



# The River Round Up

Volume 9

Number 2

February 2008

\$1.00

## Gilbert & Colleen Boucher



Gilbert James was born June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1943 in Sydney the 2<sup>nd</sup> of three children to Jim & Margaret Rachael (Sampson) Boucher formerly of Church Point. Jim was working for Latimer Construction in Sydney when Gilbert was born. When Gilbert was three years of age, the family moved to Digby County and remained there for two years before returning to Church Point. He attended the East End School until 1954 and then moved to the new Stella Maris School. He was happy that he could sleep in longer as the new school was just minutes away. Gilbert and his brother Kenneth were very active in sports. Hogan Burke and Walter Fougere were instrumental in starting little league baseball in the county and would personally transport all of the children to their games. Dad, Jim, became very involved with baseball in the late fifties after he retired from construction. In 1955 Jim decided to build a rink so his boys could play hockey. It was the first rink in Richmond County and where the first organized minor hockey league was formed. Gentlemen's hockey games and "not so gentlemanly" hockey games were also played and a family skating night also took place each week. The rink remained in operation until 1974 when Jim got a bill from Nova Scotia Light and Power for a tidy sum

of \$5500.00 instead of the regular \$55.00. Following several trips to Halifax in attempt to solve this issue, Jim "politely" told the company to remove the power from his rink, thus closing a piece of history in RB.

In 1959 following his schooling Gilbert went to work for Texaco Oil on the lake boats for two years before relocating to Brookfield where he worked as an ironworker. When the job was completed he returned to Cape Breton to work for EGM Cape and the construction of a wood mill at Stora. EGM Cape later sent Gilbert to work in Red Rock, Ontario, followed by several locations in New Brunswick building bridges. As a result of the dangerous work involved in the construction of these bridges, Gilbert has broken the majority of his bones at one time or another. When the bridges were completed he moved to the Paper Mill in Stellarton. His next quest was with Niagara Steel in Port Hawkesbury building a dock for Gulf Oil. It was at this time Gilbert began dating the beautiful blond Colleen Morrison.

Colleen J. was born December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1947, the third of four children to Russell & Hilda (MacIsaac) Morrison of St. Peters. Colleen spent her teenage years walking from St. Peters to the River to go skating at Jim's rink and during the summer would also walk to the River to go to the movies at the hall. In 1966 when she completed her schooling in St. Peters, Colleen went to Halifax to seek employment. She worked at the Royal Bank for a year and then at the VG Hospital for two years. In 1968 Colleen, while home for the weekend, had her first date with the handsome Gilbert Boucher at a dance at the Caledonia Hall. Gilbert spent the next year traveling to Halifax on weekends in pursuit of Colleen.

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1969 Gilbert & Colleen were wed in St. Peters. They were the first residents of Bucky's apartments on Church Point and lived there until they moved into their current home in 1972. Their daughter Cheryl, who now resides in Timberlea, arrived in 1970, followed by Billy who makes his home in River Tillard and Junior who calls Worsley,

Alberta his home. They also have five grandchildren Brittany, Matthew, Madison, Brandon and Breanne.

While their home was under construction, Gilbert was working in Labrador City (yes he changed jobs again) so Colleen went to work doing the finishing work on the house. She hauled wheelbarrows of gravel to finish the basement and started carpeting and painting the house. She also worked on the research program for the RB Museum and for Terry Sampson's Fruit & Vegetable Stand in St. Peters. In 1987 she got her fishing license and has been fishing ever since. Colleen and son Billy lobster fish in the spring followed by sea urchin fishing. Work begins at 3 am and many days it ends at 6 pm; seven days a week.

Meanwhile, Gilbert left Labrador City when the job was completed and went to work at the heavy water plant in Glace Bay. In 1975 he had a major accident there that resulted in a disc being removed from his back and a bone fusion. He returned home to recuperate and was offered a position as building inspector for the County of Richmond where he remained until 1990. Two major heart attacks was the foundation for Gilbert's long and industrious career to come to an end. These days Colleen enjoys bingo and tole painting while Gilbert claims he does nothing except aggravate Colleen by spending too much time talking to people in the mall when she is attempting to get her shopping completed. Colleen & Gilbert the people of River Bourgeois wish you many years of health and happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

## Children's Christmas Mass



On Christmas Eve, Father MacDow celebrated the children's Mass. The following played out the Nativity Scene: **Joseph** (Daniel Allan); **Mary** (Yasmine Burke); **Star bearer** Kerstin Landry; **Angels**: Haley Martens, Emily Poaps, Brenna Cunningham, Meagan Martens, Sarah Gibson, Angeliana & Julianna Smith; **Kings**: Jeffery Martin, Christen MacDonald & Alex Poaps; **Shepherds**: Cameron MacDonald, Dale Burke, Daniel King & Nicolas Beaulieu; **Narrator**: Brandon LaFantaise;

**Choir**: Melanie Poaps, Taylor Allan, Chelsey Dakai, Haley Sampson, Julia Burke, Grant Sampson, Ricky Martens, Adam Sampson, Dylan Abbott, Colton Burke & Emma Landry. Pam & Gerard Sampson were choir leaders; Maria Dewolfe, Linda Burke & Paula LaFantaise were in charge of producing and Katie Beaulieu was altar server.

