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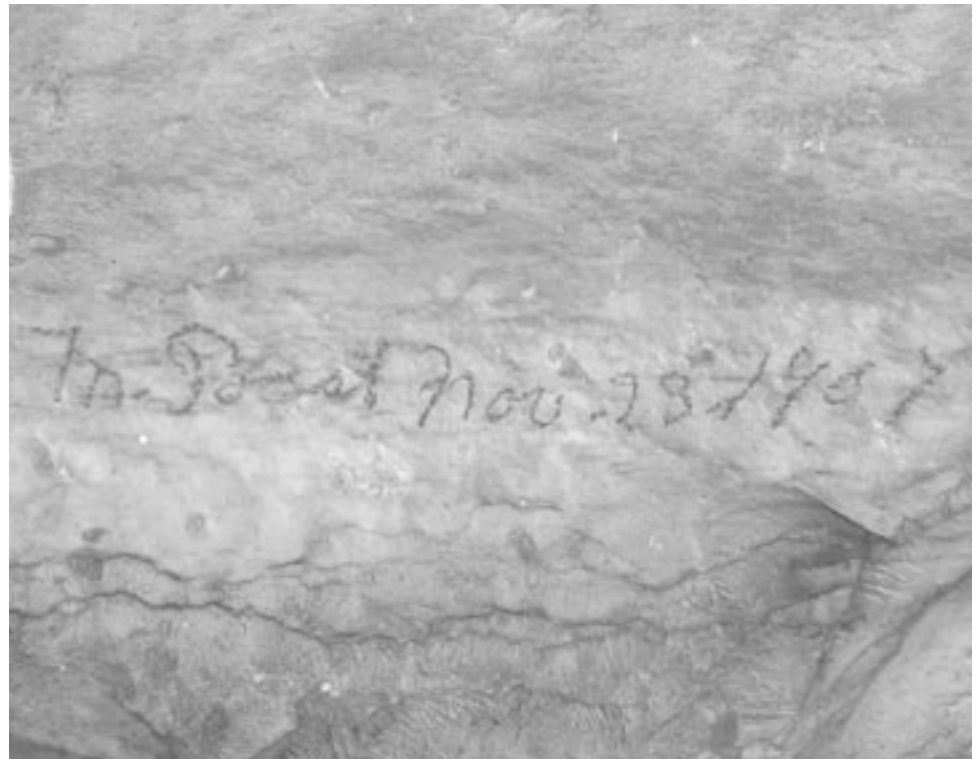
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Graffiti is often characterised as a modern urban eyesore defacing public buildings and structures. To an historian, it can also be a window to the past. A pencil scrawl recently discovered on a wall of the museum poses more questions than it answers.

Staff members were surprised to find a small handwritten notation on the limestone wall beside the second floor balcony door. It appears to be a name and date reading "M. Poost Nov. 28 1907."

Was this a nursing student's autograph? Lists of graduates do not include the name "Poost" or "Poast." Is this perhaps the signature of a newly arrived probationary student who never completed her studies? Further research is required as existing lists only include names of graduates. We do know that it cannot be a graduation souvenir as no nursing class finished in 1907 – in November 1904 the pro-

gramme changed from a two-year to a three-year course of study and those students entering in 1904 graduated in 1908.

The building was quite new when this inscription was made and it is amazing that it has survived untouched for nearly a century. Perhaps because the lettering blends so well into the dirty grey stone, no one has noticed it. What can this small bit of evidence tell us about its creator and her times? Could a man have written it? Considering the nurses' home was an all-female environment, that notion conjures up all sorts of other unanswered questions!

Many people have lived and worked in this building over the past century. It seems plausible that at least one of them would have memorialised his or her passage through this place.

Any clues? Let us know!

Tour Chronicles Tales of 'Despicable' Lord Sydenham

by Emma Reilly, Tour Guide



Some members of the Tragically Hip have in common? These three celebrities share one important quality—they call Kingston home. But long before any of these modern men found fame and fortune, Kingston's local celebrity was a man called Charles Edward Poulett Thomson. What

When the Canadian Parliament met for the first time in the original KGH building, Charles Edward Poulett Thomson—also known as Lord Sydenham—presided over the meeting as the Queen's representative. The story behind this fascinating Kingstonian is one of the many juicy historical tidbits featured on our Walking Tour, "The Astonishing Past of Kingston General Hospital." The

History books will tell you that Lord Sydenham was the man responsible for uniting the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841. Born in 1799, he was a

and the politician who chose Kingston as Canada's first capital. As important as these accomplishments are, we at the Museum prefer to concentrate on Lord Sydenham's more "exciting" social activities. As the youngest child of a well-to-do

