

Foundation News April 2015

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Rocmaura

a community of caring people

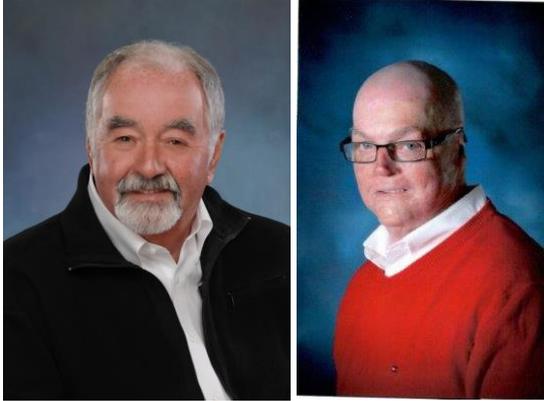


Plans are well underway for Rocmaura's 17th Annual Foundation Fundraising Dinner, Auction & Casino. This year's event will be an **Oktoberfest** theme on **Saturday October 3, 2015** at the Saint John Trade & Convention Centre. We are very excited to announce that **Sergeant Kevin Vickers** will be our **Honourary Chair**. CTV's **Cindy Day** is returning as our lively Host. The Hilarious **Tim Maloney** will be our auctioneer, and **Donnie and the Monarchs** will be making a special reunion performance! The **Hilton** will host an hors d'oeuvres reception followed by a delicious buffet dinner featuring the flavours of Germany. Event Co-Chairs **Gerry Lowe & Ralph Landers** have teamed up with a great committee of

volunteers for the second year in a row to create a casual and fun evening, with plenty of time to mingle, play casino games and bid on hundreds of unique auction items including a **Spa Getaway** Package to Chance Harbour followed by dinner at **Thandi's** Restaurant with a group of your friends.

Last fall 600 people attended, raising more than \$100,000 for the betterment of Residents' lives allowing us to install 8 more wardrobes on Hopewell Court, and purchase a new ventopedic kit to prevent pressure sores.

New this year, we are giving away a Mitsubishi Mirage from **Loch Lomond Mitsubishi** and a \$3000 piece of fine jewellery from **Spicer**! Staff is being offered a special "Gala" rate through payroll payment plan. **If you wish to purchase tickets, or have an item to donate, please contact Sally Cummings at the Foundation office now at (506) 643-7090 or Email: foundation@rocmaura.com. Tickets are \$125 each (\$65 tax receipt) or \$1250 for a table of ten (\$650 tax receipt.) Ask us about Sponsorships \$1500 Bronze, \$3000 Silver, \$5000 Gold.**



Gerry Lowe and Ralph Landers have known each other all their lives. Following a tragic fire in 1969, Gerry gave Ralph his first job as a dispatcher and driver at Vet's Taxi. Gerry owned Vets for 43 years, growing the business from 10 to 70 cars. Gerry and Ralph have another thing in common, having both served on Saint John Common Council.

Ralph was the youngest person to be elected in 1977, in Canada's oldest incorporated City, serving two terms until 1983. It was a great time for the city, during the building of Market Square and the Canada Games. Ralph later helped Gerry as his campaign manager, when he was elected to Common Council in the May 2013 bi-election.

Gerry asked Ralph to help out with Rocmaura's annual fundraising dinner and auction in 2014 and they have decided to join forces again as Co-Chairs of this year's Oktoberfest. "We were impressed that so many people gave of their time and money to an organization that is truly a Community of Caring People and we are pleased that ALL funds go towards the betterment of the 150 Residents of Rocmaura. "

Ralph is married to Debra Mitchell Landers and they have two lovely daughters Shelly Hebert and Brianne Vautour. In his free time, Ralph can be found relaxing at Harding's Point Campground fishing and hunting. Ralph has worked in the Industrial Insulation trade for over 30 years and has been the manager of Pro Insul Ltd a national insulation company since 1999.

Gerry worked for Canada Post for 35 years and served as a full time business agent for the union serving Atlantic Canada. Today he is semi-retired looking after his local business interests. Gerry enjoys horse racing and has been involved in the Saint John Exhibition Association for the last 12 years with the goal of building a field house for inside field sports. He also helped raise funds to build a new kitchen for a south end hot lunch program for disadvantaged youth out of the St. John the Baptist-King Edward School.

Gerry's entrepreneurial background has included building a housing development and renovating many old buildings in the city. He has also owned and operated 29 restaurants and bars including the first licensed billiards hall in NB. His favourite accomplishment was running in the New York Marathon in 1987. He has a daughter Allison in Ottawa who works for the federal government. He believes that if everyone gives a little, then those who don't have much will have something. He says he doesn't have anything left on his bucket list, "You just have to have a reason to get up every morning."

