



RAILVETS' NEWS

Spring 2022

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I'm writing this on a cool, cloudy, windy May day. I do hope spring is around the corner!

There have been no general meetings for over two years but your executive stays in touch monthly via zoom on-line conference calls. We try to update the general membership via email so, if you haven't already done so, please advise Butch or Peter of your email address.

The next big event we are planning is a June picnic; notice of this is elsewhere in the newsletter. Please note we will be following all AHS guidelines. The executive is looking forward to visiting with everyone and this year we have arranged for a food truck to supply lunch. As they are asking for a head count by June 1st please reply as soon as possible if you are hoping to attend.

CN has again submitted teams in the City Corporate Challenge and they are also looking for volunteers to help mid May to mid June.

Scholarship applications are open again this year; see note elsewhere in the newsletter. Our members' children and grandchildren can apply for three different scholarships, details on our National website.

Stay healthy,

President's Message

Al Vodden

CN Pensioners' Scholarship

COVID has changed many things for many people and those not exempt from massive changes are our young people pursuing further education through these difficult times.

However, one thing that has not changed is the CNPA Scholarship program where again this year, as a paid member of the CNPA your child or grandchild is eligible to apply for one of 5 - \$1500 scholarships available on the Mountain Region.

Opening date for this year's applications was April 15 and submissions are accepted until August 15, 2022.

For details regarding application, acceptable format and Q&A visit the CNPA website: <https://www.cnpensioners.org/scholarships.cfm>

Again, this portion of the National CNPA offering is only for children or grandchildren of current subscribed CNPA members.

If you are not a current paid member and wish to become a member, contact your local chapter of the CN Pensioner's Association (CNPA).



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Saskatchewan Hospitality

November 20, 1975 and it was minus twenty farenheit when the eastbound Super Continental passenger train stopped at Scott Saskatchewan in the middle of the night to let me, the new station agent and my wife and two babies off. Probably the first time the train had stopped in years. The owner of the Scott hotel met the train and took us in his car to the hotel, again probably the first guests staying in many years. The next day the elevator agent told me that my boxcar of furniture and my auto were spotted on the elevator track and a couple of local farmers had already unloaded my furniture and it was on it's way over..unasked or expected but greatly appreciated. The elevator agent told me who I would be curling with in the men's league and that my wife would curl with the ladies during the week and a babysitter was available if needed. John U. from the Shell called over to say that coffee was on at the service station, c'mon down. My wife sent me down to the general store for milk and bread and cleaning supplies. The people working there were so friendly and when I went to pay they said I had an account. The storekeeper said that he would continue to have his groceries shipped CN Express in hopes that I would buy my groceries from his store. A few weeks later we were told that that big Christmas concert would be held at the town hall and they hoped we would be there. It was an old fashion country concert. Santa arrived with a big bag of gifts for the kids. I could see that our son Tommy who was two and a half was really excited and I didn't want him to be disappointed that there wouldn't be a present for him because we had just arrived in town. Wow one of the first names called was for Tom... he raced to the stage and there was even one for little Scotty who was one. This still brings a tear to my eye. Such warm, unforgettable, Saskatchewan hospitality. We will be forever grateful.

Tim Urbanovitch

Flower Fund Report

Alberta RailVets appreciate and like to recognize members' milestone events (birthdays for 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100 years and anniversaries for 50, 60 and 70 years). Following is the flower fund report for January through to the end of April:

Month	Flowers	Gift Cards
January	5	0
February	5	2
March	11	1
April	6	1



Note: Gift cards in lieu of flowers are sent when florist services are not readily available in your area.

We cannot recognize your significant event unless we have event data and your current address, so please keep us informed – email Peter Treloar at

petertre@gmail.com or phone 587-338-8014.

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.

125 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



CN pensioners may be interested in an event celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Canadian Northern Railway – to be held in Big Valley, Alberta, on Saturday, July 9, 2022.

