



The River Round UP

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Father Zbigniew Siemionow



Father relaxing at Glebe House

In a small town of Nidzica, Poland on April 5th, 1971 a young couple Wanda & Kazimierz Seimionow welcomed their first-born child named Zbigniew. Little did these parents know that someday their son would find his way to River Bourgeois and become such an integral part of our lives.

When Zbigniew was five months old, the Siemionow family moved to an industrial town of 4000 people called Tarnow, where there was more employment. The family welcomed a daughter, Malgorzata, the following year. At age three, Zbigniew experienced life's first tragedy when his father was killed in an accident. Both sets of grandparents lived in the same town and became an even more important part of Zbigniew's life.

The government of Poland, being communist following World War II had little tolerance for the Catholic Religion. The citizens of Poland had always been predominately Catholic and their strong faith made them even more determined to maintain their religious beliefs. By the time Zbigniew was a teenager the government had all but given up in their

attempts to stop the practice of Catholicism. More than 95 percent of Catholics attended church regularly however with the fall of Communist Party in the late eighties the percentage of churchgoers fell to 65 percent, as there was no longer a challenge to defy the government.

In 1989, at the young age of eighteen, Zbigniew made a conscientious decision to join the priesthood. Following six years of study at a Seminary he was ordained in 1996 and was now known as "Father Zbigniew". Father shared the parish of Saint Martin (12,000 people) with four other priests. On a regular Sunday he said three Masses per day and heard confessions during the other Masses. Five to six hours per day during the week was spent teaching religion at the schools and during Easter week the sacrament of Reconciliation started at 6:30 am and ended at 7 pm.

In 2001, Bishop Colin Campbell came to Poland in search of three priests to serve in the Antigonish Diocese and soon afterwards Father Zbigniew was River Bourgeois bound.

Father spent the first five months at UCCB in Sydney studying English while residing at St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Sydney. The next four months were spent learning the liturgy in English under the direction of Sister Agnes Cordeau of Holy Angels Parish. In June of 2002, Father arrived here in RB to a change of pace from his large parish in Poland but he has gradually become accustomed to a new way of life. Father likes RB but admits to missing his family and friends. Father had an opportunity to see Pope Paul II in Toronto when he went with the youth of our community last July.

When asked if he would remain in Canada he replied "I came here to serve under the direction of my bishop and can be called back at any time". We are very selfish here in River Bourgeois so we hope that it will be a long time before that phone call arrives *Sharon Chilvers*.

T.J. Burke

Congratulations to TJ (Tyler Jason) who has won the award for "Best Senior Male Cadet". The criteria for this award are uniform appearance, participation in sports and competitions, attendance and drill marching. TJ also received the "Strathcona Trust Fund Medal" This medal is the highest award that can be bestowed on a cadet in recognition of exemplary performance in physical and military training. Lord Strathcona's objective in 1909 when he established this fund was to encourage the improvement of the physical and intellectual capabilities of cadets and to foster patriotism in cadets through the acquisition of a good knowledge of military matters



Kelsey & TJ receiving their awards

Not to be outdone TJ's sister, Kelsey, received the award for "Best Junior Female Cadet" Kelsey and TJ are the children of Larry and Theresa Burke of the Southside .

Operation Maple Syrup

For the last few weeks, maple syrup producers across the region have been up to their buckets in sap. Adrian Touesnard's Maple Stand up in Oban is winding down now and what started out as a grim looking season has turned out not so bad. When to tap the Maple tree (Rock Maple is best) is one of the biggest decisions he has to make. If you tap (put a Spigot in the trunk after drilling a hole) before the sap is ready to flow from the roots, you might have to tap again. If you wait too long, you might miss the run as sap flow is highly weather dependent. Temperatures must be below freezing at night and rise to + 5 degrees for a few days to trigger the sap flow. The sap is allowed to drip into an aluminium bucket ,collected , pooled and toted back to Adrian's workshop which becomes a sugar shack for a couple of weeks; and boiled for hours in an evaporator to

get rid of all the water until you reach the syrup stage which is determined with different instruments.



Gerard Touesnard collecting sap. Photo by Dorothy Barnard

It takes from 40-60 gallons of sap to make a gallon of maple syrup. The process including making the road accessible ,the sterilization of equipment, tapping, collecting, evaporating ,filtering ,bottling etc. plus all the fretting as to whether the sap will run is worth it when you get to taste the syrup. No! It doesn't hurt the trees and folklore has it that the sap stops running when the frogs start to sing. If it's a good year, you may see a sign on Tina and Adrian's lawn saying "Maple Syrup For Sale."

