



The River Round Up

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Madeline Cook



Arthur and Madeline July 14th, 1969.

Madeline Maria was born November 20th, 1927, the fifth of twelve children, to Mary (Landry) & James Henry Sampson of Church Point. She attended the East End School, which was located directly below her house. Playing hooky was not an option as her parents could see the children's every move from their front window. Madeline completed high school at age sixteen before venturing out to Halifax.

She worked as a housekeeper at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, which was a boarding school for girls. Her parents secretly wished she would follow in her Aunt Lena's profession and become a nun but it was not meant to be so Madeline moved on to work in the laundry room at the V.G. Hospital. It was during one of her vacation trips home that she met up with an old acquaintance, Arthur Beranger of River Bourgeois. Arthur was working in Goose Bay, Labrador at the time and was visiting his parents, Justine & William Beranger. Following a couple of weeks of romance they both returned to their place of employment but kept the mailman busy with their many love letters during the next few months. Finally Arthur could no longer stay away and moved to Halifax and married his beloved Madeline on July 14th, 1949 at St. Mary's Basilica.

Arthur was employed at Oland's Brewery and also worked as a painter part time. Madeline worked out of her home as a seamstress. The family was made up of five children: Carol now living in Sherbrooke; Gregory in Charlottetown; Beverley in Dartmouth; Ursula in Halifax and Alphonse (Phonse) in Eastern Passage. There are now ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Sadly Arthur passed away in 1976 at age fifty-five.

In 1977, Madeline decided it was time to get a hobby so she took quilting courses in the United Church basement. She must have been a good student as she has created many works of art. Numerous masterpieces went to her family, to the parish priests in River Bourgeois and she has donated many quilts for fundraisers for the church and various charities.

In 1985, Madeline had another chance at love when she met and married Harry Cook. Madeline & Harry had a house built in River Bourgeois and had fifteen years of wedded bliss before he passed away suddenly in 2000.

Madeline is a woman of great faith and has embarked on many pilgrimage journeys. She went to St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec on several occasions, to Guadeloupe in Mexico and Medjugorje in Yugoslavia. She has visited Lisieux Shrine in France and also Lourdes where she participated in the healing baths; Our Lady of Fatima & Our Lady Shrine in Portugal and Assisi Shrine in Italy. She saw Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. A planned trip to Jerusalem was cancelled for safety reasons because of civil unrest.

Of all the pilgrimages Madeline has gone on, the one that touched her heart the most was at Santander in Spain. At the site of the Limpas Crucifix, she saw a young girl from New Brunswick touch her rosary to the cross and the rosary was scorched. Madeline still gets emotional each time she tells the story. This month she is heading to Tignish, PEI for a retreat being held by healing priest Father Doucette.

These days Madeline loves to travel with her children and has recently returned from a trip to Cuba with her girls. She spent the winter in Halifax with her daughter, Beverley. She enjoys her independence but spends a lot of time with her brothers Joe, Sam, Bernard, Arthur, Gregory & Benedict and sister Mary Ellen. Card games and lots of laughs are a ritual every weekend at Joe's or Mary Ellen's. Madeline also loves her Bingo games except during lent. She has been a member of the CWL for twenty-five years, a founding member of the Seniors 50+ Club and has sung her heart out in the church choir for as long as she can remember.

Madeline may your knees (newly repaired) hold up to continue to travel to those wonderful places, your fingers never forget how to quilt, your angelic voice never leave you, your generous heart beat forever and the people of River Bourgeois wish you all of this and much more. *Sharon Chilvers*

River Bourgeois Storytelling



Ann Louise Touesnard ,Ethel Stone, Ann Rogal & daughter Molly, Matilda Boudreau and Tussie Morrison at the storytelling evening.

On April 7th the RB Senior's 50+ Club held an evening of community storytelling. The RB Senior's Club, RB CAP site & Destination Richmond Tourism Cooperative sponsored the event. In attendance were thirty plus residents of RB and St. Peter's area. The evening began with Ann Clow reading an account written by Leo McPhee about his grandmother's experience of the gale of 1873. Thus began an evening of storytelling. Included in the evening were some local trivia questions compiled using material found in the River Round Up. Prizes were donated by Bucky's Garage, the CAP site and DRTC. After lunch Edna Casey concluded the night with a wonderful set of bagpipe tunes played from the balcony in the club. For more information about upcoming storytelling events, please contact: Richard McIntosh, Destination Richmond Tourism Cooperative (902) 535-28670.

