



The River Round Up

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John & Alma Burke



Alma Mary was the youngest of eight children born to John L. and Mary (Boucher) Burke of RB. She graduated at the age of sixteen from the Lower End School. Upon completion of her education Alma moved to Halifax to work for her brother Arthur, who owned a convenience store on Hollis St. In May 1945, on VE Day, during the celebration of the end of WW 11 many drunken sailors vandalized and destroyed the store. Arthur rebuilt his business on Inglis St but two years later moved it to Wilmot in the Annapolis Valley and Alma moved along with him. As Arthur's family grew to five children and space was limited, Alma returned to RB. In the fall of 1951, she attended a dance at the hall and met a handsome gentleman named John Henry Burke.

John Henry was born Dec. 31st, 1929 the tenth of sixteen children to Joe P. and Clara (Landry) Burke of the Southside. John, who never lacked playmates with nine brothers, went to the Cannes School. Not being a scholar, he left after completing the seventh grade to do some fishing with his family. At age fifteen he and brother Anthony joined the lake boats only returning home during the winter months for the next seven years. John then joined the Imperial Oil Tankers and for the next fifteen years sailed to many parts of South America including Venezuela, Aruba and Argentina. He also sailed to many parts of the US Atlantic and the east coast of Canada. He worked for

six months and one off and it was on one of these vacations in the fall of 1951 that his life would change forever when he went to a dance and met the beautiful Alma Burke.

John courted his sweetheart, for more than two years (which technically was only four months as the rest of the time he was sailing the high seas) before they wed on August 19th, 1953. Following a honeymoon month, he returned to sea and Alma moved to Halifax and stayed with her sister Dolly. On November 19th, 1954 John's ship was docked in Newfoundland .He called home to see how pregnant Alma was. Dolly answered the phone telling John he had a boy. Due to a bad connection he replied "a boy" at the same time Dolly said a girl. John a bit confused soon realized he had a boy and a girl. Neil and Colleen weighted in at 4½ and 2½ lbs Six years later their son Russell was born. They now have seven grand children.

In 1956, John left Imperial Oil following a visit home when his children did not recognize him and he felt life was too precious to be away from his family. They all moved to RB and he worked in construction for six years before being employed by the Pulp Mill in Port Hawkesbury. He retired in 1987 after 26 years on the job.

John and Alma spent years traveling around the northeastern states, Quebec and Atlantic Canada in their camper. Now that their camping days are over he enjoys his four-wheeler, helping the neighbours and maintaining our cenotaph while she loves bingo, playing cards and visiting her sister Mildred. Both of them are founding members of the RB Senior's 50+ Club. John and Alma the people of RB wish you both many more years of good health and happiness.

Sharon Chilvers

River Bourgeois Men Remembered

(continued)

Following our article last month, we were informed that William Fougere was a fifth soldier from our community to serve in the Korean Conflict. Sorry for

the error and if anyone else finds that we missed names, please let us know. Steve Douglas, founder of the *Maple Leaf Legacy Project*, thank you for getting us started. This project should be of great interest to all who have lost loved ones. Once completed, every Canadian War Grave around the world, from the South African War of 1899, World Wars 1 & 11 and Korea and also including the graves of present day peacekeepers will be photographed. This will enable families to go to a website and see the graves of those who were lost.



Jonkerbos cemetery (Joe Pate was instrumental in starting this cemetery, in Holland, during World War 11).

To give an idea of the size of this massive project, Canadian War Graves rest in 74 countries around the world. In France, 51,963 graves are in 861 cemeteries. In Belgium, 18,516 in 222 cemeteries. In the United Kingdom there are 12,623 graves in 1208 cemeteries. In Italy, there are 5,963 graves; in the Netherlands, there are 5,755; in Germany there are 3,223, and in Hong Kong there are another 529 graves. All Memorial panels will also be photographed. At the Vimy Ridge Memorial, the panels record another 11,172 names. In Canada there are over 17,000 war graves in almost 2,700 cemeteries. As this project has been ongoing since 1997 and is far from completion, these numbers are approximate.



Tyne Cot Cemetery, Walls span 7 1/2 acres

To date with some 639 volunteers, over 91,000 graves have been photographed. We found it such an interesting and meaningful project that we have volunteered to do our part by photographing listed graves on Cape Breton Island, two of which are in our cemetery with 7 in Richmond County. To quote Steve “ *it takes an army of volunteers to photograph the graves of an army of volunteers*”.

As a point of information, the cut-off date for war dead is Aug. 31, 1921 for WW1 and Aug. 31, 1947 for WW11. Any soldiers dying after those dates were considered veterans.

