



# The River Round Up

Volume 4

Number 8

August 2003

\$1.00

## River Bourgeois 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Festival - August 23 –31<sup>st</sup>



Princess Pageant 1988: Laurie (Burke) Landry, Lisette (Burke) MacDonald, Wendy (Owens) Abbott.

Everything is all set to go so please join us for the week long celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Festival in beautiful River Bourgeois. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, we start off the festivities with an antique car show, a beer garden and barbecue which will be followed by a pub night at the Tara Lynne Center featuring Cyril MacPhee. For the following week there are events for young and old. The official opening is Monday night and Mimi, Deirdre & Audrey have all kinds of surprises in store. A parade, pageants, dances, food, ballgames, children's events and lots of music are all part of this year's activities. Don't forget to get your tickets (available at the C@P site) for the ATV which will be drawn for on the afternoon of the 31<sup>st</sup>.

The opening of our new lighthouse, (a replica of the original which was built one hundred years ago in 1903) takes place on the first weekend with a boat parade, blessing of the building and more music. We are hoping for lots of boats in the harbour for the parade on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

For more information visit our website at:  
[www.riverbourgeois.ca](http://www.riverbourgeois.ca).

## Gerard Touesnard

In 1896, a young sixteen year old by the name of Emile Touesnard from France was serving in the French Navy when the ship docked off the shores of Cape Breton. Emile tied his clothing to his head, jumped ship and swam to shore eventually ending up in River Bourgeois. He would later marry Mary Sampson and have ten children thus starting a family tree that now numbers almost three hundred. This story is not about Emile but about the wondrous life of his roving seventh son, a cute blue-eyed blond who was born on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1920 and named Gerard Michael.



Gerard and his late wife Cecile

Gerard left for Halifax after his schooling to work. However, a short time later war broke out and in 1940 he joined the Merchant Marines. Gerard sailed on the *Foundation Franklin*, an ocean tug vessel that sailed along the Canadian shorelines rescuing the broken down ships and returning them to Halifax or St. John's for repair. On Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945 he scurried home to RB to marry his longtime sweetheart the beautiful Cecile Sampson. A year later son Adrian arrived followed by three daughters Vivian, Mary-Agnes and Darlene. All three girls married Sampson's (their mother and grandmother's maiden name) and they all reside in Louisdale while Adrian lives in pop's front yard. The family now includes ten grandchildren and seven (soon to be eight) great grandchildren.

In 1945, Gerard began a string of careers. He went to work at Val Kyte's service station in St. Peter's and in 1947 left to build his own service station/grocery store in RB now known as Bucky's. Minor car repairs were done here along with tire/gas sales and also keeping the east end supplied with food. In 1955, Gerard and Cecile sold the business to Walter Fougere and Gerard went to dabble in car sales for the next two years. In 1957, Gerard now headed out to the lake boats in Ontario where he remained until 1959 and upon his return, moved to St. Peters where he started a beef farming business. When the business became too large and more land was needed Gerard packed up his family once again and moved to Seaview, where now the farm included dairy products. The Willie Nelson song "On the road again" was based on Gerard's life.

In 1974 with the intention of moving back to RB they sold the business to an American. However, Cecile really wanted to stay in the same area so they changed their minds and bought a large parcel of land in Oban. There was only one problem, there wasn't a house on the property so they purchased Amable Burke's house on the North side and hauled it with trucks and tractors (very slowly) up to Oban without so much as breaking a window. Here they farmed both beef and sheep and in his spare time Gerard also experimented in real estate. Meanwhile, Cecile set up a food stand next to her son's yard in RB and sold fruit from down the valley and local farmers. Daughter Vivian and her husband would later use this land to build Howard's Groceries. Every spring Gerard would take his wife on a week's long vacation to PEI where they would have their wool spun into knitting yarn and blankets. In 1988 due to Cecile's failing health they once again moved to RB and for the next twelve years Gerard nursed and catered to her. Sadly, Cecile passed away in July 2000 after fifty-five years together.

These days Gerard squanders his days wearing out a path to his son's door. He spends his spring days with Adrian in the production of Maple Syrup. He also helps Adrian in the making of outdoor furniture from alders. The girls drop by weekly to make sure he is well fed and to take care of the cleaning. Gerard does not plan on any new moves except for the one straight above (that's what he believes). Gerard, you are a very special person, you have touched the hearts of many and the people of River Bourgeois wish you nothing but the best.

*Sharon Chilvers*

## Canada Day Celebrations

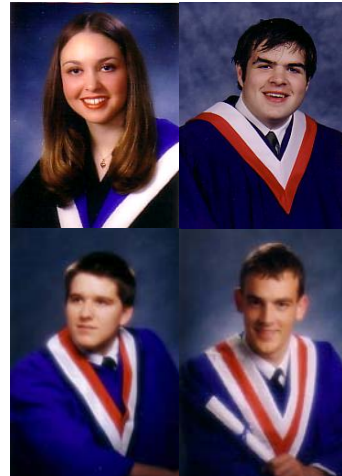
On July first, the Youth Development Committee organized a great party at the Tara Lynne Center.

