



The River Round Up

Volume 5

Number 9

September 2004

\$1.00

Obeline Burke



Obeline relaxing in her new home

Obeline Mary was born November 24th, 1922 in Seaview the only daughter of Sam and Gertie (Fougere) Boudreau. Her dad worked as a night watchman at the gravel pit to support the family. Obeline and her brothers Buddy and Austin (John Henry passed away in infancy) attended the one room school in Seaview. After having completed grade ten, Obeline stayed at home to care for her ailing grandmother, Julia Fougere.

In 1942, Obeline married Tony Burke of Cannes and continued to live in Seaview. She gave birth to eleven children at home with the last one weighing more than eleven pounds. First came Claire (RB's mail lady) who lives in St. Peters, Peter better known as Sunny resides in Calgary, Anne (Butch) in St. Peters, Billy (Billo) who passed away in 1988, Ronnie in Calgary, Judy in RB, Gerald (BB) also in Calgary, twins Gary & Garvey both in RB, Colleen in Halifax and Calvin in RB. The family would expand to include twenty-eight grandchildren and thirty-seven great grandchildren for a total of seventy-six direct descendants.

In 1957, Obeline moved her eleven children to RB. Her parents, Gertie & Sam, also moved at the same time to the same field. She was very grateful to have them so close by, as with eleven school lunches to make and all the cooking, washing and cleaning, there was never enough time in the day to do everything. Her fondest memories are of those of her mom with her children. Gertie had that everlasting

smile and was always ready to play pranks on the children. When the twins were babies they had developed a diaper rash from the heat so Gertie took charge and made a potion with cornstarch, which was the remedy for diaper rash. Several hours later the boys were still crying so Obeline checked them out only to find out Gertie had made the potion with icing sugar and as it got wet, it hardened like cement. Gertie's reaction was "It will make them sweeter". "It didn't" claims Obeline. All of the boys were rather mischievous, thanks to their grandma.

Since money was scarce and it cost twenty -five cents to go to the movies at the hall Gerald (BB) would wait until DA Sampson was heading towards the hall and he would bend down pretending to look for his lost quarter. DA would fall for the prank each time. Claire vowed the day she left home she would never eat molasses again. Her version of a perfect meal was, tomato soup, store bought sliced bread and prem meat. Flo Pottie was Gary's godmother and had given him a black hen for his birthday and given that was the only chicken on the farm the children would each eat one egg every eleven days providing the hen didn't take a day off. There were also many not so nice incidences including Ronny accidentally chopping Gary's finger off while cutting kindling and identical twin brother Garvey immediately remarked "Now they will be able to tell us apart". At age thirteen, Garvey was stricken with a severe case of Juvenile Arthritis in the spine. Countless operations have given him some relief but he continuous to suffer. Five years later, his brother Gary was stricken with the same disease. It is very difficult to watch the children suffering, exclaims Obeline.

She loves to knit. She makes dozens of pairs of mittens and socks for the grandchildren. She has traveled several times to Calgary to visit her boys and to Sudbury to visit her brother, Austin. She just moved into a new home. Her daughter, Colleen expanded and renovated Gertie & Sam's old homestead so at eighty-one she has a brand new *pad*. Obeline, may you continue to have excellent health,

keep smiling and we the people of River Bourgeois wish you nothing but the very best. *Sharon Chilvers*

Graduation



Sharlene Burke, daughter of Warren & Debbie Burke graduated from the Culinary Institute of Canada in Charlottetown, PEI on May 1st 2004.

Reunions and Reunions Berthier:



Pictured above is our own Annie (Berthier) Burke from the Southside. Eight of Annie's children and their families made it to the celebrations. Barry & Austin were unable to attend and were missed by all. Picture courtesy of Cheryl Burke.

The Berthier-Burkey family reunion took place on the July 31st weekend in L'Ardoise as part of the Congrès Mondial Acadian 2004 celebration. Reunion activities included a chowder luncheon, variety concert, genealogy display, beach party and a mass for deceased family members.

The Berthier-Burkey float won first prize in the L'Ardoise festival parade. The celebration was a wonderful gathering of family and friends and concluded with a farewell family photo. Thanks to the organizers, Theresa MacDonald, Vinny Burkey, Marie Burkey & Bernadette Bona for the great job they did. *Annie Burke*

Fougere:

We recently had the great pleasure of attending the Fougere-Cordeau reunion in D'Escousse, which was part of the Congrès Mondial Acadian 2004 celebration.

The hosts for the reunion, Allan & Annette Fougere along with a host of other people devoted many hours to set up the programs and activities covered during the two day event. Of great interest to all were the Fougere Crest, the well preserved

historical documents, photographs, mementos and other items relating to the experience and life struggles of our ancestors.

