



The River Round Up

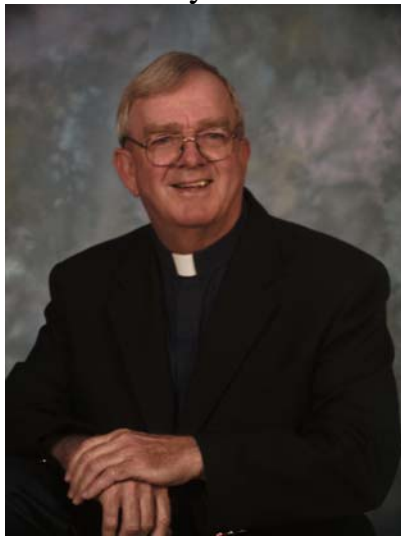
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Fr. Sandy MacNeil



A priest's life on earth is a series of-----

**This is it
It's time to go
I hate to leave
There's more to do**

Four years ago Fr. Sandy heard it was time to leave his parish of St. Joseph's, Sydney, pack his SUV with most of his earthly possessions and drive to River Bourgeois, his new appointment. For how long he didn't know; he didn't know the people, its customs but he knew that for one, two or more years he would work in this parish helping people to reach their destination as well as his own which ultimately for each one of us is to go to the Father who created us.

I hate to leave If this was true, certainly no one in R. B. was aware of it. That 'Million Dollar Smile' which he has for everyone, made each one of us feel that he was very happy to be parish priest at St. John the Baptist and it has seemed that way during the past four years which went by so quickly.

During this time Fr. Sandy has been priest, administrator, confessor, teacher and friend to young and old in the parish. He has shown keen interest in all aspects of Church Liturgy, Religious ED, children being prepared for the sacraments, young adults for Confirmation and couples preparing for Matrimony. During the past year he has been actively involved with a group of young people who will travel to Toronto for World Youth Day 2002. The physical structure of the church and grounds have been well maintained and at present there are plans for a complete renovation to the interior of the church.

At this time we hear a great deal about the 'whole person' and this is embodied in this priest who likes to fish, ski, hunt and mingle with people at social gatherings. He celebrates with his parishioners on happy occasions and is always present with encouragement, sympathy and compassion when sickness, tragedy or death occurs in the community. Fr. Sandy, as you leave our parish much sooner than we would have wished, thank you for your countless acts of kindness, your meaningful liturgies, your cheerfulness, friendship and most of all for your genuine efforts to help each one of us to be better Christians.

There is more to do As much as we would like you to stay longer, we respect the fact that you are prepared to accept more responsibility and work in another parish. We wish you happiness and success in Westmount.

**May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sunshine warm upon your face
And rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again, May God
Hold you in the palm of his hand**

Therese Digout

Eds. Note--On Sunday June 23rd we will all be able to say farewell to Fr. Sandy at a reception to be held at the Tara Lynne Centre from 2-4 pm.

Sam: Jack Of All Trades

Anselm (Sam) Sampson is the son of James Henry and Mary Sampson of the Point. In 1938 as a wee lad of twelve Sam became employed (child labour these days) by the parish priest and moved into the Glebe House for two years. His duties included, milking four cows, taking care of a total of seven animals and ensuring the fire was started early enough to warm the church for mass. All of this work was done before and after school. In 1942 at the age of sixteen Sam attempted to join the army and go fight in the war, however, due to bronchial problems, he was rejected.



Sam in the war years.

Sam was a persistent teenager and six years later was accepted in the army and became an elite member of the original Paratroopers. Stationed in Shilo, Manitoba they were paid a sum of twenty-five dollars per jump and sometimes they made as many as three jumps per month. Six years later the regiment was disbanded and Sam was transferred to Petawawa, Ontario to work in supply and services for the Queen's Own Rifle regiment. He also served in Germany for three years before retiring from the forces following twenty-three years of service. In 1950 Sam went to Halifax to visit his friend Edgar LeBlanc and Edgar introduced Sam to his charming sister-in-law Vera Landry. Sam was now head over heels in love with the lovely Vera and they wed two years later. On August 9th of this year Sam and Vera will celebrate their golden anniversary with their two children, Tony who resides in Bermuda & Janice in Lloyd Minster, BC, grandchildren Stacy & Chris, and great-grandchildren Duncan & Colby.

