



The River Round Up

Volume 2

Number 10

October 2001

\$1.00

Richmond Villa River Residents



Shown are all of the former residents of River Bourgeois who now call the Villa in St. Peters home.

Valerie Goyetche entered the Villa in September 1994. She is the last living child of Simon and Julia Goyetche. Valerie has several nieces and nephews but only niece Henrietta Doary lives in this area.



Evelina Burke

Mathilda Burke went to the Villa in May 1995 and was followed by sister *Evelina* in April 1996. Mathilda and Evelina were the daughters of Sarah Jane and William Burke. They spent their lives taking care of niece Natalie until her death in May 1981.

Henry Boudreau became a Villa resident in November 1996. Henry who grew up in Petit de Grat and spent most of his life in Massachusetts chose to

retire in River Bourgeois. Henry was a cousin to the late Andrew Boudreau of River Tillard.

Mary V. Sampson joined the Villa in June 1997. Mary has two daughters, Veronica in Spryfield and Theresa in River Bourgeois. Mary also had three foster children whom she cherished: Anna in West Bay, Joyce in Dartmouth and Joey in Halifax.

Rachael Thibeau made the Villa her home in July 1998. Her husband Charles passed away in 1982. Rachael's son Eddie lives in Sudbury while daughters Bernadette and Patsy live in Halifax and Margie resides in River Tillard.

Delta Babin joined her friend Rachael on the same day in July 1998. Delta's husband Thomas passed away in 1953. Her son Billy is in Spryfield while daughter Joan is in Dartmouth and Ann Louise in the River.

James Sampson made the villa his home in October 1999 while wife *Caroline* joined him in January 2000. James and Caroline have the distinction of being the longest living married couple from the River at 68 years married. James and Caroline have two sets of twins. Bucky and Mary Cecilia both live at the River and James of Lower Sackville and Carol Ann of the River. Sons Ernest and Rudolph both in British Columbia and Terrance in River Bourgeois.

Darlene Beaulieu joined the other members at the Villa in January 2000. Darlene is the daughter of Danny and Alice Sampson. Darlene's daughter Roxanne lives in Quebec and recently she and new husband were down visiting her mom.

Mary Jane O'Connell became part of this elite group in February 2000. Jane's husband Stewart passed away in October 1984. Son Donald lives in Halifax.

Gladys Touesnard entered the Villa in April 2000. Husband David passed away in September 1995. Son Paul and daughter Nicole reside in Ottawa while daughter Janine lives in Dartmouth.

Genevieve Grimes became a resident of the Villa in April 2001. Husband Charles passed away in 1981. Son Carl resides in River Bourgeois.

Margaret and Joe Bouchard are the most recent arrivals of the Villa in June 2001. Joe and Margaret celebrated 58 years of wedded bliss this year. Son Richard is in Toronto while Art is at the River. Daughter Mary is in Mississauga, Anita in New Glasgow and Emily at the River.

Submitted by Sharon Chilvers

River Bourgeois: A Well Kept Secret

River Bourgeois is a well-kept secret.

That's an observation we have made and so have family and friends who visit us and also marvel at the beauty that surrounds us.

When we arrived here in 1976 to search for a property to buy we had not heard of River Bourgeois. We were not strangers to Cape Breton Island because during the 1960's when we lived in southwest Newfoundland we often traveled to Cape Breton yet somehow we had missed seeing this extraordinary part of the island.

We all have so much to enjoy here. The sight and sound of the ocean is never far away. The landscape teems with birds and animals and an infinite variety of flowers and plants. Wherever we look there is the pleasing vista of shores and coves and tidy homes and well-tended gardens. As if all this isn't riches enough we have also made the acquaintance of many kind, neighbourly, self-reliant people who live nearby. Of all the places we have lived this community is the most caring.

The house we bought was constructed in the 1880's and is, I would guess, one of the oldest houses in the community. It is a fine example of a style of house, which was constructed throughout rural Nova Scotia about a century ago. It was home to three generations of the Morrison family and it was our good luck that when Herman and Margaret Morrison decided to sell it we were on hand to buy it.

Most days we spend several hours working at our writing – although on pleasant summer afternoons we prefer to spend as much time as possible outdoors. We never lack for things to do in this idyllic place, at any season.

Submitted by Claire Mowat

Mowat Environmental Institute

In 1990, the Mowat Environmental Institute was established at Brick Point, River Bourgeois, by federal charter.

Funded jointly by Claire and Farley Mowat the M.E.I. is devoted to the study and protection of the

plants and animals of Cape Breton in general and of the River Bourgeois region in particular. It does not attempt to prevent the use of wildlife resources by human residents but to conserve them so they will not be depleted or destroyed.

