



The River Round Up

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Murdick Richard



Murdick in 1930

Murdick Anthony Richard was born on December 14th, 1917 the youngest of eight children to Emily (Mini) and Isaac (Daille) in Les Etang (now known as Richard's Pond). At that time, four families lived in Les Etang including Daille's brother Hilare, his sister Mary and his uncle, Elias Richard and their families. Fishing was their way of life and they made all of their fishing vessels using wood from their land. The logs were sawed at mills owned by either Sam Fougere or Martial Digout. Cutting firewood took a lot of time. A crosscut saw was used and due to the length of the wood, three people were needed, one to hold the wood and a man on each end to do the sawing. The remaining time was spent making hay to feed the animals in winter. They had no horses or carts to haul the hay so it was piled high and ga-bars (two long poles with a person on each end) were used to lift and haul it to the barn.

There was no electricity or radios in the homes so for a pastime you either looked at the four walls or you hiked out and went to the home of Philomene Burke who operated the post office where all the young people gathered to chat and play cards. There was much anticipation at the post office each spring

and fall for arrival of the Eaton's and Simpson's catalogues to arrive for they served a dual purposes in the outside powder room. Murdick went to school at the head of the River and he took a shortcut via Boyd's Road, which was through the woods due south from the Pond. During the winter snowshoes were used to get around as road clearing was non-existent and many school days were missed (not that he minded).

As a young man, Murdick fished for a living but when the war broke out he went to Halifax where he worked on cable boats. After the war, he returned home to resume fishing. It was not very profitable however as a two foot long cod would only fetch twenty-five cents so he sold his equipment and went to work on the Lake boats traveling between Cleveland, Ohio and Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

In 1953, Murdick went to live in Montreal where he met up with his long time sweetheart the lovely Mary Helen Fougere of False Bay. They were married in 1953 in Montreal and later had a son Gary, who now lives in Vancouver. Mary Helen and Murdick then moved to Halifax where Murdick worked at a Cold Storage plant for the next twenty-two years and Mary Helen worked as an elevator operator for several years. Following Murdick's retirement in 1978 they moved back to their roots in River Bourgeois where they built a home next door to his brother Isaac on the Southside. Sadly Mary Helen passed away in 1997.

These days Murdick claims he does not do much. He set nets last winter to catch smelts but after several weeks he had only caught two so he gave up fishing once again. *This time for good.* He is still in very good health and enjoys going out for a drive in his sports car and looks forward to Sundays for his weekly visits from his best friend Victor Burke. He still chops his own wood but not with a cross-cut saw and very much enjoys life. We, the people of River Bourgeois wish you, Murdick many more years of good health. *Sharon Chilvers*

Congres Mondial Acadien 2004

The 3rd CMA being held July 31 to August 15 will be the biggest cultural event ever in Nova Scotia. This international gathering will be particularly special as it celebrates the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the French in North America (1604), the birthplace of l'Acadie.

The gathering will bring together 250,000 Acadians and friends during these 16 days. They will participate in events such as opening and closing concerts, conferences and community-based events; while close to 100 families (65,000+ family members) are expected to take part in reunions.

We will keep you abreast of local events and places to stay, etc. in upcoming issues. We are practicing the Notre Père in Church. *Therese Pottie Helena MacKay sends this along in regard to the Fougere Reunion: If there are any Fougères you know of who are seniors and would like to attend, Mass will be performed by Bishop Fougere and there will be reserve seating for those who require it. Those with mobility problems won't have to worry about finding a seat or having too many folks in their way. She also stated that her Uncle Victor and Aunt Evelyn are planning to attend. Applications for the Fougere reunion are available at the CAP Site.*

Old School Ties



On the left is Sarah as she celebrated her 95th and on the right Sr. Cécile-Marie as she celebrated her 100th.

On February 5th, 2004, Sr. Cécile-Marie F.J. formerly Annie Adele, daughter of Thomas & Philomene (Bourque) Samson of Church Point (see: The River Round Up, March 2003) celebrated her 113th birthday in Moncton. This milestone was given widespread coverage in the various media. Experts on longevity have established that she is now the second oldest in the world; a lady in the state of Ohio is the oldest. Statistics have been quoted that only one in ten million people live to be over 110. All this talk of Sr. Anne is very interesting to Sarah Digout, daughter of Joe D. Burke and Virginia (Landry) Burke who celebrated her 95th on the 4th of February (see River Round Up, June 2001).

