



# The River Round Up

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## The Sisters



*"The Sisters" Hilda Burke and Sarah Digout at home.*

Hilda Burke, the matriarch of this community is well known for having had her little country store. The store was originally started by her sister Nellie (McPhee) in 1930. However, a year later Nellie gave birth to her son Stanley and passed on the responsibilities to Hilda. In 1937, Amiable and Guillaume Burke added an addition to the house and Hilda became the storekeeper. The store remained open for a total of fifty-two years until Hilda's retirement in 1983. Hilda was a founding member and the first treasurer of the Catholic Woman's league in 1953 and today still remains an active member. Hilda recalls when the meals were being catered at the first hall which was built in the early fifties that she had to carry kindling from her house to keep the fire from going out. Because there was only one stove and not all vegetables could be cooked at the same time, Hilda cooked the potatoes at her place and then carried them to the hall. As a result of not having a furnace to keep the building

warm in the winter, pop had to be carried on sleds from the store. Hilda also took care of the canteen at the ball field every Sunday during the summer. She was very active in organizing Sunday night cards games and weekly bingo games for many years. She still very much enjoys bingos around the local areas. She resides in her homestead with her sister, Sarah and as long as she refrains from going out on icy steps, we expect to see her around for many more years to come.

Sarah was a schoolteacher in the one-room school in Cannes in 1929 with 60 kids from grades primary to four (so much for teachers complaints today). The following year she taught in French Cove with as many students. However she had grades primary to nine, also in a one-room school. In 1931 she married Dr. Joe Digout and had three children Yvonne, Claire and Danny. Sarah speaks of long days and nights when Joe left to take care of patients (mostly delivering babies including myself). In the summer he used his car but because there was no such thing as a plow in the winter he was taken by a two-horse team driven by neighbor John Alex MacDonald. However, when he had to go to Grand River and Loch Lomond he would go as far as Soldiers Cove and another gentlemen would take him the rest of the way because the horses were exhausted. Many times the patient's family would come and fetch the doctor themselves. It was Sarah's obligation to entertain the patients in the waiting room until her husband returned home. Dr. Digout retired at age seventy-eight and passed away two years later. Sarah now keeps sister Hilda company and they enjoy visitors very much.

Hilda and Sarah's parents were Joe D. Burke and Virginia (Landry) Burke. Joe died in 1936 and Virginia died in 1966. Their sister

Alma passed away from spinal meningitis in 1926 at the age of 6 and Nellie died in 1998.  
*Sharon Chilvers*

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## Dave's Barber Shop

May 2001 marks my 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a barber. I graduated from the Halifax Barbering school in 1961 and opened and operated a barbershop on Dutch Village Road in Halifax for 10 years.



*Dave in ages gone by when he had to cut his own hair.*

In 1967 I married a Cape Bretoner (our own Anne MacPhee) and moved to River Bourgeois. I operated a shop in Louisdale and River Bourgeois for 30 years. Once a month I cut hair at the Richmond Villa and also do house calls for people who can't get out. My clientele at one time stretched all over Richmond County. I want to thank everyone for supporting me over the last 30 years and I still enjoy making people feel good, with a hair cut and a kind word. Some day maybe I will write a book on all the stories I have "heard". It would definitely be a best seller. *Dave Clow*

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## R.B. Community Services

Congratulations to Carl Grimes and the Economic Development Committee members; Sharon Chilvers, Anne Sampson, Donna Landry, Joe MacPhee, Glenda Sampson and Jude Burke on the new sign designating our recreation complex. It looks great and you can now find your way in the dark. The Municipality of Richmond made funding for the sign available.

The landscaping of the funeral home is moving along at great speed and many trees and bushes have already been planted. Adrian Touesnard has been the force behind

this project and we understand Tammy Boucher did a great job drafting the landscape plans. It is not too late to donate a plant in memory of someone so if you wish to take part, call Adrian at 535-2373.

The 2001 chairperson for the River Bourgeois Festival is Glenda Sampson. Glenda will be calling the first organizational meeting shortly. Please assist Glenda in making the 2001 event a success by volunteering to help out.

