



The River Round Up

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AWESOME



Photo by Gerry Fougere

Awesome is the only word to describe Aug 24th as we celebrated the opening of the new lighthouse. Twenty -five boats sailed up the harbour to the site of our new lighthouse to the sound of Edna Casey playing the bagpipes. Pat Fougere was there in his dory & Roderick Burke in his small cedar strip boat (he said it was a bit overwhelming) as they competed for space with the larger vessels.



Photo by Joe MacPhee.

The cutting of the ribbon by Daphne Carter, representative of NSPC. Holding the ribbon are Charlotte LeBlanc, wife of Fred the last lighthouse keeper of the original lighthouse and Alfred Touesnard, owner of the land above the lighthouse. At the microphone is Carl Grimes, chairperson of the RB Economic development committee. Charlotte is also the mother of Gerald LeBlanc, contractor for the lighthouse.

Hundreds lined the roads in cars and a large crowd gathered for the cutting of the ribbon to officially declare it opened. Following the festivities at the light house site, the celebration continued at the Tara Lynne Center with music, food and refreshments and as we drove home the lighthouse beacon was shining.



Photo by Joe MacPhee

At the opening ceremony, Eddie Pottie presented to Carl Grimes and his Economic Committee an album with pictures of the different stages of the reconstruction. On the last page Therese Digout wrote "George Bernard Shaw once said 'People are always blaming their circumstances on others. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, they make them', and so it was with the River Bourgeois Community Services Committee which looked at the lighthouse issue.

Through circumstances over which we had no control, the community lost a part of its heritage-The Lighthouse.-The Committee could have complained and blamed the Dept. of Transport-but they chose to change the circumstances and today we see the result of their determination. To the members of this committee and to all who helped restore this landmark, we are grateful and we thank you.

We are very proud of our heritage but I am sure our forefathers would be just as proud of River Bourgeois in 2003.

Jerry Burke



Jerry Joseph, the son of Leonard and Mary Cecilia (Sampson) Burke was born on May 12th 1961. Jerry attended primary at River Bourgeois School however due to his many challenges he transferred to the “Opportunity Work Shop” in Arichat where he learned independent living, worked in the bakery and also stripping furniture. In 1979, when the shop closed in Arichat Jerry went on to the Port Hawkesbury workshop.

Like every young man Jerry dreamed of being a fireman when he grew up. His fascination with the fire department never faltered and his parents often took him to see the fire trucks and have a chat with the fireman. In 1998 the St. Peters District fire department made Jerry an “Honorary member”.

In this distinguished position Jerry can ride on the trucks during parades, attend their Christmas parties and participate in the monthly meetings. Jerry, proud of such an achievement, wondered what he could do as part of this prestigious department to better serve the community. He came up with the ingenious idea that, if all the homes had reflective civic numbers in their driveway it would make the life of the fire emergency response team and paramedics much simpler at nighttime. So with a little help from mom, Jerry contacted everyone in River Bourgeois and soon the majority of the residents had reflective signs in their driveway. Jerry’s colleagues were so impressed with his determination that they contacted ATV and he became the “Maritimer of the Week”.

Jerry was also made an “Honorary Member of the River Bourgeois Community Services Society” in appreciation for his dedication in attending all the concerts and any other community events taking place at the hall. With this honour Jerry is invited to attend any public function that occurs at the Tara Lynne centre at no charge. Jerry’s accomplishments do not stop here. In June of this year he was awarded a “Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation” from the Richmond Recreation department for all his work at

the Richmond Villa. He helps in the kitchen, gets water for the elderly, keeps company with those who don’t have any visitors and these are just a few of the good deeds he does.

On the social front, Jerry loves to dance and among his favourite partners are Esther MacDonnell, Rena Burke and Janet LeBlanc. He claims Donald and Georgie are pretty passive type of guys but Gerald is very jealous when he dances with his wife.

Jerry you have made River Bourgeois proud to have you as a member and perhaps we can all learn from your examples that one person “can” make a difference. All the best, from the residents of River Bourgeois.

