



The River Round Up

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Gervase & Jane Landry



Jane and Gervase having a cup of tea. Photo by Marguerite Fougere.

On November 15th, 1920 life in False Bay changed forever when a pint size little girl named Elizabeth Jane (Lizzy Jane) was born to Sam and Christina (Pottie) McPhee. At age five, she would walk from Hawker to the west end school to be taught by Sarah Digout. The first winter following a bad snow storm her father Sam came with a sled to take her home, however, Jane fell off without her dad noticing until he made it all the way home. Sam returned to find little Jane sitting in a snow bank covered in snow. After four years of school she now knew how to read and write (Jane has made great use of these subjects as at eighty three years of age she is still an avid writer and reads every newspaper in print including the Round Up). She figured that if she could read a cookbook it was all the education she needed so she stayed home and cooked her heart out.

A family friend by the name of Sammie á Charlie (Pâté) would visit and each time he would give Jane a nickel in hopes she would go on a date with him. After giving her a total of seventy-five cents and still no date, Sammie went on to date someone else but Jane had enough money to buy herself some yard goods and a pattern for a dress. It was to be the first of many dresses that Jane would make. At fifteen Jane left home with the two dollars her father gave her and went to work for the MacInnis family in St.

George's Channel. For eight dollars a month she did the housekeeping and tended to the farm animals. After six plus years, Jane moved to Sydney where she worked as a housekeeper for the next three years making twenty-five dollars a month. It was during one of her many visits home that she went to a barn dance in Barra Head and met a very handsome *younger* man by the name of Gervase Landry.

Gervase Alfred was born on February 9th, 1921 the son of Joseph and Alvina Landry of the South Side. The third of nine children, Gervase's family suffered hard times especially following the sudden death of his dad when he was only nine years old. In 1942, along with brother Cletus, he joined the army and they were shipped overseas. Gervase was shot twice in the arm in one day during combat in Holland and was sent to recuperate in Belgium for three months before being shipped home. As a result of the shrapnel still in his arm, his army days were over.

Following his meeting with Jane at the barn dance, a courtship ensued and on September 10th, 1946 they wed. The newlyweds moved in with Gervase's mom Alvina, brother Cletus and his new wife Margaret, sister Ethel, her husband George Bowser and their two children and Gervase's younger sisters, Theresa and Melda. Since Jane had read all those cook books, she became head chef. Eventually all of the others would move on except for Gervase and Jane who would stay for the next thirteen years until Alvina received her first old age pension cheque. One month prior to leaving for Hawker, their daughter Lola was born and for three months while Gervase was building their new home, he, Jane and baby Lola lived in what is now their shed. Two years later their son Melvin was born. They now have a wonderful son-in-law Kenny and two adorable grandsons, Kevin and Nathan.

Gervase retired from years of working construction in 1976 and enjoys life to the fullest. He loves to play cards and never misses a bingo. In 2002 he was awarded a Dutch Medal for his service

in Holland. He is a lifetime member of the Legion and has received a Meritorious Award and an Appreciation Certificate. Both Jane and Gervase are founding members of the RB Seniors 50+ Club. She was a stay at home mom who loved to knit, sew and make quilts. At the Legion bingo, Jane is better known as "Ma Petite Penguin". Jane claims she was so poor growing up that when her first pension cheque arrived she kissed it and has kissed everyone she received since. She was a charter member of the CWL and loves to play her accordion and now that Gervase can't hear very well she can play much louder and longer.

Lola and Melvin have not inherited their mother's musical talents however Jane is very proud that her grandson Nathan has. Jane sings continuously especially when she cooks and she still makes the best bonnach in RB and won first place in a biscuit-making contest in Lakeside several years ago. She is the first every month to read "The River Round Up" and has helped boost our circulation. Aunt Jane and Uncle Gervase are unaware that I am writing their story so I hope all the tales she has told me over the years I have recalled accurately. We all wish you both many more years of health and may you always yell "Bingo". Thanks to Lola Pettipas and Ann Clow for their help. *Sharon Chilvers*

Senior's 50+ Club



President Anne Sampson receiving a cheque from George Kyte.

The River Bourgeois Senior 50+ Club is promoting fitness among its members at our club premises. The Strait Richmond Community Health Board, through its Wellness and Tobacco Cessation Funds, helps local organizations with funding for health promotion and illness prevention initiatives. The cheque for \$470.00 will be used to purchase exercise mats. The program will be beginning as soon as they arrive.

Nature Notes

On April 20th, the spring "Peepers" were heard for the first time in 2004 and it also coincided with the end of the running of the sap. Last year we told you

about Adrian Touesnard's Maple Syrup Operation. Unfortunately this will be its last year. As a one man operation it has proven to be just too much work, also unfortunate is that for its last year the yield is down 75% due to weather conditions. Adrian has enjoyed the past years though and will miss watching the process unfold from start to finish.

