



RAILVETS' NEWS

Fall 2023

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I am again writing this from inside; it's mid September and the smoke is worse than in May when I last wrote. We are very fortunate that we are a long way from the fires and being evacuated; some of our B. C. pensioners have not been so lucky.

President's Message

The Mountain Region again has five deserving winners of the CNPA scholarship program, each awarded \$1,500. Four of the sponsors were pensioners from the Edmonton Council.

Lots of things have been happening, both locally and nationally. On the Mountain Region we have five National positions open for a three-year term and, as the new term starts in January, we hope to conclude this process in October. This has been announced at a few general meetings and if anyone is interested and/or wanting more information please contact me.

As one of three National Directors on the Mountain Region, I hope to attend our annual directors' meeting in Montreal in November. Over the last few years we have been conducting all business via zoom conference calls and emails.

We will be sending out one more printed newsletter as we still have not heard from lots of people about receiving their newsletter by email. Please advise Peter Treloar, or anyone on our Edmonton executive, if you have email access to receive your newsletter and any updates that happen throughout the year.

Hope to see lots out to our general meetings.

Al Vodden

Important Notice

There was some confusion caused by the note in the last newsletter and people thought we would not be printing any more. This is not the case. If you want to receive a printed copy of the newsletter or do not have an email address or a current email address on file with us, please call Peter Treloar at 587-338-6014 and let me know. Otherwise, we will assume that you do not want to receive it.

As it stands only 88 people have called so 930 would not receive the next one.

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Your Stories

It was the summer of 1980 and I was a young brakeman on the VIA, called spare to go east on VIA #2. With my new uniform and brakeman's cap, I felt pretty darn important.

After leaving Saskatoon, we were put into the siding at Clavet to wait for a westbound freight. The old grumpy conductor took the opportunity to get up and do a walk through the train. "C'mon, kid, let's see if everything is okay." As we walked through the day-coaches, we saw the regular cast of passengers: families on their way home, couples on vacation, workers off to wherever they were assigned along the railway.

As we passed one older couple, the woman asked, "excuse me Mr Conductor, how long before we get to Winnipeg?" It was a totally fair question, and I started doing some calculations about the planned arrival time and our average speed. I was almost ready to spit out an answer, when the old Conny, bent his lean frame down to look south out the window across the bald prairie, then turned his gaze out to the north side to look over that vast expanse. Then he rose up to his full height, made a great show of looking at his railway approved watch and answered. "Madam, at this speed, we will never get there." And then he simply walked away... leaving me and the woman a bit shocked. But I finished my calculations and advises the couple that we'd likely arrive in Winnipeg in another seven hours.

In those days, the conductors on passenger trains were still real old freight conductors with over 25 years of service. They were full of railway knowledge and a railway sense of humour. The lady got her answer... and both the old grumpy conductor and the young brakemen were proved correct. The train did get to Winnipeg... but it never would have made it at the speed we were going when old Conny looked out over the flat Saskatchewan fields to estimate our arrival time in The 'Peg."

William Munsey



Christmas Party

Mark your calendars and save the date! Plans are being made to resume our annual Christmas dinner to be held this year on Wednesday, December 13th, at the Chateau Nova Yellowhead commencing at 1100. A short meeting will be held prior to the buffet meal. Tickets will be available at our general meeting in October and November or from Al Vodden, John Wiebe, Andy and Diana Novak, and Mary Jean Strachan. With a limit of 200, this event is open to all members plus his/her spouse or one guest, and cost will be \$20 per person. We hope to see you there!

Flower Fund Report

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



Month	Flowers	Gift Cards	Unable to Contact
May	4	6	1
June	7	3	2
July	12	1	0
August	9	4	6

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 peteretre@gmail.com or phone 587-338-6014 to update your status.

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

Wednesday October 11th – Luncheon Meeting starting at 11:00am
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.

How can we show support to our Veterans?

A donation of Non-perishable Food Items OR Essential Hygiene Products
would be appreciated and can be brought to October and/or November General Meetings
With your help our generous donation will then be presented to our guest speaker at the November meeting.

