



# The River Round Up

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## The Gift of Life



Wanda and Lola

Wanda (McNeil) Burke of River Tillard received the gift of life with a new kidney on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The kidney was donated by her sister-in-law Lola (Burke) Stevens of Lantz.

**Wanda's story:** My grandfather died at the age of thirty-two with what was then known as a bleeding kidney. He had eight children, of which four were diagnosed with kidney problems including my mother. My mother had ten children and at age forty-five went on a kidney dialysis machine after being diagnosed with PKD (Polycystic Kidney Disease). She passed away seven years later while waiting for a transplant and seven of her children have been diagnosed with PKD including myself.

PKD is a disease that causes fluid filled cysts to form in the kidneys. The kidneys become very enlarged because of the many cysts and the surface of the kidneys become bumpy and dark in color. Pressure from the expanding cysts slowly damages the kidney tissue, eventually causing kidney failure. PKD is an inherited disease and progresses very slowly. In the early stages, most people have no symptoms but as the disease progresses some symptoms such as high blood pressure, severe headaches, blood in urine, side and back pain and

fatigue develop. In the last stages, the disease progresses quickly and each month there are changes in your creatinine (a waste product found in the blood and urine). When your kidneys are not functioning well they are unable to filter out creatinine so the amount in your blood rises. (Normal count is in the eighty to one hundred level). When the creatinine level gets high, the symptoms get much worse and it is necessary to receive dialysis treatment. Dialysis cleans the blood of toxins either by a hemodialysis machine or through the abdomen, which is called peritoneal dialysis. The only cure is to receive a kidney transplant.

In 1977, I was given a test for PKD and it was negative. Before becoming pregnant with both our daughters I was retested, again with negative results. I was retested in 1982 and in December of 1984, I found out that the ultra sound report indicating I had PKD had been filed away by mistake. I showed little or no symptoms until two years ago and it was at that time that Lola said if I ever needed a kidney she would give me one of hers. My symptoms progressed rapidly and when my creatinine reached seven hundred and ten I was told to prepare for dialysis. True to her word, on December 14<sup>th</sup> Lola called the transplant coordinator and began a series of test to see if she was a match. Not only did her blood have to be compatible but she also had to be in excellent health. Following each and every test both Lola and I rejoiced at the good news. We did not tell anyone about the possible transplant until the day we received the wonderful news that we were a perfect match.

On February 23, 2004 Lola and I entered the QEII-VG Transplant Wing in Halifax and the following day the transplant was performed with huge success. Lola's recovery period was four to six weeks while mine will continue for a longer period of time and I take medication to ensure there is no rejection of the kidney. I am once again in good health and looking forward to enjoying life thanks to Lola.

There are never enough kidneys donated to provide transplants for people in kidney failure; some patients spend years waiting for a suitable donor. Family members willing and able to donate a kidney are an important source of kidneys for many. I was the fourth member of my family to receive a kidney, and three others will eventually require one.

**Lola's story:** When Wanda first told me that she would someday require a kidney I never hesitated for a moment to offer her one of mine if we were compatible. Wanda married my brother, Conrad, more than twenty-five years ago. We are sisters-in-law through marriage but friends by choice. I was overwhelmed and grateful for the opportunity to give my kidney for a new life. For a few weeks of discomfort, the rewards are great. Many people are born with only one kidney and are unaware of it so one can live a very productive life with just one. Please think about signing your health card to become a donor and wear a green ribbon as an indicator that you support donor awareness.

*Sharon Chilvers*

## Community Involvement Award



On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Emera held their Annual Meeting in Halifax and Carl Grimes was presented with the Nova Scotia Community Involvement Award. Congratulations to Carl on this well deserved recognition. The following is the text of the award. (The whole presentation can be viewed by going to [www.emera.ca](http://www.emera.ca))

“When faced with a challenge, don't expect Carl Grimes to back down. Known for his dedication and perseverance, you can see evidence of Carl's love for his community throughout RB. From the signs that were erected to welcome residents and visitors to the community, to the vintage River Bourgeois lighthouse that guides people home from the sea, Carl's handprint is all over the town.”

Carl, a Leading Steam Plant Operator at Point Tupper Generating Station, has been with Nova Scotia Power for 32 years. A lifetime resident of River Bourgeois, Carl has always been at the heart of the community. His father, Charlie, was the owner and operator of the Riverview Quick Lunch, a local

restaurant and popular haunt. Serving up good food and lots of conversation, Carl learned from the master, and like his father, is blessed with the "gift of gab". (We think that should be underlined). Carl's attitude brightens the lives of his friends and neighbors and he works to keep the heart of the community beating.

