



The River Round Up

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Rita LeBlanc



Rita Mary was born on November 28th, 1926 the only daughter of seven children to Cornelius & Irene (Beaver) Pottie of Cannes. At age seven Rita started school in Cannes however she was so homesick that she took that year off and returned the following year. At age fourteen she quit and went to work taking care of her ailing Aunt Maggie in St. Peters for six dollars a month. She later went to work for Willie Boyd's family for the sum of ten dollars a month. She felt like a rich lady now. Afterwards she spent a year in Halifax before suffering from "water poisoning" and returned home to recover.

At age sixteen while visiting her childhood friend Lena LeBlanc, she met Lena's brother Hilary who was home on furlough from the army and it was love at first sight. He was the son of Ben & Jane (Burke) LeBlanc of Cannes and was fourteen years older than Rita. Hilary claimed that when Rita was born his grandmother Sophia LeBlanc had taken him to see the new Pottie baby and he was so infatuated by the beautiful blond baby girl that on the return trip home he had told his grandmother that he was going to marry her when she was old enough. At age thirty-two he was true to his word and married Rita on May 1st, 1945. They had five children: Eleanor & Curtis who reside in Halifax; Linda in River Bourgeois and Donna & Debbie both in Lr. Sackville. Eleven grandchildren and five grandchildren ensued.

Following their wedding Rita & Hilary lived with her parents until they purchased their house which was the original kitchen part of the family home of DD Boyd. The house had been subdivided and the kitchen was owned by Alfred Burke so they bought it from him for \$150.00. The building was moved to its current location and became the two-bedroom and kitchen home of Hilary & Rita. Additional pieces were added on as the family expanded. Hilary retired from the army following the war and went to work on the light ship (floating lighthouse) in Halifax harbour. Two years later he went to work for the Dept. of Transportation on dredges across the Maritime Provinces and was only home for the winter months and long weekends. Sadly Hilary passed away in 1987. The following year Rita treated her four daughters to a dream vacation in Nashville and as Linda said "It was Dad's wish for his girls to be together and have fun and that's just what we did".

In 1988 Rita became reacquainted with an old family friend Clarence MacIntosh. Clarence was the son of Charlie & Janie (Cameron) MacIntosh of St. Peters. He spent thirty-one years in Tewksbury, Mass. driving a truck. In 1970 following the death of his thirty-seven year old wife Barb, Clarence returned to St. Peters with his three daughters ages twelve, five and two years. His mom was inspirational in raising the girls: Joanne who still lives in St. Peters, Barb in Sydney Mines & Jeffrie-Ann in Castle Bay. He also has three grand children. In 1980 he moved to Montreal and worked as a superintendent in a seniors building until his retirement in 1986.

Rita enjoys playing cards, the occasional slot machine and makes many trips to the Halifax area to visit her family. Last month she attended her grand daughter Chantelle's (Donna) graduation from St. Mary's University. She & Clarence have been members of the Legion for twenty years and Clarence is a lifetime member. They love to go to the dances but now it's mostly to listen to the music. With her artificial hips and his artificial shoulders they feel because of their bionic limbs their dancing days are

now over. Rita & Clarence, the people of River Bourgeois wish you both many more years of health and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

Grade Two Class of 1976/1977



Back Row: Francis Digout, Joanne Boyd, Rhonda Touesnard, Veronica McPhee, Heather Cameron, Claudine Burke, Todd St. Louis and George Landry. Front Row: Rochelle Simpson, Scott Fougere, Lisa Landry, Lorin Carter, June Bourque, Brent Sampson, Mary Clow.

The following was written on Dec. 21st, 1976 by Frances Digout:

Dear Parents

I've thought and thought of what to say
About my class, maybe I can do it this way
Each and everyone is special to me
They are all so different, as different can be
They are quiet when they told they have to be
And listen when I ask them to pay attention to me
I don't think I could have had so far this year
A nicer class and I'm saying so, right here
They love to read and work and play
I'll try to make them all happy each day
I guess some days they think of me as an ogre
But I'm trying to prepare them for life when they're older
They ask questions about things you wouldn't believe
I try to answer them and not to deceive
Because children learn by asking questions, you know
But some answers I just have to let go
I hope to teach them this year to respect each other
And to really work willingly with one another
Oh, we may have a few problems in a day
But, I think the good things that happen can these out weigh
We have quiet ones, inquisitive ones, and helpful ones too
I think you'll know which one belongs to you
Grade two is an important year you see
And teaching these children well-is up to me
It's my job to work and to get them through

Grade two and well prepared for Grade three
So I will give you all my promises here
To do my best for everyone of them dear
To the best of my ability I will try to do
What's best for them, showing love & discipline too
Well, I guess you must all know by now
That I've tried here to tell you all how
Very much my class means to me
They are all so very special, you see
And now, I just want to say to you
I have some special wishes for you, too
I wish you all right now and here
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
(Frances retired the following spring in June, 1977)

First Communion



Daniel King, Donovan Landry, Emily Poaps, Dale Burke, Daniel Allan & Alex Poaps. Photo by Pamela Sampson.

