



# The River Round Up

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Volume 12

Number 12

December 2011

\$2.00

Father Dennis Lamey



Dennis Francis Lamey was born to Willard & Irene (Macabe-McLeod) Lamey on February 8, 1955 in New Glasgow, NS. He grew up in Stellarton and after High School attended what is now NSCC Stellarton. He majored in Electrical Constuction with a minor in Electronics & Drafting. He went on to work for the Canadian Navy with D.N.D -CFB Halifax Dockyard as a Marine Electrician. While working on destroyers, submarines & supply ships, he also attended NSIT and took course from TUNS. Following successfull completion of his marine ticket, he headed out west to Victoria's Esquimalt base but never made it. Stopping in Calgary he fell in love with the city and spent the next four years working in the areas of theatre sound and motion pictures. He studied with Altec Lansing Los Angeles and Dolby Labs in San Francisco as a sound engineer. In this position he traveled western Canada installing equipment for the Star Wars Movies and working with such people as Michael Learned, Billy Dee Williams as well as James Garner. When the recession hit the west in 1982 he returned to Nova Scotia taking work as the First Stage Manager in Pictou at the DeCoste Center. One of his first

performers was Rita MacNeil. Before long he was offered another position with Simplex in Halifax in which he worked for more than fourteen years, travelling all over Canada, the United States, Russia and the Caribbean programming and certifying life safety systems in projects such as the Camp Hill Hospital, VG Hospital, TD Square , Komi Arctic Camps, a village in Siberia and many others. Training in Gardner Mass, and other areas he became a fire systems technician, programmer, salesman & manager. In 1989 he transferred with Simplex to Calgary and spent four plus years there until he was transfered to Edmonton, a city he did not like at the time. While working in the Arctic he read a Globe & Mail ad about a position in the Carribean. He was unhappy and it was mid-winter. The Caribbean job was inviting so he replied to the ad and three months later they offered to bring him to the Cayman Islands for an interview. He was offered the position, so he quickly packed his belongings, which included a motorcycle, into a four by four crate and shipped it to the Caribbean. Leaving Edmonton he swore he would never return, but God had other plans.

During his time in the Cayman Islands and the United States, Dennis travelled to more than seventeen countries: Haiti, Panama, Hong Kong, London, Antiqua, Russia, Alaska, Costa Rica and many others. He was able to work with such people and organizations as Pierre Trudeau, James Baker, Oscar Arias Sánchez (President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace prize winner), Southern Command, DEA, FBI, RCMP, and many others. His faith life had been put on the shelf. When he lost his job as Director of Engineering in a resort Hotel and Casino in Nevada, he decided to move back to Miami. Little did Dennis know at this time that tragedies lurked just around the corner that would change his life forever so I will let him continue his story in his own words. *Sharon Chilvers*

To put into a few words what has happened to my spiritual life is like trying to stop a waterfall with your hands, but I will try. In 1994 my father came to

visit me in the Cayman Islands, where I lived. With him, he brought a gift for me. A book called *'The Message'* by Wayne Wible. I took the book, because it was a gift from my father, but never intended reading it. I had very little of a spiritual or faith life at this time. After he had gone home I put the book on the shelf in the living room and left it there. One night at about 3am, I awoke with my bed shaking and things were falling off the shelves in my living room. It was a 5.7 earthquake. After this I decided to read the book. I was struck that it was a protestant who was writing this, his story touched me and I believed there was something in this. My life again became distracted and I moved to the USA. I was married in Miami, outside the church and my mother would not even come to my wedding. Our married life ended five years later and my wife died tragically. This brings me to the point of my story.

While living in the USA, I was called home to look after my father who was dying of terminal cancer discovered only two weeks after the loss of my mother. I came home and this was one of the greatest graces God has given to my life. While with my father he told me at one point: 'you are not supposed to be here'. 'I don't understand' I said. He said: 'when you were in your mother's womb, your mother was told that you were dead and that you should be done away with, since there was no heartbeat or life signs. Your mother would not let them, she fought hard for you and because she did you are here with me'. I was shocked, I knew nothing of this as my mother had never told me.

As my father lay dying in the hospital, I decided to give him a gift. I said: 'you have visited me everywhere I have lived, there is only one place that you have been that I have never been, when you die I will go on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje'. The pilgrimage was a gift to my father, it meant nothing to me. I wasn't looking for anything. I made arrangements after his death to go with my sister and brother. When I went there, I found peace. Although I wasn't yet able to experience it, I knew that it was here. We went to hear Viska speak (one of the Visionaries) and at one point as I looked into her eyes, I believed that what she was saying, she had experienced. I still struggled to have faith. I attended the masses and tried to pray the rosary, but it was difficult. At one point we were to go to hear a nun speak at the oasis of peace. They told us that we could go pray in front of the exposed sacrament for half an hour before the talk. I went into the chapel very angry. I knelt down and I said: 'Lord, I don't want to feel this way anymore, whatever you ask of me I will do, I give up'. Just then there was an incredible light that lit up my heart, it was so incredible that when it left I cried and said don't go. I continued to pray and I noticed that I no longer had doubt or anger. I knew absolutely that it was Jesus in

