



Inside This Issue:

- President’s Message 1
- Paul Hawirko 2
- Picnic Cancelled 2
- Centenarian, Cecil Loughlin 3
- Mary McLaughlin 3
- Sandra Barnes 3
- Milestones 4
- Potential Members 4
- In Memoriam 5
- New Members 5
- Rocky Mountaineer 6
- CN Pensioners Update 7
- A Conductor’s story 8

Hello Everyone. As I’m sitting here writing this note at the end of May, our fellow pensioners/ volunteers on the Health & Pension committees are finishing the week on video conference calls. Hopefully before we go to press we will have some updates elsewhere in this Newsletter.



Your Edmonton executive has been having monthly Zoom conference calls, keeping things rolling for the members. We lost Mary McLaughlin from our executive as she has made a move to British Columbia. But on the other hand, we have gained a new executive member John Wiebe. All of our current executive names and information is, as always, listed inside this edition. If anyone has questions, news, etc, please feel free to reach out.

CN has a few teams signed up for the Corporate Challenge this year. June 6 CN will celebrate its 102nd birthday. As you’ve probably heard, CN has been in the news a lot lately with their plan to purchase Kansas City Southern which goes into Mexico. Any information that CN shares with us by email has been forwarded to anyone who has signed up for email with us. As usual, Butch Whiteman is on top of any information received from CN. If you are not signed up for email, please contact Butch or anyone on the executive and they will arrange for this to happen. We are also putting more links and information on our National website CNpensioners.org. Recently, we signed a deal with the Rocky Mountaineer to receive substantial discounts on certain trips.

Once again, this year we have cancelled our June picnic, but I’m hopeful that we can go ahead with our September General Meeting. Our next newsletter won’t be going out until October of November, so we will only be able to notify those that have provided us with an email address regarding any General Meetings being held in September or October.

In the mean time stay safe and I encourage everyone to get their Covid Vaccine.

Al Vadden



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 Peter Treloar 587-338-6014. Pensions Administration does not pass along pensioner information to the RailVets so please report any changes Peter.

Your Executive

President

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

Vice President

Bruce Macdonald

Recording Secretary

Mary Jean Strachan
maryjeanstrachan@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Chris Randall (780) 430-8680
jwrandall@shaw.ca

Membership Secretary

Peter Treloar (587) 338-6014
peteretre76@gmail.com

Directors at Large

Butch Whiteman (780) 438-1600

bwhiteman@shaw.ca

Antoni (Tony) Andrzejewski
 (780) 487-3964

andrze@telus.net

Andy Novak (780) 456-7289

a.d.novak@shaw.ca

Diana Novak (780) 456-7289

a.d.novak@shaw.ca

Sandra Barnes (780) 425-0868

barnessg@shaw.ca

John Wiebe (780) 460-9202

jjwiebe2@gmail.com

Auditor

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

Paul Hawirko

Paul Hawirko has once again decided to “pull the pin” and retire after many years of dedicated service on the RailVets executive. With 35 years of service at CN - most of his career spent in what was then called Employee Relations - Paul retired in 1986 and became a contributing member of the Edmonton RailVets.

Even prior to his retirement, Paul was involved with the RailVets often attending their meetings as a guest speaker to inform and update members on pension matters.

Over his thirty-five years on the RailVets executive Paul has been an active and supportive member. Soon after joining Paul became the President of the Edmonton Council, a post he held for approximately nine years. He also served nine years as the Mountain Region representative on the National Council for CN pensioners, which involved travelling to Montreal twice a month for meetings; this was later reduced to once-monthly meetings and eventually conference calls.

Paul has a wealth of information and is an expert with the CN pension and benefit plans, our constitution and history, and has been an active contributor in the organizing and planning of our meetings and social events. For ten years he wrote a column called “Bits and Pieces” for our tri-yearly newsletter and has prepared our “In Memoriam” column for monthly meetings and newsletters, a listing he has compiled for all thirty-five years of his tenure and has agreed to continue doing despite leaving the executive committee. During his years on Council Paul has seen our venue for meetings change several times - from the West Wing of the CN Tower to the basement of the CN Credit Union to various Canadian Legion halls to our current location at the Chateau Nova.

Paul will be missed at our monthly executive meetings but we wish him well in his new “retirement” and look forward to seeing him again at our general meetings, when covid rules allow. Thank you Paul for your expertise, dedication and service to our Council; you have served our executive well for the same length of time as you did your career!! All jobs well done!!

Mary Jean Strachan



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the requirement for social distancing, the CN Pensioners' picnic scheduled at Hawrelak Park on Wednesday, June 9th is hereby cancelled. It is unfortunate that the picnic has been cancelled two years in a row, but we look forward to next year when hopefully everything will be back to normal. Stay healthy and keep well.

