



# The River Round Up

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## Rachel & Charlie Thibeau



*Rachel & Charlie on their wedding day*

Rachel Delina was born on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1918 in Sporting Mountain, the youngest of seven children to Jerome and Annie (Lecouter) MacPhee. Her dad cut props (logs) for a living and each fall, railroad cars would be left on the tracks for a couple of days. A group of men would then get together and help load the props, as it had to be done very quickly.

Rachel went to the one room school in Seaview, which included grades primary to nine. She fondly remembers her first teacher, Lorena Bona (sister to Mary Ann Robertson). It was a two and a half mile trek each way and school was never cancelled even in the worse snowstorms. The older children would walk ahead to clear a path for the younger ones. There were not many things to do up the mountain as a child but there was a lot of blueberry and strawberry picking in a patch called *Burnt Land*. In the evening the neighbors gathered together and played cards by kerosene lamps and Rachel's mom would serve tea. The powder room was located several feet from the house and it was equipped with the Sears catalogue.

After five years of schooling, Rachel left to work as a maid at the MacDonald Hotel in St. Peters. She later took care of an elderly couple in Soldiers Cove.

In 1938, Rachel became smitten with a handsome local gentleman by the name of Charlie Thibeau. Charlie, however, was not known for making hasty decisions so he waited five years before proposing and on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1942 they wed. They made their home in Thibeauville where they had four children; Patsy who now lives in Grand Greve, Eddie in Lively, Ontario, Bernadette in Halifax and Margie in St. Peters. The children were all born at home with three of them weighing more than ten pounds while little Bernadette weighed in under five pounds. She was so petite, claims Rachel, that she could fit in a shoebox and she kept her warm on the warming oven (Thibeauville's version of an incubator).

Charlie and Rachel had eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren Riley, Emma, Alyssa and Tyler.

Charlie worked for Standard Paving in Halifax and returned home for the winter months. Rachel looked after the children and took care of her mom for eighteen years following the death of her father. She also made quilts; knitted and sewed. Their water had to be carried from the *Watering Brook*, which was more than a mile from her house. Eventually they had their own well dug and in the late fifties they hooked up electricity. In 1960, Charlie decided the kids had too far to walk out to meet the school bus and built a house in River Bourgeois. He retired in 1972 and passed away in 1983.

In 1984, Rachel moved to River Tillard to live in an apartment owned by her daughter Margie and husband Terry Boudreau. In 1998, she broke her shoulder in a fall and moved to the Villa in St. Peters where she still resides. She is quite contented there and enjoys the people and the music. She suffers from arthritis but her memory is terrific and she looks forward to her daily visits from Margie and Patsy and the visits of all her friends. Rachel may you continue to enjoy your life to the fullest and we will always miss you in River Bourgeois. *Sharon Chilvers*

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## Congrès Mondial Acadian

Plans to host a Fiddle & Folk Festival at the Tara Lynne Center that was posted in the schedule of events of the Congrès website have been cancelled. There are, however, many activities taking place throughout Richmond County. If you have any of the following names in your family history, do register and take in the festivities of the following reunions planned in the County. Berthier, Samson, Boudreau, LeJeune, Cordeau, Fougere, Paon, and David. Rich. Co. activities are coordinated by Trudy Boudreau who may be contacted at 226-1013 or at richmondcma2004@pdgrat.ccfne.ns.ca

The following events will take place at the RB & other Richmond CAP sites as part of the congrès: **Friday**, Aug. 6: 10:30-12 - Children's story hour & crafts. **Sunday**, Aug. 8: 1-2 pm - Workshop on how to complete genealogy research. **Tuesday**, Aug. 10: 11-2pm - Open House/local history. **Thursday**, Aug. 12: - Computer Acadian Treasure Hunt. *Therese Pottie*  
**Places to stay:** Katie Ann's Place 902-535-3022  
Grandma's Bed & Breakfast at 1-800-811-5121.

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## Decoy Carving



At the Wildlife carving competition in Halifax in May, these two ducks carved by Weldon McPhail of Oban each took home a first prize in the novice category. Fourteen years ago, the late Alfred Richard began carving beautiful ducks in his shed. Several years later, George Digout started in Alfred's shed and now Weldon carves in George's shed- so the tradition continues.

Another well known decoy carver from RB is Albert Richard who lives in New Brunswick.

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## Tribute to "Archie"

Archie! No other name was necessary, for everyone understood that we were referring to Miss Helen Archibald, principal and unchallenged ruler of MacDougal High School, St. Peters.