When asked about Carl's contribution to River Bourgeois, community members can quickly produce a long list of projects he took on. As one of the founding members of the River Bourgeois Economic Development Committee (RBCSS), Carl and his peers took on initiatives that would benefit River Bourgeois and bolster pride in the community. The first order of business was the development and erection of wooden signs, placed at the entrances to the community, welcoming residents and visitors to "Picturesque River Bourgeois." The overwhelming support for this project carried over to the next initiative.

In 2002, the RBCSS took on the task of rebuilding the River Bourgeois Lighthouse, destroyed by fire in 1990. Carl's determination to regain ownership of the land became a two-year battle. "Most people would have said, "Drop it", and been done with the project, but Carl was determined to see it through," said Sharon Chilvers, a long-time friend of Carl's. After procuring the land from the government, funding the project became the next hurdle. In three months, Carl raised \$22,000 to rebuild the lighthouse, with matched funds from the Nova Scotia Power Good Neighbour Employee Fund. The new lighthouse was completed 100 years to the day that the original lighthouse had been commissioned

Always eager to help out, Carl's generosity knows no bound. As a member of the Board of Directors of the River Bourgeois Community Services Society, he frequently holds fundraisers to help raise money for community initiatives such as the refurbishment of the community playground, the replacement of a roof on the River Bourgeois Seniors 50+ Club and the addition of a ground hockey/basketball area to the Tennis Court facility.

Carl and his "Driftwood" band are well known throughout the area. They provide weekly entertainment for residents of local seniors' homes, as well as concerts during the RB Annual Festival. The seven-day event sees Carl not only perform, but also act as bartender throughout the event. With all these projects and activities under his belt, it's hard to believe Carl has time for much else.

"Carl has done so much for the community, and this award recognizes that he's done something special," said Joseph MacPhee, a long-time friend of Carl's. "Not only does he show his commitment to RB, but his work with the Good Neighbour

Employee Fund says that Nova Scotia Power supports his work with the community."

Carl's dedication to the community continues with the development of a boat-launching site. A rich tradition and connection to the sea, the residents of River Bourgeois will surely appreciate this new expansion on their shores.

"A community's core is strengthened when its citizens express their pride and share a vision for the future. Setting that vision and achieving it are important keys to growth and community spirit. For a man who loves to talk, Carl's actions speak louder than his words. His vision and enthusiasm inspire all who work alongside of him in various community endeavours."

*I wish to thank all the people who I work with and nominated me for this award. I especially want to thank my neighbors and friends in River Bourgeois who supported it. There are many who encouraged the idea, helped with the fundraising and the building of the lighthouse who are equally worthy. Carl*

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### Its That Time



On a beautiful May 10<sup>th</sup>, boats of RB left the harbour for the first day of lobster fishing. This is Ervin Touesnard going out the channel to set the traps.

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### RBCCS Chair is taking a rest!

The following are excerpts of Wayne's annual report: "Besides our regular ongoing programming, some new developments in 2003 included the reconstruction of the lighthouse, an alarm system installation in the hall, new lightweight tables for the hall, and a very successful 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival. RBCSS also instituted a Volunteer Award to honor an outstanding volunteer annually, with a plaque to be placed in the hall with the recipient's name. The first award for outstanding volunteer for 2003 was presented to a well-deserved recipient, Eddie Pottie. Some future activities include the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual

Festival, a plausible boat launch, and other necessary programs & property maintenance.

In closing, I enjoyed the last four years as President of the Society, working with the Executive, Committee Chairs, other Board members and the many volunteers who contributed to making River Bourgeois a very active community and a special place to live. I will be looking forward to working with the new President and his or her style of leadership.

Lastly, I would like to thank the residents of River Bourgeois for their support for RBCSS. We will always take pride in benefiting our community."

*Wayne Bona*

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### They're Coming Back.



To all who enjoyed last year's RB festival dance and to those who missed it, Sam Moon and SCOTT FREE will be returning for an encore performance. You may hear their music on Saturday afternoon on our sundeck and Saturday night they play at the adult dance.

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### 2004 Graduates



*Ann Burke & Matthew Landry*

Congratulations to:

**Ann Burke** (Mary and Bernard) who graduated from St. FX with a Bachelor of Arts ; Major in English and a Minor in Math. Ann will be taking her Bachelor of Education in the fall.

**Matthew Landry** (Michael and Debbie) graduated with a diploma in Welding from the Strait Area Campus. Matthew is working at Fabco in Dart.