On May 27th six children received their First Holy Communion during Sunday Mass celebrated by Father Everett McDow. The children were Emily & Alex Poaps (Ida & Robert), Donovan Landry (Laurie & Shawn), Daniel Allen (Joanne & Tim), Dale Burke (Wanda & John), Daniel King (Bonita & Kevin). The children received certificates & gift packs from their devoted teacher Pamela Sampson.

Richmond Academy Awards Night

On May the 10th the following River Bourgeois students were presented with scholastic awards from Richmond Academy. We congratulate them all!

Grade 9-Nelson (Wayne & Mariah) **Dewolf** (Distinction), **Jonathan** (Ricky & Sharon) Stone (Merit), **Kelsey** (John & Joyce) Sampson and **Samantha** (Glenn & Sonia) Touesnard-Staff Award.

Grade 10-Gage (Selina & Russ MacNeil) **Burke** (High Distinction), **Ellen** (Joey & Joan) Stone (High Distinction), **Sandi** (Kelly & Joan) **Burke** (Distinction) & **Tiffany** (Darren & Colleen) Stone (Merit).

Grade 11-Jordie (Robbie & Verna) **Mann** (High Distinction), **Molly** (Norman & Genevieve) **Warner** (Distinction), **Kelsey** (Larry & Theresa) **Burke**

(Distinction) & **Tara Lynn** (Diane Breau & Terry) **Benoit** (Merit).

Grade 12-Nicholas (Glenn & Sonia) **Touesnard** (Distinction) & **Kyle** (Kelly & Joan) **Burke** (Merit).

Local Hockey Star



Congratulations to Kerstin Landry who was picked to play hockey with the PEI Young Islanders Atom Girls team in Quebec City in May. Kerstin and the Islanders placed 3rd out of 8 teams in the Quebec Bulldog Challenge Cup. Kerstin is the 5th player from the left in the top row.

THE WAY IT WAS

With the construction of Shopping Malls, large Grocery stores and “Box Stores” of all shapes and sizes, and with a vehicle in just about everyone’s driveway, there has been a dramatic decrease in small business ventures in many Richmond County communities.

Such was not the case in River Bourgeois during my early teens (circa 1951) when the following small businesses were in operation:

-Victor & Evelyn Burke’s grocery store, where the South Side Post Office was also located.

-Sam Fougere’s sawmill, located on the inlet across from Cameron Boyd’s property.

-Elias & Leo McPhee’s grocery store which also housed the Hawker Post Office.

-John Fougere’s Meat Market in Hawker.

-Charlie Grimes Restaurant at the head of the harbour, located next door to his son Carl’s present residence. Charlie brewed his own spruce beer and root beer for sale at the restaurant and had the finest ice cream for \$0.05 a scoop and \$0.10 for a double scoop.

-William Robertson’s canteen, featuring hotdogs and hamburgers, located on the north side of Hwy. #4 across from the later location of J & C’s restaurant.

-Amadee Boudreau’s small store was located along the south side of Hwy. #4, a few hundred feet east of Robertson’s.

-Charlie Boudreau’s small store was another few hundred feet to the east of Amadee’s. Big card games of ROOK were held here from time to time.

-Simon Burke’s grocery store was located at the water’s edge across from the present “Grandma’s House” which at the time was Simon & Laura’s home. Evening card games of 45’s were held at the store, with prizes in the form of groceries from the store.

-Continuing along Hwy #4 Fred Digout’s sawmill and his father Victor’s shoe repair shop were located on adjacent properties on the north side of the road.

-A few hundred feet to the east was Alfred Burke’s restaurant (next door to Stanley & Monica’s present home). This building also served as a “movie theatre” until the Parish Hall was built.

- At the Boyd’s Lane – Hwy # 4 intersection we had Harry Burke’s barber shop and Anthony (Pap) Landry’s small grocery store.

-At the bottom of Boyd’s Lane was the Cannes Post Office, operated by Susie & Eileen Landry (mother & sister of Valerie Boyd) and the famous Superior Chain Store, operated by Willie Boyd and later his son Blaise.

-Further east along Hwy #4, Steve Smith and Bob Restin operated a woodworking shop near the top of the hill west of the baseball field.

-Across the Hwy. from the ball field was a small grocery operated by Hilda Burke.

-At Lavallee’s Lane Mr. Lavallee operated a small grocery and sold Watkins products door to door in the community.

-At the bottom of the lane Lawrence Burke operated a small grocery along the lower road.

-Abraham Beranger operated a tiny grocery store near the easterly end of the harbour along the lower road.