English family, Lord Sydenham was described by his older brother as the "prettiest child of the family" and "the spoilt-pet of all." Lord Sydenham grew up to be a very handsome gentleman with a hearty appetite for fine food, drink, and the company of ladies—married and otherwise. It was common knowledge that Lord Sydenham was under "the sway of at least one mistress," and on one occasion, his attentions to a married Toronto woman "were so very marked, that the scandalous circles rang with them." Although he had been afflicted with gout since the age of 30, he hoped to introduce French cookery to Canada. He was generally regarded as vain, indulgent, and immoral. Regardless of his habits or reputation

his life wasn't entirely easy for Lord Sydenham. As well as his problems with gout, Lord Sydenham suffered from several bouts of ill health during his life, the last of which led to his resignation in July 1841. By September of that year, Lord Sydenham had died—however, the scandalous nature of his death had little to do with the illness that forced him to leave this post. Legend has it that one summer afternoon

Lord Sydenham was being entertained by a lady friend and lost track of time. When our hero realized that he was late for an important business meeting, he immediately rushed off to his appointment. In his haste, Lord Sydenham fell off of his horse and suffered several cuts and bruises. One of these minor wounds became infected, and on the 19th of September 1841, he died of malnutrition and dehydration due to lockjaw. When his funeral was held a few days

at St. George's Church (now St. George's Cathedral), between 6,000 and 7,0

The Anne Baillie Building - Our Largest Artifact

by Dr. James Low, Executive Director



Phase 1 of the restoration and renovation of the Ann Baillie Building is now complete. This is an excellent example of how a National Historic Site can be adapted to a new role while maintaining the integrity of the historic significance of the site.

There are more than 800 National Historic Sites in Canada. Some sites such as Bellevue House in Kingston are managed and funded by Parks Canada. However, 688 of these sites are the responsibility of owners other than the Federal Government. These owners assume the responsibility for the care of the site and the communication of the significance of the site to the visitors to and citizens of Canada.

The Ann Baillie Building has been the focus of two complementary designations by the Minister of Canadian Heritage on

the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. In November 1995, the Ann Baillie Building was designated as part of a complex of pre-1920 buildings at the Kingston General Hospital that illustrate the evolution of health care and the transformation of the 19th century charitable hospital into a centre of scientific medicine. Subsequently in 1997, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended the designation of the Ann Baillie Building and four other nurses' residences as part of the Woman's History initiative. At the present time, the Ann Baillie Building is one of six sites in Canada recognizing the role of women in nursing. The designation stated:

"One of the earliest nurses residences in Canada; this stately building symbolizes the development and recognition of

nursing as a profession. Here as elsewhere, a place of their own helped nurses shape a professional role indispensable to health care within the hospital and community."

The noted architect William Newlands built the Ann Baillie Building of local limestone with a classically inspired exterior design in 1903-4. Its important exterior features include: its cruciform shape; its south facing monumental Greek temple portico; its symmetrical façade and impressive flight of entrance steps; its square headed windows with hammer dressed limestone lintels; and the uniformity and excellence of the finishes and detailing of the stonework. Overall, the exterior retains most of the original architectural elements that contribute to the coherency and unity of the design. Much has been retained of the interior design relevant to *continued on page 6*

New Exhibit: Medical Art Through the Ages

by Tim Gregory, Assistant Curator

Ever wondered how medical students learned to identify and understand body parts and diseases in the past? Today, there are lots of tools, including the internet, high quality photo-images, and of course dissections. In the past though, sometimes the only way to get a good, long look at what something really looked like was with ultra-realistic models.

And wouldn't you know it? We just happen to have a new exhibit featuring

some of these models! "Medical Art Through The Ages: The History of Anatomical Teaching Models" is the newest exhibit at the Museum of Health Care. This exhibit explores the history of these models with an emphasis on their levels of realism, and also showcases a unique revival of a centuries old model making technique that took place right here in Kingston!



Medicinal Plants at the Museum

by Paul Robertson, Curator



Museum visitors may notice that the flowerpots outside the main entrance do not contain the usual flowering annuals common to most homes and businesses. Under the careful tutelage of education officer Marjorie Bousfield, staff members have opted instead for plants traditionally known for their medicinal qualities.

Not only does this historically appropriate vegetation contribute "life" to the museum's exhibits and education programmes, it is also a delight to the senses. Who can pass up the sweet perfume of lavender?

This year's plant selections include:

Peppermint (*Menthe X piperita*)

Medicinal uses:

- To induce sleep
- To prevent seizures
- To soothe the stomach
- To prevent and relieve flatulence

Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)

Medicinal uses:

- A heal all
- To get rid of worms
- To fight coughs and colds (a gargle)
- To induce sweating

Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)

Medicinal uses:

- To soothe the stomach
- To relieve flatulence
- To calm the mind

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*)

Medicinal uses:

- To soothe the stomach and intestines
- To relieve flatulence
- To fight colds
- To reduce fevers

Added bonus: combined with mint, lemon verbena makes a refreshing, soothing tea in summer.

