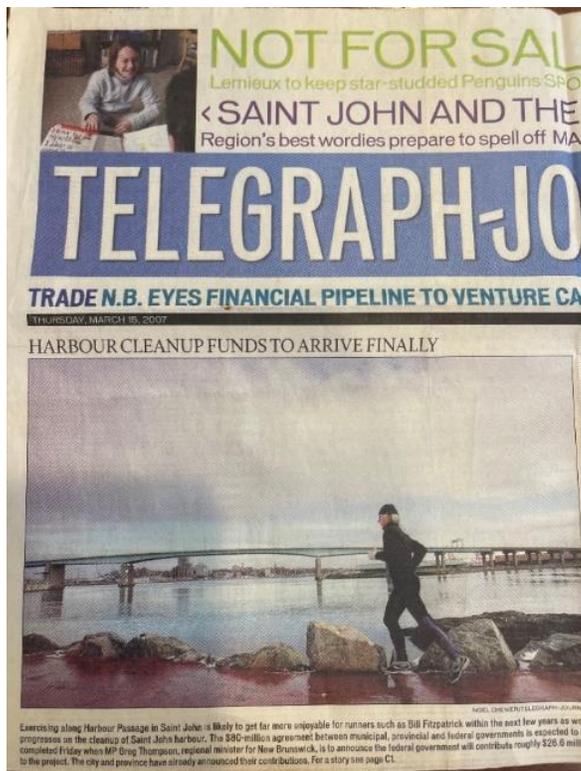


Foundation News May 2022



A Million Little Stories

Everyone has a story. A special thanks to all those who shared theirs with us!



The Running Man

Joanne Fitzpatrick saved this newspaper clipping from March 2007 of her husband Bill running along Harbour Passage. The waterfront trail had just opened in 2003.

Bill Fitzpatrick was an avid runner and ran every day except Sundays, sometimes ten miles a day. He always ran mid-day and was never a morning runner. Joanne says he did an even longer run on Saturdays, sometimes marathon length and his personal goal was always to wear shorts at least once a month during the winter. He ran many routes around town as far away as Grand Bay, but his favourite run was through Millidgeville. She says people would always toot the horn and wave at him.

Bill was a Chartered Accountant, partner and tax expert at Peat, Marwick, Thorne. He retired at 53 to become a "philosopher King" says Joanne.

He started running in his late twenties and continued until the first signs of dementia appeared. Joanne says Bill started to stumble, and at first they thought it might be MS, until he had several falls and then realized it was frontal lobe dementia.



Early in his disease, Joanne says she would be out for a walk with Bill and often she would have to grab him because he would want to start running with his walker.

Bill is now 76 and moved to Rocmaura last April. Joanne says he has taken everything in stride. When he couldn't drive anymore, he handed over the car keys, sold his sail boat and

has accepted every change in good humour.

Joanne is a well-known local artist and has donated several paintings to Rocmaura Foundation for fundraisers over the years including this recent artwork "Covid Days" which is appraised at \$800 and will be up for bid at our Gala this fall!



50th Anniversary Celebrations

Yes! We are planning something BIG for our 50th anniversary this year! Stay tuned for more details coming soon! Are you tired of self isolating? Are you ready to have some fun? After a two+ year hiatus, it's time to come together again!

We want to hear your memories!

Do you remember when Rocmaura opened in December 1972? We want to hear from you! How have things changed over the years? How did the Sisters of Charity have such foresight? What lies on the fututure horizon? What are our hopes and dreams, and how can the Foundation be part of those plans? **Please contact Sally Cummings at foundation@rocmaura.com 643-7090.**

Rocmaura Has a Little Bit of Hollywood

Did you know? Three time Oscar winner Frances McDormand has ties to Rocmaura Nursing Home!

Frances used to visit her Aunt Ada Flewelling at Rocmaura every summer when she travelled to NB on her way home to Westport, NS with her parents.

Ada Flewelling's grandson, Barry Morton, is present Resident Mary MacDougall's son-in-law. He and his wife Patsy say McDormand has stayed with them in Saint John and has gone sailing on the St. John River. Patsy Morton shows us some of the memorabilia she has from her famous family connection.



