



The River Round Up

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Congratulations Eddie!



On March the 12th, Chief Warrant Officer Edward Martin Pottie was presented with the Queen's Jubilee Medal at Pier 21 in Halifax. The commemorative medal was created to mark the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty's reign and to honor the outstanding and exemplary contribution of Canadian citizens to their community and to their country. In the letter Eddie received, it is stated, "Your achievements serve as an example of dedication and hard work and you have demonstrated that one person's work can make a difference in the lives of other Nova Scotians."

On behalf of all our local communities and beyond that have been recipients of Eddie's help whether it be for our local Community Services Society, for the countless benefits, church groups etc, we congratulate you on winning this prestigious award but do not understand why you think you got it for shooting two rabbits.

Remember

Some of our families have loved ones serving in the Persian Gulf. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. We hope that they will come home safely and that peace return soon to the world.

RB "Youth" Development

In the summer of 2001, four mothers of our community, Debbie Landry, Rose Merrick, Sharon Stone and Jocelyn Stone, met to discuss the lack of activities for our youth in this community. The result was a brilliant idea to form a committee of interested parents and youth. Ten groups of parents joined who were eager to do what was necessary to get the children involved. In September 2000, the Youth Development Committee (YDC) was formed as a division of the River Bourgeois Community Service Society (RBCCS). They report on all their functions and monies at the Society's monthly meetings.



The committee's first project was to reinstate teen and preteen dances including the ones held festival week. They soon realized that hiring a DJ was very expensive and with a \$4,000 loan purchased a music machine. Six months later with various fundraisers such as turkey pies sales, dances, flea market and a luncheon they repaid their loan. Their next project was to perform a major facelift on the community playground. A multi-purpose court was installed next to the tennis court at a cost of approx. four thousand dollars of which three thousand was a loan from RBCCS. The youth committee took over the janitorial position for five months to help pay back

some of these monies, however, due to prior commitments they were not able to continue. Finishing touches on the multi court are scheduled for this spring and fundraising continues.

Last summer, the committee asked the children what activities they wanted and a long list was created. A twenty-five hundred dollar grant was received from the County of Richmond (thanks to efforts by Joe MacPhee) allowing a part time student to be hired to assist with the children and to purchase equipment. Basketball hoops, balls, tee ball, softball equipment and nets for the multi purpose courts were made possible by these funds. During the summer, members organized campouts, bon fires, bike races, Bounce A Rama, kayaking, tee ball, softball, track and field, pool swims and many barbecues. Baseball equipment was also purchased for an eight to eleven age team that was coached by Darren Stone. Congratulations to the team for winning the Rich. Co. Minor Baseball Assoc. Trophy. All events were of little or no cost to the children.

The YDC volunteered to organize the 2002 Canada Day events and obtained one thousand dollars from the County. A tree was purchased and planted for the annual tree planting ceremony; Adam Cooke entertained the children while face painting, balloon games and game booths took place. Jason MacDonald entertained during the barbecue and all enjoyed cake and ice cream. Watch for the 2003 celebration schedule of events. YDC also organized the Children's annual Christmas party. Santa & Mrs Claus (Pene & Leslie Pottie) presented gifts to the children. Thanks to the RBCCS for their \$500 donation. A Halloween party was also held for children eight and under and approximately 50 children enjoyed Fun Days during the March break.

Many donations have been received along the way both from parents and business. Special thanks to NSPC-\$1000 to purchase swing; **R.M. Landry**-donation of wood for the playground; **Burke Bros. Trucking**-donation of gravel and use of their backhoe; **Richmond Enterprises**-use of their backhoe; **Martin Marietta**-donation of gravel; **Bank of Montreal**-a \$750 donation and to **Bernard Burke & Albert Touesnard** for the use of their swimming pools.

A lot of hard work and commitment go into all of the events. A huge thanks to all present and past members of the committee for all their time and efforts, and also to RBCCS for free use of the hall for most of the activities. The committee is always interested in getting new members. New faces mean new ideas! You can contact Nadine 2760, Joanne at 2770 or Laurie at 2313. *Sharon Chilvers*

River Bourgeois Lighthouse Born 1903, Died 1990, Cause of Death, Fire.

As you all are well aware the lighthouse in our community was intentionally destroyed by fire one morning back in the spring of 1990. This was done without consultation with the community. Since then numerous talks and meetings have taken place over the years between various government officials and representatives from the community to no avail. Finally progress has been made to get possession of the land and rebuild the structure. The Community Economic Development Committee of River Bourgeois Community Services Society (RBCSS), through the competent leadership of Mr. Carl Grimes, has successfully gained possession of the property. After approximately two years of hard work and negotiations, we now have full ownership of the land in order to carry out the task of rebuilding the lighthouse. The land now belongs to the RBCSS and the people of River Bourgeois.