-Gerard Touesnard’s Texaco Service Station was located at the Hwy 4-Church Point Road intersection. The service station, which now includes a grocery, is still in operation under the ownership of Bucky & Ann Sampson and their son Brent, selling Wilson’s fuel products.

-Delore Burke operated a grocery store at the foot of the hill below the St. John the Baptist graveyard, along with the River Bourgeois Post Office.

-Amable Pottie had a small grocery along the roadway toward the Levesconte property near the harbour entrance.

-Mathilda Boudreau operated the River Tillard Post Office from her home.

-The above noted establishments were surely great meeting places for members of the community. I am sure that the teenagers of that era all have pleasant memories relating to the little stores and other community establishments. These meeting areas

helped bring about a great community spirit, as noted in the tribute by MacTavish in an earlier edition of the Round Up. *Russell Fougere*

Births

Brown: Madison MaKenzie, 5lbs 12oz, was born on June 1st to Trevor & Sue. Congratulation to parents, grandparents Doris (who welcomed Madison on her fiftieth birthday) & John Brown, Wayne & Marilyn Griffith, great grand parents Bernard & Lenova Sampson, Ruth McKay and Elizabeth Griffith.

Grimes: Emily Jenna, 8lbs 13oz, was born June 1st to John & Shari. Congratulations to parents, big brother Josh, grandparents Carl & Marilyn Grimes and Annette & Glen Sampson, great-grandparents Annie Landry and Elnora Sampson.

Yuriev: Tasia Carol, 7lbs 14oz, was born June 9th to Nadine & Yuri of Halifax. A little sister for Luke. Congratulations to grandparents Carol Ann & Eric Fownes and Luba Yuriev of Russia.

Deaths

Burke: Mildred Helen, 81 years, passed away on May 29th. Our condolences to her sister Alma, sister in-law Angela Burke and their families.

Bits and Bites:

- **Congratulations to Carl Grimes** on his prized cow giving birth on May 15th. The heifer is pure white so they have named him "BLUE". We apologize for missing the announcement last month.
- **Winners of the Club 200 ticket** draws 5 & 6 for the Cenotaph restoration fund were Henrietta Doary & Elaine Burke. The committee wish to thank all who participated and plan to have a similar fundraiser in the fall.
- **Senior's "Presidents" luncheon** will take place July 3rd. The next meeting will be Sept. 4th
- **Seniors Mini Bingo** July 11th at 1:30 pm.
- **CWL Meetings** are finished until September.
- **CAP Site Meeting**-July 4th at 7pm.
- **RBCSS meeting** Sept. 26th at 7pm.
- **Children's Day Camp July 30th to August 3rd**. Registration 9:30 am at the TLC on July 30th.
- **Cribbage** Seniors Bldg Mondays at 7pm.
- **45 Card** game Seniors Bldg. Sundays-7:30 pm.
- **Social at Seniors Bldg**-Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm.
- **"The Dance Last Night"** featuring Howie MacDonald, Dave MacIsaac, Mac Morin, Molly Rankin, John Chassion, consisting of comedy and music will be held Sunday, Aug. 5th 8:00 p.m. at the St. Peter's Lions Hall. Tickets \$15.00

each. Phone Verna at 535-2166, Jean at 587-2249, or Gerry at 631-0220 or 535-2729. Produced by the Savoy Theatre, Glace Bay.

- **Learn to Surf Program** will begin the weekend of June 30 from 10am and 5pm at Point Michaud Beach. For more information or to register call Michelle Richards at 345-0741.
- **Art in the Park** will take place on **Tuesday, July 31st in Battery Provincial Park**. The concept is to have artists (or representative) set up and display/sell their product. The only stipulation is that the work must be hand made by the artist. The times for the event are from 10am-2pm. Rain venue is the St. Peter's Lion's Hall. Other events that will be happening at the same time in the park are: Fortress of Louisbourg reenactors; Highland, Mikmaw & Scottish dancers and music; children's teddy bear picnic and BBQ. The event is free both to attend and to set up as an artist. Click on Nicolas Denys logo on the draft schedule of events posted on line at www.visitstpeters.com If you have any further questions or would like to register, please call the St. Peter's Information Centre at 535-2185/1-866-451-6300 or email Richard MacIntosh at drctevents@stpeterscable.com
- **Registration for Tennis Lessons** at the River Bourgeois Courts will be Friday, June 29, 11-noon and 3 -4pm the Chapel Island Courts.
- **A Seniors Bus Tour** to Sydney on Wednesday, July 4. Please reserve your seat by Friday, June 29 by calling Richmond Recreation 226-2400.
- **CAP site hours** are 10-5pm for the months of July & August. CAP phone # is 535-3251. Our FAX number is changed to 535-3638. Anyone looking for River Bourgeois souvenirs or used books and for all your computer needs drop in. 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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