



CN RAILVETS OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA E2
June 2021 Volume 11 Issue 2

From the Presidents' Desk: It's now early June and is it finally Spring...to stay? Unlike earlier in the 'spring' when it went from t-shirts to parkas overnight, with shoveling to boot! And now we seem to be in the 'spring' rainy season. Glad my yard needs the water as it's been soaking up everything sprinkled (and poured) on it so I've had no issues with 'flooding' in the yard. Spring flowers put on a show and now I'm deadheading the lot while waiting for the next round of flowers. Now that it is spring-to-stay I find in mid-May we're now plunged into the heat of summer; the high twenties and above are not my favorite but it beats the cold so I'm coping by hiding indoors on the hottest days. I trust everyone is or has received their Covid-19 vaccine shot(s). The vaccine plus masks, social distancing and hand washing or sanitizing will help reduce our infection rate and hopefully allow us to return to a semblance of normal. Maybe in time for summer get-togethers 😊. Unfortunately, though not in time for our annual *Picnic IN the Kerby*. When the first restrictions were in place, the Kerby let me know we could only have 5 people in the room and there would be a mandatory cleaning charge applied as well. That number of people does not make a quorum for us so it was decided that we would forego all meetings until we could have sufficient people present and I did not feel we had any pressing issues that would require Zoom meetings. I will be checking with the Kerby soon to ascertain information regarding their re-opening and the safety protocols that would be in place. Definitely a fluid situation so whatever information I receive, it could be changed by the time our September meeting (13th) rolls around. Phone calls to the usual attendees will be made if we can hold this meeting; anyone else that wishes to attend will have to call one of the executive prior to that date. As always, stay safe this summer and enjoy our latest round of freedoms, maybe even hug and kiss those grandkids! Comments? Complaints? Suggestions? Just want to say hi? Sincerely, Judy Woods, President E2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Possible Dates upcoming

Effective June 14th the Kerby Café is open for dining in and take away, open from 0800 to 1400 (2PM). They have also opened meeting rooms to religious organizations at this point (they must have that extra layer of protection?). The Wellness Foot Care Clinic and the Woodshop are also open, by appointment only. Pencil in September 13th at 13:00 as I just booked our room but changes may happen. Stay tuned!

EXECUTIVE

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Alan G. White

In Memory of Al White, the local has donated \$100 to the Kerby Centre in his honour. I'm sure 'Whitey' would have liked that. B

All meetings are currently depending on restrictions.
NEXT MEETING: to be determined in room 208
on the first Monday of the month except September when it is the 2nd Monday. No meetings July or August.
MEETING LOCATION: Room 208, Kerby Centre, 1133-7 Avenue SW (403-705-3248) **TIME:13:00.**

All published CNPA newsletters can be read at cnpensioners.org.

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The Membership of E2 welcomes our New Members

- Claude Landry

Happy Birthday wishes to:

Tom Lefley, March 30/21 89 years

Claire Roberts April 19/21 90 years

George Ellis April 23/21 70 years

Judy Woods April 27/21 70 years (a mere child in this group)

Bill Smith June 19/21 97 years young

Berth Esplen July 26/21 95 years young

Nelson Roberts Sept 7/21 90 years

Emerson 'Red' Robinson Sept 23/21 88 years

Martha Anna Robinson Dec 7/21 88 years

To anyone else that had a birthday during this pandemic, you must be doing a good job keeping yourself healthy, so keep up the good work!

Anniversary congratulations to:

Emerson and Martha Anna Robinson Oct 5/21 65 years
(thanks for the call and these important dates)

If you have an upcoming anniversary that you would like to see here, please inform us. We do not have access to your birth or anniversary dates!

Obituaries: The Membership of E2 extends their sincerest sympathies to the family and friends of:

- Garth Macdonald April 27th /21 -89 years

Insurance Rant, As Usual

I had recently received a call from a member, inquiring about some contacts for insurance firms. He had been with the same company for decades, and on account of his change of address, his firm was jacking up his rates by 40%, on account of the numerous hail claims from that part of the city. What struck me odd about this was that he was only insuring for PL and PD (the actual driving coverage) and hail coverage is under the comprehensive part of the insurance policy, so why would the driving part of the policy be hit with an increase?

