



# The River Round Up

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## Ernest & Mary B. Burke An Artistic Family



*Ernest & Mary B. with some of their creations.*

Ernest was born April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1924 the sixth of sixteen children born to Joe P. and Clara Burke of the Southside. Mary B. was born on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1926 the youngest of three children to Willie and Bertha Pate of Hawker. Ernest and Mary B. chose to remain in RB after their schooling. Ernest worked in carpentry while Mary B. took care of her parents. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1953 after a two-year courtship they wed. Five children soon followed. Anna and twins Anita & Rita all live in Sackville, Bernard in Dartmouth and Basil in RB. Ernest and Mary B. also have four grandsons and two granddaughters.

Hobbies have always been an integral part of the Burke household. Mary B. designs and hooks the most remarkably beautiful rugs. Their children and many other relatives have some of these treasures in their homes. Ernest meanwhile is a very talented carver. Among his many creations are boats, squirrels, dolphins and many species of birds including eagles. Although Ernest comes from a family of many carvers, he is self-taught. He carves from looking at a photo and has a keen eye for detail.

Son Bernard is the artist of the family. Self-taught also, he draws the most incredible scenic pictures and is also an excellent photographer. Daughter Anita is the crafty one. She designs, scrolls and tole paints her many creations. Son Basil has inherited his father's carpentry skills and dabbles a bit in woodcarving and plans to pursue it in his retirement years. Rita is the gardener in the family while Anna has a collection of sixteen birds for pets. Mary B. and Ernest are also famous for their "green thumbs" with all of the roses, flowers and bushes in their garden. Everyone on the Southside can attest to the best rhubarb in RB. They are perhaps most legendary for their scrumptiously delicious, mouth watering, thick (non-fattening) cream that they sold all over Richmond County.

These days Ernest can be seen taking his daily walks with brother Anthony while Mary loves the company of granddaughters Sally and Julia. In October, Mary B. and Ernest will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and the people of River Bourgeois all wish them many more years of health and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

## The good and the bad old days!

According to Statistics Canada, life expectancy is 83 years for women and the high seventies for men. You will note that women live longer than men, that is so they can have the last word (only kidding ladies). I would like to reminisce about the days when I was growing up during the hungry thirties in a large family. We always refer to the good old days but some of them weren't so good.

### The not so good days:

-Having to go to the outside toilet on a stormy winter night in knee-high snow with the Eaton's catalogue for toilet paper.

-Cutting firewood and pit props with a buck saw.

-Breaking the ice on the water bucket to wash in the morning and walking a mile to school in all kinds of weather.

-In the summer, tramping through the woods looking for a stray cow, making hay by hand and weeding the gardens

-Rowing out to Bistouri Island for a load of kelp and then moving it from the boat to the garden with a wheelbarrow.

-Rounding up the sheep in the late fall.

-During this era tuberculosis was prevalent and many families were affected, including mine.

#### **The good old days:**

-Sneaking out in our bare feet about two weeks before we were allowed to.

-Catching that first trout in the spring at Hill's Lake.

-Spending days during the summer vacation fishing in a rowboat with Victor Burke.

-Playing baseball with our own brand of softball usually made of yarn and string or a sponge.

-Skating and playing hockey on the first frozen pond and later on the harbour. We used mostly homemade sticks and magazines stuffed in our socks for shin pads. My first skates were wood mounted and fastened on gumboots with cod line.

-Skiing with homemade skis and barrel staves.

-Hunting squirrels with slingshots. It wasn't a very lucrative hunt as we got 10 cents a pelt for our trouble, but in those days that would buy you a bag of candies and a bottle of pop or a pack of tobacco with paper.

These good olds were really good and are fondly remembered.

The number of people over sixty-five now comprise 12% of the Canadian population and it is time politicians stopped ignoring seniors. We may be getting old but we can still enjoy life and remember all the good things that have happened in our lifetime. We still have our dreams. I am 83 years old and recently had major surgery but I still hope to have a garden in the spring and a good summer of fishing in the Bay and on the Bras d'Or Lakes. I leave you with this quote from a good friend. "Dream of the days to come for they are yours to do with as you wish". *Charlie Digout*

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## CWL Annual Meeting

The meeting was held at the Tara Lynne Center on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> following a mass said by Father Zbigniew. President Ann Clow summarized the last year as follows:

Thanks to all members of the CWL as each and every one of you contributes so much to our council and we are grateful. To our secretary Sharon my right hand, to Debbie the treasurer who always makes

sure we don't go over budget, great job. Thanks also to all our conveners.



*Monica receiving spiritual advice from Father Zbigniew!*

*Spiritual Development*-Mary Fougere organizes prayers at wakes and spiritual readings at meetings to open our hearts and rekindle our spirits.

*Christian Family Life*-Joan Viscount and Lucille Boudreau organize the Walk for Life and Wrap Programs, collect grocery tapes for refunds, Pennies for life, and provide gifts for newly-weds and special anniversaries.

