



The River Round Up

Volume 2

Number 9

September 2001

\$1.00

Fire: In The Eyes of A Child

It was August 22nd 1947. Leona MacDonald (Campbell) was nine years old when on that afternoon she looked out to find a fire raging behind her home. She recalls vividly seeing huge balls of fire heading towards the only home she ever knew. Her parents, Alex and Amilene, along with younger brother Hubert fled to the home of Sam MacPhee as they watched in horror as their home was engulfed in flames along with their farm building and a trunk which held \$700.00 cash.



Left To Right Top: Colin Pottie, Eldon Pottie. Edith MacDonald, Harriet MacDonald, Alexander MacDonald, Ameline MacDonald, Middle Row: Hubert MacDonald Bottom Left to Right: Rita, Leona, Kathleen, Theresa MacDonald

On the same day while at the MacPhee household someone noticed that the porch was ablaze and once again they had to take flight from another inferno. The home of Sam MacPhee was levelled in the fire along with the home belonging to Jeffery Pottie. The MacDonald family now relocated to the home of Hyacinth Pottie. For five days the fire was somewhat contained, however, on the Sunday of

August 27th the fire erupted and once more Leona and her family were forced to flee. They were rescued, and placed in boats in False Bay.

Tragedy did not end for young Leona when the fire was extinguished. Following the fire her family went to live with Simon Fougere while their home was being rebuilt with the help of the community. Her father Alex contracted TB and passed away on October 28th of that year. Leona's mother Amilene, who was pregnant at the time of the fire, gave birth to son Alexander a short time later. However, Amilene had also contracted TB and spent the next twenty-two months at the Annex in Sydney. Young Alex stayed with his godparents, Sam & Evelyn Fougere who already had a large family of their own. Amilene was eternally grateful for the wonderful care given to her baby. Leona and Hubert moved in with their grandparents until their mother's return. Leona recalls the love and devotion she and her brothers received from their mother.

Leona went on to be a schoolteacher in River Bourgeois and St. Peter's for thirty-seven years and now enjoys her retirement years with husband Gerald. She would like to remind everyone of the danger of forest fires and hopes no one will ever have to face those walls of fire.
Sharon Chilvers

RB Community Services Society

23rd Annual River Bourgeois Festival gets underway on Wednesday, August 29 with some new and repeat events for the enjoyment of everyone. Two events added this year are the Boat Tours on Saturday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and the Kayak Fun afternoon on Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm. Regular events include the official opening with Comedy hour, Pre Teen and Teen dance, Bingo, Heritage Walk, Men's Breakfast,

Lob Ball Tournament, Beer Garden, Senior's Flea Market, Children's Activities, Merchandise Bingo, Church Service, Adult Dance, Closest To Hole Golf Game, Pot Luck Supper, and Variety Concert. Sincere thanks to Glenda Sampson and the organizing committee for all their hard work. R.B. Technology & Training Centre reports that in their 1st year of operation the site was used by 12% of our community and 1670 volunteer hours were put in by members of the community. Planning is underway to implement theme nights and senior nights as part of the regular activities. Upcoming events planned include a poker walk and fall computer courses.

Plans are in progress to purchase some new equipment such as a photocopier, scanner, printer and digital camera.

Youth Development Committee-Congratulations to Rose Merrick and committee members for their initiatives in re-establishing teen and pre-teen dances at the Tara Lynne Centre.

Teens between the ages of 13-18 will be permitted to attend teen dances and children between the ages of 8-12 will be permitted to attend pre-teen dances. No group outside River Bourgeois will be permitted to hold a dance. Guidelines are in place for these dances and may be obtained from committee members who are Mark Merrick, Sharon & Ricky Stone, Jocelyn Stone, Shelley Boudreau, Donna and Joey Martins, Debbie Landry & Gerard Sampson.

Resource Recovery Fund -River Bourgeois Community Services Society has received a grant of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) to build recyclable garbage bins for the complex.

Seniors 50 + News

On Sept 9th Judy McCann Beranger will be at the Tara Lynn Centre at 2 pm to speak about Alzheimer Disease. We encourage everyone to attend as it affects all of us, if not personally, then with members of our family. There will be a silver collection to help pay for expenses.