Seniors 50+ Annual Meeting

On April 5th more than fifty of its eighty-six members enjoyed a wonderful potluck luncheon at the club. President Anne Sampson opened the meeting thanking the executive and everyone for all their efforts in making the club such a success. Everyone was reminded of our major festival on June 4th & 5th - *Richmond County Seniors Expo*. Reports were read and by unanimous applause the executive will remain the same again for the next year: President-Anne Sampson, 1st Vice-Joe MacPhee, 2ndVice-Mary Touesnard, Secretary-Sharon Chilvers, Treasurer-Mary Ellen Pentecost, Membership-Madeline Cook, Property Maintenance-Joe Boucher, and Communication Mary Cosman.

Springtime in River Bourgeois



Last month we showed spring in RB. This photo was taken April 21st following almost 15 cm of snow.

Blast From The Past

On Saturday, April 2nd, Youth Development Committee held a "Blast from the Past" 50's & 60's dance. Videos and still photos were shown throughout the evening on screen, which was a hit with the crowd. All the classic songs from the 50's & 60's era were played and a few people got into the spirit and dressed in their poodle skirts, bobby socks and leather jackets for the occasion. The dance was a hit and we are being asked to hold another one soon. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and helped out especially Ann Louise Touesnard for graciously putting together a CD of photos of River Bourgeois and its residents as they appeared back then. The evening brought back many wonderful memories for everyone. *Tanya Burke*

RBCSS Annual Meeting

The 27th annual meeting of RBCSS was held on April 20th. The Board of Directors for 2005 are as follows: Chairman-Sharon Chilvers; Vice President-

Raymond Doary; Secretary-Joe MacPhee; Treasurer-Monica McPhee, Past President-Wayne Bona, Anne Sampson, Sharon Digout, Paula Lafantasia, Cletus Wedge, Rose Merrick, Mark Merrick, Carmen Fougere, Carl Grimes, Irene MacInnis, Bob Pettigrew, Tanya Burke and Susan Boudreau.

Chairperson's annual report: As I complete my first year as Chairperson I would like to give special thanks to Executive, committee chairpersons and all other board members in making my job easier.

We have made great strides in improving our community in 2004 including yet another successful Festival. Youth Development Committee continues to expand and succeed in all their endeavours. Property Services Committee refurbished our hardwood floors in the community hall, painted the walls upstairs and monitored our summer student. Economic Development Committee is in the process of developing a boat launch on the North Side Lower Road and the Friday night bingo continues to be a major fundraiser for our community. Technology & Training Centre embarked in a new area of "Job Re-Entry Training" with an adult trainee from April until October. They also employed two summer students to work on the festival, new & old River Round Ups and maintaining the CAP site, which enabled the many volunteers to take a much-needed rest. The Bar Committee continues to volunteer at each and every function at the Tara Lynne Centre. Many thanks to our treasurer, Monica McPhee, for sixteen years service as she is the backbone of RBCSS.

Let us not forget the many volunteers who make this community so special from all those who cook and work the festival year after year, those who maintain our CAP site, Tara Lynne Centre & Funeral Home, those who mentor our youth and those who continue to improve and beautify our community.

CWL Annual Meeting



Rita Landry, Susan Boudreau, Monica Stone, Father Currie, Charlotte LeBlanc & Mary Cosman.

On April 16th, members of St. John the Baptist CWL and their spiritual leader, Fr. Reg Currie met at the Tara Lynne Center for their annual meeting.

Following a great dinner served by Debbie & Rebecca Landry, the business meeting was held. A video, examining the effect of the privatization of public utilities, including water on poor countries and their people was played. Members were urged to contact their government representatives to express their concern.

The following is a quote from the national organization, which has over 100,000 members: "The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an organization that contributes to the life and vitality of the church, family and community, both at home and abroad. While your presence at meetings is important, we realize that in this busy world it may not always be possible for you to attend. Be assured that your interest and support is as important as your attendance!" If you are interested in joining our local council, call Monica McPhee at 535-2743.

Therese Digout concluded the meeting with a heartfelt thank you to Ann Clow who is serving a fourth term as president.

Congratulations to Our Volunteers

April is volunteer month and many organizations find ways to say thank you. On April 18th Richmond Villa hosted a dinner and on April 26th the Strait Richmond Hospital did the same. They invited all their volunteers, which included many from River Bourgeois for both celebrations.

The County of Richmond honoured volunteers at their annual dinner on April 20th. Representing River Bourgeois volunteers were: Marguerite MacDonald-Richmond Co. Literacy Network; Anne Sampson-Richmond Co. Seniors Council; Sharon Stone-RB 4H Club; Monica Stone-RB Senior's 50+ Club; Michael Fougere-RB Technology & Training Centre; Therese Digout-St. John the Baptist Parish Council; Ann Clow-St. John the Baptist CWL; Peter Baccardax-Strait Area Mutual Aid Ground Search and Rescue; and Cletus Wedge-St. Peters & Area Lion's Club. To all volunteers a great big thank you.

