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# The River Round Up

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Volume 3

Number 4

April 2002

\$1.00

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## A. J. (Pap) Landry



Pap (Anthony Joseph for those of you who don't know his real name) was born on the Church Point, the son of Mary & Henry Landry. Pap alleges that it was Cameron Boyd who gave him the name "Papoose", later shortened to "Pap" because of his small structure while on the baseball team. In 1939 Pap decided to become an entrepreneur and with a total portfolio of \$85.00, opened a clothing store. Jeans (not designer) sold for ninety-eight cents. A year later business wasn't what he had anticipated so Pap chose to expand and go into the grocery line. Profits increased as now he was getting twenty-five cents for two cans of corned beef. In 1953 Pap married his sweetheart Veronica Sampson of St. Peters. A year later he expanded his enterprise again, and it now included fire and auto insurance.

In 1973 after thirty-four years Pap retired from the store business to take care of Veronica who was seriously ill. Sadly she passed away that year. Pap continued to sell insurance and in 1976 met a young lady named Beatrice Briand from L'Ardoise and she

has been his wife for the last twenty-six years. Beatrice has a son Lawrence and two granddaughters from her previous marriage. Ten years later at the age of seventy-one, and thirty-two years in the insurance business Pap retired.



A. J.'s store, the credit union building.

At sixty-six and still a young man Pap had taken up golfing as a hobby and now plays golf daily at Dundee with his many friends including Peter Boyd. In the winter Pap enjoys crossword puzzles and long walks to keep in shape for golfing. I asked the question. Do you have any children? (I did live away for most of my life). Pap replied "not yet". Beatrice suddenly appeared very pale. *Sharon Chilvers*

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## Wintering In River Bourgeois

During the course of our stay here each year, my wife Marj and I are often asked why we choose to spend winter in River Bourgeois rather than the summer, as is the custom with many retirees.

There are a number of reasons for our choice. First, our children (6) and our grandchildren (12, soon to be 13) live either in Western Canada or in Nova Scotia. Second, Marj's relatives all live in Alberta, which is close to our summer home, while

most of my relatives, are here in River Bourgeois. Third, Marj's health eliminates Florida as an option, although that wasn't a priority anyway.

But why winter in Cape Breton and not in Western Canada. The answer, simply, is: the milder weather. For us, the coldest winter day here is no hardship, as it translates to a normal winter's day in Alberta or Saskatchewan. Let me give you three illustrations of what I mean.

In 1968, while I was in Graduate Studies in Edmonton, we experienced 32 consecutive days when the temperature did not once rise above -17.8C (the old zero of Fahrenheit days). Waiting for the bus to go to and from classes each morning and evening temperatures that were usually in the -40C range was somewhat of a torture, I can assure you.

One morning in 1978 I got an early telephone call from the principal of our St. Jerome's School in Vermilion, Alberta. The temperature at the Vermilion Airport had just been announced at -55F. In 26 years as a superintendent, that was one of the few times I ordered the schools to be shut down because of weather or road conditions.

But our decision was finalized during our last winter in Saskatchewan. In the winter of 1993-1994, the cold weather set in the Saskatoon area in mid-October and did not lift until the last week of March. December, January, and February were the coldest on record, with AVERAGE temperatures being about -22C. We saw the plus side of Zero only five times in a stretch of 165 days; and since Marj's asthma is aggravated by extreme cold, the decision to winter in Cape Breton was not difficult.

I must mention that there are some down sides to Cape Breton winters. Icy roads and poor visibility are far more frequent here than in our Western provinces; the high winds and recurring snow and rain are not pleasant; and the quick changes in weather certainly make winter travel more hazardous. But the pluses far outweigh the negatives: the much milder temperatures, the beautiful fall months, the far shorter winters, the glistening snow in the fields and on the trees, and the moonlight shining over the calm harbour – each of these is enough to keep us here for many winters to come, God and our budget willing.

*Stan Digout*

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## A Book On 25 Years Of Service

An ambitious plan is underway to write a book on the 25 years of service to the community of River Bourgeois by the River Bourgeois Community Services Society (RBCSS). Joseph MacPhee, presently secretary to the Society, recently outlined the plan to the Board of Directors with the

publication to coincide with the 25th Annual River Bourgeois Festival in September of 2003.

The book would be an excellent way to document in print and by way of pictures the various projects that the Society has been involved in over the span of 25 years as they attempted to meet the recreational and social needs of the community. Major projects that have been completed since 1978 are: the Tara Lynne Community Center, River Bourgeois Museum, (Senior's Bldg.), Edwin Bona Memorial Ball Field, Tennis Courts, Children's Playground, Funeral Home and Technology & Training Center.

The purpose of this book is to record the history of the Society, its work and members and to pay tribute in print to its activities and accomplishments as well as say thanks to all those who helped. It's an ambitious project that will involve many volunteers.