Frances McDormand has won four Oscars, two Emmy's, and a Tony Award, making her one of the few performers to achieve the "Triple Crown of Acting".

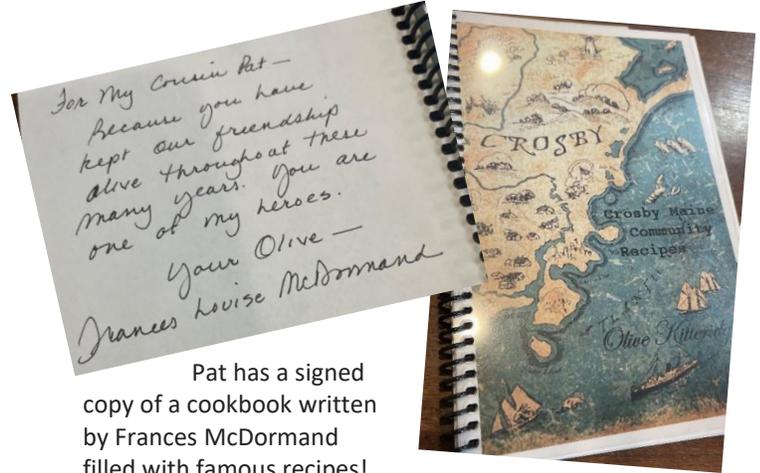


McDormand won her first Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of a police detective in the movie " Fargo ." McDormand won two more Academy Awards for Best Actress in " Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri " (2017,) and " Nomadland " (2020), making her only the second woman in history to win Best Actress three times.

She was also awarded the Academy Award for Best Picture, making her the first person in history to win Academy Awards both as producer and performer for the same film.

The Mortons have known McDormand long before she was famous. Pat says she has known Fran since she was 13. She says she always wanted to be an actress and was in a lot of theatre in school. The Mortons also attended her graduation. She says Fran is very fond of NB and her NB family.

Scott Winchester who works in the Recreation Department at Rocmaura, lived next door to the Mortons and knew of their famous family connection growing up.



Pat has a signed copy of a cookbook written by Frances McDormand filled with famous recipes!

The Morton family photo album has this photo of Pat Morton's niece holding Fran's Oscar on the right.



Back row: Amy & Todd Morton, Second row left: Erin Morton Centre: Frances McDormand, Right: Katie Morton Front left: Steve Morton, Right: Jessie Morton



Fran was born 'Cynthia Ann Smith' in 1957 in Illinois. She was adopted when she was just one-and-a-half years old, by a Canadian couple (above), Rev. Vernon McDormand, a pastor from Nova Scotia, and Noreen Nickleson, an RN from Ontario, and they renamed her Frances.

McDormand was educated at Bethany College and Yale University. She has been married to director Joel Coen since 1984. In 1995, they adopted a son from Paraguay, Pedro McDormand Coen, when he was six months old.

To this day, McDormand keeps in touch with the Mortons with Christmas cards. Patsy Morton says Fran is very down to earth, genuine, and downplays her fame. She says acting is "just a job". Patsy says Fran is a plain Jane and has no airs about her. In fact, Patsy says when Fran won her Oscar for Fargo, she actually bought her dress at Frenchy's and died the silk navy blue!

Patsy says Fran is also very kind and generous, giving back to many wonderful causes. She says she is an extraordinary person and they admire her alot.

Over the years, the Morton family has had countless trips to NY and have even stayed in Fran's penthouse condo.



Photo from trip to NY to see France's Broadway Play "The Good People". Left to right: Linda Urquhart, Pat Morton, Margie Hickey, Amy Morton, Frances McDormand, Darlene Cosman, Jillian Urquhart, Debbie Cusack

When the Mortons went to see McDormand's Broadway play, they met Ed Norton, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Patrick Dempsey.

Side note: Pat says Frances was supposed to present the Oscar to Wil Smith at this year's Academy Awards, but decided not to go! She says she is not your typical Hollywood star. We are thrilled to know Rocmaura has brushed shoulders with such a down to earth Hollywood legend!

DO YOU ENJOY OUR STORIES?

