



# The River Round Up

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## Viola Touesnard



*Viola as a young bride sightseeing in Antigonish*

Viola Mary was born on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1923 the second of four children to Henry and Charlotte Ann Sampson of Grand Gully. Viola attended the school in the east end along with her sister Cecile (the other two children died in infancy). At age fifteen she was pursued by an older gentleman (cradle robber as noted by grandson Edward) who was twenty-two by the name of Roderick Touesnard. Viola and Roderick dated for some time before she went to Halifax where she spent the next two years working as a housekeeper. However her true love was still in Grand Gully so she packed her bags and returned home and on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1941 they wed.

Viola and Roderick moved to Antigonish where Roderick worked at Mount Cameron Farm for his brother Ernie. A year later Ernie moved his business to Apoque, New Brunswick so they moved with him. Following the birth of their son Emile who now lives

in Halifax, Viola and Roderick elected to return to their roots in Grand Gully. Over the years Viola gave birth to five more children: Clifford, Genevieve, Yvonne, Ervin and Melvin who all still live in Grand Gully. Back home Roderick went to work for yet another brother ,Allan ,who owned a large farm on the Church Point consisting of hens, milking and beef cows. Besides taking care of the children Viola took care of their own farm, which was on a much smaller scale: a few sheep, eighteen milking cows (Roderick did buy her a milking machine), a sow for breeding and many piglets. The animals were slaughtered and the meat was sold door to door by Hilary Morrison.

In the mid seventies Roderick and Viola said goodbye to their farming careers and Roderick went to work for Nova Scotia Power while Viola went to work taking care of her and Roderick's nephew Adrian's children. Her sister, Cecile had married Roderick's brother, Gerard. Their family expanded to include twenty-one grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Sadly Roderick passed away in January 1998.

Viola is a chartered member of the Seniors 50+ Club and supports all of their card games and bingos. She loves music and concerts especially listening to her son Ervin play the guitar. Viola also has several talented grandchildren including the beautiful voice of Blaine (Emile's) with the band "The Clam Chowder", Anne McNamara (Yvonne's) who sings and plays guitar, Kelly MacLellan (Genevieve's) who step dances, Melody (also Genevieve's) who step dances and is an accomplished violinist and who along with her husband Derrick Cameron of Mabou have a band "Triskele" and a new CD. Great grandson Nico {Clifford's (Glen)} strums the guitar. Viola never lacks for visits from her family who are always willing to ensure she has transportation at her beck and call. Her grandson Edward lives with her and keeps her young. Viola, the people of River Bourgeois wish you many more years of health and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

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## Jubilee Celebrations



Left to right-1<sup>st</sup> Row: Peter & Emily LeBlanc, Danny & Anne Landry, Debbie & David Digout. 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Carroll Fuster, Catherine Boudreau, Jane Landry, Evelyn Burke & Alma Burke. 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Fr. Reg Currie, Henry Fuster, George Boudreau, Gervase Landry, Victor Burke & John Burke.

On Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> the parish honoured couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 55+ wedding anniversaries during the Sunday Eucharist. They received special certificates and were served dinner at the TLC hosted by the Catholic Women's League.

Jubilarians included: 25<sup>th</sup> Faye & Allan Gibson and Patricia & Gilbert Bourque; 30<sup>th</sup> Leona & Gerald Campbell, Debra & David Digout, Mary & Louis Digout, Marilyn & Carl Grimes, Anne & Daniel Landry and Emily & Peter LeBlanc; 40<sup>th</sup> Carroll & Henry Fuster; 50<sup>th</sup> Mary B. & Ernest Burke and Alma & John Burke; 60<sup>th</sup> Margaret & Joe Bouchard. Also invited to attend were: Catherine & George Boudreau (56 yrs.), Jane & Gervase Landry (57 yrs.), Emilda & Alex Burke (58 yrs.), Evelyn & Victor Burke (63 yrs.) and Blanche & Frank Andrews (63 yrs.)

The CWL also celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Dec. 2003 therefore charter members; May McPhee, Gladys Touesnard, Rita Landry, Therese Digout, Mary Touesnard, Jane Landry, Margaret Bouchard & Evelyn Burke were also invited to join the festivities which included a delicious ham dinner, anniversary cake and plenty of enjoyable conversation.

## Congratulations

We wish to extend our best wishes to the following on their achievements:

**Digout-Wendy** (Sharon & George), a graduate of St. F.X. and MSVU has just passed the international oral and written exams in the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) which is the final step as a fully registered Psychologist. Congratulations from her husband, Mark MacDonald, daughter Caitlyn and Mom and Dad. Wendy is employed as a Child Psychologist at St. Martha's Hospital.

**Fougere**-Crystal Anne (Valerie & Mike) graduated December 6<sup>th</sup> from St. FX with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. She is currently teaching English at grade school level in Taiwan with her boyfriend, Stephen Graham from Judique (also a Dec. Graduate from St. FX with a BA in Human Kinetics). They are enjoying life to the utmost.

