

Foundation News Jan. 2022



Wardrobe Project will be Completed this Winter! Anonymous Donor is Revealed

After a decade and a half, Rocmaura Foundation will finally finish its major renovation to each resident's room, with the completion of our Wardrobe Project. This was a massive undertaking to replace 96 personal storage units built in the 1970's at a total price tag of over \$600,000.



"By 2021, we had just thirty units on Terrace Court left to build. We needed to raise \$105,000," says Foundation Director Sally Cummings. In April, an

anonymous donor tossed out a challenge to fund half the remaining cost of the project, if we could find other donors to match it. The donor said they would only reveal their anonymity, if we could raise the other half.

Our supporters did not hesitate. By December 2021 we had reached our goal! The unnamed contributor was revealed as Don Mitchener, a former Foundation Board member!



Mitchener says he didn't make this major gift for the naming rights, and he would

actually prefer to remain anonymous.

"I did not do this for any recognition or naming right. I merely wanted to encourage others, by giving them an added incentive," says Mitchener.

Don joined the Rocmaura Foundation Board in 2008 and served until 2015. At that time, the Board had just undertaken this massive project to provide more personal space, security and privacy for Residents.

Rocmaura's Finance Manager Theresa Mercer says, "I remember thinking, what a huge commitment the Foundation Board is taking on. All of these very generous donations now leading to its completion, are very much appreciated by all of us."

Executive Director Sheana Mohra says "We are so thankful to have the support of Don and all of our kind supporters. This will make our residents more comfortable in their surrounding's, the need for which has not been more evident than during these trying times."



June Lane proudly shows off her new wardrobe unit.

Over the past several years, Don and his wife Jane made numerous gifts for the betterment of Residents lives. They supported our annual Gala auctions by donating artworks, antiques, and getaways to their condo in Florida. At our June 2020 Virtual Gala, Don surprised everyone with a \$21,000 gift to build six wardrobe units. He had already funded five units prior to that.

The Mitcheners say they were motivated by their shared admiration of the unselfishness of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. "They are absolutely amazing, and we appreciate that their leadership for caring and compassion is being carried on with the mission and endeavours of Rocmaura."

Don grew up in the Toronto area, mainly East York. He spent over two years in the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home, an orphanage in Richmond Hill, until he was adopted in 1953 at the age of 10.

"Shortly thereafter, my adoptive parents divorced. This left my mother with the sole responsibility for raising two pre-teenage sons – my brother Jack and I."

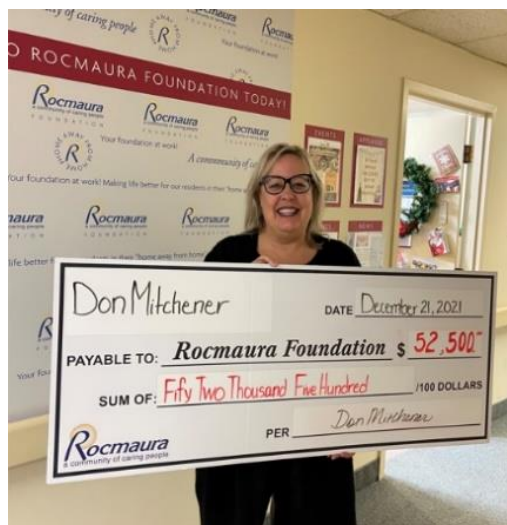
As a single parent, their mother, who had suffered physical handicaps from polio when she was a child, had very limited financial resources and often worked as a cloakroom attendant.

(The Imperial Theatre has named its cloakroom in her honour.) Don says this taught them by example: “responsibilities before rights; obligations before entitlements.”

Despite their modest upbringing, Don and his brother Jack had successful careers - Jack as a Commercial Printer in Toronto and Don, an FCPA, as a senior tax partner with Deloitte.

Don and Jane moved to Darlings Island in 1998 and immediately began contributing to their new community, their first event ironically being Rocmaura’s Gala in 1998.