By the time you receive this, spring will be well underway, but today is the 24th of April and we had some snow overnight. Lots of signs of it though-the River is clear of ice, Robins, Great Blue Herons and other migratory birds have been slowly returning. The Osprey are here and the Coltsfoot is blooming.

Each year this means that our Migratory Bird Count is coming up. On May the 8th birds will be counted all over North America. We are looking for people to check out their feeders or go for a walk and report in. Last year in Richmond County we had 26 individuals taking part and they counted 73 species. This year we would like to beat that record. Call George (County Coordinator) at 535-3516 if you can donate some time. Remember we count every bird we see on that day so you don't have to be an expert.

Birding is the fastest growing recreational pastime and our area is doing its share. Bernard Burke (Mary & Ernest's son) from the Southside is getting to be an expert both at identification of rarities and the photography of birds. He is a regular contributor of bird sightings and photographs to the Nova Scotia Bird Society Newsletter. His website is: <http://community.webshots.com/user/eagleeyes112> On the same note, Gerry Fougere has a photograph of a Northern Gannet which was sitting on the road by Valerie Boyd's featured in the Winter 2004 issue of Nova Scotia Birds. *George & Sharon Digout*

RBCSS

The 2004 RBCSS Board of Directors were installed on April 28th: Sharon Chilvers-Chairman, Raymond Doary-Vice Chair, Monica McPhee-Treasurer, Joe MacPhee-Secretary, Wayne Bona-Past Chairman, and other directors: Sharon Digout, Anne Sampson, Cletus Wedge, Mike Fougere, Lisette MacDonald, Esther Bourque, Bob Pettigrew, Basil Bourque, Rose Merrick, Carl Grimes, George Bourque, Carmen Fougere.

RB Volunteers

Congratulations to all the River Bourgeois Volunteers who were honored by Richmond County at a dinner held on April 23rd in recognition of outstanding volunteer service benefiting our community. Representatives from the various organizations were: **Debbie Landry-RB 4H, Leona**

Campbell-St. John the Baptist CWL, **Sherry Baccardax**-RB Technology Training Centre, **Sharon Chilvers**-RBCSS, **Bob Park**-St. John the Baptist Parish Council, **Marie Heudes**-Seniors 50+ Club, **Mimi Fougere**-Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation, **Anita Boucher**-East Richmond Education Center, **Robert Pettigrew**-Richmond Gentleman's Hockey League, **Cletus Wedge**-St. Peters Marina, and **Joan Stone**-St. Peters United Church.

Easter Services



Kelsey Sampson, Donna Marie DeWolfe, Bethany King, Haley Sampson, Melanie Poaps, Katie Beaulieu

Easter Sunday Morning Worship at St. John the Baptist Church in River Bourgeois gave witness to the prayer of liturgical dance in preparation for proclaiming of the Gospel. The dance was performed to the hymn "The Dawn of Day" sung by the Parish Choir. The dance was choreographed by Helen Slade.

First Communion



Jillian, Shania, Megan, Haley, Melanie, Liam, Austin, Fr. Currie

On Sunday April 18th seven children of our parish made their First Holy Communion at Mass celebrated by Father Reginald Currie. The children are Jillian (Tanya) Burke, Shania (Tammy) Boucher, Meghan (Mark & Rose) Merrick, Haley (Gerard & Pamela) Sampson, Melanie (Robert & Ida) Poaps, Liam

(Kelly & Joan) Burke and Austin (Russell & Jamie) Morrison. Thanks to their teacher Pamela Sampson.

The RB Festival



Remember the shot gun wedding from 1996 when mom & dad brought the unwilling bride to the altar and the groom was hard to find! Well plans are starting for the 26th annual festival on the last weekend of August. Chairman Michael Fougere thinks it would be a good time for the bride to renew her wedding vows.

Jeanne Belford

“Last fall, I wrote a Letter to the Editor which you posted in the November 2003 issue of River Round Up. You correctly referred to me as Jeanne Belford, but associated me with the following incorrect web site: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/j.josse/jeannesmain.htm When you have a minute, I'd appreciate it if you could correct that. I am not responsible for the Isle Madame Genealogy website and am uncomfortable being credited with someone else's effort.

