



# The River Round Up

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## George & Catherine-The Romance



In the little fishing village of Petit de Grat on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1922 a young boy came into the world by the name of George Walter Boudreau. He was the seventh of nine children and like most families during the depression years they fell on hard times. At age nine, George's father felt he had enough schooling and it was time for him to get a job. His first job was in a lighthouse on Grand Island in Gabarus where he operated the light, which was mounted on a pulley. It took six hours of continuous rotation to reach its cycle so at midnight the process had to be repeated in order to have light all night. During fog an engine was manually cranked to create the sound of a foghorn. Once a week, the couple that also lived in the lighthouse sailed to the mainland for supplies leaving young George in charge for two days at a time. He was paid a sum of thirty-five dollars a month of which thirty was sent home to his parents. After working at the lighthouse for five years, George saved two hundred and fifty dollars. He squandered the remaining fifty on boots and clothing. (A profession in money management may have been more suitable). At fourteen, his next venture was working as a cook at the Naval Base in Westmount for four years followed by five years in a

restaurant in Sterling Mines. In 1947, George moved to Halifax and his life changed forever.

Meanwhile, River Bourgeois was having its own major event. Catherine Rita was born on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1928 the youngest of four children to Annie (Deveau) and Alcide Burke. Catherine, a charming young lady, attended the east end school however a scholar she was not, so at sixteen she promptly packed her suitcase and headed to Halifax. She work at the V.G. Hospital in the staff dining room and after two years of serving the pompous elite she moved on to work at The School for the Blind where she worked as a Scullery Maid (one who washes pots and pans). In November of 1947, Catherine went to advent services at Saint Mary's Basilica and at the corner of her eye spotted a handsome young gentleman. Following the Mass a dance was held at the Sister of Services residence (a girl's boarding house run by nuns) and lo and behold this man had followed her to the dance. His name was George Walter Boudreau.

Following a *whole* month of romance George and Catherine motored to RB for Christmas and to get married. Along with her mother they went to see Father Robitaille who took one look at George and said: "You, young man get back to school". George replied "Father I am twenty four years old". On January 7<sup>th</sup> George and Catherine tied the knot. They had four children; Claire and Yvette who live in Lr. Sackville, Robert in Corbett's Cove and Colleen in Grand Greve. They also have ten grandchildren and one great grandchild - three-month-old Kaylee Rose who now weighs five lbs (she weighed 2 lbs at birth). Kaylee had two operations including her appendix and hopes to go home for her first visit soon.

George and Catherine moved to RB in 1949 and purchased the home of Charlotte & Charlie LeBlanc of Hawker. The house had to be moved from its location to a plot of land now owned by Leda Konning (Catherine's sister) and since the road was too narrow, it had to be hauled on the ice. Sam Fougere owned the largest truck in RB so he

undertook the task. All went well until he had just passed Boyd's Wharf and was heading to shore when the axle on the truck broke and the house had to be left there until the truck was repaired. Several hours later Catherine's aunt, Suzanne à Vitaille screamed to Catherine "Mon Dieu, Mon Dieu you're house is in the water". The tide had come in, the clampers had weakened and the house was now sitting in several feet of water. At low tide the house was hauled up the embankment and since Alfred Burke (Catherine's brother) owned a piece of land with a completed foundation at the top of the bank he gave them the land where the house remains to this day. There was never a dull moment at the Boudreau household and that has been confirmed by the many times they appeared in the old River Round Up. Here is a clip that appeared in 1955: "Before leaving for Tracadie, Theresa (Edgar's wife) went down to Mrs. Georgie Boudreau's (Catherine) to get a Toni. Before giving Theresa the Toni, Catherine decided to put bread to rise. After the Toni was done, Catherine greased the pans ready for the bread, but going to the dough, she found it hadn't risen at all. Later they found out that Catherine had mixed the Yeast Cake with the stuff for the Toni instead of putting it in her dough. So if anyone notices Theresa's hair sticking up more than usual it's just the Yeast Cake beginning to work"...

George continued his newfound fame as a cook in Montreal for five years before spending the next fourteen years on the lake boat *Texaco Brave*. In 1972, he returned to RB and worked at the Cozy Corner followed by eight years at the Richmond Villa. In 1980, when the Strait Richmond Hospital opened, George operated the kitchen and remained there until he retired in 1985. Catherine meantime worked at the Cozy Corner, MacDonald's Hotel, Richmond Motel and spent the last ten years at St. Joseph Parish in Port Hawkesbury as housekeeper.

These days Catherine does all the cooking as George has not cooked since 1985. They play cards and TV bingo and enjoy their family. Last month they were married fifty-seven years and claim that love at first sight does last forever. We all wish you many more years of love and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

## Congres Mondail Acadien

The following events are scheduled to take place at the RB CAP site as part of the Congres:

Friday, Aug. 6: 10:30-12-Children's story hour & crafts.