Make a Gift
to Help Make Life Better in our Home away from Home

REACH OUT TO ME
SALLY CUMMINGS
FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT
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Giving Back – A Volunteer's Story

By Mary Snow

Sheila Levesque spent most of her life volunteering for various causes and charities, and was successful in raising thousands of dollars for the community. Prior to her stroke, says her daughter Mary, Sheila spent over fourteen years raising funds for the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation and the Brighton Group. Many called her Nannie Sheila and remember her selling wooden roses in the lobby of the Regional Hospital. "I'm so proud of my Mom and all that she has done," says Mary. We love Sheila too!



DONOR DAY MONDAY

"Everyone has something to give back. Making the lives of our patients and doctors easier is what it's all about." - Sheila Levesque, SJRH Foundation donor.

ROCMAURA
BUBBLE
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MUSKOKA KAYAK VALUE \$1000

WIN

TICKETS \$20

The Clear Water MUSKOKA is a crossover design. Stable and compact like a recreational day kayak but fast and sleek like a touring model.

Draw Date Thursday May 19, 2022 at 1:30 pm
Lottery License 041464956002 Charitable 886688597 RR0001
Etransfer: foundation@rocmaura.com or Call (506) 643-7090
Win in time for the May long weekend!

Living Life Large

by Theresa Frauley

At one time, Maddy Frauley was a popular vocalist around Saint John who sang at many weddings, funerals, and other events. She got her start performing, with the encouragement of her grade four teacher, Sister Rosalie (Helen O'Neill), and in the 1950's Madelaine sang at the well known K. of C. Operettas in St. Vincent's auditorium.

Maddy with music therapist Catherine Kennedy



She worked for the Diocese of Saint John as their financial secretary for over 25 years, and in between working and singing, she loved to travel. Maddy went to Europe on a ship in 1955 with a friend and

her name was on the program as one of the entertainers (soprano) who performed during that trip.

A few years later another friend had a VW Bug and they drove across Canada, from Saint John to BC in that little car! In later years she went to Australia, New Zealand, Bermuda, and all over Europe. As recently as 10 years ago, she made a return trip to Switzerland and Austria. She was at the Expo in Montreal and later on at Expo in Vancouver. She truly never missed too much in life, and was always ready to go.



Maddy was at the Met in New York (and has the pictures to prove it) when Wendy Neilsen (a famous New Brunswicker) made her debut. Maddy

never met a camera she didn't like. Her sister says she's come across pictures of her taken outside the Opera House in Australia and on the Big Ferris Wheel in London, England.

Maddy loved to entertain her friends on a regular basis, at her Friday night BBQ's (with some 'libation'). For several years there were trips taken to Florida where she walked the beaches, swam and played shuffleboard; other lengthy trips were taken to the Caribbean where she again loved the beaches and warm breezes.

Madeline Frauley came to Rocmaura in May 2021. Her Sister Theresa works at St. Pius X church.

Maddy and Theresa came from a family of nine children, (5 boys, 4 girls), two of whom are now deceased.

"With a working class Father and stay-at-home Mother – they were the best parents in the world in our eyes, always there for us," says Theresa.

A Musical Family

From an early age, Bette Hatty had a deep love of music. She had a lovely singing voice and used it wherever she could.



At around the age of fourteen, she had the honor of singing to different troops stationed in the area in variety shows during WW2.



When she met the man who would be her husband for 65 plus years...they would sing together for appreciative friends and family.



Bette went on to perform in many theatre productions and choirs over the years. Music was always playing in the home; thus fostering a love of music in her children; who all went on to enjoy music in some capacity, say her daughters Holly Berry and Jill Stanley.

Bette's son Terry, was blessed with an extraordinary voice also. He has spent many years in musical theatre all over the country, written his own original



songs, and played in

several bands, including touring with "The Guess Who" as their lead singer! The band is considered one of Canada's most prolific rock groups, producing a string of hits. Terry's daughter Tamara Steele is a news reporter/anchor for Country 94 and 97.3 the Wave.



Music Man

Many Rocmaura Residents are quite musical. Recreation Manager Pamela Clark says her Uncle **Walter Ross** on Terrace Court plays several musical instruments and he has them all in his room! He loves playing the accordion and organ for starters, and is always front row centre for our music therapy programs.



Our Artists in Residence

Rocmaura has several talented artists in the house!



