the Museum of Health Care. We received countless positive comments from visitors, many of whom plan to return this summer with friends. Hopefully this event will cause an increase in visitors for the rest of the summer.

## New Acquisitions: Learning About Health Care through Play

By Paul Robertson, Curator

**"D**octor, the patient is here to see you! And he's got quite a few complaints, including a broken heart, water on the knee and butterflies in the stomach! Use your skill and coordination to remove the patient's "ailments"!"

That modern advertisement says it all: for nearly 45 years, budding young surgeons have been bringing relief to "Cavity Sam", their make-believe patient suffering from a wide range of complaints in the well-known Milton Bradley game "Operation". First designed in 1962 by University of Illinois industrial design student John Spinello, the game has been in production since 1965.

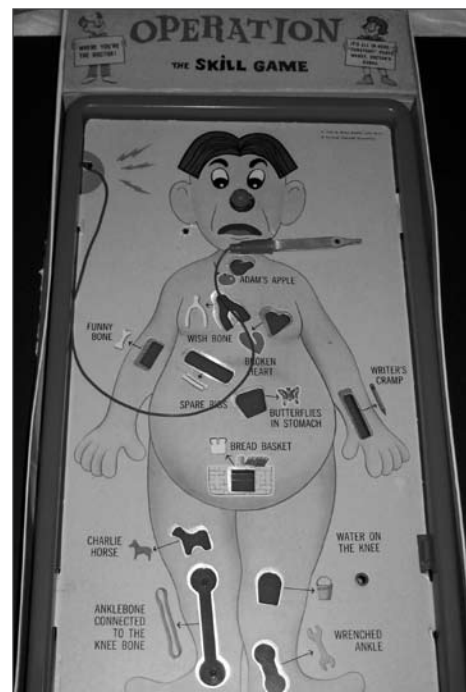
As children, we begin learning what makes good health, the importance of diagnosis and treatment of disease, and the relief of suffering. Games and toys such as "Operation" have long served teaching roles as well as amusements.

In an effort to represent health care in Canada in its broadest sense, the Museum has begun to build a small collection of medically themed books, toys, and games aimed at children and young people.

In addition to a nearly perfect example of the "Operation" game that was given to us in 2008, donations of several other healthcare-related toys came into the collection last year.

Until recently the doctor's bag was an icon of the medical arts and has long been reflected in children's toys. We now have two such bags, one a "Medical Kit" by Fisher-Price designed in 1977, and another well-used version from the 1980s. All of the standard instruments have been rendered in bright washable plastic.

Plastic models of healthcare professionals at work provide children with a three-dimensional view of a hospital activity and a physical setting for



their imaginations at play. The Museum is now home to a couple of examples of toy hospital wards from the English-made Britains Hospital series ("Doctor and Patient" and "Nurse with Mother and Baby", designed in 1980) and a German-made Playmobil toy operating room, designed in 1992.



Cathy (L) and Victoria (R) interact with children at the Museum's booth.

## First Capital Day

By Victoria Harrison, Tour Guide/Marketer

I had never been in Kingston for First Capital Day before so I had no idea what to expect when Catherine Toews, Cathy Neilson and I gathered in the Market Square on the morning of June 15th. All I had been told was that we would have an interactive booth and there would be kids... lots of kids.

The week before, Cathy and I had created a new addition to our booth. We came up with questions and put them on a sandwich board in a lift-the-flap style. The four questions, we thought, would help spark interest in what the Museum is all about, and they certainly did. Our day was full of answering and explaining all about the Museum. The funny thing was that even though our

booth was aimed at the school children visiting the Square that day, the teachers and even passersby thoroughly enjoyed trying to guess the answers to our questions.

My favourite part of the day was hearing the children's guesses when they were trying to identify the artefacts we had brought along. The artefact that received the best guesses (in my opinion) was the ether mask. Some of the guesses included: a tea strainer, a "basket to hold your tumor", a hat, and – my personal favourite – that it was used to scoop out your heart.

Our booth was enjoyed by many people of all ages, just as the Museum is. So I considered the day to not only be fun, but also a great success.