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## Births

**Martell:** Emma Grace, 8 lbs 14 oz was born on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Vickie & David along with grandparents Annabelle & Michael Boudreau of RB and Velma & Steve Martell of L'ardoise and great grandmother Mathilda Boudreau of RB.

**Murray:** Maren Audrey, 8lbs 2oz was born May 2<sup>nd</sup> to Raymond & Melissa of Tantallon. Maren is a little sister for Delaney and Abigail. Congratulations to grandparents Danny & Linda Cote of RB and Leo & Catherine Murray of St. Peters.

**Mulford:** Jacob Paul David, 8lbs 13oz, was born May 16 to Kyla and David of Riverview NB. Congratulations to grandparents Lucille & Paul Martell of Riverview and great-grandmothers Rita Landry, RB & Nan Martell, St. Peters.

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## Weddings

**Dunbar/LeBlanc:** Congratulations to Stephanie Marie, daughter of Kenneth & Gloria LeBlanc and Christopher Donald, the son of Cathy & Don Dunbar of Wingham, Ontario. They were married on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in RB and reside in Dartmouth.

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## Deaths

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

**Boudreau:** Darren Joseph, 38, of Upper Tantallon passed away on April 30<sup>th</sup> in Halifax. He was the son of Gloria (Fougere) & Whitney Boudreau. Darren is survived by his parents, wife Brenda, their children, Jacob and Grace, and brother Perry.

**Britten:** Ambrose, 82, of D'Ecouse passed away May 9<sup>th</sup>. Ambrose was an uncle to Cynthia Pottie.

**LePlante:** Eve Marie (Marion), 64, of Halifax passed away April 30<sup>th</sup>. Marion is the sister of Leona Gilbert of Church Point.

**MacLean:** Patrick, 20, of Sydney passed away on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Patrick was a cousin to Cynthia Pottie.

**Morrison:** George E. (Teddy), 92, passed away May 3 in Buffalo NY. He was the son of the late Dennis Patrick & Margaret (Stone) Morrison of Seaview, a brother-in-law of Josephine (Tussie) Morrison and an uncle to Donnie Pottie & Georgie Morrison of RB.

**Robertson:** Katherine A, 93, of St. Peters passed away May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Katherine was a sister-in-law of Raymond Robertson.

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## Bits and Bites:

- **RBCSS** will be awarding two **bursaries** of \$200 each. Graduating students may apply to PO Box 56, River Bourgeois, B0E 2X0 before June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Seniors 50+** meeting June 1st 1:30

- **Merchandise Bingo** will be held on June 6th at TLC at 2pm sponsored by RBCSS.
- **Image Scanning Course** June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. at CAP site. Call 535-3251 to register. Cost \$10.
- **CAP site meeting** Wed., June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- **Seniors mini bingo** Wed., June 9th 1:30.
- **CWL meeting** Tues., June 14 at 7pm in Vestry.
- **RBCSS meeting** Wed., June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.
- **Appreciation night** for all CAP site volunteers and committee members on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at CAP site.
- **Birthday** greetings to Charlotte & Daphne LeBlanc, Conrad Fougere, Catherine Boudreau, Stella Doutaz, Mary Pettigrew, Angela Burke, Peter Baccardax, Helen Poirier, Frances Digout and a special 70<sup>th</sup> birthday to Father Currie and 80<sup>th</sup> birthday greeting to Annie Sampson.
- **Volunteers** are required for the Festival (Aug 28<sup>th</sup>-Sept 5<sup>th</sup>). If you can give two or more hours of your time, call the CAP site (3251) weekdays or Mike Fougere at (3308). Funds raised are used for the day -day running of the Tara Lynne Center and the Funeral Home. **Please help out.**
- **Spring Cleanup**-There is a lot of dishes left at the TLC. We will have them on display for the next two weeks. Go to the Capsite during the hours listed below and please pick up any that may belong to you. After two weeks all items will be donated to Leaside Transition house.
- **Tickets are now on sale** at local businesses and the CAP site on a Framed Painting of our *Lighthouse* by Donald Fougere. Donald is a RB native who does beautiful work in acrylics.
- **Note**-Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, CAP site hours will be: 11:30 am-8 pm Mon. to Thur. & 8:30 am-5 pm on Fridays. Starting June 17<sup>th</sup> they will change to 11:30-8 pm Mon-Wed & 8:30 -5pm on Thur-Fri. On weekends by appointments only, call Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516).
- **A reminder** that anyone wishing to book the **TLC** should call Ann Clow at 535-2726. For use of the **Funeral Home** call Marie & Conrad Fougere at 535-2621. Call Georgie or Harold Landry at 2939 to **open the church** for all special services such as funerals, weddings etc.
- 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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