Wednesday December 13th – Christmas Luncheon 11:00 am
Happy Holidays!!!

It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year

Wednesday January 10th, 2024 – General Meeting 1:30pm
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Guest Speaker – Edmonton Police Crime Division
You WON'T want to miss this one!!!!

Scams targeting seniors are at record highs!

What are these scams and how do you remain vigilant to prevent becoming a victim?!!!!

MILESTONES November 2023-February 2024

85 Years Old

Violet Handy	Nov 1
Doreen Zavaduk	Nov 17
Robert Boucher	Nov 25
Joyce Majnarich	Nov 25
Joy Leskewich	Nov 25
Ralph Gordon	Dec 11
Margaret Armstrong	Dec 11
Mary Kassian	Dec 19
Charles Mallett	Dec 25
Edith Beikiefer	Jan 8
Donald Baer	Jan 8
John Jager	Jan 8
Harry Kornak	Jan 10
Mary Humm	Jan 18
Anna Middleton	Jan 22
Dorothy Rea	Feb 6
Christina Berkenbosch	Feb 7
Gilbert Desjarlais	Feb 12
Jo Ann Parr	Feb 12
Inge Schutta	Feb 14
Delores MacDonald	Feb 15
Samyha Hajjar	Feb 17
Diane Thompson	Feb 20

90 Years Old

Marion Kostiuk	Nov 17
Myrtle Glover-Homenuk	Nov 18
William Thompson	Nov 21
Delena Buchmeier	Dec 3
Aurele Rondeau	Dec 6
Germaine Marshall	Dec 8
Anne V. Maze Andrushch	Dec 11
Margaret Grace Mork	Dec 22
Maurice Lefebvre	Dec 31
Olga Footz	Jan 7
Gordon H. Middleton	Jan 21
Edmund Heft	Jan 22
Marie DeHey	Jan 29
Santo Cerminara	Feb 4
Patricia Lockhart	Feb 16

95 Years Old

Daisy Lahaie-Schoen	Dec 10
Annellise Dabetic	Dec 17
Florentine Gallwitz	Dec 25
Quinto Odorizzi	Dec 29
Elizabeth Smart	Jan 15
Alice E. MacMillan	Feb 11
Bernice Oxley	Feb 13

100 Years Old

Muriel E. Hume	Nov 5
James Leskewich	Nov 16
Norma P. Howard	Dec 1
Marguerite J. Fisk	Jan 17

50 Years Married

Laurie & Shelagh Thurlbeck	Nov 9
Petar & Ilona Vuksanovich	Nov 19
Terry & Luann Mcmanaman	Nov 24
Gerard & Susan Charbonneau	Nov 30
Bill & Beth Russell	Dec 8
Micheal & Leigh Nakoneczny	Dec 22
Vernon & Nora Cheng	Dec 27
Raymond & Chris Anderson	Jan 12

60 Years Married

Thomas & Mary Donohue	Dec 28
Ludmilla & Stefan Tschida	Jan 1

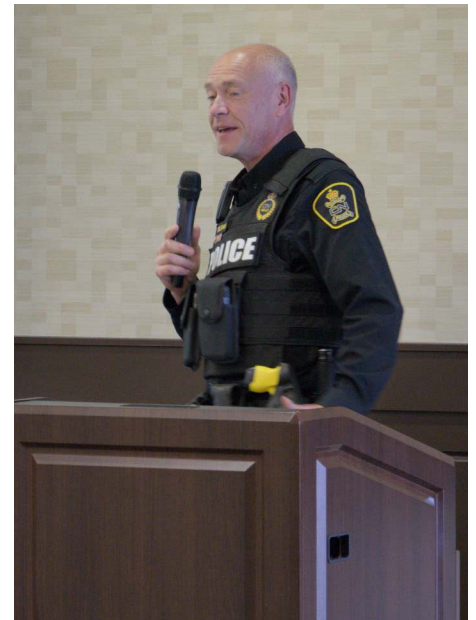
70 Years Married

Joaquim & Maria Dos Ramos	Jan 2
Stan & Sheila Horodyski	Jan 23
Olive & Bill Brandenbarg	Feb 19

Rail Safety

CN is again advancing safety in the community. As part of it we had constable Dean Solowan give a talk at one of our meetings.

