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# The River Round Up

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## Charles Digout



Born July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1919, third in a family of ten, to Victor and Mary Emma Digout. In the early years of his life they did not have any recreational facilities but they were versatile and made their own. They played pond hockey with newspapers for shin pads, slid on homemade skies and sleds. His first skates were wood-mounted and tied on pungoes with cod line. In summer time they played ball in some pretty rough fields and made their own balls with yarn and string. He learned to row as a young lad and did a lot of fishing in a rowboat in the harbour and also spent a lot of time swimming at Boyd's wharf.

As a teenager Charlie went to sea and joined the *CGS Arras*, a hospital ship for the Lunenburg fishing fleet and sailed the Grand Banks. The ship also escorted the *Bluenose* on its last race in Boston. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1939 when Canada declared war he stayed on the *Arras*, which was now converted to a minesweeper. Charlie took an ASTIC (anti-submarine) course and was drafted to *HMCS Acadia* and later was sent to Halifax for a submarine detector course and then joined the *Orilla*, a corvette. He spent the next three years in the North Atlantic on escort duty from Newfoundland to Ireland. Charlie remembers never being dry or warm while serving on the corvette.

In 1944 Charlie came back to Canada and married his sweetheart, Frances Sutherland of Halifax. Two

days later he was sent to Cornwallis for Officers Training and his new bride came to Digby so that they could have a honeymoon. Charlie was then drafted to St. John's, Newfoundland as Commanding Officer of a patrol boat on the coast. He was discharged in 1946 and became a civil servant working for the Navy. Charlie and Frances had three children, David who died at age two, Charlie Jr. now in Bedford and Judy in Dartmouth. In 1960 Charlie spent his last two years at sea as a second mate on a tanker. Upon returning he started a carpet laying business until he retired in the seventies and returned to good old RB. Sadly Frances passed away in 1999.

These days Charlie loves to garden and fish for mackerel and in the wintertime loves to ice fish for smelts and oh yes tell fish stories. Charlie can be seen daily walking JJ or JJ is walking Charlie, we're not sure. He enjoys visits to his children, grandchildren Ricky, Gregory and Jada and especially great grandchildren Zachary and Rachael.  
*Sharon Chilvers*

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## 2003-Primary Class



*Tyler, Michael, Blake, Nicholas, Kyle, Brydon, Jeremy & Adam*

These eight young men are the graduates of 2016 They will have to get prom dates from another community, as no girls were old enough to start school. Tyler Lang (Kerry & Dion), Michael Stone (Colleen & Darren), Blake Morrison (Jamie & Russell), Nicholas Dorey (Gena), Kyle Carter

(Cheryl & Lorin ), Brydon Fougere (Francine & Gary), Jeremy Gibson (Jennifer & Paul) and Adam Sampson (Joyce & John).

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## Legacy



Clara Burke & Vina Richard. Photo by Monica Stone

Two sisters Clara and Vina the daughters of Docite and Irene (Fougere) Landry and their husbands have left a legacy in River Bourgeois in regards to marriage longevity.

Clara and her husband Joe P. Burke were married for two months short of their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and had sixteen children of which seven have now been married more than fifty years. Alex & Amilda (Burke) are married 58 yrs, Raymond & Mildred (Pottie) 54 yrs, Anna & Albert (Sampson) 53 yrs, Theresa & Leo (Landry) 53 yrs, Vitas & Irene (Morrison) 52yrs, and this year the last two to reach this milestone were John & Alma (Burke) 50 yrs on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> and Ernest & Mary B (Pottie) on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>. The newlyweds of the family are Richard & Lise (Lefevre) at 44 yrs, Irene & Don (MacLaughlin) along with Emily & Fred (Harding) at 41 yrs and Roderick & Margaret (Owens) at “only” 39 yrs. Fourteen of the sixteen children(including Margaret, Anthony and Freddie) produced 81 grandchildren, 131 great-grandchildren and 2 great great-grandchildren making it a total of 230 direct descendants.

Vina (not to be outdone by her sister) and her husband, Charlie Richard were married seventy-two yrs and had eleven children with six having reached 50 yrs of wedded bliss. Alfred & Margaret (Digout) were married 57 yrs before Alfred passed away. Martin & Margaret (Stordy) are married 55 yrs, Egbert & Sally (Bataski) 53 yrs, Fabie & Casilda (Sampson) and Monica & Joe (Stone) are both married 51 yrs while Leo & Joan (Constable) are married 50 yrs. Next year Geraldine & Tom (Amero) and Tony & Ethel (Stordy) will be celebrating 50 yrs. The only newlyweds are John & Ann (Sawyer) who are “only” married 45yrs. Rita was married 49 yrs before John passed away. Nine of the eleven children produced 31 grandchildren, 48 great grandchildren and 11 great great-grandchildren for a total of 101 direct descendants.