**Robertson**: Congratulations to Charlie on passing the rigorous Chartered Accountant (CA) Exam on Nov. 28, 2003. 2,607 candidates wrote the national exam of which only 65 of the 91 NS candidates passed. CA's are authorized to practice everywhere in Canada & the "CA" is the most internationally recognized accounting designation.



Charlie graduated from SMU in Halifax with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance & Accounting. He spent the last two years with Belliveau Veinotte Inc., a CA firm in Bridgewater, NS working, studying & preparing for the national CA exam. He is the son of Georgie Robertson & the grandson of Mary Ann Robertson of RB.

## Winners



*This young gentleman from the Southside took second prize at the Parade during our August festival. He was very busy scurrying around Church Point on his scooter. Leo, thanks for being such a good sport!*

On Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, some of the RB members of the MENSA Society met to play their annual game of Trivial Pursuit at the home of Mary & Gerry

Fougere. As usual the female members were declared winners but we wanted to share with you that when Alex Trebek (AKA Gerry) asked the male group what is 500 times sweeter than Cane Sugar? Stanley McPhee answered **Monica** within 3 sec (it usually takes the men 3 min).

At the Dec .Bridge Game at the Seniors , Valerie Boyd & Therese Digout were top scorers. When asked what they felt contributed to their success Valerie answered, “we are the better players”. This comment did not sit well with Greg Sampson who has been the reigning top player. The moral of these two stories is - the weaker sex is still the smarter.

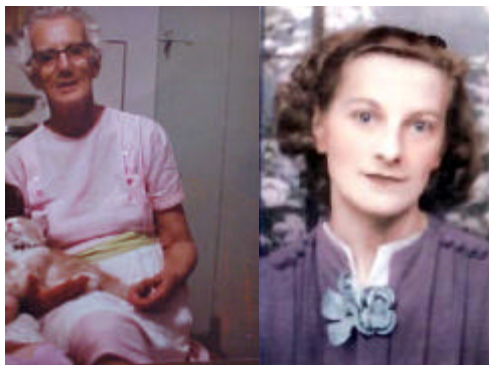
## Acadian Fiddle & Folk Festival

The River Bourgeois Community Services Society and the Tara Lynne Touesnard Bursary Association will jointly sponsor an Acadian Fiddle & Folk Festival as part of the Acadian Congress in River Bourgeois on July 31 and August 1, 2004.

Events planned include an outdoor Fiddle & Folk Festival on each day followed by concurrent workshops on fiddle, guitar, step dancing and song writing. A barbecue, indoor Acadian dance and variety concert will be held at the Tara Lynne Center.

The event is co-chaired by Wayne Bona and Ed Pottie. Anyone wanting to help organize is asked to contact Wayne at 227-0442 or Eddie at 535-2515

## Deaths



Mathilda Burke

Emily Fougere

*In December we said goodbye to two of our oldest citizens. We had planned to do stories on them but unfortunately they passed away before we had a chance so we will pay a small tribute to them in this issue..*

**Burke:** Mathilda, the second child of Guillaume and Sarah Jane (Landry/Burke) was born June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1904. For many years she worked as a housekeeper and midwife mostly in the River Bourgeois area. She would routinely stay with the family before and after the birth of the child to aid with the housekeeping. In some cases she would deliver the child on her own and at times she would assist Dr. Joe Digout.

Mathilda was named as the Godmother to a number of the children she helped bring into the world.

With the exception of time spent living and working in St. Peter's, a few years at a Sanatorium in Kentville after being diagnosed with Tuberculosis, and her final years at The Richmond Villa, Mathilda lived her life in River Bourgeois with her sister Evelina and brother Davy.

When Mathilda's sister Elizabeth (Burke/ Landry) had her hands full with newborn twins, Eddie and George, Mathilda and Evelina cared for George (her other nieces and nephews still remember that he was her favorite). Mathilda and Evelina also cared for their niece Natalie, daughter of her sister Gladys and Austin Burke, for a number of years.

Mathilda will be remembered for her kindness, unique skills in midwifery and her dry sense of humor. One day when one of the children she had delivered behaved badly in her presence, Mathilda told him that, “if she had known he was going to be so bad she would have left him where he was”.

Mathilda Burke passed away at Richmond Villa on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the age of 99. *Dana MacPhail*

**Fougere:** On December 4<sup>th</sup> the people of River Bourgeois said goodbye to its oldest resident. Emily, better known to us as Millie Ann passed away at the Strait Richmond after a brief illness. She was born on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1907 the daughter of Dominick and Philomen (Burke) Burke of the Southside. Millie Ann left home in 1924 to work in Halifax at the Queen Hotel. (Tragically, Millie Ann's sister Carrie was killed in a fire that destroyed the Queen Hotel at a later date). Two years later she left for Boston to visit her sisters, Elizabeth and Minnie, and soon found employment in the Dry Cleaning business. In 1940 Millie Ann returned to Cape Breton and went to work in Glace Bay for Glovers Dry Cleaning.

