



The River Round Up

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Margaret & Roderick Burke



Margaret Anne was born July 21st, 1944, the oldest of eight children to Allan & Helen (Lawless) Owens of Halifax. She attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart School in Halifax before moving to PEI to attend Miscouche High and complete her education. In 1962 Margaret returned to Halifax and went to work at the VG Hospital in the CSR Dept. It was here she became acquainted with Mary Anne & Patsy Boudreau, Gloria Fougere and Patsy Thibeau all from RB. They talked relentlessly about this guy named Dickie from RB who would make someone a good husband. In 1963 on her 19th birthday Margaret came to RB to attend her cousin Margie Owens's wedding to Roddie Doary and stayed with her friend Mary Anne's family. To celebrate her birthday, she and Mary Anne went to Charlie Grimes restaurant and while walking back Mary Anne announced that Dickie's car was parked in her yard. The shy Margaret (yes, I don't believe it either) went across the road to visit Gloria & Whitney to avoid meeting this wonderful Dickie. Yes, you guessed it, there was Dickie visiting them instead. That same evening when all the others had gone to the barn dance in ninety degree temperatures Margaret chose to stay

home and Dickie showed up to take her for a drive. To be continued . . .

Roderick (Dickie) James was born on December 11th, 1934 the fourteenth of sixteen children to Clara (Landry) & Joe P Burke of the South Side. Born in the largest family in RB he never lacked for playmates. Dickie went to the two-room Cannes School until the ninth grade when he left to do some lobster fishing. He played hockey with the RB team in his spare time and also did some of the original RR Up graphics. In 1955 he worked in St. Peters building the garage now owned by Georgie Boudreau. In 1956 he along with Whitney Boudreau and Rennie Fougere headed to Montreal to work on the lake boats. Dickie also worked on the dredging of the Seaway so large ships could travel from Montreal to Welland to enter Lake Ontario. In 1960 he returned home and did some fishing and pulp cutting. In 1963, now twenty-nine, not too tall, dark and handsome and still single, he was considered one of RB's most eligible bachelors when he went to visit his friend Whitney and met this fiery redhead from Halifax.

Margaret & Dickie began corresponding for the next year and visited each other every few weekends. It wasn't until six months after they began to date that Margaret realized Dickie's real name was Roderick. On October 24th, 1964 they were wed at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Halifax. Following their honeymoon they took up residence on the South Side in a home once owned by his grandparents Docite & Irene Landry which Roderick (no longer called Dickie) had refurbished in the previous year. In the next twelve years they had five children: Blair living in Halifax, Angele in Scarborough, ON, Marina in Campbell River, BC, Ramona in Ottawa and Kara-Leigh who recently purchased the home of Emily Fougere on the South Side. They also have eight grandchildren: Maria, Adrianna, Olivia, Bhreagh, Brendan, Aiden, Megan & Ena.

In 1963 Roderick began working as a stevedore at the pulp mill in Port Hawkesbury. He was hired full

time in 1965 as a material handler/machine operator and remained there until his retirement in 1994.

Roderick is well known in the community for his many talents. He has built many boats in his day including the famous sailboat which he toppled over on so many occasions that he began receiving requests for underwater sailing lessons. It was on his boat called *Blue Gay* that his mother-in-law attempted to get in from a rowboat to sunbathe and didn't quite make it. Roderick ended up having to physically lift her from the water (she couldn't swim). He also does model ships and loves to do caricature drawings. He has been a fashion show model and has played many characters in the RB Festivals. He loves going to the local card games, making puzzles and visiting his brothers & sister. Margie was a 4H leader, teaching cake decorating for ten years and a member of the Bingo Committee. She is also a member of the CWL and a founding member of the Seniors Club. She took ten high school students to Abbey, Sask. on Exchange Canada 125 and was RB volunteer of the year in 1990. She loves to travel, bingo, cards, taking care of Patty (her ninth grandchild) and her favorite pastime is "sleeping".