Jane, a fifty-year member of the international Beta Sigma Phi sorority, joined a local chapter to lead Saint John’s Womens Wellness Conferences and worked on the Run for the Cure; Don’s commitments included BCIPI, First Steps, the Nauwigewauk Community Club, The Imperial Theatre and St. Mary’s Band. (The latter two he is still involved to this day among others.) Sadly, Jane passed away on New Brunswick Day in 2018.



Just as the Foundation was about to order the new units to be built, prices for construction materials sky rocketed.

“We had finally reached our goal, and

then discovered we needed to raise an additional \$9000,” says Foundation Director Sally Cummings. “We put out another appeal at Christmas time, and before you know it, our wonderful supporters came through once again! We cannot thank everyone enough!”

Recent Wardrobe Donors

- Mary Theresa Jesso
- Robin Naish
- April and Larry Dietrich
- Thomas and Helen Brideau
- Canaport LNG
- Brian and Anthea Earle
- Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
- John and Lynn Wack
- Dalila and Anna Nunes
- Emil and Margot Olsen

John and Lynn Wack will have a wardrobe plaque dedicated in memory of her Mother Louise Bromfield.



“My mother had a new wardrobe put in her room while she was living at Rocmaura and what a difference it made! It was so much more convenient for storage, and the wardrobe made the room look more homey as well.”

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Did you know?

You can have a wardrobe plaque engraved in honour or memory of someone special, or with a company name, when your accumulated donations total \$3800, the cost to build a wardrobe unit.

If you would like to inquire about your level of giving, and order a plaque, please contact Sally Cummings at foundation@rocmaura.com 643-7090.



Rocmaura Facebook Page Reaches Around the World!

Ninety Nine year old Donald Powell moved into Rocmaura this fall. His wife Dorcas lived here a few years ago. After a video of him in our home popped up on Facebook, his niece Mary says Rocmaura’s social media has been seen by family members from as far away as BRITISH COLUMBIA, CHICAGO, and even GERMANY!

“His neighbours in his building say it brought tears to their eyes, just to know how happy he is to be at Rocmaura. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have always said Rocmaura “Rocks” and I am still saying it! We love Rocmaura and its staff. Thank you.”

Mary Hewey

What people are saying about us

“Thank you for being so diligent. It puts my mind at ease that Mom is so well taken care of and definitely in the right place. With my advanced age and accute compromised health issues, I have to be very careful myself. So I am fully aware of the great work the staff of Rocmaura are doing, to protect all people under your care. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.” Patricia Morine

Courtyard Project Completed



It has been a busy year for Rocmaura Foundation, with two major projects being completed, resulting in refurbishments inside and out!

Thanks to a \$28,000 Grant from the Windsor Foundation, our Courtyard has been completely redone! Residents have been enjoying the new courtyard for family visits and other activities this fall.



Funds provided a new concrete patio which is safer for residents in wheelchairs, and helped plant new trees and sod to provide beauty and shade.

“The Courtyard is the heart of our home, where residents and staff enjoy BBQ,s entertainment and many outdoor activities,” says Foundation Director Sally Cummings. Many thanks to those who have also donated to our Mother’s Garden. We are looking forward to hundreds of tulips and daffodils blooming this spring!

The Windsor Foundation is a private foundation established in 1960 by Sidney Windsor who owned and operated a commercial canning business in Saint-Jean, Quebec which enabled him to create a long-term legacy upon his death. Windsor was born and educated in New Brunswick, and maintained a lifelong interest in the people who live here.



Grade 4 students from Lakewood Heights School came Christmas caroling in our Courtyard, when Covid-19 kept them from visiting inside our home.



With a little creative thinking, Teacher Anne found a way for her students to entertain residents safely during a pandemic.

#CovidChristmas
#ThinkOutsideTheBox
#CommunityofCaringPeople

A Step Back in Time...



