

# RNH NEWS

## SPILLING THE TEA *on the latest nursing home news*



FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER  
June 2023



New Burpee Entrance Takes Shape

### Palliative Suite Project

Some major transformations have been happening in our home. Several major construction projects are underway under the direction of our Maintenance Manager Harry Searle. Some days it feels like something is happening in just about every corner, but we are doing our utmost to make sure Residents feel at home.

#### Phase One of our Palliative Suite Project

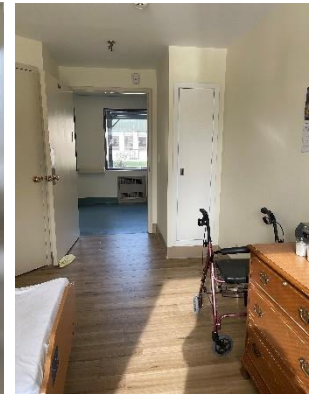
We moved our Reception Area to the Burpee Main Entrance. Residents enjoyed watching things unfold.





### Phase II of the Palliative Suite Project

We closed the former entrance at 10 Parks Street and converted receptionist Kim Gaudet's office space back into a bedroom which will become the new palliative suite.



### Phase III Atrium Project

The final step will be to renovate the former Lobby/Entrance at 10 Parks Street and transform it into a beautiful Atrium and Visiting Space. Foundation Executive Director Sally Cummings envisions a relaxing area where families and residents can spend time, away from the hustle and bustle of daily operations of the home. . "We will need to install lighting and furnishings, and hope to have a waterwall feature, and fire place. The price tag for Snoezalyn equipment is \$15,000 alone, so fundraising for the Palliative Suite Project will continue as long as it takes, says Cummings.



The Foundation will give meaningful purpose to an underutilized space once again.

Residents will be able to play with these sensory stimulation items through touch and feel. These features are calming and interactive. "The Atrium will be available for visitors when a loved one is palliative, but will also serve as a relaxing space for residents and families to gather anytime," says Cummings.

"We are thrilled that Interior Designer Suzanne Ratchford has volunteered her time to put together a beautiful design



plan for this project," adds Cummings. Suzanne's husband Tony served on our Boards, and the couple have been very supportive through their Subway Franchise over the years, sponsoring many Foundation Fundraising Events including our annual Curling Fun Spiel. "This is another example of working with our Community of Caring People to make wonderful things happen at Rocmaura," says Cummings. "We are so blessed to have their support."

### Rocmaura Sprinkler Project

Meanwhile Rocmaura Inc. continues on a major Sprinkler Project which got underway on Garden Court in mid-April. The entire sprinkler system is being replaced by the Province of New Brunswick, (with the exception of Trinity Court.) This has been on the list of needed upgrades for many years, and has finally come to fruition. The contractors, Flood Construction and Viking Sprinkler, are working on a group of twelve rooms at a time.

Acting Executive Director Theresa Mercer says with a project as large and challenging as this, we have been preparing plans to accommodate the residents and staff during the expected 14 month duration project, with a target finish date of June, 2024.

"Most residents will be temporarily moved for about four to five weeks, however Resident care, comfort and safety remain our primary concern," says Mercer. Families will communicate directly with the RN in charge on their Court.





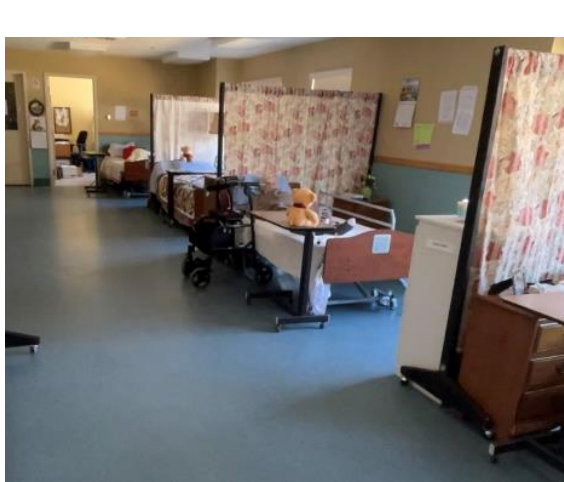


## How to Help?

One of the most helpful things is to remove excess and seasonal items/clothing from resident rooms. Please take any valuables and breakables home. Being here with your resident when their moves are happening is also helpful and calming for your loved one.