*Organization*-Monica McPhee for the difficult task of collecting dues and recruiting new members.

*Education*-Leona Campbell has the most demanding job, from recruiting teachers to attending meetings and introducing new programs to the children in religion classes.

*Community Life*-Maureen Cosman-Burke organizes the Christmas Bazaar and Richmond Villa parties along with Operation Christmas Child. Maureen is also involved in raising funds for the Imagina Missions in the Philippines.

*Resolutions*-Therese Pottie, a lifetime member, drafts up letters to government and the Council of Churches and wherever else it is deemed necessary to express our opinions and those of the league.

*Communications*-Deirdre Boyd informs the community about events and is always present to fill anyone's shoes that is absent.

There are many other acts of kindness that don't go unnoticed such as Monica Stone's work with Palliative Care, Rita Landry's sending cards to sick and shut-ins, Christmas boxes delivered to the needy by Sharon & George and Sharon & Glyn; Therese Digout organizing and raising funds for World Youth Day, Madeline Cook's donation of quilts to raise funds; all those who work at hospital lunches and funeral receptions, those who donate local crafts & money anonymously and the list goes on.

Let us all remember those who have been afflicted with the horrible disease of Alzheimer's.

Secret sisters from the past year were revealed and new ones chosen. The meeting ended with a beautiful lunch prepared by Debbie Landry.

God Bless you all.

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## Happy 112<sup>th</sup> birthday



*Sister Anne Sampson*

February 5<sup>th</sup> marked a significant day in the history of our community – our very own Sr. Cecile-Marie F. J. (Annie Adele Samson) now residing in Moncton, celebrated her 112th birthday, becoming one of Canada's four oldest citizens. Sr. Cecile is the daughter of Thomas Samson and Philomene (Bourque) originally of French Cove. Siblings included: Albany (Bennie), Mary, Charles (Charlie Tom) Sophia, Victoria, Catherine, Amable (a Toma), Mary Barb, Henry, and Minnie. Minnie cooked hamburgers for the children past her 100th birthday.

I published some of Sr.'s poems on the occasion of her 109th birthday in a booklet entitled 'Poems and Lyrics by a Centenarian'. Research uncovered more of her work and subsequent editions expanded to 60 pages. The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition is currently in the works. (Keeping pace with Sr. isn't easy.) My cousin Sr. Lola Burke F.J, who also lives in Moncton, has been of tremendous assistance in my endeavours. She advises that Sr. remarked at her 112th birthday party "God forgot I'm still living." 3rd Editions of the booklet may be purchased at Volume One in Port Hawkesbury or any of the Coles Book Stores. *Garvie Samson*

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## Richmond County Winter Festival

The following is a summary of the events that took place in RB.

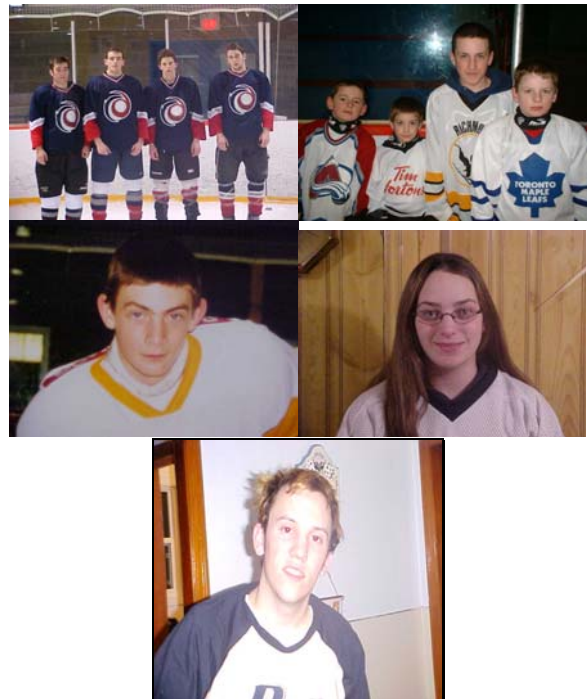
The 4H winter fun day was held on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Tara Lynne Centre. Scheduled events were supposed to take place outdoors, however the chill factor dropped to more than thirty five degrees below so all twenty children and their parents quickly headed to warmer pastures. Great fun was had by all!

A cribbage tournament was held at Seniors 50+ Club on Feb. 17th. Twelve pairs played, seven pairs tied for first, two for second and two for third. As of printing time the playoff continues. Oops! News flash! It's a draw between Charlie Digout & Marion Gerrior and Michael & Gregory Sampson. A cribbage game is held every third Monday of each month at the Seniors 50+ Club. Come and join us.

Bridge Tournament at TLC on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Twenty-six people showed up for the challenge and following a few slams and a few laughs winners were declared. Congratulations to the high scorers, David Digout and Michael Sampson. We will be having more tournaments in the future. Dates to be advised.

