

Press Release



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Rocmaura Celebrates Leaves of Legacy

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SAINT JOHN, NB —

In a touching tribute Tuesday April 9th at 2:00 pm, Rocmaura Nursing Home Foundation will celebrate its **tree of life**.

Rocmaura Dietary workers are leaving a lasting legacy in memory of former co-worker Mary Drane. Staff will place a yellow butterfly on the donor wall “because she loved that colour and she was a social butterfly herself,” says Sandra Preshyon. Mary passed away February 9th. She worked at Rocmaura for 29 years.

Foundation Director Sally Cummings says staff are like the roots of the tree. “They have been a big supporter of the donor wall since it went up two years ago, and have placed an apple, lady bug, leaf, and bird on the tree so far.” That’s why we chose to have this celebration during Staff Appreciation Week April 8-12, says Cummings. Everyday special events and treats are planned, including a staff breakfast, Reiki sessions, and blessing of the hands.

The donor wall is displayed in the heart of the home where Residents gather for meals and entertainment and the whole community can appreciate it. To date, over 60 donors have given about \$15,000 to the leaves of legacy program.

Argus Audiology is giving \$1000 toward the project. “Saint John is more of an idea than a city. In essence, it’s a collection of numerous tightly knit communities. Rocmaura is our premiere neighbourhood senior care organization. So it’s only natural that we would wish to support them, ” says Bill Eaton (owner) and his wife and business partner, Norma.

Jean Marie Dionne, the Director of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality will donate a leaf as part of its annual Mission Award. “We wanted to show our gratitude to the Auxiliary’s years of dedicated service.” After 27 years, the Auxiliary recently dissolved due to declining membership. Its oldest member will be 102 this fall and still volunteers at Rocmaura.

A number of other family members will place leaves, birds, and butterflies in honour of someone special.

Sister Sandra Barrett says “Just as a tree is held together by its roots, we are held together by people who nurture us. This tree reminds us to be thankful for those who care for us, and to pass on that care to others who need it.” The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception founded Rocmaura 47 years ago and their mission is to be a Community of Caring People.

“As leaves provide a tree with life, this tree will help Rocmaura grow into the future,” says Cummings. Donations will help the Foundation purchase things the government does not provide, from new medical equipment to recreation programs.

“We have a long wish list of items to fill,” says Cummings. The Foundation is purchasing \$3000 worth of pressure relieving devices and fall prevention equipment for the rehab department, a large screen tv for Residents to enjoy in the main lounge, and a new bladder scanner. “We are very grateful for this program and look forward to seeing our tree grow for many years to come.”

For more information or make a donation, please contact: **Sally Cummings**
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