



# The River Round Up

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## Raymond Burke - Veteran



Raymond Alfred was born August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1921 the fourth of sixteen children to Joe P and Clara (Landry) Burke of the Southside. Raymond left Cannes School at age fourteen to do some lobster fishing with his brother Alex. They had twenty traps and a rowboat between them and fished off Bistouri and Quetique Islands. A small lobster fetched them two cents and a large five cents. Raymond soon discovered that it was not a venture that would make them rich so he went to work as a servant for Father MacDonald in Lower River taking care of the church's heating and snow ploughing but that didn't make him rich either. He then worked for John Boyd cutting hay for a dollar a day and after earning thirty dollars he headed straight for Halifax.

Following a short stint working at Ben's Bakery, Raymond joined the Merchant Navy in 1940. His first expedition was on the tugboat *Foundation Iron Moore*, which left Halifax during seventy-five miles an hour winds sailing to Anticosti Island in the Bay of St. Lawrence. The next two years were spent on the freighter *Limoges* and oil tankers *Imperial Oil*, *Rideau Light* and *Petro Light* sailing to the South American coastline.

In 1943, while in port in Halifax, Raymond was called to serve in the Canadian Army. It was done with such urgency that he had a difficult time

retrieving his clothes from the ship. He was dispatched to England and then on to Holland where he was shot in the foot. He was moved to Belgium to recuperate and then on to Saint Omer, France where he stayed until the end of the war in June of 1945. In November of 1945, Raymond re-enlisted with the Merchant Navy and again returned to France on the *Elm Branch*. This ship, which had previously been used to haul oil, was sandblasted and cleaned in order to transport wine from LeHavre, France to Oran and Algiers in North Africa. It took twenty-five days at sea to return to Canada. From 1947 to 1949 the freighter was again used to transport oil from Venezuela to various islands in the Caribbean. As his daughter Karen exclaimed, "Dad believes the song Hank Snow wrote 'I've been everywhere, I've been everywhere' was actually written especially for him".

In 1949, after four years of romance by mail, Raymond returned to RB and married his sweetheart, the beautiful Mildred Pate (daughter of Leo & Margaret Mary (MacPhee) of Hawker) on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Mildred had graduated from St. Peters High and attended Normal College in Truro during the summer and was then teaching grades primary to four in Cannes School. They soon had seven children: Leo who died in infancy; Gerard & Vernon both in Cold Brook; Elena in Lake Echo; Karen in Halifax; Leona in PEI and Terry in Limoges, Ont. The family has expanded to include seventeen grandchildren. Many of their grandchildren are involved in music and on Raymond & Mildred's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary they played the bagpipes as their grandparents entered the church.

After their wedding in 1949, Raymond & Mildred moved to Sydney where he worked on the *Aspy Third*, a freight and passenger ferry that ran from Ingonish to Dingwall. Two and a half years later they moved to Grand Narrows where he worked as a ferry engineer for the next thirty years. The cost of a ferry ride was 25 cents in 1952 and increased to 50

cents in 1982. The children took the ferry to school each day and then they walked the rest of the way.

In 1987, Raymond & Mildred returned to RB to take care of her ailing mom and now live in the old homestead. They recently travelled to Yarmouth with their entire family to the Acadian "Burke" reunion.

They are both active members of the Seniors' 50+ Club and enjoy the cribbage and forty-five card games. They also enjoy a good game of auction with their many friends and relatives. The people of RB wish you Mildred & Raymond many more years of health and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

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## Winning Entry in the Boat Parade



Last month we told you that Harold Landry won first prize in the Boat parade. Melvin Touesnard sent along this picture of the winning boat.

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## Tara Lynne Touesnard Bursary Fundraiser

A large crowd came out to enjoy the 11<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser for the Tara Lynne Bursary Fund. During the early part of the evening, the audience enjoyed the Richmond Co. Youth Fiddlers. They, under the capable direction of Joy Thibeau, entertained with an impressive array of group & solo musical numbers and dancing. At the end of their performances, Krista Touesnard presented the group with a violin.



*Krista Touesnard (center front) with "Solstice Productions" group members; Carolyn Holyoke, Helen McKinnon, Jane Oglivie, Andy Rogers, Chris Browne, Matt Carter & Ryan Priddle.*

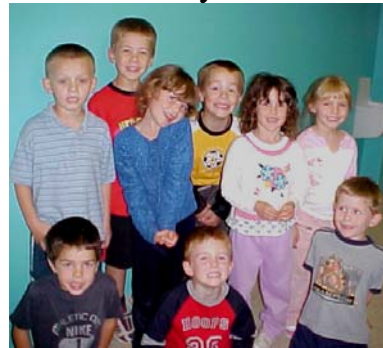
The main stars of the evening were a group from New Brunswick known as "Solstice Productions". Krista is co-founder and artistic director of the group. Their aim is to promote and preserve Celtic music and culture.

