



# The River Round Up

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Volume 3

Number 8

August 2002

\$1.00

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## Bob Pettigrew- A Great Ambassador



Bob was born in Economy, the second of six children in 1924. At eighteen years of age Bob left home to join the army. His first assignment was to load pigs on a ship headed for overseas to feed our fighting soldiers. The dockworkers in Halifax were on strike for better wages (they were making \$10.00 an hour) while Bob received \$1.30 a "day" as a replacement crew. Following basic training in Yarmouth and advanced training in Aldershot, Bob soon left for Europe landing in Scotland and then on to England. As the regiment prepared for D-Day several members of the crew came down with the mumps and spinal meningitis so all were quarantined and they missed the most famous battle of the war and perhaps saved their lives.

After recuperation, the crew moved on to France where Bob joined the North Nova Scotia Highlanders regiment. Upon their arrival in Caen, France they discovered the only building standing was the church. Since Germany had retreated from central France the next assignment was to begin invading the seaports along the coast occupied by Germany. It was off the coast of Dover where Bob was hit in the back and leg by enemy gunfire. Bob was transferred back to

Canada to recuperate but unfortunately his leg had to be amputated at Camp Hill Hospital.

Bob spent the next six years with many ups and downs in his life as he operated the elevator at Camp Hill. He alleges to have taken Queen Elizabeth II for a ride on the elevator however the most important person he met on his lifts was an enchanting young lady named Mary Fougere of River Bourgeois. Mary worked in food services at the hospital and on September 18th, Bob & Mary will celebrate fifty years of wedded bliss. In 1954 Bob & Mary decided to make River Bourgeois their home.

Bob has been a member of the Legion for 57 years and has served two terms as president as well as many other positions on the executive committee. He was awarded the highest award in the legion the "Palm Leaf" and also the Meritorious Award for his many years of volunteer service. Bob was the President of Community Services of RB and still serves on the Board of Directors. Bob was also the first President of the senior's 50+ Club in RB and now serves as 1st Vice President. He was the First President of the Rich Co. Senior's Council that deals with concerns and the rights of the elderly and still presides on that board. Bob also is on the Strait Richmond Hospital Advisory Committee. He is a member of War Amps of Canada and has served as President of the NS Branch. In 1996 Bob was given the "Remarkable Senior's Award" from the Senior's Expo in Halifax. Oh yes! Bob was also Santa for many years. With all those achievements on his resume Bob likes to relax each weekday morning playing a game of cribbage with his friend, Max Mombourquette, over a beer in the tavern. River Bourgeois thanks you for all you have done and wishes you and Mary many more years of good health and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

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## The Davidson Musicians

Estwood Davidson was born in Chipman, New Brunswick. In 1913, as a young man he headed for

Halifax to seek employment. He found work in a garage and that led to his profession as a mechanic. Estwood always had a keen interest in music and began to take guitar lessons from a local professor, however work and music would soon take a back seat. When World War II broke out in Europe, Estwood joined the Navy and was quickly shipped overseas and served on several destroyers during the next six years.



*Estwood holding on to two of his awards-Lower picture are the talented Verna, Debbie and Harold.*

Prior to the war years Estwood had an acquaintance by the name of Winston "Scotty" Fitzgerald. Now Winston was in the process of carving a name for himself as a great violinist and invited Estwood to join him in creating a musical group along with Beatty Wallace on the piano. Thus the "Entertainers" were born. Over the next 26 years they would record several LP's, have their own radio show on CJCB, make television appearances, tour from Newfoundland to British Columbia and throughout the USA. They also became a popular fixture on the square dance circuit.

