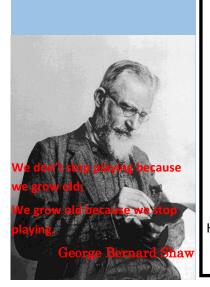


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Greetings. I started this letter on the May long weekend. The smoke from over 500 burning fires is very strong in Edmonton. A few years ago - 45 to be exact - I was standing in an old church getting married; the temperature was a hot 30-plus degrees Celsius, there were no fires and not a cloud in the sky. Is this climate change?

President's Message

- Lots of good things are happening in our Pensioners Association:
- The new National website "cnpensioners.org" is much easier to view and explore.
 - There are new discounts from Budget and Avis for car rentals.
 - The scholarship site is open for applications until mid August. There is \$1,500 for five lucky children or grandchildren of paid-up members on the Mountain Region (Alberta and B.C.) Details, forms, etc. are located on the National website. Applicants require pensioner's name, PIN, and location. If you have any questions reach out to anyone on the local executive. A new person on the selection committee is John Wiebe.
- Employees and pensioners are encouraged to join the Corporate Challenge in Edmonton which is being held mid May to mid June. Bingo, horseshoes, pickle ball, blood donations are some of the events.
- We have been having good monthly meetings with a few new members attending. We have had good guest speakers and lots of extra door prizes.
- We have designed shirts with the CNPA logo and are selling them at our general meetings for \$20.
- Our big Summer Windup will take place in June. We found a spot at Rundle Park and building restrictions only allow for 125 people. Admission will be with advance-ticket sales only as we cannot allow people to just show up at the park. We have been preselling tickets with food vouchers at our last few meetings. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter.
- We will be having elections in the fall for five National positions on the Mountain Region - National Director, Alternate National Director, Health Care Representative, alternate Health Care Representative, and alternate Pension Committee Representative. All are for three-year terms. If interested please contact me for more information.
- Big change we have voted to stop printing future newsletters except by request only. Please read complete notice elsewhere in the newsletter.
 Have a safe summer.

Al Vodden

Your Executive

President Al Vodden, 780-489-7027 alvodden@gmail.com

Vice President Bruce Macdonald

Recording Secretary Mary Jean Strachan maryjeanstrachan@shaw.

Treasurer John Wiebe 780-460-9202 jjwiebe2@gmail.com

Membership Secretary Peter Treloar 587-338-6014 petertre76@gmail.com

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National Council's Co-Chair, Memberships

Peter Moloney 780-418-0443 peter.moloney14@gmail.com

Auditor

Joe English 780-458-7691 jefco@telusplanet.net

Your Stories

In 1982 a friend Emily Newbigging was working at CN and suggested I tried get a job there. My children were in grade 1 and kindergarten so I thought I could manage it.



I applied and got the job. I started out in the Diesel shop office and moved into the office with the shop foreman Stan Cherkas, I

worked a swing shift which was Thursday 4-8, Friday 4-8, Saturday 8-4, Sunday 8-4 and Sunday midnight to 8 a.m. difficult indeed but I was home with the kids most of the week. All was great till one day I was told I was bumped. I didn't know what that meant but soon found out, I was displaced by a senior clerk and had no where to go but on the floor as a labourer in the Trip Centre on midnights. Well I'll tell you climbing up and down sometimes 40 units a night to sand or clean windows sure got you in shape.

One time I was called into the shop by the foreman and asked to go mop the oil out of a compressor unit (can't remember what they were called) anyway I am mopping away and there was a big bump and next thing I know a unit had hooked up and was pulling me out to the yard, a little scary to say the least.

From there I went to the East tower and worked in Engineering for awhile then the Call Centre, then at the CN Tower in Automotive.

I was also lucky enough to work on the road as a Timekeeper for the extra gangs and this is where I met my future husband who also had a long history with CN. We both agree working for CN was an enjoyable and positive experience.