Sister Lena Landry

Sister Lena Landry celebrated her 99th birthday on August 5th in Halifax. She was born in River Bourgeois in 1902, the daughter of Anselm and Angeline Landry. Her nieces, Madeline and Mary Ellen (husband Edward) and nephews Bernard, Joe (wife Ann) and Arthur all motored to Halifax to join in the celebration.



Back: L to R: Edward Pentecost, Anne Sampson, Joe Sampson. Middle L to R: Madeline Cook, Mary Pentecost, Arthur Sampson, and Bernard Sampson Front Row: Lena Landry

Sister Lena has been a nun with the Sacred Heart for 76 years and still very much enjoys life. Sister Lena and her friend Sister Madeline Thibeau (also of River Bourgeois) go to their favourite restaurant the "Swiss Chalet" on a regular basis and love to shop at their favourite store, "Frenchies". River Bourgeois wishes you many more birthdays Sister Lena. *Sharon Chilvers*

Father Earl



Earl Smith, the son of Margaret (daughter of Clara & Joe P Burke from River Bourgeois) and Gerald Smith, was born in 1956. In 1977, while attending St. Mary's University, which was founded by the Jesuit's, Earl became determined that it was his calling to become a Jesuit priest. On May 30th, 1987 he was ordained as a Roman Catholic Jesuit Priest. The role of a Jesuit priest is to promote the spiritual growth of God's presence and Father Earl has worked in this capacity in hospitals, schools, prisons, on native reserves, and in cities in Canada, Jamaica and Northern Ireland.

Father Earl is presently located in Winnipeg at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish. He is the representative of the "Christian Life Communities" which is a worldwide movement that promotes prayer, friendship and charity service. Father Earl is also a counsellor at St.

Paul's High School in Winnipeg, which is run by the Jesuits .

On August 12th, Father Earl was in River Bourgeois for his annual visit to relatives on the South Side. While there he celebrated mass in Annie Burke's back yard. Relatives and friends with whom Earl spent time as a youngster while visiting his grandparents attended. *Sharon Chilvers*

Waterside Rest Park



Photo by Joseph MacPhee

Thanks to the initiative of Roy Jones of Northside River Bourgeois members of the community have a waterside park to enjoy. Roy is to be commended for his work in creating a rest area overlooking our community where we can enjoy the beauty and serenity as well as providing a wonderful area for our children to play.

Pilgrimage of the Cross

Sunday - Sept. 16, 7:10 p.m.
At Tara Lynne Centre

On Palm Sunday 1984 Pope John Paul II entrusted a large wooden Cross to the youth of the world. Since then the world Youth Day Cross has traveled around 5 continents and this year we are invited to welcome the Cross into every diocese in Canada and to make it present to all people especially to our young people. The Cross visits Churches, streets, shopping malls, schools, and universities - anywhere where young people are found.

The youth representatives of River Bourgeois chose the Tara Lynne Centre because Tara Lynne, herself was such a young adult when she died and because the Centre is used for youth activities - recreational and religious.

The Cross arrives by boat at Arichat, and then goes to Louisdale, Strait Richmond Hospital,

River Bourgeois, then onto St. Peters, L'Ardoise, Chapel Island and Johnstown. If you wish to do so, you may meet the Cross at Arichat and continue to follow it to each stop until you reach R.B. and continue if you wish to the other places.

Because of time limits there will be a twenty minute Service consisting of Greeting the Cross with dignity, prayer, singing, music, A Reading and closing Prayer. This is a short pilgrimage, but a very meaningful one; Pilgrimages are seen as times of grace - of asking God's grace or of responding in thanksgiving for what has been received. A pilgrimage is a time of prayer and reflecting on Jesus who died on the Cross for all people.

Let us make Sunday, Sept. 16 a day when the entire Parish, young and old, meet at the Tara Lynne Centre to greet the Cross, which is the Symbol of the Cross of CHRIST. *Therese Digout*

Graduations

Congratulations to Nadia Fougere, daughter of Anne Marie Fougere, South River Bourgeois, upon her recent graduation from University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Social Work. Nadia plans to attend McGill University in the fall to study for her Masters.

