



The River Round Up

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Adieu



On November 29th, Canada said goodbye to its oldest citizen, our beloved Sister Annie Adele Samson. Annie was born in River Bourgeois on February 27th, 1891. She was one of ten children of Thomas & Philomene (Bourque) Samson of Church Point. In 1891, John A. MacDonald was still our first Prime Minister; Queen Victoria was ruling Britain and cars were just being invented. She was 21 years old when the *Titanic* sank and 26 when the explosion leveled Halifax. She experienced several wars and the 1929 Great Depression. At age nine, Annie witnessed the turn of the 20th century and at age 109 the turn of the 21st century.

She attended the East End School followed by high school in Arichat where she obtained grade ten, which was then the highest grade available. Annie worked as a mail courier and as a servant at the LeVesconte household before entering Normal School in Truro in 1912. Following graduation, Annie taught in several schools in Cape Breton including a brief time in RB.

In 1917, Annie followed her heart and entered Les Filles de Jesus Convent in Trois Riviere, Quebec. When she took her final vows (poverty, chastity and obedience) she became Sister Cécile. The name change was required in order to detach them from the

rest of the world. Sister Cécile was then to teach wherever the Sister Provincial deemed she was most needed. For the next thirty years, she taught school in Arichat and Cheticamp. In 1947, due to some health problems, Sister Cécile retired from teaching and worked in various offices in Trois Riviere, Nash Creek, Dalhousie and Moncton. In 1967, she moved to the Provincial House in Moncton to take a retreat. That was also the year that the Sisters of Les Filles de Jesus order reverted to their baptismal name, thus she became known as Sister Annie Sampson.

Sister Annie was very talented and composed poetry and songs for different occasions, some even after her 100th birthday. Her distant cousin Garvie Samson published many of the poems in three publications of "*Poems and Lyrics by a centenarian*" and he plans to publish the 4th edition and final chapter of her life in the coming year.

In 1986, at age 95, Sister Annie fell, broke her hip and was bedridden for an extended period of time. During that time she claimed she traveled the globe by praying for all the world leaders. She spent most of her last years sitting in a chair or in bed as she was unable to walk but remained in good health. On her 100th birthday she proclaimed that God must have forgotten her and so he did for another thirteen years. According to Sister Helen Burke she always ate three meals a day, which probably contributed to her longevity. She was pampered by all of her fellow Sisters and simply went to sleep forever on November 29th. We leave you with one of her poems:

Thought for the Day

We can never be too careful
What the seed our hand will sow.
Love from love is sure to ripen
Hate from hate is sure to grow

Seeds of good or ill we scatter
Heedlessly along the way,
But a glad or grievous fruitage
Waits us at the harvest day.

We wish to extend our condolence to her nieces Joan Viscount & Helen Konning and her many relatives. *Sharon Chilvers*

The following was sent to us from Garvie Samson:

"I had the pleasure of attending the funeral of Sister Annie at the Provincial House Chapel, in Moncton. To assure the English speaking visitors were comfortable, the sisters provided an information sheet "Words of Introduction before the Funeral Mass" where they expressed their sincere condolences to the relatives and made references to the Scriptures as they related to Sr. Annie and emphasized how she used her gifts of poetry and singing in her service to God. It referred specifically to last Sunday's Scripture: "You don't know the Day that the Lord will come:" which must have been prayed by Sister Annie on many occasions.

Since the passing away of Sr. Xavier (Lola Burke) of River Tillard, last year the only remaining member of Les Filles de Jesus from River Bourgeois is Sister Helen Burke. Our special thanks to Sister Superior Rose-Helene Chaisson and her fellow sisters for making us feel so welcomed and important."

Community Christmas Celebration

On Dec. 18th some one hundred residents of River Bourgeois went to the Tara Lynne Centre to enjoy a lovely Christmas Luncheon. Once again Debbie Landry created a festive atmosphere & great food for everyone.



Anne Sampson & Joe MacPhee

Last year the RBCSS established a "Volunteer of the Year" award to be given annually to someone in recognition of their contribution to the community. We asked the people of River Bourgeois to send in their nominations and we received many. There were many people who did outstanding work, however two individuals shared the top votes: Joe MacPhee & Anne Sampson. RBCSS President Sharon Chilvers presented them with a gift and their names have been inscribed on our volunteer's plaque. The following was read about their contributions:

Joe MacPhee:

We all know Joe as our councilor but very few get to see and appreciate the number of hours he puts in

as property services manager, secretary and bingo chair for the RB Community Services Society.