125 years ago in 1897, Sir William Mackenzie and Sir Donald Mann completed their first line - the Lake Manitoba Railway and Canal Company - between Gladstone, Dauphin, and Winnipegosis, Manitoba. This humble short line operation marked the beginning of modern-day CN operations in western Canada.

Running from 1100 to 1800 and featuring a special ceremony at 1400 – there will be entertainment, interpretive tours, prizes, and a special celebration honouring those who have family ties and connections with the old Canadian Northern Railway. There is no cost to attend.

If you or anyone you know had a relative or connection with a historical employee of the Canadian Northern Railway (1896 to 1924), the Canadian Northern Society would like to hear from you!

A warm welcome awaits any and all CN Pensioners.

For further information:

canadiannorthern@telus.net

(780) 672-3099



Jess Worsfold &
"Curly" Paul.

Picnic in the Park

The "Picnic in the Park" event will be held on Wednesday, June 15th at William Hawrelak Park, Site #1, from, 1000 – 1400 for RailVets members and their significant other. Ample vehicle parking is available at the site in the designated parking lot. Come and join us, we are looking for a good turnout as this is the first post-Covid event we are hosting.

Our site is a canopied picnic site with some tables and chairs under the shelter. Remaining tables will be spread out adjacent to the shelter and cannot be moved. You may bring your own lawn chair if you would like. Garbage cans are provided to help keep the site clean and orderly.

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 4 options will be covered by Alberta RailVets. Coffee, tea and water will be available continuously free of charge.

Each attendee must register at the registration table upon arrival and at that point will be issued a food voucher. Each voucher will entitle the holder to one entree, one fry and one cold beverage. The cost of this will be covered by the Alberta RailVets.

This will be a social event giving attendees a chance to visit and renew acquaintances. Due to Covid we have not hosted any meetings for the past 2 years and this will be an opportunity to see old friends and work mates again. Getting together, share a few stories, catch up on what is happening in your lives and sharing of food will be the main event. We will also be providing some entertainment in the form of games in which you can participate, games like golf, bocce ball and the ladder game.

In order to provide Fat Frank's an estimate of food required, if you think there is a good chance of you participating, please reply by email to John Wiebe before June 1st at jjwiebe2@gmail.com or by phone to 780-460-9202. Please indicate what your food preference would be so an adequate supply will be available.



Happy Birthday Bertha Sonnenberg



Though last-minute circumstances prohibited attendance by our local Edmonton Executive, Alberta RailVet member, Mrs. Bertha Sonnenberg, celebrated her 100th birthday with both friends and family. Mrs. Sonnenberg was thrilled to receive a beautiful bouquet of flowers on her actual birthday (March 16th) sent by her fellow RailVet members. On March 26th our centenarian was again able to celebrate at a party at her retirement home in Camrose. Her daughter Sylvia Dahl let us know her mom was thrilled to receive the gift of a crystal locomotive and pin from the CNPA at her party. Mrs. Sonnenberg continues to do well going for a walk daily; including outside if weather permits. At 100 years young she is still sharp, doing her own laundry and attending to her own medications!

MILESTONES April 2022-October 2022

85 Years Old

Paul Antymniuk	Apr 5
Edward A. Boyachuk	Apr 5
Jean Chute	May 5
Jeanette McNamara	May 14
Rose Hotra	May 20
Gordon Smith	May 24
H. Joan Crook	Jun 3
Joan M. Simmons	Jun 10
James W. Hill	Jun 11
Bernice Bachynski	Jun 16
Roshanara Walji	Jun 20
Ernest R. Johnson	Jun 27
Peter Hlus	Jul 24
Lorraine J. Arychuk	Jul 24
Eileen I. Smith	Jul 24
Thelma V. Gadsby	Jul 31
Treva Rimney	Aug 5
Roger N. Laforce	Aug 20
Sonia F. Barton	Aug 23
Raymond J. LaFramboise	Aug 30
Bernice Armstrong	Sep 6
Adeline Yakowchuk	Sep 7
Robert V. Beghin	Sep 11
Joseph S. Kozak	Sep 16