Trudie Snider

Save The Date!!! Future Meetings To Look Forward To

Wednesday June 14th – General Meeting 1:30 pm Guest Speaker – Dave Koski from The Estate House Everything you wanted to know about Wills and Estates Do you really need to write a Will? Pros and Cons! Here is your chance to ask an expert!

July & August – Summer Break - NO Meetings!!!

Wednesday September 13th – General Meeting 1:30 pm Guest Speaker – Carol Hayley from Christenson Developments Why choose Christenson Developments when it's time to move to a "Retirement Community"

Wednesday October 11th – Luncheon Meeting starting at 11:00 am No Guest Speaker

Wednesday November 8th– General Meeting 1:30 pm Guest Speaker – Representative from The Veteran's Food Bank Not just a food bank! Assisting Veteran's in any way needed. Learn how we can help as the date gets closer!

Rocky Mountaineer CN Retiree Discounts

Rocky Mountaineer is pleased to offer their rail partners reduced rate options. These options are offered when space allows, as they feel it is important for you to personally experience their trains and their amenities.

Bookings are subject to the regular Rocky Mountaineer Terms and Conditions, including cancellation policy. You can view their website, including their terms and conditions, at <u>https://www.rockymountaineer.com/terms-conditions</u>.

This reduced rate program is made available to CN Employees, and CNPA contributing members, and bookings must be paid for immediately by credit card.

The reduced rate is valid for the Rail Employee/CNPA contributing member and one travel companion.

All reduced rate requests are subject to the following terms and conditions: Reduced rate space is capacity controlled and may be withdrawn at any time with, or without notice. Rocky Mountaineer reserves the right to add, change or modify reduced rate conditions at any time, without notification, other restrictions apply. Confirmed bookings are not subject to the cancellation under this provision.

Rocky Mountaineer is pleased to offer reduced rates for the 2023 season For Travel on Select Dates through October 2023

Vacation Packages	20% discount off the full retail rate
Two & Three-Day Rail – SilverLeaf or GoldLeaf Service*	50% discount off the full retail rate when booked less than 45 days to departure
Two & Three-Day Rail –	20% discount off the full retail rate when
SilverLeaf or GoldLeaf Service*	booked more than 45 days to departure

*Overnight accommodation in Kamloops or Glenwood Springs included; one night in Quesnel and Whistler for Rainforest to Gold Rush journeys. Discount is not applicable to SilverLeaf Plus on the Rockies to the Red Rocks route. Discounted reservations cannot be combined with any other promotional discounts.

To view our most up to date health and safety protocols, including COVID-19 protocols, please visit <u>www.RockyMountaineer.com/onboard-experience/health-safety</u>.

To book, contact their Vacation Consultants at the numbers below. You will be required to fax or email proof of your CNPA membership prior to the discount being applied to your reservation. They have been provided a copy of our CNPA membership card as the only standard of proof that will be accepted for this purpose.

Toll-Free USA & Canada: 1.800.665.7245

Email: reservations@rockymountaineer.com

Hours of Operation: Sunday 08:00–22:00 PT, Monday to Thursday 06:00–22:00 PT, Friday 06:00–18:00 PT, Saturday 08:00–16:00 PT



NEW CN PENSIONERS DISCOUNT ! - FALL DETECTION - HOLO ALERT

"Holo Alert is a Canadian owned and operated medical alert systems provider, specializing in mobile fall detection devices for seniors. Holo's alert systems come with automatic fall detection and GPS, allowing you to use the safety device anywhere throughout Canada and the United States. From a neck worn pendant to a modern wristwatch, Holo's fall detection devices bring peace of mind to those at risk of falling. CN Pensioners are entitled to a free device (\$199 savings) as well as a 25% discount on the monthly monitoring service. Get started for only \$44.99 per month (discount included) with your CN Pensioners Discount."