Rocmaura will do their best to keep everyone well informed as we move forward with this long overdue and needed upgrade to our facility.

A temporary ward of five beds was set up in the Recreation Dept. for a few weeks.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration A Big Success

After a three-year hiatus, the return of our IN-PERSON GALA CELEBRATION, raised more than \$103,000!

After having quarantined due to Covid-19 since 2020, we were so happy to get out and enjoy ourselves again at our first in-person Gala fundraiser since the fall of 2019.

We headed back to 1972 when Rocmaura opened, and shook things up with ELVIS at our Dinner, Auction, and Dance at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre on Saturday October 29, 2022.

The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception made a \$50,000 gift to our Palliative Suite Project.



Sister Mary Beth McCurdy, Congregational Leader of the **Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception**, and Sister Anita Holmes, one of the original administrators of Rocmaura, cut the traditional anniversary cake with Michael Keating of the **NB Association of Nursing Homes**, also celebrating 50 years!



Title Sponsors Bill and Norma Eaton, Owners of **Argus Audiology** grab a selfie with Elvis ~ Thane Dunn & the Cadillac Kings in the VIP lounge pre-show!

Thank you, **Gordon Foods, Comeau Seafood & Hilton Saint John** for sponsoring our reception!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**October 14, 2024**  
FUN coming soon!

Host **Cindy Day** poses by the 1955 Pink Lincoln.



Many memorable moments of the evening included Sister Anita Holmes who is a big Elvis fan on the dance floor until the show ended, and Residents Charlotte and Dot, alongside EVS Manager Paula Breen, who caught Elvis' iconic gold scarves! Lots of Elvis selfies taken, with many dressed up in Vegas Glam and 70's Chic vibes.





**Thanks to our  
Sponsors Supporters  
& Volunteers  
\$103,000 Raised!**





18th Annual  
Curling Fun Spiel  
Feb. 11, 2023  
\$10,400 Raised

**Alternative**  
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Many thanks to Chair Emil Olsen, Volunteers, and of course our many Sponsors!



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Save the Date!  
Feb. 10,  
2024  
Carleton Rink



Our Condolences

Mark & Mary McAuliffe at Gala 2022



Mark McAuliffe's big laugh and kind heart are so very missed. Mark served on both the Rocmaura and Foundation Boards and was one of the original curling fun spiel founders. In later years when he couldn't curl anymore, he cooked our delicious soup. Mark is survived by his loving wife Mary of 52 years. She has also been a long time Rocmaura Foundation volunteer, and integral part of our Gala auction for many years. Mark was a school Principal, golfer, member of the Knights of Columbus, Eucharist Minister, and volunteer with Hillcrest Baptist Food Program. If you ever needed anything, Mark would always be there. He was generous with his time and caring of others.



## Congratulations Aubrey Reid Scholarship Recipients!



Sarah Buckley and John-Paul Dobbelstyn received \$500 bursaries from Rocmaura for living our Mission as RA's as they pursue their dreams of becoming an RN.

This scholarship was made possible by Aubrey Reid, a long time Rocmaura Board Chair and the Sisters of Charity who made a \$13,000 gift. It is awarded to staff annually who demonstrate caring and compassion as they further their education.



If you would like to establish a bursary for a business or in honour or memory of someone special, please reach out to Sally Cummings at Rocmaura Foundation. We are glad to help. (506) 643-7090 foundation@rocmaura.com.

## Special Recognition by the Queen

Two Foundation Board Members and a Rocmaura couple have received a special honour by the Queen.



Emil Olsen and Christine Eruokwu received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal recognizing the exceptional



contributions of New Brunswickers. Emil has actually received all four medals, Silver in 1977, Golden in 2002 and Diamond Jubilee in 2012.



Residents Sandra & Clinton Speight formed the Brown's Flat Fire Department, raised funds for an outdoor rink, and ran a local food bank for more than twenty years.



