



The River Round Up

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Joan & Michael Owens



Joan Mary Catherine was born Oct. 8th, 1941 the 4th child of Mary (Bouchie) & Edwin Bona of Church Point. Joan attended the East End School until the seventh grade when she moved to the newly built Stella Maris School. Having nine brothers and five sisters at home made for plenty of dish washing, the job she most hated. Music was a major part of their life with dad and several children having musical talent. Joan had several close calls with her health as a child. She ate a poisonous flower and would have died except for her quick thinking grandmother who came to her rescue. She also suffered from double pneumonia and Dr. Morrison had to be summoned to her home on several occasions. Joan recalls the first day she left home for St. Peters to go work for schoolteacher, Katherine McRae. Joan felt she was moving to the end of the world and crying as she was leaving as her mom stood at the door also in tears. She could only come home on Saturday evenings, returning on Sunday and her salary was \$35 a month. It was while working in St. Peters that Joan attended a movie at the fire hall and saw this handsome man named Michael and it was love at first sight.

Michael Joachin was born Nov. 23rd, 1938 the 4th child of William & Alaine (Daigal) Owens at the "Fish Hatchery" just outside St. Peters. Dad, William worked for the Dept. of Fisheries and lived in RB

from 1936 to 1938 while awaiting the construction of the Fish Hatchery. Michael was born two days after the move. He did not lack for playmates as his parents had seven sons and seven daughters. Music played a huge part in the Owens family. They had a piano and the children were all musical. Brother Lionel was a music teacher so instruments were readily available. Michael left school in St. Peters after the ninth grade and worked at the hatchery and in the woods. In 1958 he went to work for Cannel Oil (Texaco) delivering oil and it was at the same time that a beautiful new girl had moved into St. Peters. Her name was Joan Bona.

Michael & Joan were married at St. John the Baptist Church on Oct. 1st, 1960. They have five children: Timmy in Langley, BC; Bernadette in Waverley; Richard in Lantz; Wendy in St. Peters and Pamela in RB. Ten beautiful grandchildren ensued: Holly, Leah, Deanna, Grant, Jeremy, Dylan, Taylor, Haley, Cailly and Jordan who passed away in 1999 at age eight of a brain tumour. Joan & Michael's home became a revolving door for the next few years. Three foster children came to live with them and one of these children had a child who remained with the Owens family for a year before they moved on. A Vietnamese (Boat) family also stayed with them for a month while awaiting their home to be readied. Three Japanese exchange students took up residence with the family and Joan & Michael are also now sponsoring their fourth foster child with Foster Parents Plan.

Michael worked on the boats for Texaco in Montreal and following a short stint there, the family relocated to Dartmouth. Texaco management requested that Michael attend Marine School in Dartmouth during the winters while working on the boat the remainder of the year. He worked as first mate until 1969 when the family returned to RB. He worked for NS Power for a year while taking his grade twelve equivalent exam from the Dept. of Ed. In 1970 he was employed by Gulf Oil Refinery as a process operator and Stationary Eng.-First Class

(Certified by the Dept. of Labour following on the job training). When the Refinery closed down and was bought out by Ultramar as a marine terminal, Michael continued to work there for several more years before the operation was moved to BC. Refusing a transfer to the west coast he worked for Breton Petroleum delivering industrial oil until his retirement in 2006 after 49 years in the oil industry.

For the past twenty-five years Joan & Michael have been an integral part of the church choir. They enjoy music with their children, Richard, Wendy and Pamela & husband Gerard who are all very talented musicians as well as most of the Owens and Bona clans. Their main focus these days is their grandchildren especially during March school break when all of them visit for the week. Nowadays they let the children decide on the entertainment as one time Joan & Michael took all of the grandchildren for a train ride from Halifax to Truro expecting great excitement. The novelty lasted fifteen minutes and they had to listen to complaints of boredom the remainder of the trip. Joan is a member of the CWL and seniors club and both she & Michael are regular visitors to the Villa. They also enjoy their camp and playing cards. Joan & Michael, the people of RB wish you many more years of wedded bliss and may music always be ringing in your head. *Sharon Chilvers*

Dock & Boat Launch Project



In 2004 the RBCSS Economic Development Committee completed the rebuilding of the lighthouse and began brainstorming on their next project. Committee Chairman Carl Grimes and his team decided on a dock and boat launch which could be used by community members and visitors alike. The project was to be completed in three phases: 1. The construction of the launch and ramp. 2. The construction of a floating dock. 3. Additional docking spaces in the future.

