



The River Round Up

Volume 7

Number 02

February 2006

\$1.00

Bernard & Lenova Sampson



Lenova Caroline was born April 22, 1935, the second of seven children to Joseph & Louisa (Larocque) Boucher of Church Point. Lenova walked the mile long trip to the East End School four times a day as she came home for lunch. At age twelve she contracted rheumatic fever and spent the entire winter bedridden, which ended her schooling. At thirteen she went to work for two years at the Claridge Restaurant in St. Peter's. From there she moved to New Glasgow and worked at the Norfolk Hotel and McRae's Tea Room. Meanwhile her mother got ill and she returned home to help with her younger brothers and to work at Alfred Burke's restaurant (River Grill). During this time, Madeline (Cook) Sampson was helping Lenova's mom and a dimpled faced young man who happened to be Madeline's brother began loitering around the household under the pretence of waiting for his sister. His name was Bernard Sampson.

Bernard Pius was born Jan. 6th, 1930, the seventh of twelve children of James Henry & Mary (Landry) Sampson of Church Point. Following his graduation from the East End School, Bernard went to work in construction on the Sunrise Trail in Amherst. After completion of the highway in 1949, Bernard worked on oil tankers. He traveled to many parts of the world including The West Indies, South America, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Cape Horn, Panama Canal and along both

the eastern and western coastlines of the United States. When he tired of the sea in 1953, he returned home and was employed by Alan Touesnard driving a highway truck. It was during this time that he began falling in love with the lovely Lenova Boucher.

After a brief courtship, Lenova and Bernard were married on Aug. 2nd, 1954. The family soon included Ivan, Doris, Sandra, Darlene, Jacqueline & Leon. Doris lives in RB, Sandra in Halifax while the other four live in Ottawa. They also have six grandchildren and two great grandchildren; Leah & Raely.

Bernard, a jack-of-all-trades, decided to build his own home in 1954. The land where he built was the last of what was called "Little Lot". In the 1600's six settlers were each given 1600 acres of land by the government for themselves and their direct descendants. The original documents had remained in RB all of this time and in 1954 were in the hands of Carrie Beranger. The documents have since been turned over to the Nova Scotia archives. The Sampson lot was from Bob Pettigrew's to Fitzgerald Lane and only the one lot remained unclaimed.

In 1959, Lenova was pregnant with her third child when her mother passed away. Her brothers, Charlie & Bernard, were ten and eight years old at the time so they moved in with Lenova & Bernard for the remainder of their childhood. Brothers Oreille & Camille stayed with their father but ate their meals at the Sampson household.

From 1956 to 1962, Bernard worked at the waterfront in Halifax returning home during the summer months. In 1962, he became one of the first employees at the Stora mill in Port Hawkesbury and remained there until his retirement on Jan. 31st. 1989.

The first thing that Bernard & Lenova did upon retiring was to spend seven weeks traveling across the country with their son Ivan and wife Irene in a Winnebago. They visited their children and their many brothers and sisters across Ontario and Western Canada ending their tour on Vancouver Island. Since

retirement Bernard has taken up searching the countryside for “collectables” or as Lenova calls it “junk”. Both are founding members of the Seniors 50+ Club. Lenova loves her bingo while Bernard loves to visit his many relatives for coffee and tall tales. Bernard & Lenova, we all wish you many more years of good health and wedded bliss.

Sharon Chilvers

“The Shack”-“The Natives”

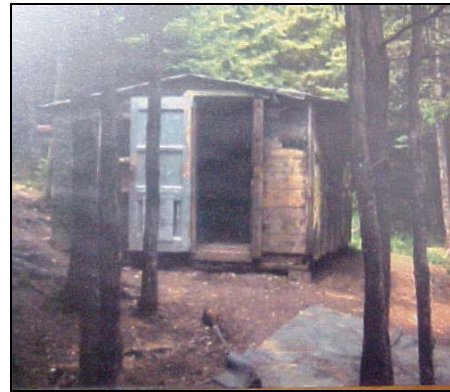


Michael, Bernard, Basil & Alvin Burke in front of the shack.

In 1970, five young boys from the Southside; Basil, Larry, Michael & Alvin Burke and Calvin Libbus built themselves a *shack* on the side of the hill on the property of Ernest Burke on the road to Richard’s Pond. At first it was just a hangout where the boys carved molds out of wood and then melted lead to make small anchors and trinkets. Soon however word spread that it was a place for kids to hang out and the membership grew to include; John MacPhee, Leonard Pottie, Peter Baccardax, Gerald LeBlanc, Donnie & Lester Fougere, Debbie & Verna Davidson, and Brian, Stephen & Linda Burke.

