



# The River Round Up

Volume 6

Number 8

August 2005

\$1.00

## Victor & Evelyn Burke



*Pictures are courtesy of Helena McCay.*

On January 24<sup>th</sup> 1915, a handsome blue-eyed blond baby was born on the Southside, the seventh of eleven children to Philomen (Burke) & Dominic Burke; he was named Victor Desiré. Victor attended the Cannes School and following grade ten he went to St. Peters to write his high school provincial exams. The same year his dad passed away so Victor chose to work in the area and help the family. He worked in the construction of what is now known as Highway 4 and also cut pulpwood for Peter Dawson. In 1935 he purchased his current home, originally owned by his uncle, Michael Burke, and started a general store selling anything from flour to shovels.

Across the river in Cannes on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1916 Henry & Mary (Boudreau) Fougere had their twelfth child, a beautiful little girl named Evelyn Margaret. Evelyn also attended the Cannes School and wrote her high school provincial exams. Her sister Katie passed away at age forty-two leaving behind eight children the youngest being only eight months so Evelyn assisted with the raising of her nieces and nephews. While still a teenager Evelyn had an accident while skating and crushed several vertebrae in her back. A bone from her shin was fused into her back and she spent the next two years in and out of hospitals most of the time in a body cast. Victor & Evelyn were high school sweethearts; however for several years they both dated others but Victor was so

smitten with the lovely Evelyn that he soon captured her heart and on September 11<sup>th</sup> 1940, she became his bride. They will celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year so it must have been true love. In 1960, Evelyn & Victor adopted 3-year-old Linda now living in Dartmouth and in 1965 they adopted five-year-old Debbie now residing in Halifax. Seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren later ensued.

In 1942 while Evelyn took charge of the store, Victor joined the army and spent the next three years doing carpentry work for the forces in Camp Aldershot, Camp Gagetown and in Halifax. In 1945 following the end of the war Victor left the army and returned home to his bride. They opened a post office in their general store as previous owner Nita Landry moved to Halifax. Victor had prior experience in operating a post office, as his mom Philomen had been the postmaster for many years. The main post office was located in the home now owned by Margaret Kush (across from the Glebe house). Evelyn's dad, Henry, delivered the mail to Seaview and would drop the Southside mail at Susie Landry's post office in Cannes. Victor would then row across to get the mail or on windy days would go pick it up by car. Sometimes it would be eleven thirty at night before the mail was ready especially during the Christmas season. To pass the time away while waiting, neighbours gathered at the store and played forty-five's. The cost of playing was a nickel and the winner would get his prize in groceries. In 1970 they closed the post office when home delivery began and in 1977 they said goodbye to their last customer in the general store after forty-two years without a day off. No more free jawbreakers for the kids!

Playing baseball was only one of Victor's many pastimes. He enjoyed playing cards and he also loved to fish and swim (not at the same time). He enjoyed picking berries of all kinds and still picked cranberries last fall. He was notorious on the Southside for his huge gardens and again this year

planted one but on a much smaller scale. Evelyn has always been an avid reader and loves to make her crossword puzzles and is still enjoying her long awaited vacation.

Evelyn & Victor may your strong faith and good health always be with you and all of the people of River Bourgeois hope you have many more years of wedded bliss. *Sharon Chilvers*

## Canada Day Celebrations



*An indoor playground.*



*Jeffrey, son of Donna & Joey Martin, on the Bounce-A-Rama.*

It was a rainy, cold day on July 1<sup>st</sup> but all the families that turned out for a good time on Canada Day were not disappointed. The members of the Youth Development Committee turned the Tara Lynne Center into a great indoor playground. With the help of a grant from the Municipality, the committee put on a full day of activities including face painting, lots of games, lunch, a Chinese auction and music by *Island Driftwood*. All monies raised by the various fundraisers of this group are put back into facilities which benefit the community as a whole. This year they have had the major part of the back of the TLC landscaped, have replaced some of the equipment, added benches & tables and purchased a gazebo which will be installed soon. The Youth Development Committee members work very hard but are encouraged by the community's support of their projects. The winner of the ticket draw for the lawn swing was Judy Munroe from St. Peters.

## Graduations



*James Kendall & Lauren Pottie*

**James Kendall**, son of Maxine & Vincent, graduated from Richmond Academy and will be attending Cape Breton University in the fall to take Information Technology. James was the recipient of a \$200 River Bourgeois Community Services Bursary & the ECCU Bursary of \$500.

