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For Immediate Release

July 02, 2015

Medicine, Mystery and the Macdonalds

(KINGSTON, Ont.) – This summer, history enthusiasts age six to twelve can learn about the fascinating connection between Sir John A. Macdonald and health care in Kingston in the 19th century. Families are invited to the Museum of Health Care on Saturday, July 18th, August 15th OR August 22nd for a brand-new Summer Family Program titled “Medicine, Mystery and the Macdonalds.” Pre-registration is required.

Just in time for the 200th anniversary of Sir John A. Macdonald, the Museum of Health Care explores a unique aspect of his life: health. The Macdonald family experienced several health problems; some relatively common such as stomach ache or sciatica, but others much more severe or mysterious such as the illness of Sir John A. Macdonald’s first wife Isabella. This family program is developed in conjunction with the Museum’s latest exhibit “Stubborn Illness: the health of the Macdonald family.”

Museum of Health Care Public Programs Assistants developed this interactive education program that will highlight the changing medical world of Victorian Kingston. According to program creators Lucy Gall and Shaelagh Cull, “Medicine, Mystery and the Macdonalds” will allow participants to learn about the medical history of the Macdonald family in Kingston through creative, engaging activities.

“We wanted to explore a hidden aspect of Sir John A. Macdonald’s life in Kingston, such as the influence he had on creating Queen’s School of Medicine, or his wife’s mysterious disease,” says Museum of Health Care Public Programs Assistant Lucy Gall. “Sir John A. is a well-known and contested historical figure in Kingston, but this program will bring to light some lesser known facts about his family life and his involvement in the developing of health care in Canada,” she adds.

Program co-creator Shaelagh Cull added: “In order to understand some of today’s health care practices, it’s important to look at their predecessors. For example, during our program we will investigate how doctors treated physical disabilities in the 19th century and how that differs from today’s practices. Participants will also be able to experience what it would have been like to be a medical student in Kingston in the 1800s. Through all these activities, participants and their families will learn valuable facts about the evolution of health care in Canada” Cull concluded.

To attend one of the three sessions, call 613-548-2419, email info@museumofhealthcare.ca, or register online at www.museumofhealthcare.ca. Admission is \$5 per participant, with no charge for accompanying adults.

Location: Museum of Health Care at Kingston, Ann Baillie Building National Historic Site, 32 George Street, Kingston, ON.

Dates & Times:

Sat. Jul. 18th @ 2:00-3:30 pm or

Sat. Aug. 15th @ 2:00-3:30 pm or

Sat. Aug. 22nd @ 2:00-3:30 pm or

Cost: \$5/participant (no charge for accompanying adults)

The Museum acknowledges support from the City of Kingston Heritage Fund and the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites.

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For more information, contact: Ashley Mendes or Diana Gore
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