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## Nature Notes

We currently have two birds on the NS Rare Bird Alert. One is a Yellow Crowned Night Heron who for the past month has been residing at Grandma’s B&B. It was first seen at Gerry & Mary’s but they couldn’t have been able to supply proper lodging as it moved on. She/he has been named *Jane* after guess who. Florence and Edward Touesnard have a Yellow Billed Cuckoo in their pasture on Church Point. We are looking for suggestions on names for that one. One redheaded fisherman has been mentioned.

Not to be outdone Laurie & Paul Zinck decided to take a moose for a walk and Mimi Fougere decided to have him over for dinner. Times they are changing.

We appreciate reports of different looking birds and usually drop everything to help with ID’s. Call George Digout @ 535-3516

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## Letters To The Editor:

### Letter from Jeanne Belford:

“Both my family and I would like to thank all those responsible for preparing, publishing and making internet- available, the River Bourgeois River Round Up - and special appreciation to Sharon Chilvers who interviews families and writes the monthly biographies. As genealogists you make our life so much easier! Thank you all so much.”

*Jeanne’s website for Isle Madame genealogy is [www3.ns.sympatico.ca/j.josse/jeannesmain.htm](http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/j.josse/jeannesmain.htm)*

### Letter from Ida Kline:



“First I would like to let you know how much I enjoy the River Round Up. Ann Clow introduced me to it. I would like your help in trying to identify a couple of pictures, one of which could be my grandmother, the other her two sisters: also anyone who may have information on her. During several trips to Cape Breton we have found some information about her siblings but have not been able to find much about her, other than her marriage. Her father was Andrew Landry born 1835 and mother Emily Langlois born 1829. Their children: were: Rosalie born 1851 married to Joseph Theophil Sampson; Andrew born 1853, married to Elizabeth Robertson.; my grandmother Leonie (also found names Mary &

Marguerite) who married Frances MacPhee (his second wife); Gertrude born 1861, married to Mathew Robertson.; Edmond born 1864, married to Margaret Fougere. and Amos born 1870, married to Margaret Ann Burke.

I would appreciate any information that your readers could supply on Leonie and also if they can identify the pictures. The one lady looks exactly like my mother but it isn't her."



Anyone with information please write to Ida Kline, 7001 Leppert St., Apt 211, Halifax, NS B3L 4R4 or call 453-2992.

#### Letter from Helena MacKay:

"If you would find a wee bit of space in your newsletter to tell the Fougère folks about the following event it would be very much appreciated: During the time of the Acadian Congress next year there will be a gathering of Fougères in D'Escousse. This gathering will include the descendants of Jean Fougère and Marie Bourg and there are many of us in many communities such as RB. The website for the Fougere Reunion group is:

<http://www.angelfire.com/folk/fougere>. If there are Fougère descendants in the River Bourgeois area who wish to attend or some who wish to help in some way; Annette and Allan Fougère look forward to hearing from interested folks. Perhaps there are folks who have photos and information to share; crafts or knitted items or quilted items expressing their Fougere ancestry. **Dates:** July 31-August 1, 2004 **Location:** D'Escousse - The Lennox Passage Yacht Club/ St. Hyacinth's Parish/D'Escousse Civic Improvement Hall for displays and gatherings. On Sunday, Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop of Prince Edward Island - Most Reverend Vernon Fougere, D.D. Organizers and Contact people are: Annette & Allan Fougère, P.O. Box 482, D'Escousse, NS B0E 1K0 To contact Annette & Allan: 902-226-3158 or Email: [allan.fougere@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:allan.fougere@ns.sympatico.ca)

Thanks a bunch! Helena

<http://www.angelfire.com/folk/henrymaryfolks>  
(Discover other reunion information for many Acadian families next summer by tapping on the following link. (<http://www.cma2004.com/>))

## RB Community Services Society

### Tender For Snow Removal:

Tenders for snow removal and sanding at Tara Lynne Community Centre & River Bourgeois Funeral Home will be received by the undersigned up to and including Tuesday, November 18. Tender submissions must include: Hourly rate for snow removal & equipment available; Hourly rate for sanding & equipment available. RBCSS advises that priority on this tender will be given to individuals residing in the community of River Bourgeois and/or operating businesses within the community. Tenders should be directed to: **Joseph V.A. MacPhee Secretary**, P.O. Box 56, River Bourgeois, N.S. B0E 2X0 or Emailed to: [jvmacphee@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jvmacphee@ns.sympatico.ca). Fax # is 535-2677.