In 1971 Sam and Vera returned to River Bourgeois and Sam went to work for Colin R MacDonald contractors where he spent the next seventeen years in construction around the province, returning home to Vera on weekends. In 1987 Sam had had enough of working for a pastime and decided to volunteer for a pastime instead. Sam became a very active member of the Parish Council for the

following thirteen years. During this time he was instrumental in getting the funeral home built and having a wall erected under the church to prevent it from sinking inward. Countless hours of labour were spent in replacing the steeple on the church and the removing of the thirteen hundred pound church bell from the tower. Sam was responsible for the designing of the bell's present tower and on Aug 20th, 1996 at 10:30 am Sam rang the bell for the first time at its present location. Sam also built the large cross that is erected in the graveyard along with the replacement stand that the statues are on. In the year 2000 the Parish Council made Sam the first honorary member of the council upon his retirement. Sam played an active role over the years with River Bourgeois Community Services Society.

These days you can see Sam speeding down the road on his tractor (sometimes hitting ten kilometres an hour) leaving nothing but a cloud of dust behind him as he heads to Tim Hortons or perhaps better known as Mary Ellen's for a cup of coffee. We don't have enough paper to list all of the things that Sam has done for the church and community however River Bourgeois would like to take this time to say a big thank you and wish you good health and a well-deserved retirement. *Sharon Chilvers*

Hughie Samson's Auto Body

Hughie Samson hails to us from Sampsonville, but since his dad was from RB we consider him one of our own. Hughie graduated from the Strait Campus Community College with a diploma in auto body repair and headed to Halifax where he worked for the next three years. Being a Cape Bretoner at heart Hughie returned and spent the next few years working at auto body shops in the Port Hawkesbury area.

In June 1974, Hughie married his high school sweetheart Doreen Burke from the River and had three beautiful daughters: Tracy living in Petawawa, Angie in Halifax and Jessica in PEI. Doreen and Hughie also have two precious granddaughters, Julianna and Angelina.

In 1989, Hughie made a decision to fulfill his dream and start up his own business and "Hughie Samson's Auto Body" was born. He employs three full-time people and two part-time in the shop and Doreen (he has to pay her more) who does the bookkeeping. Oh yes we can't forget "David" who keeps the guys in line in the shop! All of the staff are licensed auto body and I—Car (Inter-industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair) technicians. Hughie takes great pride in their ability to please his customers and ensures the customers are always happy. Hughie works with virtually all of the insurance companies in Atlantic Canada which gives

him the ability to make sure all repairs are approved prior to beginning work.

Hughie started the 4-H Club in RB along with Peter LeBlanc and Glenda Sampson. He spent many years teaching and driving the children around the province to shows and fairs. Hughie was also on the Festival Committee and served several years on the Community Services Society Board of Directors.

River Bourgeois wishes you many "dents" in your life and a continuing success for many more years.

Sharon Chilvers

College Graduates



Pictured above-top left-right-Leanne Burke, Lisette MacDonald, & Mary Fougere. Christian Digout and Laura Filion are on the stairs.

The above students from River Bourgeois graduated from St. F.X. University on May 5th.

Christian and Laura both graduated with first class honors. Laura received the University Silver Medal in the Bachelor of Science Program and the Dr. M.S. Gautam Memorial Prize for Physics. As mentioned last month they are both going on for their Masters Degree in their respective fields.

Leanne Burke (Wanda & Conrad) graduated with her B.A. with a major. She has left for Calgary to work for the summer and plans to take her Education degree in the fall.

Mary Fougere (Valerie & Mike) graduated with her B.A. with honors. She received the Ambassador of France Prize for Excellence in French. Mary also

received a scholarship from Dalhousie University as well as a teacher's assistant's position. She is entering their M.Sc. Program in French Linguistics in the fall.

Lisette MacDonald (Elaine Burke) graduated with her degree in Education and hopes to obtain a teaching position nearby. Her husband Kenzie and sons Cameron and Christian are very proud of her.

Richmond Villa Birthday Party



Photo by Paula Sampson

On May the 12th the CWL hosted the monthly Birthday Party at Richmond Villa-Shown above are many of our RB Residents enjoying music provided by Eddie Pottie, Carl Grimes and their musical friends. Thanks to Maureen Cosman-Burke and her many helpers for a great job.