## Did you know?



Rocmaura has five Residents who are 100 years old or more, and two who will become Centenarians soon! Happy Birthday to Mary MacDougal on July 7 and Audrey Taber on September 17!



We also have four couples who reside at Rocmaura including Clinton and Sandra Speight.

Our most senior Resident is Ann Whittaker who is 104!

## Congratulations Denise Long Volunteer of the Year



Denise Long was recently awarded the 2022 Catholic Health International Volunteer Excellence Award.

This is presented to an outstanding volunteer to recognize their contributions and devotion to a caring and compassionate environment.

Denise has a passion for helping, and her support serving on the Foundation Board has been invaluable.

Denise has hosted fundraising events and served three years on the Board and will become our next Foundation Chair. Her enthusiasm and flair for creativity are contagious! Thank you for all you do and always leading with kindness. We are fortunate to have you in our community of caring people.

## Foundation Wishes Filled 2022-23

**2 Geri Chairs** from the Healy & Harrington families \$1690

**Christmas Activities** and gifts from Octavio Ribeiro \$1000

**2 Transport Wheelchairs** raised at Antique Car Show \$420

**Rehab Equipment** from Gala donations \$960

**Music Therapy Sessions** to enhance memory and socialization raised at Gala auction \$1650



**Staff Appreciation** gift card draws from the Kippers and Johnson families \$1000

**Recreation Activities** from the Knights of Columbus Council 6595 award \$2500 biannually



**Recreation Supplies Party** décor \$700



**\$8000 Blanket Warmer** for Garden Court

**Welcome Baskets** for new Residents \$1125



## Lotto Fun!

Many thanks to **JD Irving** who donated a **snowblower** for our winter draw! Our draw raised \$3600 and the 50/50 raised \$1975! Thank you for all your support! **Congratulations to Mike Gallant** of Reliable Door & Window who won it and donated it right back!



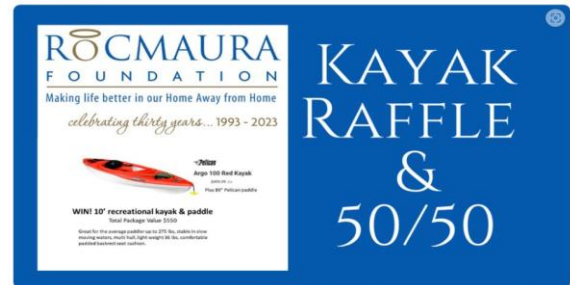
## Congratulations Gerald O'Brien Winner of \$410 in our 50/50 Draw!



Fundraising Tools Media About

Rocmaura Kayak Raffle & 50/50 Draw Fundraiser!

50/50 Cash Raffle



**\$820 raised in our 50/50 draw &  
\$2100 raised from our Kayak Draw!**

Stay tuned for our next raffles...

**ELECTRIC BIKE &  
FIRE PIT!**

## Congratulations Greg Sullivan!





## Community BBQ

It was great to see our community back in the courtyard to celebrate Nursing Home Week, including the Sisters of Charity and our local politicians who popped by! Happy Birthday to City Councillor Gerry Lowe.



## New Reflection Space

Many thanks to Smet Monuments who donated this \$3000 granite bench and Fundy Funeral Home for a \$2000 gift to create a new reflection space in our courtyard.



## Foundation Photo Shoot

Elsie Pearson and her daughter Michelle got a beautiful photo taken and supported our Foundation with a \$50 donation. We appreciate your support so much as we

work to enhance our Residents' lives.



Many thanks to Brigitte Chenier of Tiny Apples Photography and the team of volunteers at RBC who helped transport and get everyone glammed up!

It was a special day and we made lots of wonderful memories. We are thankful to RBC who made a gift of \$1500 with their community caring grant which will help

us host more activities in the home!





## May Basket Fun

Students from Origins Natural Learning Childcare visited for the first time in three years! They delivered May Baskets to the residents, who returned the love with lots of hugs! We hope to see the kids again soon and are excited to have these community partnerships resume post-Covid.



## Major Gifts

Many thanks to sisters Cathy White and Nancy Murphy who made a \$5000 donation to Rocmaura Foundation on their last visit home to see their Dad Gordon Mercer.