More information can be found at <https://www.cn.ca/en/safety/>



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.



Ruth Bennett		Donna Lane	Widow of Jim, Operator, Jasper
Avtar Birk	Operator, Edmonton	Vera MacNeil	Widow of Murdoch, Conductor, Edmonton
Thomas Bodnar	Program Supervisor	Afanasi Michejschenko	
Louie Cardinal	Labourer, Lac La Biche	Katharina Mueller	Widow of Albert, Maintenance-Clyde
Terry Charbonneau	Yard Conductor, Edmonton	Shirley Obre	Widow of Cliff, Telegrapher - North Battleford
Katherine Cherniwchan	Widow of Steve, Track Foreman, Boyle	Frances O'Hara	Widow of Ron, Sales Manager, Edmonton
Dwayne Dixon	Train Movement Clerk, Edmonton	Wanda Rowland	Widow of A., Operator, Edmonton
Shirley Dudek		Nellie Sajiw-Bogda	Widow of John Sajiw & Mike Bogda
Ronald Fawcett	Widow of Ron, Car Mechanic, Edmonton	Stanley Szuszkiewicz	Trackman, Bonnyville
Jose Felipe		Ernie Topechka	Work Equipment, Edmonton
Les Galatiuk	Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton	Reynaldo Villaflores	Labourer, Edmonton
Mavis Gamble	Widow of John, Equipment Foreman	Gilbert Whitham	Leading Hand, Mechanical, Acheson
Robert Gauvin	Manager, Prevention & Claims	Orest Wirstiuk	Signal Maintainer, Evansburg
Edmond Godin	Labourer, Edmonton	Rose Wurst	Widow of William, Grande Prairie
Edith Gourley		Lillian Yakiwchuk	Widow of Metro, Locomotive Engineer
Charles "Ed" Grant	Operation Services Clerk	Zbigniew Zelent	Electrician, Diesel Shop, Edmonton
Norma May Hughes	Secretary, Engineering, Edmonton		
Kayoko Kawaguchi			
Kevin Kirby	S&C Supervisor, Edmonton		
Matthew Kohut	Maintenance Supervisor, Calgary		
Roger Laforce	Operator, Mirror		

Our sympathies go out to John Jager upon the death of his wife Helen.

New Members

Brenda Berard	Carla Evashenko	Brad Murray	Van Truong
Rod Casemore	Sandra Grant	Bonita Pienig	Dan Zultok
Heather Chudek	Quoc Hoang	Gordon Pocha	
Steven Cunneynworth	Marion Kostiuk	Anna Skwaruk	



Railvet Shirts -\$20.00

The Edmonton Executive designed a Nice Lite Grey shirt with Green lettering. We currently have few mediums on hand & taking orders. Good quality; don't shrink ; very true size. If interested please let me know. Al Vodden 780-489-7027

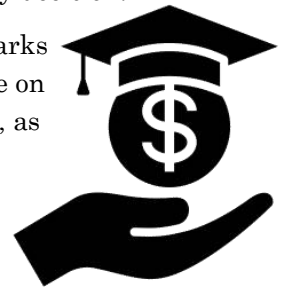
2023 Mountain Region Scholarship Awards

The 5 successful candidates picked to receive a CNPA Scholarship are:

1. Harsunger Singh Hunjan – Richmond, BC sponsored by his father, Bhupinder Singh, Vancouver Council
2. Noah Westerlund – Sherwood Park, AB sponsored by his grandfather, Henry Hoogenberg, Edmonton Council
3. Madison Bulloch – Vancouver, BC sponsored by her grandfather, Wayne Bulloch, Edmonton Council
4. Sawyer Trepanier Zurek – Edmonton, AB sponsored by his grandmother, Patricia Trepanier, Edmonton Council
5. Sophie Anastasia Ogaranko – Edmonton, AB sponsored by her grandfather, Murray McMillan, Edmonton Council

There were a total of 18 applications filed, all had achieved great marks, it was not an easy decision.