90 Years Old

Bert Oplanich	Apr 3
Norman Glover-Homenuk	Apr 15
Gus Brodeur	Apr 22
Florence Villeneuve	Apr 28
Thelma Litwinowich	Apr 30
Annabelle Kowalczyk	May 9
Arthur Begert	May 10
Margaret Ditner	May 10

Pauline Goretzki	May 26
Marion D. Morgan	Jun 13
Ann Lechman	Jun 14
Katharina Mueller	Jun 20
Helen Harvie	Jun 20
June V. Grout	Jun 28
Marion P. Warren	Jul 12
Elsie Johnson	Jul 23
Antonio Pavao	Jul 29
Walter C. Kortzman	Jul 29
Clarice Schulz	Aug 3
Lillian Chesser	Aug 5
Peter Krotowich	Aug 21
Stanley Rampling	Sep 8
Mario De Ponto	Sep 8
Clare J. Irwin	Sep 18
Sakarkhanu Lakhani	Sep 19

95 Years Old

Katherine Cherniwchan	Apr 15
Helen Carson	Jul 5
Geertruida Hick	Jul 15
George Edelman	Aug 5
Leita Timms	Aug 23
Raymond L. Mullan	Aug 30
Doreen Heptonstall	Sep 1
Mike Kulmatycki	Sep 3
Jean Bagnell	Sep 18

100 Years Old

Bertha Sonnenberg	Mar 16
Marjorie P. Rudolph	May 31
Ellen M. Boyce	Jul 2
Barbara Blacklaw	Jul 24
Vera MacNeil	Jul 30

50 Years Married

Randy & JoAnne Jopp	Apr 29
Robert & Marlene Sherman	May 13
Darrell & Rita MacDougall	Jun 3
Don & Lorna Jarvis	Jun 24
Terry & Judith Miller	Jul 1
Leon & Betsy Anne De Clercq	Jul 1
Andy L. & Leslie Kupina	Jul 8
Ron & Deborah Rendle	Jul 8
Gordon & Linda Nykiforukk	Jul 8
Angus S. & Ann McPherson	Aug 5
Richard & Donna Chimko	Sep 2
David & Terry LaFleur	Sep 2
Ross & Joyce Anderson	Sep 2
Leo & Vonna Arsenaault	Sep 16
Leopoldo & Gabriela Dias	Sep 17
Allen & Denise Wingrave	Sep 30

60 Years Married

Ray & Edmee LaFramboise	Jun 2
Andrew C. & Milly MacKay	Jun 30
Russell & Carol M. Letain	Jul 17
Arthur L. & Shirley Derrien	Jul 23
John & Adeline Yakowchuk	Aug 4
Ronald J. & Isobel Barrie	Sep 22
George & Ellen Schramm	Sep 29

70 Years Married

Roland & Ruby Ann Havell	Jul 12
Lawrence & Loretta Edgarson	Aug 19
Reuben & Pat Mastre	Sep 6

**Kassam Omar Aboughousse**

Custodian, Edmonton

Helen AlfedWidow of Eugene, Sec. Foreman,
Nampa**Ronald Annas**

Yard Foreman, Sarcee

George Armstrong

Track Forman, Mornville

Eugene Bitz**Walter Brill**

Sectionman, Mayerthorpe

Sheila ChristieWidow of Andrew, Terminal Traffic
manager, North Battleford SK**R. Floyd Cormin**

Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton

Joan S. FellowsSecretary to District Manager,
Edmonton**John Flann**

Conductor, Kamloops

Grace FolkmanWidow of Ben, Locomotive
Engineer, Mirror**Doug R. Franks**Signals & Communications Clerk,
Lloydminster**Edward Frissell**