Making a memorial donation is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one. "You are helping improve the lives of others at Rocmaura Nursing Home by having an immediate and direct impact on their care, treatment and support," says Foundation Coordinator Sally Cummings "by helping purchase needed equipment and delivering programs not funded by the government."

- If the obituary suggests a charity or institution where contributions can be sent in memory of the deceased, it is best to follow the family's wishes. Some families, however, leave it up to the donor's choice.
- There is no particular standard as to the amount to donate. But keep in mind that many organizations today only give tax receipts for donations over \$15 or more. Others suggest that you donate the same amount as it would cost to send flowers.
- Many funeral homes have a list of registered charities, which provides contact information on how to make a donation.
- Many non-profits like Rocmaura Foundation provide a means on their website to make a memorial donation. Be sure to ask them to notify the family of the donation. Rocmaura also has memorial cards available at the Foundation Office and area funeral homes. Visit www.rocmaura.com for more information or call 506 643-7090.

If you have smelled the aroma of fresh baked cookies as you walk into Rocmaura, you have probably seen Arlene Northrup busy in the recreation kitchen.

Congratulations as she is recognized as the **Region 2 Volunteer** at the **New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes Volunteer Gala** April 16th at the Ramada Fredericton during National Volunteer Week April 12-18.

This is an important award and a great honor. She is thrilled and humbled by being recognized. As all good volunteers do she says she doesn't do anything special but we know different. She makes a huge difference in the residents', families, and staff's lives as she entertains and cooks. Arlene is resident Eveline Leblanc's daughter (who just celebrated her 104th birthday). If you would like to volunteer please call Pam Clark in Recreation at 643-7065.



“Rocmaura Nursing Home was a cool drink of water after a long and frustrating journey. My Grandfather spent the last 6 months of his life on Trinity Court. The staff was outstanding. I can’t imagine the patience required but they did it with grace and dignity. Rocmaura is a model to look to for dignified nursing care for our seniors. It’ll be my choice when my time comes.”

Karen Knight, daughter of the late Dan Dryer

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Contact Us!

10 Parks St.

Saint John, NB E2K 4P1

Tel: (506) 643-7090

Fax: (506) 643- 7053

Foundation@rocmaura.com



Sally Cummings Coordinator

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**Payment by cash, cheque,
debit, visa or mastercard**



Dr. Daniel Dryer with his wife Barbara & daughter Karen Knight

My father had vascular dementia when he was offered a placement at Rocmaura on March 24th, 2014. My one regret was that my Mother died in hospital 4 days after Dad was taken into the care of Rocmaura, never seeing her beloved husband, in such a wonderful place.

My father had waited 8 months after his assessment at St. Joseph’s Hospital, for placement in a nursing home. My mother suffered emotionally and physically watching him fail.

Because of the treatment of staff and the stimulation of the programs at Rocmaura, soon Dad was zipping around in his chair, getting into mischief. He was then transferred to Trinity Court, where he spent the last 6 months of his life.

Whoever designed Trinity Court, or the “court concept” was very perceptive of the needs of residents with dementia. The rooms on the floor are in a circle around a beautiful little courtyard, fully visible by large windows. Residents can enjoy light and winter and snow, and then spring, buds, summer flowers, birds, and the fall with colored leaves. Every time I visited my father, we “walked” around the court, commenting on whatever season we were in. It brought normalcy to everyone.

Trinity court is a locked unit, so residents can walk freely. The walls are painted in warm and inviting colors. The sitting areas provide a homelike cozy place for family to visit. Outside every room is a little shadow box that family can place pictures and mementos of their family, things that represented them before this disease of the mind. In their rooms was a sheet posted with a little biography of that resident.

It was a wonderful reminder to everyone that this is a person with a life and worth before this illness. Touches like this made this journey just a little more bearable for everyone involved.

Rocmaura has a wonderful mission statement which they take very seriously. It would warm my heart to come and see my Dad hanging out with the staff in the nursing station or see a staff member sitting with the “gang” watching TV or seeing a resident going for a walk with staff, chatting away. The recreational staff person was so creative in the activities she did. The feeling of joy that those activities elicited is something that cannot be measured.

Meals around the table at our home are wonderful memories for me. Chatting with my Dad, while he had a cup of tea and a cookie, even if the conversation didn’t make any sense, those are moments I cherish.

When my Dad was in his last days, the staff surrounded and comforted us and I will always be grateful. Rocmaura was an answer to prayer. My Dad had spent his life as a pastor serving and loving other people. He ended his life being loved and served.