I asked this question to my agent, and he said that yes, hail claims should have no bearing on the cost of the driving part of the policy, but the reality is that some (all?) companies are making up for their losses by jacking up other parts of their policies!! Boy it sure would be nice again to have a provincial government that put a cap on rampant insurance rate hikes.

Observations of the pandemic

I did an informal survey of some members and acquaintances on their vaccine rates, 100% have had 1 shot, 80 % have had both, with the remaining 20% booked or waiting to book. So I'd say were doing our part, are you? But we are not over this yet, people are still getting infected and passing it on to others, so be careful and smart out there, you've lived this long being smart about life.

Membership Advantages Many of our fellow CN pensioners are still not contributing members of the CNPA. The Scholarship Committee will deny any applications sent by non-contributing members children or grandchildren. **Only** contributing members receive the annual CN calendar, delivered to your home – for only \$1/month. They recently added an association with a travel discount company, Colette Travel plus the opportunity to join the CNPA Blue Cross plan when you initially retire. Be a promoter of the CNPA and encourage any non-members you know to call Brian Woods 403-280-9107 where, for that mere \$1/month (by PRD), they will become members. Also, they'll receive a copy of this wonderful newsletter! **Please Note:** Membership for a Spouse or survivor is **not automatic**, but they are invited to attend meetings (no voting unless in good standing - paying that is) and special events. **Social memberships** are also available (\$10 paid to us annually), this entitles the member to attend all functions of the local, and vote on local, non-CNPA, matters. Matters of the CNPA may only be voted on by the Pensioner or the surviving spouse per the constitution.

New incentive to join – There is currently an offer of a two-year FREE membership so let's chat up anyone about to retire!

CN Pensioners' Help Line answers *all* questions regarding your pension or rail pass. It's also where you report any changes (addresses, power of attorney, etc.) also the death of any Pensioner. *Have the pensioners' PIN (SRB) ready!* **Call Morneau Shepell at 1-800-361-0739, toll free.** If in doubt please call Brian Woods, 403-280-9107, for clarification of some (not all) of your questions.

HOW DO YOU GET THIS NEWSLETTER?

1. by **Canada Post** (most expensive, our least desirable),
2. by accessing it yourself on **cnpensioners.org**,
3. by receiving it directly in your **email** in-basket from our local council (best choice for us). Please advise Brian Woods at 403-280-9107 or woodsbi@nucleus.com if this option works for you.

**NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE THE FOLLOWING TIMES:
February, June and October**

CNPA Scholarship Program 2021

CNPA Scholarships will only accept on-line applications until August 15, 2021, so I urge all members having eligible family members to encourage them to go to the CNPA website, cnpensioners.org, and familiarize themselves with the requirements then make sure to submit all documents prior to the closing date. This is the last reminder before I announce the winners in the October newsletter!

Emerson 'Red' Robinson

Just after the last newsletter, I had a nice chat with retired locomotive engineer 'Red' Robinson of Hanna. He reiterated that he retired from CN in 1990 then heard about a need for experienced personnel for the operation of a steam locomotive for the Alberta Prairie Railway out of Stettler. After telling one of the owners, Don Gillespie (a Stettler grocery store owner) about his work with CN, he was hired on the spot. No references, no nothing required! So began his adventures with the Alberta Prairie Railway. About half the visitors to this railway have a keen interest in steam so often engage the crew in conversations. One such visitor turned out to be the Launch Pad Supervisor at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, himself the son of an American railway worker. At the end of their conversation, an invitation for a tour of the Space Centre was offered if Red ever made it to Florida. At the time that didn't seem to be a possibility, but that trip eventually turned out to be a reality. Red and Martha were treated to a very personal, behind the scenes tour of the Space Centre and he was even photographed in a space suit! Now that would be picture 😊!