the Eucharist. I returned to Canada and decided to stay for a while. I attended Mass every day and fell in love with it. I started a business and worked there while continuing to love the Lord. At some point in this time I felt a voice or thought: 'you should become a priest'. I laughed out loud and thought do you know who you are talking to? I pushed it aside and kept working but it would not go away. Finally after months of this, I decided to call a priest friend and go talk with him and before I told him what I wanted he said: 'have you ever thought of becoming a priest'? I said as a matter of fact that is why I am here to talk to you. When I had finished telling him my story he told me to continue to pray and to call the vocation director if I was sure. I came home and prayed and finally emailed the vocation director in March of 2004. He called me right away and said he could meet me the next day, I agreed and hung up. After I hung up I thought: oh my God what have I done? How will I explain this call to this man, I don't understand myself. I prayed; God if this is of you, you must provide the answers, I have none. When we met, all the answers were there for both of us to the point where he was saying: If we are to get you into the Seminary by Sept. we had better get started. I laughed out loud and said: 'I have lived in three countries and don't have access to all the things I will need for educational and medical background. He said if God wants you in the seminary it will be taken care of. Sure enough it was and I was headed for the seminary in Edmonton. I didn't know what a seminary looked like But God, as he still does, provides for all I lack and on May 15th, 2009, I was ordained a priest at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Nova Scotia. To my eyes it is an impossibility but to God nothing is impossible. *Father Dennis Lamey*

## Remembrance Day Ceremonies



*Cadet Zack Richard (grandson of Linda & Frederick Richard) accompanied Danny Landry who laid a wreath in memory of his father Leo Landry.*

This year due to heavy winds and rain the ceremonial laying of wreaths were held at the Tara Lynne Community Hall instead of the Cenotaph. The formal dedication ceremonies were held in St. Peters

Lion Club with Donnie Pottie as Master of Ceremonies and George J. Landry as guest speaker.

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## Jubiliarians



Back Row: Cynthia Pottie, John Burke, Gerald & Janet LeBlanc, Mildred & Raymond Burke, Maurice & Lucille Landry, Anselm & Vera Sampson, Cletus & Mary Touesnard, Joe & Monica Stone, Patrick & Dianne Bourque, Stan & Marj Digout, Marion & Walter Lynds, Fr. Lamey. Front Row: Alma Burke, Bernard & Lenova Sampson, George & Francis St. Louis, John & Wanda Burke.

A Mass and dinner were held on November 20<sup>th</sup> to honour those who celebrated special wedding anniversaries during 2011. Celebrants were: 25<sup>th</sup> John & Wanda Burke, George & Frances St. Louis; 30<sup>th</sup> Gerald & Janet LeBlanc, John & Debra MacDonald, Leonard & Cynthia Pottie; 40<sup>th</sup> Brian & Cathy Aitken, Gary & Emma Burke, Norman & Lorraine MacPhee; 50<sup>th</sup> Patrick & Dianne Bourque, Stanislaus & Marjorie Digout, George & Sharon Digout, Gerald & Edna Casey, John & Eleanor Scott; 55<sup>th</sup> Alfred & Lucille Boudreau, Maurice & Lucille Landry, Walter & Marion Lynds; and 60<sup>th</sup> Cletus & Mary Touesnard

Special recognition to the following couples: Bernard & Lenova Sampson (57 years), John & Alma Burke (58 years), Anselm & Vera Sampson (59 years), Joseph & Monica Stone (59 years), Raymond & Mildred Burke (62 years), and Victor & Evelyn Burke (71 years).

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## House of Horrors



Meghan Martens lies in the coffin with the skeleton as others keep watch.

RBCSS held their annual Haunted House for two evenings during Halloween. Thanks to the creativity of Robyn & Rose Merrick, Theresa Sampson and

Tanya Burke whose ghastly characters filled many rooms at the Tara Lynne Center and subsequently reached their goal of scaring its many patrons. Also thanks to the fifteen young people who were intermingled with the mannequins, those who worked at the door and canteen and made the fudge.

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## Knights of Columbus Farmers



Gentleman farmers Bill Coleman and Danny Madden

Once again the Knights of Columbus men harvested potatoes for the food bank. This year they planted in two fields: Peter LeBlanc & George McNamara's. A total of 1480 pounds was donated. Good work gentlemen!

