



The River Round Up

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Angela Burke



Angela at home.

Angela Olive was born May 16th, 1915, the fourth of five children, to Mary (Boudreau) & William Robertson of Church Point. She attended the East End School that she refers to as the *hen house* as upon closing it was moved to the farm of Allan Touesnard to be used as a chicken villa. At age sixteen, Angela was stricken with a severe ear infection and Dr. Digout suggested she not attend school for a while and that was all that was needed for her to quit, as a scholar she did not wish to be.

Angela's older sister, Delta, was married to Tom Babin and they owned "The American House" in Arichat so she worked there every summer returning home each fall. The Robertson family lived life to the fullest. If they weren't playing cards, they would have an old fashioned house party. Her dad, William, was a popular fiddler and was often accompanied by local talents such as John Henry and Amos Thibeau. The ladies of the house would sing to the best of their abilities and there was plenty of dancing and foot stomping. Angela's brother, Charlie, would frequently bring his friends over in an attempt to marry off his sisters, whom legend has it, were the prettiest ladies in RB. One of these

gentlemen was handsome Charlie á John, son of John á Haigne Burke & Mary (Boucher) of Cannes.

Charlie although smitten with the beautiful blue-eyed blond courted Angela for five years before finally marrying her on November 29th, 1935. Their home was once a one-bedroom bungalow located on her father's property that belonged to her aunts Maggie and "Sister" Adele Robertson. The house had to be towed on the ice from Church Point to their property in Cannes. On Sunday morning after Mass, Father Robitaille announced that many hands were required that afternoon for a house moving. Angela recalls that so many people showed up, the bungalow could have been picked up and carried across the ice to its current foundation. As the family grew Charlie would put extensions on the house as required and he did many as they had eight children: Kay who passed away in 1985; Shirley in Lanark, ON; Alan in Halifax; Da-vid at home; John in Toronto; Judy in Halifax; Lloyd in St. Peters and Doreen in mom's backyard. The family also includes fifteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Charlie worked for Latimer Construction of Truro building roads in all parts of Nova Scotia for thirty-seven years. He was away during the week and came home on weekends. He had a small trailer down the valley. Angela would take the children and spend the summers there. He retired in 1977 and sadly passed away on June 20th, 1995 after nearly sixty years of wedded bliss.

Angela recently celebrated her 90th birthday with her entire family. She is the third member of her family to reach that milestone. Her sister, Delta, in Richmond Villa recently turned 94 and Margaret of Brownsburg, Quebec will be 92 in July and all are in good health. Her parents were 88 and 87 when they passed away and at that time the average life expectancy was in the mid-sixties so at that rate Angela and her sisters plan to be here for some time yet. These days Angela still plays cards, never misses bingo and goes to the casino every chance she gets. She travels around Canada to visit her children,

cares for son Da-vid at home and spent last winter at her daughter Judy's in Halifax.

Angela, we the people of River Bourgeois wish you many more years of good health and happiness and may you soon hit the big one at the slot machine.

Sharon Chilvers

First Communion



Left to right back-Fr. Reg Currie, Tim & Jo-ann Allen, Pamela Sampson, Laurie & Shaw Landry. Front-Taylor & Kerstin. Photo by Rose Merrick.

On May 15th Taylor and Kerstin received their First Communion at St. John the Baptist Church. Congratulations to all and thank you to their teacher, Pamela Sampson.

Wayne Rostad in River Bourgeois



He shoots, he scores. Picture by Gerry Fougere.

Not the NHL but after 40+ years of field, ground, or mud (whatever one chooses to call it) hockey at Sam Fougere's and now Gordie & Rita's is coming to the CBC.

About a year ago, young Robbie Fougere, son of Donnie & Debbie was over at Gordie's and asked if he could send an Email to the CBC to see if Wayne Rostad would come and watch hockey "River Bourgeois" style. This March he finally got a "yes they were coming" and would film as part of their fall season (although there is no guarantee it will make the cut). So in early May, Wayne Rostad, host of CBC's "On the Road Again" came to play and do some filming.

The game is arranged so that anyone that shows up and wants to can play. The number on each side doesn't seem to matter. It used to be all local players but now that Robbie goes to Richmond Academy, players from all over the county come. No money is required. You can pick up a stick in the shed. It is just for the love of the game.

The producers were anxious to film Wayne scoring a goal but were told he would have to earn it. There were no freebies. (He did manage to score with his big boots on.)

John (Sack) MacPhee was the person chosen for an interview and if it does make the small screen we will hear what he had to say. Rita & Gordie supplied a barbeque and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Their son, Drew, now living out west was very sorry he missed all the fun.