Mona Thomas says her son Al's apartment walls were full of his paintings. **Al Thomas** has called Rocmaura home since 2017 and proudly displays some of his art.



Angela Kierstead studied under well known artist Robert Percival. Her favourite self portrait is with her beloved Old English Sheepdog Chumley.



Dot Pendleton uses a wax painting technique called encaustics, where she uses an iron to melt the wax to create her artworks.



She is also skilled at watercolor and oil, and several of her paintings hang in Rocmaura and have inspired a few Foundation greeting cards!

Landing a BIG First Job!

By Jackie Hamilton-Irving



Mary Cogger left her family farm in Norton, NB after graduation, to attend Mount Carmel Academy to learn secretarial skills. She graduated in 1943 and set off for Saint John to land her first job with her new clerical experience!



A Saint John businessman in the petroleum field was in need of a hardworking secretary.

Mary Cogger went to the Golden Ball building on the corner of Sydney and Union Street for her first interview and got the job!

The gentleman who hired her as his new secretary was none other than K. C. Irving!

Mary (Cogger) Gallagher has made Rocmaura her home for the past five and a half years. Mr. Irving was a neighbour of Rocmaura too, residing just around the corner on Mount Pleasant Avenue. He was considered one of Canada's foremost entrepreneurs of the 20th century and ranked as one of the world's leading industrialists. The Irving group today is made up of approximately 250 companies, valued at an estimated \$10-billion, responsible for one out of every twelve jobs. K. C. Irving died December 13, 1992 in Saint John.



Eight is Enough

by Anne Healy-Swift

Ninety year old Betty Healy was widowed at the young age 34. Her husband died when he was just 35, leaving her to bring up eight children, all under the age of nine. Betty also came from a large family of eight. Elizabeth Marie Terese was born in the small southeast coastal village of St. Jacques, Newfoundland. She was the sixth child of eight.



She spent her summers in her mother's home village of Burin and back home for school in her younger years.

After attending "Littledale" school she taught in St. Jacques for a short time until her family (she and two youngest siblings and mother and father) left Newfoundland and moved to Halifax.



There, my Mom and her Mom and Dad lived with an older sister for awhile. My Mom got a job in a bank and through her sister's husband (a set-up) was introduced to the handsome Ed Healy. Love and marriage ensued!



Betty and Ed loved each other and they (apparently) loved babies! They had eight in pretty quick succession. Very unexpectedly and tragically Ed died a few years after they moved to Saint John; leaving eight children

nine years old and under.

My Mom was a very faithful person and her faith played a huge role in her being able to cope with being a widow at 34 with eight children. Also, my grandmother lived with us and became my mother's "right hand man". My Mom had a lot of support from her own family and her church family. St. Rose of Lima Church really became central in her faith life (and her playing cards life!)

She was an expert card player and was proud of her many winnings! She counted the collection for many years at St. Rose and was very good with numbers coming from a long line of teachers! Ha!



Betty Healy, Cynthia Page, Anita McNulty, Annie Healy Blanchard



We were so lucky to have an astute mother as she paid off the mortgage on our new house after my father died so that we had a lovely home to live in, in a lovely community.

We did not have much but we had that and it was the pride and joy of my mothers's life until the day she had to leave it.



My mother's life was not easy, bringing up eight children on her own; and in fact she looked after many other children in our home to have some income. Many of these "kids" and their Moms and Dads became lifelong friends. My moth did expect us toe "tow the line" and we were disciplined if we didn't. She was pretty handy with a wrench and could take apart a pipe if

something got stuck from the sink. We were so young, we did not know how hard it really was for my Mother. Not until you have a few kids of your own and are older, do you realize the sacrifice and hardship she endured. I think her great faith helped her a lot and her strong physical constitution.



My Mom has remained a patriotic Newfoundlander her whole life but Saint John, New Brunswick became the city she loved the most.

Betty's family has a long history with Rocmaura.

Her Grandmother Elizabeth Bourque was a resident of Rocmaura for six years, and her aunt Monica White was in the MM Home. She was very involved in the senior resident council.



