



The River Round Up

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Frances Digout



Frances (Bourque) Digout attended Teacher's College in 1930 and upon graduation, began her life-long career as a teacher. Her first three years of teaching were at the three-room school at the east end of the river. There she taught 45 children in grades five, six and seven. In 1934 she moved to Port Felix to a one-room school teaching 68 children (yes, sixty eight children-this is not a typing mistake) from grades primary to nine. School hours commenced at 8:30 am and often did not end until 6 or 7 pm, after assisting the older children with their homework and teaching them crafts. In 1937 Frances returned to River Bourgeois to teach one year in Cannes and to marry the man of her dreams, Leo Digout. Together they had three daughters, Estelle who resides with her mother, Elaine in Calgary and Yvonne who passed away in 1969. The family now includes eleven grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. Sadly Leo passed away suddenly in 1989 after fifty-two years together. In 1945 Frances returned to teaching at the east end, however, because there were fewer students it was now a two-room school and she shared the duties with James Richard. Heat was only provided in the school after October 15th so when it became cold

prior to that date, the students trudged into the woods where they cut and carried the brush back to the school. In 1954 when the new school opened in River Bourgeois, Frances became the icon of the grade two-class room and I personally can attest to that. Frances was notorious for her daily spelling bee contest until her retirement in 1977. Frances now spends her days' scenic painting and has many displayed in her home. She has donated many of these beautiful paintings to raise funds in the community. The many children you have taught thank you, Frances, and wish you the best. *Sharon Chilvers*

Violin Craftsman



Ernest Bourque is the son of Ida and Hilare of the Church Point. A carpenter by trade, Ernie worked at the pulp mill for twenty-five years until his retirement in 1986. As a child, Ernie had a keen interest in music and in the early sixties, with no formal training, decided to carve his first violin. He has since made more than twenty of these magnificent violins of which several are displayed in his home. Due to ill health, Ernie no longer has the strength to carve, however son Paul has inherited his father's talent. Ernie married wife Margaret (Gitt) in July, 1956 and in the following forty-five years they

had five sons, Gerry and Basil in River Bourgeois, Lawrence in Halifax, Cedric in Shubenacadie and Paul in British Columbia, along with five daughters, Ida in St. Peter's, Maria in River Tillard, Norma in Port Hood, June in Halifax and Esther in Saskatchewan. The family now includes eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild, Reagan. Ernie we all wish you good health. *Sharon Chilvers*

Children's Celebration



Children's Mass Choir. Front Row L-R Chelsey Dakai, Sandy Burke, Kelsey Sampson, Kelsey Burke. Back Row L-R Tiffany Stone, Angela Landry, Robin Merrick, Nelson DeWolfe. Photo by Gerry Fougere.

On Christmas Eve many of the children of the Parish took part in the reenactment of the Birth of Christ in our church. Along with the choir members above Katie Touesnard, Tasha Lynn Burke, Alisha Burke, Sally Burke and Robin Merrick played the violin, Ellen Sampson played the organ and Sally Burke was Narrator.

The church was beautifully decorated and filled to capacity. Taking part in the play were Jillian Burke, Meghan Merrick, Haley Sampson, Melanie Poaps, Donna Marie DeWolfe, Julia Burke, Shania Boucher, Liam Burke, Austin Morrison, Eion McLeod, Grant Sampson, Dillon Abbot, Colton Burke, Alisha Kendall, Bethany King and Nicole Landry.

Thanks from Rose Merrick and Linda Burke to the parents, teachers and a special thanks to Tasha Lynn Burke who spent a lot of her college vacation with the choir as well as to Agnes Baxter. Most of these children and others took part in a children's concert at the TL Center on Dec. 16th, which raised \$227.00 for our Christmas Food boxes.

RB Community Service

The Community Services Society has a notice of motion to be voted on at the February 20th, 2002 meeting in regard to making the Tara Lynne Center a smoke free environment. Anyone wishing to take

part in the discussion is welcome to come. You can also send your comments to Joe MacPhee, Society secretary at 535-2677 or email him at jvmacphee@ns.sympatico.ca.

A new policy was approved with regard to use of the hall kitchen by "for profit" caterers. Any caterer using the kitchen at the Tara Lynne Center shall pay \$100.00 for the use of the kitchen and its facilities. Non-profit groups will still be allowed to use the facility at no cost.

Madeline Cook in Rome



Madeline standing in front of the Bronze or Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica. The door is only opened every 25 years, the last being in 2000 in honor of the Pope's Jubilee.

This past October, I traveled to Italy with my two daughters, Carol Beaver (Sherbrooke) and Ursula Campbell (Halifax). We were joined by another daughter, Beverly and her husband Al who were staying in Italy for three months.

