



For Immediate Release

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Museum of Health Care Reopens after Temporary Closure

Restorations set the stage for new galleries and offer glimpse of building's history

KINGSTON, ON – The Museum of Health Care is now open to the public after three months of renovations and restorations. Since November 8th, 2010, construction crews have been transforming former storerooms into gallery spaces. A new exhibition room dedicated to short-term displays will first showcase a selection of objects from the Museum's recently acquired Crawford Dental Collection and the new Children's Gallery will feature its first exhibit, "Skin," later this year.

The walls of the Children's Gallery have been painted in warm, fleshy tones and will soon boast a skin-themed mural painted by local artist Maureen Walton. The other renovations, which included removing old carpets and knocking down walls, created more multi-purposed, attractive spaces that have actually returned sections of the building to their original appearance.



The Museum of Health Care is housed in the Ann Baillie Building, one of the first nurses' residences in Canada, and a National Historic Site. Upon its construction in 1903-4, the beaux-arts-style architecture and sweeping views were meant to attract Kingston General Hospital nursing students, which it did until 1969 when the school moved out of the building. After decades of modernizations and hard use, the latest round of renovations has restored large sections of the original hardwood floor, woodwork, and radiator heating system.

The contractors even discovered some unexpected treasures while work was underway; what was essentially an archeological dig through layers of flooring revealed two hat pins and a

postcard from the early 1900s. Early nursing students likely lost these items through the cracks in their bedroom floors and behind baseboards.

It is part of the Museum of Health Care's mission to preserve and repurpose the Ann Baillie Building in order to safeguard its history and keep it relevant today.

There is a great deal of activity planned for the Museum of Health Care in 2011 in celebration of its 20th anniversary. It all starts with Heritage Week: *The Nostrums & Nibbles Gala* on Feb. 19th will raise funds with patent medicine-inspired cocktails and live entertainment; *The Teddy Bear Hospital* on Feb. 21st provides a fun, educational activity for Family Day; and on Feb. 24th, the Museum's Executive Director, Dr. James Low, will present his new lecture *Contagious Diseases During the 19th Century: Kingston, a Canadian Case Study*. During March Break, the Museum will be holding a children's program called *Snot & Whatnot*.

The Museum of Health Care would like to thank visitors for their patience during the temporary closure.

The Museum of Health Care acknowledges the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Parks Canada, and other individuals whose gracious awards have made this renovation and restoration project possible.

For information about Museum events or booking education programs, please visit www.museumofhealthcare.ca, or contact Catherine Toews at 613-548-2419.

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