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Hello everyone and Happy New Year!

It appears we weathered our one week of winter, now Spring is just around corner – we hope.

One of my Mountain Region director jobs is to attend our Annual Directors meeting (ADM) mid November in Montreal. It's a full 2-day affair held in conjunction with the fall pensioners' meetings.

This was my third year as we are elected for a 3-year term. I was re-elected in the fall for another 3 years.

Some of the highlights include the continuation of the scholarship program which provides five \$1500.00 scholarships on the Mountain Region. You must be a paid-up member for your child or grandchild to apply. We also formed a committee, of which I was a member, that worked on a project this past summer involving the split of the bylaws from our National Constitution. This involved a number of conference calls before a final product was developed. Another highlight was a 5-year renewal of the partnership between CN and the pensioners. Commencing January 1st CN will pay the dollar per month for 2 years to our National Council of which our local gets approximately 83 cents for each new employee starting pension. CN also agreed to continue providing the dollar per year for all signed up members as well as the CN calendars. The celebration of CN 100, along with tree planting, will continue to be a highlight this year.

Joining our Pensioners Association is not mandatory therefore we still have many pensioners out there choosing not to join. If you know of anyone that is not a member, please encourage them to join or call one of our capable executives listed in this newsletter so that we may explain the many benefits.

CN and the Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) are continuing with the West Edmonton Mall Waterpark family day in March. More information is provided later in this Newsletter. I will have tickets available for purchase again this year. Pensioners are included in the Employee Family Assistance Program and can take advantage of the many benefits available.

That's all for now. Take care and have a great winter!

## President's Message

*Al Vadden*

## Your Executive

### President

Al Vodden, (780) 489-7027  
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### Vice President

Bruce Macdonald

### Recording Secretary

Sandra Barnes (780) 425-0868  
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### Membership Secretary

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## Meeting Information

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month except July & August. They are held at Chateau Nova Yellowhead and start at 1:30 pm; luncheon meetings start at 11:00 am. Luncheon meetings are for a member and one guest; each pays \$10.

### Upcoming Meeting Schedule

**12 February** 11:00 am Lunch meeting.

**11 March** 1:30 pm Cliff Gervais will give a talk on Ronald McDonald House.

**8 April** 11:00 am Lunch Meeting

**13 May** 1:30 pm To be confirmed

**KEEPING TABS** –In our last issue we wrote about Diana and Andy Novak's efforts to collect tabs from drink cans on behalf of the Knights of Columbus. Member Ed Gower came through big time. He delivered a 5-gallon container full of tabs to Diana and Andy.



**I'M SO GLAD I  
WAS YOUNG AND  
CRAZY**

**BEFORE THERE  
WERE CELL  
PHONES AND  
EVIDENCE**

## WHERE DOES MY \$1.00/MONTH GO:

1. Newsletter – The cost of printing and mailing the Edmonton Council Newsletter 3 times a year amounts to a total of approx. \$7,100.00. You can help alleviate this cost by electing to receive your Newsletter through email. Contact either Butch Whiteman or Peter Treloar.
2. Christmas Luncheon – This year we had 173 attendees at our annual Christmas Luncheon. Cost paid by each attendee was \$15.00. Actual cost per person which included food, hall rental, gratuity and GST amounted to approx. \$44.25 per person. This does not include an additional \$400 spent on door prizes.
3. General Meeting Luncheons – Cost paid by each attendee was \$10.00. Actual cost per person which included food, hall rental, gratuity and GST amounted to approx. \$29.00 per person. This does not include the 2 - \$25.00 gift cards handed out as door prizes at each meeting.
4. Regular General Meetings - Cost paid by each attendee \$0.00. Approx. cost paid by Pensioners' Association per regular meeting for room rental, snacks, gratuities, coffee and GST - \$240.00.
5. Flowers/Gift Cards/Poinsettias – Cost paid by Pensioners' Association approx. \$2750.00 for 2019.
6. Annual June Picnic (canceled due to weather in 2019) – Cost paid by attendee - \$0.00; Cost paid by Pensioners' Association for 2018 was approx. \$1,000.

We also make donations to any speakers that are considered charities.

## The Penny Pig

By *Gerry Fox*

Back in the mid 1970's there were formal courtroom hearings in Prince George concerning the closure of the smaller passenger stations on the BC northline. As part of this process we were required to have procedures in place at each location to handle express packages and other small parcels and items that may arrive on the passenger trains. This involved finding a resident at each hamlet willing to sign a contract to handle these duties in exchange for a nominal stipend.