Many thanks to Paula & Chris Nason who brought their 1923 Model T to Rocmaura in November for a Christmas photo shoot. The antique automobile brought joy to residents who enjoyed reminiscing. They had a visit with Santa while having a beautiful photo taken by Pristine Photography. This is one of many projects the Foundation hosts to give residents their best life.



This was a wonderful memory shared by Nira Kindred and her Father Sterling McCrae.

A Resident's Story



Bill Boucher passed away at Rocmaura Nursing Home on Sunday December 19th with his beloved wife Stella of 70 years by his side.

A devout Catholic, Bill's final wishes were to have a Mass of Christian Burial at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, Stella was unable to leave the nursing

home. At the time, it felt as though the only option was to postpone the services.



"If there is one thing that I know, it is that every life deserves to be celebrated and remembered," says Billy Tyler, a Licensed Funeral Director at Fundy Funeral Home. "By postponing the gathering and celebration of Bill's life until a later date, it would not allow

the family the chance to start on their journey of grief."

Understanding that Rocmaura is a community of caring people, Billy reached out to Sheana Mohra, the Executive Director of Rocmaura, and she whole heartedly agreed, that if Stella cannot get to Bill, we will bring Bill to her.

A small lounge on Garden Court where Bill and Stella have called home for the past two years, was converted for the funeral service. It was live streamed to friends and family. Stella, her children, the residents, and staff had the opportunity to pay tribute to a man who lived a full life of 92 years which was filled with unending love and dedication to others.

"When I heard what you have been able to accomplish for the family, I was overcome with joy. Thank you for being there for the Residents," says Sister Anita Naves, a Foundation Board Member and Sister of Charity of the Immaculate Conception.

Tyler says he is proud of the work everyone at Rocmaura is doing to better the lives of residents and their families. "Thanks to all of you, we were able to make the start of Stella's journey of grief an easier one. The family was able to laugh, cry, share stories, and favourite memories, and none of this would have been possible without your team at Rocmaura."

Bill's Grand daughter Aimee Bernier works as a scheduler at Rocmaura. She says her family is very appreciative of everything staff have done. "We would like to express our sincere thanks for the dignified care and support shown to us throughout Bill's stay."

Stella says most importantly, it helped her gain closure.

Bill Boucher worked at Thornes Hardware and enjoyed spending time on the lake fishing. Bill was also an avid bowler.



Family Leaves a Legacy on Foundation Donor Wall

Bill Boucher's family have collected a \$1500 donation to place a dragonfly in his memory on the Foundation Legacy Tree in Rocmaura's Main Dining Lounge.

"Every time Pepere went fishing, it was like the dragon flies flocked to him. They would even land on him and he was able to pet them," says Aimee Bernier.

Now she will be reminded of him every time she walks by the Foundation Donor Wall in the main dining lounge.

Aimee has worked at Rocmaura for 27 years, in housekeeping, as a nursing unit clerk, and most recently as our scheduler!

If you would like to place a sticker on our donor wall, you can make donations of \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1000 or \$1500. Contact Sally Cummings at Rocmaura Foundation.

Fifth Wave Hits Rocmaura

As of January 14, 2022, New Brunswick entered a lockdown phase to try and get the growing number of cases of Omicron variant under control.



“Like numerous homes in our region, Rocmaura is experiencing an outbreak. We are working very hard to ensure that the residents are well cared for. Staff have been absolutely amazing and we are beyond thankful to them for doing their utmost keep to everyone safe.”

Executive Director Sheana Mohra says Social Development is providing PPE and other supplies, and even an extra covid cleaning crew to relieve some of the pressure.



We have done much testing on Terrace, Garden, and Hopewell Courts, which have shown only one positive PCR resident.