Matthew Toth	Ph.	<u>780-686-1352</u>
Holo Alert	Email.	<u>mtoth@myholo.ca</u>
SeniorrSafety Security	Web	<u>www.myholo.ca</u>

New Members Since January 2023

Ken Altrogge Kathy Ball Edna Bruckmann Maria DeRosa

Jeanne Golden Tsilya Gorodetsky Doug Kehler Renee Knight

Apr 1

Gloria Murtagh Dan Ritchie James Seward Darrell Shivak

Maria Tavano Gail Whiteman Evelyn Wolinski

MILESTONES April 2022-October 2022

Marjorie Pylypow

Anne Zawadiuk

85 Years Old

Stanley R. Chajkowski
Irene Eyre
Norma Sturgeon
Jennie Marko
Daniel Martinuik
Lois Campbell
Diaun Rondeau
Mae Hyland
Kim Yun Cgong Tsen
Matilde Ferreira
Barbara Ashwell
Darlene Middleton
Harold Tipler
Dorothy Jean Tipler
Hildegard Weintz
Victor P. Iwaniuk
Vicki Martinuik
Marlene Davies
Norman Fossheim
Marlene Thompson
Robert G. McMillan
Donna Thompson
Doug Parr
John Magyar

90 Years Old

Ruby Ann Havell	Apr 17
Harvey Soltis	Apr 19
Morris E. Davidson	May 8
Irene Donison	May 12
Walter A. Footz	May 12
Steve Wischer	May 24
Pietrina Carducci	Jun 29
Ewald Lange	Jul 1

Frances Berry Apr 3 Emilyan Arseniuk Jul 31 Apr 3 Josephine Soetaert Aug 6 Apr 19 Adelina Titowich Aug 8 Apr 29 Elva Ruth Brundage Aug 10 May 2 John B. Andrus Sep 9 May 18 John Brunetta Sep 14 May 20 Andre R. Johnson Sep 26 May 22 Alice McGeachy Oct 3 Jun 6 Kay Sivak Oct 8 Jun 9 Maxine Hadlev Oct 12 Jun 11 Maureen Wischer Oct 12 Jun 15 Nancy Loveiov Oct 20 Jun 19 Melvin O. Hauer Oct 24 Jun 22 95 Years Old Jul 11 Jul 28 Frances O'Hara Jun 6 Aug 8 Josephine Hawley Jun 25 Aug 13 Eva Dixon Aug 12 Aug 26 Ahfoo Yong Aug 13 Sep 16 Jean Semeniuk Aug 14 Sep 18 Aug 19 Velma Romney Sep 22 Irene Russell Aug 25 Oct 15 Shirley V. McConaghy Aug 31 **Betty McQuarrie** Sep 6 Apr 17

100 Years Old

Aug 14

Joyce A. Tilley

50 Years Married

Randy & Janice Gelasco Apr 7 Jun 29 Douglas & Barbara Daymond Apr 28 Jul 1 Paul & Gail Estell May 5

Jul 18	Ronald & Phyllis Lemaire May 5
Jul 25	Peter & Debbie Klippenstein Jun 8
Jul 29	Shakoor A. & Firdous Uppal Jun 21
Jul 31	David & Dorothy Marquis Jun 22
Aug 6	Lawrence & Christine GizowskiJul 7
Aug 8	Kenneth & Donna Hofforth Jul 28
Aug 10	Peter & Lynne Maennchen Jul 28
Sep 9	David L. & Sylvia James Aug 11
Sep 14	Paul J. & Katharine MathiesonAug 25
$Sep \ 26$	Blaine & Donna McGowan Sep 1
Oct 3	Kris & Seeta Rambaransingh Oct 12