The project had to have clearances from the Departments of Fisheries, Highway, Transportation, and Environment which took countless hours and many phone calls. Funding was the next major hurdle and many thanks to the Richmond County Municipality for an eleven thousand dollar grant

along with a major contribution from RBCSS. Thanks also to the companies and individuals who donated their time and equipment including Burke Bros., Darrel Malcolm, Statia Terminals, Harold Landry and N.S. Power just to name a few. Boat owners from RB donated more than fifty-five hundred dollars for which we are very grateful .

The structures for the launch and floating docks are now in place on the Northside Rd. (163) .The main block was constructed using a septic tank top for a form. The walkway and seawall are in place but not completed. Two pontoons are spending the winter on the Southside awaiting their launch in the spring and a third is waiting it out on Bona's ball field.

When it is completed, we will have a facility available to everyone, whether it's to fish off the dock, swim, moor your canoe or kayak. The dock can also be used for swimming & canoe lessons or regattas. The options are limited only by the space available. The dock project will also bring home boats (that are presently docked elsewhere) from outside the community and it will be a place to service the boats. The project will create revenue for the operation of the facility and its maintenance. River Bourgeois will have an infrastructure equal to other communities and has potential in many areas including tourism along with increases in revenues to gas stations and CAP site to name a few.

The committee members have worked endlessly on this project and we are grateful to them and we look forward to its completion. Stay tuned for a spring official opening date.

Legion Installation of Officers



Olivia Benoit of Black River presents 45 year pin to Rita Landry and 25 year pin to Rita's son-in-law Paul Martell of St. Peters.

On January 13th the St. Peters Legion Branch 47 held their annual installation of officers. The following members from RB were honoured: President Maurice Landry was elected for the eleventh time; Lucille Landry elected President of the Woman's Auxiliary for the fourth year; Irene MacInnis and Norma MacNeil were elected to the

Legion Executive; Rita Landry received her 45 year pin as a Ladies Auxiliary Charter Member; Norma MacNeil also received her past officers medal & bar and Peter LeBlanc received a token of appreciation from the Auxiliary for his work.

Soldiers Honoured



Maurice Landry, Cpl. MacKenzie Landry, Sgt. Frank Smith and Sgt. Edward Bouchard.

On Boxing Day residents of River Bourgeois, St. Peters and area joined together at the Lion’s Hall in support of our troops leaving for Afghanistan. A forty-foot banner signed by the many people (who wore red in support of the troops) is now stretched across the main street in St. Peters and will remain until all soldiers are returned home safely. Legion President Maurice Landry presented the three soldiers with a token of appreciation. Edward, son of Linda & Arthur Bouchard, has recently returned from an eleven-month stint while MacKenzie and Frank are preparing to leave in Feb. Frank is the husband of Tracy, daughter of Hughie & Doreen Samson, and MacKenzie is the son of Diane & Conrad Landry of St. Peters.

Catherine & George Boudreau



Photo by Claudette King

Catherine & George celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 8th. They have four children Claire, Robert, Colleen & Yvette; grandchildren are

Lisa, Melinda, Jennifer, Christopher, Lacey, Meghan, Shannon, Alishia, David & Samantha and two great granddaughters Kaylee and Makayla. We extend our sincere congratulations on this milestone.

Cap Site News

We have no definite news on Cap federal funding yet but it is looking a bit more promising for the immediate future. However we have just received funding for a part time youth intern from the Dept. of Economic Development for a 10 week period. We have hired Rebecca (Debbie & Michael) Landry for this period. I am sure the Cap volunteers will be glad to know that for the month of February she will cover their shifts by working 2-6 pm Monday to Friday. Rebecca will be a familiar face as she helped cover the site for the past three years on Monday nights. Drop in and say hello!

Stella Maris School First Graduates



Back row left to right: David Boudreau, Eddie Fougere, Alfred Boudreau, & Maynard Boyd. Middle row: Gerald Robertson, Louis Bona, Wally Bona, George Boyd, Theophile Bouchie, & Garvey Sampson. Front row: Veronica Sampson, Germaine Digout, Leona MacDonald, Gladys Landry, Patsy Sampson, Monica Burke, Emily Burke, Mimi Fougere, & Yvonne Digout.

The Stella Maris School was constructed to replace the aging and outdated Cannes & River Bourgeois Schools. The new school was scheduled to be completed for the September, 1954 school term. Unfortunately construction was not finalized until early November of that year, so although the pupils were combined into the various grades, some of them had to be housed in each of the above noted schools until the opening date of the new school. The school was located on property to the east of the church and south of the graveyard. It was demolished and removed from the site several years ago.

