



The River Round Up

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Robertson Reunion



Pictured left to right are David Burke, Angeline Burke, Sister Helen Robertson and Mary Ann Robertson. All attended the reunion.

On July 14th, 2002, one hundred and thirteen descendants of Samuel (Sands) Robertson had a grand time at the Mount Saint Vincent University Sisters of Charity Mother House. Fathers Lloyd and Kenneth Robertson, sons of the late Alex Robertson who was born in River Bourgeois, hosted the event.

It has been almost 190 years since Samuel Sands (1787–1854) abruptly withdrew his service from the Royal Navy (jumped ship) on the 24th of July 1812 and became William Robertson. Family lore says that Samuel Sands took his mother's surname. He eventually arrived in River Bourgeois and began the long legacy of the Robertsons. Relatives and descendants of William Robertson traveled from as far away as San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, Florida, New York, Virginia, British Columbia and Ontario to attend the reunion. As could be expected the bulk of the family was from Halifax and what older Nova Scotians called the "Boston States".

In attendance from River Bourgeois were Angela & David Burke, Hughie & Doreen Samson, and

Mary Ann Robertson. The event was comprised of a Meet and Greet on the Friday evening, a sit down dinner on Saturday evening and finally a Mass on Sunday morning. In addition there were events during the day on Saturday. The highlight had to be the Saturday evening dinner. It was an enjoyable event, with an excellent meal, which was followed by some good old time Maritime Fiddle music. The last Robertson Reunion was held in 1983 in Cape Cod, Mass. It is hoped that we don't have to wait that long to have the next one. *Judy Davey*

Bernard Burke—The Entrepreneur



Bernard was born in 1943, the second child of ten to Xavier and Edith May Burke in Grand Gully. As a teenager Bernard went to Halifax to work but soon returned to his roots in Cape Breton where he drove a truck for Alfred Touesnard on the Church Point and also was employed by Riverside Industries making furniture. In 1967 Bernard ventured into his first business opportunity with Alex Flynn; they called the joint venture Flynn & Burke. They started out with one truck, a used pop truck they bought from Joe Mancini to truck pulp to the old wood yard in St. Peter's and then to the Stora Pulp Mill. In 1969 they purchased their first dump truck and began trucking gravel to the local area (approx. \$15.00 dollars per

load). At the same time Bernard drove the school bus in Oban/Seaview for eighteen years from 1970 to 1988 and ensured that these children arrived to and from school safely no matter how bad the snowstorm was. In 1977 brothers Clem and Conrad became part of the famous trio when they bought out Alex Flynn and in 1979 the three brothers formed Burke Bros. Trucking Co. Ltd. Another brother John has been an employee since the company began in 1979. Custom crushing, land clearing, excavation, dug wells and disposal systems are services now also offered by the company.

In the early eighties Bernard started yet another business venture, this time getting into pulp cutting and silviculture work and in 2001 he formed Bernard Burke & Sons Forestry Ltd. In the early seventies Bernard now occupied with his business, became quite smitten with a beautiful young school teacher (most people fall in love with their teacher in grade two but Bernard waited until he was in his twenties) named Mary MacDougall of the Church Point. Mary had come to River Bourgeois at the age of five to live with Alan & Annie Touesnard. She had taught in River Bourgeois for two years and was now teaching in Halifax. However, in 1973 Mary wishing to be nearer to Bernard went to teach in Arichat and in 1974 they wed. Twenty-eight years later they have four children, Blair a graduate of Holland College works in Port Hawkesbury, Brian chose to follow in Dad's footsteps and works for Burke Bros. Trucking, and daughters Brenda and Ann are both St. FX students.

Mary continues to teach as a substitute. As all off River Bourgeois and surrounding areas know, Burke Bros have been very generous and supporting of the many charity and functions in the community and we are very grateful to them. Burke Bros. and Burke families we wish you all a continued success. *Sharon Chilvers*

Amos Thibeau: the fiddler

Amos was born in 1904 to a musical family in Thibeauville. He was the son of Peter and Justine Thibeau. Even as a child, fiddle music was dancing in his head. At the age of nine while playing the fiddle, a crate had to be placed under his feet, as his legs were too short for his feet to hit the floor. Two of Amos's brothers played the fiddle along with their dad but Amos also played the accordion. During the depression years Amos's parents fell on hard times, as did most people in River Bourgeois so all the nickels and dimes he received for playing at dances went to help support the family.

