

## PROTECTING THE PAST

The North Scituate Public Library has an invited representative, Leslie McDonough, on the Steering Committee of the federal grant-funded project "Protecting the Past - Rhode Island." The steering committee includes representatives from libraries of all types, museums, archives, historical and preservation societies, municipalities, the RI Emergency Management Agency, as well as the State Risk Manager.

The purpose of the project is to develop a disaster response plan for cultural heritage institutions statewide. The RI Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) in partnership with the RI State Archives received a \$40,000 "Connecting to Collections" grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to fund the project.

The "Protecting the Past - RI" project was created to adapt "dPlan™": the Online Disaster Planning Tool" (cq) for use in RI's unique built and natural environments; to encourage the State's cultural heritage institutions to adopt dPlan™ as the State's standard disaster planning tool by offering training to RI heritage

stakeholders in the use of dPlan™; and publicize the result of the planning process to state and local emergency management agencies, first responders and towns and municipalities. The Steering Committee provides professional and regional expertise in adapting dPlan™ to RI's unique circumstance and will insure its continuity for the future. The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) will adapt the online tool for Rhode Island.

OLIS and the State Archives have long been partners in the preservation of Rhode Island's heritage. OLIS, a Division of the Department of Administration, is RI's State Library Development Agency. OLIS serves all of the people of Rhode Island as well as those who work, visit or inquire there, through the more than 200 libraries of the Library of Rhode Island network. To learn more about OLIS, visit [www.olis.ri.gov](http://www.olis.ri.gov).

The State Archives is the division within the Office of the Secretary of State that is charged with maintaining the permanent records of state government. The State Archives and Historical Records Act of 1989 created the State Archives as the official custodian and trustee for the state

of all public records of permanent value. To learn more about the State Archives, visit [www.sec.state.ri.us/Archives](http://www.sec.state.ri.us/Archives).

The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. To learn more about IMLS and the Connecting to Collections initiative, please visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov). dPlan™ was initially developed by the NEDCC and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with an IMLS grant.