Births

LeBlanc: Riley Daniel, 6lbs 7oz, was born April 17th in Calgary to Cherlyn & Cory. Congratulations to the parents, grandparents Lloyd LeBlanc of Kentville and Diane LeBlanc of Sydney and great grandmom for the seventeenth time Charlotte LeBlanc.

Weddings

Samson/Sampson: Congratulation to Alisha Dawn, daughter of Roy & Eleanor Samson of Louisdale and Larry Jake (Ross), son of Ann & Bucky Sampson who were married in Cuba on April 5th. Reception

was held here on April 16th. Ross & Alisha reside on the Church Point.

Deaths

Our sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the following:

Digout: Victor, 88, of Welland, ON passed away on April 2nd. He is survived by his wife, the former Angeline Burke of RB; his brothers Murdock & Lawrence and sister Elnora Sampson.

Grant: Christine Alice, 45, Lower Sackville passed away April 10th. Christine was a sister in-law to Hughie Samson.

Hardy: Edward, 71, of Gabarus passed away on April 2nd in Sydney. Edward is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Patsy & Gilbert Bourque of RB.

Sampson: Edward Joseph, 87, passed away April 20th. He is survived by his wife Florence; children David, Peter, Paul, Louise, Linda, Joan & John; sister Dorothy; brothers Peter & Leo and their families.

Sharpe: Andrew, 49, of Vancouver passed away April 8th. He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Valerie & Mike Fougere and their family of RB.

Bits and Bites:

- *On May 7th a PUB Night featuring Island Driftwood will be held at the Tara Lynne Centre starting at 9 pm. All funds raised will be donated to the St. John the Baptist Church Building Fund to help pay for much needed repairs . This church is an important part of our beautiful community. All residents please come out and give your wholehearted support. Admission is \$5.00 and you must be 19 or over to attend.*
- **Tickets are still available for the Richmond County Expo** to take place on June 4th & 5th. Fee is \$20.00 for the whole weekend filled with lots of fun, games and food. Tickets will not be sold after May 21st. Call Sharon at 535-2512 or Anne at 535-2803 for tickets or any information.
- The RB CAP site has applied for **two summer student grants**. While there is no guarantee that we will be awarded them, we ask that anyone interested in applying, drop off their resume at the CAP site or mail to PO Box 56. Resumes must be received by Friday, May 6th at 4pm. Students must have attended school/university full time in 2004-2005 and be attending university/college full time in 2005-2006. For more information, see posting at CAP site. Any questions, please call Sharon Digout at 3516.
- **Congratulations to Chris Boudreau**, P. Eng. (Buddy and Lucille's boy, hubby to Tanya & father to Ella) on his promotion to partnership

with Terrain Group Inc, Atlantic Canada's leading multi-disciplined engineering, planning and surveying firm.

- **Seniors 50+** Club meeting May 3rd at 1:30pm.
- **CWL** meeting May 10th at 7pm.
- **Next CAP site** meeting May 11th at 7pm.
- May 14th is the date of the annual North American **Migratory Bird** count. Anyone from Richmond County wishing to help out at feeders or in the field, please call George at 535-3516.
- **RBCSS** meeting Wed., May 18th 7pm.
- **Darts** every Sat. at Seniors 50+ 1-4pm.
- **45 card game** every Sun. 7:30 pm Seniors 50+.
- **Cribbage** every Monday 7pm Seniors 50+.
- **Birthday greetings** to Paula Lafantasie, Ernest Burke, Rachael Davidson, Theresa Kyte, Edward Touesnard, Bernard Burke, Judy Davies, Shirley Cordick, Hughie Samson, Kenny Cosman, Margaret Morrison, Norma Burke and Ann (Bucky) Sampson.
- **Quote of the month** from one of our senior's following her recent cataract surgery-"Lord I had no idea how fast I had been driving- I used to have to squint to see the speedometer".
- **For sale** at the CAP site are Heritage Walk Brochures from the past four years, back issues of the River Round Up, RB mugs, aprons, festival T-shirts & sweatshirts (various sizes) from previous years, used hardcover & softcover books. Please drop in and have a look at our selection.
- **The CAP Site hours** are Mon.-Thurs. from 2-4 & 6-8 and Friday 2-4 pm. On weekends an appointment may be made by calling Ann (2376) or Sharon (3516). CAP phone # is 535-3251 and we can be reached during the above hours; our Email address is rbcap@stpeterscable.com and our website is www.stpeterscable.com/~rbcap .
- 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 Conrad & Marie Fougere at 535-2621. Call Georgie or Harold Landry at 535-2939 to open the church for any special function 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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