In his early twenties Amos moved to Halifax where he played at the Old Dundas Theatre and on Radio station CHNS as the "old time fiddler" from

Cape Breton joining newcomer Hank Snow. Amos earned from two to three dollars an evening during the week but on Sundays was paid three dollars. In 1935 Amos married his true love, Eva Mae Burke of River Bourgeois, and they made Thibeauville their home. They had two daughters Shirley and Rose, both now in Halifax. The Thibeau residence was always filled with musicians and wannabe stars including Milton and Richard Pottie, Arthur Fougere and Leo Boucher on the guitar while Donald Fougere and Gordon Cote played the fiddle. The house was a gathering place in the winter for all the men home from the lake boats. As the music filled the air, Mae would fill the teacups.



Starting in 1953 Amos would move his family to Halifax during the summer where he was employed and they would return home for the school year. In 1985 as Amos and Mae celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, so did their friends Mr. & Mrs Hank Snow. Hank sent a tribute to Amos at that time stating, ... "Amos I remember the days of starvation when we worked the Old Family theatre on Barrington Street and the Community Theatre Gala New Year's Eve Shows and also the program Down on the Farm. Amos you were one of the finest fiddler players and did not have to take a backseat to our late friends, Don Messer, George Chappell or Ned Landry and others". An autograph photo was enclosed. Amos played his fiddle for family and friends every chance he got until the age of eighty-seven. Sadly he passed away in 1992. He will always be remembered for his fine music and the joy he brought to so many. Wife Mae at age eighty-seven still enjoys a full life in Halifax near her daughters, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. *Sharon Chilvers*

Filles de Jesus celebrate 100 years

On Sunday, October 13, Les Filles de Jesus will celebrate a very important milestone. Founded in France in 1834, they established schools, hospitals, and worked in parishes throughout France. Suddenly

in 1902 all this ended when the French Parliament issued a decree of expulsion which closed the 80 convents of the sisters. Nearly 500 sisters were now homeless. The Mother General of the order began sending letters to Canadian Bishops offering the sisters for hospitals and schools. Bishop Cameron of Antigonish asked them to work in Arichat, Cheticamp and Sydney. Two sisters, Patern Marie and Marie Alfred were welcomed by the Arichat parishioners on December 24,1902.

During their 100 years in Richmond County, Les Filles de Jesus worked in seven parishes including our parish of River Bourgeois; they operated a convent in Arichat for many years and kept boarders from all over Cape Breton. I lived and studied at this convent during three years of Senior High School.

The celebration consists of Mass of Thanksgiving at 1:30 p.m.; Blessing of the Memorial Cairn at 3 p.m., meet the sisters at 3:30 p.m. and Banquet at 5 at La Picasse, Petit De Grat. Everyone is invited to attend this celebration. The Parish representative on the committee to organize this event is Stanley McPhee and we wish to thank him for a job well done. *Therese Digout*

Annual Party



Back row L-R-Elizabeth Morrow, Wayne Bona, Roland Chaisson, Eddie Pottie. Front row L-R Kay Thompson, Sigrid & Peter Bardenz. Missing from the picture are Henry Martell (hiding behind Eddie) and Susan Pottie who served. Photo by D. Bardenz

Three years ago when they opened their Mountain Stars Restaurant in Thibeuville, Sigrid & Peter Bardenz generously dedicated the last Sunday of the season to providing a dinner at their restaurant for some of the senior's of RB. The tradition continues and on Sept 22nd Eddie Pottie gathered his friends and they contributed about four hours of music to the event. Seniors' in Riverside apartments, who couldn't travel due to ill health, had meals delivered to them. Kay Thompson pictured above is one of the many who have enjoyed this outing.

Weddings

Sampson/Roach: Charity Elissa, daughter of Dona Pottie, Bridgewater and James Sampson, Beaverbank was married on Sept. 14th to Michael Dean, son of Diane Roach, Weyakin, Sask. Charity is the granddaughter of Margaret & the late Peter Lorenzo Pottie and Caroline & James Sampson. Our congratulations and best wishes. The wedding took place in Lunenburg, NS. Charity & Michael are living in North Battleford, Sask.

Sampson/Grimes: Shari Audrey, daughter of Annette and Glen Sampson was married on Sept 2^{1st} to John Edward, son of Marilyn and Carl Grimes. Our congratulations and best wishes. Shari and John will be living in Port Hawkesbury.

Special Anniversaries

Shupe –Nora Cameron asked us to send congratulations and best wishes to her sister Ruth and Brother in law Leslie as they celebrate their 50th wedding Anniversary on Oct.4 th.

Sampson-Belated best wishes to Caroline and James Sampson who celebrated their 69th anniversary on July 29th.