Agent/Operator, Wainwright

Doris GillWidow of Robert, Conductor,
Edmonton**Francesco Giordano**

Sectionman, Edmonton

Koen Go

Train Movement Clerk

Kenneth Hilsabeck

Conductor, Edmonton

Dorothy Hopkins**Christina Jones**

Widow of John, Clerk, McLennan

Carol KirklandWidow of George, Brakeman,
Edmonton**Doris Lapointe**

Sr. Clerk, Deductions, Edmonton

Bliss A. LowerisonSuperintendent, Transportation,
Edmonton**Daniel Lubarsky**

Locomotive Engineer, Edson

Maxine MarrWidow of Kenneth, Section man,
Hanna**James Moar**

Train Movement Clerk, Calder

John MurtaghManager, Administrative Services,
Edmonton**Richard Nestor**Draftsman - Engineering,
Edmonton**James Patience**

Carman, Calder

Eva PavelichWidow of Victor, Stationary
Engineer, Edmonton**Shirley Pitts**Widow of Jim, Director - Canac,
Edmonton**Nellie Popika**Widow of William, Brakeman,
Kamloops**William (Bill) Popika**

Brakeman, Kamloops

Chris Rasmussen

Car Mechanic, Jasper

Mary C. RobinsonWidow of Norm, Asst. Diesel Shop
Foreman, Edmonton**John Rushton**RTC/Asst. Chief Dispatcher,
Edmonton**Walter Sharek**

Truck Driver, Edmonton

Raymond Spencer

Police Constable, Edmonton

David Steiner

Track Maintainer, Edmonton

Lyla G. StoneWidow of Frederick, Agent /
Operator, Sarcee**Stella Tanguay**Widow of William, Electrician,
Calder**Pauline Tkach**

Widow of Raymond

Marilyn WickerWidow of George, Foreman,
Whitecourt

Our condolences go out to Bill Tomlinson on the death of his wife Marilyn

New Members Since September 2021

Shelly Brownlee

Richard Crain

Jody Eklund

Doris Gill

Emilia Kalyta

Huguette Mahendran

Gerald Nadeau

Dale Popika

Elizabeth Rushton

Doug Ryhorchuk

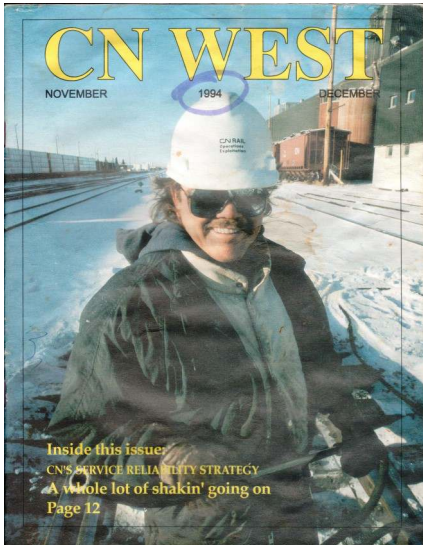
Dwayne Schapansky

Harold Senz

Janice Steiner

Joe Torchia

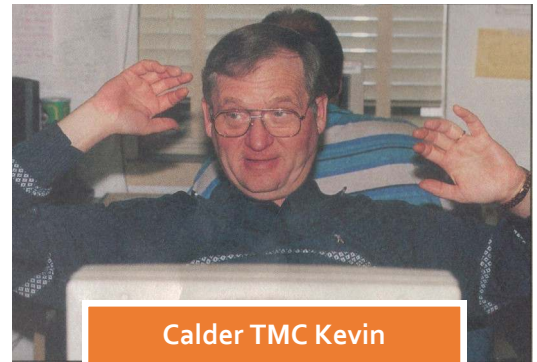
Rick Vachon



1994

One of our members, Vern Cheng, found an old copy of CN West that has brought back many memories.

It was a busy year.