In 1972 on Halloween night rivals from the Church Point allegedly tipped the *shack* down the hill leaving only its foundation. Disappointed but not dejected the troops decided to rebuild the *shack* but this time it was built across the road and creek on land owned by Mickey Burke. With the lumber from a shed that was once owned by Lawrence Burke, the new *shack* was built stronger and now measured ten by ten feet. Members now included Rodney, Beverley, Anita, & Rita Burke, David & Lloyd LeBlanc, Jeanette Fougere and Levenia Libbus. The *shack* now had a potbelly stove, benches, makeshift table and several cots. Kerosene lamps and candles were used for lighting and a transistor radio was the only form of music as not a single member of the club played a musical instrument (Southsiders were never known for their musical talents). Each fall the kids from the Church Point and the Northside would arrive with a truckload of apples and would launch them at the *shack*. After the first year the members

were ready and armed with apples awaiting the now annual event.



By the late seventies an expansion on the *shack* was required as a result of a population explosion that took place on the Southside in 1963 & 1964. These kids included Blair, Bernard, Glen, Austin, Wayne, Roger, Arlene, Debbie, Angele and Justin Burke, Cynthia Richard, Keith LeBlanc and Leonard Landry. The following kids were also members even though they were not from the Southside: Janice Pottie, David & Kevin King and Darren & Perry Boudreau. Summer time members included Barry & Greg Cormier, Ericka & Timmy Pederson, and Christine Fougere.

It was at this time that the kids became known as the famous “Natives”. They formed a baseball team and participated in many RB festival ball tournaments. Parties...oops gatherings were a weekly thing at the shack, meals were cooked on the potbelly stove, mostly stews as vegetables were readily available from neighbouring gardens. Rumour has it, but not confirmed, that some spirits were also drunk.

In 1982 the last of the group finished school and in 1983 one weekend, due to the lack of driftwood for a bonfire at Richard’s Pond, the *shack* was dismantled and set ablaze. The “Natives” friendship did not end on that fiery day at Richard’s Pond as many of the gang now live in the Halifax area and the baseball team continued to play for the next ten years. In 2004 the members would meet again at the memorial of their first fallen comrade, Darren Boudreau. They embraced together in grief and wonderful memories of their departed friend.

Most members are married now and are busy raising their families. Leonard Pottie holds the distinction of being the first grandfather. Most stories of the *shack* will probably be embellished for their children. To this day on any summer long weekend you can walk the roads on the Southside and see most of the members huddled together reminiscing of the days of “*The Shack*”. Thanks to

the many contributors of this story. Hopefully no member's name has been omitted.

A Safe Return



Edward as he arrives in Afghanistan.

MCPL Edward Bouchard now stationed in Kandahar (Afghanistan) for nine months departed his home base in Edmonton, AB on January 8th, 2006. He is due to return on October 6th, 2006. He is the son of Art & Linda Bouchard of River Bourgeois. He joined the signal squadron in 1990 and is now attached to the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). He is married to the former Chantal Poissant of Sedlley, SK and has two sons Dylan (13) and Brandon (8). He also has two sisters, Melissa in Fredericton & Christine in Dartmouth. His previous postings were in Cornwallis, NS; Kingston, ON; and Calgary, Suffield & Edmonton, AB. We all wish Edward the very best and safe return during his peacekeepers duties. Mom, Dad & all of River Bourgeois.

(Ronald Landry, son of Vera Bourque and the late George Landry has also left for Afghanistan. We will have more on Ronald next month.)

Where are they now?

Roy Fougere is a travelling man. He was born the son of Anselm & Evelyn Fougere on the Southside of River Bourgeois, studied at ST.F.X., Saint Mary's and graduated as a mining engineer from TUNS (Technical University of Nova Scotia, now a part of Dalhousie). His first mining job was in Wabush, Labrador where he and wife Elaine had two children, Leia & Nicolas. A new tin mine opening in Yarmouth lured them back to Nova Scotia but they were only there three years when they answered the call to "go west" spending three years in Grande Cache and another four in Fort McMurray, AB.

In 1995, Roy started looking overseas and settled on a job in Zambia, Africa. Working abroad fulfilled his desire for new challenges, adventure and so he followed that job with a move to Indonesia, where he worked on the start up of a huge gold mine on the island of Sumbawa. It really is a small world and

nowhere is that more evident than in the mining industry. One day as Roy was having lunch in the cafeteria at their remote camp in the Indonesian jungle a man sitting opposite him asked, "Where are you from?" Roy answered "Canada". "Oh, where in Canada?" "Nova Scotia." "Where in Nova Scotia?" "Cape Breton." "Where in Cape Breton?" "River Bourgeois." "Really! There's a guy sitting right behind you at the next table who is also from River Bourgeois!" Roy turned around to see Kenneth Boucher!

In 1999 Roy returned to River Bourgeois to establish a home base, having bought Thomas Sampson's house on the Southside. He purchased & managed Apple Auto Glass and started a small engine repair business, Nic's Sales and Service. However the call of mining is strong and when a head hunter called in January, 2005 to see if he would help on a start up project for three months in northern British Columbia, he went. That has subsequently turned into a full time job.

