



The River Round Up

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\$2.00

Harold & Georgie Landry



Harold Peter was born November 27th, 1933 to Amable & Anastasia (Cordeau) of Church Point. His dad was killed on an Imperial Oil boat in Gaspé, Quebec when Harold was ten years old leaving his mom alone to raise six children on a widow's pension of \$80. Thanks to Allan Touesnard who owned a farm next door for supplying them with 25 cent soup bones. Harold attended the Lower End School (henhouse) and upon completion moved to Montreal to work on the lake boats. After two years he moved to the foreign flag vessels that transported goods throughout Central & South America, Europe, Africa, Panama and Persian Gulf where he remained for the next ten years. In 1957 he left the high seas to work as a mechanic and later became Service Manager at Trainer GMC in Halifax. It was during a visit home that he motored to Sydney to pick up his brother Bernard who was employed at Chaisson-MacDonald and met the love of his life.

Georgie was born on June 13th, 1937 along with her twin sister Margie the first of five girls to George & Verlie Margie (Andrew) Lawson of New Waterford. Dad and granddad were coal miners and when Georgie was twelve the family moved to Sydney for a couple of years however dad missed the

pits and so they returned to New Waterford. All coalminers lived in identical black homes called company houses. Georgie graduated from Mount Carmel High before attending Empire Business School in Sydney in 1956. She worked at St. Rita's Hospital for two years before moving on to Chaisson-MacDonald where she worked with Johnny Goswell and Bernard Landry from RB. On Dec. 23rd she missed her bus to New Waterford and a kind gentleman, who was there to pick up his brother Bernard, offered to give her a ride home. The grateful Georgie invited him to come and visit on Christmas Eve where she lived on 10th St. in a black house. The problem was all the houses were black. The gentleman's name was Harold.

Georgie moved to Halifax to be closer to her beloved and began taking instructions to become a Catholic. They were married on November 21st, 1959 at St. Mary's Bascilla in Halifax. Their wedding cost \$18.00. Eight dollars for the ring and five dollars each for the priest and the best man (he didn't bring one so the priest found him one). Following the ceremony they motored to RB to see Harold's mom and step-dad Peter Boudreau and enjoyed a delicious meal of baloney and potatoes. Georgie's dad had been severely injured in a mine crash so her parents were unable to attend plus the fact they were English Protestant and she was marrying a Catholic. Wedding presents included an electric frying pan, two sets of pillow cases, a set of sheets that smelled of moth balls and \$5 for the gas to return home. Georgie & Harold have four children: George in Nine Mile River, Michelle in L'Ardoise, Denise in RB and Lawson in Halifax. They also have five grandchildren.

Harold worked for five years on an off-shore marine supply boat for Shell Oil before they moved back to RB. They bought their prefab home in 1979 and settled on Church Point. Harold went to work at the Heavy Water Plant in Glace Bay and in Port Hawkesbury. Following those stints he went into

business for himself calling his trucking company Harold Landry Enterprise. He hauled products for Cdn. Automotive in Debert to Buffalo & North Carolina and on his return trips would stop at St. Lawrence Bedspreads in Montreal and brought back boxes of scrap fabrics which they sold to local quilters. It was like Christmas day to all of the quilters each time Harold arrived with a new load to see who could get the best of the goodies. In 1984 Harold was employed by Irving Oil on coastal tugs in NS and NB. In Dec of 1998 shortly after he turned sixty-five he completed his last shift with no regrets. As the children got older, Georgie worked for eight years at the local school as a para-professional and three years for Sterling Apple in Port Hawkesbury. Georgie loves her pets and has worked for many years with SPCA and was co-founder of "Pets in Need".

These days Harold works doing boat repairs, Chairman of the RB Mariners Association .He served four years on the RBCSS Board of Directors as Property Manager and loves his card games while Georgie loves her pets and gardening. They are both members of the Seniors Club and also take care of the Church keys. Harold & Georgie, the people of River Bourgeois wish you many more years of health & happiness and a wonderful fiftieth wedding anniversary this November. *Sharon Chilvers*

Senior's Hall in hopes of being healthier. Motto of the program is "A healthy senior is a happy senior". Classes will continue till the end of 2009 so get fit.



Back row: Anne Sampson, Sharon Chilvers, Michael Owens, Harold Landry & Robert Kyte. 2nd row: Mary Pentecost, Delores Roberts, Theresa Kyte, Sylvia Allan, Susan Boudreau, Kim Henebry & Joan Owens. Front row: Georgie Landry, Gloria LeBlanc, Tina Coleman & Linda Cotie.