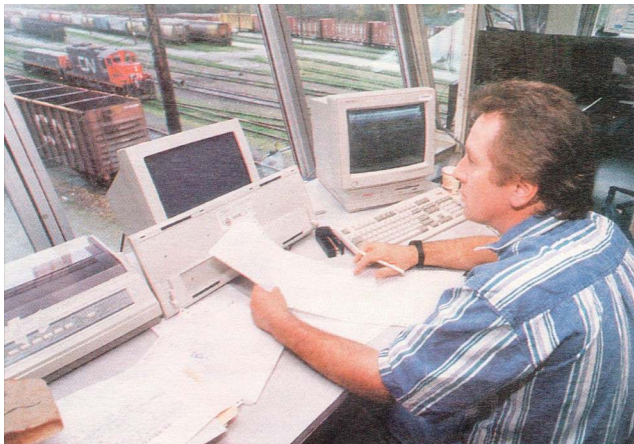
Calder TMC Kevin
Novacaska

The SRS implementation was in full swing that year replacing the old TRACS/YIS systems.

First implemented in Pr. George, it was quickly followed by Vancouver, Kamloops, Jasper and Grande Prairie.



SRS Command Center in
Thornton Yard

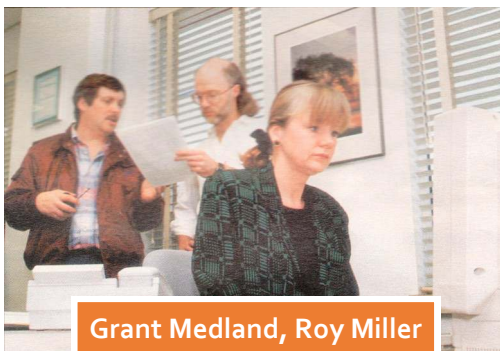


All the old 3270 and Wyse terminals had to be replaced as, in SRS, colour was now required.

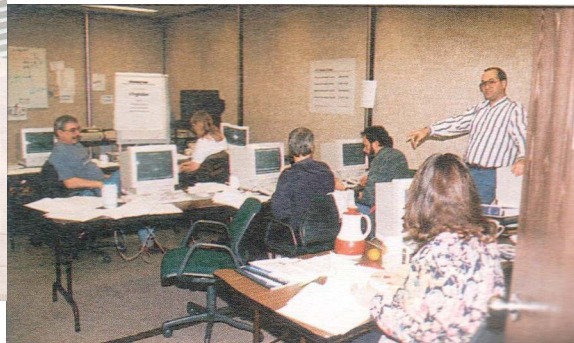
The computer selected was the Compaq Persario 433.

Unfortunately, they were too small for the mainframe cards to fit so we had to use something that connected to the parallel port in the back. This caused us problems when people walked behind the computer as it stuck out about 4" and many ended up snapped off.

It was also the first Windows computers many had seen. We lost count of the number of mice that had to be replaced because someone had played with the rubber ball and lost it.



Grant Medland, Roy Miller
and Linda Carvajal



Intermodal wasn't spared the change. Their YIS and IMPACT systems were merged with SRS.



RTC Fred Hasiuk checking Hot Box Detector tape

In the early 90's CN had a visit from delegates from the Russian National Railway.

After visiting the OMC, Data Center and RTC, what really impressed them were the Hot Box Detectors.

The idea that an 8mm spike on a chart could stop a train shocked them.

"Better than a derailment" was the answer.



Not sure if Dave Mowles remembers the day he was arrested at CN. All in the name of charity, or so we were told.

Word is that he was released on \$1,200 bail.



Lucita Cabigon, Pattie Didine, Glenna Roper, Candice Sherbo, Trudie Gelineau, Cres del Rosario, Stephanie Sowak, Chuck Mallett, Joanne Barnowski, Gordon Worsfold, Lorie Sinclair, Carol Logan, Fay Moen, Lorna Mish and Mario Krolo.

Out with the old, In with the new

How many of you remember the old Track and Roadway office in Edmonton?

It closed on October 17th, 1994, to be replaced by the new Administrative Support Center (ASC). Centralizing all the clerical work in Western Canada.

It was later centralized system wide to Moncton.



