



The River Round Up

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Rita Landry



Rita Maria was born on November 14th, 1920 the 3rd child of eleven to Charlie and Vina Richard of the Southside. Rita attended the two-room school in Cannes until she was twelve years old. As the oldest girl, when her mother suddenly became ill she quit school to tend to eight of the children. In 1942, she ventured off to Halifax and for the next few years Rita worked at the Mounted Police Barracks and also as a cook at Dalhousie's Sheriff Hall. She returned home to help her sick mother in 1946.

Rita had been quite smitten with a young gentleman from Cannes by the name of John Landry since she was a teenager, however, in 1939 when war broke out in Europe, John joined the army and was later sent overseas. For the next several years John's mother Susie was kept busy at the post office as John and Rita exchanged love letters. In 1946 when John was released from the Army he returned home to his sweetheart. He, however, refused to marry Rita until he had permanent employment. In June of 1948 he was hired as a Forest Ranger (where he remained for the next thirty-six years) and true to his word two months later on September 6th, 1948 John took Rita as his bride. John and Rita had six children: Therese who lives across the road from

mom; George who passed away in 1999; Jeanette who watches over mom; Lucille in Riverview, NB; Blaise in Baddeck and Lloyd who passed away this past summer. The family now has twelve grandchildren and four great grandchildren: Breanna, Jacob, Behnjamin, Asher along with one more on route. Sadly John passed away in 1993.

Rita not only took care of her family but also was very active in the community. In 1953, Rita became a founding member of the St. John the Baptist CWL and for the next fifty years she worked diligently for its many causes. She served eleven years as President and today she continues to send cards and letters to sick and shut-ins. Rita was also a member of the knitting club and the auction forty-five-card game club held weekly in one of the member's homes. In 1961, Rita and her friend Gelene Doary became charter members of the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary where they worked countless hours cooking, selling bingo cards and working the canteen, just a few of their many tasks. She continues to work at the bingos and the canteen to this day. Rita was awarded three Legion medals: the Meritorious Service Award in 1983, Charter Member Award and a Past Officer's Medal. She was the Silver Cross Mother on November 11th for the fourth time. She is a Charter Member of the Strait Richmond Hospital Auxiliary where she worked in the clinic and gift shop and is also a charter member of the Senior's 50+ Club since 1993. Rita has worked the bingos in RB since they began in the old hall and still doesn't miss working her regular shift each Friday night.

These days Rita enjoys knitting for the family and charities and crocheted nine afghans last year plus sweaters, mittens etc. She still enjoys her Sunday night forty-five, Monday night cribbage and her bingos. Rita remains ageless and this past month she discovered she was getting a new wisdom tooth. The people of River Bourgeois and all the organizations of which you are a part wish you many more years of wisdom, health and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

Father Reginald Currie

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new parish priest, Father Reginald Currie. Father was born in Reserve Mines and after receiving his BA degree from St. FX he decided to follow in his sister's (Carmelita, a nun with the Sister of Charity) religious footsteps and went to study at Holy Heart Seminary in Halifax. On May 27th, 1961 Father Currie was ordained at St. Ninian's Cathedral in Antigonish by Bishop Power. It was Bishop Power's first Ordination Celebration.



Father Currie's first assignment was to Sacred Heart Parish in Sydney as an assistant and he spent the next seven years working as a Diocesan Chaplain with Y.C.W. (Young Christian Workers) and the Y.C.S. (Young Christian Students). One of the many students was a young lady from RB named Marjorie Robertson whom Father Currie fondly remembers for her hard work and dedication. His first parish was St. Joseph's in Dingwall followed by St. Agnes in New Waterford and as Chaplain of the Coast Guard in Sydney. He also served on school boards in New Waterford and Victoria. Father Currie then took a year off to study Theology at Notre Dame University. Upon his return he served at St Peter's in Larry's River, St. Mary's in Mabou, St. Agnes in Pouch Cove, NF, and Stella Maris Parish in Inverness.

Father Currie served as a Spiritual Director at Recovery House for nine years as well as the Diocesan Director of Family Life. He then took a year sabbatical to study Christian Unity in Scotland, Ireland, Rome, Australia and the US. When he returned Father served in Holy Name Parish in Westville. In 2001, he semi-retired and went to work as a parish assistant in Los Angeles and Newfoundland. In 2003, Father came out of retirement to become our Parish Priest and we are very grateful. Father is very happy to be here and finds the people of RB very co-operative and the view from the Glebe House spectacular.

RBCSS

On Nov. 19th the RBCSS **Volunteer of the Year Award** was established whereby the Society will

recognize an outstanding volunteer annually beginning in 2003 and a plaque will be placed in the hall with the name of each year's recipient. This year's recipient was selected at the November board meeting due to time constraints. In the future any member of the community may send in a nomination.