Residents will not need to be tested again unless they start to show symptoms. Isolation will continue for Terrace Court, and residents on Hopewell and Garden are currently not able to gather or leave their courts. We are providing updates to families and staff on a regular basis. Thank you for all your support and kind words. It means the world to everyone. Sheana Mohra RNBN MHA Executive Director Rocmaura Inc

On the Upside



Recreation Manager Pamela Clark put out a request for CD Radios to keep residents company and the Foundation

has come through with ten! If you would like to donate a CD player or make a donation, you can E-transfer to foundation@rocmaura.com or call (506) 643-7090.

When the going gets tough, Rocmaura gets treats!

Staff and Residents enjoyed a Pizza and Pajama day, a picnic style lunch from Zesty Lemon, delicious Lasagna from Rocmaura’s own kitchen, Subway, and Greco all in one week! “If Employees don’t have to worry about bringing their lunch to work, it is just one less thing to think about, when they have so much already on their plate, excuse the pun,” says Director of Nursing Shirley Fraser.



Many thanks to all those families who have also supported the Foundation with gift cards and cash for Staff Appreciation draws.



Resident Frances Barry donated ten \$50 bills to give to unsuspecting staff and they loved it!

With the 5th wave underway, the home has remained closed to DSP visitors since right before Christmas. Family members are thankful for the wonderful care and effort to make sure residents stay in touch with loved ones.



“I want to thank everyone for the extraordinary effort being put in place to protect our treasured family members.



My family was so very happy and relieved to see a pic of our beautiful Mom looking so happy and show her some family photos through the window. I know this is no small feat to organize and

I want to thank you and the staff for going “above and beyond”. I’m hoping they know the impact their efforts are having on the well being of those “inside” and “outside”. Anne Healy-Swift

Love Finds a Way

Bob Stephen and family did not let Covid keep them from throwing a safely distanced 90th birthday party for his wife Marg.



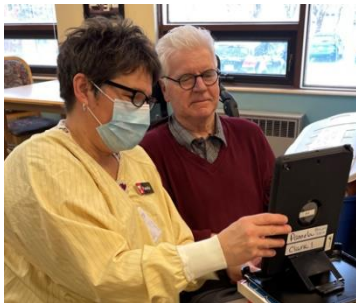
Window visits have been paused and Facetime visits are back in demand. Schedule a Virtual Visit with: Pam Clark 506 643 7064.

Visit our Facebook page for daily stories around the home.

We have launched a new website! Check out www.rocmaura.com for Covid-19 updates.

We have also created a new Rocmaura Nursing Home You Tube Channel! Check out our **RNH-TV!**

Proper donning and doffing of PPE and other helpful instructional videos are available for staff.



<https://bit.ly/RNH-TV>

FOUNDATION EVENTS



Meal-in-a-Box Gift Cards from Sankara are redeemable any Sunday. Meals arrive between 5-6pm and are available in the Greater Saint John area, from Grand Bay-Westfield, to Rothesay and Quispamsis. You get five dishes in your meal box for \$105 including delivery, and

you get a charitable tax receipt for \$30 from Rocmaura Foundation! One Meal Box Feeds four adults with one cuisine. You have a choice of Korean, Korean Veg, or Chinese, To order visit:

<https://bit.ly/MealinaBox>

Contact Sankara Cuisine
(506) 233-2070
info@sankaracuisine.com



Online Auction



Over 40 Items up for bid!

Including artworks by well known artists Joanne Fitzpatrick and RH Nicholson, and a signed soapstone sculpture appraised at \$800. There is a Fit Bit, gift cards, jewellery, and 2 years worth of wine! Check back often, as items are being added daily. Bidding ends Jan. 31 at 12noon.

www.biddingowl.com/Rocmaura



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in the message box to: foundation@rocmaura.com

Or sign up through Payroll Deduction to

Janice.Carr@rocmaura.com (506) 643-7054

Lottery Licence # 0414 649 56 Charitable # 886688597 RR001

Contact Us!

10 Parks St.

Saint John, NB E2K 4P1

(506) 643-7090

Foundation@rocmaura.com



Sally Cummings, Director

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