Margie & Roderick, alias Dickie, the people of RB wish you many more years of good health & happiness. *Sharon Chilvers*

River Bourgeois's Boat Family



Phonethip, Khamphay, Vilayvanh & baby Daruny

In 1980 massive numbers of Asians were fleeing the communist government of their countries. They became known around the world as "The Boat People" because most were fleeing on make-shift boats and rafts to any country that was communist free. Thousands lost their lives in the process and some of the lucky ones were sponsored by individuals or communities. River Bourgeois became the generous sponsor of the "Khammanivong" family from Laos. The sponsor was expected to support the family for a year. The RB team was spearheaded by Councilor Terry Boudreau, Parish Council President

Lou Smith, Father Hugh A. MacDonald and many volunteers. A family was soon selected and on route. The rented house (home owned by Edgar MacPhee in Hawker) was not quite ready so the family moved in with Joan & Michael Owens and their five children. Michael picked up the family in Sydney and on route, Khamphay made it very clear they were a Christian family and not communist. The Owens family found it very rewarding and gratifying being their host.

The family included dad Khamphay, mom Phonethip and four month old Vilayvanh. They fled Laos by swimming across a river to a refugee camp in Cambodia while Phonethip was eight months pregnant. Vilayvanh was born in the refugee camp where they stayed until being sponsored by RB. The community held a massive shower of household items and necessities. Khamphay was assisted in finding work in Port Hawkesbury and was transported each morning and evening by Victor Burke. Phonethip became pregnant while the family was here and because they didn't have a vehicle Joan & Michael took her for medical appointments in Antigonish. Joan had told them that when she was ready to give birth to call. On April 28th, 1981, at 2 a.m., they received the call that the baby would soon arrive. Upon arriving in Hawker, Joan went to check and found Phonethip in bed awaiting "Joan" to deliver the baby. It was obvious there had been a communication breakdown and after a quick packing of the suitcase they were all on route to the hospital. Daruny Bernadette (named after Mike & Joan's daughter, Bernadette) was born shortly afterwards.



The Khammanivong family and their godparents at their baptism

During their stay the Khammanivong family perfected their English and took religion instructions from Father J.J. MacDonald now the Parish Priest. The family was all baptized at St. John the Baptist Church with Edwin & Mary Bona being Khamphay's godparents, Joan & Michael were Phonethip's godparents, Victor & Evelyn Burke were Vilayvanh's and Ethel Stone & Joe Boucher were the godparents of baby Daruny. The parents were also confirmed on June 21st, 1982.

On June 24th, 1982 the family said their goodbyes and heartfelt thanks in appreciation & gratitude to the people of RB. They moved to Calgary to be with family and others from their country. In 1993 Father Hugh A. went to Calgary to visit the family and all were well. In 1985 the family travelled from Calgary by train to attend Richard Owens's wedding.



As time went by everyone lost touch and twenty years later, this past October, a phone call came and when Pamela answered it, she first taught it was a bogus call until she heard "My name is Khamphay". Needless to say the Owens family was elated to hear from their old friends. They inquired about all the children, Richard, Tim, Wendy, Bernadette and Pamela and also Lorna, Rodney, Nanny & Grandpa, Ethel & Grannie Owens, etc. They now have a ten year old son named Tyler (real Canadian name) and Vilayvanh has two children that are 15 months and 6 days old. Daruny works in an office and lives at home.



Daruny & Vilayvanh

The family owns a restaurant in Calgary. Khamphay had a stroke ten years ago and they returned home to obtain special Asian treatments. He is well now except for some memory loss. They had some hard times but are now back on their feet. He called because he had a dream about Joan & Michael and being back in RB. He said that the Owens family and the people of RB had done so much for them and he had nothing to give back. Joan & Michael told them "Being here was special enough". They also

called Ethel & George Stone and Lester & Cynthia Fougere and spoke for hours to everyone. They don't have Email but anyone wishing to contact them, may do so at 63 Apple Crescent Court, Calgary, T2A 7N8. Many thanks to Joan & Michael Owens, Ethel Stone and Pamela Sampson for this updated story on "RB's boat family".

Happy 50th Anniversary



Congratulations to Sylvia & Peter Pottie who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 17th. Love from their children Glenn, Janice & Dennis and grandchildren Lauren & Christi as well as all their many friends.