## Museum of Health Care Display Supports Buy-a-Net's Work

By Paul Robertson, Curator

In support of World Malaria Day, the Museum of Health Care at Kingston's special historical display described the dangers Canadians once faced from malaria and the misconceptions around its cause. In the early 1800s, malaria was blamed on bad smelling air as found in swamps and marshes, not on mosquitoes.

Mounted at Buy-A-Net's 2009 World Malaria Day event on 24 April, the Museum's exhibit "The NET Result: Malaria Prevention in Uganda" explained the details of malarial infection and its transmission. It also informed visitors

about current malaria prevention strategies and tools such as bed nets used by healthcare workers in Uganda.

Canada has not been immune to the ravages of malaria. From the early 1800s there are many reports of Eastern Ontario settlers suffering from the disease. During construction of the Rideau Canal (1826-1831) when hundreds of canal builders and their families moved to the area, many became infected with 'swamp fever' during the 'sickly season' in the late summer. At least 500 people died from malaria during that period.



## Visitors from Shanghai

Three students from Shanghai, China visited the Museum in May as part of the four-week long Shanghai Education Centre for Administrators (SECA) program run by Queen's University School of English. Here they examine a set of drawer fronts once used in a Chinese apothecary shop to house traditional medicines.

# Sustaining Museum Development During a Recession

By Dr. James Low, Executive Director

Museums are an important cultural resource in Ontario, serving 2.5 million visitors annually. The 2004 Ontario Museum Association report "Research into the Sustainability of Community Museums" highlights several points regarding museums:

1. The support for museums is modest within the cultural sector. Operating grants for museums represent \$0.23 per citizen; libraries \$1.85 per citizen; and the Arts Council \$2.44 per citizen.
2. The Ministry of Culture provides operating grant support to some museums however the funding falls well short of the funding formula defined in the Heritage Act of 1990.
3. Non profit museums have less sustainability than municipal museums. They are growing slower, tend to have smaller budgets and receive a proportionally smaller share of museum operating grant dollars.

4. Non profit museums are largely dependent on self generating revenues. The Museum remains grateful for the annual operating grant from the Ministry of Culture, Province of Ontario. However, the self-generation of revenues is particularly challenging during a recession. This recession has seriously reduced the endowment funds of foundations and granting agencies whose awards are so important to non profit museum survival.

Fiscal constraint in 2009 and 2010 is a reality for the Museum. This is occurring while the Museum is in a cycle of accelerated growth. There are increasing opportunities for the development of our representative collection of artefacts for all healthcare disciplines in Canada. The number of donors increases each year as the Museum is recognized as a safe haven for artefacts for the benefit of the current

and future generations. The opportunities for exhibits and public programs to enhance public understanding of the history and science of health and health care in Canada exceed the resources of the Museum.

The Museum is faced with the challenge of financial sustainability. Sustainability is essential to support the professional staff - the key to the development of the Museum. Currently, the staff is working hard to assure the continuing development of the Museum during this period of constraint.

The Museum remains grateful to our sustaining patrons, donors, program sponsors, partners, and members who continue to support the Museum during this difficult period. It is this support that will allow the Museum to continue to move forward during these challenging times.

## Programming for Elementary and Secondary School Students

By Dr. James Low, Executive Director

Elementary and secondary school students are an important audience for our mission to enhance public understanding of the history and science of health and health care in Canada. This is based on the assumption that as health and health care become more complex, it is vital that individuals acquire the knowledge they need to make decisions that will enhance their health and advocate for future policies that are needed for the improvement of health in our society.

Traditionally, as in most museums, school groups are encouraged to visit the Museum for tours or programs designed to meet their objectives. 18 groups came to the Museum during this school year to receive programs designed by our Education Officer, Marjorie Bousfield.

These included four groups of elementary students from the Limestone District School Board; six groups of secondary school students from Loyola Community Learning of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board; one group of secondary school students from the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board; one adult group from the H'art School of Smiles; two groups of elementary students from the SEEDs program conducted by Queen's University; and two groups of students from the Faculty of Education, Queen's University. A special March Break program for 8 to 12 year olds and a family program were scheduled by our Education Officer for the second year. The response to these programs was very encouraging.