We are celebrating June Pride month flying the LGBTQIA+ Flag in our Courtyard. This **Progress Pride Flag** is the newest design, standing for Intersex-Inclusive. The rainbow colours have always represented diversity and the movement began in San Francisco in 1978.

These funds will be used to spruce things up and provide more activities and music programs. Thank you for your kindness! It brings joy to our home.

## Legacy Tree is Blooming



A beautiful cardinal landed on our Legacy Tree!

Barry and Karen Carleton made a \$1000 gift to our Donor Wall in memory of his beautiful Mom Ann Carleton.

If you would like to place a tribute in honour of someone special, please reach out.

We have all levels of gifts from a \$100 leaf to \$250 bird, \$500 butterfly, \$1000 Hummingbird and \$1500 Dragon Fly.

### Foundation Board 2023-24

Denise Long- Chair  
 Jen Butler -Past Chair  
 Emil T. Olsen – Vice Chair  
 Sr. Anita Naves - SCIC  
 Rod Flood  
 Brian Fitzpatrick-  
 Treasurer  
 Billy Tyler  
 Heather White Brittain  
 Tracy Scott  
 Gerald O'Brien  
 Christine Eruokwu  
 Sheana Mohra  
 Kim Shaw

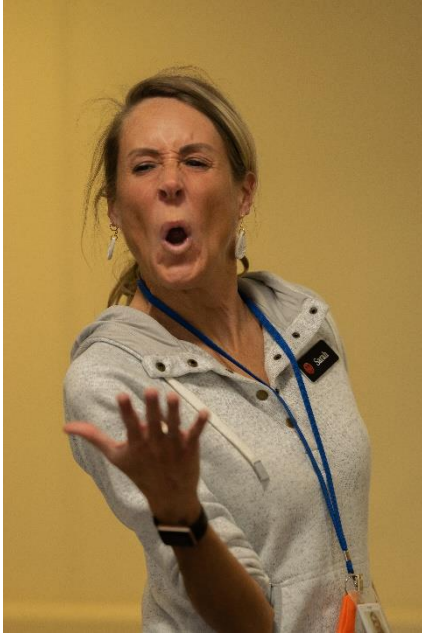


Thank you to outgoing Board Chair Jen Butler for her dedication and support in our mission of caring and compassion. Jen continues on the board for her 2nd three-year term.

**If you are interested to join a committee or volunteer call us! (506) 643-7090**



# Welcome Aboard! Sarah Draper ~ Recreation Manager



## Tell us about yourself:

I'm 42-years young and live in Forest Hills with my husband Jody and our 11-year-old twins; Pierce and Quinn. My passion is the senior population and I'm blessed to say I've worked the majority of my career in this field.



## What is your background?

For the last 15 years, I've worked in the Recreation Department at Loch Lomond Villa. There, I became fascinated with the "therapeutic" aspect of recreation and the incredible benefits it offered our residents, and began obtaining my Bachelor of Therapeutic Recreation, to add to my BA (history major) and BA of Gerontology. It wasn't easy working full time with a young family and going back to school every evening but it was the final piece for my education that tied it all together.

## What is your magical power?

I can be serious, but it's rare. My favorite thing is making people laugh, in all ways, all day, and I hope to leave the people I encounter a bit lighter than I how found them...particularly our residents, staff, and families.

## What are a few of your favourite things?

I love travel, music, and great food, and am beyond excited to be starting my next chapter with the amazing Rocmaura crew. I'm blown away by the kindness and welcome I've received here and look so forward to my career with this outstanding home. My Aunt Moo is one of my favourite people and I'm so glad she lives here so I can see her everyday.





## A FAMILY STORY

Julie Rioux is visiting her Father Roy McLaughlin and enjoying the entertainment on Garden Court. Back in the day, his wife was quite famous in Saint John.



Roy married Edith Mae, who was one of the first quadruplets born in Canada. The famous Mahaney babies were born at home in 1923 on Christmas day. Their arrival was a Christmas miracle! (This was just over a decade prior to the Dionne quintuplets being born in Ontario in 1934.) Fertility drugs were uncommon in those days, so it was considered pretty special.