Snowbirds



Pictured above are some of the River Bourgeois natives who are fortunate to be spending winters in beautiful Florida. Standing: Eddie & Joan Fougere; John & Audrey MacNeil; Eleanor & Pete Pedersen, and Rose & Tom Scott. Seated are the hosts of this 2009 New Year's Day gathering at their home in Largo, Marie & Donald Landry, who now are permanent residents of the Sunshine State. Others from RB who annually enjoy Florida's warm sunny days for three months are: Terry & Margie Boudreau, Allan & Jeanne Burke, Milton & Bev Pottie and Gail Boudreau. Also making the trip for lesser periods are: Pat & Dianne Bourque, Hubert & Marguerite

Fougere and Russell & Rita Fougere. Most of these folks enjoy the wonderful climate doing various activities, such as: golfing; beach walking; swimming; going to garage sales, shopping, and playing cards (which the guys usually win) among other things. While Florida is not the "be all and end all" for everybody, these "regulars" enjoy it tremendously. *Eddie Fougere*

River Bourgeois Seniors 50+ Club

The seniors club will be receiving a grant from the federal government "New Horizon Seniors Leadership Program" to enable us to hire an exercise personal trainer. The trainer will put together an exercise program and assist anyone with the equipment at the seniors complex. It will be available Monday, Wednesday & Friday's from eleven to twelve noon beginning the week of February 16th. It is open to all members of the club at no cost. Membership to the club is \$5.00 per year and the only requirement is that you are fifty years of age. For more info or to join the club, call Anne Sampson @ 2803 or Sharon Chilvers @ 2512.

Births

Fougere: Rowen Scott, 7lbs 11oz, was born Dec. 12th to Kevin & Tammy of Calgary. Brother for Ava. Congratulations to the parents and grandparents Conrad & Marie Fougere and Velvi White.

Wedding

Pottie/Scully: Congratulations to Joey Raymond, son of Leonard & Cynthia Pottie, and Tricia Marlene Scully, daughter of Marlene & Daniel Reid, of Alberta who were wed on Dec. 27th. Joey & Tricia reside on Church Point Road.

Deaths

Beranger: Charles, 90, passed away on Jan. 3rd in Halifax. Our condolences to his children and sister Margaret Bouchard.

Boyd: Donald David, 82, passed away on Jan. 8th at home in Enfield. Our condolences to his children, brother Edmund and his River Bourgeois relatives.

Bits& Bites:

... **Dave's Barbershop is now officially closed. I wish to thank all of my customers for their loyalty over the years. Dave Clow. We are sure that all our readers join us in wishing Dave good health and happiness in his retirement.**

... **RB residents were sworn in at the installation of officers for Branch 47 of the Royal**

Canadian Legion. Maurice Landry is president; Norma MacNeil and Art Bouchard are executive Committee members and Clarence MacIntosh is Chaplain. Lucille Landry is president and Linda Bouchard treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary. Emily and Peter LeBlanc were presented with tokens of appreciation for regularly helping in the kitchen for the Ladies Auxiliary.

... **Winterfest Valentine's Day Tea & Chinese Auction** with cookie decorating will be held on Feb. 14th from 12-2 at the TLC. Refreshments will be served. Free-will offering.

... **Winterfest Merchandise Bingo** Feb 8th 2pm at TLC sponsored by RBCSS.

... **Seniors tea/ social** Feb 19th at Seniors bldg.

... **Pancake/sausage supper** at TLC on Shrove Tuesday, Feb 24th..Sponsored by St. John the Baptist Parish Council.

... **Winterfest Bridge** game Feb 22nd 1-4 Seniors.

... **St. Patty's Day Merchandise Bingo** Mar 15th at TLC @2pm. Sponsored by RB Seniors Club.

... **45 Card** Seniors Bldg. Sun. 7:00 (winter hours).

... **Cribbage** Seniors Bldg Mondays at 7pm.

... **Bingo every Friday night - 7:45 at TLC** with early bird games. Fourteen \$100. Games with specials & rising jackpot (\$1000) to go.

... **Seniors Meeting** Feb 10th 1:30.

... **Seniors mini bingo** Feb 11th 1:30.

... **CWL Meeting** Feb 12th 7pm in the Vestry.

... **RBCSS meeting** Feb 25th at 7pm.

... **Jocelyn Stone** was the photographer of the beautiful picture of our church which was in last month's issue.

... **CAP site public hours are from 2-4 and 6-8 pm Monday to Thursday and 2-4pm on Fridays.** We have wireless & high speed internet services plus a scanner, fax & photocopier. We also have a good selection of used books. Saturdays you can call Sharon 535-3516 or Sherry 535-3182 for appointment. CAP phone # is 535-3251. FAX number is 535-3638. Email address is rbcap@stpeterscable.com. Visit our website at 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.

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