



The River Round Up

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Mary Bona



Mary Bona is shown with her family. Back Row: Joan, Linda, Lucille, Wally, Wayne, Melvin, Len, Louie, Brian, Ethel, Betty & Lorna. Front Row: Chris, Edwin, Mary & Rodney.

Mary and Edwin were married on July 16th, 1938 and celebrated fifty-two years of wedded bliss before Edwin died in 1990. Fifteen children later (fourteen of whom are still living-young Charles died at six months) Mary still resides in the homestead. Lucille, Joan, Betty, Ethel, Linda and Wayne live in River Bourgeois while Wally, Louis, Melvin, Chris, Rodney and Lorna all live from Elmsdale to Halifax. Len moved to Sudbury, Ontario and Brian to Port Hawkesbury. The family has now expanded to include forty-one grand children and thirty-seven great grandchildren. This past June when Mary celebrated her 80th birthday her entire family were present. Mary reminisces on the love, laughter and music in the household. Edwin played the guitar and taught the children (except for Len, Wally and Linda who inherited Mary's total absence of any musical talent) music, so singing became an integral part of their daily entertainment. The Bona family is very much a part of concerts held at the River and other communities and Ethel, Joan and Betty are members of the church choir. Music was the Bona Family's

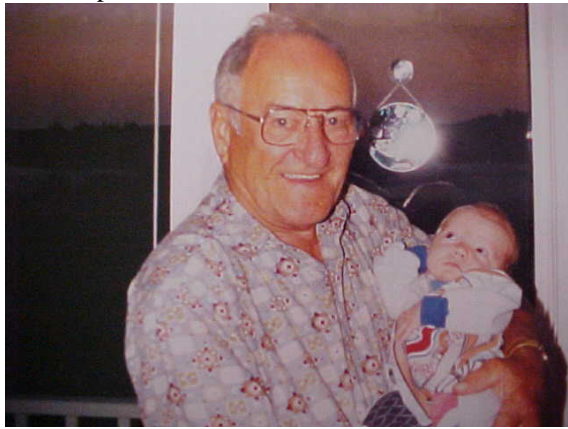
first love but a close second was softball. Edwin was instrumental in not only getting a softball field built but also coached and organized ball tournaments for many years. Being a carpenter by trade he built the canteen and washrooms at the ball field to accommodate the players, and the family maintained these facilities until the early nineties when Community Services took over. Edwin even transported sod from his own land for the ball field. Fund raising was a necessity for the maintenance of the field, and the family spent countless hours in doing so. Edwin's legacy will live on, in the ball field named after him. Mary's resume includes cook, maid, butcher, haymaker, dentist (yes she did pull all of those loose teeth), painter, carpenter, nurse but her best qualification was being a mom. The children never knew the great physical condition their mother was in until she accidentally hit a wasp nest a few years ago. Ben Johnson would have had a difficult time sprinting with her. Mary did not only tend to her fifteen children and her father-in-law but also both her parents Charlie and Millie Ann Boucher. She enjoyed quilting with daughter Linda, however retired two years ago. Now Mary loves to garden and bake bread, which according to the children is the world's best. *Sharon Chilvers*

The Richard Brothers

The late Charlie Richard was well known for his work with wood. His spare time was spent building models of ships. His talents were passed down to his son's-the two residing in RB being Fabian and Alfred.

Fabian, who served in the Merchant Marines during World War II, came home to RB with his wife Cassilda (Sampson) in 1987 after retirement from his job as a bricklayer and stonemason in Halifax. After his return he opted to do woodworking as his new career. He began by making lawn ornaments for himself but soon relatives and neighbours were requesting him to produce more and more so he

transformed his basement into a workshop/store. Fabian expanded his business by making household ornaments, Christmas decorations and now also does scrolled picture frames.