Life is not a Fairy Tale.
 If you lose a shoe at Midnight
 You're Drunk

Congratulations to our Centenarian



Cecil Loughlin was very pleased to receive the beautiful plaque. Conrad and I were permitted to meet with Cecil in the Kipnes on his actual birthday. They set up Zoom on a TV screen so that we could have a family zoom party. It went very well, this way everyone could see and enjoy birthday messages, gifts and the plaque presentation. Thank you again very much for arranging this gift. I will attach Cecil's photo.

Cathy Michael

Mary McLaughlin

For the past couple of years Mary McLaughlin has been a member of the Edmonton local executive but has recently moved to Kelowna and will no longer participate as a member of the Edmonton executive. She will continue her position as the Mountain Region alternate representative on the National Council Pension Committee and continue with her duties in the scholarship program and centenarian recognition with respect to Alberta pensioners. We send Mary our best wishes for this next chapter of her life in Kelowna and sincerely thank her for her contribution to our executive ... her ideas and suggestions, knowledge, hard work and support for our group and local pensioners.

Mary Jean Strachan

Sandra Barnes

Our executive meetings will never be the same now that Sandra Barnes has decided to resign from the executive of the Edmonton Council. We will miss her at our executive meetings and will also miss her surprised exclamations and honest perceptions about different matters under discussion .. or not .. and her efforts to enlighten us of newsworthy events.

Sandra began her CN career in 1961 with Personnel and Labour Relations in Montreal and transferred to Edmonton in 1979 where she worked with various departments - Equipment, Engineering on the Edmonton Terminal Project, Employment Office - before retiring from the Transportation department in 1993.

A couple of years after her retirement from CN Sandra joined the RailVets and soon became an active member in different areas. She is perhaps best known as our dedicated secretary, recording minutes for the monthly executive and general meetings, and trying to keep our various presidents in line over her many years in this role.

Sandra has served on both the National Council of the CN Pensioners' Association and on the Health Care Committee for the National Council, both of which involved travelling to Montreal for meetings during her four-year tenure. For several years she was editor of our National newsletter, "Pensioners' News," and for about 16 years was editor of our local newsletter "RailVets' News."

For about 15-plus years Sandra has been the go-to person for flowers to be sent to members spending time in a hospital or celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries; also Christmas poinsettias for members in long-term care facilities. This role was divided about five years ago when Chris Randall took over the arranging for poinsettias but Sandra has remained responsible for the flower deliveries and will continue to do this even after leaving the executive. Much behind-the-scenes time is spent contacting florists, both in and out of town, and dealing with families for delivery details.

After all her hard work and time on our RailVets executive over the last 26 years, Sandra deserves some down time and a well-earned "retirement." We sincerely thank her for everything she has done for us over all those years of service, wish her well and we will still look forward to seeing her cheery self at our general meetings!

Mary Jean Strachan

MILESTONES January 2021-June 2021

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 E. 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
Muriel Millicent Anderson	Mar 24
Justin G. Richards	Apr 6

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

50 Years Married

Edward & Lorraine McDauid	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 Moullem	Mar 10
Dinis C. & Celeia Anastacio	Apr 4
Roger N. & Theresa Laforce	Apr 5
Abdul & Roshanara Walji	Apr 18
Butch & Gail Whiteman	May 27

Potential Members

The following is a list of people who had the option of becoming members but we have not been able to contact them. If anyone knows them, please have them call Peter Treloar at 587-338-6014 or better, email at petertre76@gmail.com

Colleen Anderson
 Geraldine Anderson-Widow of R.C. Conductor road freight
 Victoria Ball- Widow of Raymond , Pipefitter
 Lorne Bourke—Locomotive Engineer
 Larry Breton—Locomotive Engineer
 Mary Buba-Widow of John, Technical Officer
 Pauline Calhoun—Widow of Gil. Coordinator, Carload Operations
 Allan Cooper
 Beverly Edey—Widow of Bruce, Field Maintainer

Mary Hansen—Widow of John, Diesel Shop Labourer
 Marie Hutchison-Widow of Wilman
 Sally Majcher-Widow of Theodore, General Welding Supervisor
 Bryan Payne-Widower of Patricia, Manager, Labour Relations
 Charmaine Pringle—Widow of Jim, Operations Supervisor
 Wanda Rowland—Widow of A., Special Group Operator
 Maria Sacco—Widow of Antonio. Labourer
 Donald Schneider- Conductor



In Memoriam

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

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.