Tim Scharer, Jim Macdonald, Rick Boyd and Karen Cuthbert



KEEPING TABS

The Tabs 4 Wheels program administered by the Knights of Columbus #1184 collects aluminum drink can tabs in order to purchase motorized scooters for individuals who can't afford them. It takes 10 million tabs to purchase one scooter and to date 10 have been purchased. The 10th one was presented May 1st to Debbie Clarke of Spruce Grove. We ask that you please collect these tabs and bring them to a RailVets meeting and the picnic in June. It's a small thing to do but the payoff is great.



March 2022, Mountain Region Update

March 2022 CN Pension Committee and CN Investment Division updates CNPA Scholarship Committee PLUS the CN Ukrainian Relief Funding

1. CN Pension Committee

1. The CN Pension Committee convened on March 16th for its first quarter 2022 session for regular members. We had a couple pre-meetings with the CNPA members and also with CN to review issues related to the agenda.
2. No update on CN issues or activities as no Sr. Executives on the call.
3. We did our review and approval of new and outstanding Pensions and got a refresher on Pension top ups, death in service and how US and VIA service pension calculations are made.
4. CN gave us an overview of the changes that were announced in December where ALL remaining NON unionized managers and supervisors will be forced on April 1, 2024 into the companies Defined Contribution Pension Plan (DC). These 1800 or so current members will also cease active participation in our Pension Plan that day but will still be eligible to receive a pension benefit from our plan when they are eligible to retire. CN indicated that information packages have been provided to affected members and in person (virtual) sessions will be scheduled. While I won't repeat what I provided you in December and January, one key question that was asked was the financial impact to the Plan. While we will get a proper actuarial anticipated Plan Fund impact at the May meeting, we were advised it was very negligible, as I expected.

2. CNID Pension Fund Investment Update

1. We received an update from the **CN Investment Division (CNID)**, who manages our pension funds. The group confirmed a 2021 annual return of 8.9% which is ahead of benchmarks and our 20 year average of 8.5%.
 2. Because of the 2021 returns, our Solvency Ratio and Going Concern Ratios both increased again and show how healthy and well managed the fund is. Because of the solid state of fund assets and solvency ratio, government regulations restrict CN from contributing to the Plan this year.
 3. **However** for 2022, with inflation, world market uncertainty and the current war in the Ukraine, the Fund has given back much of the 2021 gains year to date. It is difficult for the Fund managers to anticipate world order and potential outcomes or escalation of current situations, so the market may be volatile for many months to come. We will likely also see some downward pressure to the solvency and going concern ratios. But it is still early in the year.
 4. As expected, the CNID is actively managing our assets and also taking advantage of market opportunities to offset the challenges and prepare for an eventual recovery. We will get another update in May.
 5. Inflation is running at about 5.7% and may rise further depending on fuel prices and supply shortages. While this is positive from our pension indexation point of view, we have a CAP on annual increases. So no windfall. On the other hand the Canada Pension Plan and OAS might see a larger annual increase for 2023 if inflation continues.
3. **National Scholarship Committee** – we met on March 8th and our Mary McLaughlin attended as she will take over from me as Chair for the mountain region. The program will be up and running starting April 15th and closing August 15th. **PLEASE** put this in all your NEWSLETTERS and email updates so members are aware.
4. **Blue Cross Deadline for Receipts** – if you have any outstanding **2021** eligible Blue Cross medical receipts that fall out of your folders when you do your income tax get them in now and before the April 30th deadline. And it is a deadline!
5. **CN Ukrainian Relief Funding** – CN announced it will make a combined donation of CAD \$1.1M to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation and to Razom in the United States in support of Ukrainians displaced by the war in Ukraine. CN will also be matching donations made through the CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund. If you and your Local members are looking for a **SAFE and Reputable** way to donate to help those affected by the war, this is it. Let's help those in need.

In just a week CN employees and pensioners have already donated \$43,145.00 to the **Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal** on a target of \$20,000 or over 215% - your tax deductible donations matched by CN will go to either the Canadian Red Cross or to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation

The LINK to Donate:

<https://www.caissedebienfaisancecn.com/en/event-list>

If there are questions or comments on this summary, please write me.

Best regards

Blake Olson