60 Years Married

Elias & Sharon Palichuk Apr 11 Charles & Vivian Mallett Apr 27 Larry W. & Gloria Forbes May 18 Antonio & Rosina Bruni-BossioJun 22 Edward & Elizabeth Tchir Jul 13 Herman & Bonnie Ryksen Jul 13 Earle B. & Dorothy Irvine Aug 3 Jack & Phyllis Van Uffelen Aug 10 Norman R. & Eleanor KubishAug 24 Harvey & Betty Soltis Aug 31 Robert & Joan Van Dyk Sep 12 Walter & Florence Pich Sep 21 James & Joy Leskewich Sep 27 Eleanor & John (Jack) McLeodSep 28 Walter & Sarah Burry Oct 5 Robert & Patricia Watson Oct 19

70 Years Married

Jules J. & Josephine Soetaert Jul 18

CN Pensioners' Help Line



For questions regarding your pension or rail pass and to report contact information including change of address, power of attorney or death involving a CN pensioner, please call CN Pension Administration at 1-800-361-0739. Have your CN PIN (SRB) number handy. As Pensions Administration does not pass along pensioner information to the RailVets please also advise Peter Treloar at 587-338-6014 of any changes.

Spring 2023



Ghounem Abosaid Jinatalli Alwani Dinis Anastacio Gordon Ball Janet Barker Anthony Barter

Doreen Belland

Arthur Berard Doris Brown Gunter Bruckmann Anita Bruneau

Bruce Cail George Carlson **David Carrington** Larry Cartier Theresa Chang Perry Chudek Peter Chychul Tony DeRosa John Dubé Lawrence Edgarson Loretta Edgarson

Marc Faulkner Suzet Fernandes

Dudley Findlay Ray Golden

Helene Griffin

Hanna Hepperle Elaine Hrychyk Shirley Hudson

Ini Jager

Robert Johnson

Shirley Johnston Lucille Kidd

Track Maintenance Heavy Duty Mechanic, Calder Trackman, Calder Machanic, Diesel Shop, Edmonton

Machine Operator, Work Equipment, Edmonton Widow of Peter, AAR Biller, Edmonton Crew Dispatcher, Edmonton

Hostler, Edmonton Widow of Denis, Carman - Shop Foreman, McLennan Asst. Superintendant, Edmonton Yardmaster, Edmonton Machine Operator, Edmonton Machine Operator

Carman, Car shop, Edmonton Supervisor, CN Express, Edmonton Carman. Edmonton CN Police. Edmonton Conductor, Jasper Widow of Lawrence, Conductor, Edmonton Assistant Yardmaster, Edmonton Widow of Manuel, Track Maintenance, Calgary S&C Technician Intermodal Operations Supervisor, Edmonton Widow of Donald, Yard Foreman Clover Bar

Widow of Mike Widow of John "Jack" Hudson, Locomotive Engineer, Jasper Widow of Ted, Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton Mechanical Engineer -Construction, Edmonton Widow of Stanley Widow of Harry, S&C Maintainer, Camrose

Leo Kirsch **Robert Leveque** Thelma Litwinowich

Nancy Lovejoy James MacDonald Mohamed Mouallem John Mroczek Garth Nightingale Selwyn Pascal Antonio Pavao Patrick Perdue Julianna Perks

Ron Pienig

Harold Pike Bernard Plaquin

Justin Richards

Jean Rogers Ollie Rosnyk

Hassan Smiley Bertha Sonnenberg James Stevenson Allan Stovko

Emily Strocki **Butch Whiteman** Alyce Wooldridge

Diane Yeo

Kenneth Zook

Our sympathies go out to Bob Gregory, Manager Production – Engineering, Edmonton upon the death of his wife Janet and to John Ciesla, Track Foreman, Whitecourt, on the death of his wife Margaret.

