



The River Round Up

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Blaise & Deirdre Boyd



Blaise Cyril was born on February 4th, 1930 the fifth of eleven children to Nellie (Bourque) & Willie F. Boyd of Cannes. He attended the West End School before graduating from St. Peters High in 1948. He immediately began working in his father's general store "Superior Chain Store" or as it was better known *Boyd's Store*. The store carried anything from groceries, shoes, boots, overalls, and even aspirins. Any items that could not be carried home by the purchaser were delivered by Blaise to customers all over the River including the Southside. One hundred pound bags of flour were easily carried by Blaise (dad did not carry workman's compensation so he did not bother complaining about his ailing back). He recalls the strangest visitor the store ever had. His dad, Willie, was sitting in his office doing paperwork when he sensed someone there, and as he looked up was face to face with a heifer which had strayed from the farm of Lucille & Delphis Landry. A rescue by its owners ensued and the intruder had failed to purchase a thing. Willie passed away in 1955 and Blaise became the sole proprietor. The store was a meeting place for the gentlemen of the area to chew the fat and tell tall

tales. In 1953 a young lady by the name of Deirdre began to hang around the store during the summer.

Deirdre Maura was born December 19th, 1937 in Vancouver and at age six months was adopted by Gertrude (Boyd) formerly of RB & Arthur Mahon formerly of Quebec. They later adopted a second child they named Denis. Deirdre's dad worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway for thirty-nine years and so the family moved often. In 1940 Deirdre's family moved from Vancouver to Seattle, Washington for seven years, returning to Vancouver for a year before moving to Winnipeg for three years. In 1952 they moved to their final destination in Montreal where she graduated from the Sacred Heart Convent in 1956. Her most memorable trip occurred in 1947 when she was just ten years old and she travelled with her mom and brother from Vancouver to Cape Breton by train. In 1959 she graduated as a Registered Nurse from St. Mary's Hospital and continued to work there for the next two years before she and her friend Adele moved to California and worked for a year before returning to Montreal. In 1964 Deirdre went to Dalhousie University and received her Diploma in Public Health Nursing. At age fifteen she began spending her summers at her grandparents place in RB and became infatuated with the general store proprietor.

After ten years of summer romance and letters, Blaise & Deirdre were married at St. Ignatius Church in Montreal on September 18th, 1965. They moved in with Blaise's mom until their home was completed in 1968. They have three children: Jennifer who resides in West Palm Beach, Florida and Joanne & Allison who both live in Halifax. They have four grandchildren; Katie, Nicholas, Olivia & Amelia.

Blaise operated the general store until 1975 when it became non profitable to stay open. He was proud of the fact that in all the years they were opened they never once had a break-in. It was then he began to work in construction at the heavy water plant in Glace Bay, followed by work at Wreck Cove and

Lime Hill before doing local construction at the museum, funeral home and the ball field. He retired in 1995. Deirdre became a phone nurse (public health position was filled) and so many locals would call for remedy cures. For more than ten years they both were the janitors of the newly built Tara Lynne Center working for a starting salary of \$100 a month. Blaise has been a great volunteer in “volunteering his wife” over the years. She is now serving her third term as President of the CWL and has served on both diocesan and provincial levels of the CWL during her forty years as a member. She also has been a member of the Liturgy Committee for many years and her work with the church has been invaluable during this time, from decorating the church to organizing the liturgies for special occasions. She is a member of the Seniors’ Club, volunteers to serve hospital luncheons and along with Blaise delivers Meals on Wheels. The community can also count on Deirdre’s sense of humour when required, whether it’s for the festival comedy night, annual CWL meetings or departing poems for our priests (which happens often). If you happened to have run into someone dressed like a leprechaun in green with gaudy earrings last month (with her friends Sharon and Marj walking well behind her) it was only Deirdre acknowledging the fact that she is of Irish decent. Blaise & Deirdre the people of River Bourgeois wish to send their sincere gratitude for all the years of community involvement and wish you many years of health and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

Cenotaph Update



Buddy Boudreau and grandson Keegan MacLeod clearing the area surrounding the cenotaph site.