In 1956 Estwood took the beautiful Rachel MacPhee from River Bourgeois as his bride and they eventually made RB their home. Estwood opened "Davidson's Garage" and ran it for the next twenty-two years, retiring in 1981. Rachel and Estwood have three children, Debbie, Verna and Harold and all inherited their father's love of music. They began singing and playing music at a very early age, performing at various concerts and local events. Debbie took piano lessons from many music instructors and was soon tagging alongside dad and playing along with the band. Later, brother Harold would join the band as a bass guitarist. In the seventies, Debbie and Verna along with their childhood friend Darlene (Sampson) Beaulieu began singing for local weddings and many times Debbie would play the church organ. Harold's 1st venture

away from the family was with the Port Hawkesbury youth band followed by a group called "Breaking Tradition" with whom he produced three CD's. Harold travelled with this band all over Canada and the US and performed with famed folk artist John Prine. On July 14th Estwood celebrated his 89th birthday and he hopes music will always be part of the Davidson family and that the next generation of Derek, Robbie, Jordie and Myles will continue the family tradition. *Sharon Chilvers*

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## Another talented RB Musician



Yes! It's Jane Landry entertaining friends Mae MacPhee and Mary Boudreau-If you would like a tune drop up as she now has 2 additional accordions which she inherited from her uncle, George Pate.

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## Deaths

**Boudreau** Ephrem, 96, formerly of River Bourgeois died in Alymer, Quebec on June 26th, 2002. We express our sympathy to Paul & Michelle, Maurice & Louise, Cecile & Giles, his sisters and extended family. Ephrem was the author of "Riviere Bourgeois" which is a history of the River and "Glossaire Du Vieux Parler Acadien" a glossary of old Acadien expressions.

**Boucher** Leonard Joseph, 82 died at the Strait Richmond Hospital on July 4<sup>th</sup>. He was the son of the late Charles and Amelia (Sampson) Boucher of RB. Our sympathy to his wife Margaret and their family; his brother Joseph (Emily); sister Mary Bona and to all the extended family.

**MacEwen** Dorothy, 81, Of Lower Sackville died on July 20<sup>th</sup> in Halifax. Our sympathy to her brother Danny (Alice) Sampson and their family.

**O'Connell** Mary Jane, 87, died in Richmond Villa on July 13. Mary Jane was the daughter of the late Alex and Rachael (Sampson) Bourke and wife of the late

Stuart O'Connell. Our condolences to her son Donald and his children.

## History

In the May issue we printed a picture sent to us by Helena (Fougere) McKay for identification. Once again thanks for all the phone calls. The lady on the left is Serita Sampson, daughter of Agnes (Burke) & Charles Sampson and sister to our own Joan Viscount. She was married to Leo Wood and they lived in Pittsfield, Ma. She passed away a few years ago. Frances Digout told me that Rita went to normal college and taught at the Lower End school for a year.

For the lady on the right we have had several different id's but the majority feel that she is Marie Alexina Burke, daughter of Felicite (Boucher) and Cyprien Burke. She was married to Clarence Gamble.

### Jim Boucher "Boat Builder"

We received an email from Jim's son, Kenneth. He said some kind words about our web site and sent us a drawing with a poem by Alan Pearson about his father. He met Mr. & Mrs. Pearson in Florida with his mother a few years after his dad passed away. They spent some summers in River Bourgeois with great enjoyment. Here is Alan Pearson's tribute to Jim:



### "Boat Builder"

Boat Builder Jim Boucher- Please listen to me  
It's a boat that I'm needin' ... to go out to sea  
Not just for fishin' (Although that's a joy)  
But it's for the trainin' to give my small boy

So's he'll grow up knowin' how to handle the wheel  
Of a boat built more rugged than those made of steel,  
The pride that he'll feel with a boat built by "Jim"  
Will serve him through life like the best written hymn  
So I'll thank ye, good neighbor and friend of us all...  
If you'll just have it ready for us, when? By this fall?