Track Maintainer, Wainwright

Crew Dispatcher, Edmonton Widow of John, Manager, Intermodal Sales, Edmonton Widow of Donald Smith Engineer, Edmonton Hostler, Calder Forman, Vermilion Crew Scheduling, Edmonton Extra Gang Labourer, Edmonton Diesel Shop Labourer, Walker Carman, Edmonton Widow of Frederick, Trans. Service Rep., Three Hills Manager Work Equip. Western Region S&C Sr. Technician. Edmonton Customer Service Representative, Edmonton Special Project Officer -Purchasing, Edmonton Widow of Merville, Electrician Widow of William, Car Control Clerk. Edmonton Labourer. Edmonton Widow of William. Section Foreman, Camrose Bernice Stelmaczoner Widow of Joseph, Carman Helper, Edmonton Machine Operator Operator, Edmonton Widow of Nick, Express Clerk, Edmonton Coordinator, Service Integrity, Edmonton Widow of Henry, Lead Hand Mechanic, Acheson Widow of Marvin, Tax Agent, Edmonton

Flower Fund Report

The Edmonton RailVets' like to recognize members' milestone Birthdays and Anniversaries; we would like to send you flowers on your 85th, 90th, 95th, and 100th birthday and also on your 50th, 60th and 70th anniversary. Between the months of January and December 2023, the Flower Fund had flowers delivered as follows:

Month	Flowers	Gift Cards	Unable to Contact
January	6	2	6
February	10	0	4
March	11	3	3
April	8	2	2

Note:

Recipients, unable to contact - (not answering their phone, not responding to voicemail message, on vacation, contact information out of date, moved.)

Recipients, outside of the Edmonton area, will be sent a Gift Card in lieu of flowers, when their current address can be verified.

We cannot recognize your significant event unless we have the event data and your current address, please keep us informed – email Peter Treloar at <u>petertre@gmail.com</u> or phone 587-338-6014 to update your status.

One Hell of a Hot Day

Back in the 1960's, the way to get from 'A' to "B' was by track motor car. That's the method CN's Division Engineer's office used and that's what I was riding on one afternoon headed to Wainwright from Edmonton. It was hot (very hot). Three men sent to do a job somewhere along the Viking subdivision.

We had obtained our line-up from the dispatcher. We knew how many trains we were expected to meet, when and where. We also knew that on that list was the Way Freight whose daily routine included picking up grain cars at various elevators along the way. Everyone knew that Way Freights were not at all predictable when it came to "when" and "where." So, all three of us kept a sharp eye out for his headlight and whistle. We knew that if we met him we had to act quickly to get out of his way, "or else." Standard procedure called for removal at a take-off stand (if available) or, failing that, a plank road crossing (if available) or, failing that "using your imagination" (if available). So … guess what! On a long, super-elevated mainline curve with 40-foot embankments on both sides, we see him bearing down on us out of nowhere - whistle blowing fiercely. WE SLAM ON THE BRAKES! One man (me) pulls the handles and turns 90 degrees. Second man grabs the return handles and, with all his strength, lifts the motor car over the rails on the downhill side of the embankment.

In our haste, my body ended up under the motor car, my head pointed toward the sun, just seconds before the engine went by. I lay there, panic-stricken, waiting for the full train to pass. It finally did, an all was quiet and peaceful once again. Time to get back to work so I wiggled, inch by inch, from under the weight of the machine, and finally was able to stand up. WHAT WE DIDN'T REALIZE was that man #3 (last man off) had failed to engage the hand brake. The added movement of my body started the machine in motion DOWN THE EMBANKMENT TO THE DITCH BELOW1 The farther it went, the faster it went, all three of us chasing it down the steep incline - all to no avail.

After 50-odd years, my memory is dim as to how long it took us that HOT, HOT afternoon to work that machine, inch by inch, back up to the rails. I do remember other trains going by and the engineers waving at us with big grins on their faces. I also remember having a very late supper that night. ENOUGH SAID! Them were the days my friends - we thought they'd never end. YUP! THEM WERE THE DAYS!