Lots of barbecued food, salads and goodies were served to a large crowd. There was great music being played on stage and I think I saw Alice and Danny Sampson dancing. The Committee wishes to thank the Municipality in helping them finance this celebration along with the purchase of another beautiful scarlet Maple Tree which is planted by the TLC.



*Rose Merrick & Paula LaFantaisie busy cooking on July 1<sup>st</sup>.*

## University & High School Graduates



Top left is Jessica Oliver, daughter of Graham Oliver and Marjorie Robertson of Kippens, NL who received her Bachelor of Arts with first class honors in English at the May convocation at St. F.X. Jessica was the recipient of the University Gold Medal for highest Average in the BA. Faculty. She was also awarded the Margaret Mac Gillivray-MacDougall prize for English and the Rev. R.J. MacSween Prize for the highest Average in the four year Honors program. Jessica also received the Kappa Pi Gamma Scholarship and was selected to be a member of this international Honor Society. She plans to pursue a masters/PhD degree in English in 2005. Jessica is the granddaughter of Mary Ann Robertson and the late Charles Robertson of Church Point and the late Catherine and the late Robert Oliver of Point Tupper.

The last three photos are of our high school graduates which missed the last issue. Top right is Mark Digout, bottom left Nicholas Fougere and bottom right Steven Filion. We omitted that TJ Burke also received the Fr. Charles Brewer Award from the Parish Council and we also misspelled Betty and Melissa's name as Parks, not Park.

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## Young Graduates



Michael & Tyler Stone in their caps and gowns as they graduated from Playschool in June. Michael (left), age 4, is the son of Colleen & Darren Stone of RB and Tyler, age 5, is the son of Sandra & Kevin Stone of Lower Sackville. Michael & Tyler's River Bourgeois grandparents are Ethel & George Stone and their great grandmother is Mary Bona.

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## RB Technology & Training Center



Our staff at the cap site for the summer months is: Dana MacPhail (Nancy & Wayne) who is a fourth year Journalism student at St. Thomas University. Dana is responsible for the day-to-day activities at the C@P Site and for preparation of our festival. She is funded for 12 weeks from the Federal Government summer student grant; Heidi Stone (Sharon & Ricky) who is employed on an eight week grant from the Provincial Government works on typing the old River Round Ups and other historical projects. Heidi will be entering St. Mary's University in the fall; Peter Tanner (Karen & Doug) back for his third year, is responsible for all the painting and yard work around

the recreation center. Peter is funded by the Municipality.

All are into the spirit of the festival and in the C@P site you can find collages of pictures from past festivals (we could use more if anyone would like to donate them). They are also preparing an album on the building of the light house. Drop in and look around. If you need help during festival week - they do everything with a smile.

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## Weddings

**Burke:** Ramona Lynn, daughter of Margaret & Roderick was married on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of July in Dartmouth to Kelvin Hennberry of Fredericton. They will reside in Halifax.

**Hartling/Pottie:** Congratulations to Deanna Marie, daughter of Claire Chenier and Eddie Pottie, and Robert Anthony who were married on July 5<sup>th</sup>, at St. Ignatius in Bedford. Deanna, the granddaughter of Cletus Landry, and Robert will reside in Bedford.

**Mitchell/Touesnard:** On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Marc Touesnard of RB was married to Charlene Martell of Arichat. The marriage celebrated by Fr. Duncan MacIssac took place at St. John The Baptist Church. Reception took place at the Tara Lynne Centre with lots of family and friends attending. Both Marc and Charlene are employed at Premium Seafoods in Arichat and have made their home in RB.

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## Deaths

**Landry:** Sgt Lloyd A, age 46, passed away on Tues July 22<sup>nd</sup> in Halifax. Lloyd was the son of Rita (Richard) and the late John Landry. To his mother Rita, son, Jonathan, daughter Amy, his sisters Therese, Jeanette, Lucille, and brother Blaise and their families we send our deepest sympathy. Lloyd was predeceased by an infant son, Mathieu and his brother George.

**Maher:** Claire Elizabeth Virginia, daughter of Sarah and the late Dr. Joseph Digout passed away on July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Plymouth, England after a brief illness. Our condolences go out to her mom, husband Pat and sister Yvonne, brother Danny and their families.

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## History

### The first settlers at River Bourgeois?

It is believed that the first settlers at River Bourgeois were established there sometime around 1770-75 at a place called Les Étang.