If you mention Sr. Anne to Sarah she will say "You mean Annie à Toumas, she was my first teacher. I went to the old school in the lower end of the River. There were probably around 50 kids in the class so first year students did not have desks. They

had to sit on benches which were lined up around the walls and sometimes we had to write on our laps. We used to get our slates and pencils from Cap à Crayon. We would walk up the brook and have someone break off some slate and then a smaller piece which we would grind down to use as a pencil. I remember us thinking she was strict but later when I began to teach myself I realized you had to be when you had 50-60 children in the classroom." *Sarah Digout while teaching at Cannes school in 1930 took pictures of all her pupils. The one of Murdick. Richard is on page 1.*

The two followed separate paths, Sr. Anne taught in several schools in Richmond Country before entering the Filles de Jesus where she received her final vows in 1917. Sarah finished her grade 10 at the old school and went on to Normal College in Truro for her teaching license (a 6 month program) and then taught at the old Cannes School and in French Cove before becoming wife and assistant to family practitioner Joseph Digout (Mary & Eugene son) in St. Peters.

I checked with Garvie Samson and from 1914-1915 we learned that Sr. Anne taught school in Richmond Co. at an unspecified location. This is probably the year she taught in RB.

Annual Meetings

CWL: On Feb 1, St. John the Baptist CWL held their annual meeting at the TLC after participating in the 10 am mass celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Reg Currie. The meeting took place at 3 and was followed by a great Chinese Dinner prepared by Emily & Peter LeBlanc. The 2004-2006 Officers installed were: President-Ann Clow; Past President & Secretary-Marlaine Burke; Treasurer-Debbie Digout; Spiritual Development-Mary Fougere & Ann Landry; Organization-Monica McPhee; Religious Education-Therese Digout with catechists Rose Merrick & Linda Burke; Christian Family Life-Leona Campbell & Theresa Kyte; Community Life-Elaine Burke; Resolutions-Therese Pottie and Deirdre Boyd as President-elect and Communication convener.



Pictured above are the recipients of Certificates of Merit which were presented to Sherry Baccardax, Joe MacPhee, Yvonne McNamara, Mary Pentecost and Anne Sampson for their contributions to their community and church.

CAP Site: Officers installed for 2004-2005 year at the February meeting were: Sherry Baccardax-Chair; Sharon Digout-Vice Chair; Paul Zinck-Secretary and Ann MacNeil as Treasurer. Additional committee members are: Therese Digout, Therese Pottie, Bob Pettigrew, Kara Leigh Burke, Ann Clow; George A Landry, Tanya Stone and Lynn Boudreau. Our site is easier to find these days thanks to the new signs ,courtesy of George A Landry.

Richmond Villa



The St. John the Baptist Choir sang a full range of oldies but goodies to Villa residents. Photo by Paula Sampson

On Jan. 15th the CWL sponsored the monthly birthday party at Richmond Villa. The entire event was wonderful. The residents, families, staff and friends were so pleased with the kindness shown to our home by these generous people. The support was heartwarming and very much appreciated

On Feb 1st *Island Driftwood* (Eddie Pottie, Carl Grimes, Wayne Bona & Henry Martell) had a two fold visit to the Villa, the first to celebrate the 96th birthday of Genevieve Grimes and secondly to entertain lobbies full of fans. These gentlemen are exceptional. They have volunteered their talents to entertain our residents on many occasions to a resounding response from residents, staff, families and friends. They are continued supporters of our home and we appreciate their kindness.

The support given to Richmond Villa by the community of River Bourgeois is sincerely appreciated by all. Our thanks is extended to each and every one of you. *Paula Sampson, Recreation Director.*

Occupational Therapist

The Strait Richmond Hospital now has an Occupational Therapist available to seniors in Richmond County. Jennifer Mombourquette will come to your home at no cost and assist you to become more mobile/comfortable. She can recommend such items as chairs, back supports, bed and tub rails, pillows and mattresses, pressure relief cushions, etc. If you are suffering from arthritis or

recovering from an injury and can use these services, Jennifer can be reached at 625-7251.

Nature Notes



Lots of wildlife around RB, Linda McDuff saw some beady eyes looking in her window late one evening and discovered a Flying Squirrel. Gerry Fougere took a picture of a Northern Gannet that was stopping traffic on Northside Road and allowing Stan D. to touch it. A seal was seen lying under an apple tree at Peter Boyd's and on Feb 15th about 50 Canada Geese pictured above landed on the Northside shore .