A major highlight was the presentation by genealogist Stephen White, of the University of Moncton. He has carried out extensive research into the plights of the Acadians since their entry into Canada at Port Royal in the 17th century. His presentation was well organized, articulate and the information was of great interest to all. It created discussion and private conversations with Mr. White for a considerable time after the completion of his talk.



The Fougere's having a great old time. Picture courtesy of Helena McCay. I see a lot of familiar faces.

On the first evening of the reunion, members of participating families took part in a Fougere pub organized by Marianne (Fougere) Rissesco and hosted by her husband, Tom. Isabel Fougere of Havre Boucher joined musicians, Marianne & her son, Anthony, on stage to lead a great sing along. A number of others played and sang as individuals or in groups including Isabel's sister, Bernadette, and their nieces and nephew from Truro. The singing was followed by music played on piano and violin (music for dancing) provided by Marianne Fougere and her son Anthony. Marianne is the daughter of the late Amable & Ida Fougere of River Bourgeois.

On Sunday, Mass was celebrated by Bishop Vernon Fougere of Charlottetown, PEI. Assisted by Fr. John J. MacDonald (former pastor of St. John the Baptist parish here in R.B). The choir was excellent, with the highlight being a magnificent rendition of "Ave Maria" featuring Anthony and Marianne.

One of the major reasons for the success of the reunion was the work which has been carried out by Helena (Fougere) McCay in setting up *the Mary and Henry Fougere website* several years ago. It now includes a great deal of information concerning the Acadians, the Fougere family and River Bourgeois in general. We salute Helena (daughter of Amable & Ida) and her husband Garry McCay for their efforts relating to the reunion and the website.

Hubert and Marguerite Fougere

McPhee:



Front row, left to right-Justin McPhee, Ray Landry, Ainsley McPhee, Veronica Landry, Courtney McPhee, Eunice Burke & Monica McPhee. Second Row-Gisele McPhee, Rose McPhee, Bernard McPhee, Edgar McPhee, Martha Digdon & Brenda McPhee. Third Row-Fraser McPhee, Donald McPhee, Gerard & Dante McPhee, Juanita McPhee, Billy Digdon, John McPhee & Stanley McPhee. River Bourgeois people missing when picture was taken were Ann & David Clow and Mike McPhee and family.

On the Civic Holiday long weekend, the descendants of Simon McPhee of River Bourgeois held a family reunion in Sydney with over 100 people attending the various activities. Simon's children were Frank, Joseph, Anselm, Richard, Margaret May, Whitney, Elias, Leo & Lillian. Events included an informal gathering and a chance to mingle on Friday, a dinner & dance on Saturday and a family picnic & barbecue on Sunday. Saturday's event featured fine dining, short speeches by a member of each family and late night two-stepping. The weather cooperated for the barbecue on Sunday where various games for the children were held including a very competitive sponge water fight in which Stanley McPhee was deemed the winner in his age category!

All the events provided a chance for many of the clan to meet for the first time and become acquainted in a social environment. A host of photographs and family tree information was available for viewing. All who made an effort to attend were not disappointed; many thanks are extended to the organizing committee-the family of Leonard McPhee (the son of Frank McPhee) of South Bar.

Gerard McPhee

Ed's note: and then there is Veronica McPhee Landry, daughter of Monica & Stanley. Anyone who knows her will not be surprised that she was a participant in the City Chase, which is a take of The Amazing Race being held in various cities across Canada. It raises money for charity. We wrote Veronica and asked her to send some of the highlights.

"Our team name was Fit-Profanity (a play on words for the company FitPro who helped organize the event). We did, however, get an award because we "dressed up" our legs in marker with our team name. The worse thing I had to do was eat wet cat food. Nancy (*her friend Nancy Foran*) ate a worm. The

first 4 bites were OK but the last 2 didn't go down so well. You had to roll the dice to see what you had to eat. Luckily they had gum there for after your eating experience - best %&^ing gum I ever tasted!! I got one eyebrow shaved at one of the chase points - this was funny and took guts but not unpleasant - it's almost grown back now and it was a much better option than getting the Mohawk done so I went for it (we had to pick what we wanted done). We had to put a big snake down each other's tops but that didn't really bother me too much. Digging in worms and bugs to find and dish out 2 pennies was a little "unsettling" though.

The "mostest funniest" thing we did was squeegee people's windshields on Spring Garden Rd until we made \$5 for charity (it only took us about 45 seconds but the first car Nancy approached locked their doors and rolled up their windows). Nancy had to do some blindfolded rock-climbing at the climbing gym while I guided her - that was fun too."

We thank Veronica for telling us her story but I don't know if it will encourage many to enter next year, but if you're so inclined grab a partner and practice. I have a picture of Nancy & Veronica doing their thing so hopefully I can show it next month.

Milestone Anniversaries



Left to right-Jenny Kyte, Mildred Stone, Lenova Boucher, Bernard Sampson, Benedict Sampson, Charles Kyte. Photo courtesy of Trevor Brown.