During one of her many visits home from Boston she fell in love with a gentle man by the name of Henry Fougere. After many years of correspondence they married in September 1946. Henry was employed on the lake boats so Millie Ann stayed in Glace Bay working. She gave birth to son Artie in 1950 and in 1952 returned to RB. Her daughter, Isabelle was born in 1954 followed by son Lester in 1955. Henry passed away in September 1973. Artie lived with his mom and ensured that she was very well cared for until her death. Millie Ann will be remembered for her great acts of kindness to her friends and neighbors. All of the Burke and Landry children will remember the cookies and *little mellow*s given to them. Lester's children Rikki, Candace, Kean, Chesley, Rachael and Diana will miss their wonderful Grandma. We send our condolences to Millie Ann's children, daughter-in-law Cynthia,

grandchildren and her brothers Victor and Lawrence Burke.

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## Births

**Putman:** Ava Katherine, 7lbs 13oz, was born November 24<sup>th</sup> in Halifax to Leslie & Kirby. A sister for Sydney and Madeline and third granddaughter for Peter & Claire Boyd.

**MacIntyre:** Kaylee Rose, 2 lbs, was born December 20<sup>th</sup> in Halifax to Melinda and Reggie. Congratulations to grandparents Claire Mines and John Ross and first time great-grandparents Catherine & George Boudreau.

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## A Senior's Prayer

Today, dear lord, I'm 80  
And there's much I haven't done  
I hope, dear lord, you'll let me  
Live until I'm 81.  
But then, if I haven't finished  
All I want to do  
Would you let me stay awhile,  
Until I'm 82?

So many places I want to go  
So very much to see-  
Do you think you could manage  
To make it 83?  
The world is changing very fast  
There is so much in store  
I'd like it very much to live to 84.

And if by then, I'm still alive  
I'd like to stay 'til 85.  
More planes will be in the air  
So I'd really like to stick-  
And see what happens to the world  
When I'm 86.  
I know, dear lord, its much to ask  
(And it must be nice in heaven)  
But I would really like to stay  
Until I'm 87.

I know by then I won't be fast  
And sometimes will be late;  
But it would be so pleasant –  
To be around at 88.  
I will have seen so many things,  
And had a wonderful time  
So I'm sure that I'll be willing  
To leave at 89.

*Author unknown.* Thanks to Margaret Burke for sharing this poem.

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## Bits and Bites:

- **Help:** If you have any ideas, suggestions or articles for future issues, we would love to hear

from you. We have a lot of native sons /daughters who access us either by subscription or online. Please write to us at PO Box 56, River Bourgeois, NS BOE 2X0, Email us at [rbcap@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:rbcap@ns.sympatico.ca) or you can reach us by phone Sharon D 535-3516, Sharon C at 535-2512 or Therese Pottie at 535-2740.

- **Parent Tot Program**-Starting Jan 5, 2004 at TLC-9:30-11:30. Please bring a snack for your child. NO peanuts or peanut butter due to allergy. For more information contact Wanda 535-2601 or Debbie 226-0512.
- **Senior 50 +** meeting 1:30 Jan 6<sup>th</sup>
- Next **CAP site meeting** Wed., Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.
- **Bridge** 1-4 pm at Senior's Bldg on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>
- **CWL** meeting Tues Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 after mass
- **Seniors Bingo** 1:30 on Wed., Jan 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **RBCSS** meeting Wed., Jan 21 at 7pm.
- A **Merchandise Bingo** sponsored by RBCSS is being held on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.in the TLC.
- **Birthdays greetings** to Hubert Fougere (big 60), Audrey Mac Neil, Eleanor Pederson, Margaret Richard, Mathilda Boudreau, Dierdre Boyd, Mark Burke, Cecilia Baccardax, Edward Sampson, Roderick Burke, Adrian Touesnard, Monica Stone, Eddie & George Landry, Fabian Richard. A special greeting from her family to Valerie Fougere who will be gracefully turning an undetermined age on December 31st, 2003.
- The **CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 & 6-9 pm and Friday 2-4 pm. On weekends or holidays, appointments can be made by calling Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516). We have a good selection of **used books, lighthouse mugs, note cards and T-shirts.**
- A reminder that anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Center should call Bob Park at 535-3274. People requiring use of the Funeral Home should call Leona & Gerald Campbell at 535-2927. This is a good time to say thank you to Leona and Gerald for volunteering their time to prepare and clean up the Funeral Home .They have had a busy month.
- The Round Up is available at 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.
- ***We wish you all a peaceful and Happy New Year.***

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