Fabian and his great grandson, Alexander Brine

In September Fabian made a cross to be used during the "Pilgrimage of the Cross". This beautiful cross is to be kept by Saint John the Baptist congregation to be used in any future celebrations by our parish. Fabian and Casilda have three children; David in Dartmouth, Theresa (Owens) in Stellerton and Paul in Brampton. They also have 7 grand and one great grandchild who apparently is the "apple of Fabie's eye". If you're interested in seeing any of Fabie's work, give him a call at 2554. *Sharon Chilvers*



Margaret and Alfred Richard

Fabian's brother Alfred, who passed away in 2000 also served in the Merchant Marines. Alfred was well known as a model shipbuilder like his father and a carver of decorative ducks. His first significant works included miniature, exact scale replicas of the SS United States and the Quedoc. These were constructed during his off hours while working on the Lake boats. After settling in the community, Alfred made many lawn ornaments before turning his talents to carving. Without any training, or guides, his first duck's were amazing. He carved for 10 years and produced more than fifty, finely crafted ducks. I had the privilege of working with Alfred, learning the trade-for a number of years. In his workshop there were many daily visitors including the late Alfred Burke, Stan McPhee, Alex Burke and my brother

Fred. He always had time to show me ways of doing things and thoroughly enjoyed people. His wife Margaret (Digout), daughters Elaine, Louise, Maxine of St.Peters, Claire and Veronica of Halifax all have samples of his work, as do his 12 grandchildren and possibly his 5 great grandchildren. *George Digout.*

Le Rondou

Le Rondou, a term derived from the French Rodeur (wanderer) is used locally to describe someone who roams or is always on the go. Le Rondou will report semi-regularly, observations from around the "River". While all reports will have a factual basis, on occasion the truth may be embellished a bit. Here are a few notes from the past months: "Gerry Fougere, standing alongside his garden, hands in pocket, admiring wife Mary swinging a grub hoe. Leo Landry (with binoculars) and wife Theresa relaxing on front veranda on a beautiful Sunday evening. Neil Fougere sitting on bridge (below Grandma's house) waving and smiling at passersby. Victor Burke, age 80+ tending his garden. George DeRoach, age 90+, lying flat on ground, fully dressed, working on tractor in 90-degree heat. Anselm (Sam) making yet another trip to work around church. Blaise Boyd defying the laws of gravity with lawnmower on steep incline in front of his house-brother Peter carefully manicuring his own lawn, a few hundred feet away. Adrian Touesnard with the able assistance of his father, Gerard, making a "prototype" chair using alders. Farley Mowat spryly walking Grand Gully at 7am. Terry Boudreau and crew working (renovating) Thomas Sampson's house (now owned by Margaret Kush). Leo Fougere and crew "raising" house of Sylvia and John Allen. Eddie Pottie still working at Community Center-this time clearing alders. Maynard Boyd advising everyone to be on the look out for Valerie Boyd speeding down lower road in new car-Maynard suggesting that speed bumps be installed. Monica MacPhee and Linda Cote speeding along lower road-**on foot**. Roderick (Dickie) Burke quietly sailing his boat on a practically calm day. Paul Zinck sailing his boat on a very windy day. Sherry Baccardax (the road runner) heading for or coming from the Capsite-she's not sure which. Ann (Bucky Sampson) running to gas pumps to serve a customer and later in evening driving bike all around the River. Buddy Boudreau hauling winter supply of wood to basement. Boats out in St. Peter's Bay fishing mackerel-Charlie Digout, Maynard Boyd, Irvin Touesnard, Gilbert Boucher, Gilbert Burke and others. Ann (McPhee) Clow watching husband Dave trimming bushes and shrubs-perhaps learning how to cut hair. Maybe she plans on doing some barbering now that she is retired from the bank. Lucille

DeWolfe using expletives as Carl Grimes drives cows out of her flower garden.”