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## Community Events

**Memory Tree:** RBCSS is again accepting donation and/or gifts. When a donation/gift is made in memory of a loved one, an angel or dove will be placed on the tree with the name of the recipient on it. The tree is located in St. John the Baptist Church. Christmas cards will be sent when a gift is given. The donation/gift is twofold since it provides much needed funds for the continuing maintenance of the Funeral Home while allowing the donor or recipient to get a charitable tax receipt. Donations may be sent to RBCSS, Box 56, River Bourgeois, NS, B0E 2X0 or dropped off at Rose Merrick, Sharon Chilvers or in the box at the entrance of the church.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>:** The St John the Baptist Catholic Women's League will be holding their Christmas Luncheon at the Cozy Corner in St. Peter's following the Sunday morning mass. All members will be contacted. Anyone who wishes to become a member, please call Deirdre at 535-2827. Dues are payable to Deirdre Boyd or Therese Pottie.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>:** A "Merchandise/Christmas Baking" Bingo will be held at the Tara Lynne Community Center (TLC) at 1:45. Sponsored by RBCSS.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>:** The River Bourgeois Seniors 50+ Club will be holding its Christmas "Potluck" luncheon at noon at the TLC. Cost is \$2 per person to

offset the cost of the hall. \$10 dues are due in December. Please pay Monique McPhee, Delores Roberts or Anne Sampson. We welcome new members assuming you are 50+ years of age.

**December 17<sup>th</sup>:** The Annual Christmas Celebration will be held at the TLC from 6 to 9 pm. All community members are invited to come and visit with friends & neighbours during the festive season. Refreshments will be served, there will be tree lighting, a visit from Santa and several entertainers singing carols. The event is sponsored by RBCSS.

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## Tara Lynne Community Center



The Tara Lynne Center received a much needed new roof. A \$8500 grant was obtained from Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation in addition to \$2500 from Municipality of Richmond to help pay for part of the project. Thanks to volunteers: Mike Fougere, Glyn Chilvers, Stash Boudreau, Bill Coleman, Raymond Doary & Bob Agar for tarring and picking up the old shingles for the contractor.

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## Births

**Bona/Walsh:** Stephen William, 8lbs 2oz, was born on September 15<sup>th</sup> to Jessica Bona & Stephen Walsh. Congratulations to the parents, grandparents: Chris Bona, Kristy Bona, Brenda Reeves & William Bruce, great grandmom Mary Bona.

**Touesnard:** Sophia Isabella, 7lbs 12oz, was born Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> to Mitchell & Jennifer. A sister for Josee. Congratulations to the parents, grandparents: Kevin Touesnard, David and Gladys Bona, great grandparents Cletus & Mary Touesnard and Beatrice Bona.

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## Deaths

**Sampson:** Theodore Keats, 83, of Sampsonville passed away on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his son Gerard Sampson and family.

**Landry:** Clarence, 93, of Alberta passed away on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our condolences to his wife Nora,

children: Peter & Noreen and sister in-law Theresa Landry and their families.

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## Bits and Bites

... If anyone knows of a family or neighbour in need of a "Christmas Dinner", please call Sharon C. at 535-2512 or Sharon D at-3516 by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

... **Congratulations** to Brian Bona (son of Mary Bona) and family in receiving the "Excellence in Business Award" from the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce. Brian is the owner of Strait Supplies in Port Hawkesbury.

... **Happy 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday** to Valerie Boyd and Annie Mae Burke, 91<sup>st</sup> to Jane Landry, 89<sup>th</sup> to Obeline Burke and Vince Dewolfe, 85<sup>th</sup> to Alma Burke and Rita LeBlanc, 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday to Joe Sampson and Cletus Touesnard, 82<sup>nd</sup> to Madeline Cook, 75<sup>th</sup> to Gregory Sampson, 60<sup>th</sup> to Marie Burke and Donnie Fougere and 50<sup>th</sup> to Janet LeBlanc.

... **Seniors 45 Card** game every Sun. at 7:30pm.

... **Cribbage:** every Monday at 7 pm, Seniors Bldg.

... **Seniors Mini Christmas Bingo:** Wednesday December 21st at 1:30 pm.

... **RB CAP Site hours:** Mon to Thurs. 1-3 & 6-8, Fri. 1-3. The RB CAP Site web address is [http://ns4.seaside.ns.ca/~rbcap/roundup/roundup\\_archives.htm](http://ns4.seaside.ns.ca/~rbcap/roundup/roundup_archives.htm). The cost of photocopying will be \$0.25 effective December 1<sup>st</sup>. Our email address is [rbcap@stpeterscable.com](mailto:rbcap@stpeterscable.com). Phone # is 535-3251 & fax 535-3638. We will be closed for Christmas from Dec 17<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 2nd. Just as a reminder when school is closed during storms, the Cap Site is also closed. There are RRUP CD's, cenotaph & some Mike McPhee t-shirts available at the Cap Site. For Mariner's t-shirts (large only) call Sherry @535-3182.

... 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 \$20.00 delivered in RB, \$30.00 within Canada and \$40.00 internationally per year.

... **"Merry Christmas" everyone from the staff of the River Roundup**

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Published monthly by RB Technology & Training Centre in co-operation with RB Community Services Society. Ed: Sharon Chilvers & proof readers Karin & Art Digout. Thanks to Sherry Baccardax for technical help, Anne Louise Touesnard for photo restorations, Lynn Boudreau for putting us online, and Therese Pottie for looking after our subscriptions (535-2740).

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