The M.E.I. consists of approximately 180 acres of land at Brick Point. The Research Station provides a base of operation and living quarters for researchers studying the plant and animal life of the region. Within its boundaries it is a sanctuary for all forms of life as well as a study area.

Farley and Claire and some research scientists have kept detailed records of plant and animal populations, and the changes in these, over the 23 year period, and the information has been entered in a data base from which it is possible to see the state of each population and whether it is increasing, declining or holding its own.

In a world where human activities increasingly threaten the health of the environment the M.E.I. tries to serve the function of the "canary in the mine" and give warning when the natural habitat is in trouble or under threat.

Visitors are welcome to experience the research property on foot but are asked to please not disturb its plants or animals or to disrupt any studies taking place on it. *Farley Mowat*

World Youth Day Cross



On September 16th, the World Youth Day Pilgrimage Cross made its way to Richmond County. At around 5:15 pm a boat carrying the Cross from Canso docked in Arichat, and the ceremonies began. The cross then traveled on to Louisdale and Lower River before it finally arrived in River Bourgeois. The celebration ceremony was beautiful and very well done. A big thank you to Father Sandy McNeil, Therese Digout, Marlaine Burke, Eddie Pottie, TJ Burke, Mark Digout, Ann MacNamara, Michelle Sampson, the church choir, and the children that participated. The singing and

readings were all very well done, and there was a great turnout, and thank you to all that attended. As with all the previous places, the Cross left after it's 15 minutes of fame in one spot, and moved on to St. Peters, L'Ardoise, Chapel Island, and eventually to Johnstown.

Pope John Paul blessed the cross in 1984. Since then it has traveled throughout five continents in seventeen years. As a symbol for World Youth Day many young people get involved in this event all over the world.

World Youth Day 2002 will be held in Toronto, Ontario. Youth from all over the world will be traveling to Canada for the events that will be taking place July 18-28, 2002. *Michelle Sampson*

Youth Report

Well, we're back to school, and back into the swing of things. Teachers already giving tests and quizzes to see how we are coming along. I want to mention a big welcome to all the new students in Richmond academy and those who started school this year, from River Bourgeois. There are a lot of students, and too little space to name them all. I hope everyone has a happy and safe school year.

Submitted by Michelle Sampson

Jane and Gervase Landry



Our congratulations to Jane and Gervase Landry who were married 55 years on Sept. 10th. Anne Clow passed on this excerpt and picture from Marie Boyd's River Round Up from 1946:

"Three weddings of interest to great number of friends here and in other parts of the county took place recently at St. John the Baptist Church here. The first was when Miss Jane McPhee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs Anselm McPhee, Hawker became the bride of Gervase Landry, son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Joe Landry, of South River Bourgeois. The bride was dressed in a white full-length dress of satin with

full skirt and shoulder length veil; she carried a bouquet of pink roses and fern. Her bridesmaid was her sister Miss Lola McPhee dressed in a floor length gown of blue taffeta with shoulder length veil of same color; she also carried a bouquet of pink roses and fern. The groom was attended by his brother Cletus. Dinner was served at the home of the bride to a large number of invited guests and supper was served at the groom's home. A reception was held at the groom's home in the evening and was attended by a large number of friends of both bride and groom." (Sorry- we don't have the rest of that year's Round Up so can't provide the names of the other two couples-SD)

RB Community Festival Report

Every year, on the long weekend in September, many people come home to visit family and friends in River Bourgeois. This tradition began in 1978 with the 1st Annual River Bourgeois Festival. This year we celebrated our 23rd Annual Festival. Once again, adults, youth and children got together to socialize and participate in the many activities that took place over the weekend. The festival was a huge success. River Bourgeois Community Services Society realized a profit of approximately \$9500.00. I would like to thank the businesses for their generous donations and our community members for their contribution and participation in our festival. A special thank you to the festival committee and workers for the many volunteer hours you contributed to make the festival a success. We had a great team. The proceeds from the festival have gone into the general operating fund account and will help pay expenses for the upcoming year.

Thank you again, hope to see you next year at our 24th annual festival. *Glenda Sampson, Festival chairman*

Births

Congratulations to the following parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

Boyd/Gowanlock-To Jennifer and Derek on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Breton on August 28th in Ottawa. Lucky grandparents are Deirdre and Blaise Boyd.

Landry /Pelly-To Janice and Mike on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Rose on Sept.23th in Halifax. Abigail weighed in at 5 lbs, 15 oz. First granddaughter for Anne and Danny Landry and first great grandchild for Theresa and Leo Landry.