Several of these places were hot beds of the counter culture movement that had moved up from the United States during the time of all the civil unrest during the Vietnam war. While most individuals were not too eager to help us out the majority of our visits were relatively uneventful with just the occasional growling dog, or chicken egg or vegetable pitched our way.

We scheduled Penny as our last visit for several reasons. There was no road access so you either had the roadmaster drop you off with his highrailer or you paddled across the Fraser River.

We weren't having much luck getting folks to talk with us and as a last resort we approached an old rundown shack with some crumbling outbuildings. An elderly lady stuck her head out the window, asked what we wanted, then told us to go around the back and come through the gate (which we did) only to find ourselves in a small pigsty with a huge sow feeding a bunch of tiny piglets. She was as surprised as we were and took one look at us with her beady eyes before charging. Straw and muck were flying everywhere.

Meanwhile the old gal was standing on the back stoop shouting and hollering as loud as she could. We weren't sure if she was screaming at us to get the heck off her property or at the pig to run us out of town.

At any rate we bid a hasty and prudent retreat as fast as we could with the pig close on our heels, I am sure she would have caught us if she didn't weigh about 500 pounds, and headed for the only phone in town (a payphone) a few hundred yards away. We called the roadmaster to pick us up as soon as possible only to learn that he had been in an accident and would not be able to help us. So we headed to the river, jumped into the nearest rowboat and paddled like heck to the other side.

Thank goodness our follow-up trip to Penny wasn't quite as eventful, probably as we planned it for when most of the Penny residents were at a farm fair in Giscome.

The last time I had this much excitement was being chased by a polar bear when I lived in Churchill - but that's another story.



### 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. These changes should also be reported to either Peter Treloar 587-338-6014 or Sandra Barnes at 780-425-0868. Pensions Administration does not pass along pensioner information to the Railvets so please report any changes to Sandra or Peter.

### Deadline for submitting Blue Cross Medical Receipts

All those medical receipts you have hanging around from 2019 - GET them submitted to BLUE CROSS ASAP but not later than April 30th- Then what was not covered by your the Plan can be submitted with your income taxes, like the paid portion of your prescriptions, and the deductible and non paid portions of non-prescription items.





## New Members Since October 2019

Jean Brown	Gerry Harder	Allan McLean	William Stainton
Irene Browne	Helen Harvie	Kerry Morris	Tim Stambaugh
Bernice Cable	Tim Hawryluk	Cua Nguyen Phuoc	Mike Tabachniuk
Arnie Cameron	Rod Hintz	Karla Nielsen	Pat Turcotte
Raymond Chajkowski	Kelly James	Herb Pearce	Linda Turmaine
Martin Devries	Saber Javid	Robert Peet	John Van Insbergh
Mildred Dofka	Barry Kennedy	Arlin Quinton	Tony Wasuita
Andy Douville	Real Kirouac	John Quirk	My apologies to Blair
Gisele Dumontier	Carole Kochan	Chad Rea	Kolesnikoff who retired in
Wilma England	Dave Martinson	Nelson Renz	February of last year and I
Jim Fowler	Leigh McInnes	Kim Robitaille	missed for some reason.
Paul Grewal	Larry McKay	Wayne Solberg	

We currently have 2456 members that breaks down by age group as follows:

55-65	706
65-75	650
75-85	501
85-95	376
Over 95	51
No Info.	172

### Sympathy Cards were sent to :

Billy Czobitko, Janet Wells, John Patrick, Earle Irvine, Julie Heuman, Helen Harvie, Marie Dudek, Doris Dreise, Dorothy Kelm, Sheila Christie, Lucille Yakubow, Lesley J. Taylor, Marie Yaremko, Carol Ann Hurley, Stan Rampling, Floyd Lynowski, Millie Dofka, Graham Hayward, Nova Jacobs, Jim Rosychuk, Dorothy Kelm, Sheila Christie

Get Well Messages – Gail Whiteman

## Centenarian – James Hood



Happy Birthday Mr. Hood.  
Congratulations from your  
fellow Pensioners !!

Chris Randall, Treasurer and one of your Directors serving the CN Edmonton Railvets Pensioner Association and Mary McLaughlin, Alternate Representative for the Mountain Region were pleased on September 28th to attend the celebration recognizing another Edmonton CN Pensioner on the occasion of their 100th birthday. On your behalf, Chris presented a lovely bouquet from the local Edmonton Railvets and Mary presented James with a personalized engraved plaque on behalf of the CN Pension Committee. Mr. Hood, who turned a spry 100 on September 30th was a trainman/conductor who retired from working locally here in Edmonton. Surrounded by many family and friends for this special occasion,

it was a wonderful surprise for all to have CN Pensioners attend and provide recognition along with all his other well wishers. Congratulations Mr. Hood!