Eddie Pottie & RBCSS chairman Wayne Bona

The 2003 Volunteer of the Year Award went to Eddie Pottie. He was nominated for his dedication as Chairperson of the 25th Anniversary Festival, which was a huge success. Eddie spent every waking hour at the TLC during the festival and many more hours in the month's prior in its organization. Eddie also played a large role in fundraising for the new lighthouse. He not only organized the variety concerts held in RB but many in the surrounding areas. Eddie also plays on a regular basis at the Richmond Villa for its residents and for many benefit concerts. Eddie has taken a much needed break from the RBCSS Board but we all want to congratulate you on receiving this much deserved award which was presented during the 2nd Annual RBCSS Community Appreciation Night.

My Famous Cousin/My Hero



Local artists, Brian Bona on the left and Harold Davidson on the right helped out McGinty's John Ferguson and Donnie Moore as they entertained a large crowd at the annual Tara Lynne Touesnard Bursary fundraising concert.

As part of their fundraiser to provide monies for young people interested in learning music, a 2003 compilation CD of Tara's music "Lets Never Say Farewell" is available at Joe Pops, Lynn's Flowers and MacIssac's Kiltmakers. The above photo was taken by Colin MacDougall who was recognized at the concert for his effort in keeping Tara Lynne's memory alive. This year, 10-year-old Shelbie (daughter of Karen (MacPhail) and Gerald

Mombourquette) shared with the audience a school project she wrote about Tara Lynne. We asked Shelbie to share her text with all the people who have never had the privilege of knowing Tara Lynne.

Shelbie wrote: “ My cousin, Tara Lynne was born on Sept. 4th, 1972 and she lived in River Bourgeois all of her life. Tara Lynne’s life ended at the age of 21 in a car accident on April 25th 1994. It has been many years since her death and to her family it seems like just yesterday. Tara Lynne was a great person, always kind, considerate, funny, caring and always giving of herself and her talents. Tara Lynne was a gifted and extraordinary fiddle player! She started playing at the age of 7. Her violin teacher’s name was Dr. Winnie Chafe, which meant she had to travel from RB to Sydney for her violin lessons.

Tara Lynne had three diseases throughout her life. She had a thyroid condition, a blood disorder called Porphyria and Rheumatoid Arthritis. Tara went through hard times with these diseases, but she kept on going. Even if she had to argue with her doctor, she still did!

Through her life, Tara won many awards and contests that she entered. One of her most extraordinary awards she got is the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award! The reason Tara got this award was because she was a good citizen and had courage and compassion the same as Terry did. Tara also got this award because she never gave up even though she had illnesses that made it hard to do things for people at times. Tara was always volunteering to play her violin for people in her community and she did excellent in schoolwork. Tara also got the YTV achievement award for being like Terry Fox, which is a great honor! She won the Old Tyme Fiddle Contest four years in a row. This is a contest that is held in Halifax every year for all ages. She also won the Atlantic Junior Citizen of the Year Award for 1989 when she was sixteen years old and the Cultural Life Award in 1991 when she was 18. It was amazing that Tara won the Cultural Award because most of the people that won it were older in age. Tara also won other contests that I will list at the end of my report.

Tara loved to play her violin so much that she decided to make three recordings of her music to share with others. Her first recording was called *Heritage*, which she made in 1988 when she was 15 years old. Her second recording was *Fiddle Fingers* which she made in 1990 when she was 17 years old. Her third was called *Bowing the Strings*, which was made in 1992 when she was 19 years old. If Tara did not make these three recordings, we would not be able to listen to her recordings now! Tara was a beautiful violin player and I love her music. Since I

loved her music so much I am now learning how to play the violin.

Tara was also a member of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and she was a concertmaster for the Acadia University Orchestra. She also enjoyed performing with the Cape Breton Summertime Revue, and she enjoyed playing all kinds of violin music. Before her death while attending Acadia University she composed a march called “MacKinnon’s March”. Most people would not be able to accomplish all this in twenty-one years like Tara did. Some day I would like to be like her because she was a great person on the inside. I was only 8 months old when Tara died and I wish I had got to know her. I’m glad I got to do this project on her life because I feel I got to know her better and it keeps her memory alive! Tara will always be my hero because of her talent, her determination and her desire to share with others! I hope this gives you an idea about how great my “Hero--Tara Lynne Touesnard” really was.”

Donation



Don Pottie (L) of River Bourgeois, East Coast Credit Union (St. Peter's Branch) Community Committee Chairman presents a donation to Carl Grimes Chairman of the River Bourgeois Economic Development Committee, the group responsible for rebuilding the River Bourgeois Lighthouse.