© TEXT AND ILLUSTRATION BY ALAN PEARSON

## Bits & Bites:

- This year's CWL National Convention will be held August 10-14<sup>th</sup> in Moncton, NB. For further information call Ann Clow at 535-2726
- Congratulations to Elaine & Roy Fougere who celebrated their 25th wedding Anniversary on July 9th. Elaine & Roy have two children, Nicholas and Leia.
- Congratulations to David Digout who won the NSSAF Coach's Award at SAERC's annual sports's Banquet.
- Congratulations also to Michael Sampson (Ann & Joe) who graduated from NSCC in the Computer Systems Management & Support Program.
- T-Ball ages 3-6 yrs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11:30am at ball field behind TLC.
- Jr. Softball (co-ed) ages 7 and up- Tues & Thurs pm at 6-7:30 at local ball field. No need to register --just show up and have fun.
- Bonfire- Aug 8th, 7:30-8:30pm for children 9 yrs and under and 9-11pm for 10 and older behind TLC.
- Family Camp Out Aug 12 -Bring your tent to TLC -Wieners and marshmallows provided. Fee is \$5 and parents must accompany children.
- Kayaking-Aug 15, 10am - 9pm at Jones's mini Park on lower North Side Rd. Ages 17 and under must have adult with them. \$2 for ½ hour. BBQ 11-1 and 4-6.
- Pool Swim at Albert Touesnard's Pool on Aug 19, (no bathroom facilities) 7 and under 12:30-2pm: Age 8-12 2-3:30 pm 13 and older 3:30-5pm. No charge, but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Call Joanne @ 2770, Rose @ 2141 or Laurie @ 2313-You must pre-register.
- Sock Hop Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 1-4pm at TLC up to age 7
- 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 summer hours for the Capsite will be Mon, Thurs & Fri: 9am-12pm & 1pm- 4:30pm and Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am-8pm.
- 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.

Published monthly by RB Technology & Training Centre in co-operation with RB Community Services Society. Eds: Sharon Digout and Joseph MacPhee. Thanks to Brenda Burke & Jackie Digout for technical help, Lynn Boudreau for putting us online and Therese Pottie (2740) for looking after our subscription list.

## River Bourgeois 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival Schedule of Events

### August 27

9:00am Kids Tennis Tournament  
\$1.00 for singles \$1.00 for doubles

### August 28

9:00am Tennis Tournament Cont'd  
7:00pm Comedy Night & Official Opening (Tara Lynne Centre)

### August 29

9:00am Rain Day for Tennis  
5:00pm Adult Tennis Tournament  
\$5.00 for singles \$5.00 for doubles  
6:30pm – 8:30pm Pre-Teen Dance \$3.00  
9:00pm-12:00am Teen Dance \$5.00

### August 30

5:00pm Adult Tennis Cont'd  
6:00pm Kayaking @ Boyd's Wharf \$4.00 per half hour  
8:00pm Bingo

### August 31

6:30am-11:00am Heritage Walk (Historical Points of Interest)  
\$8.00 includes breakfast \$5.00 without  
Walk is from the Tara Lynne Centre down the North Side Road  
up Lavallee Lane and back to the centre  
7:00am-10:00am Men's Breakfast  
2 eggs, bacon/ham, toast, tea/coffee, juice \$5.00  
1 egg, bacon/ham, toast, tea/coffee, juice \$4.00  
toast, tea/coffee \$2.00  
8:00am Lob Ball Tournament begins  
8:00am-11:00am 18<sup>th</sup> Century "Show and Tell" (Tara Lynne Centre)  
10:00am-5:00pm Beer Garden @ the River Bourgeois Ball field  
10:00am Seniors Flea Market located in the Seniors Building  
1:00pm-4:00pm Children's Activities @ the Tara Lynne Centre  
2:00pm Merchandise Bingo  
4:00pm-6:00pm Steak & Stein  
\$10.00 includes: Steak & Draft or Steak & Pop,  
potato, onions, mushrooms, sour cream, roll, tea/coffee  
7:00pm Church service  
9:00pm-1:00am Adult Dance  
Music by: 2 Thumz Up  
\$7.00, 19 & over id's upon request

### September 1

8:00am Ball Tournament Cont'd  
10:00am Church Service  
12:00pm-5:00pm Beer Garden  
4:00pm-6:00pm Pot Luck Supper  
Adults \$6.00 Under 12 yrs \$3.00  
7:30pm Variety Concert – Adults \$5.00  
Seniors and Children  
Under 12 \$3.00