Mr. Hood and a family member  
open his plaque

## In Memoriam

Myron D. Bagan	Technical Engineer	Rubin Kelm	Locomotive Engineer
Marion Bentley	General Clerk - Marketing	Nazir Khatib	Intermodal Calder
Alistair Blair	Locomotive Engineer	Wanda-May Korenchuk	Bridgeman/Truck Driver
Arnold L. Blair	Section Forman	Pauline Lafrance	Conductor
Alice Bodnar	Asst. Manager, Macdonald Hotel	John W Low	Recoverable Expense Clerk
Harvey Boychuk	Conductor	Antonia Lynkowski	
Patrick Brown	Train Dispatcher	Alan Mabee	
Clair Chidiak	Widow of Kamel	Norman Mcfall	Laborouer
Andrew Christie	Terminal Traffic manager	Johnny Novelletto	
Gordon R. Cullis	Machinist	Elfriede Pietruszka	
Walter Cwenar	S&C Lead Maintainer	Robert Playford	Welder
Ted E Deynaka	Field Maintainer	Walter Pohranychny	Engineering Cost Control
Ruby Dick			Supervisor
Margaret Dickson	Agent/Operator	Lenore J. Rampling	Payroll Deduction Clerk
Herbert Dofka	Regional Engineer, S & C	Gordon Randall	Foreman
Helma Dreise	Estimateur Headquarters	Peter Rosychuk	Station Agent & Telegrapher
Edmund Dudek	Trainman	Margaret Ryz	
Philippe W Dumontier	Locomotive Engineer	Oscar Schmiegel	
Doris Evanchu		Margaret Schneider	Widow of Union Officer
Metro Fedirchuk		Patricia A. Shaw	Gen. Mgr. Express Trans. Assoc
Raymond Feehan	Clerk - Place Bonaventure	Gerald S. Smith	Manager, Intermodal Services
Roland Fradette	Leading Hand Machinest	William A. Smith	Operator MO Office
Louis Gusta	Locomotive Engineer	Manuel Sousa	Section man
Mary E. Hanasyk		Reginald Spallin	AT CN Container Yard
Bert Harvie	Locomotive Engineer	Blaine Taylor	Track Maintanemce Foreman
Anthony Heuman	System Manager, Customer Services	Janette K. Taylor	Widow of Special Agent, CN
	Engineer		Police
Loren G. Hick	Trackmobile Operator, Car Shops	Maria Ursuliak	Yardmaster
Phillip Hiebert		Vassiliki Vouronikos	Widow of George
		Robert Webber	Carman
Dragan Jelacic		Marvin Yakubow	Track Maintainer - Scotford

## MILESTONES September 2019-January 2020

85 Years Old		90 Years Old		95 Years Old	
Albert Rokovetsky	Sep 5	Ann Michael	Dec 16		
Wilma England	Sep 5	Shirley Wheeler	Dec 26		
Noreen Footz	Sep 7	Edward M. Regan	Dec 26	Ioan A. Dragusanu	Sep 24
Anita Bruneau	Sep 12	Therese Duffy	Dec 31	Alice Sorenson	Oct 22
Walter Zelazo	Sep 21			Frances S. Watson	Nov 8
Edward Buga	Sep 21	Wilfred Sawyer	Sep 2	Ruby Loucks	Nov 26
Margaret McMinn	Sep 22	Muriel Madigan	Sep 5	Annette Slid Sherback	Nov 29
Olive Brandenbarg	Oct 2	Irene Lindgren	Sep 11	Muriel Watterworth	Dec 16
Bryan C. Turner	Oct 3	Yvonne Horne	Sep 15		
John Wowk	Oct 7	Thora Burgess	Sep 21	100 Years Old	
Shirley Mae Tomlinson	Oct 15	Elsie Frontain	Sep 24	James H. Hood	Sep 30
Steve Iwanow	Oct 16	Barbara Hoffman	Sep 27	Marjorie Sessions	Oct 29
Helen Haffie	Oct 16	Viola M. Mackie	Sep 29		
Frerdrick R. Brennan	Oct 18	Paul H. Hawirko	Sep 30	50 Years Married	
Rachel Van Gunst	Oct 18	Hee Chang Lee	Oct 1	Jose V. & Elisa Oliveira	Oct 4
Anne Glowinski	Oct 21	Viola Duncan	Oct 5	William & Vicki Munro	Oct 11
Page J. Clarke	Oct 24	Edward M. Buchmeier	Oct 23	Clint & Lynn Landals	Oct 11
Ruth L. McGettigan	Oct 27	John Korol	Oct 26	Jim & Mavis Speed	Oct 25
Maria L. Macedo	Oct 31	Francis Benson	Nov 2	William C. & Carol Collier	Oct 25
Heather Root	Nov 6	Ronald J. Barrie	Nov 13	Kenneth F. & Linda Decker	Nov 8
Eduarda Desousa	Nov 7	Peter Chychul	Nov 14	Kenneth & Sue Ann Brzak	Nov 15
Mohamed Mouallem	Nov 13	Joseph H. St. John	Nov 25	Richard & Candice Sherbo	Nov 26
Lavinia Curran	Nov 23	Marjorie Kearney	Dec 8		
Helen Harcott	Dec 1	Lug Harcott	Dec 9	60 Years Married	
Phylis J. Jacula	Dec 4			Quinto & Rita E. Odorizzi	Sep 15
Mary C. Schmidt	Dec 6			Balbir S. & Gian K. Chana	Oct 7
John P. Osadchuk	Dec 10			John & Mary Buba	Nov 28
				Arthur & Christa Begert	Nov 28

