



Foundation News March 2014

Volume 3, Issue 1

# Rocmaura

a community of caring people

Ever Wonder if your “SENIOR MOMENT” is something more serious?

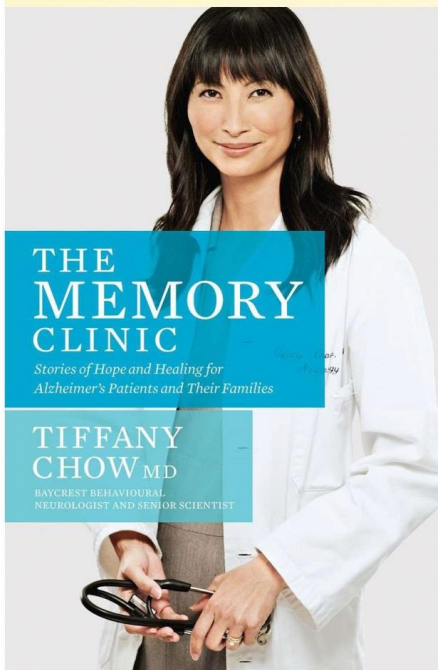
We often joke about misplacing our keys or forgetting what we were just about to say... but there's nothing funny about watching your loved ones decline into a shell of their former selves. **Dr. Tiffany Chow**, senior clinician from the world-renowned Rotman Research Institute

in Toronto will reveal if there is a way to prevent Alzheimer's, and offer advice and hope for those caring for someone coping with the disease.

**Costas Halavrezos**, former host of CBC Radio's Maritime Noon, will address what drives our fear of aging, while offering touching stories about growing up in his parents Saint John business - Nick's Coffee Counter, and later his father's struggle with dementia in a thoughtful and humorous way.

THE ROCMAURA FOUNDATION PRESENTS

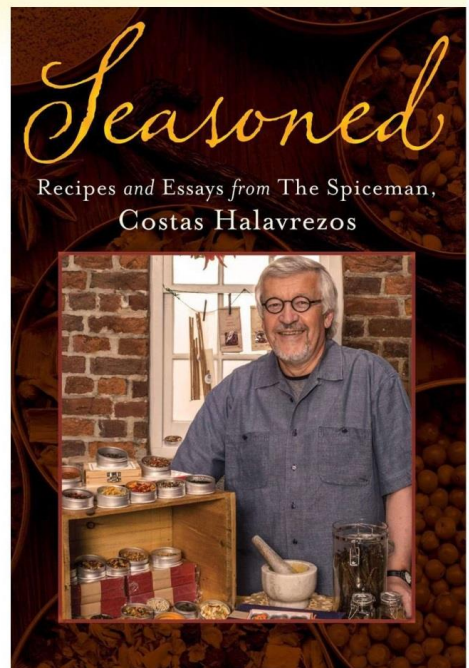
## More than just Dessert...



Enjoy a delicious dessert and some wonderful guest speakers...

Wednesday  
May 21, 2014

Delta  
Brunswick Hotel  
7:00 p.m. to  
9:00 p.m.



TICKETS \$50 (506) 643-7090 [foundation@rocmaura.com](mailto:foundation@rocmaura.com) [www.rocmaurafoundation.eventbrite.ca](http://www.rocmaurafoundation.eventbrite.ca)

By Erin Dwyer



*Dr. Comeau, a hematologic oncologist and director of the province's blood and bone marrow transplantation program at the Saint John Regional Hospital, will be Honorary Chair & Guest Speaker at **Rocmaura Foundation's Annual Dinner September 13, 2014 at SJTCC***

Dr. Terrance Comeau still remembers the smile on his mother's face. It was Halloween 2012 and his mother, Theresa, had just become a resident of Rocmaura Nursing Home when Alzheimer's disease had left her requiring round the clock care. It had been a difficult decision for his father, Terry, to put his wife of 49 years into a nursing home. For seven years, he had cared for Theresa in their home after she was diagnosed with the devastating disease.

"Almost to the end, she could still smile, and that was kind of a nice moment," he recalled about that day.

Last year, the dinner raised \$55,000 to enhance the lives of 150 residents at the nursing home. This year, the foundation is hoping the fundraising event – with the theme 'Coming Home'-- will once again be successful. "I was very honoured," Dr. Comeau said about being asked to speak at the annual event.

"The nurses and the support staff were just incredible there," he added, about the time his mother spent at Rocmaura before dying on Jan. 4, 2013 at the age of 73. "They were just incredible to her, but also to us as a family."

Dr. Comeau had no early desire to be a doctor. But his mother, a Grade 1 teacher at St. John the Baptist Elementary School in the South End, had prophetic words for him. "I always remember when I was younger – probably 7 or 8 – I was at St. Joseph's Hospital having my tonsils out," Dr. Comeau said. "Back in those days, they would page doctors overhead. And I remember her saying, 'Some day they are going to be calling your name on that,' and I remember saying I would never go into medicine."

Dr. Comeau would eventually attend Dalhousie Medical School, and later the British Columbia Cancer Agency and the UBC Terry Fox lab, where he completed a transplant fellowship before being recruited by North Carolina to set up a transplant program.