This was left for printing anonymously. The editors do not take responsibility for accuracy. In case of a libel suit, I could probably find the author. SD

RB Community Services Society

The November 21st meeting was dedicated mainly to plans for the holiday season. The hall has been decorated for Christmas. Thanks all! The Youth Committee is organizing the **Children's Party** for Dec 16th at 2pm. Rumor has it that Santa replied to our letter and is arriving. This party is funded annually by the Society. On that same night the youth of the community will treat us to a **Christmas Concert** at 6 pm. There will be a silver collection with proceeds going to our Christmas food baskets. Please be generous. Dec 20th there will be a **Preteen Social** from 6-8pm followed by a **Teen Dance** from 9-12. There will be a **New Year's Eve Party** again this year. **A Roast Beef Supper will be served between 7-9. Dance 9-2-Music by the "The River Sounds" Music Machine. Bar Opens 7PM.** Tickets are \$15. Ages 19 and over only. For tickets call Gloria at 2491 or Annette at 3302. Monies were also approved to pay half the cost of improvements to the road leading to the Senior's building, the party for Bingo workers and to replace the vacuum in the hall.

CWL

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make Bazaar 2001 a success. The amount raised (over \$1600.00) will allow the CWL to do such things as: help support the local needy, help defray the Church fuel costs (\$150.00 donation) in winter months as well as help support women and children in third world countries, to name a few.

Our focus in the coming months will be to raise funds to help Members of our Parish Youth attend "World Youth Day" in Toronto in July 2002.

A donation of \$706.00 was sent to "Breast Cancer Research" as a result of the successful mini bingo.

Again 90 families participated in "Operation Christmas Child"; ninety boxes were filled (80 last years) and will go to needy children in Third world countries.

Many thanks to the always-generous people of the parish for supporting us in all our endeavors.

CWL Executive Meeting is on Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 6:30 pm at Ann Clow's house to prepare Annual Reports. The CWL Christmas dinner will be held at Mountain Star Resort on Dec. 8th at noon.

The CWL will be organizing the distribution of Christmas boxes and goodies again this year for RB. If you are in need or know of someone in need please

call Sharon Chilvers at 2512 or Fr.Sandy MacNeil at 2602. Eleanor Pederson

Parish Notes

A Penitential Service will be held on Dec 16th at 2 pm. On **Christmas Eve** the children's celebration will be at 5 pm, the choir will sing carols at 11 with mass at 11:30 pm. **Christmas Day** service will be at 10 am.

Please remember to be generous to the food bank in our local glebe. We depend on this to supplement our local Christmas deliveries. Non-perishable items can be placed in the rear of the church.

Deaths

Cosman-Our sympathy goes out to Ken and Mary Cosman and family on the death of Ken's mother, Jessie, who died in Mabou on Nov.6th

Mason-Eric died Nov. 22 in Dundalt, Ontario. Eric was married to Bernadette Sampson. Our condolences to the family and to sisters Mary & Madeline and brothers, Anselm, Bernard & Joe of River Bourgeois.

Mombourquette-Our sympathy also to the Mombourquette family especially Tina (Adrian) Touesnard and Bruce (Marie) on the death of their brother Gerard Lawrence who passed away Nov 16th in Halifax.

Births

King-Nicholas Patrick (7lbs. 6oz.) was born to Lori (Clow) and Kelvin King in Halifax on October 28th This is the first grandchild for Lorraine (Touesnard) King and fifth for Ann and David Clow. Proud great grandparents May MacPhee and Harold King.

Ross-Alysa Ann Marie (4 lbs 15 oz.) was born to Melinda (Doutaz) and Robert in Halifax. Grandmother is Stella Doutaz and great grandma Charlotte LeBlanc. A sister for Joshua.

Birthdays

Lots of special birthdays this month! Congratulations to: Mae MacPhee on the Nov 3rd; Valerie Boyd on Nov 6th; Emily Kendall and Annie Mae Burke both on the 11th; George DeRoach on the 13th; Rita Landry and Jane Landry on the 15th; Rita LeBlanc on the 18th; Amelda Burke on the 20th & Alma Burke on the 28th.