**Community Celebration:** On November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Tara Lynne Center the RBCSS will host a lunch at 8 pm, followed by music/dance. There is no admission but a donation of non-perishable food for our Christmas Baskets would be welcomed. All RB residents are welcomed to join in the celebration.

### Fr. Roussel



Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church gathered at the TLC to say so long and thank you to Fr. Gerald Roussel who has been our weekend priest since May but has also spent lots of time filling in over the past years. He says he will be back next summer. George Landry is seen presenting him with a beautiful picture of the Lighthouse (with the church superimposed in the corner) by Raymond Doary on behalf of the Parish Council. He also received gifts from the CWL and RBCSS.

### Progress

Of the pictures below, the top one was taken in November 1932 during the building of the #4 Highway. The road started in 1931 and was completed in 1932 however it was not paved until 1937. A lot of people would probably say that it was the last time it was paved. The only difference is the process that took two years the first time was



completed in a month as a result of modern technology (see bottom picture).



Photo by Therese Pottie

## Births

**Clow:** Katelyn Mary, 7lbs 7oz, was born on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Peter and Maureen (Martell) of Port Hastings. Sister for Zachary. Congratulations to grandparents Dave and Ann Clow and great grandma May McPhee

## Weddings

**Aitkin/Matthews:** Michael Rodney, son of Brian & Cathy Aitkin and Melinda daughter of Delores & John Matthews of Grand Anse were married in River Bourgeois on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Michael & Melinda will reside in Halifax.

**Cote/MacDonald:** Yolanda Marie, daughter of Daniel & Linda Cote & David Ronald son of George & Cheryl MacDonald of Cole Harbour were married in St. Peters on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. Yolanda & David will reside in Hammonds Plains.

## Remembrance Day

And so when we see a poppy worn,  
Let us reflect on the burden borne  
By those who gave their, very all  
And asked to answer their country's call,  
That we at home in peace might live.  
Then wear a poppy. Remember - and Give  
LEST WE FORGET- *Courtesy of Ed.Pottie*

## Bits & Bites:

- On Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> the St. John the Baptist CWL will be holding their **Annual Christmas Bazaar**. Lunch (soup and sandwiches, tea & coffee at 11 to 12:30. Craft and Bake Sale from 11:30 to 2. Mini Bingo (proceeds to Lights for Life at Strait Richmond Hospital) downstairs at 2 pm.
  - **Christmas Merchandize Bingo** will be held on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at TLC sponsored by YDC.
  - **Pie Sale:** 9 inch apple/blueberry, cherry and raisin. Delivery on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> but must be ordered by 17<sup>th</sup>. Call Laurie @535-2313, Rose@2141 or Debbie @2573. \$5 for apple and \$6 for others.
  - **Seniors meeting** on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30.
  - **Bridge** on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at Senior's Bldg 1-4.
  - **CWL meeting** on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 in Vestry.
  - **Seniors Bingo** Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.
  - **RBCSS meeting** Nov 19<sup>th</sup> at TLC at 7pm
  - **45 Card game** every Sunday night 7:30 Seniors 50+.
  - **Cribbage game** every Monday night 7.
  - **Anniversaries:** Congratulations to Ken & Mary Cosman celebrating 51 yrs. and Joe & Anne Sampson 44 yrs. both on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Birthday greetings** to Abraham Burke, Raymond Robertson, Marguerite Fougere, Gloria Boudreau, David Clow, Carrie Truman, Peter Pottie. Monica MacPhee, Mary B Burke, Gloria LeBlanc & Leo Landry.
  - **Mugs** celebrating the 100th anniversary of our lighthouse are available at CAP site as are various sizes from our last order of **festival shirts**. We have a good selection of **used books**. The CAP site is in the back of the TLC. **The CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 pm & 6-9 pm and Friday 2-4 but appointments can be made on the weekends by calling Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516).
  - **A reminder** that if you wish to book the Tara Lynne Center, call Bob Park at 535-3274. People requiring use of the Funeral Home should call Leona & Gerald Campbell at 535-2927.
  - The River Round Up is available at the Bucky's Garage, RB Post Office or East Coast Credit Union. Subscriptions are available for \$12.00 locally, \$18.50 within Canada, and \$20.00 internationally per year.
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