The congregation appreciated how much time the volunteers & children put into this beautiful service.

## Where are they now?



*Sister Helen Burke*

I was born a big fat brown-eyed baby on the Southside on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1942. My parents were Clara (Fougere) & Harry Burke. I was the eighth of a large family. Yvonne, Eva, Ennis, Leonard, Dorothy, Arthur (who died in 1994), Lillian and ... here I come #8-Helen, Raymond, Martin & Albert. I quit school at sweet sixteen and two months later at age seventeen I entered the Convent of "Les Filles de Jesus" (The daughters of Jesus) in Moncton. The congregation was founded in Brittany, France in 1834. For eight months I was a postulant, then a novice for two years and at that time I took the name Sister Emmeline Marie. In later years we had a choice of reverting back to our original name. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1962, I made my first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. In 1967 I went with other sisters to Trois Rivieres, Quebec for a year of spiritual preparation for my final vows that I made in June 1968. In 1969 we were no longer required to wear our habit and Sharon LeBlanc (Chilvers) made my first dress.

The first years of my religious life I used to do all the cooking, laundry and some housework. In the late 70's I had problems with my wrist so I became a receptionist at the Provincial House in Moncton and I also taught religion. From 1975 to 1979 I lived in Montreal where our Missionary Sisters would come and go. I helped with the cooking, housework and sometimes on weekend I would often get calls to

baby-sit. One day a six year girl asked me if I would be her mom and that she would keep the same dad. Another three year old girl told me as I was serving their supper "When you're here, you are our mom and when you're at the convent you're Sister Helen". I worked for a year at MacGillivray Guest Home in Sydney in the Dietary Dept. One day a patient had thrown some food on the floor and I was on my knees picking up the mess, she looked at me and said "Pray for me please". She was a lady with a very strong voice and around Christmas she would use it to sing "Silent Night, Holy Night, all is black, all is white". That reminded me of my young days when I use to sing "O come Molly Faithful" and "in a one horse soap and sleigh".

In 1982, I along with other Sisters, traveled to France to visit the Mother House, to Italy to visit the shrine of St. Francis of Assisi and to the Vatican where I met and shook hands with Pope John Paul II.



*Sister Helen in the middle shaking hands with Pope Jean Paul*

When I was in D'Escousse, I taught religion where a grade one student said he was going to marry me. The week after he talked about his girlfriend at school; and I said "Cody I thought I was your girlfriend" and he said "I talked to my mom and dad and they said nuns and priests weren't allowed to get married". He was a bright boy. In D'Escousse and later in Arichat I spent a lot of time visiting the sick and bringing Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in. I also worked in Pastoral Care at the Strait Regional Hospital and one day as I was giving a patient Communion I said "Body of Christ" and he replied "Okey-dokey" instead of Amen. I used to bring two, three gallons of ice water from the Arichat Convent and some patients would tell me that it was better than rum and whiskey. I wonder if a person in good health would respond the same way. For several years I have been doing recycling by picking bottles & cans and giving the money to the needy. One day a fisherman asked what I was doing and after I told him he went back to his boat and gave me \$100. He was my angel. Sister Nancy Gerrior would call me "Mother Theresa of the gutters".

In Oct. 2001 I left Arichat to return to Moncton. I was surprised to see how the people were grateful for the little things that I had done for them. I will never forget the Sisters at Arichat Convent, RB CWL, the Isle Madame Parishes, Strait Richmond Hospital, my friends & family.

In 2007 I celebrated my 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Sister, I turned sixty-five and received my first old age security cheque. Some thought I was going to have a big party but all I did was sign it and gave it to the Order. Nowadays I work as a receptionist at the Vice Provincial House in Moncton. God Bless you all. *Sister Helen Burke*

*Thanks to Sister Helen for sharing her story. We would like to hear from anyone else who would like to share theirs.*

## A Winner



Congratulations to St. John the Baptist CWL on winning the plaque for best Christmas tree at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees in St. Peters last November. The tree won the honors in the Best Organization category. The result of an idea by Elaine Burke to bring *Christ back into Christmas*; it was decorated by all the traditional ornaments of the season which were loaned by members. Elaine has lots of ideas for next year.