Anyone with pictures or information to share regarding the work of the Society since its inception or willing to lend a hand, is asked to contact Joseph MacPhee at 535-2677, fax 535-3531, or email at [jvmacphee@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jvmacphee@ns.sympatico.ca) With everyone's help we should celebrate our 25th Anniversary with a proper tribute to all those responsible for the success of the Society. *Joseph MacPhee*

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## RBCSS Annual Meeting 2002

The 24th Annual Meeting of the RBCSS was held at the Tara Lynne Community Center (TLC) on Wednesday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. Reports were received from Committee chairpersons on the operations of the Society over the past year.

President Wayne Bona documented the initiatives developed in 2001, which included the complex sign on Route #4, removal of old and installation of new playground equipment, the development of the Society Web page which can be viewed at <http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/rbcap/riverbourgeois/hall.htm>, the establishment of the Youth Development Committee and the bringing of the Parent & Tot Program to the TLC.

The 2001 financial Statement for the Society reported income from the Bingo of \$248,480 and expenses of \$208,669 including prizes of \$169,940 that went back to patrons of the bingo and \$10,764 to the Jackpot and Cookie Jar. Revenue from a special card at the Bingo, donated \$6,093 to St. John the Baptist Church. \$289,077 in revenues were generated from all activities; \$248,480.00 from Bingo and \$40,597.38 from other fund raising activities. The Funeral Home had expenses of \$3,263 and revenues of \$712. This home provides a much-appreciated service to the community. Total expenses were \$265,932 including the bingo,

maintenance and activity costs. Net profits were \$23,145.

The Society has total current assets of \$54,557, total fixed assets of \$503,217. Accounts payable of \$3,348 and Credit Union Mortgage Balance of \$30,264 make up liabilities of 30,264. More information is available in the Income Statement & Balance Sheet available in the community.

Based on the financial report the Bingo Committee and all its workers did a tremendous job of raising funds for the RBCSS. The committee also reported on changes with the bingo over the year as well as the need for new workers. Anyone willing to help out, please call Joan Burke at 2557.

The Technology & Training Center had an excellent year with revenues of \$18,048.01 and expenses of \$14,396.85. Volunteers during the year staffed the CAP site with 1670 hours of free time enabling it to be open 25 hours a week during fall, winter and spring. The River Round Up is a popular newsletter published through the CAP site and is welcomed both in the community and afar bringing local news and bits of history to readers. 4 RB students were employed in the summer, which enabled the CAP site to be staffed fulltime during the summer. They assisted in the digitalization of festival projects, RBCCS records and the old River Round Ups. They, along with volunteers also provided activities for Canada Day.

The Economic Development Committee was quiet for most of the year but was responsible for the Complex Sign along Route #4 Highway and they continue to work on the Lighthouse Rebuilding Project.

The Festival Committee executed the 23rd Annual River Bourgeois Festival with a combination of some old and new events. The festival gross revenues were \$14,238 with expenses of \$5,788 for a profit of \$8,450, a tidy sum for a small community on a weekend series of events.

The Youth Development Committee began in September and carried out events such as a turkey pie sale that raised \$1000 and a luncheon and Flea Market that cleared \$780. The committee restored teen dances to the hall with no problems encountered, (security is on hand). They held 4 teen dances, 3 pre-teen dances: pay teens to operate the Music Machine, which they have purchased and used it at the New Years Dance. The recent March Break Party was a huge success with over 65 children attending.

The new slate of officers for 2002-2003 is as follows: President: Wayne Bona, Vice-president: Sharon Chilvers, Treasurer: Monica McPhee, Secretary: Joseph MacPhee, Directors, Sherry Baccardax, Joan Burke, Carl Grimes, George J. Landry, Rose Merrick, Eleanor Pederson, Bob

Pettigrew, Eddie Pettipas, Dawn Pottie, Ed Pottie, Anne Sampson, and Alfred Touesnard. 2002 Festival Co-chairs are Dawn Pottie and Paul Zinck while Property Services Chair is Joseph MacPhee. Thanks to retirees Hughie Samson & Sharon Digout. Adrian Touesnard serves, as caretaker for Funeral Home and Jocelyn Stone is interim janitor. *Joseph MacPhee*

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## Editors/Secretary's Woes

Let it be known that lately our fearless counsellor and tireless secretary for Community Services Society has been missing from action. This is in no way due to the last meeting on the no smoking ban, which stressed him out. Instead according to him, blamed on his heavy workload and not enough time to work out. In any case he ended up in the Strait Richmond Hospital with some serious back problems. Upon visiting him he was found to be doing some serious drugs, which caused him to vision some nasty little people. The doctor says he was hallucinating but we believe he was dreaming about his last meeting of Counsel. In all fairness to the man we deeply sympathize with his situation and wish him a speedy recovery