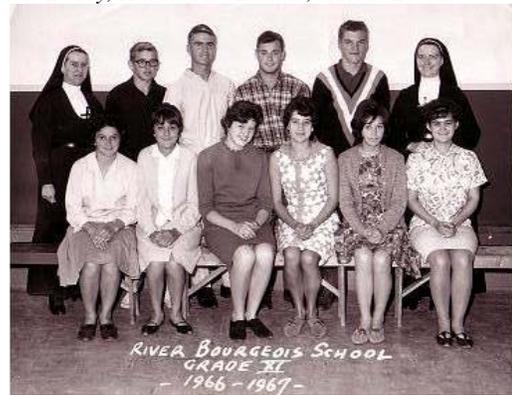
Sharon Chilvers

A bit of nostalgia



Photo courtesy of Ann Clow & George Bourque

1954-55 Class of Stella Maris School--Back row-L-R-Emile Touesnard, Gilbert Boucher, Francis Boudreau, Eleanor Boudreau, Betty Ann Touesnard, Florence Goyetche, Judy Richard, Nicole Touesnard, Gary Sampson, Billy Babin, LeRoy MacDonald: Middle row, Earl Fougere, Marie Doary, Marie Bowser, Estelle Digout, Gladys Bouchard, Helen Burke, Audrey Pottie, Rose MacPhee, Elaine Richard, Anne Boucher, Therese MacDonald, Margurite Sampson, Arthur Digout, Kneeling, Albert Richard, Edward Touesnard, Hubert Fougere, Gerry Fougere, Arthur Doary, Hubert MacDonald, Gerald Burke.



*The last grade 11 class from the Stella Maris school-
Back row-Sister Antonine, Joey Harris, Louis Digout,
Patrick Fougere, Gregory Buckley, Sister Adeline
Front Row-Sharon LeBlanc, Emily Bouchard, Shirley
Bowers, Alice Doary, Linda DeWolfe, Bernadette
Thibeau.*

The Name Song

*Ever hear Eddie Pottie sing his song about the River names
and wondered what they were. I have, so I asked Eddie to
share it with us.*

Here's a little song about our history
It's about French names and the way they were told
to me
And it's one thing I wish we still had
'Twas the way that kids were named after Moms and
Dads

I'll just give you some examples then you'll see
Names like Daillé a Pierre and Anthony à Joe P.
There was Amable à Daillé and Alice à Charlie
Edgar à Joe and Leo à Simon MacPhee

Simon à Barbe and Zaïe à Félix
Lawrence à George and Victor à Dominique
Tom à Ned and Bernadette à Charlie
Hilda à Joe and Raymond à Willard Pottie

Kids were named after their Mommies and their Dads
Because of the Bible names that they all had
Wives were also named after their husbands too
Like Evelyn à Sam or Thérèse à Fred Digout

I know I'll miss a lot of their names
Like Peter à Henri and Peter à Ugene
Leo à Josime and Charlie à Ned
Fred à Fidel and Marguerite à Alfred

There was Johnny à Patoune and Peter à Aggie
Joseph Emma and ti Joe à Jimmy
Suzanne à Vitaile and Amable à Toumas
Joseph Élaire and Mary à Tannuts

There was Charlie à Doll and Amable à Tillie
Katrine Emile and Vincent à Johnnie
Thomas à Marianne and Hilda à Delore
Davy à Diaume and Walter à Victore

Emma à George and Marie à Willie
Clara Marcelle and Annie à Jeffrey
Frances Ida and Whitney à Julie
Marie Beatrice and Martha à Tillie

There is John à Murray and May à Leo
Ernie à Élaire and Milton à Lorenzo

Vivi à William and Monique à Stanley
Lizzie à George and Whitney à Willie

'Twas not only River Bourgeois that did that
It was also done in Louisdale and Arichat
But I only used the River names you see
Like Minnie à Amable and Alex à Naré

A few people that helped me do this chore
Evelyn à Henry and Charlie à Victore
And one person that I can't forget you see
It's my sister Lucille à Willard Pottie

The tradition doesn't live around no more
The French ways have long gone out the door
Father Robitaille is rolling in his grave
To see how children have forgot their ways
I surely hope you don't forget your ways.

Ed Pottie

Births

Fletcher/Stone- Phoenix Asia who was born in Hfx.
on Aug.10. Congratulations to Cynthia & Derek;
grandparents Nancy & Mark Stone and to Patsy &
Gilbert Burke on their 5th great grandchild.

Gates/Castle- On June 23rd, River Dawn Aurora was
born to Candace and Darren Oyen, of Alberta.
Congratulations to mom & dad, brother Riley,
grandparents Lorraine & David Gates and uncle
Robbie.

Landry/Rowe- Cecile Elise was born August 6th
weighing 8lbs. 9oz. to Basil and Lisa (Landry) of
Toronto, RB grandparents are Sally Baccardax and
George Landry & Marguerite MacDonald of RB;
Congratulations to all including Great-Grandmother
Cecelia Baccardax, on her fourth grandchild.

Touesnard/Deschenes- Benoit Gerard was born to
Krista and Mark in Fredericton on the 18th of August.
Congratulations to mom & dad, sister Mylane, RB
grandparents Tina & Adrian and great grandfather
Gerard Touesnard.

Deaths

Richard: Marie, age 83 passed away in Halifax on
July 3rd. She was the daughter of the late George &
Blanche Shanks. Our condolences go out to her
husband Clarence Richard, her daughters Sharon and
Patricia, and sons, Douglas, Edward & David.

