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## **“Half the Battle: War and the Public Health Revolution”**

Free public lecture presented by the Museum of Health Care

(KINGSTON, ON) – On Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, the Museum of Health Care will present its annual Margaret Angus Research Fellowship Lecture. Queen’s University doctoral candidate and Teaching Fellow Robert Engen will deliver a lecture titled “Half the Battle: War and the Public Health Revolution” in Watson Hall 217, 49 Bader Lane, Queen’s University. Refreshments will follow. Admission is free.

Named in honour of local historian Dr. Margaret Angus, the fellowship supports the study of history of health and health care, as they relate to the Museum’s collections. This year’s recipient, Robert Engen, is the author of *Canadians Under Fire. Infantry Effectiveness in the Second World War*, (McGill-Queen’s Press, 2009). Engen is pursuing his PhD in military history at Queen’s University. He also teaches at Queen’s and writes extensively about Canadian history, having been published in *The National Post* and the *Kingston Whig Standard*.

In his lecture, Engen will compare two military campaigns that took place 135 years apart, but on the exact same ground: the Walcheren Expedition of the British Army and Navy against the French in 1809, and the Scheldt Campaign fought by the Canadian Army against the Germans in 1944. The 1809 campaign was a medical catastrophe and a military disaster, and the 1944 campaign was a stunning medical and military success. By comparing medical practices, Engen will argue that the most important changes between 1809 and 1944 were not in casualty treatment or surgical technology, but in public health practices and medical discipline.

“The research I did for the museum this summer really showed me how central the spread of disease has always been to war,” said Engen. “We sometimes forget now that most wars in history have been fought by the few soldiers who survived epidemic diseases in their own camps. I’m not sure that you can find anything that’s had more of an influence on military history than illness, or that has changed warfare as much as public health practices,” he added.

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Other upcoming Museum of Health Care programs include:

PA Day\* Program: “Health Care in Upper Canada,” October 11<sup>th</sup>, 10-11:30am, Museum of Health Care, 32 George St. (\*professional activity day for the Limestone District School Board).

“A Healthy Dose of Horror” with Dr. Greg Baran and Dr. Pamela Peacock on October 19<sup>th</sup>, Museum of Health Care, 32 George St.

“Board Game Night at the Museum,” an event presented with Minotaur Games, Gifts and Craft Supplies Kingston. November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm, Museum of Health Care, 32 George St.

More information about Museum of Health Care programs and events can be found at <http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca/visit/calendar-of-events.html>