Note: If anyone has pictures of a family member or relative in either WW1 or WW11, and peacekeeping I would be most interested in hearing from you. I have many pictures but I'm certain there are many more I don't have.

Therese and I would like to express our most sincere appreciation to Helena (Fougere) McCay. She has most graciously agreed to compile a picture trail of all photos we have collected in our 'war buddies' album on her website. This page at www.angelfire.com/folk/henrymaryfolks/

is dedicated to John L. Landry & Eileen Landry. We've included all the unknown pictures in the hope that people can recognize them and let us, or Helena, know who they are. We will also greatly accept photos our readers may wish to share with us and include them with the others on Helena's website.

To the people of River Bourgeois a most sincere thank you for all your help. To Pierre Vandervelden, many thanks for a great tour, your photos and excellent website. To cousin Thea, husband Rob Rensen and son Jereon, we can't say more than we have already, welcome to your new home, Canada. For many, the Year of the Veteran began long before 2005 and will continue long into the future. Thank you Veterans.

Therese & Don Pottie Our phone no.is 1-902-535-2740 or email.don.thereseptottie@stpeterscable.com

Arthur Doary :The Artist



Arthur posing with one of his masterpieces

Arthur Doary, after eight months of work, recently completed twelve stained glass windows for St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Fraser Lake, B.C. In 2001 Arthur, along with daughter Amy ,went to visit long time friend Fr. Vincent James in Fraser Lake. The parish was celebrating its twenty-five years since the founding of their church. It was a result of this visit that he was commissioned to craft the windows. Upon completion Arthur very carefully crated and

shipped these masterpieces via West Jet. He followed them to Vancouver and together with three of his friends motored for eleven hours to Fraser Lake to install them, which took three days. Bishop Wiesner blessed the windows on Nov. 6th. Arthur recently received a card of thanks signed by the entire congregation.

Anniversary Celebration



*Back row: Joan Sparling, Rollie Sparling, John Brown, Hughie Samson, Doreen Samson, Danny Sampson, Raymond Burke, Blaise Boyd, Glen Sampson, Annette Sampson and Fr. Currie
Front row: Doris Brown, Theresa Landry, Alice Sampson, Mildred Burke and Deidre Boyd.*

On November 20th, the parish honoured couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 55 + wedding anniversaries during Sunday Eucharist. They received Certificates and were served dinner at the TLC. Couples celebrating 25yrs were Roland and Joan Sparling, Deborah and Michael Landry, 30 yrs were John and Deborah Fougere, Glen and Annette Sampson, Hughie and Doreen Samson, John and Doris Brown, Warren and Deborah Burke. 40 yrs were Blaise and Deirdre Boyd, Thomas and Sylvia Hall, Lawrence and Ann Sampson; 50yrs were Daniel and Alice Sampson, Bernard and Joan Viscount. 55 yrs. were Leo and Theresa Landry. Special recognition to Raymond and Bridget Robertson 56 yrs, Raymond and Mildred Burke 56yrs, George and Catherine Boudreau 58 yrs, Gervase and Jane Landry 59yrs, Joseph and Margaret Bouchard 62 yrs and Victor and Evelyn Burke 65 yrs. Congratulations.

CWL

On Oct. 1st ,St. John The Baptist CWL hosted the Antigonish Diocesan Fall Conference of the Catholic Women's League. Registration and Executive meeting was followed by local entertainment and lunch took place on Friday at the Senior's Club. On Sat. 220 (thirty-four of our members) sisters in the league and spiritual advisors registered for executive and standing committee workshops. After a hospitality tea Fr. Currie celebrated the Opening Mass.



Irene Lefort (past National President) developed our theme "Companions on the Journey" and stressed the importance of the league, making a difference in the lives of its members and in the parishes and communities in which they serve. Her message to us "If you trust in God you will gain love, peace, acceptance, joy and gifts to take on your journey". When Irene was awarded an honorary doctor of law degree from St. FX she stated. "I accept this degree on behalf of women who gave and continue to give in the service of God and their community". The league represents over 99,000 members.

We are and were truly companions on the journey working together to the success of our 1st fall conference. Many thanks to Joan Sparling and her team who served a delicious dinner so that others could attend the workshops. *President Ann Clow*

Halloween



On October 25th and 26th The RB Youth Development Committee held their 3rd annual 'Haunted House' at the TLC and it was a big success. Everyone was able to foresee his or her future by fortune-teller and card reader Rita Warner. Candy Apples, Popcorn and various beverages were sold while patrons waited downstairs. Meanwhile scream were being heard upstairs as patrons crept their way through the haunted house.