Just one note before I sign out. It has come to our attention that a certain Sharon has had an ache in her leg making it hard to fill Joe's shoes, she says it's from her back but we believe it's from kicking George around for so long. Hope you're up to scratch for the Easter Bunny. *Yours Truly-Travelling Light Hey Traveling Light* both Joe and I are always up to scratch. SD

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## Nature Notes

Signs of spring-Gerarda and Eddie Pettipas had a Woodcock in their back yard on March 8<sup>th</sup> and on Mar 16<sup>th</sup> the Grackles and Robins returned. Last year it was March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Once again we are looking for people to count birds in Richmond Co. on May 11<sup>th</sup> as part of the North American Migratory Count. You can do it at your feeders or we can assign you an area to go searching. Last year we had 27 participants who recorded 72 species. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year that Richmond Co. will be participating. We also partake in an Owl Prowl, Plant Watch and Beached Bird survey so if anyone would like to know what we're finding or would like to help out call George/Sharon at 535-3516. It's a great way to do some walking/hiking.

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## Sleeping Children Around the World

You probably remember the name from a year ago when the CWL organized a fundraiser to provide sleeping kits to children of third world countries.

Margaret and Murray Dryden, parents of NHL goalie Ken Dryden, founded SCAW 32 years ago. Their goal was to raise money for one million kits and to date they have distributed 700,000. In each kit there is a blanket, sheet, pillow, 2 pairs of pyjamas, shorts, sweater, t-shirt, raincoat, cap, slippers, mosquito net and school supplies. The whole kit costs \$30.

We are asking for a donation of \$5 or if anyone wants to buy a kit that would be great. Last year we raised enough for 21 kits. If you wish you can give your donation to Therese Digout, Ann Clow or bring it to the next CWL meeting. The following is a letter received from a little girl from the Philippines who received a kit-“To my sponsor: I hope this letter gets to you because I say thank you for all the things you gave me. My name is Angela and I am 9 years old and again I say thank you. I love you very much.”

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## Senior's 50 + Club

The Annual Seniors Meeting was held on March 4th. President Anne Sampson thanked everyone and listed the accomplishments of the organization in the last year. Members of the executive read their annual reports and the election of officers for 2002 took place. President Anne Sampson: 2nd Vice Bob Pettigrew: Secretary Sharon Chilvers: Treasurer Mary Ellen Pentecost: Building manager Joe Boucher and Membership Madeline Cook. A delicious Potluck supper followed the meeting. The members approved a sum of \$100.00 be donated to the food bank. *Sharon Chilvers*

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## Births

**Parent/Richard**-Liza Richard and Denis Parent welcomed Amelie Yvonne on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Amelie weighed 8lbs. 8oz. Congratulations to Mary and Gerry Fougere on first grandchild.

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## History

We wish to thank Donnie Pottie for searching the net and letting us know who the MacDougalls were in our last history section. John was from East Bay and his wife was Alexandrine Curry from L'Ardoise. Her parents were Donald Curry and May McPhee. The witness was Malcolm Mac Neil.

Helena (Fougere) McKay sent us this picture from Greg Sampson. Greg resides in Quebec but has roots in the community of River Bourgeois and because of this connection he forwarded the following picture to Helena. He would like to know who the woman on the left is in the following picture. In the center is Susan (Thibeau), wife of James Edward Sampson and the grandmother of Lena, Rita, Josephine and Catherine Ann Sampson. On the right is Henriette

(Fougère), wife of Henry (Honoré à Charles) Sampson. The house behind the trees in the background was the home of Charlie Boucher and Millie-Ann.

Anyone out there that knows who this woman is, please call Sharon at 3516 or you can contact Helena at [Helena.m@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:Helena.m@ns.sympatico.ca)



## Bits and Bites

- CWL Diocesan Convention 2002 is April 19-21 at St. Pius X in Sydney Mines. Registration deadline Friday, April 5. For more info call Ann Clow at 2726.
- Senior's Meeting April 3rd 1:30 at 50+ club.
- CWL Monthly Meeting Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Senior's social 1-4 pm April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Mini Bingo Wed, April 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm.
- Cribbage Game Mon, April 16-7 at Seniors 50+.
- RBCSS Meeting Wed, April 17. All welcome.
- 45 Card game every Sunday at 7-Seniors 50+.
- Parent & Tot Program-Monday's 10-12 at TLC-Bring snack for your child-not peanut butter please due to an allergy. No fee. Drop in!
- Happy Birthday to Whitney Samson who was 86 on Mar 27; Johnny Goswell was 70 on Mar 28<sup>th</sup> and Carmen Fougere who on March 8<sup>th</sup> was less than 60.
- Happy 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Eileen and Bob Yuille on March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 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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Published monthly by RB Technology & Training Centre in co-operation with RB Community Services Society. Eds: Sharon Digout and Joseph MacPhee. Thanks to Sherry Baccardax for technical help, Lynn Boudreau for putting us online and Therese Pottie (2740) for looking after our subscription list.

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