Speaking of...

The Alberta Prairie Railway turned 30 in 2019 (began in 1989). Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 and various restrictions, the 2020 season was almost non-existent. They have posted a tentative re-opening schedule for 2021 so here's hoping! Volunteers with that organization are currently fundraising to complete 30km of track from Stettler to Donalda. They've reached the halfway point at Red Willow and the project continues. Is this something that we, as retired rail persons, would like to contribute to? If so, please let Brian or I know and we'll look into it.

Rocky Mountaineer CN Retiree Discount

Rocky Mountaineer is pleased to offer their rail partners reduced rate options. These options are offered when space allow, as they feel it is important for you to personally experience their trains and amenities. Bookings are subject to their regular Terms and Conditions, including cancellation policy. To view their website visit www.rockymountaineer.com. This reduced rate program is available to CN Employees and CNPA contributing members and is valid for the Rail Employee/CNPA contributing member plus one travel companion. Valid for travel on select dates from July to October 2021. For information and booking 1-800-665-7245, email reservations@rockymountaineer.com. If any of our readers decide to take them up on this offer, please take many pictures and call me with the details of your trip. It can even be anonymous if you're still on the run from the law!

On this day in Canadian history in 1919 Canadian National Railways was incorporated, thus becoming the longest railway system in North America.



To All CN Pensioners

June 6 was CN's 102nd birthday and doesn't look a day over 100! In honour of this special day, declared *CN In Your Community Day* for the Company's 100th anniversary in 2019, we invite all pensioners and their families to create a legacy of meaningful impact in their communities by giving back. Here are some ideas on how you can make a difference by June 10 (sadly your editor wasn't quick enough to get this newsletter done, sorry. I'll pencil it in for next year.):

- Become a CN Railroader in the Community and give the gift of your time to a local non-profit.
- Make a donation to your favourite charity or organize a fundraiser to support a cause close to your heart.
- Give a virtual rail safety presentation at a local school.
- Get involved and you could be eligible for several bonus draws for extra donations from CN to your favourite charity – don't miss the opportunity to help a worthy organization even more. To learn more on how you can participate and share, visit: www.cn.ca/caringtogether.

Thank you for your continuous support in making our communities better places to live, work and play.
Bruce Anderson, Railroaders in the Community
Yves Bourdon, CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund

CLAIRE & LOIS DEWAR- RODEO ROYALTY



Left is Claire, right is Lois. Note they are wearing pale blue satin outfits because there was no smooth, stretchy fabric available at the time.

The Dewar sisters grew up on a mixed ranch/farm operation in Hoosier, Sask. with their older brother, and fellow 2009 inductee, Don. Not long after the girls first learned to walk, they found themselves riding horses bareback around the homestead, and after they saw pictures of vaulting in the rodeo magazines brought home by their brother, the duo got a little more daring and started developing their own stunts, achieving fame as the Daring Dewar Sisters. He also informed them that trick riders were paid in the US so the sisters headed off to Calgary and Riley & McCormicks to have saddles made. In the early '50s, they became the first female trick riders in Canada and performed their daring stunts at stampedes, parades and fairs across North America, working with rodeo promoters and stock contractors like Harry Vold, Reg Kesler and Jerry Myers, who the Dewars now follow into the Hall of Fame. They were inducted into the Canadian Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2009. They were also spokesmodels for GWG Jeans.

Lois moved to the States in 1958, but the pair continued to perform together and often competed in ladies barrel racing events. Claire was instrumental in forming the Saskatchewan

Girls Barrel Racing Association, and Lois won that provincial title twice. Lois later started the Cutting Horse Futurity show in southern Alberta, now run by the Calgary Stampede. She remained on staff as barn manager her retirement. Claire helped organize the annual horse show in Fiske, SK, not far from Rosetown, where the Dewar Sisters performed for their first paying audience. Claire now resides in Airdrie, AB and still enjoys riding horses. They also shared their knowledge with enthusiastic trick riding students like Sandy and Leanne Short, who went on to become internationally renowned trick riders in their own right. Sadly, Lois passed away on January 29, 2011, at age 79 years.