“Haunted Hall”



On Thursday, October 30th, the youth of River Bourgeois had fun getting a scare at the *Haunted Hall*. It was held at the TLC Center by the Youth Development Committee. Over 40 kids turned up for the kids Halloween party, which took place from 5-7. Here, they made Halloween bags, tattoos and spider hats! When the party ended, the haunted house was opened to the public. 110-120 people came for a

scare! Special thanks to the youth of River Bourgeois who volunteered; Julia Burke, Robin Merrick, Matthew Touesnard, Mathew Landry and James Kendall. We would also like to thank Paula, Rose, Debbie, Laurie, Linda, Joanne, Eddie, Sue, Mark, Nadine, Gary and Tanya. Everyone had a great time!
Sally Burke and Alisha Burke

Remembrance Day



Gervase Landry, Bob Pettigrew, Fabian Richard & Rita Landry

On Remembrance Day a service was held at our cenotaph to pay respect to the fallen and to those who continue to serve in the quest for peace. Gervase, Bob and Fabian laid wreaths in memory of those of our community who made the ultimate sacrifice and Rita was this year's Silver Cross Mother.

Births:

Dunbar: Camryn Elizabeth, 7lbs 2oz was born Nov. 21st in Halifax to Stephanie and Chris. Congratulations to grandparents Kenneth & Gloria LeBlanc and Don & Cathy Dunbar, Belgrave, ON and great grand mom Charlotte LeBlanc.

Deaths:

Goyetche: M. Valerie, 93, died on Nov. 12th at the Richmond Villa. Our condolences to her niece Henrietta Doary and her family.

Ranson: Frances May, 70, of Dartmouth died on November 5th. Our condolences to her daughter Sharon (Ricky) Stone and her family.

Bits and Bites;

- Apology: to Charlie Digout for adding two years to his age. He was born in 1919 not 1917.
- The CWL Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 2nd raised \$1554 for the many causes they support. The Mini Bingo raised \$493.25 for the Strait Richmond Hospital *Lights for Life* campaign. Winner of the Christmas Basket-Margaret Morrison, Afghan-Emma Burke, Manger-Josephine Morrison, & crafted wood cabinet-Ann Clow. Thanks to all for their support.
- **CWL Christmas dinner** Dec. 2 at 5 at Senior Bldg.

- CWL will be filling **Christmas Baskets** for the needy of the Community. If you know of anyone needing assistance, please call Sharon C 2512, Sharon D 3516 or Father Currie 2602.
- CWL is selling **sun catchers** of St. John the Baptist Church. Small \$10 & large \$13. Call Ann Clow (2726) or Leona (2927) to order.
- **Christmas Merchandize Bingo** on Dec 7th at 2 TLC sponsored by YDC.
- **Mini Bingo** Dec 10th 1:30 Seniors Bldg.
- **RB Senior's 50+ Club Potluck** Christmas Party at 12 on Dec. 13th at Senior's Bldg.
- **RBCSS Youth Development** will be holding a **skating party** in Louisdale **for all residents of River Bourgeois** on Dec 13th. Children skating party: 4-5 drinks & hot dogs. Skating 5-6.
- **Christmas Liturgies:** Children's Mass at 5pm Dec 24th, Midnight Mass with Choir at 11:30 and Christmas Day at 10 am.
- **Bridge Game** Dec 14th 1-4pm Seniors Bldg.
- Next **CAP site meeting** Wed., Jan. 7th at 7.
- Next **RBCSS meeting** Jan.21st at 7.
- Next **CWL meeting** Tues. Jan 13th 7.
- **Birthdays greetings** to Sylvia Pottie, Cletus Touesnard, Joe Sampson, Stan Digout, Alfred Touesnard, Obeline Burke, Madeline Cook, Emily Kendall, Rita LeBlanc, Alcantra Landry, Anita Wynands, Mildred Burke, Alma, Coleen, & Neil Burke. Special greetings to Mae McPhee 90, Annie Mae Burke & Valerie Boyd 89, and almost twins Rita Landry (83 on the 14th and Jane Landry (83 on the 15th).
- **Mugs & note cards** celebrating the 100th anniversary of our lighthouse are available at the CAP site. The **CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 & 6-9 pm and Friday 2-4 pm. The CAP site will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 20th until Jan. 4 inclusive except by appointment. Call Sherry 3182 or Sharon 3516.
- A reminder that anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Center should call Bob Park at 3274. People requiring use of funeral home should call Leona & Gerald Campbell at 2927.
- The Round Up is available at 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.
- **Merry Christmas to all from the CAP Site gang!**

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