



# The River Round Up

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## We Bid Adieu to the River Round Up

Twelve years and three months later, the final issue of the third time resurrected River Round Up is now completed. As we look back at what began in September 2000, it is mind boggling the number of news events we have covered. We have reported on 248 births; 93 weddings & 386 deaths all of which were residents, former residents or relatives of current residents of RB. We have acknowledged 79 High School Graduates (the first three years they were not included in the paper) and 99 university/college graduates. There have been stories about 21 former and current businesses in River Bourgeois; 81 history related stories & 85 stories on local area soldiers who served their country from 1939 to the present. There were also several stories on local soldiers who died tragically in prior wars. We have profiled stories on 251 local individuals including one on Sr. Anne Sampson from RB who passed away in 2004 at age 113 and at that time was the oldest living person in Canada; many milestone birthdays as well as anniversaries and achievements of local groups & individuals. We have published on our community annual meetings, yearly festivals & Christmas celebrations, Canada Days, the restoration of our cenotaph, rebuilding of our lighthouse, our new marina, community signs and the achievements of Mike McPhee.

I personally would like to thank Sharon Digout (the originator along with Joe MacPhee and then summer student Michele Sampson) who has been a great mentor and friend and who has edited my "few" mistakes over the years. I could not have asked for a better partner. To the following team members since day one: Therese Pottie who was in charge of all our mail outs, Sherry Baccardax for her computer knowledge and for keeping us in line, Lynn Boudreau for our website & George Digout for local deliveries. Thanks also to Bucky's garage, Carmen Fougere & East Coast Credit Union who have sold our copies over the years and to those who have joined the team

in recent years including: Art & Karin Digout, April Sampson, Anne Louise Touesnard, Donnie Pottie & all our summer students. Thank you also to local historians: Garvey Sampson, Russell Fougere & Paul Touesnard; the volunteers of the C@P Site and the federal & provincial governments who supplied grants to our C@P site. Most of all thanks to you the readers/subscribers for your feedback which encouraged us to keep writing all of this time. *Sharon Chilvers editor*

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## Fred LeBlanc-My Dad



Alfred (Fred) Abram was born November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1911 to Mary (Dugas) & Fidele LeBlanc of the South Side. Fred had an older sister Martha who passed away at age 24 and two younger sisters Louise (Smith) and Zabeth (Burke). When Fred was five his mom passed away during childbirth and two years later his dad passed away of TB. The girls moved with their grandmother and later with their Aunt Francine while Fred went to his Aunt Suzanne in the home he lived the remainder of his life. He was expelled from school along with his best friend Henry Fougere at age ten and there were several versions of why this happened. At age twelve his neighbours, Joe & Alvina Landry asked Fred to be godfather to their new born daughter, Charlotte; He took one look at the baby, refused their request and replied "No because I am going to marry her

someday". At age twenty-eight Fred began dating sixteen year old Charlotte and he was true to his word and married her three years later in 1942.

Three days after their wedding Fred went to war and did his basic training in Goose Bay, Labrador where he was posted for the majority of the war. The last six months were served in Hamilton. He was a cook on the base and since it was difficult to receive goods because of isolation they once had to eat hamburger for three solid weeks. Fred returned home at the end of the war in 1945. Hamburgers were never eaten in the home.

In December 1945, Fred & Charlotte had their first child. They would have seven sons and seven daughters in the next eighteen years. They now have thirty-two grandchildren and thirty-four great grandchildren plus one more due on Christmas day (that could change by the time this goes to print). They lived in a seven hundred square foot house and only the kitchen did not have a bed. Money was not very abundant and with no television the main form of entertainment was cards. All the children played cards and when they played scat or thirty-one, it was played for buttons and as the children got older they played for three pennies. Baseball was the main sport and both Charlotte and Fred played. The girls always had the advantage as Fred couldn't hit the broad side of the barn door. As a youngster he would wash and dress the deceased to prepare them for the wake. Fred loved to tell stories & tall tales and as a result most of the children refuse to go to wakes to this day.

Fred worked in the lobster plant near his home for \$5 a month. He also ran a ferry service from the South Side to the Church Point for the folks who would walk from False Bay to be able to go to church. Cost was ten cents per boat load. He was a fisherman most of his life and since that work was seasonal; he also worked with the Department of Highways in the summer months. He was the lighthouse keeper for the last seventeen years before it went electronic. He was also the community butcher for most of his life and was often called to assist with sick animals and animals having difficult births. Once he was at Philomen Burke's farm helping a cow that had a breech birth. After several hours the calf was born and Fred went in the house to have a cup of tea. Philomen was listening to the radio when an announcement was made that Queen Elizabeth was in the hospital for several hours giving birth. Fred not missing a beat said, "Guess they will be calling me soon." He also repaired watches and sometimes destroyed them. Not having a horse or tractor he would cut all of the hay by hand with a scythe. As a youngster he sometimes rowed his boat to D'Escousse to cut hay all day with his scythe for \$5. He worked hard to support his family.