CN Pensioners Update – May 2021– Blake Olson

CN Pension Committee, May 26, 2021 - Highlights

The Committee Members met virtually again for both a pre-meeting and the regular meeting attended by regular and alternate members. 1. During pre-meeting discussions, we reviewed member specific training on pension plan knowledge and understanding. CN is looking at implementing this later this year. We also discussed how certain Union Pensioner committee members are chosen. 2. Following the standard review/approval of the member pensions for Feb/March/April 2021, we had a presentation report on the *Actuarial Valuation of the Plan for year end 2020 by the Mercer actuaries*. Highlights are: a) While most people like lower interest rates, to the Plan it means higher service cost payments for CN. It also means slightly lower escalation and improvement accounts. B) 2020 **Pension Plan Investment**, as we reported in March, were STRONG with a 12.4% return beating the general pension marketplace returns. This despite a tumultuous year with COVID-19. c) The plan is **FULLY FUNDED** with a “Going Concern” of 12.6% and “Solvency Ratio” of 102% - We continue to be one of the better performing Plans in Canada. d) If all goes well, eligible members will likely see a **Pension INCREASE** on January 1, 2022 due to inflation indexing. More on that in September. e) **ACTIVE Plan Membership continues to FALL** – with reduced CN hiring, reduced management people allowed to join our plan and fewer retirements. This group now stands at just under 15,000 f) The **average age of active members** is now 39 down from 44 in year 2000, and the average service is 10 years down from 20 years in 2000. g) Our **Pensioner population** continued its sharp decline, with only 438 NEW pensioners and 1900 deaths, when you add the survivors, our number of actual pensioners dropped by about 900 net and now stands at 32,400. This is a REDUCTION of 30% over 20 years. h) The **average age of active pensioners** has risen by a full 2 years over 20 years to 76.3. i) While lower membership numbers may be of concern our Plan continues to be well managed and fully funded. 3. We reviewed the NEW **2020 Pensioners Annual Report** which all members will receive in early July. It has a new easier to understand format and design and is impressive. 4. There was considerable news coverage about

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CN's handling of a same sex pensioner. CN reported on the resolution of these cases. 5. As we move out of COVID-19 restrictions, the Committee will continue to meet twice a year virtually and then twice a year in person. This will reduce costs to CN for travel.

Health Care Meeting – May 27 Highlights 1. The committee reviewed the **final full year financial results** for 2020 - The results were just slightly better than budget with a small surplus. Ontario, Quebec and the western provinces each generated a small surplus. BC was slightly below budget (-3%). However, the deficit trend started in 2015 in the Atlantic Provinces continued (-12%). 2. We reviewed the impact of **HIGH CLAIMANTS** on the Plan finances. 134 members (of 23,310) claimed \$3.5 M, or 20% of ALL member claims. 54 of the 134 were in the Atlantic Provinces and represented 44% of all national and 46% of all regional costs. 30 each were from Ontario and Quebec, and the remaining 20 distributed in the western provinces. The committee looked at the **demographic trend analysis** of the Plan members against the rising costs of Drugs and the high claimants. 3. The implementation of **MAIL ORDER PHARMACY** options has been positive with the number of subscribers increasing. Feedback has been generally positive as are member and Plan savings. We need to continue to promote this initiative on both a local and National level. There is little hope for a **National Pharmacare Plan with parliament rejecting the private members bill** and action on drug pricing is stalled which means there is little relief for our members on the horizon. 5. The full committee meets virtually again September 16/17, 2021.

CNPA Scholarships 2021 We have 4 MR applicants so far this year, but it is early. I anticipate we will, like 2020, see a low number of applicants due to Covid. Applicants have until August 15th to submit ONLINE only.