RCSCC St. Peters, 1956-1959



Taken on July 20, 1958 aboard the Canadian Cruiser HMCS Quebec at Point Edward Naval Base, Sydney, NS, this is the Corp picture of RCSCC St. Peters, of which only one third are present. From left to right: front row, Able Cadet Ivan Plater, L'Ardoise; Able Cadet Anthony Burke, St. Peters; Sub-Lieutenant Quentin Sampson, L'Ardoise, Corp Supply Officer; Able Cadet David Mombourquette, L'Ardoise; Able Cadet Stephen MacDonald, St. Peters; second row, standing: Able Cadet Lloyd Campbell, St. Peters; Able Cadet Camille Boulet, L'Ardoise; Able Cadet Alexander "Sandy" Lafford, L'Ardoise; Able Cadet Arthur Doary, River Bourgeois; top row, seated on

the gun turret, left, Leading Cadet Peter Robertson, River Bourgeois; Leading Cadet Billy Sampson, River Bourgeois; Leading Cadet John "Red" Adams, St. Peters.

In the winter of 1956-57, in response to long-term concerns about the male youth of central Richmond County having little to do to enhance their social background and keep them out of trouble, a group of concerned men, led by James Richard of River Bourgeois, founded a Corp of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets to be based centrally in St. Peters. The Corp was to encompass boys between the ages of 13 and 18 from River Bourgeois, St. Peters, French Cove, Samsonville and L'Ardoise.

The "founding fathers" of the Corp were mostly former military men, veterans of WWII. Led by James Richard of River Bourgeois, who became its Commanding Officer with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, it also included Lt. Fred Doary, Lt. John L. Landry and Sub-Lt. Stan Digout, all of River Bourgeois, Lt. Justin MacKenzie of St. Peters and Sub-Lt. Quentin Sampson of L'Ardoise. Lt. MacKenzie was promoted to Lt. Cmdr. and succeeded Lt. Cmdr. Richard upon the latter's retirement from the Corp. **To be continued next month.**

This article as sent to us by Billy Sampson of Dartmouth, he is the son of Virginia & Basil Sampson.

Graduation



Congratulations to Elizabeth, daughter of Janice & Albert Touesnard. Beth received her degree in Culinary Arts from the Culinary Institute of Canada, Holland College, Charlottetown, PEI in Oct. of 2003.

Deaths

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

Goswell: Carol Lillian-age 47 died suddenly at home on Feb.11th. She was the daughter of Barbara & Robert LeLacheur and wife of the late John Goswell.

Goswell-John Henry, 75 passed away on Feb. 5th at the Strait Richmond. He was born in Dartmouth, son of the late Calder and Lorena (Bona) Goswell. He is survived by his aunts Mary Bona and Maryann Robertson of Church Point, RB.

Landry: Marjorie Pauline, 71 of Halifax died on Feb 6th. She was the wife Cyril Landry of Northside RB.

Moore: Minnie M. age 95 died in Halifax on Feb. 15th. She was the daughter of the late Joseph & Alexina (Dugas) DeRoche of RB.

Pottie: Herman Peter Amable of L'Ardoise passed away at age 70. He was the son of the late Mary B (MacPhee) & Willard Pottie. Besides his immediate family he is survived by RB sisters Alice Sampson, Lucille DeWolfe and brother Eddie.

Bits and Bites:

- **Senior 50+ Club annual meeting** on March 2nd. Lunch served at noon followed by the meeting. No fee and all members welcomed.
- CAP site meeting 7 on March 3rd
- An Ecumenical **World Day of Prayer** at 7pm - March 5th at the United Church in St.Peters
- **CWL merchandise bingo** on Mar 7th-2 at TLC.
- **CWL meeting** March 9th at 7pm.
- **Seniors Mini Bingo** March 10th at 1:30.
- **RBCSS meeting** at 7pm on March 17th at TLC.
- **Bridge Game** at Senior's at 1pm - March 21st.
- **Easter Pub Night and Dance** at TLC on April 10th from 9 pm-1 -pm.
- **Happy Birthday** to Blaise Boyd, Rita Sampson, Gervase Landry, Theresa Landry, Bucky Sampson, Helen Konning, Annette Fougere, Jean Pottie, Maynard Boyd, Joseph Baccardax, Joan Stone and special 50th to Lorraine MacPhee.
- **Happy Anniversary** to Margaret and Joe Bouchard who celebrated their 61st on Feb 9th.
- **Note cards** celebrating the 100th anniversary of our lighthouse are available at the CAP site as are various sizes from our last order of **festival shirts**. We have a good selection of **used books**. The **CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 & 6-9 pm and Friday 2-4 pm. Open on weekends by appointment only by calling Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516).
- A reminder that anyone wishing to book the TLC should call Bob Park at 535-3274. People requiring use of the Funeral Home should call Leona & Gerald Campbell at 535-2927.
- 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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