School Days

I attended Cannes School from Primary to Grade 10 inclusive. The school was located on the south side of the South River Bourgeois Road, adjacent to Sam Fougere's property. It was a two-room school and was the focal point of the "upper end" for a number of years. Many meetings were held there, along with Christmas Concerts, movies (put on by Vic Gogan) and the school grounds hosted some great ball games during recess and the noon hour breaks.



The Cannes School-Photo courtesy of Anne Louise Touesnard.

The ball games were played with a sponge ball and many times the games were delayed when a "power hitter" belted one into the harbour and the wind and waves blew the floating ball away from shore. Skills developed during these fun games were honed in later years at the new baseball field behind the parish hall and graduates of the sponge ball "league" such as Peter Pottie, Bernard MacPhee, Charlie & Maynard Boyd, Stan & George Digout, George Boyd, Russell & Eddie Fougere and Pat Bourque formed the nucleus of the Richmond County League Champion R.B. Tigers of the 50's & early 60's.

The teachers I recall at the Cannes School were Elizabeth (Burke) Landry (wife of Henry Landry),

Priscilla (Boudreau) Burke (wife of Adrian “Hogan” Burke) and Therese (Baccardax) Digout (wife of Fred Digout). All three of these ladies were very good teachers. I especially remember Therese who was my teacher from grade 5 to grade 10, in the “big room”. She was outstanding both in the classroom and in getting the students involved in sports and other activities outside the classroom. Five boys from Therese’s 1952 graduating class went on to be the top 5 academic students at St. Peter’s High in Grades 11 and 12. These 5 went on to University and successful professional careers in their various fields; Stan Digout, PhD in Education, George Digout, M.SC in Bacteriology, Charlie Boyd, Pat Bourque and me, all Bachelor of Eng. Degrees (Civil). *Russell Fougere*

325 by 1838.ⁱ This represented a 4.6% annual growth rate over the 25 year period. The population of the surrounding area was growing even more rapidly with the arrival of Scottish and Irish settlers. It grew from about 25 people in 1813 to about 160 in 1838 (see table below for an estimate of population through the 19th Century).

Year	Village	Outskirts	Surrounding Area	Total
1813	124	23	26	173
1838	259	70	158	487
1861	465	113	271	849
1871	516	137	311	964
1881	620	156	322	1098
1891	597	188	333	1118
1901	634	194	297	1125

The population of the whole area continued to grow rapidly into the 1860’s (annual growth rate of 3.2% for 1838 to 1861). From 1861 to 1881 a slight increase in the population occurred then none after 1881. It appears that several factors combined to produce this result. The first was the occupation of most of the usable land by the 1850’s. The second was the economic decline of the shipping and shipbuilding industry beginning in the 1860’s and accelerating in the 1870’s. A third factor was the construction of the St. Peter’s Canal in 1869 and its enlargement in the 1870’s. The population of River Bourgeois did not decline, however, as opportunities in the fisheries maintained the workforce over the last three decades especially with the introduction of fishing bounties in the mid-1880’s. Eventually, after 1901, opportunities elsewhere drew away an increasing number of locals.

ⁱ 7. The area referred to as River Bourgeois includes the village (Church Point, Lower End, North Side, South Side) as well as the outskirts (Grand Gully, River Tillard, False Bay, and Richard’s Pond). The surrounding area refers to Thibeuville, Sporting Mountain, Balmoral, Oban and parts of Grand Anse east of what is now Louisdale. This was the area which was normally reported under River Bourgeois throughout the 19th Century. *Paul Touesnard. Paul’s website is back up and running at:*

<http://ca.geocities.com/touesnard@rogers.com/>

Richmond Academy Awards



Back: Kelsey Burke, Tara Lynn Benoit, Joel Burke, Nicolas Touesnard, Joseph Baccardax. Front: Sally Burke, Alisha Burke, Kyle Burke-Missing from picture is Lauren Pottie, Victoria Simpson & Molly Warner. Photo by Sally Burke.

Congratulations to the following RB students who were recognized at the Richmond Academy Scholastic award night.

Merit (75-79 average): Joseph (Sherry & Peter) Baccardax, grade 11.

Distinction (80-89 average): Molly (Genevieve & Norman) Warner, grade 9; Tara Lynn Benoit (Dianne Breau & Terry Benoit), grade 9; Kyle (Joan & Kelly) Burke, grade 10; Nicolas (Sonia & Glen) Touesnard, grade 10; Joel (Maureen & Neil) Burke, grade 12; Victoria Simpson (Paula & Robert Frost), grade 12; Lauren (Dawn & Glenn) Pottie, grade 12.