Weddings

Burke/Winquist - Marina, daughter of Margaret and Roderick Burke of the Southside married Calvin Winquist on August 25th at St. John the Baptist Church. Calvin is the son of Elaine and Allan Winquist of Nanaimo BC. Bridesmaids were Melissa Burke {who also lives in Nanaimo} daughter of Mark and Marie Burke of the River and Ramona, sister of the bride who is with the Canadian Navy and who just returned from sea duty. All five of Roderick and Margaret's children were home for the wedding. The happy couple will live in Nanaimo.

Births

MacNeil/Mombourquette -Andrea, daughter of Debbie and Mark Mombourquette, L'Ardoise and Todd, son of Judy and Leo MacNeil of River Bourgeois have a new baby boy. Thomas Joseph, who weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz, was born in Edmonton on Aug 7th. Congratulations also to great grandmother Margaret Pottie.

Samson-Smith/Smith -Tracy, daughter of Doreen and Hughie, River Bourgeois and Frank, son of Val and Norma Smith of Beaverbank NS have a

new daughter. Angelina Grace was born in Halifax on Aug 20th weighing in at 7 lbs. Tracy and Frank are stationed in Petawawa but Frank is presently serving in Bosnia. Congratulations to great grandmother-Angela and uncle David Burke.

Richard Two new Great-Grandchildren for Margaret Richard. Grace Catherine born May 27th, first child for Stephanie (Bruce Morrison) and first grandchild for Claire (Pat Lovett) AND Jeanne Louise, born Aug 2nd to Derek and Johann LeBlanc, sister to Josee (Grandchildren of Louise & Norman LeBlanc)

Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations are extended to Nancy & Calvin Burke who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 21.

Congratulations also to Wendy (Hearn) and Leon Digout of Halifax on their 25th anniversary. Leon is the son of Margaret and the late Arthur Digout.

Birthdays

Special birthday greetings to Raymond Burke who celebrated his 80th in August.

Special birthday greetings to Louis Digout who was treated to a surprise party for a birthday he does not want to talk about.

History

We continue on Marie Boyd's trip through the village of River Bourgeois in 1954:

River Bourgeois Round Up June 16th, 1954.

Third Edition: ...Next comes our instalment of new buildings at R.B. On the way to Hawker from the "Head of the River" we have Willard Pottie's and his son Raymond, also Lorenzo Pottie's home. These are not altogether new places, but are new to people who have been away from R.B. since some time. Mrs. Sarah has a nice little home, right past the lane going into her old home, which Toby Baccardax, who is married to Mrs. Fougere's daughter Cecile, bought and lives in. A nice new home and also a store is built and occupied on the Highway between Cannes and Hawker, by John Fougere. Then Sam MacPhee and Mrs. Alexander Mac Donald have new places built to replace the ones, which were burned down during the forest fire several years ago. Edgar MacPhee, Joe's son has a new home, which he bought from Hyacinth

Pottie, who now lives at St. Peters. Than Arthur Pottie has a nice bungalow near his father's place, which is at present unoccupied, as Arthur and his family live at Halifax. Willie McPhee (Jerome) who moved down from "The Mountain" several years ago also has a house built at Hawker. Next week we shall continue on....

Bits&Bites!

- Seniors 50 + meeting on Sept 4, 1:30 pm.
- Seniors Mini Bingo on Sept 12th 1:30pm.
- Seniors 45 card games every Sunday at 7:30 pm.
- CWL Regular meetings start up again on September 10th.
- Regular Meeting River Bourgeois Community Services Society on Wednesday, September 19th at 7:00pm.
- RB. Tech. & Train. Centre - September Hours are Mon-Thurs 2-4 & 6-9 pm, Fri-2-4 pm., Sat-1-4 pm. It will be closed Sept.3rd for the holiday.
- Thanks to Jackie Digout and Brenda Burke who complete their grant work with the RBCS on Friday, August 31. Jackie worked on a Special Project while Brenda worked on promoting the capsite. Thanks also go out to Michael Sampson who finishes his work with the festival on September 2 and Peter Tanner who finishes up with the grounds on September 2 as well. We appreciate your hard work.
- We welcome all your great comments and suggestions. Feel free to drop of any news to the cap site which is in the back of the Tara Lynne Center or you can 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 or First Richmond Credit Union 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 Brenda Burke and Jackie Digout for their technical help and Lynn Boudreau for putting us on-line.