

# Enhancing Conservation Standards in the Ottawa Museum Network

LE RÉSEAU DU  
MUSÉE D'OTTAWA  
MUSEUM NETWORK



Ottawa's history.  
Up close.  
Faites le tour de  
notre histoire.

## Final Report

*November 25, 2010*

**The Ottawa Museum Network** works together to promote and advance the interests of member museums by engaging the audience and in telling the greater Ottawa story. The OMN seeks to create a thriving, sustainable, local museum community that is respected and engages its audience to preserve and celebrate the greater Ottawa story. The Network includes 10 of Ottawa's community and City museums that bring local history alive by sharing and preserving many of Ottawa's richest and most interesting heritage sites and collections. Over an 18 month project, the OMN undertook an innovative project to preserve Ottawa's collections called Enhancing Conservation Standards in the Ottawa Museum Network.

Individual museum assessments on the collection, museum storage, environment and management plans were undertaken by a Conservator who was hired full time to facilitate this project for each of the 10 museums. The assessment assisted museums in recognizing areas of strength and areas in need of development for the conservation of their collections. Through the assessment process and in receiving the written report from the Conservator, staff from each of the museums have increased their knowledge and understanding of best practice conservation standards in a way that is directly relevant to their site and work. In addition, the assessments and treatment recommendations have allowed many of the sites to adjust the prioritization of their short and long term conservation activities based on the Conservator's assessment. The treatment of objects allowed many museums an opportunity to display objects that have never been on public display before, due to their condition. The lifespan of many of the treated objects was lengthened considerably due to punctual intervention.





*"The museum has had contact with a professional conservator whose unique perspective and training have reminded museum staff about the intricacies of paper conservation. The archives and collection have benefitted from a survey which identified some key areas to be improved. To this effect, immediate action has been taken. A select number of paper archives will receive much needed treatment the museum's limited resources could not provide"*  
(Nepean Museum)

## PROJECT SUCCESSES

- 67 artefacts were treated by the Conservator, with completed treatment proposals for 97 artefacts
- 70% of museum assessment recommendations were immediately implemented
- The project outputs were completed and successfully delivered to museums as outlined in the project plan. Project outputs include the 10 assessment reports, treatment proposals. Collections care guides and Network report.
- Building a strong partnership with Parks Canada for this project allowed the OMN to conduct high quality conservation treatments in the Parks Canada lab space at no cost to the OMN. The project was scalable and resulted in a secondary project, Preserving Our Past: A Conservation Project. The project is a travelling exhibit, featuring conservation treatments and objects from this project. Preserving Our Past: A Conservation Project was launched in October 2010 and will be hosted at 8 of the museums over 2 years.
- All object treatments were successful in conserving artefacts that were in need of treatment and preserving some significant objects in collections, increasing the life of many museum's collections
- This project received an Award of Excellence by the Ontario Museum Association in October 2010.



The OMN would like to thank our generous funders and partners in support of the Enhancing Conservation Standards within the Ottawa Museum Network project. If you would like to learn more about this project, please feel free to contact us directly: [Development.omn@bellnet.ca](mailto:Development.omn@bellnet.ca) 613-234-1999

*"...Thought the project was fabulous. The recommendations were helpful and were more than expected. Pilar's work was spot on." (Muséoparc Vanier)*