*Les Étang ont été pendant très longtemps la patrie des Richards. Le premier, cependant, à s'y établir aurait été un nommé Léli Cordeau à qui le gouvernement avait concédé une terre vers 1770. Des terres furent concédées aussi à Urbain Cordeau, Richard McPhee, Patrice Pâté, Galetan (ou Gaéton) Richard, Mais pendant longtemps il n'y avait que des*



*Richard à cet endroit (Ephrem Boudreau, Rivière-Bourgeois, Les Éditions Lescaobot, Yarmouth, 1984, pp 24-25).*

This story is repeated in Garvie Samson's book on River Bourgeois (Garvie Samson, The River That Isn't, Published by Author, Dartmouth, 1994, p. 16). The evidence, however, does not support this version of the story since the main protagonists in the story arrived at River Bourgeois much later. The story of Lily Cordeau is recounted in his petitions for land in 1812 and 1817.

*Petition to Nepean, 1812: Petitioner, a native of Disgoose, age 37, with a wife and seven children, lost all his belongings in the storm of the preceding September. He was invited by his brother-in-law, Mathew Balang, to share a farm on the Island of Barrachois De Cutteau near the Bourgeois River. Petitioner built a house on the lot and lives there with his family. Note: Balang has sold the lot to Thomas Thomas for 5 and has removed to Tracadie, N.S. Petitioner asks that his claims be protected. Petition to Ainslie, 1817: Petitioner renews his petition, and states that the lot is a peninsula, not an island as first stated. Report of Crawley to Crowdy: 80 acres, one half the peninsula on the north side of the Lenox Passage called l' Ile des Coteaux. Plan (Cape Breton land petitions and other material 1787-1864, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management).*

Lily's brother Urbain (Urban) received a grant of land at the same time. A map showing the location of the grant confirms that this is in fact at the Étangs. A quick calculation of the ages of Lily and Urban suggests that they were born sometime around 1775 and 1780 respectively which is consistent with their ages as reported on the 1813 Militia List as 38 and 35. It must be concluded that the Cordeau brothers were not the first settlers at River Bourgeois. We need only look at the 1811 Census to confirm that they were still living at D'Escousse, consistent with their story as reported above.

*Paul Touesnard*

So who were the first settlers? The conclusion will be printed in September issue.

*This was sent to us by Paul, son of Gladys and the late Davy Touesnard. Paul currently lives in Ottawa where he has worked for the federal government since 1980. He has a Master's degree in Economics from Dalhousie University. Married with three kids (ages 12, 16 and 18); Paul has had a keen interest in the genealogy and the history of River Bourgeois for many years and has his own web site*

<http://members.rogers.com/touesnard/contents.html> containing information about the original families at River Bourgeois and their descendants.

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## Bits & Bites:

- CAP site meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- Senior's Bingo Aug.13th, 1:30pm

- Cribbage every Monday at 7pm at Senior's Bldg.
- 45 card game every Sun at 7:30pm at Senior's Bldg.
- On Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> the annual birding field trip to Point Michaud Beach sponsored by the Nova Scotia Bird Society will be held. Contact George Digout at 535-3516 for details.
- The Richmond Co. Recreation Dept will be sponsoring a children's day camp for ages 5-10 from 10-3 at the TLC. Registration is Mon Aug 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. The fee is \$ 10. per child. Please bring your child's MSI number, lunch and sunscreen.
- Claire Bouchard is wondering if anyone has a picture of her parent's (Obeline and the late Tony Burke) house from Seaview. Please call her at 535-2546.
- Congratulations to Faye and Alan Gibson who will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 12<sup>th</sup> and to Lucille and Maurice Landry who celebrated their 47<sup>th</sup> on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Happy birthday to the following who celebrated in July. Charlie Digout, Elaine Burke, Virginia Sampson, Mary Ellen Pentecost, David Burke, Betty Park, George Robertson, Glyn Chilvers, Ric Chenier, Gerald LeBlanc, Joe Boucher, Stanley MacPhee, Dorothy Sampson, Leo Fougere. Special greeting to Estwood Davison who turned 90 on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Found in front of Senior's Bldg. A silver ring with green stone. Call 535-2512 if it is yours.
- **A reminder** that if you wish to book the Tara Lynne Center, call Bob Park at 535-3274. If you are having a function which requires a liquor license, you now have to apply for it yourself. If you need help ask Bob or call Eddie Pottie at - 535-2515. People requiring use of the Funeral Home should call Leona & Gerald Campbell at 535-2927.
- **The CAP Site hours for the summer** -Open on Mon. & Tues from 8:30am-8pm and 8:30am-5pm Wed. to Fri. Don't forget to visit our site for used books, notecards, RB T-Shirts, aprons, etc. 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 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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*Published monthly by RB Technology & Training Centre in co-operation with RB Community Services Society. Eds: Sharon Digout & Sharon Chilvers. Thanks to Dana MacPhail & Heidi Stone for technical help, Lynn Boudreau for putting us online, and Therese Pottie (2740) for looking after all subscriptions.*

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