The RBCSS Cenotaph restoration committee is selling Club 200 tickets as a fundraiser. The tickets are \$30. and can be paid all at once or in weekly installments. Prize is six weekly draws of \$500 beginning Friday, May 4th at TLC until June 8th. You may contact Donnie 2740, Raymond 2820, Mike 3308, Joe 2677, Maurice 2223 or Debbie 2495. Anyone wishing to make a donation directly to the fund can get a tax receipt from RBCSS.

Happy Birthday Curley



This bachelor from the River we all know
He is the guy always on the go
Friends remember how well he could skate
For kiddies and Olympics it’s a bit too late
For church and community he’s in big demand
Always ready to give a helping hand
He has little patience with his Joan
With Claire he’s often on the phone
While in town he and Leona enjoy a meal
Would anyone know which romance is for real?
Years ago his hair was long
He is older now and it’s all gone
We, his patrons have but one request
Send belated Birthday Greetings to one of the best
On March 8th he was 60
Phone 535-2902 at the PO.

Author Unknown

Richmond Villa Birthday Party



*Carl Grimes of Island Driftwood entertaining Villa residents.
Picture courtesy of Paula Sampson*

On March 18th the members of the St. John the Baptist CWL helped the residents of the Richmond Villa celebrate the monthly birthday party. Lunch was served by the members and everyone enjoyed a piece of birthday cake. Thanks to organizer Valerie Cunningham and her crew, the members of the church choir and *Island Driftwood* who supplied the entertainment with a St. Patrick’s Day flavor.

Hockey 2007



Jordie Mann, Kyle Burke & Shawn Boucher

March school break for the hockey players from RB was again spent competing in the Stora Tournament. Kyle Burke (Joan & Kelly), Jordie Mann (Verna & Robbie) and Shawn Boucher (Tammy) pictured above all play for the Pirates and have been in minor hockey since 1994. Daniel Allan (Joanne & Tim), Brett Dakai (Jody & Kevin) and Daniel King (Bonita & Kevin) participated for the first time while semi pros like Brandon Boucher (Lisa & Billy), Liam Burke (Joan & Kelly), Donaven Landry (Shawn & Laurie) and Cameron MacDonald (Lisette & Kenzie) have a few years of experience among them in the league. Kirsten Landry (Laurie & Shawn) was the only girl but she represented RB very well. Congratulations to all!

River Bourgeois Tribute



Billy Calder - Picture courtesy of John Calder

Billy Calder was a native of St. Peter's who wrote many articles concerning the people and history of Richmond and Inverness Counties as experienced during his "formative years" in the 1930's and 1940's. He wrote under the pen name of "MacTavish" with many of his articles published in such local newspapers as *The Richmond Record*, *The Victoria Inverness Bulletin* and *The Scotia Sun*. The following article was published in an issue of *The Scotia Sun* in 1972:

"The Following is dedicated to all good sons of "The River"

River Bourgeois... in my day it was called "The River". And do not think for one moment that we did not respect and compete with these sturdy sons of the island sea.

Why man if we, in my village, organized a baseball team, who would trim us handily? "The River". Now you get Doctor Digouts' ear and ask him. "Were you a good catcher?" Of course he defected some years ago and set up practice in my village, and when he is not wielding the forceps or dispensing pills, to-day you may just find him playing bingo on a given night.

Ah yes it was "The River" to us. Why a women peeking between the curtained window (as they are wont to do) might remark; "There goes the old gentlemen, Angus Boyd, or perhaps D.D., or his wife in the rubbered tired wagon and spirited filly. And when the school inspector arrived with a half holiday in his pocket, it would be M.J.T. MacNeil, from "The River". Or perhaps that rather short but energetic man of the cloth, Father Robitaille from "The River" would motor to town.

But in MacTavish's mind the real nitty-gritty of "The River" was the neat cottages, some perched on the slopes and some barely touching the salt water at high tide; the odd cow or two grazing along with some sheep. The inshore fishing boats bobbing at anchor or putt-putting out to the traps and the nets.

And in the morning before the grass gave up the dew, the ringing of bells for early mass, and folks walking briskly to the church conspicuous on the hill by the sea, the golden glow of candles flickering through the tall windows.... And their returning home, spirits refreshed, as if the angels actually did bend low and touch them, giving strength and faith to meet the burdens of another day.

