

For Immediate Release

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CANADA'S PREMIER COLLECTION OF DENTAL ARTEFACTS ARRIVES IN KINGSTON

The Museum of Health Care to Accept the "Dr. Ralph and Mrs. Olga Crawford Canadian Dental Collection"

KINGSTON, ON – The Museum of Health Care at Kingston (MHC) is excited to announce the arrival of Canada's premier dental history collection. A gift to the Museum from the Dentistry Canada Fund (DCF), this collection represents the most comprehensive cross-section of dental technology and practice paraphernalia in Canada from the past 200 years. The collection even includes a plaster dental cast of the late Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's teeth!

The collection has been named to honour Dr. Ralph and Mrs. Olga Crawford, in recognition of their 'labour of love' amassing and curating this extensive assemblage of dental artefacts and archives for more than 40 years. Dr. Crawford began the collection as a dental student in the 1960s and originally used the objects to decorate his dental practice in Winnipeg. In 1997, the DCF invited the Crawford's to establish the Dentistry Canada Museum at the organization's Ottawa headquarters. After the closure of the museum in 2008, the DCF offered the Crawford Dental Collection to the MHC.

The Collection contains well over 1500 artefacts and documents, including dental chairs, units, cabinets, instruments and supplies, laboratory equipment, books, journals and ephemera. Representing innovation and ingenuity, the Crawford Dental Collection features a finger drill from 1846, a circa 1912 portable dental chair, a 1930s X-ray unit (with a 15-second exposure compared to today's models which can take an exposure in fractions of a second), 19th century tooth keys for extracting teeth, sets of dentures carved from ivory tusks, and modern mouth guards and helmets used to prevent sports injuries.

"The addition of the Crawford Dental Collection will not only benefit the Museum's growing health and health care collections, but also ensure that this significant legacy of Canadian dental history remains a rich and publicly accessible national resource," says Museum of Health Care Executive Director Dr. James Low.

Additional financial and personnel support from the Museum's Assistance Program of Canadian Heritage and Young Canada Works respectively will assist with the housing and integration of the Crawford Dental Collection into existing MHC holdings. Over time, the MHC will create exhibits at the gallery and on its website along with a range of public programs to showcase the diversity and highlights of this collection. The Collection will be publicly accessible through the Museum's online database at www.museumofhealthcare.ca and at Artefacts Canada (<http://www.pro.rcip-chin.gc.ca/artefact/index-eng.jsp>).

For more information, please call 613-548-2419, email museum@kgh.kari.net, or visit www.museumofhealthcare.ca.

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