Senior 50 + Club Annual Meeting

The tenth annual meeting was held on April 1st. The Executive for the next year is as follows. President -Anne Sampson, 1st Vice- Joe MacPhee, 2nd Vice- Mary Touesnard, Secretary -Sharon Chilvers and Treasurer- Mary Ellen Pentecost. Bob Pettigrew was made an honorary member for his years on the Executive. Joe Boucher was presented with a gift for always being there to shovel snow and clean.

President Anne Sampson summed up the last year as follows "Thanks to the executive for their hard work, I would like to give special thanks to Monica Stone for her continuous updates on the rights of senior's, Joe Boucher for building maintenance , Mary Cosman for ensuring that everyone is kept informed of upcoming events, Madeline Cook for her membership drive (we now number eighty-five and counting) Bob Pettigrew for calling the bingos and Casilda Richard for sending cards to the sick and shut-ins. *Cassilda, we are thinking of you and hope you are back soon.*

Thanks to all members for supporting our club. Forty-five card games were held every Sunday night along with monthly cribbage games. Mini bingo's continued on the second Wed. of each month. The club members enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner and also a summer luncheon. Two merchandise bingos were held last year to raise funds to be able to

have these events at no cost to members. Also two special mini bingoes were held in aid of the community food bank. "Everyone doesn't have to be perfect to be wonderful" Let this year be even better." Pot Luck supper was enjoyed by all.

RBCSS Annual Meeting

The 2003 Board of Directors was installed on Apr.23rd-Wayne Bona-Chairman, Sharon Chilvers-Vice Pres, Monica McPhee -Treasurer, Joe MacPhee-Secretary. Sharon Digout, Raymond Doary, Michael Fougere, Carl Grimes, George J Landry, Donna Martin, Rose Merrick, Bob Pettigrew, Eddie Pottie, Anne Sampson, Gregory Sampson, Joan Sparling and Darren Stone.

Excerpts from Chairman's Report- "...some new developments in 2002 included the deck on the hall, declaration of the TLC as smoke free, revamping of hall policies and procedures, securing the lighthouse property from DOT for reconstruction of the building, repairs and modifications to the ball field, playground and tennis courts, and another successful festival....Some major future activities include the 25th Anniversary Festival with two weeks of planned events, a major fund raising campaign to secure funding for the reconstruction of the lighthouse, and other necessary program and property maintenance. In closing I enjoyed the year, as Chairperson, working with the Executive, Committee Chairs, other Board members and the many volunteers who contributed to making RB a very active community and a special place to live. There are far too many to name.Lastly I would like to thank the residents of RB for their constructive criticism, guidance, and support for the RBCSS. Together, we pride in benefiting our community

Parent & Tot Program



Adam Sampson ,Donovan Landry ,Dale Burke, Daniel King and mom's Joyce Sampson & Bonita King.

Parent & Tot was started about two years ago. Every Monday the kids show up with their

moms (sometimes fathers or grandparents) at the TLC around 10 and play with the toys or play dough. At 11 is snack time supplied by the kids, followed by a craft and then maybe a story or song. At 12 we all go home. Over the winter attendance has been low with about 4-5 kids, we hope with the nice weather we will see some olds faces again and maybe some new faces. *Wanda Burke*

A True Story

The following was received from Clarence Landry for printing in the Round Up:



Eunice, Guy, Clarence and Joyce

RB family roots still traveling through time as the year's tic-tic along taking its toll on family lives.

Hello! Readers, I am Clarence Landry, once living in RB, now in Seaview only an arms reach from my parent's roots... Father and mother were both Landry's from RB My poor late father Guy Abram Landry and my still living mother Eunice, who is living with us (Clarence and wife Joyce) for the past 15 years at the age of 86 With only photo pictures to focus my eyes upon to see my late brother Hervie, for he passed away in the early year of 1938 at the young age of two. Still active in my life today is my one and only sister Rodena (Dena), born in the summer of 1939. I arrived in Dec.1944 forming a new root to a well-fertilized family tree

With the passing of time, the new root is fading, for Joyce and I, sadly, have no family to carry the Landry name. My sister Dena has three children, whom are all married with families of their own. The Landry blood even mixed with Dickson's and McPhee's in my niece and nephews-Boys and Girls will form new family tree roots while in their lasting and beyond life on earth in their future years to follow with the children's children A different family tree root will form and may twine it's way to return to Landry root land of RB at some later point in time. Remembering with his final touch "God Knows Best" *Clarence Landry*

