



CN RAILVETS OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA E2  
Oct 2022 Volume 12 Issue 3

**From the Presidents' Desk:** Whew! Glad fall is upon us as that was one hot summer even if we didn't experience a 'heat dome' like last year, it was still roasty-toasty. Hopefully, we won't plunge straight into winter but then, it is southern Alberta and the weather is, at the very least, variable! We're into October now and it seems like we've been experiencing nice weather for a long time. Do we still call this 'Indian Summer'? Or is that politically incorrect? We had a working lunch/meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. As that type of meeting is somewhat successful, we will schedule them periodically throughout our meeting year, however, the November meeting will be a regular meeting. As related in the October meeting, our National Treasurer, Bruce Peacock, has retired from one of his positions (Treasurer) and Ron Charles (Ontario) has assumed that position. Bruces' other position, National Membership Chairman remains unfilled so the call for volunteers has been put out. Bruce will provide all necessary training to ensure a seamless transition. Anyone interested? Let Brian or I know and we will forward your name and contact to the National. I hope everyone had the Thanksgiving they wanted with family and friends. Please look inside for the article from Blake Olson as it contains good, pertinent information. Find the article regarding the upcoming Christmas luncheon and help us decide which date works best by giving a call or attending the November meeting. I'm certain the nice weather won't last too much longer so, with that in mind, enjoy the pleasant weather while it lasts and then take care of yourselves when the roads and walkways become slippery. In advance of the upcoming holiday season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! Talk to me! Comments? Complaints? Suggestions? Call or email me. Sincerely, Judy Woods, President E2

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Next Meetings:** Monday, November 7, 2022 – finalizing the date and time for our Christmas luncheon; December 5, 2022 (probably).

**EXECUTIVE**

<u>President:</u> Judy Woods Phone: 403-280-9107 Email: woods@nucleus.com	<u>Secretary:</u> Linda Engel Phone: 403-873-5014
<u>Vice-President:</u> Brian Woods Phone 403-280-9107 woodsbj@nucleus.com	<u>Treasurer:</u> Madeleine Pelletier Phone 403-252-3154 madpell@hotmail.com
<u>Director</u> (appointed): Roland Morin Phone: 403-276-3901	<u>Editor:</u> Judy Woods <u>Co-Editor:</u> Brian Woods

**Our Condolences**

To the families of Gerry Campion and Gordie Leboeuf. The Pres. And Vice attended the funeral of Gerry Campion on June 25<sup>th</sup> in Hanna AB. This ceremony was attended by 450 folks paying their respects to Gerry, this included some from his time on Hannas' town council, the Chuckwagon community (Gerry was a big fan and sponsor), and of course, many rails (see pictures). His horse-drawn wagon toured Hanna on the way to the cemetery. Quite a sight. Gordie and his wife, Shirley, had moved to Nova Scotia a few years back. Gordie was the youngest older guy you would ever meet. Both of these Members left an impression with all they met and they will be missed and remembered.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, Nov 7/22**

MEETING LOCATION: Either the Games Room or Room 208 at the Kerby Centre, 1133-7 Avenue SW (403-705-3248) TIME:13:00.

All published CNPA newsletters can be read at [cnpensioners.org](http://cnpensioners.org).

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

**The Membership of E2 welcomes our New Members**

- Linda Campion
- George Regnier

**Happy Birthday wishes to:**

- Emerson 'Red' Robinson Sept 23 89 years
- Terry McDonough Oct 4 95 years
- Madeleine Pelletier Oct 11/22 81 years
- Martha Robinson Dec 7/22 86 years
- VP Brian Dec 7/22 68 years

**Anniversary congratulations to:**

- Owen and Karen Boyd Sept 28/22
- 'Red' and Martha Robinson Oct 5/22 66 years
- Roland and Doreen Morin November 1/22 58 years
- George and Eileen Merik Nov 12/22 62 years

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

- Christine Haustein May 15/22 (widow of Karl) age 86 years
- Gerry 'Brass' Campion June 11/22 70 years
- Stan Kavalinas June 29/22 (father of Clayton) age 93 years
- Gordie Leboeuf Aug.21/22 age 88 years

Want to see your name in print in our newsletter? Call us, give your details and maybe a story to add in as well and we will make that happen. Perhaps a pseudonym for any nefarious members could be arranged 😊.

**Membership Advantages:** 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. Also added is an association with the 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!