High Distinction (90+ average): Kelsey (Therersa & Larry) Burke, grade 9; Alisha (Maureen & Neil) Burke, grade 11; Sally (Linda & Basil) Burke, grade 11. *Sally Burke*

Population of RB in the 1800’s: An Overview

From a base population of about 150 in 1813 the population of River Bourgeois grew rapidly to about

Weddings

Boudreau/Healy: Congratulations to Becky Lou Ann, daughter of Terry & Margie (Thibeau) Boudreau and Robert David, son of Bob & Anna Healy of Halifax, who were married on May 21st in St. Peters. Becky & Robert will reside in Halifax.

Burke/Landry: Congratulations to Annie Loretta Burke of the Southside & Cyril Joseph Landry of Halifax on their wedding in Halifax on May 14th. Best wishes from their combined fourteen children, sixteen grandchildren and great grandson. No immediate plans to have more children. Annie &

Cyril will reside in RB in the summer and Halifax in the winter.

Burke/MacNeil: Congratulations to Norma Veronica Burke & Murdock Joseph MacNeil of Point Tupper on their wedding on May 19th in Creignish. Best wishes from their families. Norma & Murdock will reside in River Bourgeois.

Digout/Malloy: Congratulations to Christian, son of Debbie & David Digout, and Pamela, daughter of Lavina & Peter Molloy of Marystown, Nfld. Their wedding took place in Marystown on May 6th. Christian & Pamela will reside in Edmonton.

Deaths

We wish to express our condolences to the family and friends of the following:

Strachan: Yvonne Marie, of Mulgrave who passed away on May 17th. She was the daughter of Sarah & the late Dr. Joe Digout. She is survived by her mother, Sarah, her brother Danny & his wife Carmy and their children.

Richard(s): Joseph Charles "Charlie" passed away on May 6th at the age of 85 in Halifax. He is survived by his wife, Bernice (Pate), his seven children, fourteen brothers & sisters and his nephew Donnie Pottie of RB.

Touesnard: Joseph Alfred, passed away on May 24th at St. Martha's Hospital. Alfred is survived by his wife Anne, his children: Cathy, Geraldine, Donna, Alan & Gerard and their families. Also by his brothers, Edward & Cletus, sisters: Anne, Mary, & Helen and all his extended family.

Bits and Bites:

- **Seniors 50+ meeting** on Wed., June 1st at 1:30.
- In recognition of **Safe Kids Week**, the Dr. Kingston Memorial Clinic Health project is holding a summer safety event at Village Grocery on Sunday, June 5th from 1-4 pm. Activities include: bike rodeo, helmet fitting station, water safety (PDF'S), etc., and a barbeque. A special treat for all will be a performance by Sandy from the award winning children's entertainers "RAZZMATAZZ". All are welcome to attend.
- The Richmond **RTA Spring Banquet** will be held on June 6th in the Legion Hall, Grand Anse. Social from 5-6 with a turkey dinner at 6pm. Tickets are \$13.00 each and can be purchased from Leona Campbell.
- **CAP site meeting** on Wed., June 8th at 7 pm.
- **Seniors mini bingo** Wed., June 8th at 1:30 pm.
- **CWL meeting** at 7 pm. on June 14th in vestry.
- **RBCSS meeting** at 7 pm on Wed., June 15th.

- RBCSS has **two bursaries of \$200.** for graduating students who will be continuing their education. Deadline to apply is June 10th. Send request to Joe MacPhee, PO Box 56, RB.
- The Youth Development committee are working on **Canada Day celebrations** in RB. They are planning a potluck supper, Chinese auction, lots of children's games, music with Island Driftwood, etc. Watch for posters & come out and enjoy the fun.
- The **Men of Faith** will be performing an evening of gospel songs at the TLC on July 10th. Watch for further details. Proceeds to St John the Baptist Renovation Fund.
- **Darts** every Saturday at 1 pm at Seniors Bldg.
- **45 card game** every Sunday at Senior's 7pm.
- **Cribbage** every Monday at 7pm at Seniors Bldg.
- **Festival Committee** is looking for volunteers for pot luck supper, beer garden and antique car show committees. Call Joe MacPhee at 535-2677 ,Paula LaFantasie at 535-3053 or leave your name at Capsite (3251).
- Anyone wishing to **play horseshoes** at recreation center can pick up shoes at Capsite.
- **Birthday greetings** to: Delta Babin, Angela Burke, John Allan (the big 60), Stella Doutaz, Catherine Boudreau, Charlotte LeBlanc, Conrad Fougere, Helen Poirier, Mary Pettigrew, Peter Baccardax, Frances Digout, Annie Sampson, Sally O'Neil (the big 50) and Father Currie.
- We welcome Heidi Stone back to the CAP site for another summer. Starting immediately our site will be open to the public from 11-4:30 Monday, Thursday & Fridays and 11-5:30 on Tuesday & Wednesdays. On weekends an appointment may be made by calling Ann (2376) or Sharon (3516). Our phone at 535-3251; our e-mail 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 Marie & Conrad Fougere at 535-2743. 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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