

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local treasures: Discover the history of Kingston General Hospital in New “Mobile App”



(KINGSTON, Ont.) – This fall, expand your knowledge of local heritage with a new mobile app. On September 19th, the Museum of Health Care will host a free public lecture and reception to mark the launch of their first mobile app titled “Transformation of the Kingston General Hospital, 1835-1914.”

Made possible thanks to a \$52,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the app has been developed to act as a virtual walking tour or interactive research guide. The app offers a glimpse of the development of the KGH during the 19th and early 20th centuries. With a map of the hospital as a starting point, users can explore each of the original buildings and view archival photos, examine historical artefacts and hear compelling anecdotes.

The evening will include a lecture by celebrated architectural historian Dr. Jennifer McKendry on selected architectural aspects at the hospital, as it responded to changing needs. Jennifer McKendry is the author of numerous articles and books such as *With Our Past Before us: 19th Century Architecture in the Kingston Area*. Dr. Jane Errington, of Queen’s University, will deliver opening remarks. Museum Curator Dr. Pamela Peacock and Museum founder Dr. James Low will provide demonstrations and insights about the app.

“We are very excited to be joining the ranks of museums that are offering digital tools to engage their audience,” says Museum Curator Dr. Pamela Peacock. “Developing an app was important to us because we have a great local history that we wanted to share with a wide audience. KGH has a unique story to tell Canadians about the development of hospital care. It is one of the only hospital campuses in the country that includes elements of all of the original buildings and wings visibly showing how they expanded over more than a century. For those living outside of Kingston, the app makes this rich history accessible.” she adds.



To download for free, search for "museum of health care" in the iPhone Apps section of the App Store or on Google Play. Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch and iPad (requires iOS 4.3 or later), as well as Android 2.2 and up.

Location: Botterell Hall, Room B139 (18 Stuart Street), Queen's University

Dates & Times: Thursday, September 19th, 2013 7:30-9:30pm.

Cost: Free

The Museum recognizes support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario.



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For more information, contact: Jenny Stepa or Diana Gore
613-548-2419 | info@museumofhealthcare.ca | www.museumofhealthcare.ca

Jennifer McKendry, PhD, is an architectural historian living in Kingston and the author of numerous articles and books such as *With Our Past before Us: 19th Century Architecture in the Kingston Area*. She is a member of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada, the Ontario Historical Society, the Frontenac Heritage Foundation and the Kingston Historical Society.

Jane Errington, PhD teaches the history of colonial North America. She has written three award winning books, *The Lion, the Eagle and Upper Canada* (1985), (Second Edition, 2012), *Wives and Mothers, School Mistresses and Scullery Maids* (1995) and *Emigrant Worlds and Transatlantic Communities* (2007) and numerous articles that examine the social and intellectual history of Upper Canada in the first half of the 19th century.