So to answer the question "Where is he now?". He's in Chetwynd, BC but one thing is for sure, as much as he may seek adventure and new challenges, his heart and home are in Cape Breton. If you ask him his favourite place to be; it's dangling a mackerel line over the side of his old boat in the waters off River Bourgeois.

We are hoping more people living away will let us know what is happening with them. You can reach us by email at rbcap@stpeterscable.ca

Recycled



Gerard Touesnard, Valerie Boyd & Buddy Boudreau at the official ribbon cutting ceremony. Photo taken by Donnie Pottie.

"U CALL - WE HAUL". This logo is found on Buddy Boudreau's truck license plate and last summer Valerie Boyd decided to contact Buddy & Donnie Pottie to destroy an old shed in her back yard. The shed was dismantled and hauled behind Buddy's where it was quickly rebuilt and enlarged. As usual in RB, we wanted a picture for the Round Up.

Graduation



Jessica Oliver

Congratulations to Jessica Oliver on receiving her Masters in English Literature from Queen's University at the fall convocation. Jessica was the recipient of the SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Scholarship), the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, the Queen's University Scholarship and the Mackenzie King Scholarship. She is presently teaching English in Istanbul, Turkey.

Jessica is the daughter of Marjorie Robertson & Graham Oliver and the granddaughter of Mary Ann Robertson & the late Charlie Robertson of River Bourgeois and granddaughter of the late Catherine & Robert Oliver of Point Tupper. Her two sisters Stephanie & Adrienne are presently at St.FX University. *Thanks to her Uncle Pete for the news.*

Births

Bona/Pottie: Alexander Edwin was born on January 13th to Darren & Courtenay. Congratulations to Mom & Dad, brother Ethan, grandparents Cathy & Brian Bona, Pene & Les Pottie and all the great grand parents, Mary Bona, Jean Pottie and Elsie & Clarence LeBlanc.

Brown/Berthier: Raely Hannah, 9lbs 8oz, was born January 24th to Wesley Brown & Kim Berthier of West Bay. Congratulations to the parents and grandparents Doris & John Brown, Jackie MacLeod of Grand River and Junior Berthier of L'Ardoise and great grandparents Bernard & Lenova Sampson.

Deaths

Fougere: Darlene Hilda, 46, of Arichat passed away on Jan. 18th. Our condolences to her husband, Paul, daughter Sharmon and sister in law Cynthia Pottie.

Bits and Bites:

- **Senior's Meeting** on Feb. 7th at 1:30pm.
- **Merchandise Bingo** Feb. 5th 2pm TLC
- **CAP site meeting** on Feb. 8th at 7pm.
- **Seniors Mini Bingo** on Feb. 8 at 1:30.
- **CWL annual meeting** on Feb. 11th at 2pm, followed by Mass and dinner at the TLC.
- **Social-darts**, exercise and or card games every Monday 1-3 at Seniors Bldg.

- **45 Card game** -Seniors Bldg Sundays at 7 pm.
- **Cribbage**- Seniors Bldg Mondays at 7 pm.
- **RBCSS meeting** at Senior's Bldg Feb 22nd 7pm.
- **Pancake supper** on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 28th 4-6pm at TLC. Sponsored by Parish Council.
- Events in RB for **Rich. Co. Winter Festival** are **Cribbage** on February 13th at 7pm. **Bridge** on Feb. 19th 1:30 to 4pm (please note that the date has been changed from the 12th to the 19th as Johnstown is having one on the 12th), **45-card** game on Feb. 19th at 7pm, **Tarbish** on Feb 26th 1:30 to 4pm and Merchandise **Bingo** on Mar. 5th.
- **Congratulations** to the Mud Hockey team from Gordie Fougere's field who were featured on the "On The Road Again" show on Jan. 18th putting RB on the map across Canada. Great work by host John MacPhee and the rest of the team.
- **Happy Birthday** wishes to: Germaine Carter, Kay Boyd, Viola Touesnard, Georgie Boudreau, Gilbert Bourque, Emily Boucher, Bernard Sampson, Margaret Bouchard and Victor Burke.
- **Correction** on the Marion Maltby article the first paragraph should have read "you did not automatically get your license revoked if you didn't complete the courses in the required time. However if a teacher had to take a lengthy absence due to illness etc it might be difficult to get back into the classroom unless he/she repeated all her training".The second last sentence in the article should read "she spends a lot of time on the phone checking on her ill stepdaughter and helps her out two afternoons every second week."
- 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. On weekends, an appointment may be made by calling Ann (2376) or Sharon (3516). CAP phone number 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.

Published monthly by RB Technology & Training Centre in co-operation with RB Community Services Society. Eds: Sharon Digout & Sharon Chilvers. Thanks to Sherry Baccardax for technical help, Lynn Boudreau for putting us online and Therese Pottie for looking after our subscriptions (535-2740).