We also learned about the following surprise birthday parties: More than 60 friends and relatives gathered to surprise Janet LeBlanc in honor of her 40th birthday. Eddie Pottie, Carl Grimes, Kenny Pettipas, Henry Martell, Rolle Chaisson, and

Elizabeth Morrow supplied entertainment with Special guest appearances by Gary Burke and Mathew Forrest. I hear the garage was rocking! Janet would like to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts and fantastic time.

On July 18th, 2001, Trina Richard daughter of Marie and stepdaughter of Guy Huede married Ron MacPherson of Guysborough. Her five sisters, Cathy, Angela, Paula, Rochelle and Nickie came from Nanaimo for the wedding. On August 11th Marie's six daughters hosted a surprise 60th birthday party for their mom. Eight out of 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild along with family and friends enjoyed the occasion. Marie and Guy are visiting in British Columbia until the spring. (Thanks to Ann Clow for this piece of news.)

History



Picture taken by Joe McPhee of False Bay on a nice Oct. day.

On November 7th we were alerted to the possibility of a Weather Bomb forming in the Gulf which would bring us very high winds and heavy rain. The North side of the island suffered much damage, as did the Canso Causeway, which was closed for a long period for repairs. Fortunately in the River, other than the siding being removed from the newly renovated back of the church and of course Mark Merrick's boat having to spend a few weeks aground at Eddie Pottie's shore we were very lucky. That week CBC Radio in its many broadcasts on the upcoming storm referred to the infamous August Gale of 1873. In 1994, Leo McPhee of Hawker wrote the following: "The biggest gale known in Nova Scotia was the August Gale of 1873. The night of Aug. 23 and Aug. 24 it traveled the length of NS and Cape Breton. A very large number of vessels were caught in the storm and disappeared with their crew. It is said more than one thousand NS Seaman never returned. In Port Morien alone thirty seven vessels were destroyed and washed ashore. Margaret Pottie, wife of Regis Pottie and grandmother of Leo McPhee (Margaret Pottie died Sept. 1st 1925-age 91) was living on a point of land almost surrounded by water in False Bay across from #4 highway and her

son Simon said she told him the wind blew so hard it was shaking the log home and they had no lights. The water was rising so high she grabbed all the rags they had and she and her big family went out into the thick alders, flat on the ground all night. She was at that time about 40 years old. You'll hear about this August Gale—it was history—the biggest gale known."

According to an article from the Discovery Channel's website this storm claimed around 500 lives, 1200 vessels, 900 buildings and many bridges. The original building of the St. Peter's United Church was destroyed on Aug 25th 1873 in this storm. The storm interfered with the telegraph service from Toronto and residents of the Island did not have any warning. We thank Ann Clow for allowing us to copy her dad's writing.

Bits and Bites:

- Big congratulations to Debbie (Cosman) Digout. Debbie won a Cruise award for the top Royal Bank Performance for the Cape Breton area. Peter Clow from the River was the Runner up receiving 4000 purchase points.
- Parent and Tot program 10-Noon on Monday's at Tara Lynne Center.
- Carl Grimes and Eddie Pottie are doing a benefit to raise money to buy a van for a cystic fibrosis patient in Glendale at the request of of Fr. Alan MacPie. This will be in the Glendale hall on Dec. 22nd. If you can't go you may send a donation by Carl or Eddie.
- There will be a **Pot Luck Brunch** at the Tara Lynne Center on Sun., Dec. 2nd from 12-2pm. Proceeds to St. Peter's Travel Club. (ROOTS).
- Annual St. Peter's Bird Count will be held on Dec. 27th - Call George at 3516 or Billy at 2513 if you're interested in participating.
- The Capsite will be closed from Dec 21st - Jan 2nd except by appt. For appt. call Sherry at 3182 or Sharon at 3516.
- The Round Up is available at Howard's Grocery, First Richmond Credit Union or RB Post Office. Subscriptions are available for \$12.00 locally, \$15.00 within Canada and \$16.50 internationally per year.
- Bake and New and Used sale 10-3pm at RB Senior's Bldg. Dec 1st.

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