Several years ago, after deciding to move back to his hometown to be closer to his ailing mother, Dr. Comeau was given the task of setting up the province's first stem cell transplantation program. The program, launched in 2008, extracts and stores stem cells from patients about to undergo extreme doses of chemotherapy to kill persistent cancer cells. The chemotherapy treatment has the downside effect of also killing the patient's bone marrow, which is responsible for producing white and red blood cells as well as blood platelets. Following high-dose chemotherapy, the healthy stem cells are then re-injected into the patient, where they restore the person's immune system.

Until 2008, cancer patients in New Brunswick requiring extreme doses of chemotherapy had to go out of province to receive stem cell transplants. With the launch of the program, over 70 patients have received the treatment closer to home. Dr. Comeau hopes to see the program expand in the coming years into two new areas: allogeneic stem cell



transplants, which involve transplants from a relative, as well as unrelated transplants. They have the advantage of giving the patient, including those with autoimmune diseases like Multiple Sclerosis and lupus, a brand new immune system that won't attack the body. At present, New Brunswickers have to go out of province for this type of treatment. "We will be likely doing those here within the next year or so," he said.

Transplants involving non-related donors and stem cells from umbilica cord are still considered experimental, but could be used to regenerate organ systems for patients who have had a stroke or a heart attack.

Dr. Comeau is grateful for the care and compassion his mother received during the time she was a resident at Rocmaura. Knowing the excellent care it provides made the decision to place her in a nursing home a bit easier. "It was probably the hardest decision," Dr. Comeau said his father had to make.

But Rocmaura Nursing Home had been their first choice. "Her mother also had Alzheimer's Disease and also had been at Rocmaura. They knew the excellent care that they gave."





## Curling Funspiel Raises over \$5000

Fourteen teams had a great time in Rocmaura's 10th Annual Curling Funspiel on Feb. 1, 2014 at Carleton Curling Club, while helping to raise funds to enhance Resident's lives by providing the extras not funded by government. Congratulations to Jeff Scammell who won \$280 in the 50/50 draw!

### Thanks to the Committee

Chair Emil Olsen, Mark & Mary McAuliffe, Tim Olsen, Diane Beaulieu & Rod Flood, Marie Murphy, Roland Roberts – Auctioneer

### Thank you Sponsors!

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 Jani King  
 Bob Whipple  
 Tony Ratchford – Subway - Soup  
 Gary Springer - Tim Horton's Quispamsis  
 Thanks also to our many prize donors!

### Mark Your Calendar!

Next year's Curling Funspiel will be  
**January 24, 2015**

Happy Birthday to  
 Resident Eveline Leblanc  
 who turned 103 on  
 March 8, 2014!



**You remember the first person  
 to hold your hand...will you  
 remember the last?**



Please consider a donation to Rocmaura Foundation. Your help is needed to enhance our Residents' quality of life, and provide some of the comforts of home not funded by government.

Make life better for a friend, neighbour or family member in their "home away from home" at Rocmaura Nursing Home.

**Contact Foundation Office (506) 643-7090**

# A Big SHOUT OUT to our Generous Donors!

“Both my parents enjoyed the last nine years of their lives at Rocmaura. Being from more than 4000 kilometers away, my sister and I had no concerns for our folk’s safety or care whatsoever; A blessing to be sure!”

Howard H. Cowan,  
Sorrento, BC

LIKE us on Face Book!



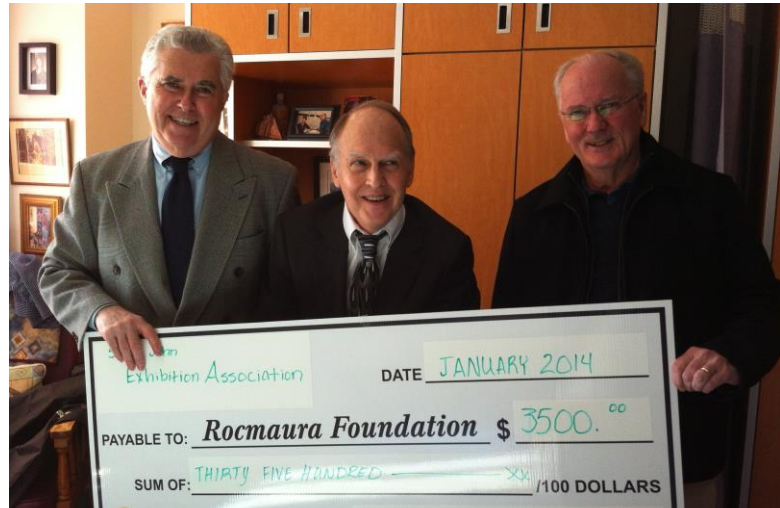
### Contact Us!

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Sally Cummings Coordinator

**Memorial Donations**  
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debit, visa or mastercard



Left to right: Willard Jenkins-Secretary Treasurer, Charlie Swanton-Resident, Paul Gilbride – President

Our sincere gratitude to the Saint John Exhibition Association who donated \$3500 to the Wardrobe Project

Rocmaura Foundation wishes to thank the Knights of Columbus for their donation of \$900 raised at their monthly breakfast on Sunday November 10th, 2013 at Assumption Centre.



Many thanks to the Rocmaura Auxiliary who contributed \$1500 toward the Wardrobe Project

So far 8 wardrobes have been installed on Hopewell, with 21 more to build at a total cost \$150,000.