Curatorial Corner

The museum's long-range plan is to recreate an apothecary or physic garden containing plants known for their medicinal qualities. Such an endeavour will both improve the museum's physical setting and provide a valuable interpretive tool for our educators and interpreters.

Do you have plants in your garden that may have medicinal qualities that you could share? We're always looking for new recruits for the museum! Not sure about a plant's medical attributes? Just ask us and we'll let you know! Or, visit our newest online exhibit featured on the Virtual Museum of Canada, The Healing Power of Plants, at <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Healingplants/>.

Coming Up...



- Plan to drop by the Museum Saturday afternoons in August for special guided tours of our exhibit, *When Medicine Met Science: the Health Care Revolution of the 1800s*. You'll hear juicy tales of health care history, from the development of vaccination, genesis of the public health movement, and the exciting ways in which surgery changed over the course of this important century (thank goodness for anesthesia!) These tours are scheduled to take place at 2pm, each Saturday in August, admission by donation.
- Why not give health care history a shot? Join us for our Annual Margaret Angus Research Evening (tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2006) to hear Jennifer Lem chronicle the fascinating history of Dr. John G. FitzGerald, an early Canadian pioneer of public vaccination programs in Canada.

Name that Artifact!

by Tim Gregory, Assistant Curator

Everyone seems to enjoy the mystery artifact page, so here are a few more for you to try to figure out. The format is slightly different this time. I usually choose artifacts we've recently accessioned, but this time I've chosen a few neat ones I've come across during the collection reorganization.

It looks more like a bizarre musical instrument than a medical device; can you guess what it might be? It is made of plastic and has a large opening on the disc end and a tube that tapers down to a pointed end. You've probably seen something similar to this in old movies.



This is actually the precursor to the modern hearing aid. It is called an Ear Trumpet. The small end would be stuck into someone's ear and the large end picked up sound and amplified it down the tube as it narrowed, so it sounded louder going into the ear.

Ear trumpets were actually invented by sailors so they could communicate over long distances, and were later used by people who were hearing impaired. This one is from the early 20th century, and is described as "banjo style" because of its shape.

This is obviously a pair of binoculars, but what do binoculars have to do with health care?



The trick is that these binoculars aren't for looking at far away things, but for looking at things from different angles. This is a pair of stereobinokel binoculars. In effect, this is a fancy pair of 3-D glasses. They were used to examine two x-rays taken from different angles to provide the doctor with a three dimensional view of a patient's body. These tools were used in the mid-twentieth century and are kind of like a precursor to modern day three-dimensional MRI technology!

Occasionally, we receive an object that even stumps us. This tool came to us from a now closed medical museum, with only the name "Forceps". It is comprised of two similar tools that fit together, each with a heavy, curved surface that opens and closes to form a clamp of some sort. The tool is marked "A.O.R." implying that it was probably used in an Operating Room, but we don't know what the A stands for! It vaguely resembles a stomach or intestinal clamp, but seems to be much too heavy and clumsy for this delicate task.



We've been unable to find anything like this in any catalogues, or anywhere else for that matter. Even our very knowledgeable retired O.R. nurse volunteers are stumped and guessed that it might be for "castrating a horse"!

If anyone has any idea of what this might be, we'd love to hear from you!

Settling In

by Majorie Bousfield, Education Officer

The school year came to a close with a bang, with a cluster of presentations and First Capital Day morning visits to the museum by several classes.

Now, with PowerPoint presentations, fake urine and leeches, doctor's bag, skull-boring trephine, and other related paraphernalia put away for the season, my attention turns to our contribution to the Hands-on-Heritage summer day camps: every Friday afternoon until mid-August, with a special wrap-up get-together for all on the afternoon of 27 Aug. at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.

I look forward to taking our full range of revised programs, for grades 3 through 10, into the schools in the fall, along with a brand new one on Healthy, Active Living.

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the nurses' residence as a home for respectable women.

The Museum of Health Care in partnership with the Kingston General Hospital is responsible for the administration and care of the site. A mission-specific museum health care provides a new and meaningful role for the Ann Baillie Building. What does this responsibility entail? Although the building is sound, restoration is necessary if the building is to be maintained for future generations, while renovations are required to permit the Museum to achieve its mission.

On the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, the Museum of Health Care entered into discussions with Parks Canada for a cost-sharing contract. Based on such a contract, Parks Canada would provide up to 50% of the cost of the approved restoration work. A Conservation and Presentation Plan based on a Commemorative Integrity Statement was developed by Parks Canada in consultation with the Museum of Health Care to serve as the basis for a cost-sharing contract. This plan has been approved by Parks Canada and the Museum of Health Care. Sites for who cost sharing was recommended and accepted prior to August 2000 are eligible for assistance, subject to available funding. Although the Ann Baillie Building falls into this category, to date funding for this project from the Department of Canadian Heritage has not been available.