"Culture? There it was, a simple all embracing faith, and a warm home with love and understanding. That was culture... don't deny it!"

Dr. Digout was the well known Joe Digout, son of Eugene & Mary (Fougere) Digout and husband of Sarah "Sally" (Burke) who passed away in Dec. 2005 at the age of 96 years. Angus Boyd, grandfather of Peter and Blaise, was the proprietor of the Superior Chain Store in Cannes, and his son D.D. was a former MLA for Richmond County and the grandfather of politicians Art and Terry Donahue. His wife Kate (MacIssac) was a native of Antigonish. Fr. Pierre Robitaille was the Parish Priest at St. John the Baptist from 1909 until his death in 1949. M.J.T. MacNeil was the Inspector of Schools for Richmond County during the 1920's and 1930's. Russell Fougere

Downed Plane



Picture courtesy of Melvin Touesnard

Pictured above are Adrian Touesnard and his grandmother, Charlotte Anne Sampson by the plane that made an unexpected landing in Grand Gully in Dec., 1953. We talked with Viola Touesnard and she remembers when it came down but not too many details. We then called Joe Sampson (who was in the middle of a card game) and he couldn't help us because he was away from RB at the time but passed us onto his brother Greg who remembers it "falling" in the Sampson field after trying to make a safe landing in Cyprien Bourque's field. He said it was there overnight and then the wings were removed and everything loaded on a truck for transportation to Sydney. Joe's wife Anne says she has heard about it on the *Hawk* when they tell their Christmas stories. Apparently the owners were on their way home for their Christmas holidays when they ran into trouble. Perhaps someone out there knows more details. For Touesnard genealogy, check out Melvin's site at: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/o/u/Melvin-A-Touesnard/index.html>

Deaths

Boyd: Colin Francis, 79, passed away on March 10th in Halifax. Our condolences to his family especially brothers Edmond & Donald and cousins Blaise & Peter Boyd.

Buchanan: Hugh John, 55, passed away March 21 in Windsor. We extend our sympathy to his sister Jocelyn Stone and nieces Tanya & Holly of RB.

Bits and Bites:

- **Senior's Potluck luncheon** Apr 3rd @ 12pm. **Annual meeting** to follow.

- **A Benefit for Colleen Stone**, who is the wife of Darren Stone and daughter-in-law of Ethel & George Stone. Colleen has been re-diagnosed with cancer. **EVENTS** - Live and Silent auction starting at 3:00pm; Chili/Soup Supper - \$5. each and Pub Night with Local Talent including: The Webb's, Heather Richards & Patrick Lamey and Island Driftwood. **WHEN** - **Easter Sunday April 8th -3:00pm.** **WHERE** - TLC, RB. If anyone wishes to donate sweets for the supper, please call Ann (MacNeil) Landry 535-2944.
- **Seniors Mini Bingo**, Apr. 11th @ 1:30 pm.
- **CAP site Annual Meeting**-April 11th @ 7 pm.
- **CWL Brunch** 12 pm on April 14th, followed by **Annual** meeting at TLC and Mass at 4pm at St. John the Baptist.
- **RBCSS Annual** meeting Apr 25th 7 PM. Everyone welcome.
- **Merchandise Bingo** Sun. Apr 29th 2pm sponsored by the Seniors Club.
- **Cribbage** Seniors Bldg Mondays at 7pm.
- **45 Card** game Seniors Bldg. Sundays-7 pm.
- **CAP site news:** The Jury is still out re CAP site funding and the rumors are not good. In the meantime we thank our youth intern, **Rebecca Landry**, for a job well done and remind our volunteers that we look forward to them returning for regular shifts-2-4 pm and 6-8 pm next week. We will be closed from Good Friday through Easter Monday .If necessary Ann 535-2944 or Sharon at 565=3516 will go in. CAP phone # is 535-3251. *Our FAX number is changed to 535-3638.* Email address is rbcap@stpeterscable.com and our website is www.stpeterscable.com/~rbcap.
- 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 etc.
- 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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