

For Immediate Release

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THE NOSTRUMS AND NIBBLES GALA

Museum of Health Care set to inaugurate its 20th anniversary in 2011

KINGSTON, ON – The Museum of Health Care at Kingston is turning 20 years old and we will be kicking off our anniversary year with the *Nostrums and Nibbles Gala* on February 19th, 2011.

The Museum of Health Care, Canada's only museum dedicated solely to preserving health care history, will be holding a series of celebratory, mission-serving events throughout the year to break free of our "hidden gem" status, starting during Heritage Week in February.

The *Nostrums & Nibbles Gala* takes its theme from the dubious and sometimes delightful patent medicines, and other medical "cures" advertised at the turn of the 20th century. Guests will be invited to sample *Atomic Soda* and signature cocktails that are purported to cure, well, everything. The lighthearted, medical history-inspired event will raise funds to support MHC's educational and public programs. The Museum is committed to providing curriculum-linked, hands-on public education opportunities for all ages to instill recognition of the importance of health care history and encourage people to make connections to their own lives. This fundraising gala will help keep this programming alive and growing in the midst of an economy that has been hard on the cultural sector.

The gala boasts prizes provided by local businesses, artefact identification activities, reenactors in period costume, special Museum displays, screenings of archival health care film advertisements, historic hors d'oeuvres, patent medicine-inspired cocktails, and live music, including songs from an octet of Queen's medical students extolling the virtues of *Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People*.

Heritage Week events will continue at the Museum of Health Care on Monday, February 21st with the Teddy Bear Hospital Family Day Program, for ages 3-8 (pre-registration is required). Then on Thursday, February 24th, the Museum of Health Care's Executive Director, Dr. James Low, will deliver his new lecture "Contagious Diseases During the 19th Century: Kingston, a Canadian Case Study."

The Nostrums and Nibbles Gala runs from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday, February 19th, 2011 at the Museum of Health Care at Kingston, 32 George Street. Tickets are \$50 and charitable receipts will be issued to all ticket purchasers for the maximum amount allowable by the Canada Revenue Agency. For information and tickets, contact the museum at 613-548-2419 or museum@kqh.kari.net.

To learn more about the Museum of Health Care's three Heritage Week events, as well as our range of year-round educational and public programs, visit www.museumofhealthcare.ca.



For more information, please contact:

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