The first grade 11 class at the school graduated in 1955 and it consisted of only 4 students – Mimi Fougere, George Boyd, Garvey Samson and Leona MacDonald. These students attended St. Peter’s High for Grade 12 in 1955-56 and in later years were

prominently involved in this community as well as in other areas of the province in their chosen professions, namely Credit Union Manager, Medical Specialist, Professional Engineer and School Teacher. In the Jan. 1, 1955 edition of the Round Up an extraordinary item was written concerning a Stella Maris student. It read:

WARNING TO ALL PEDESTRIANS

Keep well over in your side of the road, as

Miss Monica Burke, daughter of

Mr & Mrs. Amable I ,has obtained her driver's license and now drives her brother's car.

I don't know if this warning is still in effect or not.

With all the River Bourgeois students now in one school the Stella Maris boys were quick to organize a school hockey team. The early part of the winter in 1955 was relatively mild but they were able to play their first game against the Stirling school in February. The team consisted of the following players: Goal-Gerald Robertson; Defence-George Boyd, Eddie Fougere, Wally Bona & David Boudreau; Forwards-Maynard Boyd, Garvey Samson, Theophile Boucher, Alfred Boudreau, Peter MacPhee, Arthur Burke & Louie Bona. I don't have the results of the first game, which was played in Stirling, but the local team won the return game in RB by a score of 4-2. Scorers for Stella Maris were George Boyd, Maynard Boyd, Garvey Samson & Arthur Burke. Stirling scorers were Stanley McPhee (a "ringer") and Twane Caron.

In March Stella Maris defeated St. Peter's High by a score of 4-3. Scoring for the local team were Maynard "Rocket" Boyd and Garvey Samson with 2 goals each. Joe Boyd (Maynard's brother) scored 2 goals for St. Peter's and John Dan MacDonald scored 1. The "Rocket's" goal late in the 3rd period was the winner. The game was capably refereed by Mimi Fougere. *Russell Fougere*

Births

Bona/Pottie: Abbygail Leigh was born Dec. 13th to Darren & Courtney of Port Hawkesbury. A sister for Ethan & Alexander. Congratulations to grandparents Leslie & Pene Pottie, and Brian & Cathy Bona, great grandparents Clarence & Elsie LeBlanc, Mary Bona, Jean Pottie and Wilfred & Catherine Zimmer.

Deaths

Sampson: Helen May, 65 , of St. Peters passed away on Jan 5th. Our condolences to her family and friends especially her stepdaughter Faye Gibson of RB.

Bits and Bites

- **Richmond County Winter Festival** is taking place from January 27th to March 4th. The

following will take place in RB at the Seniors Bldg: **Bridge Sun Feb. 11th 1-4, Cribbage on Mon. Feb. 19th 7pm, Tarbush on Sat. Feb. 24th 1-3pm.** Prizes will be awarded at each event.

- **The family of Bobby & Anita Boucher** wish to express their deepest gratitude and thanks to all who were so generous and kind during the benefit. The overwhelming response will enable Bobby to receive his much needed treatments. Special thanks to Ed Pottie who chaired the benefit and his many helpers. *Bobby Boucher*
- **Thanks** to all who sent us cards since we have moved to Halifax. Victor is doing much better and I like my new residence. My new address is 2630 Gottington St. Northwood Manor #322A, Halifax, NS B3K 3C6. Evelyn & Victor Burke. **Congratulations to Victor who just celebrated his 92nd birthday at Camp Hill with many family members and friends.**
- **Congratulations to Graham Bona** who was transferred from the Rimouski Oceanics to Halifax Mooseheads. Graham, son of Ruth & Melvin Bona, is a talented 18 year old defenseman. He is a grandson of Mary Bona.
- **Seniors 50+ Club and Valentine Luncheon on Tuesday Feb. 13th at noon - meeting to follow.**
- **Seniors Mini Bingo, Feb. 14th @ 1:30 pm.**
- **CWL meeting Feb. 10th 7:00 Vestry.**
- **RBCSS meeting Feb 22nd at 7pm.**
- **Merchandise Bingo Sun. March 4th 2pm** sponsored by the CWL.
- **Cribbage Seniors Bldg Mondays at 7pm.**
- **45 Card game Seniors Bldg. Sundays-7 pm.**
- CAP site will open to the public from 2-6 pm Mon -Fridays. CAP phone # is 535-3251. Email address is rbcap@stpeterscable.com and our website is www.stpeterscable.com/~rbcap we now provide wireless & high speed service.
- Anyone wishing to book the TLC should call **Mike Fougere at 535-3308.** People requiring use of the Funeral Home, call Marie & Conrad Fougere at 535-2621. Call Georgie or Harold Landry at 535-2939 to open the church for any special functions i.e. 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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