**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](mailto:woodsbi@nucleus.com) if this option works for you.

**Photos from Gerry 'Brass' Campions' funeral service:**



The motley crew – notice how they don't know how to actually be in a photo?



Better, but still don't have everyone's attention and where is that guy in the red shirt...



Ahh, much better. Must depend on the photographer? from left to right – Randy Pfaff, Ben Fecho, Murray Shack, Darrel Nowlin, Joe Shearlaw, Mike Fowler, Dan Valliere, Brian Woods, Bruno Montains, Charlie Pieper, Len Cummins, Kevin Barr, Owen Boyd, Brian Fecho, and two 'currents' (working stiffs) Mike Barter and Harley Richardson.

**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 Life Works** (new name, same company) **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.

### Insurance Rant, As Usual

Hard to have a rant, when my renewal came in 7.5 % lower than last time, but my daughters' came in at 10% higher! (different companies, she changed), so again it pays to read through your policy. But with the changes that the provincial Government put in place (you only deal with your insurance firm in a case of an accident), adding up the numbers on the different sections of your policy is no longer as transparent - a Government forced policy, go figure.

Brian

### Picnic *IN* the Kerby 2022

Held on June 13, 2022, luncheon was preceded by a meeting. There were only 11 people in attendance, but we had good conversations coupled with a great meal so, I consider that to be a success. But, because of that low turnout, we will change how both the Picnic *IN* the Kerby and the Christmas luncheon are booked. We will no longer be opting for catered meals but will, instead, order our individual meals at the café counter and run a tab that will be paid by the Local. The new chef runs themed monthly specials so we will probably be able to have similar meals to our catered ones. I would expect these two future events to be held in the Kerby Centre Games Room (downstairs, next to the café).



Wasn't that Picnic *IN* the Kerby luncheon of pulled pork, coleslaw, baked beans, Caesar salad and combread muffins delicious?!

### CNPA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations and best wishes for your future endeavours go out to this year's scholarship recipients:

Sarah Abrahams – (Darrell Abrahams-Grandfather Fraser Valley)

Nolan Zurek – (Patricia Trepanier-Grandmother Edmonton)

Vanessa Muz- (Tony Borges-Grandfather Edmonton)

Taylor Sinclair – (James W. Argent-Grandfather Edmonton)

Miranda Chan – (Claudette Rodrigue-Mother Edmonton)

*Hopefully there will be some successful applicants from Southern Alberta for next years' scholarships!*

### Blake Olson Health Care Committee Chair and Pension Committee Representative

September 2022, - Pension & Health Care Committee

Updates– 1. The CN Pension Committee met virtually on September 20, 2022. The meeting attended by all regular members and chaired by Union co-chair K.C. James. There were several preparatory meetings where issues related to the Committee and functions and other issues were discussed with CN. 2. At the Committee meeting there was the typical review of all new and outstanding Pensions and approvals. 3. The most significant news at the meeting was the announced departure of Sean Finn, who was the Company Co-Chair but more importantly, CN's Executive Vice-President and Chief Legal Officer. Sean has been a part of the Committee for more than 14 years. He also had an important relationship to the CN Pensioners: a. Sean recognized the importance of the CNPA as equal partners on the Pension Committee, and created a third Co-Chair position for the CNPA President. b. He approached the pensioners to assist CN in various community and corporate initiatives and as a result negotiated a Partnership agreement with the CNPA which benefited both parties. As a result, the Pensioners played a key and critical role at events like the CN 100 celebration, CN's ECO CONNEXIONS Tree Planting initiatives, Safety Events, CN Community Fund, Local communications, and committees. In return, the CNPA was provided with financial and membership recruitment support, assistance with our Newsletters, enhancement to the RRITC program and more. c. Sean's relationship with the pensioners will be missed, but we wish him well in his retirement. The Company Co-Chair position will be filled by Christina Circelli, Sean's legal department associate and a longtime member of the Committee. 4. We received an overview of the CN's current market conditions and supply chain management from CN VP Keith Reardon. 5. Of note were comments from a couple committee Union leaders, who were concerned about the apparent loss of committee discussions as a direct result of the virtual meetings over the past 2 ½ years. They indicated this has impacted the way we used to do business. Of particular concern, as these unions head into negotiations, was impact of the ongoing national inflation/cost of living pressures being faced by both current employees and pensioners. The Union improvement