Bundy/Sampson-Jaymin Noah Bundy was born July 26th to Jazmine and Jaysen. Grandparents are Donna

Pottie and James Sampson. Great grandparents are Margaret Pottie and James and Caroline Sampson.

Deaths

We express our sincere sympathy to family and friends of the following:

Bayers—Margaret Genevieve of Musquodoboit Harbour died Sept 26th at the QE11 Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Charles and Louise (Pelerine) Fougere of River Bourgeois.

Burke—Adrian J. (Hogan) died July 17th in St. Anne's Center, Arichat. He was the son of the late Placide and Felicite Burke of River Bourgeois.

Burke—Vincent Joseph of River Bourgeois died Sept 15th at Richmond Villa. Vince was the son of the late Amable and Ida May (Landry) Of River Bourgeois.

Halbot—Beatrice, daughter of the late Benjamin and Jane (Burke) of River Bourgeois died Sept.13th in Halifax.

MacDougall—Angela Marie of Antigonish passed away on Sept. 23rd at the R.K. MacDonald Guest Home. She was the daughter of the late Patrick and Levine (Sampson) Fougere of River Bourgeois.

History

The River Round Up-July 3rd.1954 "Last week we stopped our 'Building Campaign at Hawker so now we'll go down as far as Willie Boyd's lane, and see what we have.

At the head of the River, top of Thibeuville, up on the the Highway, we have a nice snug looking house, in which one of our smart old Mr. Ned Thibeau, lives with his daughter Minnie—Minnie is alright until her father who is nearly 97 yrs. old or Robbie Thibeau who isn't much younger get out with the sychte, and if you see anyone out in the field up there with a pair of scissors, that's Minnie, trying to save her flowers by cutting the grass around them before they are cut down by her father or Robbie. Robbie lives next in the little house, which he moved into when he came down from Thibeauville. Keeping on down the highway, we have a nice new bungalow belonging to Bernie Burke, who still lives in Halifax. Right next to this is another new bungalow belonging to Mr. and Mrs Henri Leblanc, and by the way, Mr. and Mrs LeBlanc have moved into their new house since our last issue. A little further on William Robertson has a canteen and a small cottage, while Amos Thibeau has a small cottage built next to his bungalow. Francis Boudreau, who had Mrs. Isiah Pottie's house hauled from Hawker, some years ago, had it remodelled and lives near Amos. On the opposite side of the

highway, a little further down is another nice looking cottage, belonging to Amable Beranger, son of Mr and Mrs Wm.Beranger.Past Joe's brook, on the highway, is Davy Richard's cottage. and not too much further is a modern new mill owned and operated by Fred Digout..."-(Sorry ,Marie wasn't finished but I ran out of room-SD)

Bits And Bites

- Adult upgrading classes will be offered in D'Escousse and St. Peter's starting October 1st. Classes will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 3pm. Classes are free and offered on a continuous intake basis. To register or for more information, please call the Richmond County Literacy Network at 226-0383. Encourage family and friends to register as well. Believe in yourself: it's never too late to learn!
- CAP Site meeting October 10 at 7:30p.m.
- CAP site hours for October are 2-4 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. Mon to Thurs, 2-4 p.m. on Fri. and 1-4 p.m. on Sat.
- Annual Concert sponsored by the Tara Lynne Touesnard Bursary Fund Association on Sun. Oct 7th at 7 pm at Tara Lynne Center.
- Congratulations to Evelyn & Victor Burke who were married 61 yrs on Sept. 11, to Fabian & Cassilda Richard and Monique & Joe Stone who were both married 49 years ago on August 21st. And a very Happy Birthday to Joe Bouchard who celebrated on Sept 15th, Vincent Sampson and Margaret Pottie on Sept 12th and Gerard Touesnard Sept 29th.
- A reminder that anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Center should call Jocelyn Stone at 535-3257;needing a license for a function call Eddie Pottie at 535-2515 and those requiring use of Funeral Home should call Adrian Touesnard at 535-2373.
- We appreciate all your great comments and suggestions. If we haven't used them yet, they will be coming. . We would appreciate if you have any of the earlier River Round ups (1940's +) and are willing to let us get a copy contact us. at rbcap@ns.sympatico.ca or call Sharon at 535-3516 or Joe at 535-2677.
- The Round Up is available at Howard's Grocery, First Richmond Credit Union or RB Post Office for \$1.00 and subscriptions are available for \$12.00 per year.

Published monthly by: River Bourgeois Technology & Training Centre in co-operation with River Bourgeois Community Services Society. Eds: Sharon Digout and Joseph MacPhee. Thanks to Sherry Baccardax and Tanya Stone for technical help and Lynn Boudreau for putting us on line.