River Bourgeois Lighthouse-Photo courtesy of Ann Touesnard

This building is part of the heritage and history of River Bourgeois and would provide a great tourist attraction if rebuilt. Not only would it be a tourist attraction but also give that little extra beauty to our already beautiful community. To this end, the RBCSS has appointed a Fund Raising Committee to raise funds in order to reconstruct the building. Garvie Samson has already generously donated some funds through the sale of his book that was written about River Bourgeois, but much more is required. This is where all of you come in as the fund raising committee cannot do it all by themselves. The fund raising committee has put together various functions throughout the summer and if as many people as possible could attend, this would certainly speed up the project and difficult task at hand. *Watch the Bits & Bites column for fund raising events that start April 12th.*

As well, as most of you might be aware, this summer also marks the 25th anniversary of our Festival and wouldn't it be wonderful if this project could be completed by then. Again I leave it up to all of you and your commitment in seeing this most important project through. It's not only for the people residing here now as the lighthouse would make this community that much more beautiful for generations to come. The challenge is here for **all of us** to raise the monies to succeed in the re-construction of this very worthwhile project, which will again become the pivotal historic scenic monumental site within our community.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the project can do so at the First Richmond Credit Union or call Monica McPhee at 2743 or Carl Grimes at 2035. Hope to see you all at the fund-raising functions. I'll be there for one. *Eddie Pottie*

A Chance Encounter

A Dundee man finally gets to thank a crewmember that rescued him in a gale some 50 years ago. It took 50 years, but Arnold Chamberlain of Dundee, Cape Breton, finally had an opportunity to thank one of the men who rescued him from a fishing boat back in 1952. Mr. Chamberlain was working in Meat Cove back then. A friend asked him for a drive to Bay St. Lawrence to pick up a new boat. When they arrived, his friend got into the rum and asked for another favour. "Would Mr. Chamberlain sail the vessel back to Meat Cove?" I told him I had no experience sailing. Mr. Chamberlain told Cindy Britten of the Reporter in Port Hawkesbury. "But he insisted there was nothing to it." He was wrong. The seven-metre fishing boat hit a gale of about 30 to 40 knots and the engine failed. Mr. Chamberlain and two other men were stuck "with no oars, no anchor in seas with swells over 15 feet high." The situation looked grim. Thankfully the RCMP cutter, McBrine, was in the area when it received a call about the overdue fishing boat.

Gerald Campbell was one of the crew on the McBrine. He said radar in 1952 wasn't very reliable, but the skipper estimated the area where the boat might be and plotted a course. "We knew pretty well where they should be," Mr. Campbell said. The McBrine found the three men in the nick of time. The seas were so rough that Mr. Chamberlain and the two other men couldn't even climb aboard the cutter. "When the waves brought us up to the deck, two big guys pulled one of us aboard," said Mr. Chamberlain. "Then we'd go down and on the next swell they'd grab another." All three were brought aboard safely, given RCMP uniforms to change into and a steak dinner, though they couldn't eat it. The men were

suffering from hypothermia. They never did get the names of the crew of the McBrine.

Fast-forward 50 years. Just recently Gerald Campbell was telling the story of the rescue off Cape North in 1952 to a group gathered in a local store in River Bourgeois. Little did he know that a son of Mr. Chamberlain's was in the audience. Mr. Campbell was surprised to discover that one of the crew lived in the area all this time. "So for all these years, we've been seeing each other once in a while, neither of us knew one had rescued the other," Mr. Chamberlain said. When the two men met, Mr. Chamberlain gave him a long-delayed handshake of thanks. Mr. Campbell said, "The fact that you're here is thanks enough from me." *Reprinted from the Chronicle Herald, Sunday January 26, 2003*

Postscript-Subsequently Gerald joined the Town of Baie d'Urfe, Quebec Police and Fire Department where he served for several years later returning to his home in Cape Breton and served as Sheriff and Prothonotary for five years and for the last several years served as Justice of the Peace and Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and is presently also on the Board of Cape Breton Crime Stoppers. He has lived in River Bourgeois since marrying Leona MacDonald in 1973.

Mary Emma and Mary Barb



Photo courtesy of Elaine Burke

Remember these ladies-they used to come to the Festival and give all the local news. Here they are at the "Over 40" pageant in 1990. Hope they are back for this year's festival.

Mi Carème

Can you imagine living without computers, television, radio or even the daily newspaper?