Beverly and Al had our travel all planned out. Several days were spent in Florence with its beautiful churches, the original statue of Michelangelo's "David" and the Ponte Vecchio Bridge. Other day trips included Assisi and the Church of St. Francis, Venice where we rode on the waterbuses, but not gondolas, as it was too chilly. We saw the Rialto Bridge and the Academia (museum) that houses the artwork done for St. Ursula. This was of special interest to my daughter of same name. We also went to Rome and visited Vatican City, which is quite impressive. St Peter's Square is huge as is St. Peter's Basilica. We went especially to be there for the Papal Blessing. The Pope ("Papa" in Italian) went by us quite close in his open car and it was very special to see him in his setting. We passed through the Vatican gardens and saw the Swiss guards (to be a Swiss guard a young man must be Swiss and catholic). The Sistine Chapel was beautiful with all its paintings and frescos and it is overwhelming when you think of all the time and effort put into it. The Basilica of San Pietro is huge with incredibly high

ceilings where art and sculpture reach the top. A Statue of St. Peter and his tomb are located here. A short subway ride from the Vatican took us to the Trevi Fountain (largest fresh water aqueduct in Rome). It was indeed a trip of a lifetime. *Madeline Cook*

River Bourgeois Honorees



Left to right-Gervase Landry, Maurice Landry, Arthur Bouchard, and Bob Yuille, Front row Lucille Landry.

On January 12th, several River Bourgeois residents were honored at Branch 47 Legion in Grand Anse. Gervase Landry, a 17-year member of the Legion and a World War II veteran was given a Life Time Membership Award. Lucille Landry a 19-year member of the legion was the recipient of The Legionnaire of the Year Medal for her years of volunteering and dedication to the many causes the legion stands for. Bob Yuille a 29-year legionnaire and Maurice Landry a 21-year legionnaire accepted the Peace Keepers Medal for their service in Korea and Maurice also received the highest legion award, the Meritorious Service Medal. Also pictured is Arthur Bouchard who recently received the Peacekeeping Medal for his service in Cyprus in the 1970's. *Sharon Chilvers*

A Warm Thank You

I would like to send out my thanks and appreciation to those in River Bourgeois who sent cards and best wishes to me and the other sailors participating in Operation Apollo this past holiday season. Spending Christmas away from home is always difficult but it was made easier for me knowing that I had the prayers and support of the community. I would like to send a special thank you to Therese Digout for her thoughtfulness in getting a Christmas card signed by members of the community and to my extended family who sent baked goods and gifts. My shipmates and I appreciated everything more than you could ever imagine. You have touched our

hearts-God Bless. Lieutenant (Navy) Ramona Burke, Above Water Warfare Officer, HMCS PRESERVER.

Births

Fougere-Jillian Marie was born January 26th in Prince George. She is the daughter of Caroline and Scott Fougere. Congratulations to the parents and Marie & Conrad Fougere on their first grandchild.

Deaths

Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of:

Burke-Patrick Malcolm died in Halifax on Jan 5th at age 75. His wife, Edna Pottie is a native of River Bourgeois and aunt of Donnie Pottie.

Bowers-Edward Russell, 81 of River Bourgeois died on Jan 18th in Halifax. His wife Jane predeceased him. His daughters Shirley Charron and Sandra Bowers and their families survive him.

Morrow-Gladys (Landry) passed away Jan 20th in Strait Richmond Hospital. Gladys leaves behind her sons Bill (Judy) and Brian and daughter Barbara (Tim) and their families; sisters Eileen, Susan, Lorraine; brothers Louie, Harold, Bernard and Stephen and their families. Gladys was the daughter of the late Amable Landry and Anastasia (Curdo) Boudreau of RB. Her husband Carl predeceased her.

Richard-Mildred passed away Jan. 7th at Strait Richmond at age 75. She was the daughter of the late Marina and Frederick Bouchard of RB. Our sympathy to her husband William daughters Vivian, Juanita, Wanda Marie, Gretchen and Cynthia and her brother Stanley and their families.

Warner-Georgina, daughter of the late George and Rose (MacDonald) Kelly of St. Peter's died on Jan 16th in Antigonish. Georgina's son Norman, his wife Genevieve (Touesnard) and their children live in Grand Gully.

“The River Round Up” Update

We started the paper in the summer of 2000 when looking for ways to advertise local events. I made the mistake of saying Big Pond had a newsletter so therefore got a job. Joe suggested its name in memory of Marie Boyd's paper from years ago. The idea coincided with the opening of our CAP site and it was decided to use their equipment and perhaps make them a little money.