Sampson-Belated best wishes also to Vera and Anselm Sampson who celebrated their 50th on August the 18th.

Pettigrew-On Sept 18th Mary and Bob Pettigrew celebrated their 50th.Our congratulations and Best wishes.

Cosman-Mary and Kenneth Cosman, pictured below on their wedding day , will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on October 5th.



An Open House is planned from 1:30 to 3:30 followed by mass at 4 pm. All are welcome to drop

in and give their best wishes. We thank their daughter, Maureen, for sending us the picture.

Deaths

Myles-Pauline Myles passed away on Sept 9th in Bridgetown. Pauline was the daughter of the late Mary and Remi Fougere of the Southside. Our condolences to her sister Jean Pottie and sister in law Emily Fougere.

Pelerine-Elizabeth Ann Pelerine died in New Glasgow on Aug 28th. She was the daughter of the late Isaac and Pauline (Fougere) Richard of River Bourgeois and was 101 years old. Our condolences to Murdock Richard, her half-brother.

Mail

The following former residents of River Bourgeois celebrated their 90th Birthdays in August. Both these ladies are still active and visit RB. They can both be found in Halifax. August 28th-Muriel (Pate-Pottie) Martell daughter of the late Martin & Serephine Pate of Hawker. August 29th-Pauline (Bourque) Pitts daughter of the late Isiac & Justine Bourque of Cannes. Happy Birthday to both. *Anne Marie Pitts*

Glenn Bennett the coordinator of Summer Students at Richmond CAP sites wrote the following after an unscheduled visit at our facility this summer: "I made a stop at your CAP site on Wed. to visit the students, and I must tell you have a really impressive site. It could easily be the role model for sites in NS." Congratulations to Sherry Baccardax, her committee and the many volunteers.

Eds Note-We all want to pass special Birthday Greetings to Joe Bouchard who celebrated his 90th on the 15th of Sept.

Bits & Bites:

- Mothers & Tot program at the Tara Lynne Center (TLC) every Monday from 10-12 am. Contact Wanda Burke @ 535-2601. Please no peanut butter as one of the children has an allergy.
- Starting on Wednesday Oct 2nd there will be STORYTIME for the children at the TLC at 1:15-stories, crafts and snacks provided. Contact Wanda at 535-2601 if you are interested.
- 8 week senior's fun exercise program starting at the RB Senior's Club on Wed. Oct. 2nd from 1-2:15. Instructor is Helen Slade. Cost is only \$10.
- Seniors Mini Bingo at the 50+ Clubs on Oct 10th.
- CWL meeting Oct 14 th at 7pm.

- On Sunday, October 13th the Annual Variety Concert sponsored by the Tara Lynne Touesnard Bursary Fund Committee will be held at 7pm at the Tara Lynne Centre. Some of the featured artists are J.P. Cormier and Skip Holmes. Each year three \$500 bursaries are awarded to students at Richmond Academy in memory of Tara Lynne.
- RB Community Services Society meeting on Oct. 16th at 7 pm. All are welcome.
- The RB Community Services Society is now on line. You can check it out at www3.ns.simpatico.ca/rbcap/riverbourgeois/hall
- The Annual Collection Campaign for the Dr. Kingston Memorial Center is taking place from Sept. 26th to Oct. 10th.
- Congratulations to Joel Burke (Maureen & Neil) who came first in the 5 km. Terry Fox Run at the Richmond Academy .
- Any couple in River Bourgeois celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th & 55+ years of marriage in 2002 please call 535-2942 or 2382 before Nov. 8th.
- Don't forget the Fall Health Fair sponsored by the Kingston Memorial Health Project from 3-7pm.on Oct 10th. This is an annual event held at the Lion's Club in St. Peter's.
- On Oct. 11th there will be a Well Woman's Clinic held at St Peters Medical Center. This is also sponsored by the Kingston Medical Center.
- Darryll Walsh of Halifax has just written a new book called "Ghost Waters" a story of "Canadian haunted seas and shores", published by Pottersfield Press. Darryll is the son of Pauline and Bryce Walsh and grandson of the late Alice and Maurice Burke of River Bourgeois. You can find it at most bookstores.
- Anyone wishing to book the TL Centre should call Jocelyn Stone (3257); needing a liquor license for a function call Eddie Pottie (2515) at least a month ahead. For use of the funeral home call Leona or Gerald Campbell at 535-2927.
- The fall hours for the Capsite will be Mon to Thurs. from 2-4pm and 6-9 pm. and Fri 2-4. We will be closed on the weekend but appointments can be made by calling Sherry at 535-3182 or Sharon at 535-3516.
- 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.

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