New Members Since January 2021

Sandy Barwell	Eva Dixon	Sylvia Klawitter	Duane Rossi
Richard Beckles	Darren Gagan	Jim Lowe	Marielle Turgeon
Wilf Bruckmann	Arlene Hamer	John Mabley	Tracy Workun
Ada DeGregorio	Greg Karpo	Darcy Nunweiler	Shirley Yamkowy
Doug Devlin	Curt Kazakoff	Donna Poliakiwski	Lori Zultok

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 <https://www.rockymountaineer.com/terms-conditions>.

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 2021 season For Travel on Select Dates July – October 2021

Two & Three-Day Rail – SilverLeaf or GoldLeaf Service*	50% discount off the full retail rate when booked for July and August
Two & Three-Day Rail – SilverLeaf or GoldLeaf Service*	20% discount off the full retail rate when 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 www.RockyMountaineer.com/onboard-experience/health-safety.

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



The moving finger writes; and, having writ, moves on;
nor all thy piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
nor all thy tears wash out a word of it.

Omari
Khayyam

CN Pensioners Update – May 2021 – Blake Olson

CN Pension Committee – May 26 – 2021 Highlights

The CN Pension Committee Members met virtually again both for a pre meeting and 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 were:
 - 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 126% 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 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.
4. 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.

A Conductor's story

I'd like to share about a near miss I experienced this morning while working the empty grain drag 846 on my way home from Edson to Edmonton. I'm still a bit shaken so this might ramble on a bit.

We're cruising eastward on the south track through Stony Plain at 58MPH, approaching a crossing, as another train motors westward on the North track. At nearly 60MPH (~100KM/H) way up high on the engine, the world goes by blindingly quickly. Getting closer to the crossing we notice a young man, maybe 11 to 14 years old, standing with his bicycle way too close to our south track, engrossed in his phone, apparently taking a video of the passing westbound on the north track. Stony Plain is a no-whistle community, and as such we don't regularly sound the CROR Rule 14L whistle signals. The ban on the whistle is exempt in cases where the safety of people or animals is in jeopardy. So we see this kid, and at 60 miles an hour, whether or not we plug our emergency brake, if he sneezes in the wrong direction he's a dead man. We're wailing on the whistle and he's not noticing us. The other passing train would indeed be quite loud, and the motion of it directly in front of him certainly far more visually distracting than an approaching train far in his left periphery, no matter how quickly we're gaining on his position. So this kid just won't notice us. He's standing maybe 48 inches from the outside of the rail. We're getting imminently closer and I begin to lose sight of him under the nose of the engine, and I stand up and crane my neck as he finally vanishes below my train. My engineer is looking straight down at him and whips open his window as we pass, hangs his head out the window, and rubbernecks as we fly by to keep the kid in his sight.

I never did see the kid again after I lost him under the nose of my train, even after I jumped over my engineer's bags and tried to see out his rear window, but I'm told that he dropped his bicycle and phone and fell backwards away from our train as we passed with less than one foot (read: inches) to spare.

I thought that young man died under my train for a moment today, and I wish I could say this was my first close call.

I'm not going to mince words. Please, stay the f**k away from the tracks, and teach your children the same. One railcar length away, about 50-60 feet, keeps most of us comfortable in the train. "I'm always on the proper side of the gates" is a lame excuse. We're required to inspect passing trains on the main line when we're stopped, and it's not common to see a railroader standing any closer than 60 to 100 feet away if there's space to back up further, let alone right next to the gates. Trains are dangerous, and debris often gets kicked up, or in some cases metal parts fly off the train at high rates of speed. It's more common than you'd think that you lose a spring from a railcar's suspension as you go over a rough break in the track at speed. Those springs are under enormous pressure and will fly hundreds of feet. It's not safe to stand close to the main line, just as you wouldn't stand right next to a freeway, or probably even an ice skater passing at a high rate of speed. And just because a heavy loaded grain train might have passed by at a snail's rate yesterday doesn't mean that the Via won't tear past at 70 miles per hour (110km/h) next.

As someone who has an appreciation for local history and all things abandoned, I can relate to the appreciation of the railway and the desire to get out and photograph and capture the daily happenings on the line. I would like to just plead that all of you remember that there are people inside these EMD's, GMD's, GE's, GM's, Alco's, or whatever else the heck we're driving out there (besides knowing my favorite engines are the 5600s and 5700s, I couldn't tell you squat about what's what on the technical side). We do worry when we see someone more concerned about getting a good shot than they are about their own safety.

Again. Sorry if this comes across rambling, or harsh. I just really don't want to be the last person to see you alive, whether it's through my locomotive window or as I undo my belt to tourniquet your hemorrhaging remnant of a limb (this is a thing that does happen, and happened to a colleague in Edmonton four years ago).

The saying on the railway is that in a career, the average is two. Please don't be my one. And please don't be the reason I finish my day feeling like I need to spend an hour writing a public service announcement. I'd rather be enjoying a beer.