Sunday, Aug. 8: 1-2pm-Workshop on how to complete genealogy research.

Tuesday, Aug. 10: 11-2pm-Open House/local history.

Thursday, Aug. 12: Computer Acadian Treasure Hunt.

We will continue updates next month. *Therese Pottie*

## Heading for Haiti



Darrell Sampson with his sons, Daniel 12 and Nicholas 9, prior to departure for Haiti. Darrell is a Supply Technician with The Royal Canadian Regiment. We join his wife Jennifer & sons of Oromocto and Mom & Dad, Danny & Alice Sampson of RB in wishing him a safe return.

## RCSCC St. Peters, 1956-1959

*Continued from last month:* The Corp. was affiliated with the Canadian Sea Cadet Movement and sponsored by the Royal Canadian Naval Reserves and was an offshoot of the Royal Sea Cadets of Britain. Members wore the standard issue Canadian and British naval uniforms of the time (except in smaller sizes), were endowed with the same naval rank structure and when in uniform were expected to adhere to the same military conduct and discipline. The Corp met for approximately three hours on Monday evenings in the Parish Hall adjacent to the Catholic Church in St. Peters throughout the fall, winter and spring months. Meetings were called "parades" and activities were based mainly on "seamanship". Cadets were taught gunnery, which included marching, handling weapons (loaded only when shooting competitions were scheduled on outdoor ranges, i.e., the ball field in RB), boat handling (sail & oared) as well as rope handling and various other topics related to seamanship.

Each summer every member who wished to, or who was not required by financial pressures to work, was entitled to attend summer camp for a two week period at Point Edward Naval Base in Sydney. The base was essentially turned over to the Royal Canadian Naval Reserves for the summer months as HMCS Acadia hosted a series of two-week camps for sea cadets from all across Eastern Canada. Those from Western Canada attended similar camps at HMCS Esquimalt in British Columbia. Summer Camp was really an extended and condensed version

of each Monday night's "parade". However, daily activities were more structured with common "reveille" at 6:00am (0600) and muster on the parade square at 0630. Marching drill was a common daily activity with most other activities centered around seamanship with an emphasis on fun. Sailing (dinghies and whalers), swimming, harbor tours, day excursions at sea on RCN vessels and bus tours to various locations around eastern Cape Breton filled the days. After 1800 (6:00pm) it was sports time and this is where RCSCC St. Peters shone. We clobbered everyone in sight in softball even though none of us had played any softball, only baseball. The picture (March Round Up) that accompanies this article is one that survives from the group attending summer camp in 1958. It represents one third of the group from RCSCC St. Peters that attended camp that summer. The WWII RCN Cruiser HMCS Quebec, which had been decommissioned a few years earlier and tied up at Point Edward, was used for the photographs of the Corp for posterity. This photograph managed to survive after being lost for many years then found again. The members of the group are identified with the photo. Perhaps someone reading this article and seeing this picture may know of one or more pictures still in existence of the remainder of the group.

Alas, RCSCC St. Peters lasted for only a few short years as it was disbanded in 1959. Lack of an invigorating agenda in the eyes of the cadets for Monday "parades" was a contributing factor as well as a desire on the part of its organizers to simply "move on" to other things. Most of us who benefited from its presence are now either close to or have already retired from our own careers. We can only look back on it with some degree of fondness for a short period of our youth that helped to shape who we became. *William G. (Billy) Sampson*

## Foster Care

They came today  
To take me away  
They said I'd go live  
With the Martay's

I hate my new mom  
I hate my new dad  
I hate my new brother  
My whole life is so sad

Than I met Katrina  
She's a foster kid too  
She had to leave her mom  
And her big sister named Lou

She told me

"Love your family-  
If the world's to go 'round  
Love is the key"

Sometimes I'm mad  
Sometimes I'm sad  
But most of the time  
I'm just plain glad

Me, my new dad  
And my new mom  
We love each other  
That keeps our family strong.

This poem was written by 12-year-old Jenna LeBlanc and will be published in a book of poems called "From a Secret Place" by the "Poetry Institute of Canada" in April, 2004. The entry was one of one hundred and fifty selected from across Canada. Jenna is the daughter of Keith & Paula LeBlanc of Dartmouth and granddaughter of Charlotte LeBlanc. She was inspired to write this poem by her parents who are foster parents.

## Youth Report



*Kelsey Sampson playing the church organ.*

St. John the Baptist Parish welcomes its new Sunday organist. Eleven-year old Kelsey's parents are John & Joyce Sampson. Her teacher is Henrietta Doary who started playing when she was only nine.