From James Houston, CNPA Federal Govt. Liaison Officer

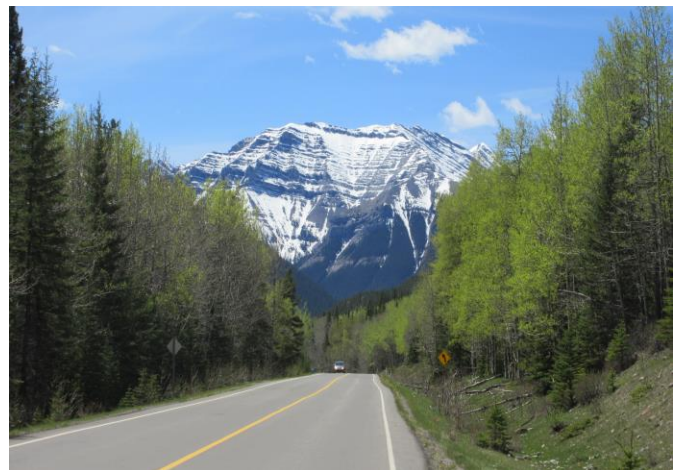
June 7 is the first of only 13 sitting days remaining before MPs leave Ottawa for the summer adjournment. Two of those days will be supply days, devoted primarily or entirely to opposition motions. 16 government bills are still in the House of Commons or awaiting first reading there. Eleven of those bills have yet to be progressed to committee stage for in-depth scrutiny, a process that itself often takes a week or more and is followed by one or two more stages of debate and then scrutiny by the Senate. Some of those bills are little more than clutter on the legislative agenda: Media pundits currently are of the opinion that an election will be called sometime in August.



Junction Creek, late May 2021



Brian soliciting possible new members from K-Country



K-Country late May 2021, two weeks later this snow-pack was almost gone.

In Memoriam

James Anderson Assist. Foreman, Red Deer
 T. Raymond Ball Pipefitter, Edmonton
 John Balash B&S Forperson
 Agnes Bobowik Widow of Walter, Roadmaster, Sangudo
 Ramona Bourque Widow of John Leo
 Mary Brettle
 Emma Brilz Widow of Christian, Trackman, Fairview
 John Buba Technical Officer, Edmonton
 Gordon Burton Superintendent, Edmonton
 Gilbert Calhoun Coordinator, Carload Operations, Edmonton
 Dan Cardinal Conductor, Edmonton
 Alex Chanakos Conductor, Edmonton
 Barbara Cheney Widow of Ralph, Conductor, Hanna
 Patrick Creegan Coordinator Service Design, Edmonton
 Solange Currie Widow of Billie, Conductor, Edmonton
 Marten Devries Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton
 H Rush Dixon Maintenance Supervisor, Engineering, Edm
 Agnes Dudek Widow of Richard, Switch Foreman, Edmonton
 Therese Duffy Widow of Kevin, Car Management, Edmonton
 Wayne Formoe Machine Room Clerk, Edmonton
 John Hansen Diesel Shop Labourer, Edmonton
 Elizabeth A Hauck
 James Hood Conductor, Edmonton
 Wilman Hutchison
 Jack Inkpen Carman, Edmonton
 William Iskiw
 Mary Iwanyszyn Widow of Wasyl
 Frances Johnson Widow of Harry, Electrician, Edmonton
 Robert Jonas Locomotive Engineer, Jasper
 Noella Lazzari Widow of Louis, Conductor, Jasper
 Denis Mahoney Supervisor Telecommunications, Edmonton
 Al Maisonneuve Locomotive Engineer, Jasper
 Elsie Mather Widow of George, Mgr, Customer Services, Edm
 Lucie Messum Widow of Alec
 Walter Melnychuk Operator, Edmonton
 Mary Morusyk Widow of Steve, Conductor, Edmonton Russell
 Mulawka Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton
 Audrey Murray Widow of James, Office Supervisor, Red Deer
 Anne Mykiwka Telecommunications Office, Edmonton
 Ron Poliakiwski Rail Maintainer, Vermilion
 James Pringle Operations Supervisor, Edmonton
 Helen Pylypow Widow of James, Hoist & Pile Driver Engineer,
 Edmonton
 John Raistrick Trainman, Edmonton
 John Reid Locomotive Engineer, Jasper
 Ada Mae Rutherford Widow of Stanley, Engineer, Edmonton
 Antonio Sacco Labourer
 John Simulik Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton
 Clara St Pierre Widow of Ray, Moncton
 Margaret Strachan Widow of Raymond, Dispatcher, Roma Jct
 Arthur Thompson Construction Engineering, Edmonton
 Lawrence Tanguay Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton
 Robert Van Loo Hump Tower Yardmaster, Edmonton