We have many dedicated volunteers in RB but in order for things to get done it is necessary to have someone in the background to be sure everything works. Joe, as property services manager takes responsibility for the infrastructure that allows everything else to work.

As supervisor of our summer student and of our new janitor, he has spent numerous hours mowing the various fields of the recreation complex, spent time helping out with the painting of the upstairs hall, organized a group to refinish the hall floor, aided with the repair of the cenotaph, limed the grounds at the funeral home, etc. No job is too big or too small for Joe.

He continues to be very involved with the festival committee and has been responsible for organizing the Men's Breakfast over the last years. He is chairman of the bingo committee and is dedicated to being there each Friday night.

His job involves being on call for all subcommittee members whether it is for problems with the security system, plowing or plumbing at the Recreation Complex. Everyone (from students to board members) feel comfortable calling him as he never gives the impression we are disturbing him and to our knowledge he has never ignored a request for help.

Anne Sampson:

In every community there is a special person who quietly goes about doing many good deeds year after year. If this award had been available for the last twenty years Anne Sampson would have qualified each time.

Anne has not only been President of the Seniors 50+ Club for the last six years but has been the organizer of every event and the main fundraiser in keeping the club going. Every Sunday she takes care of the forty-five-card game at the club and returns every Monday night to take care of the cribbage games. At both of these events she insures there is ongoing coffee/tea and a lunch provided for the patrons. Anne also represents our club at the Richmond County Senior's Council.

During the past year Anne has organized and operated eight merchandise bingo's to raise funds for several organizations and with the exception of two she purchased the prizes on their behalf. Anne is a master at finding bargains for these fundraisers and has saved the community several hundreds of dollars. Every Friday evening throughout the year Anne is either working at the bingo or selling tickets on behalf of other groups.

She is a member of the Board of Directors of RBCSS, very active year after year with the Festival

and a member of the Economic Development Committee. Anne is also on the Air Cadet Parental Committee and is involved with their fundraising. She has also served with the 4H for almost twenty years as a leader, mentor and president.

Anne we are glad that the word "No" is not in your vocabulary and your grandson Adam summed you up perfectly when he said: "You're the bestest!"

We congratulate both Joe and Anne on their award and thank them for their great work.

Seniors 50+ Club Christmas Dinner



Roderick Burke, Raymond & Bridget Roberston, Theresa Landry and Viola Touesnard enjoying conversation.

Sixty of the club's eighty-seven members enjoyed a potluck dinner at the club on Dec. 5th. President Anne Sampson announced the beginning of an exercise program and the anticipated arrival of funds to purchase treadmills. There are also three dart board's set-up downstairs and ready for use in the New Year. Members are looking forward to the Richmond County Seniors Expo, an event planned for June 4th & 5th at the club and the Tara Lynne Centre. Watch for more details in the upcoming River Round Ups. The Club wishes much health and happiness to everyone in 2005.

CWL



Enjoying Christmas luncheon are Madeline Cook, Mary Ann Robertson, Josephine Morrison and Margaret Morrison.

On November 29th the CWL held their annual Bazaar. Thanks to all members who donated their time and talents to this fundraiser. \$1229 was raised from the bake/craft sale and these funds are to be

used for the many worthy causes that the CWL supports. \$536 was also raised at a Bingo and the funds were designated for the purchase of a visitor's cot at St. Martha's Hospital. Winners of the ticket items were: Gift Basket-Sharon Chilvers, Snowman-Annie Burke (who sold herself the ticket), Crèche-Carman Fougere and door prize-Lisette MacDonald. On Dec. 9th forty-seven of the members celebrated a Christmas Luncheon at MacBouch in St. Peters. All enjoyed good food and much laughter.

We regret the loss of Lucille DeWolfe and Katie Rogers who passed away in the past month. Katie was our CWL's oldest member (she would have been 100 years old on Jan. 7th).

Congratulations to:

Christian Digout, son of Debbie & David who graduated from the University of Alberta with his Masters in Computer Science. His proud grandparents are Mary & Ken Cosman and Therese Digout. Also to **Charlene (Pottie) Covin** who received the Regional Tissue Bank 2004 Employee of the Year Award as recognized by her peers-for her leadership, commitment and support to the team, the donor families and the patients.