Bernard & Lenova (Boucher) Sampson celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on Aug 2nd. They were married by Father Flavian Sampson in 1954 and have six children: Ivan, Darlene, Jacqueline and Leon in Ottawa, Sandra in Halifax and Doris in RB. They also have six grandchildren and one great granddaughter Leah. Mary & Bernard Burke celebrated their 30th on July 4th, Maureen (Cosman) & Neil Burke celebrated their 25th on July 7th and George J Landry & Marguerite MacDonald celebrated their 25th on July 31st. Congratulations to all the above couples.

Births

Touesnard: Mylan Christopher was born Aug. 24th to Mark & Charlene Touesnard. Weighing in at 7lbs, 9 1/2 oz, Mylan is a little brother for Justin, grandson

for Janice & Ervin and great grandson for Viola Touesnard. Congratulations to all.

Baker: Clifford Samson Fougere (Sam), born Aug. 25, 8lbs. 15 ½ oz. to Denise & Tom. Brother to Molly, grandson for Hubert & Marguerite Fougere. Congratulations to all.

Weddings

Congratulations to the following:

Fougere/DeSousa: Kevin Andrew, son of Conrad & Marie Fougere and Tammy Arlene, daughter of Valvi White & the late Jose DeSousa of Toronto will be married on Aug 28th. Kevin & Tammy will reside in Calgary.

Landry/Jefferson: Craig Gerard, son of Vera Landry-Bourque & the late Charles George Landry, and Daisy Christine, daughter of Donna & Lawrence Jefferson of Bear River were married on Aug 14th. Craig & Daisy will reside in Yarmouth.

MacDonald/Snowdon: Travis Neil, son of Neil & Eleanor Snowdon, and Ashleigh Elizabeth, daughter of Graham & Monica MacDonald were married on Aug. 7th. Travis & Ashleigh reside in Carleton Place, Ontario.

MacLean/Sampson: Jason Thomas, son of Sharon McGrath of L'Ardoise & Bernie MacLean of Canso and Colette, daughter of Ann & Bucky Sampson were married on Aug. 7th. Colette & Jason will reside in L'Ardoise.

Deaths

Pate: Freeman Isaac, 87, son of the late Bertha & William Pate died in Brantford on Aug. 16th. Freeman was the brother of Mary B (Ernest) Burke of the Southside. He was wounded while overseas during the Second World War. Our condolences to Mary B. & family and his sister-in-law, Marion Maltby.

Bits & Bytes:

- **Seniors** meeting Sept. 6th at 1:30 pm.
- **Seniors** Mini Bingo Wed., Sept. 8 at 1:30.
- **RBCSS** meeting on Sept. 15th, 7pm at TLC.
- Next **CAP site meeting** Wed., Sept. 8, at 7pm.
- CWL meeting will be held **Sept. 14th**.
- Anniversary congratulations go out also to Stanley & Monica McPhee on their 46th on July 1st and to Joe & Monica Stone on their 52nd on Aug 21st.
- **Birthdays greetings** to: Marie Fougere, Ann Clow, Raymond Burke, Mary Ann Robertson, Joe Boucher, Claire Chenier, Linda Cote, Judy Carter.

- **We have not finished with the McPhee's yet!** Stanley & Monica's son, Mike won 1st place in the 5th annual MacDonnell Cup on Aug. 7th. He was helped by his father, who's main job was to pick up the garbage including coffee cups as the Yacht, *Frisco Kid* tossed and turned in the wind and rain. They were helped by sailing mates Janice & Jim Fennell. Second place in the category went to. Dr. Paul Pluta with the *Atlantis*, (Paul is not from River Bourgeois but since he keeps half of us alive we broke the rule) and our own Glenda & David Sampson placed third with their yacht *Breezes*. I am told that Mike was also the winner of the 1st MacDonnell Cup. On the 24th of August, Mike and his crew got a trophy for being first across the finish line at the inaugural Port Hawkesbury to Arichat race. That was a very stormy day and we don't know if it was Mike's skill that got him in first or the fact that he was very seasick and wanted to get home fast. Neil Burke apparently had a similar fate while sailing his new yacht from Halifax to RB. *Thanks to Jerry MacDonnell for information.*
 - **Mugs & 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 Fri 11-5pm. Weekend appointments can be made by calling Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516).
 - A reminder that anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Center should call Ann Clow at 535-2726. People requiring use of the Funeral Home should call Marie & Conrad Fougere at 535-2621. Call Georgie and/or Harold Landry at 535-2939 to open the church for anything other than regular church services.
 - 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.
 - **Don't forget to come and enjoy, as well as support the festival activities this week.**
-
- Published monthly by RB Technology & Training Centre in co-operation with RB Community Services Society. Eds: Sharon Digout and Sharon Chilvers. Thanks to Sherry Baccardax for technical help, Lynn Boudreau for putting us online, and Therese Pottie (535-2740) for looking after our subscriptions.
-