This year the Richmond Academy wrestling team included Alisha Burke and for the first time the wrestling team won the provincial banner for the school. They also won many medals. The basketball team included Angela Landry and Sarah Landry, they played many games and the team came in second for the provincial banner but lost in the regionals. In hockey Daphne LeBlanc won a gold medal at the Stora tournament. *Sarah Landry*

## Lighthouse

I guess one could say the celebration of the opening of the lighthouse is still going on. Canada

Post had a cancellation stamp made of the lighthouse by Arthur Doary and we thank him for this. To date I have had 105 requests from stamp collectors from Belgium, France, Sweden, Croatia, USA, Netherlands, Japan and several provinces in Canada. All River Round Ups plus a lot of mail going out of this office to many places were stamped with the lighthouse image. The youngest was an eleven-year-old girl starting a new hobby. *Carmen Fougere*

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## Senior's Annual Meeting

Senior's annual meeting was held Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> following a delicious luncheon. President Ann spoke of the club strengths (89 members strong and growing). A new exercise program will be starting soon. The Officers for 2004 are President-Ann Sampson, Secretary Sharon Chilvers, Treasurer-Mary Ellen Pentecost, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Joe MacPhee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Mary Touesnard, Maintenance-Joe Boucher, Membership-Madeline Cook and Communications-Mary Cosman

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## Births

**Martin:** Joseph Jeffery, 7lbs 4oz born March 4<sup>th</sup> to Joey & Donna. Congratulations to grandparents Ann & Alfred Touesnard of Church Point and Shirley & Al Martin of St. Peters. Proud great grand parents are Catherine Martin and Jane Stone.

**Zinck:** Mila Celeste, 6lbs 15oz born March 12<sup>th</sup> to Laurie & Paul. Congratulations to grandparents Danny & Ann Landry and Ron & Fern Zinck of River John, great grand parents Leo & Theresa Landry and Fred & Beatrice Bona L'Ardoise and Roland Zinck. of River John.

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## Deaths

We wish to express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of:

**England:** Isobel Julia, 81 years, of St. Peters passed away Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>. Isobel was the mother of Edna Casey.

**MacInnis:** Darrell, age 35, of Mississauga, died Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. Darrell was a nephew of Irene MacInnis.

**Richard:** Casilda Mary, 70 years, passed away on Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>. She was the daughter of the late James A & Theresa (Bourque) Samson of RB. She is survived by her husband Fabien, children Theresa, Paul and David, sister Marguerite, and brother Garvie.

**Shupe:** Leslie Dennis, 83 years, of Dartmouth passed away March 20<sup>th</sup>. Leslie is survived by wife Ruth and four sons and is the brother-in-law of Nora Cameron & Josephine Morrison of RB.

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## Bits and Bites:

- **Congratulations** to Glen Touesnard of Grand Gully on being named Atlantic Zone Salesperson

of the Year with Canso Ford for the second time. Glen and wife Sonia traveled to Toronto to accept this award.

- **Congratulations** to Bob & Mary Pettigrew and Lucille Landry on their Certificates of Merit Awards received from Branch 47 Legion.
- **Congratulations** to Farley Mowat from his fans in RB. The recent movie release "The Snow Walker" is based on Farley's short story *Walk Well, My Brother* and is getting rave reviews.
- **Congratulations** to John Mac Neil on getting his first ever *hole in one* in St. Petersburg, Fla.
- **Donald Fougere**, a RB native who lives in Ontario has sent the CAP site a framed acrylic painting of our lighthouse, which will be used as a fundraiser. Watch for tickets on sale soon.
- **Easter Dance and Pub Night** at TLC Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>. 9 to 1pm. Cost \$5. Music by "Island Driftwood Band". Government ID required.
- Next **CAP site meeting** Wed., April. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.
- **Seniors** meeting at 1:30 on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **CWL** meeting April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Vestry.
- **Seniors** Mini Bingo Wed., April 14<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm.
- **RBCSS Annual** meeting April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. Everyone invited to attend.
- **45 Card** game every Sunday at 7pm Seniors.
- **Cribbage** every Monday at 7pm at the Seniors.
- **Birthday greetings** to George Boudreau, Claire MacPhee, Gerry Fougere, Whitney Boudreau, Clifford Touesnard, Frederick Richard, Artie Fougere, & Marlaine Burke.
- **Note cards** celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our lighthouse are available at the CAP site as are various sizes of **festive shirts**. We also 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 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.
- The Round Up is available at Bucky's Garage, RB Post Office or East Coast Credit Union. Yearly subscriptions are available for \$12.00 locally, \$18.50 within Canada and \$20.00 internationally.

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