I am very much involved in Isle Madame Genealogy though, and was instrumental in bringing the Isle Madame Genealogy Summit to Richmond County in 2000. These days, I am focusing primarily on the transcription of Richmond County Parish and Civil Records and the completion of the Port Toulouse/St. Peters web site. The new Port Toulouse site can be found at <http://www.porttoulouse.com> Please take a look. I think you'll enjoy this bit of history about your area. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in August. We will be renting a home for three weeks in your community. River Bourgeois is our village of choice. My husband and I love it there. You may remember us a few years back (along with our King Charles spaniel, "Nellie") transcribing gravestones in your cemetery. What a beautiful, peaceful place! Someday we hope to live in River Bourgeois! ‘

History

The River Round Up-May 9, 1956:

Stanley McPhee, who is teaching School at Rockingham, motored home to spend the week end.

He was accompanied here by Peter Boyd, Basil Sampson and Arthur Burke, whom all returned to the city with him on Sunday afternoon. Stanley traded in his car for a 1955 Chev, at least, I think it's a Chev. Stanley was glad he had something to occupy his mind during the weekend, as other attractions were conspicuous with their absence and there are some models that cannot be changed at a moment's notice.

Sister Ann Joseph, accompanied by Miss Monica Burke left on Thursday night for Rogersville, N.B. They returned home Sunday evening.

Hubert Fougere, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Anselm Fougere, who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis at St. Rita's Hospital, has returned home and is back at school . . .

Richards's Pond, with the coming of the trout fishing season, has again become a favorite place for young and old. I can think of no pleasanter way of spending a Sunday afternoon, providing of course, that the weather is fine, than fishing at the Pond. One of our most ardent fisher-women is Mrs. Thomas Sampson, who has been rewarded by the catching of some nice trout.

Births

Grimes/Sampson: Josh Daniel, 8lbs 14oz. born April 1st to John and Shari. First time grandparents are Carl & Marilyn Grimes, Annette & Glen Sampson, and great grandmothers are Annie Burke, Elnora Sampson and Genevieve Grimes.

Parent/Richard: Mairi Helen, 8lbs 9 oz., born April 18th to Lisa and Dennis. A sister for Amelie and second grandchild for Gerry and Mary Fougere.

Deaths

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

Burke: Austin Emmanuel, 93 years, passed away on April 12th. Austin was the son of Cyprien & Felicite (Boucher) Bourque. He is survived by children Jude, Charles and Nancy.

Dewar: Harold Stanley, passed away on April 11th. Harold was the father of Dianne (Patrick) Bourque.

Fougere: Frank Neil, 67 years, passed away March 31st. Neil, the son of Ephrem & Loretta (Boudreau) Fougere, is survived by sisters Stella and Emily.

Landry: Cletus Joseph, 84 years, passed away April 20th. Cletus was the son of Alvina & Joseph Landry. He is survived by daughter Claire, sisters Charlotte & Melda and brother Gervase.

Sampson: Joseph Vincent, 86 years, passed away April 4th. Vincent was the son of Josephine (Beranger) & John J Sampson. He is survived by his wife, Vivian, and children Delores, Bruce and

Beverly, stepsons Tom and Gerard and sisters Flo and Louise.

MacNeil: Ann Marie of Big Pond passed away on April 5th. She was the sister-in-law of Sharon Digout.

Bits and Bites:

- **Mass for Shut-ins** was celebrated by Parish Priest Father Reg. Currie on Sunday April 25th. Some thirty people along with our choir motored to Sydney for this celebration.
- **Merchandize Bingo** will be held on May 23rd at TLC at 2pm sponsored by Seniors 50+ Club.
- **CAP site meeting** Wed., May 12th at 7.
- **Seniors 50+** meeting May 4th at 1:30pm.
- **CWL meeting** Tues., May 11th at 7pm in Vestry. Agenda has been adjusted to accommodate local pharmacist Jill Cotton who will speak on **Diabetes**. Any members wishing to have their blood sugar tested can do so after the meeting.
- **Seniors mini Bingo** Wed., May 12th 1:30.
- **RBCSS meeting** May 19th at 7pm.
- **Birthday greetings** to Ernest Burke, Rachel Davidson, Theresa Kyte, Edward Touesnard, Bernard Burke, Judy Davies, Shirley Cordick, Hughie Samson, Margaret Morrison and Kenny Cosman.
- **Tickets are now on sale** on a framed painting of *Lighthouse* by Donald Fougere of Ontario. Donald is a RB native who does beautiful work in acrylics.
- **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** along with a good selection of **used books**. We have **new hours** for the Cap Site. We are open Mon. to Fri. 10-12 and 1-4 & 6-9 pm. Mon. to Thurs. evenings. On weekends by appointment which can be made by calling the CAT site 3251, Sherry 3182 or Sharon 3516.
- **Please note** that anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Center should call Ann Clow at 535-2726. We say goodbye to Bob Park and say thanks for a great job. 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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