One comment I would like to make, and this is directed at future applicants FYI...your marks are important but also is your resume. Your resume should provide as much detail as possible on your education, extracurricular activities, community involvement and volunteer engagement, as well as your achievements and work history. The information you provide regarding your achievements, your volunteer experience and your academic participation assists us in your overall comprehensive evaluation



100th Birthday



Joyce Tilley celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends on August 12th (birthday Aug 14th) at the Strathmore Station Restaurant the Strathmore, AB. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and the traditional CNPA crystal desk plaque to commemorate this special event. Joyce was pleased and surprised that the pensioners association had remembered her birthday. (Thank You to daughter Cheryl for making these presentation for us, the Edmonton Rail Vets) Mom and her husband Howard (passed in 1994) started their CN career as an operator in Sunnynook, AB and his final job was as a train dispatcher in the Edmonton office. Unfortunately, Howard caught Polio which left him a paraplegic in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Raising a family with your husband in a wheelchair in the fifties presented many obstacles and challenges. Mom bravely faced these challenges and overcame them with determination. Remarkably she was also a gardener, and in her “free” time she was active leader in church activities and sports that we siblings participated in a well as being the church secretary.

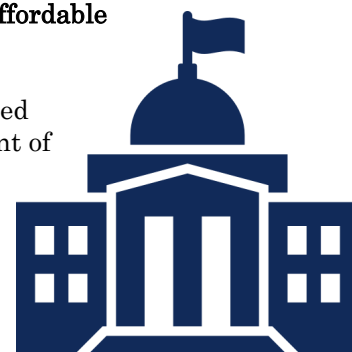
Every morning she dresses well, puts on her makeup and looks her best. Reading is her passion (she still doesn't need glasses) and visiting with her family and grandchildren and great grandchildren highlights her day. Her memory is better than anyone's in the family. She still enjoys shopping, going out to restaurants, the mall and coming out to our farm. She has a full and busy life, and is dearly loved by her family.

Joyce is an inspiration to her family and everyone who meets her. We are so lucky to have her.

Written by Cheryl Marshman, the youngest daughter

Provincial Governments

- AB Aug 2** Premier Danielle Smith has issued a mandate letter to Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services Jason Nixon calling on him to strengthen Alberta's systems to support the most vulnerable in our province. In her letter, the Premier outlines her expectations that government be creative, innovative, and collaborative in ensuring Albertans have the supports they need and tasks Minister Nixon with as a lead, working in cooperation with relevant ministries, including the Minister of Affordability and Utilities, to develop and implement an affordable and attainable home ownership and rental strategy that focuses on incentivizing the construction of new homes and rental units and creating additional financing options for prospective homeowners, while removing barriers for both homebuyers and renters. **The strategy should be focused on both middle-income and low-income prospective renters and buyers, including seniors and ensuring supports for the vulnerable, including AISH and the seniors' benefit, continue to be indexed to inflation. Also working with seniors lodge providers to undergo a planned review for the purpose of expanding seniors lodges and facilities to keep up with increased growth and demand.**
- BC Aug 4** Seniors in B.C. will be better protected against abuse as the province continues to work with partners to further raise awareness and co-ordinated community responses to **prevent abuse and neglect.**
- BC Aug 16** Seniors with low to moderate incomes in Delta will soon have access to 152 new affordable homes, with construction underway on a new housing development.
- BC Aug 17** **Seniors and people living with disabilities in Victoria are now living in safer, more comfortable homes with the completion of significant renovations to the Campbell Lodge seniors' apartment building.**
- BC Aug 18** People in B.C. will benefit from BC PharmaCare's new coverage of medications used to treat rare diseases, including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), acute hepatic porphyria (AHP) and long-chain fatty acid oxidation disorders (LC-FAODs).
- AB Aug 22** Starting Aug. 29, Albertans in need of emergency care will experience a new and improved Peter Lougheed Centre, thanks to emergency department redevelopment.
- BC Aug 26** Mental health supports are available for people who have been and continue to be **adversely affected by historic wildfires throughout B.C. this summer.**
- AB Aug 28** Nominations for the 2023 **Minister's Seniors Service Awards** are officially open. For 25 years, these awards have **recognized individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations that support seniors,** lead the way for improved services and contribute to strong communities.
- "Seniors across our province deserve to live vibrant lives with dignity and respect. We want to acknowledge the local heroes and helpers who dedicate their time and energy to support seniors. These people are in our communities, our workplaces and even just down the block. They deliver groceries, help seniors get to their appointments, make our communities more accessible and so much more." The deadline for nominations is Nov. 15. Selected recipients will be celebrated at an in-person ceremony in March 2024.
- BC Aug 29** **Seniors and people living with disabilities in Nanaimo now have more affordable housing options with the opening of 62 new homes at Sunfield Manor.**
- BC Aug 29** COVID COVID COVID - The BC Centre for Disease Control has identified British Columbia's first case of a person infected with the BA.2.86 variant of Omicron in an individual from the Fraser Health region who has not travelled outside the province. It is the first known case in Canada of this variant. So far, there does not seem to be increased severity with this strain of COVID and the individual is not hospitalized.