## Fred Doary's Diary

*Mable Digout* died June 3/47 in Antigonish Hospital. Whitney McPhee went for the remains June 4/47 accompanied by Ernest Digout and she was buried June 6/47 in St. Peters cemetery at 0900 in a

rain storm. **Captain Abraham Burke** died June 7/47 at 0500 and was buried June 10/47 at 0900- fine weather. **Willie Leblanc** died Oct. 16/47 in Truro Fraser Boyd went for the remains at McIntyre Lake with the Truck and was buried Sunday Oct. 19/47 at 3:30pm at River Bourgeois. **Alex McDonald** died Sept. 29/47 and was buried Oct. 1/47 at 0900. **John N Burke** died Jan. 1/48 at 5:45 P.M and was buried Jan. 4/48 at 3pm. Taken to the grave yard by Whitney McPhee. Lots of snow and rough roads. **George E. Bissett** died Jan. 14/48 at the age of 84 years and was buried Jan. 16/48 at 0900. Taken to church with Willie Boyd's truck. **Mrs. Bastian Landry** died in Sydney Feb. 10/1948 at 3 am and was taken to River Bourgeois Feb. 11/48- was buried Feb. 13/48 at River Bourgeois at the age of 54 years. **Gerald Boyd** died Feb. 21/48 in St. Catherine, Ont. at the age of 24 years. Dug the grave Feb. 25/48. His remains were brought down from McIntyre Lake with his father's truck. Mark Landry driver Feb. 24/48 in a snow storm and was buried Feb 26(?27) -22 cars at the funeral –roads passable but heavy going. Father Kyte from Canso said the service. **Alex Burke** died April 12/48 at 6:30 pm. And was buried April 15/48 at 0900 taken to church by D. Lavallee with the horse in a blinding snow storm roads slippery. Pall bearers were Whitney McPhee, Joe Sampson, Raymond Landry, Jimmie Sampson, Charlie Burke and Fred Doary, *Raymond Doary has kindly allowed us to share his father's diary. Apparently there are a lot of diaries out and about in River Bourgeois and we would love to be able to share excerpts. Call Sharon at 535-3516 if you are willing to loan yours.*

## Deaths

**Cosman:** Kenneth Gregory, 77, passed away Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his wife Mary, son Ken Jr., daughters Debbie, Maureen & Brenda and their families.

**Eisenhaur:** Jean, 81, of Halifax passed away January 11<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to her husband Don, children, brothers Leo, Clarence, Steve & Earl Landry and sisters Helen & Lorraine.

**Fougere:** Donald W., 75, of Essex, ON passed away on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>. Donald was the son of the late Charles and Beatrice {Bourque} Fougere. Our condolences to his wife, children and sister Mary.

**Pettigrew:** Robert Lloyd, 83, passed away Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our condolences to his wife Mary and his sisters.

**Richard:** Margaret, 83, of Peterborough, ON passed away Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. She was the widow of Martin Richard formally of RB. Our condolences to her in-laws Clarence, Fabian & John Richard, Monica Stone and their families

**Campbell:** Angus, 82, of Toronto passed away Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his wife, children and to sister-in-law Mary Touesnard.

## Bits & Bites:

- **45 card** games Seniors Bldg Sundays 7 pm.
- **Cribbage** Seniors Bldg Mondays at 7p
- **Seniors meeting** Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm.
- **Annual Pancake/sausage supper & dessert** at TLC 4-6 pm Feb. 5. Cost is \$5/person-children \$3 and family \$15. Sponsored by the St. John the Baptist Parish council. Proceeds to Church furnace oil.
- **CAP site meeting** Wed., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.
- **Seniors Mini Bingo**, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.
- **Valentine Day** Tea and Crumpets 2pm at Seniors Bldg.
- **CWL** annual meeting will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> at the TLC. 2 pm Meeting 3:30 Election of officers 4pm Social, 4:30 Supper, 6:30 Mass with Installation of Officers in church.
- **Merchandise Bingo** Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 2pm at TLC.
- **RBCSS** meeting at 7pm on February 27th.
- **Happy Birthday** to Margaret Bouchard who celebrated number 93 on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **NEW:** The RB Cenotaph Restoration Committee has made available 'In Memoriam' Cards which may be obtained at our funeral parlor or from committee members Donnie Pottie, Joe MacPhee, Mike Fougere, Maurice Landry, Raymond Doary or Debbie Fougere. Receipts will be given for donations of \$10.00 or more.
- High school students or other community members willing to **volunteer at CAP** site please call Sharon (3516) or Ann at (2944). Must have basic computer skills.
- **CAP site winter hours** are 2-4 & 6-8 Mondays to Thursdays and 2-4 on Friday. CAP phone # is 535-3251. FAX number is 535-3638. Email address is [rbcap@stpeterscable.com](mailto:rbcap@stpeterscable.com) Lynn Boudreau has finally our website problems and has it has been updated. Log on to [www.stpeterscable.com/~rbcap](http://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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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).

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