Featured on a postcard at 3 months old, Left to right:



Edith Mae, Edna Louise, Lyda Christine, & John Douglas.

The Mahaney family were featured in numerous newspaper articles and even a book.



Julie says her Mother's parents weren't expecting quadruplets; they thought they might be having twins. They already had five children when the Quads came along. Her Mother was one of eleven who grew up on St. James street. She says the City was very supportive of the Quads. The community helped the family in hard times, pledging not to let them lose their home. Julie says her mother spoke fondly of having a normal, happy childhood, however they were a bit of a curiosity.



Growing up in the 1920's and 30's, the Quads received a lot of attention, but Julie says it didn't go to their heads. "My mother grew up kind-hearted, and she would give you the shirt off her back." She remembers her Mother saying that her father didn't want them to be in a circus atmosphere and refused to allow the children to become wards of the government. She thought they might form a vaudeville act someday when they grew up.

Their childhood years were described as being in a bit of a fishbowl. The Quads appeared at fairs and car shows in New Brunswick, Maine, and Nova Scotia, including the Saint John Exhibition, in which they made \$700 at the gate, which was split with the promoter. Their photos were featured on milk bottles and articles every year leading up to Christmas.



In 1939, they turned down an invitation to go on display at the Chicago World's Fair. The Dionne Quints had been offered \$50,000 for their appearance too, but their doctor would not let them go. That same year, the Quads met the late King George VI and Queen Mother Elizabeth during a Royal visit to Canada, and every year, King George V sent them gifts.



Pictured In 1934 the 11-year-old Mahaney Quads, the year the Dionne quintuplets were born.

By 1944 to 1947, the Quads all had married and enjoyed the obscurity of adulthood. Julie says her mother liked to dance and sometimes play cards. The quads kept in touch in their older years, but never got together. Edith Mae Mahaney McLaughlin died in October 2003 at the age of 79, twenty years ago. Roy has resided at Rocmaura since the fall of 2019. He worked at the Port. Julie and her husband are retired and enjoy visiting Rocmaura. Thank you for sharing your wonderful story!



## What People are Saying About Us



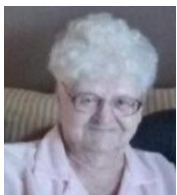
### **Anita Louise Barnes**

The family ...send a special thank you to the staff at Rocmaura Nursing Home for the excellent care and compassion during Anita's stay. September 10, 1946 ~ March 9,



### **Janette Edris Allaby**

...after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's Disease...Our family wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the staff of Rocmaura Nursing Home for the compassion and care provided to both Janette and our family.



### **Anita Wilma Pade**

Our family wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to the nurses and care team of Rocmaura Nursing Home for their care and compassion shown towards Anita and our family throughout the last few months. May 16, 1929 ~ February 7, 2023

# ROCMAURA FOUNDATION

Making life better in our Home Away from Home

*celebrating thirty years... 1993 - 2023*

## Contact Us!

10 Parks St.  
Saint John, NB E2K 4P1  
(506) 643-7090  
Foundation@rocmaura.com



Sally Cummings, Director  
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## Make a Gift and Leave a Lasting Legacy

If you would like to make a gift to Rocmaura Foundation please visit us online at [www.rocmaura.com](http://www.rocmaura.com). Or reach out to Sally Cummings in the Foundation Office anytime.

Name Rocmaura as your charity of choice for memorial donations, set up a monthly giving plan, leave a bequest in your will, or honour someone special by placing a decal on our donor wall legacy tree. Your donations help us providing some of the extras that are not funded by government to give our frail and elderly their best life. Help us make life better for Residents in our "home away from home."

## Rocmaura Foundation is Celebrating 30 years!

The Foundation was formed in 1993 to provide services and programs to Rocmaura Nursing Home to enhance Residents' quality of life. In that time we have raised over \$3.2 million dollars and provided all kinds of rehab equipment and recreation programs, blanket warmers, two buses, and we are now working on our second palliative care suite to name only a few of our many projects and accomplishments. We are served by a dedicated volunteer board of directors.

## Have you been watching our new TV Channel?

Please Like & Share our posts and follow along the daily adventures of life in our home!  
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RNH TV