Although a small paper, there are a lot of people who provide help. Michelle Sampson joined as youth reporter and last March we asked Sharon Chilvers to do an article on her business. As a result we decided her talents were wasted on a Bed and Breakfast so suggested she become our roving reporter. We have a hat full of names and pull one for a profile and one

for craft persons. With approx. 250 households in the River we figure it will be a while before all are covered.

We have been very lucky with people providing information-thanks to Gerry and Russell Fougere for pictures and historical tidbits; Sherry Baccardax who is always willing to spend time correcting errors due to our lack of computer skills; Lynn Boudreau who spends at least 4 hours a month putting us on line; Therese Pottie who took over looking after subscriptions in December; Mike Fougere, Carmen Fougere and the Credit Union who sell for us and all the Cap site volunteers who help us print.

The \$12 covers the cost of cartridges for printing and paper and if Carmen would stop putting up the price of stamps we might have some left over for the CAP site. We have about 70 subscriptions plus sell approx. 110 locally. Since June 18th when we went online we have had 980+ hits. Sincere thanks to the RBCSS for their support and for the people and history of RB, which makes it such an enjoyable project. We're always appreciative of suggestions and articles. Please keep the feedback coming. You can reach us at rbcap@ns.sympatico.ca or phone Sharon (3516) or Joe (2677).

Bits and Bites

- Kenneth & Gloria (King) LeBlanc celebrated 25 years of wedded bliss on January 12th (actual date was 15th). Following mass, where they renewed their vows, a reception and dance were held at the Tara Lynne Center (TLC) with more than one hundred of their family and friends. Gloria and Kenneth would like to thank everyone for the surprise and the many wonderful gifts.
- Senior's exercise class-Instructor Helen Slade-Seniors Bldg. Mon-1-2pm. 5 weeks for \$10.00
- Teen Dance at TLC on Feb. 2nd from 9-12 pm.
- Senior's Meeting Feb 5th at 1:30 Guest Speaker-Gloria Boudreau on "how to exercise at our own pace". There will also be a discussion on ways and means of expanding social functions for seniors.
- Cap site meeting-Feb 6th at 7:30pm.
- CWL Annual Meeting with lunch at the TLC Feb. 9th at noon.
- Merchandize Bingo-TLC 2 pm.-Feb 10th. Proceeds to fund young people to attend Youth Rally in June. For prize donations call Sharon (2512) or Theresa (2738).
- Annual Pancake Supper at TCL sponsored by Parish Council-Feb 12th from 4-6 pm. To donate syrup, juice, berries, milk, etc. call Debbie (2573) or Valerie (2382).

- Mini Bingo-Senior's Bldg. Feb 13th at 1:30.
- 4-H Fun Day Sunday February 17th, 1-4 pm TLC. Sponsored by RB 4H club. Contact person is Debbie Landry (535-2573).
- Monthly meeting of RB Community Services Feb. 20th at 7 PM.
- The Youth Development Committee is having a fundraiser on the Feb. 23rd from 11:30-3pm at TLC. There will be a Bake Sale, Flea Market (rent a table for \$5) and lunch. Seafood Chowder for \$5, Chili or Chicken Soup for \$4. Young at heart-hotdogs and drink for \$2. Pies for dessert. Call Debbie (2573), Sharon (2329) or Jocelyn (3257). Any food donations greatly appreciated. Silver collection at the door.
- Parent- tot program-Mondays 10-12 at TLC.
- We are still looking for community members to help provide food for funeral receptions. Call Sharon at 3516 if you can help out.
- Don't forget to plan to attend the St. Patrick's Day concert-Mar 17th at the TLC. Proceeds to World Youth Day Rally. Great entertainment and refreshments.
- Would you like to brush up on your typing skills or teach yourself to type? Come use **Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing** at the CAP site and learn at your own pace. If you want to sign up for any courses from Intro to Computers to Word, Excel etc call Pamela Sampson at 535-2555. We now have a photocopier, color printers, fax, scanner and a digital camera for your use . Call 535-3251 between 2-4 pm, 6-9 pm , Mon-Thurs , Fri 2-4 and Sat from 1-4.
- Happy Birthday to Margaret Bouchard on Jan. 5th, Victor Burke on Jan 24th, Genevieve Grimes on Jan. 31st and on Jan 12th Katie Rogers, a longstanding CWL member was 97.
- Sr. Betty Cordeau is looking for information and pictures on the Cordeau (Cordo) and Thibeau families. You can reach her at 44 Convent St., Sydney Mines, NS B1V 1J9.
- A reminder that anyone wishing to book the TLC should call Jocelyn Stone (3257); needing a liquor license for a function call Eddie Pottie (2515) at least a month ahead or requiring use of Funeral Home call Adrian Touesnard (2373).
- 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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