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## Student Summer Employment

The River Bourgeois Technology & Training Centre is accepting applications for 2 summer student positions. Each position is for 8 weeks. Students must be proficient in the use of computers and must have working knowledge of Microsoft word, excel, front page and possess excellent typing skills. Successful candidates must have proven public presentation skills and be willing to work flexible hours. Resumes should be dropped off or mailed to Sherry Baccardax, RR#1, River Bourgeois, NS B0E 2X0 For more information phone 535-3182. Deadline for applications is June 4th.

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## Religious Education Services

On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> the Religious Education Program ended for this year. The children took part in the readings and intentions, bringing up the gifts and serving mass. After the mass a delicious pizza from Grenville Pizza was enjoyed by all.

On Mother's Day four young people made their first communion. They were Trent Bennett (Ross & Faith), Thaddeus Benoit (Terry & Diane), Zachary Burke (Kim) and Alisha Kendall (Vincent & Maxine). They were trained under the capable hands of Pamela Sampson. Thanks Pamela for a job well done. *Elaine Burke*

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## Youth Report

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the first annual Richmond Academy Scholastic Awards was held, keeping the tradition of the former St. Peters District High alive. Students with a high academic standing in English, Math, a Science and three other subjects were awarded certificates of Merit (average of 75-79%),

Distinction (80-89%), or High Distinction (90-100%).

The following River Bourgeois youth were the proud recipients of the following awards:

**Merit:** (grade 10) Heidi Stone, Katie Touesnard and (grade 12) Peter Landry, Joey Touesnard.

**Distinction:** (grade 10) Mark Digout, Steven Filion, Nicholas Fougere; (grade 11) Sharlene Burke, Anne MacNamara, Holly Stone; (grade 12) Kirk Boudreau, Tasha Lynn Burke, Joseph Doary.

**High Distinction:** (grade 10) TJ Burke, Michelle Sampson; (grade 11) Alison Boudreau; (grade 12) Ann Burke, Leia Fougere, Vicki Morrison. Congratulations to all of the students, keep up the good work and good luck with final exams.

Michelle Sampson attended the "Girls on the Move" conference held at Mount St Vincent University on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The conference was sponsored by Sports & Recreation Nova Scotia with a focus on keeping youth between the ages of 13 & 17 aware of the importance of physical fitness and exercise. *Michelle Sampson*

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## Deaths

**Burke-**Our sympathy to Leda Konning, Catherine Boudreau, Almeda Burke and their families on the death of their brother Alfred who passed away on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Sympathy also extended to Alfred's caregivers' Calvin & Nancy Burke.

**Chilvers-**Our sympathy to Sharon and Glyn on the death of Glyn's mother Irene Florence Chilvers who died in Toronto on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

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## Births

**Carter-**Tanya and Leon Carter have a new son. Leland Thomas Leo was born May 18, 2001 and weighed 6lbs.14oz. Congratulations to Mom and Dad and sister, Haley.

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## Wedding

**Landry-Zinck-**Married at St. John the Baptist Church on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Laurie, daughter of Ann & Danny Landry and Paul, son of Ron & Fern Zinck. Paul is a pharmacist at Lawton's Drugstore in St. Peter's and Laurie is a nurse at the Kingston Memorial Clinic. After a very

lively party at the Tara Lynne Centre, they left for a honeymoon in Jamaica.

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## Graduations

Donna Marie (Ann & Alfred) Touesnard, Louis Gerard (Mary & Louis) Digout, and Craig (Margie & Terry) Boudreau all graduated from St. F.X. at the spring convocation. Ryan (Doris & John) Brown and Mathew (Margie & Terry) Boudreau graduated from UCCB. Nicole (Ann & Bucky) Sampson has just finished Basic Training in her studies towards becoming a Fisheries Officer. She is presently doing her fieldwork in the local area. Congratulations to all. We realize that this is probably just a partial list of graduates from the River and hope to have the remainder next month.

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## Special Anniversaries

**Touesnard-**Mary (Cameron) and Cletus were treated by their family to a surprise party at the Tara Lynne Centre in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>. Their five children; Rene (Halifax), Kevin (St Peters), Roger (Antigonish), Peter (Truro) and Robert (Ontario) along with their families were present.