**CONDO BOARDS** :If you have ever sat on a condo board you know what a thankless job it is. A friend told me that every member of the board in her condo gets paid \$100. For each meeting attended. Why? This is the only way they can recruit board members.



### Poinsettias/ Flowers

were sent to the following members who were in Extended or Long Term Care this past Christmas:

Esther Roy, Norm McLeod, Patrick Keleher, Viola Mackie, Gordon Maxwell, Walter Melnychuk, Therese Auger, Mike Basok, Gilbert Calhoun, Santo Cerminara, Ethel Culverhouse, Helen Fedorchuk, Caroline Godfrey, Ed Grant, Gerald Gristwood, Joan Hanasyk, Pauline LaFrance, Cecil Loughlin, Maria Machado, Bruce McBain, Cecil Sakousky and Floyd Cormin

## WINTER

If we had no winter the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

*Anne Bradstreet*

The English winter: ending in July, to recommence in August.

*Lord Byron*

There's a certain Slant of light, Winter afternoons.

*Emily Dickinson*

In winter I get up at night and dress by yellow candlelight.  
In summer, quite the other way. I have to go to bed by day.

*Robert Louis Stephenson*

From: Bartlett's Familiar Quotations 4<sup>th</sup> edition

### VERN CAMPBELL

Vern lives in Banff in the white stucco bungalow his parents bought in 1913 for \$700. Two years ago Vern was offered \$1M for his house but decided not to sell because he wanted to stay in Banff. The house was built in Bankhead. It was later moved to Lake Minewanka and then Banff when the coal mine shut down. Vern says the coal mine is still there and the tunnel stretches 18 miles into Canmore! Let's hope no houses are built over the tunnel!

### CN Tree Planting

We had 7 pensioners attend the tree planting on October 18 at Schonsee Park. CN had donated the trees that were used for display at CN 100 in Edmonton plus more to make it a total of 100 trees being planted. Speeches were made by Tree Canada, representative from Edmonton and the MLA and Dean from the CN police. It is a brand new park with playground equipment and rubberized walking paths. It was an easy day for the pensioners as the trees were previously planted and all we had to do was stand and look pretty for our pictures.









# CN EFAP Family Day

## IS HOSTING AN EVENT AT WORLD WATERPARK IN WEST EDMONTON MALL

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 @ 0900-1100 (CN Exclusive)

\*If you arrive prior to 1030 you can stay all day with the general public!



ENJOY THE TROPICAL 28°C TEMPERATURE AND MORE THAN 24 DIFFERENT WATER ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MILES OF WATERSLIDES, THREE HOT TUBS, TWO PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS TO ENJOY TOGETHER, AND THE WORLD'S LARGEST INDOOR WAVE POOL!

TO GET YOUR TICKETS, PLEASE CALL TODAY:

Al Vodden [alvodden@gmail.com](mailto:alvodden@gmail.com)

**TICKET PRICE:** \$10.00 per person (Children 2 & under FREE)

\*\*\*Cash or E-Transfer available

TO HOST YOUR OWN EXCLUSIVE EVENT OR INQUIRE ABOUT FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT GROUP SALES AT WEST EDMONTON MALL AT 780-444-5308