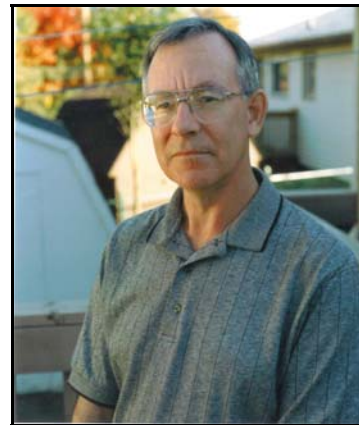
Thanks to our certified trainer, Theresa Sampson (better known among the participants as the "General") who does not allow any whining (If you do, you have to work harder) and keeps all marching to fitness. All members are welcome.

Day of Reflection



Pictured above are some of the thirty women who attended the beautiful and uplifting program of reflection given by Sr. Donna Brady from Antigonish at the Tara Lynne Center on March 21st. The attendees came from Sydney, Port Hawkesbury, L'Ardoise, River Bourgeois and St. Peters. Over 35 men from local parishes also attended a men's day given by Fr.Doug MacDonald at the Lion's Hall in St. Peters.

Master Craftsman



Billy Sampson

My interest in violin making dates back to approximately 1963 when, as a young apprentice in the Instrument Department at then Nova Scotia Pulp Limited, I had occasion to watch a violin being made at every stage of its production. The maker was Ernest Bourque of The River who was then an employee in the Carpentry Department. At the time, our lunch break was scheduled for one hour. Ernie would quickly wolf down his lunch then reach under his workbench for a box of wood that was to become his first violin. He'd spend the next 55 minutes carving, sawing, bending and fitting the various parts. I would visit a few times through the weeks and months to watch while he explained each step in the process. Finally about 11 months later he strung it up and brought it down the hall to the shop where I

RB Seniors Exercise Gang

Dedicated seniors suffer a few aches and pains while enjoying much laughter as they exercise three times a week (Mon. Wed. & Fri. 11-12 pm) at RB

worked. A colleague in my department Bill MacDonald of Whiteside, a fiddle player, was called upon to give the new violin its first test playing. I was in awe that something as mundane as those few pieces of wood I'd watched being transformed could produce the sweet strains and melodies that were so familiar to me as a growing child. To me, Ernie was a genius.

The notion of building one of those for myself remained latent, however, for another eighteen years. In 1981 my mother sent me an old violin that had been hanging around the house since I was about 2 years old. No one had ever played it much except my grandfather, John Henry Thibeau, on occasion. It was in disrepair and needed fixing so I applied my instrumentation skills, bought some parts and fixed it. It was then that I seriously decided to learn to play.

The playing progressed reasonably well for someone nearing 40 and as I got better I began to recognize the limitations of that particular instrument. I was now in the market for a better instrument. Shopping was discouraging because prices for so-called good quality violins were so high. I was having trouble justifying paying what was being asked in light of whether my interest in playing would remain high. It was then that I flashed back to watching Ernie build his first violin some 20 years earlier. I thought I should be able to do that having seen it done. My intention then was to simply build one to replace the inadequate one I had been playing.

I bought an instruction manual on violin making and read it through completely no less than 4 times before putting chisel to wood. I began on January 14, 1984 and on June 29 that year it was completed. I brought it to a colleague, Jack Greenough, (6 times Maritime Old Time Fiddling champion) to test play and assess its qualities. His reaction surprised me; he stated, "You can't stop at just one." I enjoyed the building process so much that on reflection of his comments I considered-he's right! That was the beginning of WGS Violins (My initials).

I retired from my teaching career in 1997 and since then my former hobby more or less became a cottage industry. To date I have built 20 violins, 3 violas, 1 'cello, 2 acoustic guitars and 2 electric mandolins. I also do repairs on violins, violas and 'celli for both Halifax and Dartmouth schools' music programs, about 150 – 200 instruments a year. I had been keeping an inventory of three or four instruments in stock for potential buyers but it is such an expensive proposition and I've gotten so busy with repairs that I now begin building another only when the previously made instrument has been sold.

I have filmed some of my instruments being played and the videos can be accessed on You Tube by typing in **WGS Violins**. One shows New

Brunswick fiddler Ivan Hicks playing one of my instruments (#WGS8). A second shows me giving an explanation of one aspect of violin making. A third is not yet active but should be available for viewing later this spring. It shows 3 players from Symphony Nova Scotia playing a classical selection on one of my violins, one of my violas and my 'cello. Well known local artist Dwayne Cote also plays a WGS.