Fred loved to play cards and with his buddies Victor & Amos Burke would travel to all of the

community halls in the county for a game. Fred had many health issues in his lifetime and passed away in 2000. We miss you dad. R.I.P Sharon

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## Hallowe'en Haunted House



Shown above are just some of the many youths who participated in the haunted house at the Tara Lynne Center over the Hallowe'en weekend. Three hundred and forty-one thrill seekers visited the haunted house and many enjoyed the fudge made by our devoted fudge makers: Charlotte & Peter LeBlanc, Rose Merrick, Lucille Boudreau & Connie Stewart. Thanks to our creative directors: Rose Merrick, Tanya Burke & all the youngsters who so willingly came to show their innovative talents and all those who worked, dressed as their character, screamed and scared the daylight of the patrons.

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## Remembrance Day-Silver Cross Mom



Congratulations to Linda Bouchard who was this year's Silver Cross Mother for St. Peter's Legion Branch #47. Linda's husband Arthur served twenty six years in the Armed Forces, her son Edward is now in his twenty-second year in the Armed Forces. Her dad served in the Second World War along with his three brothers and her mom's three brothers.

The ceremonies for St. Peter's/River Bourgeois took place at the Lion's Club in St. Peter's. Donnie Pottie was the guest speaker and spoke of the history of Remembrance Day ceremonies in other countries. A large crowd took part in the ceremonial laying of wreaths at the cenotaph in River Bourgeois.

*Note:* In the November/December 2002 issues of the River Round Up we profiled 50 living World War II veterans who were born in or moved to RB. Today

there are only the following nine left: Frank Andrews, Lawrence Burke, Raymond Burke, Ferdinand Digout, Marshall Digout, Farley Mowat, Clarence Richard, Leo Richard & Albert Sampson. Thanks to all who served - Lest we forget.

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## Christmas Memory Tree

A memory tree will once again be placed in Saint John the Baptist church this Christmas season. Anyone who would like to make a donation (all funds will go towards the upkeep of the funeral home) in memory of a loved one will have the names of the loved ones attached to an angel, star or dove & placed on the tree for the six weeks of Christmas. If you wish to make a donation instead of a gift you may also do so, and a card will be sent to the gift recipient. Everyone making a donation will receive a tax receipt in January. You may mail your memorials and/or donations to *River Bourgeois Community Service Society (RBCSS)*, PO Box 56, River Bourgeois, BOE 2X0 or you may drop it off to Sharon Chilvers or Rose Merrick.

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## Jubiliarians



A celebration was held on November 25<sup>th</sup> to honour our Jubiliarians. Celebrating **25 years**: Joan & Kelly Burke, Maria & Wayne Dewolfe, **30 years**: Ingrid & Gordon Boutilier, **40 years**: Carol Anne & Eric Fownes, Mary & Jude Burke, Marlaine & Albert Burke, Henrietta & Arthur Doary, **55 years**: Mary Ellen & Edward Pentecost, **60 years**: Monica & Joe Stone, Vera & Anselm Sampson. **Special recognition** to the following couples: **56 years**: Lucille & Alfred Boudreau, Lucille & Maurice Landry, Marion & Walter Lynds, **58 years**: Lenova & Bernard Sampson **59 years**: Alma & John Burke, **61 years**: Mary & Cletus Touesnard, **63 years**: Mildred & Raymond Burke.

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## Community Organizations

**River Bourgeois Community Service Society** established in 1978 and now is under the direction of President Rose Merrick & the Board of Directors. RBCSS is responsible for the maintenance of the Tara Lynne Community Hall which includes the tennis court, children's playground & the hockey court,

Cenotaph, Lighthouse, Funeral Home, Bona Field and the Tara Lynne Bursary. In the past year the interior of the Tara Lynne Center has been painted and the floors were refinished. The hall deck was upgraded to meet today's standard and the deck at the ball field canteen was replaced. The dugouts at the Bona field were replaced with a new fenced in type and the tennis court received new gates & repairs. The 34<sup>th</sup> annual festival was held along with several brunches, potluck suppers, concerts, dinner theatre, trivia night and the haunted house as part of our fundraisers.

**River Bourgeois Seniors 50+Club** was established in 1993 and now is under the direction of Anne Sampson & its executive members. The building is leased from RBCSS and the members of the club which are 138 strong are responsible for its upkeep. Meetings, showers, flea markets, anniversary & birthday parties are held on a regular basis. Card games are held weekly along with monthly mini bingos & Celtic music concerts. The complete gym in the basement is open to all members seven days a week. In the past year, all of the windows were replaced and the lighting system was changed to an energy efficient type. Several pieces of exercise equipment were added to the gym. St. Valentine's tea was held along with potluck luncheons & Christmas dinner.

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Women's League** was established in River Bourgeois in 1953 and is now under the direction of President Marlaine Burke & her executive. The Catholic Women's League distributes assistance to the community, provincially, nationally & world-wide to worthy causes. The members visit the sick and elderly in their homes, hospitals and nursing homes. They also serve night time luncheons at the hospital and distribute Christmas baskets to the needy families.