Because of urgent need, the Board of Directors of the Museum with the approval of the Kingston General Hospital initiated Phase 1 of the restoration and renovation of the Ann Baillie Building in 2004. This phase based on plans approved by both the Local Architectural and Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) for Kingston and Parks Canada has been completed. This included restoration of the building foundations, restoration and renovation of level 0 to create environmentally appropriate storage areas for the collection, and the construction of a stairwell and elevator tower to provide a barrier-free entrance and access stair to meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code.

The second important responsibility is the communication of the significance of this site to the immediate and extended community. The mission of the Museum of Health Care is consistent with this responsibility and as a public institution provides easy access for visitors to the site. The Museum views the Ann Baillie Building as our largest artifact. Several strategies are used by the Museum to communicate the significance of this artifact. These include:

- Orientation for visitors includes an introduction to the significance of the Ann Baillie Building.
- Exhibits relevant to nursing are on display
- The Museum in partnership with the Kingston General Hospital conducts a

walking tour that describes how this site demonstrates the evolution of health care in this community and the transition of a charitable institution into a tertiary care centre

The maintenance and communication of the significance of this site is an important contribution to the preservation of the legacy of health care and specifically the legacy of nursing in Canada. Phase 2 to complete the restoration and renovation of this unique historic site will require a further one million dollars. We anticipate that funding from the cost-sharing contract from Parks Canada will assist in Phase 2. However, the Museum would welcome any donations to the Building Fund to allow this phase to be completed.

Welcoming New Faces

Welcoming New Faces

Full Time Staff

Kirsi Rossborough graduated from Queen's University in 2000 with a degree in Drama. Following graduation, Kirsi worked as the Artistic and Managing Director of the iSTORM Children's Theatre Company. Kirsi was also a tour guide for the Haunted Walk of Kingston for several years as well as the company's Operations Manager from 2002 to December of 2005. Most recently, Kirsi worked as the Coordinator of Volunteer Development for the Canadian Diabetes Association in South-East Ontario. In her spare time, Kirsi loves drawing, crafts, and writing, and she is a voracious reader who has decided to devote this summer to Canadian literature.



Love of history, science, and teaching: where else can all three be met so well as at the Museum of Health Care? At least that's how our new Education Officer, Marjorie Bousfield, feels. Throw in her long-time interest and experience in working with plants, especially herbs, time she spent living with and working as a biologist for a Cree First Nation, and her constant search for active, hands-on ways to make subjects fun and interesting for students, and it seems a good recipe for the museum's educational programs.



Summer Students

Tanya Faulkner joins us as a Curatorial Assistant this summer. She is a recent graduate of the Applied Museum Studies Program at Algonquin College. Tanya previously completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick where she studied painting, drawing, photography and printmaking. Having moved to Kingston from Ottawa she is enjoying the character and culture that this fine city has to offer. She is excited about having the opportunity to work at the Museum of Health Care at Kingston and is looking forward to many experiences that the summer will bring.



Our KGH Tour Guide this summer is Emma Reilly. Emma is very excited to join the museum team! She has just completed her bachelor's degree in English at Queen's, and in the fall, she is moving to Toronto to study journalism at Ryerson University. When she's not leading tours at the museum, Emma enjoys reading, writing, and music.



Janet Shulist joins the Museum of Health Care as this summer's Museum Interpreter. She is eager to learn as much as she can about the history of health care and hopes to make a lasting contribution to the museum. Janet is currently studying at Queen's University and working towards an undergraduate degree in Film Studies. As well as her involvement at the museum this summer, she is playing on a softball team and plans to bike around Wolfe Island.



New Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Maurice Smith, Curator Emeritus of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes to our Board of Directors. Maurice brings a wealth of experience in the local and regional historical community to the Board of Directors of the Museum of Health Care.

New Volunteer

Donna Timpson Dukes lives north of Kingston, near Sydenham and learned about the Health Care Museum from her husband, the late Dr. Tom Dukes, who was a keen supporter. Her experience includes teaching, writing, editing a community newspaper and office work at Queen's. Donna has agreed to make a new inventory of our files this summer as her first project as a Kingston Health Care Museum volunteer.



List of Donors

The Board and Staff of the Museum thank the following for their generous donations of time and resources to Museum activities from January – June 2006:

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teers.

We are grateful to all who have helped the
Museum. If we have omitted someone,
please let us know, and we will be sure to
add his or her name to the list in the next
Bailliewick issue.

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The Museum of Health Care at
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