Harold Tipler

Spring 2023

Summer Wind-up

The Edmonton RailVets "Summer Wind-up" event will be held on Wednesday June 21st 1000 - 1400 Rundle Park, at the Rundle Family Centre for RailVet contributing members and one guest. In order to prevent cancellation due to inclement weather we will be using the Rundle Family Centre which will accommodate 125 participants. An entry fee of \$10 per person will be charged to help with the added costs. Ample vehicle parking is available at the site in the designated parking lot.

The Rundle Family Centre, located in Rundle Park -2903 - 113 Ave, Edmonton, will set up enough tables and chairs to accommodate 125 guests indoors, surrounded by huge windows and doorways overseeing a large patio area and green space with outdoor picnic tables. Garbage cans are provided to help keep the site clean and orderly.

Each attendee must have purchased a ticket before the event; the color of the ticket will reflect your menu selection. The ticket holder will be entitled to one entree, one fry and one cold beverage. The cost of this will be covered by the Edmonton RailVets.

This event will be catered by Fat Franks Food Truck. They will be offering 4 different menu options:

first menu option: hot dog, fries, and a pop, second menu option: chicken strips (4), fries, and a pop, third menu option: cheese burger, fries, and a pop, fourth menu option: smokie, fries, and a pop.

The cost of these menu items is included with the purchase of a ticket. Coffee, tea and water will be available continuously free of charge. In order to provide Fat Frank's an estimate of food required, you will be required to indicate your food preference when purchasing your ticket.

Tickets will be available at our General Meeting held on June 14th. Due to limited space; only 125 tickets will be available, once they are sold sales will be discontinued.

This will be a social event giving attendees a chance to visit and renew acquaintances. Due to Covid and/or inclement weather we have not hosted an outdoor meeting for the past 5 years and this will be an opportunity to see old friends and workmates again. Getting together, sharing a few stories, catch up on what is happening in your lives and sharing food will be the main event. Due to limited space and the number of attendees, no entertainment in the form of games will be provided.



Tribute to Butch

Butch Whiteman - where do we start to appropriately pay tribute to Butch Whiteman and to recognize all his many, many years of dedicated service for the CN Pensioners Association?

Butch retired from CN in April of 1996 and has been a valued member of our association throughout his retirement. Well known and well liked by everyone he worked with at CN and with the RailVets, Butch passed away March 19th; a family celebration of life will be held for him in British Columbia this summer.

Butch was very involved in our organization and in his various roles speaking for and advising us on pension matters, health care benefits, social activities and all other relevant matters. His involvement was at all three levels of our association - national, regional and local. He served as Pension Representative on the National Council and served many years on the executive of the Edmonton Council; he was instrumental in setting up the Mountain Region Council and served multiple three-year terms there as both Director and Chairman.



Because of his vast knowledge and wealth of information, Butch was our go -to guy for everything. At meetings he offered great ideas, always had input or suggestions and was not afraid to present an opposing viewpoint or think outside the box to offer alternative solutions. He spent countless hours working behind the scenes fielding individual requests for information, answering questions, dealing with concerns and keeping members well informed. For every printing of our newsletter he spent three or four days sending emails to approximately 1200 members; emails were also sent regarding pertinent matters that occurred between editions. He recently took it upon himself to send a welcome email to new members.

Dependable, dedicated, knowledgeable, fun, kind, irreplaceable - we will miss our fellow railroader and good friend ... a good man who will be sorely missed by all who knew him!

This edition of *RailVets' News* will be the last printed mail-out. Three editions are published each each year - fall, winter and spring - and currently 1116 members receive their copy by email while 1062 still receive their newsletter by postal service; there are 54 with invalid email addresses.

Primarily because of the cost to produce a printed copy (approximately \$5700 in 2022), it has been decided that those members who have been receiving their newsletters by email will still receive them by email; those without email access or those who have not indicated an email address must contact any member of the executive to specifically request they need to receive a printed copy of future editions. It is also important to advise Peter Treloar (587-338-6014) of any change to an email address.

All future editions will be published and sent only by email to those who already have provided email addresses and to those who make the request for printed copies.