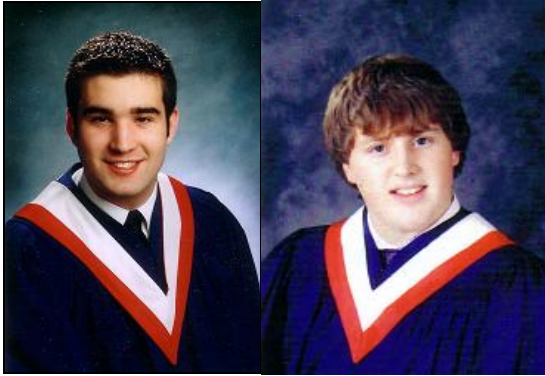
**Lauren Pottie**, daughter of Dawn & Glen, graduated from Richmond Academy and will be attending Cape Breton University in the fall for her Bachelor of Science. She received the Chancellor's Scholarship from Cape Breton University (\$21,000 over four years); the Tara Lynne Touesnard Memorial Bursary (\$500); the Royal Bank Staff-St. Peter's Bursary (\$500); the Thomas William Memorial Bursary (\$200); the Myra Filion Memorial Bursary (\$500); the Municipality of Richmond Scholarship (\$750); the St. Peters Foodland Award (\$100), & the Bobby Ross Scholarship (\$1000).



*Vickie Simpson & Robbie Fougere*

**Robert Fougere**, son of Debbie & John (Donnie), graduated from Richmond Academy. Robbie plans to take a year off and then enter the Motorcycle & Power Products Repair Program at NSCC in Dartmouth.

**Victoria Simpson**, daughter of Paula & Robert Frost, graduated from Richmond Academy. Victoria will be attending Richmond Academy next year for one semester and then she will be attending Saint Mary's University.



*Joel Burke & Matthew Touesnard*

**Joel Burke**, son of Maureen & Neil, graduated from the Richmond Academy and will be attending Dalhousie University for his Bachelor of Science. Joel received a \$500. Entrance Scholarship; the Fr. Clarence MacDonald Bursary (\$200), Fr. Charles Brewer Bursary (\$200), St. Peters Volunteer Fire Department (\$500), Richmond Local NSTU Memorial Bursary (\$450) & the CWL Bursary (\$250).

**Matthew Ryan Touesnard**, son of Denise and Melvin Touesnard graduated from Richmond Academy and plans to attend NSCC in Port Hawkesbury in the Electrical construction & industrial program. Matthew was also a recipient of a \$200 bursary from RB Community Services.



*Jennifer Richards*

**Jennifer Richards** graduated from NSCC Institute of Technology Campus in Halifax with a certificate in Dental Assisting. She is currently employed with the dental office of Dr. William Milton. Best wishes from Mom (Mary), Gerry Fougere, Lisa, Denis, Amelie and Mairi.

*We apologize if we are missing information on some students because we were not able to get it in time. We will add corrections next month.*

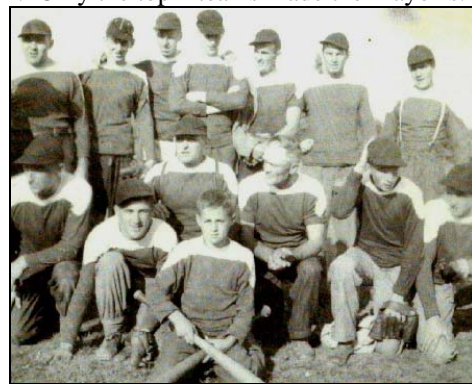
## Richmond County Baseball

Recreational baseball has been played between teams representing the villages of Richmond County

from as far back as 1920. Teams involved over the years were from Petit de Grat, Arichat, Louisdale, D'Escousse, River Bourgeois, L'Ardoise, St. Peters and I recall attending a game in Barra Head between the Mi'kmaq Native team and River Bourgeois in the late forties.

Roy Boudreau's book on the *History of the Petit de Grat "Red Caps"* noted a game played by the team in River Bourgeois on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1946. The River lineup included: Fred Digout, Hervey Boyd, "Hogan" Bourque, Gerald Boyd, Art "Tattoo" Digout, Fraser Boyd, Walter Fougere, John Landry and Peter Boyd. You will note that the only player of this group still living is the "indestructible" Peter Boyd.

The Richmond County Baseball League was formed in 1948, with teams from L'Ardoise, River Bourgeois, St. Peters, Johnstown, Louisdale and Petit de Grat. Each team played 10 games, with Petit de Grat finishing first with an 8-2 record, followed by River Bourgeois and L'Ardoise at 7-3 and St. Peters at 6-4. Only the top 4 teams made the Playoffs.