Our commitment extends beyond

providing programs in the Museum. For the last ten years, we have been developing a unique curriculum-linked outreach education program on the history and science of health and health care. Partnerships have been established with the Limestone District School Board, the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, and the Upper Canada District School Board. Four Education Officers have been responsible for the development and delivery of ten outreach education programs including the history of health care in early civilizations, past Canadian societies and First Nations, and the history and science of high priority healthcare issues such as waterborne infections and diabetes. In the 2008-2009 school year, 45 programs have

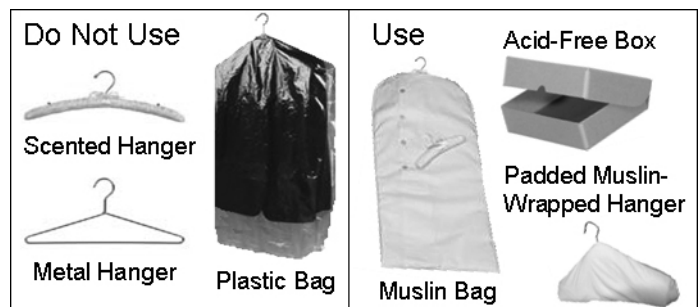
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# Some Tips for Storing Antique Clothing at Home

By Grace Dungavell, Curatorial Assistant

Many of us have clothing in our homes that we may have inherited from a previous generation or hope to preserve for the next. When storing these antique textiles two issues need to be addressed: environment and method. The room where the textile is being stored should be clean, dry, dark, and as free as possible from drastic changes in temperature and humidity, probably ruling out your basement or attic. Air conditioning or central heating in which the temperature is kept in the 18 - 21°C range and the relative humidity is between 40% and 50% is ideal for storage. Darkness is important because both artificial and natural light can cause fabrics to yellow and disintegrate. Additionally, in the area where clothing is being stored, frequent inspections and good housekeeping will go a long way towards preventing insect infestations.

There are two acceptable methods by which antique clothing can be stored; hanging or laying flat. If the costume is in robust condition, it can be stored on hangers which have been padded to fit the garment. Wire hangers should not be used because they concentrate weight and stress on a very small area which can cause distortion or tears and can also rust and mark the textile. Scented hangers should also be avoided because the dried flowers they contain are known to attract pests. Ideally, hangers should be padded with polyester batting and then covered with washed, unbleached muslin. Support needs to be given to the interior of sleeves of hanging garments with crumpled acid-free tissue, with the



outfit then being placed in a loose muslin bag and hung in a space where it will not be crowded by other objects. Do not use plastic garment bags for storage because there is no air circulation, they offer no protection from light, and they are typically made of harmful plastics that break down over time.

Though hanging garments is often more convenient, ideally all costumes and their accessories should be stored flat. Flat storage is recommended

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been delivered in the classroom, a number consistent with recent years. The Museum is indebted to the Education Officers who have developed programs and delivered programs to more than 12,000 students in the classroom.

The Program Committee regularly reviews the program. There has been agreement that the goals of the program are worthwhile and consistent with the Museum's mandate. Presentation of programs follows an invitation from a classroom teacher. At presentation, the sessions have been well received and endorsed by both teachers and students. However the number of requests has not increased in the last four years since a modest charge was introduced for the delivery of the program. Maintenance of this program during this period of financial constraint is a challenge. Therefore the Program Committee has recommended a review and a consideration of strategies to increase the delivery of these programs in the classroom.

## Ave et vale By Marjorie Bousfield



Marjorie Bousfield (L) with 2009 Teacher Candidate Taryn O'Toole

By the time you read this, I and the education program I delighted in nurturing and expanding during the past nearly three and a half years will be former aspects of the Museum: the program in abeyance until better economic conditions prevail, and I free to devote my energies and wonderfully enriched experience to new challenges. As with Education Officers before me, I built upon what greeted me on arrival, and trust that its renewal following resurrection will carry it strongly into the uncertain future. Thanks especially to the encouragement of classroom teachers, the energy and fresh perspectives of Teacher Candidates and summer students, and the knowledgeable help of fellow museum staff.