Lighthouse Update

The fundraising for rebuilding the RB lighthouse got underway with a rousing start (\$470) with a pub night at the TLC on Apr 12th Garvie Sampson presented a cheque for \$550 to Carl Grimes who also announced an anonymous donation of \$4000. Thanks also to George Robertson of MacBouch Tavern who is selling 50-50 tickets on forty-five card nights. On **May 3rd there will be another pub night** at the TLC and on May 16th. Garvie has arranged for a **fundraiser at the Brightwood Golf & Country club house (227 School St. Dart)**. Lots of Scottish music; starts at 7:30 and admission is \$10. All proceeds go this fund. So please take a trip up, pass the word along etc. It's a good chance to have some fun, meet with relatives, old friends and make some new ones.

Births

Pottie: Gage Joseph Roy, 6 lbs 6 oz. born April 2nd son of Laurie and Michael of RB. Gage is welcomed by big brothers Joshua, Michael and Christian.

Marshall: Shelby Janine, 9lbs 2oz to Leann and Jimmy. Congratulations to 1st time grandparents Darlene and Darrell Martell and # 31 for Irene Johnson and also great-grandparents # 1 for Leona & Harold Martell and # 13th for Charlotte LeBlanc...

Deaths

We wish to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the following:

Beranger: Amelia Dunford, 86, died on April 23rd in Halifax. She is survived by Charlie, her husband of sixty yrs, and their family. Her sister in-law is Margaret Bouchard.

Burke: Evelina, 89, died on April 3rd at Richmond Villa. She was the daughter of the late William N. and Sarah Jane (Landry) Burke. She is survived by her sister Mathilda and several nieces and nephews

Doary: Joseph Clifford, 76, of Louisdale, stepfather of Cynthia Pottie died on April 9th.

Martell: Howard, 49, of Samson's Cove died April 21st. Lucille Boudreau is Howard's sister.

Trueman: Herbert Roy, 82, of River Bourgeois died April 15th... He is survived by Carrie (Dugas), his wife of 61 yrs. and children Joan, Yvonne, Sharon and Ronald and their families.

Bits & Bites:

- Would the **lady from Boyd's Lane** who left her groceries at Village Grocery in St. Peters please pick them up as the milk is going sour.

- **North American Migratory Bird** count is now in its 12th year and the date for this year is Sat .May 10 (rain or shine!). Participants can spend the whole or part day in the field or they can watch their feeders. You do not have to be an expert birder so if you would like to take part contact George Digout (County Co-ordinator) @ 535-3516.
- **Congratulations** Raymond and Mildred on winning \$10,000 in the Canadian Diabetes Association lottery on April 1st. They first thought it was an April fool's joke but happy it wasn't. Raymond and Mildred celebrated with their 6 children and 16 grandchildren.
- **Parent & Tot** on Mon..at TLC from 10-12.
- **Forty-five's** every Sun. at Seniors 50 +
- **Flea Market** at TLC on May 4th 12-5pm. Tables are \$5.00 and to reserve call Joe MacPhee at 535-2677.
- **Meeting** at 50 + Club May 6th at 1:30
- **Mother's Day** dinner at TLC from 11 to 1pm on Sunday May 11th followed by a **variety concert** at 2pm.
- **CWL** meeting May 12th at 7 Pm in vestry
- **Mini Bingo** at Seniors May 14th 1:30pm
- **Merchandise Bingo** at TLC on Mon., May 19th at 2 pm sponsored by Seniors 50+club
- **Cribbage** games will be held every Monday at 7 pm at Seniors 50 + club.
- **RBCCS** meeting May 21st at 7pm TLC
- **Happy Birthday** to all who celebrated birthdays in April; Ernest Burke, Rachael Davidson, Sylvia Hall, Edward Touesnard, Bernard Burke, Judy Davies, Shirley Cordick and Hughie Samson.
- **A reminder** that anyone wishing to book the TLC call Bob Park at 535-3274 or 227-0125 needing a license for a function call Eddie Pottie at 535-2515 at least a month in advance and for use of the funeral home Leona and Gerald Campbell at 535-2927.
- **Cap Site** hours are Mon to Thurs. 2-4 pm and 6-9 pm. Friday 2-4pm We are closed on the weekends; but you can call Sherry at 3182 or Sharon 3516 for an appointment
- **The Round Up** is available at the Bucky's convenience store, RB Post Office or The 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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