I guess I would have to agree with a comment made by a former colleague who stated, tongue-in-cheek, "You've come a long way baby". *Billy Sampson Billy is the son of Virginia & Basil of River Bourgeois. We will have pictures of his instruments for you in next RRU.*

Children's Fun Days



Emma Martell (daughter of Vicki & David and granddaughter of Anabel & Michael Boudreau) enjoying the bounce a rama.



Maggie Eden (daughter of Melanie & Mike and granddaughter of John & Audrey MacNeil) and Erin Cunningham (daughter of Tim & Valerie and granddaughter of Robert & Theresa Kyte) enjoying St. Patrick's Day crafts.

These pictures are from our St. Patrick's Fun Day - we had bounce-a-rama, face painting, coloring, games, tattoos, prizes and ice-cream sundaes. We had 54 children in total and raised \$70 for the Children's Wish Foundation. We also had a pajama/movie party for the children with popcorn & juice and had 44 kids attend. We raised \$44 for the Children's Wish Foundation. Both events were put on by the RBCSS Youth Development Committee. We have a group on Facebook if anyone is interested in joining called the

"RB Youth Development Committee" where we will be posting upcoming activities and would love any ideas or feedback. *Shanna Burke*

Seniors Annual Meeting

On March 10th the RB Seniors held their annual meeting following a potluck luncheon which more than fifty of their hundred and twelve members attended & enjoyed. The Executive for the 2009 year are as follows: **President**-Anne Sampson, **Treasurer**-Mary Ellen Pentecost, **Secretary**-Sharon Chilvers, **1st Vice**-Carl Grimes, and **2nd Vice**-Lucille Boudreau. **Property Manager**-Joe Sampson, **Membership**-Monique MacPhee, **Communication**-Tina Coleman and Emily LeBlanc will continue to take care of sending sick and bereavement cards

President's Message In 2008 we had a Valentine's Day social with Flo Sampson & Stanley McPhee being crowned King & Queen. In April our furnace died the day before we received a grant of \$4000 to replace it and in May we held our 4th Richmond County Expo with great success, thanks to a grant of \$5800 from New Horizon. We had our summer luncheon with over sixty members attending and in September Joe found a nest of ants that had invaded our building and had not paid us any rent. In October and April we had Merchandise Bingos as fundraisers. We enjoyed a Christmas potluck luncheon and we received notice that our grant to hire an exercise trainer was approved and we would get the funds in February 2009. During the year we continued to have 45 card games each Sunday, cribbage on Mondays and bingo each month. We hit the highest number of members in 2008 when we hit 106. In closing I want to give special thanks to the executive for all of their dedication & hard work and most of all I want to thank all of you because without you we wouldn't have a club. *Anne Sampson*

Hughie's New Location



Hughie's Collision Centre has moved to our new Port Hasting location. The new location allows us to

serve an 80km radius around the Strait area. We provide loaner and rental cars, pickup and delivery of vehicles & excellent customer service! We are hoping to have the grand opening sometime in May. We will keep you posted. *Hughie Sampson*

Bits& Bites:

- ... **The RB Post Office** has undergone upgrading allowing customers more convenient methods of paying for services such as debit &/or credit cards. We look forward to being able to serve you better in the future. *The Postmaster*
- ... On May 30th the **5th Annual Richmond County Seniors Expo** will take place from 9am to 9pm. The expo will consist of many varieties of card games, softball, music, and includes a good time for all with lunch and dinner being served. Tickets will cost \$15 and will be available in early April. Call Sharon at 535-2512.
- ... **Exercise Program**-Seniors Bldg. Mon, Wed, & Fri from 11-12. Certified trainer available. Courses run for the rest of year.
- ... **45 Card Seniors Bldg.** Sundays @ 7:00 (winter hour).
- ... **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** Apr 7th @ 1:30pm.
- ... **Seniors mini bingo** Apr. 8th @ 1:30pm.
- ... **CAP site meeting** April 15th @ 7 pm.
- ... **CWL Meeting** April 16th @ 7 pm in the Vestry.
- ... **Merchandise Bingo** April 19th at TLC @ 2pm Sponsored by St. John the Baptist CWL.
- ... **RBCSS meeting** April 22nd at 7pm.
- ... **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 and photocopier. We also have a good selection of used books. Saturdays you can call Sharon 535-3516 or Ann @ 535-2944 for appointment. CAP phone # is 535-3251. FAX number is 535-3638. Email address is rbcap@stpeterscable.com. Visit our website at <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.

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