# Acknowledging Our Generous Supporters

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*The continuing operation of the Museum is possible due to the generous support of institutions, associations, corporations and individuals who have made contributions at a Sustaining Patron level*

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*The commitment is apparent from individuals who have contributed a donation above and beyond the membership. The Sustaining Members have been evolved into The Gift Circle and will be recognized as such.*

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The Museum of Health Care would like to acknowledge all the Memberships and Donations received from January to June 30, 2009.

Thank you to all our supporters for showing their ongoing commitment to the Museum of Health Care. Your support ensures that the Museum of Health Care can continue to provide the many resources that help to explain the history of health and health care both provincially and nationally. In addition to our recognized contributors, we extend thanks to all anonymous donors.

The Museum invites all others to consider making a donation or becoming a Museum member for 2009. For more information on becoming a Museum member or about the Gift Circle please visit [www.museumofhealthcare.ca/donate.html](http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca/donate.html).

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*The Museum acknowledges with gratitude the*

*support of its members. In addition, individuals listed under Partners, Friends and Donors have contributed a Museum Membership.*

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## Endowment Funds

*We express our appreciation to the following contributors that have made a commitment and contributed to our endowment funds.*

KGH Nurses Alumnae Museum Endowment Fund  
KGH Nurses Graduating Class of '56  
KGH Nurses Graduating Class of '59

Margaret Angus Research Endowment Fund  
Lori MacLean

# Our 2009 Margaret Angus Research Fellow



This summer, I am completing the Margaret Angus Research Fellowship. My project focuses on the development of the electrocardiogram and its impact on cardiac patient care. I have just completed

my third year in Life Sciences at Queen's University and am returning for a final year this fall. Learning about the history and development of scientific instruments has been fascinating. In my spare time, I enjoy reading and bike riding. I am enjoying living in Kingston for the summer and am excited about the completion of my project at the end of the summer.

- Leanne Shapton

## 2009 Summer Programme

We are pleased to present a range of guided tours and activities during the summer months, including gallery tours, scavenger hunts for kids, tours of Canada's first Parliament Building, and more.

All tours depart from the Museum. Please make reservations by e-mail at [tour@kgh.kari.net](mailto:tour@kgh.kari.net) or call us at 613-548-2419. For more details please visit our website.

## Special thanks to...

**iSTORM New Media** for their outstanding design work and technical support leading up to and following the redesign and re-launch of our website.  
<http://www.istorm.ca/>

**Diane Richards** for volunteering her time and talent to shoot new photographs of our exhibitions and collection storage areas.  
<http://web.me.com/mermaidphotography>

# Our 2009 Summer Staff Members



**Adrian Stephens** is spending his summer at the Museum as a Curatorial Assistant. A third year nursing student at St. Lawrence

College, Adrian is fascinated by the history of health care and specifically how his chosen profession is displayed at the Museum. In his spare time, Adrian enjoys bike riding and camping. Adrian is enjoying the high-energy and stimulating environment at the Museum and hopes to contribute to the preservation of local and national healthcare history.



**Victoria Harrison** is excited to spend her summer as a Tour Guide /Marketer for the Museum. She has just completed her second year in Political Science at Queen's University and will be

returning there in the fall. While her area of study may not be museums or health care, Victoria is thrilled to have the opportunity to learn about both this summer.

## WELCOMING NEW FACES



**Cathy Neilson** joins the Museum as this summer's Museum Interpreter. She recently received a Bachelor of Music from Queen's University, and will be attending Teachers' College

at Queen's in the fall. Cathy enjoys working with children, and hopes to gain teaching/presentation experience at the Museum. Playing clarinet is Cathy's favourite thing ever, and she is excited to be playing in the pit band for a production of *Bye Bye Birdie* this summer. She is also excited to be working with the lovely people at the Museum.



**Grace Dungavell** joins the Museum as a Curatorial Assistant. She is hoping to learn as much as she can about artefact storage, maintenance, and cataloguing. Grace graduated with a

Masters degree in Public History and will be returning to school in the fall to complete a Masters in Library and Information Sciences. Grace works evenings at the Haunted Walk of Kingston and hopes to find a ghost in the Museum's basement.