The Youth Committee would like to give a special thanks to Cletus Wedge and Jamie Elms for their muscles and long hours in the creation of the house, to Charles Burke and Rita Warner for their wonderful

ideas and props, to Mary Burke and Alice Sampson for their help in the kitchen, and especially ALL the volunteers (mostly students from the area and members of the committee) who without them, our haunting wouldn't be possible each year. We are very grateful and hope to have you all participate again next year, which we guarantee will be bigger and scarier than ever *Tanya Burke*

Births

Burke: Colton Augustine, 7lbs 5oz, was born on Oct. 27 to Mitchell and Mindy of Sampsonville. Congratulations to the parents, grandparents Mark and Marie Burke and Aubrey and Wendy Landry, great grandparents Alex Burke and Cletus and Peggy Landry and great great grandmother Martena Landry.

MacLeod: Lachlan Roderick, 10 lbs 3 oz, was born to Patricia and Roddie of Soldier's Cove. Brother to Keegan and Emily. Congratulations to the parents and grand parents Lucille and Buddy Boudreau.

Deaths

Bird: William, 63 yrs, of Petit De Grat passed away on Nov. 21st. Our condolences to his sister-in law Lucille Boudreau and her family.

Burke: Susan Cecilia, 56 yrs, of Halifax passed away on Nov. 2nd. Sue was the daughter of the late Arthur and Derina Burke. Our condolences to her aunts Mildred, Angela and Alma Burke

Fougere: Helen Marie, 77 yrs, passed away on Nov. 6th. Our condolences to her children Cathy Aiken, Michael, Richard and Paul and their families.

Landry: Leonard J, 85 yrs, of Montreal passed away on Nov. 16th. Our Condolence to his brother George J. Landry and his family.

McPhee: May Mary, 92 yrs, passed away Nov. 17th. Our condolences to her daughter; Ann Clow and son Norman and their families.

Pate: George Antoine, 97yrs, passed away on Nov. 10th. Our condolences to sons Lawrence and Terry.

Smith: Louis John, 84yrs, passed away recently in B.C. Our condolences to his wife Lillian (Landry-formerly of RB) and their children.

Bits and Bites:

- **Seniors Craft and Bake Sale** at the Seniors 50+ Club on Dec. 3rd from 10-3
- **CWL Christmas Dinner** Dec. 6th at MacBouch Bar and Grill at 5pm.
- **Seniors Christmas Potluck Dinner** Dec. 13th 12 noon at the Senior's 50 +club
- **Seniors Mini Bingo** Dec.14th at 1:30.
- **On December 17th the 1st Annual (we hope) Christmas Tree Lighting will take place at the Tara Lynne Centre at 6pm.** Mr. and Mrs. Santa

and carollers will be joining us .We will have some hot chocolate, ciders and other goodies All residents , young ,old and in between. are asked to please come and enjoy a festive evening Admission free but a silver collection will be taken up to be used to provide for our local Christmas boxes. Watch for our flyer.*Sponsored by River Bourgeois Community Service Society.*

- **45 Card game Seniors** Bldg Sundays at 7pm.
- **Cribbage Seniors** Bldg Mondays at 7pm.
- **Congratulations** to Heidi Sampson, (daughter of Gregory Sampson) on completion of her Ph.D. in Molecular and Medical Genetics at the University of Toronto. Heidi is currently working in scientific research at the U of T A
- **Special Thank You** to Kenny Cosman Jr, Joanne Burns, Albert Burke, George A Landry, Arthur Doary, Mark Merrick , Cletus Wedge and Jamie Elms for taking the time to help build a Gazebo that was purchased by the Youth Development Committee to add to the Children's Playground Area. It was much appreciated
- **Happy Birthday** to Jane Landry, Rita Landry, Annie Mae Burke, Valerie Boyd, Anita Wynands, Madeline Cook, Joe Sampson, Joan Viscount, Stan Digout, Obeline Burke, Emily Kendall, Cletus Touesnard. Sharon Fougere.
- The CAP site is open to the public from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm from Monday to Thursday and 2-4 pm on Fridays.**25 % off Shirts with the Cannes school are available for Christmas gifts.**On weekends an appointment may be made by calling Ann (2376) or Sharon (3516). CAP phone # is 535-3251.
- 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 or Harold Landry at 535-2939 to open the church for any special functions such as weddings, baptisms or funerals.
- The Round Up is available at Bucky's Garage, RB Post Office or East Coast Credit Union. Subscriptions are available for \$15.00 delivered in RB, \$20.00 within Canada and \$25.00 internationally per year.

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