A Friendly Visitor



Everyone has been hearing about the Partridge in a pear tree during the past weeks. This guy arrived at Therese & Donnie Pottie's in the middle of hunting season for refuge and to make sure he could make it to Christmas. It would also be nice if he visited on the day of the St. Peters Area Christmas Bird Count but on last count we did not have one.

The Richmond County Football Team

With all the talk of football games in January, we decided to share with you information that was found in an old book of Valerie Boyd's. In the book, *Sesame and Lilies* published in 1897, and originally

owned by the late Hervey Boyd, is a list of players of the Richmond County Football Team. There is no date for the information and we have put ?? where there is doubt on the name spelling.

Full-Back-Clarence Bissett **Half-Backs**-John B. Kyte, Walter Martell, D.D Boyd, Willie Boyd, Charles Malzard; **Quarter-Backs**-Leo McNeil, ?? Mombourquette; **Forwards**-?? Coldwell, ?? Hynes, ?? LeBlanc, H Boyd, Herman McNeil, E. McNeil and Michael Morrison.

Hervey Boyd was the oldest son of William S. & Annie (Hureau) Boyd. During the war he was chief of Criminal Statistics in Ottawa and later was Sports Editor for the *Ottawa Citizen*. We hope that when sports enthusiast, Russell Fougere (or anyone that can help) reads this they will send along more information and corrections.

Adoptions/Births:

LeBlanc: Austin Hull, born June 3rd, 1997 was adopted by Keith & Paula of Dartmouth on November 25, 2004. Austin has been part of the family as a foster child since October 2001. He is welcomed by sister Jenna, brother Matthew and foster brother Michael. Congratulations to grandmother Charlotte LeBlanc.

MacNeil/Eden: Maggie Bree, 7lbs 7oz, was born Dec. 13th to Melanie & Mike. Congratulations to grandparents John & Audrey MacNeil and great grand mom Margaret Pottie

Deaths:

DeWolfe: Mary Lucille, 73, passed away on Dec. 4th. Our condolences to her husband Vince, daughter Marlaine, sons Clifford, Dwayne and Blaine and also to her brothers Eddie and Richard and sisters Alice and Josephine and all her extended family.

Pothier: Pierre Gerard "Gerry", 65, of Wedgeport, passed away on Dec. 7th. Gerry was the husband of the late Kathleen Burke. Our condolences to his mother-in-law Angela Burke and her family.

Stone: Daniel Bernard, 88, of St. Peters passed away on Dec. 2nd. Our condolences to his brother Joe Stone and all the extended family in RB.

Stone: Charlotte, wife of Daniel passed away on Dec 22nd. We extend sympathy once again to the family.

Bits and Bites:

- **Seniors** meeting Jan 4th at 1pm.
- **CWL** meeting on Jan 11th at 7pm.
- **Seniors** Mini Bingo Wed., Jan 12th at 1:30.
- **CAP site** meeting Wednesday, Jan 12th at 7pm.

- **Bridge Game**-Jan 16th at 1:30 at Red Islands Fire Hall.
- **RBCSS** meeting on Jan 19th at 7pm.
- **45** card game at Seniors every Sunday night. at 7pm.
- **Cribbage** game at Seniors Building every Monday at 7pm.
- **Merchandise Bingo** will be held at the TLC on Sun., Jan. 30th 2pm. Proceeds will go to Gregory Buckley to assist in the required modification of his home due to his recent disability. Any donations of prizes or monies call Sharon Chilvers at 2512, Anne Sampson at 2803 or Susan Boudreau at 3731.
- **Happy Birthday** to Roderick Burke, Arthur Doary, Mathilda Boudreau, Lawrence Burke, Cecilia Baccardax, Monica Stone, Adrian Touesnard, Sally Baccardax, Fabie Richard, Hubert Fougere, Eddie and George A. Landry. Special greetings to AJ Landry who celebrated his 90th.
- Twelve households were delivered a Christmas Basket this year. Thanks to all who donated gifts and monies especially to Debbie Landry and her 4H group, River Bourgeois Community Services Society, The Youth Development Committee, St. Peters Lion's Club and of course to the Catholic Women's League who organized and had their Santas deliver the goodies.
- The **CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 & 6-8 pm and Friday 2-4 pm except by appointment, which 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 Monica MacPhee at 535-2743 until further notice. Call Georgie or Harold Landry at 535- 2939 to open the church for any function such as wedding, baptisms or funerals.
- 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.
- **HAPPY NEW YEAR to all!!!**