The many instruments; keyboards, penny whistle, highland pipes, percussion, accordion, guitars and of course the Harp along with the vocals made for a toe-tapping evening of entertainment. We await their return.

Each year an award is presented to a person who has been very active in preserving Tara Lynne's memory. This year's winner was Brian Bona. The award was presented by Wayne Bona, the emcee, for the evening.

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## Primary 2004



*Back row: Darren, Dale, Hailey M, Donoven, Emily & Hailey C. Front row: Alexander, Daniel & Daniel K.*

The 2017 graduating class will be: Daniel Allan (Tim & Joanne); Dale Burke (Wanda & John); Hailey Carter (Leon & Tanya); Daniel King (Bonita & Kevin); Donoven Landry (Laurie & Sean); Darren Peters (Elizabeth MacDonald); Hailey Martens (Gibby & Lisa) and Alexander & Emily Poaps (Ida & Robert).

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## Births

**MacNeil/Pacheco:** Lewis John, 7lb 5oz, was born Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> in Burlington to Dawn & George. Congratulations to Mom, Dad, first time grandparents John & Audrey MacNeil and to great grand mom Margaret Pottie.

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## Weddings

**Aitken/MacDougall:** Congratulations to James Robert, son of Brian & Cathy Aitken, and Kimberley Dawn, daughter of Dianne & Doug MacDougall, of Sydney on their wedding October 9<sup>th</sup>. James & Kimberley reside in River Bourgeois.

**Boyd/Kelly:** Congratulations to Vernon Fraser, son of Catherine Ann & the late Fraser Boyd, and Tina Kelly, daughter of Leona Kelly Dece & the late Claude Kelly on their wedding on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in

Musquodoboit. Vernon & Tina reside in Musquodoboit.

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## Deaths

**Henderson:** Donald, age 56, of St. Pauls, Alberta passed away on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his sister and brother-in-law, Marjorie & Stan Digout.

**Boudreau:** Ronald, age 58, passed away Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. Ronnie was the son of Mathilda & the late Andrew Boudreau. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Gail, his children, Kevin, Dwight & Kelly. We also send condolences to Mathilda, his brothers; Alfred, Francis, David, George, Terry, Lloyd, Michael & Gerard; as well as to his sisters Eleanor & Barbara and all the extended families.

**Hines:** William, age 61, of West Bay passed away Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his wife the former Bonnie Sampson of RB, his five children and in-laws Pauline Matthews & Jimmy Sampson.

**McNamara:** Ronald William Alexander, age 64, of Halifax passed away Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his sister Vera & brother-in-law Basil Bourque.

**Sampson:** Darryl Gerard, age 34, passed away Sept 27<sup>th</sup> in Riverview, NB. Darryl was the son of Darlene (Touesnard) & David Sampson of Louisdale. Our condolences to his wife and children, parents and grandfather Gerard Touesnard.

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## Mon Car Est Breakez-Down

The title was spoken to me by Richard Bouchard as a facetious example of River Bourgeois French. I guess a few words of the dominant language of the province creeping into the French are inevitable after a few generations. Having been born in 1944, I grew up when French was spoken in River Bourgeois a lot more than it is now. People of my parents' generation would speak French to my friends and me and we would answer in English. After all, English was the language that was "cool", the language of the dominant American culture that we aspired to be part of (Elvis didn't speak no French), and the language in which we knew we would be making a living. I notice that now my parents' generation no longer seem to speak French to each other, probably because there are more people around who don't understand.

Some of us at least came to regret our partial or complete loss of French. After my retirement at fifty-seven I decided it was time to do something about it and started taking French lessons. The result was educational in a number of ways.

Being in Toronto, the people in my class came from a number of backgrounds: Civil servants needing to be bilingual at work, call center workers who wanted to be able to work in both languages, Anglophone former Quebecois and former immersion

students trying to not lose their French, and a number of other backgrounds. For a surprising number, French was a third or fourth rather than a second language.

The teachers were from France rather than Quebec and I found that my River Bourgeois accent was not much out of place. A subsequent vacation in France confirmed to me that the accent I grew up with was closer to French than Quebecois. I had no trouble at all understanding and being understood except when my vocabulary ran out. I believe that Ephrem Boudreau in his books about River Bourgeois explains this as the Acadian accent originating in central France while the Quebec accent comes from Normandy. I can't vouch for this personally, not having experienced either of those particular parts of France but certainly I found that mainstream French was not difficult to understand.

One conclusion I draw from my experience, which educators would probably confirm, is that the sooner a person starts learning a language the better. The French I heard as a child gave me a huge head start despite not having been used for fifty years or so. I usually get the verbs more or less right from "feel" without knowing how to conjugate the subjunctive or pluperfect. My wife Karin speaks German like a native without knowing any German grammar for the same reason.

The most difficult part was having so much vocabulary to memorize. "Mon car est breakez-down" had to be replaced by "ma voiture est en panne". There are many common French nouns that I had never heard at all because the English words were used in River Bourgeois.