Salisbury: Helen (Richard) Salisbury, 106 yrs. old of
Lynn, Mass. died on August 5, 2003. She was the
sister of the late Charlie Richard and aunt of Rita
Landry, Monica Stone & Fabie Richard of RB.

Woods- Danny, age 44, of Halifax died on July 30th.
He was the son of Clinton & Catherine Woods. His
grandparents were Charles P and Agnes Sampson of

Church Point. Our condolences to the family especially Aunt Joan Viscount.

History

Who were the first settlers of RB?

This a continuation of Paul Touesnard's article from last months issue.

In 1805, a petition was made by a group of settlers including Peter Landris, John Landris, Belony Landris, Lewis Bouche, John Sampson, Lewis Sampson and Thomas Landris for 1600 acres. The area in question included all of the Church Point, Lower End and Northside up to Boyds from the water all the way up to what was to become the Old Post Road. In 1807 the same group made another petition for the same land at which point they indicated they had been settled on the land since 1789. The second petition was successful.

Around the same time (1806) a petition for land was made by Marcel Degau, Jonny Landree and Simon Foshare just to the west of the first grant parallel with what would become the Sporting Mountain Road. It also included land on the South Side opposite the Church Point for a total of 580 acres. The next large grant (600 acres) was made to William Sutherland sometime between his original petition in 1806 and 1812 when Frederick Laffert made a petition for an adjoining piece of land at the Briquerie. Sutherland's land included the eastern half of Grand Gully and extended northward including the present location of the Community Centre to the west of River Tillard to what would become the Post Road.

Afterwards, smaller grants of land were made to various individuals around the Head of the River and the South Side. These included Philip Rive, Peter Destrumel, William Boyd, William Keogh, Francis McPhee, John Corcoran, Richard McPhee, Patrick Pottie, Baptiste Picard, Clement Hubert, Galleton Richard, Martha Bissett, Registe Richard, George Bissett, and Elizabeth Bissett. Some of these, such as Philip Rive and Peter Destrumel may never have actually settled at River Bourgeois. Clement Hubert was an Arichat merchant who owned pieces of land all over Richmond County. He and Lawrence Kavanaugh, who was established at St. Peters were probably the largest landowners at the time.

Although it may never be known exactly when River Bourgeois was first settled it appears that the group of seven families that made the first grant were probably the first settlers and arrived around 1789.

Bits & Bites

- **Senior's Meeting** Sept. 2nd at 1:30pm
- **CAP site meeting** Wed. Sept. 3rd at 7 pm

- **Mini Bingo** Sept 10th at 1:30 pm at Seniors Bldg.
- **CWL meeting** on Sept .8th in vestry.
- **RBCSS meeting and Festival wrap up** on Sept 17th at 7:30 at TLC-All welcome.
- Congratulations to **Neil Burke** and his crew of the *Siesta* who won the MacDonnell Cup in the Yacht Race in St. Peters on Aug 9th. Neil and his crew, son Joel and Kent Young won 1st in the B class and 1st overall. **Glenda & David Sampson** won 1st in the C class in their Yacht the *Hobbit*.
- A very successful field birding trip to Point Michaud was held on Aug 23rd. International and provincial birders had a total of 50 species including 16 different shorebird species despite the fog, wind and eventual rain.
- If you see **Arthur Doary** (The unofficial RB mayor), thank him for the beautiful sketch of the original lighthouse which is on the new cancellation stamp at our post office as well as on all the festival T and Sweat shirts you see around the River.
- **Happy Birthday** to Lionel Pottie, Eddie Pottie, MaryAnn Robertson, Joe Boucher, Raymond Burke, Marie MacPhee, Ethel Stone, Linda Cote, Ann Clow, Judy Carter, Marie Fougere, and a very special 70th to Casilda Richard and to Margaret Burke a happy belated birthday.
- **We also want to send Birthday greetings** to Sr. Lena Landry who went out to vote (Liberal) on Election Day in Halifax, which was also her 101st birthday. She is the daughter of the late Angeline and Anselm Landry of the lower end of the River.
- Thanks to the Roundup we have located Joyce Sampson's ring. It was a Mothers Day gift from her husband John.
- **The CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 pm & 6-9 pm and Friday 2-4. Visit our site for used books, RB T-Shirts & sweatshirts, notecards, aprons, Heritage Booklets. We are closed on the weekends but appointments can be made by calling Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516).
- **A reminder** that if you wish to book the Tara Lynne Center, call Bob Park at 535-3274. People requiring use of the Funeral Home should call Leona & Gerald Campbell at 535-2927.
- The River Round Up is available at the Bucky's Garage, 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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