account has had a negative balance it seems like forever. They want to have face to face meetings sooner than later to review options and opportunities related to the Pension Plan. CNPA President Reg Hebert supported the unions assertions and agreed that costing and discussion of options is required. The Company indicated that they would provide some account numbers but did not commit to anything further. 6. It is important to note that Canadian inflation is running at an annualized rate of about 8%. 7. Despite the significant volatility in worldwide markets this year and rampant inflation, I am unable to give you the current financial status of the Plan, as the next update from CNID will be at the November meeting. We last received a financial update in March on the year end 2021 status. We are confident our Plan investments are being well managed as usual during this financial turmoil and the overall funding status is positive despite the negative market pressure on our investments. 8. You received the CN Pension Plan annual report in July which provided you with the Plans status as of December 31, 2021 and announced indexation for 2023. The *maximum* monthly increase is \$79.92. 9. We were also advised by CN that they have not determined when or if face to face meetings will restart. Health Care Committee Fall 2022 Update 1. The HC Committee met on September 28/29 virtually with both regular and alternate members. As is usual, the committee reviewed the financial status of the plan and implications for the Premium rate adjustments required for 2023. We also received program updates from our Medavie partners. 2. While the Plan continues to be in good shape financially, our continued concern is the impact of high claimants on our finances. The cost to the Plan continues to increase annually. Currently, 137 (0.3%) plan members claim 17% of all expenses. 3. While we had a small, but anticipated Plan loss for 2021, and anticipate the same for 2022 we were able to keep increases to an average 4. The Committee will, over the next 6 months, study the Plan administrative, entry options, membership, accessibility and benefit provisions and potentially recommend future changes where appropriate and positive for the Plan. of just 2.0% in 2023 due to some provision adjustments affecting high claimants and drawing on surplus funds. Annual Renewal letters will be issued in early November as usual. 5. We continue to promote the increased member use of our MAIL ORDER PHARMACY provisions available, which lower the cost of member prescriptions AND have them delivered direct to their door. Go to the HEALTH CARE section of the CNPA National Website for contact information. 6. Of particular importance for Western Canada members, Medavie Blue Cross and the Western Canada provincial Blue Cross agencies are going through a computer system transition on Oct. 17. Every member in the west will be receiving a letter explaining the transition AND new membership cards. While the change should be seamless, members should read and follow the recommendations in the communications. For other than direct pharmacy payment of prescription medication, the simplest way to submit other Extended Health Care claims is by using the MEDAVIE BLUE

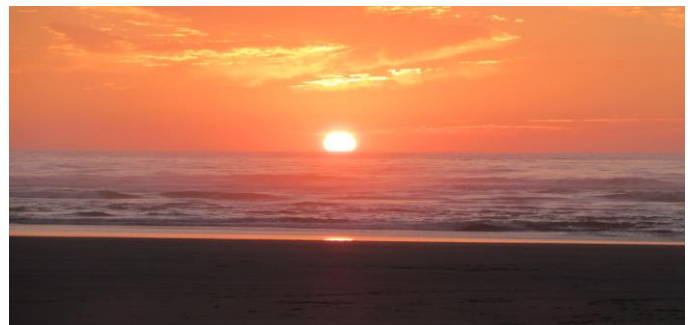
CROSS MOBILE APP. Easy to register & simple to submit claims directly online.

The Health Care Committee reps continue to do an excellent job in managing the Plan provisions, finances and administration. I commend them for their dedication and diligence.

Blake Olson

### Christmas Luncheon-Meeting

It was decided at the October meeting that, because of its previous successes and ease of set up, we will simply order our food at the café counter (running a tab that the local will pay), seat ourselves in the Games Room and each meal will be delivered by the kitchen staff. This way, we will only have to call you once in late November to remind you of the luncheon. I will no longer have to give a count, so we will not have to pay for plates that were ordered but insufficient people attended. It had been mentioned that perhaps a different time and day of the week would work better so those will be finalized at the November meeting. Also to be decided at the November meeting will be a possible charge for this luncheon - \$5 per person was suggested but not voted on. We will be giving away door prizes as well. Regardless of the specifics, the luncheon will be held sometime during the week of December 5-9 with a possible start time of 12:00 (to give the volunteer kitchen staff an earlier end to their duties). Your November reminder call will have all the details and it will be your only call. I hope to see as many of you as possible.



Sunset, Pacific Ocean, Cape Outlook, Oregon



Devastation from spring 2022 floods, Red Lodge MT