Summer Wind-up

The Edmonton RailVets “Summer Wind-up” event was held on Wednesday June 21st at the Rundle Family Centre in Rundle Park. This venue was able to accommodate 125 participants indoors, the facility was easily accessible and provided ample vehicle parking. 106 tickets were sold for this event.

The event was catered by Fat Franks Food Truck; they offered 4 different menu options: hot dogs, chicken strips, cheese burgers and smokies along with fries and a beverage.



We received many positive comments from those in attendance; both for the venue and the food. We will consider using this venue again in the future.

This social event gives attendees a chance to visit and renew acquaintances; getting together, sharing a few stories, catching up on what is happening in their lives and sharing food is the main event.

Lost Contact

It is very important that the CN Pension Administration have out correct contact information. They will occasionally send out letters asking for proof of life that, if not replied to, could impact pension payments.

Over the last few years, we have lost contact with some of our members. Newsletters have been Returned and their phone numbers are no longer in use. The following is a list of people we can not contact. If there is anyone you know, please get them to contact CN Pensions & Benefits Administration at 1-800-361-0739.



Barbara Anderson, St. Albert
Lorraine J. Arychuk, Edmonton
Mary Barth, Edmonton
Susie Bartsch, Hythe
Albertine W. Bourque, Lac La Biche
Megan Brzak, Sylvan Lake
Richard Buckland, Wildwood
Loretta Butt, Edmonton
Lois Campbell, Stettler
Lavinia Curran, Sechelt
Fernando Da Luz, Edmonton
Thomas Devoe, Edmonton
Velma Downing, Edmonton
Viola Duncan, Saskatoon
Jerry Fortin, Gunn
Anna Mae Gibson, Edmonton
Alice Goebel, Edmonton
Donald Goulet, Edmonton
Ragab Hassan, Edmonton
Edmund Heft, Spruce Grove
Fred Ho, Edmonton
Paul Hogan, Edmonton

Cyril P. Hook, Gunn
Eileen Keenleyside, Edmonton
Euphemia Kinash, Edmonton
Marguerite Kohut, St. Albert
Harry Kornak, Edmonton
Nancy Lischuk, Calgary
Bruce MacArthur, Grande Prairie
Shirley V. McConaghy, Edmonton
Robert McLean, Spruce Grove
Ann Michael, Sherwood Park
Judith Neave, Sherwood Park
Robert Nelson, Jasper
Heather Root, Pincher Creek
Marjorie Sessions, Calgary
Elizabeth Smart, Edmonton
Marian Tait Stefanyk, Edmonton
A. Greg Thompson, Surrey
Lorraine Tokey, Hamilton
Andre Vallee, Huntingdon
Marites Walters, Edmonton
Gerry Wiseman, Stony Plain