Benefit Auction

Friends of Darren Boudreau will hold an Auction Saturday, June 15th at MacBouch Tavern beginning at 2 pm. Musical entertainment provided. If anyone would like to make a donation please call Brenda MacPhee (535-3175) or Linda Burke (535-3152). Darren is the son of Gloria and Whitney Boudreau and is presently undergoing cancer treatment.

River Bourgeois Volunteers

River Bourgeois is very fortunate in the number of dedicated volunteers willing to contribute their free time to enhance community life. Each year the Municipality Of Richmond hosts a dinner to honor representatives from the various organizations in the County. The following RB residents received acknowledgement: RB 4-H Club-Lorraine Gates; Strait Richmond Hosp.-Monica Stone; St. John the Baptist parish Council-Lynn Grenier; RB Senior's Club-Sharon Chilvers; St. John the Baptist CWL-Sharon Digout; R.C. Legion Br. 47-Rita Landry and Monica McPhee represented the RBCSS. To all the

above we extend our congratulations and to all the other volunteers we send a great big thank you.

Deaths

David-Agnes Amelia of Petit DeGrat died at the Strait Richmond on May 23rd. Agnes was born in River Bourgeois, the daughter of the late Joseph and Alvina Landry. We express our sympathy to her sister Charlotte LeBlanc, brothers Gervase and Cletus Landry and their families.

Hardy-Annie, 94, daughter of the late Patrick and Mary (Lenanne) Clancy of Ireland died in Gabarus on May 26th. Our sympathy to her daughter, Patsy (Gilbert) Bourque and to Patsy's children-Richard, Nancy, and Robbie and their families.

MacDonald-Marion Frances passed away May 18th in Gabarus. Marion was the daughter of Annie and the late Charles Clancy. Once again to her sister Patsy (Gilbert) Bourque and their families we send our sympathy on the death of both her sister and mother.

History

We are asking for your help again. The following photo of two River Bourgeois girls which is from 1929, was received with the names 'Rita' and 'Allerina.' Perhaps the exact year is not correct but by looking at the clothing we know that it was most certainly from that time period. Perhaps someone will be able to verify if these are the correct names and their surnames. Please call Sharon (3516) or Helena MacKay at Helena.m@ns.sympatico.ca



Bits & Bites:

- Senior's 50+ Club meeting June 4th 1:30.

- Mini Bingo June 12th 1:30 at the senior's Bldg.
- Special Mini Bingo for Food Bank June 26th at 1:30 at the senior's Bldg.
- Cribbage game June 17th at 7 at the Seniors Bldg.
- CWL Provincial Convention hosted by St Theresa's Parish Council, Sydney will be held June 7- 9th. For more information please call Ann Clow (2726).
- Parent-Tot Program at Tara Lynne Center Mondays from 10am-12pm. Bring snacks for your child but No peanut butter due to allergy problems. There will be no Parent Tot Program during July & August
- Monthly Hall Committee Meeting at Tara Lynne Community Centre will be held Wednesday, June 19th at 7. Everyone welcome!
- Once again thanks to the generosity of everyone who contributed to Sleeping Children Around The World \$558 was raised and will help purchase "Kits" for children in Third World Countries.
- The River Bourgeois CAP Site will provide supervision while you write the Boaters Exam online. Cost of \$45.00 includes: loan of a manual, Boaters Exam, Operator Card, and shipping & handling. Assistance is available to anyone who is not familiar with computers! Please call Sherry Baccardax (3182) for more information or to make an appointment to take your exam.C@P site phone number is 535-3251 .
- Happy May Birthdays to Angela Burke (16th), Charlotte LeBlanc (22nd), Marie Boucher & Frances Digout (28th), Ann Louise Touesnard the big 50 also on the 28th and Kay Thomson was 75 on the 9th.
- Youth Development Committee is planning a major celebration for RB on Canada Day. Watch for detail in flyers and on Channel 10.
- We wish to thank Universal Photo for the picture of Fr. Sandy on the front page.
- Anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Centre should call Jocelyn Stone (3257); needing a liquor license for a function call Eddie Pottie (2515) at least a month ahead. Leona and Gerald Campbell have volunteered to take care of the Funeral Home. They can be reached at 535-2927.
- 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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