**Fougere-**Valerie (Sharpe) and Michael were married 25 years ago on May 29<sup>th</sup> in Montreal. They have three daughters; Mary who is working in France, Crystal a student at St. FX and Jennifer at home.

**Burke-**May 29 is the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Almeda (Burke) and Alex. They have three children; Mark and Augustine in River Bourgeois and Claudette in Lower River. Alex is in hospital at this time and we wish him a speedy recovery.

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## History

**The Thibeaus of River Bourgeois:** All of the Thibeaus from River Bourgeois are descended from one man: Jean Jacques (Jacob) Thibeau. Jacob arrived in the area in the 1820's, however, there is little known about where he came from making it difficult to trace his origins. The facts are as follows: An original land grant was made in 1824 to JACOB CHIBAUT for 200 acres ¾ mile north of the head of River Bourgeois. He was listed as a native of Spain, was married with two children and had lived in the province for 10

years. In the 1838 Census JACOB and his wife ANNE TIBO had seven children, one boy and one girl under the age of six, two boys and one girl between the ages of six and fourteen, and one boy and one girl over age fourteen. At the marriage of his daughter ANN to JOHN SHEEN in 1842, he is listed as JEAN THIBEAU and his wife as ANNE MCINLY. At his death in 1856 at the age of 69 (making his birth date approximately 1787) he is named JEAN JACQUES THIBEAULT survived by his wife MARIE MCINLEY. Two additional pieces of information come to us from family folklore. One is that old Thibeau had an accent that others found difficult to understand. The second is that he was somehow connected to the army. One version is that his nickname was RAMÉ (l'armée). Another is that he had a uniform or some other memorabilia in the attic. How accurate these are remains to be seen.



*John Henry & Margaret Ann Thibeau, grand parents of Paul Touesnard. Descendents of the first Thibeau's.*

If one begins from the premise that Jacob's last name really was Thibeau then it is likely that he is somehow connected to the other Thibeau Acadian families that had inhabited the lands around the Bay of Fundy prior to the deportation in 1755. By the 1780's some Thibeaus had returned to Nova Scotia and settled in Clare (between Digby and Yarmouth). Others had returned to Québec and settled in Bécancour near Trois-Rivières.

Much revolves around his name. The name JACOB is not French/Acadian however its later variation JEAN JACQUES is. The reference to being a native of Spain is problematic. If this reference is correct then some possibilities include fishing, army/navy deserter, etc. The Basques from northern Spain had had contact with North America

for centuries. Was the last name Thibaut or Chibaut? Or has the name been altered in the same way Giovanni Caboto became John Cabot. The majority of the evidence suggests that his name was JEAN JACQUES THIBEAU and was descended from the Acadians. One possible resolution to the native of Spain is that Florida was a Spanish colony from 1783-1821, which covered his birth period and early life. His connection to the army if it existed still remains a mystery. Some possibilities include English, French, Spanish, American, etc. He lived in interesting time (Napoleonic Wars, War of 1812, etc.) and was the right age to have fought in some of these battles. The search continues...*Paul Touesnard*

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## Bits and Bites!

- CWL Provincial Convention June 8, 9, 10 at Mount St. Vincent University.
  - CWL meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bras D'or Lake Inn. This is a buffet luncheon meeting.
  - June Schedule for 50+ Club- 45 Card games every Sunday at 7:30pm. Monthly meeting on June 4 at 1:30. Monthly mini bingo on Wednesday June 12. Special merchandise bingo at Tara Lynne on Saturday, June 23 at 2pm. Cribbage Game at 7pm on June 18.
  - The Parish Council is accepting applications from Grade 12 students for their annual \$200. Bursary. Church and Community involvement and volunteer activity are all considered assets. Resumes may be forwarded to Valerie Cunningham or Fr. Sandy MacNeil before June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Community Services Society awards two \$200 scholarships to two students who are involved in community volunteer activities and extra curricular activities. Students wishing to apply should submit a resume to secretary, Joseph MacPhee, before June 13.
  - [C@P](#) site meeting June 13 at 7:30 p.m. The Round Up is available at Howard's Grocery or First Richmond Credit Union for \$1.00 and subscriptions are available for \$12.00 per year.
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