In the fall of 1962, five boys, (Pat Bourque, Charlie Boyd, Russell Fougere, my big brother George and I) from River Bourgeois enrolled in

grade eleven in St. Peters. Archie's reputation had preceded our arrival, so we knew better than to be anything but well behaved. We learned quickly how to get along, pay attention in class, do our homework every night and not do anything to rock the boat.



*Picture courtesy of Gerry Fougere*

Archie's school routine was straightforward: drills, memorize and prepare for finals. If your homework was not done, you had to "stay in" after school. If you failed a test, you had to "stay in" to study more, and if that meant staying in every night for a month, then so be it. The goal was the same for all of us-pass all your departmental exams, and pass we did, year after year.

It was Archie who wrote every word I was to say when CJC radio came to do a program about our school. It was Archie who arranged for me to write my grade 12 History departmental exam at home because I was too sick to go to school. It was she who told me I had a "brain" and I should go to University. It was she who arranged for a small scholarship when I finally decided to go to St. F.X. (thanks to the generosity of Father Samson.) It was Archie who arranged an annual end-of-year trip for her students. That was the highlight of the school year. It was she who went along to supervise personally every trip.

When I graduated from St. F.X. and went looking for a teaching position, Archie phoned to ask me to come to St. Peters to help her teach Grades 11 and 12. When I told her I was recovering from a nervous breakdown, her exact words were "don't worry, you'll do just fine."

Archie bailed me out during my first year when Maynard Boyd, Mike Forbrigger or Lorena Bethel became too much for a young rookie teacher to manage. I patterned my approach after hers, pressing students to study, keeping them after school, and meeting the same success as she with departmental exam results.

After two years in St. Peters, I decided to look for a teaching position elsewhere. I remember very clearly asking Archie for a letter of recommendation, and getting an abrupt one-word answer, "No", for she

was unhappy with me for challenging her on what she considered to be an important matter. I never did get a letter of recommendation from her.

Years later while I was doing doctoral studies at the University of Alberta, I used to silently thank Archie for the study skills and the “stick-to-itiveness” I had acquired under her guidance.

Archie’s approach would likely not find much favor today. Fifty years ago, however her approach was very effective and was responsible for the academic success of many young men and women from all over Richmond County. I personally have a lot to thank her for. I suspect some of you who read this article feel the same way. *Stan Digout*



University: Jessica Samson

**Samson, Jessica** (Hughie & Doreen) graduated from Universite' Sainte Anne on June 4/04, with a diploma in Technologie de l'informatique. Jessica has accepted a job with a consulting firm in Charlottetown, PEI. Love from Mom & Dad.

**Congratulations to all graduates.**

### Awards

Congratulations to the following River Bourgeois students who received scholastic awards at Richmond Academy. Alisha (Neil & Maureen) Burke, Sally (Basil & Linda) Burke and Lauren (Glen & Dawn) Pottie all received high distinction awards while Joel (Neil & Maureen) Burke, Joseph (Peter & Sherry) Baccardax and Ashley (Ricky & Sharon) Stone received distinction awards.

### Graduates



High School: Daphne LeBlanc & Mathew Brewer. Missing is Edward McNamara.

**Brewer, Matthew** (Allan & Pam Touesnard) will be attending NSCC for General Arts and Science program followed by an Arts Degree in Halifax. Matthew received \$750 in memory of Nelson Burke.

**LeBlanc, Daphne** (Gerald & Janet) will be attending St. Joseph’s College in Halifax for a 2 yr program in Early Childhood Education. Daphne received the Parish council bursary in memory of Fr.Clary MacDonald, \$200 from RBCSS and the \$500 Myra Filion memorial award.

**McNamara, Edward** (George & Yvonne) will be attending UCCB for a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He received the \$200 Fr.Charles Brewer memorial bursary from the Parish council, \$250 from the CWL in memory of Marie Boyd, \$1000 from the Silver Dart Air Cadets, \$250 from St. Peters Lioness Club in memory of Eva Digout and \$500 from the Air Cadets Parental Committee.

### Posties of the Past

The following is a partial list of local post offices and ‘posties’ found and copied from the National Archives of Canada Website. We will print the remainder site information next month. Thought this information would be of interest to our readers.