Margaret Volney Widow of Tony, Yard Foreman, Edmonton
 Robert Yamkowy Train Movement Clerk, McLennan
 Our sympathies go out to James Blunt, Motive Power
 Controller, on the death of his wife Karen and Walter Sharek,
 Truck Driver, on the death of his wife Patricia Gail.

85 Years Old

Florence Rusnak Jan 6	William Turin Jan 8
Barry A. Biglow Jan 23	Myrtle Douville Feb 4
Mary Smith Feb 4	Gilbert J. Frontain Feb 17
Grace Beloglowka Feb 17	Lil (Luba) Yewchuk Feb 18
Erwin F. Lischewski Feb 20	Doris M. Small Feb 23
Dorothy Macdonald Feb 26	Lloyd G. Bodette Feb 27
Eileen Patricia Clarke Mar 7	Earle B. Irvine Mar 10
Sheila Setter Mar 14	Cecile Schneider Mar 19
Edward Duliba Mar 22	Rita E. Odorizzi Apr 1
Edward Schiestel Apr 14	Joyce Busch Apr 18
Aase Devereaux Apr 24	Janett E. Longpre Apr 25
Josephine Slabysz Apr 26	Ken Nichols May 5
Shirley Furniss May 10	Chrystal Breining May 22
William H.V. Tsen May 24	Irene Kushneryk May 31

90 Years Old

William J Didow Jan 20	Victoria Ball Jan 24
Jules J. Soetaert Jan 25	John Devereaux Jan 25
Maria R. Scott Jan 28	Eileen Keenleyside Feb 6
Thomas C. Howard Feb 9	Harold F. Sacher Feb 12
A. Greg Thompson Feb 24	Cullin Daniel Mar 4
Mildred Dofka Mar 28	Nellie Bogda Mar 29
Lorraine Tokey Apr 10	Claire E. Roberts Apr 19
Marsha Long Apr 28	Grace Giese May 5
George Kushneryk May 22	

95 Years Old

Shirley Obre Jan 8	Francesco Giordano Jan 10
Leona Snider Jan 22	Ruth Keefe Jan 28
Colleen Guthrie Feb 11	Julianna M. Perks Feb 26
Delores L. Bachand Feb 27	Lydia Stanko Mar 12
Matilda Bishop Mar 23	Justin G. Richards Apr 6
Muriel Millicent Anderson Mar 24	Roland Havell Apr 12
Hector B. Ladret May 4	George Gavinchuk May 6
John L. Dubé May 9	Loreen Nilson May 13
Kenneth C. Zook May 13	Gunter Bruckmann May 18

100 Years Old

Cecil Loughlin Feb 28	Victoria Deagle May 21
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50 Years Married

*Edward & Lorraine McDaid Jan 9 *Frank & Margaret Koenig
 Feb 20 *Harry & Shirley Viznei May 1 *Kenneth & Sandra
 Cutler May 15 *R. Ian & Karin Steeves May 21 *Norman J.
 & Linda Bobic May 22 *Bruce & Melanie MacKay May 29

60 Years Married

*Jose M. & Maria Cabral Jan 22 *John & Margaret Ciesla
 Feb 11 *David A. & Donna White Mar 4 *Mohamed & Ishee
 Mouallem Mar 10 *Dinis C. & Celeia Anastacio Apr 4
 *Roger N. & Theresa Laforce Apr 5 *Abdul & Roshanara
 Walji Apr 18 *Butch & Gail Whiteman May 27