The Flying Father

On any given day at Rocmaura, a nurse or housekeeping staff will pop their head into Father McGrattan's room to rib him about what hockey team they are rooting for. Paul is a die



hard Montreal Canadians Fan. He hates the Toronto Maple Leafs he says, because they traded Frank Mahovlich.

Back in the 1960's when Father McGrattan was a priest in Fredericton at St. Dunston's Parish, he was not only a hockey fan but loved playing the game too.

At that time, he says a group of community leaders used to meet at Dick Atherton's for lunch. One day they started talking about putting a new Fredericton team together. They wanted to revive the Caps. There were three teams playing at the time; Saint John, Fredericton, and Newcastle. Once they got going, he says things really picked up. As the season went on, the team needed a new coach.



He says he nearly fell over when they said "why don't you take it over?!" Before that, Paul had only coached locally. He says that was the first time a Priest had coached anything like that, and they had great success! McGrattan says it was a great group of men. "When you're winning, everything's fun. We really jelled together and once we saw we had capability of winning, it just built on our momentum from there."

Paul says the team sold out York arena every game, and the Fredericton Capitals wound up winning the Eastern Canadian Title!

Louis Robichaud was the Premier at the time, and used to come to their games. He usually sat right behind the bench. Premier Robichaud had talked of hosting a national title game at Maple Leaf Gardens between Fredericton and Alberta, but Paul says the idea was just too costly and difficult to organize.

What was the secret to Father McGrattan's success? He says it was the confidence the players placed in him. He says he was upfront and honest with them, and took a personal interest in each player. He says he got to know them very well.



McGrattan coached about four years then went on to coach the St. Thomas University team, but it was never as successful as the Caps.

McGrattan was born in Saint John and lived just down the street from Rocmaura. He spent his adult life in Fredericton, Doaktown, Debec, and Kingsclear. He was a Catholic priest for close to 20 years then was married to Maxine Kiely for 33 years. They had six step children and many nieces and nephews.



He attended St. FX University and proudly wears his X ring to this day. He went on to do post graduate studies at Boston College and later worked for Corrections Canada, counselling at Renous maximum security prison. He enjoyed travelling, playing golf, and salmon fishing at Wade's Fishing Camp on the Miramichi.

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Please like and follow our posts.

3:26



 **Rocmaura Nursing Home**
Posted by Sally Cummings
57m · 🌐



Top fan

Dawn Porter-Hunter

You have one of the best teams I have seen in a long long time. The staff I've had dealing with too date have been wonderful. My dad and I are so blessed to have each of you to help us as we battle through this horrible disease, dementia...as well as this virus. When I walk into Rocmaura, I feel nothing but calm, welcoming, love, compassion, and understanding, and that the residents care comes first, on the good and bad days I see a caring team...not just the nursing staff, ALL staff who work in this facility. Thank you, you will never know how much you are appreciated! 🙏❤️

1m Love Reply Message Hide 1👍



Write a reply...



Kim Roberts

Positive, supportive and experienced leadership makes for a great team.

❤️❤️ **Sheana Mohra**

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Elizabeth Bowes

Thanks for looking after our family members, you all do a great job!

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Write a comment...



Home



Watch



Page



Notifications



Menu

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

Signs of Spring

Our courtyard is blooming with hundreds of bulbs planted by the Foundation last fall. We are looking forward to seeing the



tulips that were planted by the Saint John Rotary Club too! Many donate

thanks to those who to help beautify our grounds!

Now it's time to enjoy our new courtyard improvements funded with a \$28,000 grant from the Windsor Foundation.



This is one of the many projects by Rocmaura Foundation to make life better for our residents in their "home away from home".

"It is hard to believe that in the middle of the city, amidst a building of brick and concrete there is a little oasis. It is a safe and welcome haven for so many

of our residents and families....an area of trees, flowers, pathways and benches where all can gather in peace, safety, privacy, and nature. I love to go there for walks and undisturbed time with my brother, Fr. Brian (now 90 years old) as it reminds him of his gardening days, his walks in nature with his dog, and peaceful times sitting in his chair at the cottage. He sometimes picks out a weed or two. We are so grateful to funders who make possible this calming environment for residents, staff and families."

Mary Chisholm

Contact Us!

10 Parks St.

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(506) 643-7090

Foundation@rocmaura.com



Sally Cummings, Director

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