RB Tigers RCBL Champs 1948

**Knelling** -Walter Fougere, Art Digout, Steve Smith, John Boyd (coach), Steve Landry, Gerard Boyd-**Standing**-Alfred Burke, Hervey Boyd ,Mark Landry, Peter Boyd, Fred Digout, Fraser Boyd, Stanley McPhee **Front**-George Digout (Bat Boy)

River Bourgeois and St. Peters won their respective playoff series and met in a 2 out of 3 final. The River team won the RCBL Championship in 2 games with some powerful hitting behind the pitching of Fred Digout and Mark Landry. The top River hitters in the final series were; Fraser Boyd (.856), Fred Digout (.750), "Tattoo" Digout (.667) and Peter Boyd (.667). For St. Peter's it was "Bunter" MacEwan (.625), Charlie Carter (.500) and Francis Burke (.500)

The River Bourgeois team was managed by Bob Restin, with John Boyd as Coach and, along with the above noted players, included Alfred Burke, Steve Smith, Hervey Boyd, Stanley McPhee, Walter Fougere, Steve Landry and Gerard Boyd. George Digout was the bat boy. *Russell Fougere*

## Special Anniversaries

During the month of July, two River Bourgeois couples celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with family and friends. We extend our congratulations to: **Joan (Sampson) & Bernie Viscount**. Joan & Bernie have seven children; Cyril in Ottawa, Brian in Hubble, Terry and David in Halifax, Wanda in Dartmouth, Shelly in Vancouver and Patricia in Calgary and five great grand children. Congratulations also to **Alice (Pottie) & Daniel Sampson**. Alice & Danny have four children; Paula, Darlene, Darrell and Michael and five grand children.

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## Deaths

**Juteau:** Kenneth Roy, age 41, passed away on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Our sincere condolences to his parents; Joan & Bill; his brother Billy, his extended family, friends and especially his grandmother Carrie Truman .

**Touesnard:** Alisa Renée, age 34, passed away at St. Martha's Hospital on July 25<sup>th</sup>. We send our heartfelt condolences to Renée's Mom & Dad: Mary & Cletus; her brothers: Robert, Kevin, Peter, Roger and all the extended family as well as to her many friends.

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## A Tribute to Mary B. Burke

*The following is part of an article, which appeared in The Daily News. We thank Susan Boudreau for bringing it to our attention*

"Some of Cape Breton birders may have known Mary B. Burke of River Bourgeois, who passed away recently. Primarily a backyard birder, she delighted in hand feeding wild birds, from black-capped chickadees to Gray jays.

Mary, her husband and their children ran a small family farm which was also home to her favorite species of birds, swallows. Two species of swallows frequented the farm, the cavity nesting green-and-white tree swallow and the ever popular blue-and-orange-barn swallow.

Most serious birders in Nova Scotia are familiar with her son, Bernard Burke, who is known for his many bird discoveries at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth, including the famous Ivory Gull of last winter, which drew people from all over North America to the province.

This column is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Mary B. Burke."

*Clarence Stevens operates Natural Wonders, a nature interpretation company, and is the author of Birding Metro Halifax.*

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## Bits and Bites:

- Congratulations to **Nathan Pettipas** on receiving The Young Musician's Award in Halifax from

the Nova Scotia Band Assoc. Nathan has played drums at several concerts at the TLC. He is the son of Lola & Kenny Pettipas of D'Ecousse and grandson of Gervase & Jane Landry.

- **Children's Day Camp** will take place Aug. 1-5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 1. Children must bring a lunch, sunscreen and a hat. M.S.I # will be required
- Seniors Mini Bingo on Wed., Aug 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.
- RBCSS meeting on Wed., Aug 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Cribbage Seniors Bldg Mondays at 7pm.
- Seniors Meeting on Tues., Sept 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.
- CWL meeting on Mon., Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- 45 Card Game Seniors Bldg. Sundays at 7:30.
- Happy Birthday to: Lorne Baccardax, Joe Boucher, Elaine Burke, Margaret Burke, Charlie Digout, Leo Fougere, Gerald LeBlanc, Father Sandy MacNeil, Stanley MacPhee, George Robertson, Virginia Sampson, Holly Stone and the following who all celebrated number 65; Ann Sampson, Gerry Casey & Glyn Chilvers.
- Winner of the quilt made by Charlotte LeBlanc for the Senior's Expo was Ann Clow. Marie Heudes won the quilt made by Madeline Cook .It raised over \$1300 for the Church Building Fund.
- **Festival Committee** is still looking for volunteers. If you can spare a couple of hours on the September long weekend call Joseph MacPhee at 2677 or Paula LaFantaisie at 3053 .
- The **Church bulletin** is being prepared for the summer months at the CAP site. Please drop off notices before 5 pm Thursdays at the CAP site or Email [rbcap@stpeterscable.com](mailto:rbcap@stpeterscable.com)
- Our CAP 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). CAP phone # is 535-3251; Email address is [rbcap@stpeterscable.com](mailto:rbcap@stpeterscable.com) and our website is [www.stpeterscable.com/~rbcap](http://www.stpeterscable.com/~rbcap)
- Anyone wishing to book the TLC should call Ann Clow at 535-2726. For use of the Funeral Home call Marie & Conrad Fougere at (2621). Call Georgie or Harold Landry at (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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Published monthly by RB Technology & Training Centre in co-operation with RB Community Services Society. Eds: Sharon Digout & Sharon Chilvers. Thanks to Sherry Baccardax & Heidi Stone for technical help, Lynn Boudreau for putting us online & Therese Pottie for looking after our subscriptions (535-2740).

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