## Ontario Volunteer Awards By Mary Kathryn Ilic, Advancement Officer



Left to Right: Volunteers Marilyn Boston, Claire Kelly and Mary White

On June 30, 2009 three volunteers from the Museum of Health Care were honoured during the Kingston Ontario Volunteer Awards ceremony by the Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Collections Volunteers Claire Kelly and Mary White and Docent/Special Events Volunteer Marilyn Boston were recognized for their 10+ year volunteer contributions to the Museum.

During this event over 192 Kingstonians were awarded with distinctions in recognition of over 2,214 total volunteer hours.

Congratulations to our volunteers! You play an essential role at the Museum.

because it provides support for the entire textile. When laying out the garments for storage, folding should be avoided; if it is necessary, garments need to be folded following natural body lines or seam-lines (such as the waistline). To avoid sharp folds, pad the clothing at the points of folds with strips of washed unbleached muslin or old clean sheets. Be very careful to avoid creasing the fabric because over time creases can split fragile cloth as easily as a knife can. Acid-free cardboard boxes are fine for storage so long as textiles are first wrapped in clean, white cotton cloth, or in unbleached muslin. If garments must be layered in a box, be sure to use acid-free paper in between, with the heaviest items placed at the bottom.

**Source List:** Many of the materials suggested in this article can be found at fabric/craft stores (eg. Fabricland) or specialty quilting shops. To get supplies specifically meant for textile conservation, online shopping is often required. Carr McLean is a Toronto based company which has an online store selling various conservation materials including acid-free boxes, tissue paper, and polyester batting. They've been in business for more than 50 years and their textile products can be found online at: [www.carrmclean.ca/CategoryGroupBrowser.aspx?CategoryID=164](http://www.carrmclean.ca/CategoryGroupBrowser.aspx?CategoryID=164)



### The Museum Changes its Point of View

Over the past six months Collections Manager Kathy Karkut has recorded Kingston General Hospital's ever-changing expansion through a photo documentary. As the height of the new elevators, staircases and floors grows, the Museum's sunshine and views are reduced. This development is leading to increased space for improved patient care.

*To view more images, please visit the "New at the Museum" section of our website.*

# Our Newly Revamped Website

By Catherine Toews, Museum Manager



We are proud to announce that our website has been redesigned and reorganized. Thanks to the tireless work of the staff at iSTORM New Media, in addition to countless hours contributed by Museum staff members, our site is better than it's ever been before.

If you haven't done so already, please check out our new look by

visiting [www.museumofhealthcare.ca](http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca). After your visit, we encourage you to send us your comments - let us know what you like, and please also provide suggestions for improvements that could be made to enhance the site even further. In the coming months we will be working hard to add new online features and improve existing ones, so we welcome your comments.

## Donate Online! By Mary Kathryn Ilic, Advancement Officer

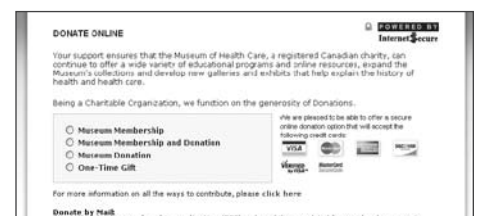
As part of our redesigned website, we have developed a new "DONATE ONLINE" section for your convenient membership and donation submission.

This option allows for online payments with your favourite credit card from the comfort of your home.

We have secured the process of collecting credit card information by using InternetSecure, a company that has been processing credit cards since 1996 and has been approved by the top Canadian banks to provide secure, online, real-time credit card processing.

When you enter our website you will find a quick link to our "Donate Online" page at the top and bottom of each webpage.

We encourage your donations and



A screen capture of our new "Donate Online" form.

memberships in any form. If you prefer to provide your donation and/or membership by mail, you can still find a .pdf file of our Membership Application Form online on the "Donate Now" webpage.

If you would like assistance while using the "Donate Online" webpage or if you have general questions, please contact Mary Kathryn Ilic ([ilicm@kgh.kari.net](mailto:ilicm@kgh.kari.net) / 613-549-6666 ext. 3915).