Another lesson I am learning is that while things you learn in childhood are remembered forever, as you get older it's difficult to remember things you learned last week. I will probably continue to take lessons in order to not move backwards. More vacations in France will probably also be required. That's the good news.

*Thanks to Art Digout for this article. He is the son of Margaret (Burke) & the late Arthut (Tattoo) Digout. He and his wife Karin live in Toronto.*

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## Letters to the editor:

I just discovered your newsletter online. How wonderful! My Dad, Reginald Morrison (son of Archibald & Blanche and brother of Herman) was born and grew up in River Bourgeois. He moved to Tucson, Arizona (USA) in 1949 and has lived there ever since. His sister-in-law, Margaret Morrison sent a couple of your newsletters to him a couple years ago, and I was planning to subscribe, but we lost them before I was able to. This is even better. My Dad just loves reading the articles in your newsletter. He recognizes locations, most of the names (at least

the surnames) and occasionally even one of the people featured (Margaret was featured a while back). I printed out the newsletters from 2004 and can't wait to give them to him, and tell him he can look forward to another one each month. He will be 85 on November 1st - what a great birthday present this will be. Thanks so much for providing these online. *Anne Morrison, Tucson, Arizona. Our website is [www3.ns.sympatico.ca/rbcap/roundup/rounduparchives.htm](http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/rbcap/roundup/rounduparchives.htm)*

## A Community Hero



My Great, Great Aunt Marie Boyd lived in the small Community of River Bourgeois, Cape Breton. She liked to volunteer and to help people, especially service people during World War 11. She was sorry for all the people sent there, so she sent local troops care packages overseas. Later she published a monthly newsletter called *The River Roundup* to tell these troops in the war what was going on in the community.

After the war, she was worried that the troops that died had been forgotten so she raised money to have a monument built in their names. She was a hero to the troops and the community.

*This was a poster done as a school project for Remembrance Day last year by William Laforce, Grade 4, Dwight Ross Elementary, Greenwood, N.S. He is the son of Paul & Claudine Laforce and the grandson of Rita & Russ Fougere.*

## Bits and Bites

- **Seniors** meeting Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30pm.
- **Merchandise Bingo** Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm TLC sponsored by Senior's 50 Club.
- **CWL meeting** Nov 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. in Vestry.
- **CAP site meeting** Wed, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.
- **Seniors Mini Bingo** Wed. Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.
- **Christmas in November** will be held at TLC on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. **Decorate a Tree**-call 2141 to book a spot, **Craft/Bake sale**-call 3053 to book table \$5 per day, **Luncheon** will be Sat 1-6 Sun 11-5. Cost is \$6 includes chowder, chili or soup with tea/coffee and dessert. **Chinese Auction** Sun 12 to 2, **Santa** arrives 3pm Sun. **Cookie Decoration, face painting** and games on both days. **Christmas tree judging on Sun.** Silver collection at entrance and donation of food for the our Christmas boxes would be appreciated. Sponsored by RB Youth Group.

- **RBCSS** meeting on Nov 17<sup>th</sup> at TLC at 7pm.
- **Annual CWL Christmas Bazaar** on Sat., Nov. 27th. **Christmas/Craft/Bake/New to you tables** 11 to 1pm. **Bazaar Bingo** at 1pm. This is our one big fundraiser so please lend your support.
- **Francois Pottie** would like to thank everyone who helped him celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday held at Captain Morgan Lodge. Special thanks to Gary & Emma Burke.
- **Dr. W. B. Kingston Memorial Clinic:** The Annual Fundraiser is over. THANK YOU to the collectors who so generously gave of their time to collect for the clinic in the area. Thank you to the people for your monetary support for the clinic. If you were not at home, you may mail in your contribution or donate at the clinic. To date we have collected \$1200+. We must remember that these doctors are needed in our community. *Ann MacNeil-Landry*
- Congratulations to Margaret & Roderick Burke on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>; Albert & Janice Touesnard on their 25<sup>th</sup> on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>; Raymond & Bridget Robertson on their 55<sup>th</sup> on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>; Ernest & Mary B Burke on their 51<sup>st</sup> on Oct 27<sup>th</sup> and Mary & Ken Cosman on their 52<sup>nd</sup> on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Birthdays greetings** Emily LeBlanc, Abraham Burke, Raymond Robertson, Marguerite Fougere Gloria Boudreau, Dave Clow, Carrie Trueman, Peter Pottie, Mary B Burke, Leo Landry, Gloria LeBlanc, Ed Pentecost, Monica MacPhee, Peter Boyd & Lucille Boudreau.
- The **CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 & 6-8 pm and Friday 2-4 pm. The CAP site will be closed from Dec. 22 until Jan. 2 inclusive except by appointment, which can be made by calling Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516).
- A reminder that anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Center should call Ann Clow at 535-2726. People requiring use of the Funeral Home should call Monica MacPhee at 535-2743 until further notice .Call Georgie or Harold Landry at 535 2939 to open the church for all unscheduled services..
- 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.

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