During the 1930's and 40's this would have been the way of life if you lived in River Bourgeois or in most of the communities around us. Since people didn't have these forms of entertainment, they provided their own and Mi Carème was one of them.

We know that forty days before Easter, we have a season called Lent-in French, Le Carème. This is a period in which people prepare spiritually for Easter. Years ago people observed Lent by Fasting (reducing the amount of food they ate) making sacrifices and spending long periods of time in prayer. Half way through Lent many people wanted some diversion so they practised a custom called Demi (half) Carème. This custom is thought to have been introduced by the early settlers.

Demi or Mi Carème was great fun and very entertaining. People dressed up as you would for a masquerade dance, in all kinds of costumes and went to the homes in the village. They were welcomed and there would be music, singing and dancing. They disguised their voices as others tried to guess their identity; if they were recognized, they unmasked but if not, they proceeded to other houses.

Mi Carème was a way of life of surviving long, cold winters and fostered a spirit of friendship and community, but as time went on, the custom was gradually discontinued as people found new forms of entertainment. As they read this article about Mi-Carème, many seniors will likely have happy memories of this fun pastime of years ago. *Therese Digout*

History: *The River Round Up-Feb 1958: A few "Micaremes" did the rounds of the village on Monday and Tuesday night. Micaraming being the old French custom of dressing in costume, with masks, and going around the houses so people so people will try to guess who they are under the masks. This custom used to take place in the middle of lent from which the name "Micareme" or "middle of lent" came. The few Micaremes, making their appearance now, is a far cry from years ago, when almost the whole male population of River Bourgeois dressed up.*

Deaths

Sampson: Jessie, 67, passed away at the Strait Richmond Hospital on March 11. She was the daughter of the late Hugh & Catherine (MacLeod) MacPhail of Oban. She was predeceased by her husband, Amos. We extend our sympathy to her sister, brothers and their families.

Thibeau: Eileen, daughter of the late Mary Charlotte (Fougere) and Josime Burke passed away in Hamilton, ON earlier this month. We express our condolences to her husband, Lou and their family as well as her brothers Leo and George.

Bits & Bites

- **CAP site meeting** on Wed., Apr. 5th at 7 pm.

- **A Roast Beef Dinner** will take place Sun, April 6th from 11 am to 2 pm at TLC. Dinner includes tea/coffee and dessert. \$8. for adults and \$4 for children under ten. Call Joanne (2770) or Paula (3050) before April 5th for takeouts in RB only. Dinner put on by YDC..
- **Mini Bingo**-Seniors Bldg. Apr. 9th at 1:30 pm.
- **Festival meeting** Wed., Apr. 9th at 7 pm at TLC.
- **Lighthouse Pub Night** at TLC on Apr. 12th. Bar opens at 8 pm. Adm-\$4.00 Local entertainment. Proceeds are to the Lighthouse Rebuilding Fund. You must be over 19. Sponsored by RBCSS.
- There will be a **Turkey Pie Sale** on Apr. 12th. Pies will be delivered for \$6.50. Call Peter (2473) or Debbie (2573) to order. Sponsored by the 4-H Club.
- **CWL meeting** on Monday, Apr. 14th.
- **Mini Bingo**-Apr.23rd: 1:30 at Senior's Bldg. Proceeds to food bank.
- **Annual meeting of the RBCSS** on Apr. 23rd at 7 pm at the TLC. Everyone invited to attend.
- The YDC is holding a **Tea & Social** on **Apr. 28th** at 7 pm. Please come with your suggestions on what else can be done to help our children
- **Flea Market** at TLC on May 3rd and 4th 12-5 pm. Tables are \$5.00-to reserve a table call Joe MacPhee (2677).
- **Mother's Day Dinner** at TLC from 11-1 pm on May 11th followed by a **variety concert** at 2 pm. Watch for details.
- Happy Birthday to Lucille DeWolfe, Claire MacPhee, Gerry Fougere, Clifford Touesnard Carmen Fougere and all others that have March Birthdays
- **A reminder** that anyone wishing to book the TLC should call Bob Park (3274); needing a liquor license for a function call Eddie Pottie (2515) at least a month in advance and those requiring the Funeral Home should call Leona & Gerald Campbell (2927).
- **The CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 pm & 6-9 pm and Fri. 2-4. We will be closed from April 5-13 for computer updating.. Don't forget to visit our site for used books. We are closed on the weekends but appointments can be made by calling Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516).
- The River Round Up is available at the Bucky's convenience store, RB Post Office or First Richmond Credit Union. Subscriptions are available for \$12.00 locally, \$18.50 within Canada, and \$20.00 internationally per year.

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