Office Name	Postie	Start Date	Vacancy/Cause
Cannes	John Fortune	1884-11-01	1893-04-04 (Resignation)
	Tranquil Digout	1894-03-01	1926-10-23 (Resignation)
	Susan Landry	1926-11-30	1954-10-23 (Resignation)
	Eileen Landry	1954-12-08	Acting
	Eileen Landry	1955-09-22	1970-08-20 (Office Closed)
River Bourgeois	George H. Bissett	Prior to 1869	1877-03-31 (Resignation)
	J.J. McNeil	1879-01-01	No records between 1879 & 1884
	G.H. Bissett	Shown in 1884	1890-03-27 (Resignation)
	Alex Sampson	1890-07-01	1943-11-26 (Death)
	Catherine A. Sampson	1943-12-01	Acting
	A. Delore Burke	1944-05-05	1951-06-11 (Resignation)
	M. Helen Bouchie	1951-07-05	1958-03-24 (Resignation)
	A. Delore Burke	1958-04-11	Acting
	A. Delore Burke	1960-02-19	1980-08-01 (Retired)
	Carmen Fougere	1980-08-01	To present

*Donnie Pottie*

## Births

**Fougere:** Marlee Hope, 8lbs 11oz, was born June 7<sup>th</sup> to Michael and Kerry in Halifax. Congrats to grandparents, Hubert & Marguerite Fougere and big brother James.

**Frost:** Noah Jon Ronald was born the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, the son of Lisa & Jon of Tantallon. Congratulations to stepsister Melissa and RB grandparents Annette & Rene.

**Hartling:** Isobella Claire, 4lbs 3 oz, born May 28<sup>th</sup> in Halifax to Rob & Deanna. Sister to Kayla & Braeden. Congratulations to grandparents Claire Chenier and Eddie Pottie.

**King:** Josie Elizabeth, 6lbs 13oz, born May 30<sup>th</sup> to Kelvin & Lori Ann. Sister to Nicholas. Congratulations to grandparents Dave & Ann Clow and Lorraine King and great grandma Mae McPhee.

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## Anniversary

Congratulation to Blaise & Gretchen Landry on their 25th wedding anniversary, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Blaise & Gretchen have three daughters, Julia, Melanie and Deanna.

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## CAP Site

Come visit this summer and meet our staff, Lisa Martens, Holly Stone & Heidi Stone. They are very busy getting ready for the festival, heritage walk and finishing the typing of the Old River Round Ups. In anticipation of the visitors for the Acadian Congrès, they have downloaded many of the local family trees, baptismal, marriage, birth, cemetery records etc from the Internet so if you're searching your roots, drop in and do some browsing in the binders.

Souvenirs of River Bourgeois are available as well as Garvie Samson's book "The River That Isn't". This year's festival committee is featuring the *Lower End School* on T-shirts and sweatshirts. We have ordered more of the Lighthouse Mugs as a lot of people were disappointed when we sold out in the fall--these will be available about the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

**We will once again be preparing the Church Bulletin for the summer so drop of your notices at the CAP site; phone 535-3251 or E-mail us at [rbcap@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:rbcap@ns.sympatico.ca)**

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## Bits and Bites:

- **Seniors 50+** club members' summer luncheon to take place on July 6<sup>th</sup>. For more info call Ann at 2803. Next meeting is **August 3<sup>rd</sup>**.
- **Canada Day Celebrations at TLC, July 1<sup>st</sup>**. Starts at 12:30 with Chinese Auction. Followed by children's events, music by "Island Driftwood" BBQ and cake. Everyone welcome.

- **Word Wagon Playtime** for the whole family ages 0-7. Stories, songs, bubbles, crafts, etc. Tuesday, July 27 10-11 at the TLC playground.
- **RBCSS meeting** on July 21<sup>st</sup> TLC 7pm.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Boat Parade** is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>. Watch for further details.
- **Tennis lessons** at RB courts -Registration is 11-12 noon.
- **Correction:** In our March Issue we announced the death of Minnie M. Brown-her correct name is Sophie Marie (Minnie) Brown and she died at home with her daughter, Joanne Ross, in Margaree Valley, Inverness County.
- **Parent & Tot--all done** for the summer. Looking for interested parents so that it can continue in the fall. Please call Wanda 535-2601 or Debbie 226-0512.
- **Anniversaries:** Congratulations to Gilbert & Patsy Bourque on their 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Thanks to** George A Landry, Rocky Filion Raymond Doary, Conrad Fougere & Joe MacPhee for the great job they did on the floor at the TLC. Also a great big thank you to all who volunteered at the graveyard clean up.
- **Winner** of the Lighthouse painting by Donald Fougere was Danny MacKinnon of Port Hood.
- **The North American Migratory Bird Count** was a huge success again this year. We had 35 participants who counted 86 different species, our best year yet. Thanks to all who took part.
- **Birthdays greetings** to Margaret Bourque Therese Digout, Therese Pottie, Maurice Landry, Arthur Bouchard, Alice Sampson, Gerald LeBlanc and Gladys Morrison.
- **CAP site** hours are 11:30-8 pm Mon-Wed & 8:30-5pm on Thurs & 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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