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## River Bourgeois Future Olympians!



*Top Row-L-Joel Burke, Steven Fillion, Barry Boudreau, & Peter Tanner; R-Tyler Carter, Liam Burke, Kyle Burke & Coady Carter; Middle Row-Shawn Boucher & Daphne LeBlanc; Bottom-Matthew Brewer.*

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## Births

Congratulations to the following parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

**Burke:** Ryan Kyle-weighing 7 lbs.13 oz., was born Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. in Halifax to Wayne and Denise (Pittman). 11<sup>th</sup> Congratulations to grandparents Annie Burke of the Southside and Alma & Ivan Pittman of Miles Cove, Nfld.

**Burke:** Brett Liam-weighing 5lbs 4 oz., was born Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> in Halifax to Lee and Sandra (Carroll). Congratulations to the grandmas Margie Carroll of



Guysborough and to Annie Burke of the Southside once again.

**Yuille:** Owen Jude-was born Jan.19<sup>th</sup> in Dartmouth, the son of Melanie and Paul, first grandchild to Robert and Charlene Yuille and second great grandchild to Eileen and Robert Yuille.

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## Anniversaries

**Bouchard**-Congratulations to Joe and Margaret Bouchard on their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. They have five children, twelve grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

**Fougere**-Belated congratulations to Rene & Annette Fougere on their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. They have two daughters, Suzanne & Lisa.

**Yuille**-Congratulations to Bob and Eileen Yuille on their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bob & Eileen have three children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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## Deaths

**Bourque:** Ernest, 80, of Church Point died on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. He was the son of Hilaire and Ida (Sampson) Bourque. We wish to express our sympathy to his wife Margaret; sons, Gerry, Basil, Lawrence, Cedric and Paul; and daughters, Ida, Maria, June, Norma and Esther and their families. Also our condolences to his sisters Frances Digout & Marie Boucher and brother Joseph.

**Burke:** Nelson William died in Carstairs, Alberta on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> at age 37. Nelson was the son of Sharon Burke of Sampsonville and the late William (Billo) Burke. Our condolences to his mother and brothers Clint and Duane, his grandparents Obeline Burke & Tony Burke and George & Genevieve Carter of Sampsonville and to his extended family and friends.

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## Bits & Bites:

- **Correction and apology**-In a few of the February issues of the River Round Up we inadvertently printed *the late* Basil Sampson. He is of course alive and well. We wish to thank Margaret Richard for pointing this out and send a sincere apology to Basil and his family.
- **CWL merchandise bingo** at the Tara Lynne at 2 pm on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Annual pancake** supper sponsored by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council will be held at the TLC from 4-6 pm on Shrove Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Come and support a good cause and enjoy a meal and conversation.
- **Meeting** at Seniors 50+ Club Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm. Annual meeting has been delayed until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **CWL Meeting** on Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> following 6:30 pm Mass.
- **Mini Bingo** at Seniors 50+ Club on Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.
- **Cribbage** game Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at Seniors 50+ club.
- **RBCCS** meeting Wed., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Our webpage is [www.riverbourgeois.ca](http://www.riverbourgeois.ca). Annual meeting to be held in April.
- **Parent tot program** on Monday mornings at TLC from 10-12 am.
- **Forty-five** card games continue every Sunday at 7pm at the Senior's 50+ Club.
- **Bingo** every Friday evening at Tara Lynne Center.
- **Happy Birthday** to all who celebrated birthdays in Feb. Gervase Landry, Susan Stone, Blaisé Boyd, Rita Sampson, Theresa Landry, Maynard Boyd, Bucky Sampson, Jean Pottie, Helen Konning, Joan Stone, Jocelyn Stone, Karen Fougere and Joseph Baccardax. Special 86<sup>th</sup> to Eunice Landry of Seaview.
- **A reminder** that anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Centre should call Cynthia Pottie at 535-2054, needing a license for a function call Eddie Pottie at 535-2515 at least a month in advance and those requiring use of Funeral Home should call Leona & Gerald Campbell at 535-2927.
- **CAP site winter hours** are Mon to Thurs. 2-4 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. Friday, 2-4 p.m. We will be closed on the weekends but appointments can be made by calling Sherry at 535-3182 or Sharon at 535-3516. CAP site phone 535-3251. Email is [rbcap@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:rbcap@ns.sympatico.ca)
- **CAP site** now has a good **selection of books**. Need something to read, drop in during their hours of operation and you can purchase a paperback for \$1.00 or a hardcover for \$2.00. Donation of books gratefully appreciated.
- **Audio books** are also available for loan. Please feel free to drop in, see our selection and sign out a book to listen to in your home, car or while you go for a walk.
- **The Round Up** is available at Bucky's Garage, First Richmond Credit Union or RB Post Office for \$1.00 and subscriptions are available for \$12.00 per year in the RB area. Mail outs are \$18.50 within Canada and \$20.00 internationally per year.

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