**St. John the Baptist Parish Council** was established in 1988 by Father J.J. MacDonald. Louis Digout is the present chairperson. The purpose of the Parish Council was to assist the priest in overseeing the parish duties and several sub-committees were formed in order to do so, including Liturgy, Cemetery, Building & Property Maintenance. Church funds are used to maintain the church properties, the priest and the diocese.

**Knights of Columbus** was established in River Bourgeois/St. Peter's/L'Ardoise/Barra Head areas in 2007 and is led by Grand Knight Danny Madden. This Christian organization works hand in hand with the parish priest providing faith to families and assisting in duties of the church community. This past year some of the charitable works in the communities have been: breakfast program at the school, team jerseys for the girl's basketball team, ten laptops were issued to the school and the planting and harvesting of potatoes in the "Row of Hope" for the food bank.

**River Bourgeois Mariner Society** was established in 2009 and is under the direction of President Carl Grimes. The docks were purchased in 2008 by RBCSS and turned over to the Mariner Society in 2009. The docks were established to supply the community members and visitors with a place to dock their boats. The docks are also a place for people to fish & swim. Due to high demand the Mariners Society continues to expand. There is now a ramp and launch pad for easy water excess and they are in the process of installing a building for power connections to make the docks even more user - friendly. The Mariners have a very popular poker run each year along with a great fish chowder luncheon.

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## River Bourgeois Community Business

**Hair Salons:** Unisex Salon - Rose Merrick & Hair Kare - Karen Fougere.

**Construction:** Leo Fougere Contracting - Agnes Fougere, Richmond Enterprises - Terry Boudreau.

**Trucking:** Burke Bros. - Bernard Burke.

**Bed & Breakfast:** Grandma's House- Glyn & Sharon Chilvers.

**Garages:** Brent's Auto Body - Brent Sampson & Cranky's Garage - Robert Poaps.

**Canada Post** - Carmen Fougere.

**Beach Glass:** Sweptashore - Paul & Lucille Martell.

**Computer:** Laptops Renewed - Bill Coleman.

**Fishing Industries:** Scott Touesnard, Ervin Touesnard, Gilbert Boucher & Kevin King.

**Transport:** Giddy-up Freight - William Coleman.

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## Births

**Cameron/Aitken:** Ryan Joseph, 9lbs 8oz, was born on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to Carole & Neil of Fort McMurray. A brother for Kayla. Congratulations to the parents, grandparents: Cathy & Brian Aitken and Sarah Cameron.

**Fougere/Kirby:** Simon Joseph Rene, 5lbs 15oz, was born on November 15<sup>th</sup> to Jill & Derek. A brother for Liam. Congratulations to the parents, grandparents Debbie Fougere, Donnie Fougere, Patrick & Catherine Kirby, great grandmom Rachael Davidson.

**MacLeod/LeBlanc:** Cameron Gregory, 8lbs 1oz, was born on October 31<sup>st</sup> (Mom's birthday present) to Shelly & Dan of Sydney. A brother for Aiden & Brooklyn. Congratulations to the parents, grandparents Lloyd LeBlanc, Diane LeBlanc, Helena & Greg MacLeod, great grandmom Charlotte LeBlanc

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## Deaths

**Dutrizac:** Leo, 76, passed away November 19<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his step-daughter Tina Coleman & her family.

**Gerard:** Zita, 68, of West Arichat passed away on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to her sons and her sister Norma MacNeil & their families.

**Ling:** Annette, 86, of Charlottetown passed away on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to her children, her sisters: Anne & Grace and brothers: Alcantra, Cyril & Everest and their families.

**Robertson:** Peter, 71, of Irvine, California passed away on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to his brothers: Gerald, George & Robert, sisters: Marjorie & Susan and their families.

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## Bits and Bites

... **News** from River Bourgeois will be posted on RBCSS website [www.riverbourgeois.ca](http://www.riverbourgeois.ca)

... **Community Christmas Celebrations** will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Tara Lynne Community Center. There will be tree lighting, music, refreshments and a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Come & enjoy a visit with your neighbours and friends.

... **Christmas Dinners**-If you know of anyone who is in need of a Christmas dinner please call Sharon Chilvers 535-2512 or Sharon Digout 535-3516 by December 16<sup>th</sup>.

... **Happy 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** to Roderick & Margaret Burke.

... **Happy 101st birthday** to Beatrice Landry, 98<sup>th</sup> to Valerie Boyd & Annie Mae Burke, 96<sup>th</sup> to Cecilia Baccardax & Lawrence Burke, 95<sup>th</sup> to Matilda Boudreau, 92<sup>nd</sup> to Jane Landry, 90<sup>th</sup> to Vera Sampson, 86<sup>th</sup> to Alma Burke & Rita LeBlanc, 84<sup>th</sup> to Cletus Touesnard & Joe Sampson.

... **Seniors 45 Card** game every Sunday at 7pm.

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

... **Seniors Club Christmas Lunch** at noon on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at the Tara Lynne Center. Membership dues of \$10 are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

... **CWL Christmas Lunch** Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at noon at Louis Cozy Corner.

... 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. This is the last Round Up issue.

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