



Pensioners' news

Keeping pensioners' information on track
Volume 30 • Number 1 • Spring 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 3 From Health Care to Housing:
Dialling 211 Can Help
Biggar, SK – Building on
Our Railway Heritage
- 4 Big News: 2026 CNPA Scholarship
Program Now Open!
2025 belairdirect Scholarship
Winner Announced
- 5 Northern BC Council Celebrates
50 Years with New Benches
The Whistle Blows Forever:
Belleville Honours the Yardmen's Legacy
- 6 The Gift of Life, 295 Times Over
A Deep Connection to CN 105-year-old
George Vince fondly recalls his time
at the railroad
- 7 Help Wanted? No – Help Needed!
Manitoba Executive Welcomes
Three New Members
- 8 From the Rails to the Stars: The Remarkable
Journey of James Somerville Edgar
- 9 Dreams Can Come True
Keep your address current
Here's why it matters
- 10 Celebrating Centenarians Birthdays
- 11 Celebrating Centenarians Birthdays,
continued
Community fund
- 12 Membership Application Form

IMPORTANT

When a pensioner/surviving spouse moves or dies, CN Pension and Benefits Administration must be advised immediately by calling 1-800-361-0739 so that an accurate information database can be maintained.

The Company (CN) has reached an agreement with the CN Pensioners Associations (CNPA) to provide mailing addresses periodically. This is so that the pensioner or surviving spouse does not have to make a second call to the National Council.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hopefully, spring is on its way, or may even have arrived in some locations, allowing us to get outside more and return to fresh air and exercise on a regular basis.

Previously, I used the analogy of our Association being like an automobile, and you learned about the **fuel and electrical systems**, and the vital role they play in our Association's operation. Now, as promised, here is a glimpse into the **safety features** available with this vehicle.

Two safety features for all CN Pensioners are the **Pension Committee (the Committee)** and the **Pension Plan**. Our CNPA Pension Committee representatives are elected, by you, with a regular and an alternate representative for each region. Together with counterparts from the Union and CN, they meet four times a year, twice in person and twice on video calls. At these sessions, the Committee reviews and approves all new pensions, is briefed on the health of the Plan itself, and is provided with a summary of a report from the CN Investment Division (CNID) that manages and invests all the Plan funds. Within the Plan there is another safety feature—the **Escalation Account**—which is reserved exclusively for pension improvements for CN pensioners. Although our Pension Plan is not fully indexed, there are guarantees that, effective January of every year, there will be a minimum increase of \$9.00 per month for every pensioner and \$4.50 per month for every surviving spouse. Beyond that, there are formulas to calculate any potential additional increases above those minimums, and funding for those increases comes from the **Escalation Account**. Similarly to the safety features in your car, this is complex, but your Committee members (the technicians) are there to help you understand if you have questions.

In 2025, the Committee began organizing annual **pension information sessions** held in a location other than Montreal. There are presentations and question-and-answer sessions on a variety of topics of interest, including the Pension and Health Care Plans, all designed to inform our members and educate them on all the **safety features** and options available to them and on the best ways to put them to use for their benefit.

The next critical **safety features** provided for your vehicle are the **Healthcare Plan and Committee**. Similar to the Pension Committee, the Healthcare Committee is made up of your elected representatives from each region. The Healthcare Chair—the “head mechanic”—is one of your elected technicians, Blake Olson. Committee members meet twice per year to review and manage the Plan benefits and premiums. This Plan is completely self-funded through the premiums paid by Plan members. Mercer is used to provide critical data needed to make these decisions, and we also contract with Medavie Blue Cross to administer the claims and claim payments for us. However, all decisions on what claims and medications are eligible under the Plan, what additional medical services can be provided within the Plan, and what the annual premiums need to be to sustain the Plan are calibrated solely by your Healthcare Committee. These same technicians are your source if you have

**The National Council of CN Pensioners Associations Inc.
publishes the CN Pensioners' News three times per year.**

Newsletter Editorial Team
newsletters@cnpensioners.org

Editor
Steve Mihell
steve.mihellcnpa@gmail.com

Associate Editor
Joanne Gaborieau
joannegabor@outlook.com

Regional Representatives
Atlantic – Bruce Peacock
Peacock1942@gmail.com

Quebec – Rémi La Haye
remi.lahaye@gmail.com

Ontario – Cathy Thomas
cthomas.cnr@gmail.com

Prairie – Mark Barda
cnpamb.publicity@gmail.com

Mountain – Rae Sexton
raesextoncnpa@gmail.com

National Executive Secretary
CN Pensioners Associations
49310 John Wise Line
Aylmer, ON
H5N 2R4

National President
Bruce Anderson
president@cnpensioners.org

Past President
Reg Hebert
rhebert06@yahoo.ca

National Treasurer
Ron Charles
treasurer@cnpensioners.org

Executive Secretary
Ron Hewson
secretary@cnpensioners.org

Membership Co-Chairs
Peter Moloney, Nancy Zajacz
membership@cnpensioners.org

2026 National Council and Executive Committees,
including the Regional Vice-Presidents,
visit www.cnpensioners.org/councils

National website and national Facebook pages
For more information, contact names and numbers,
please go to our National website
www.cnpensioners.org
www.facebook.com/cn.pensioners.92
www.facebook.com/cnpa.french.3

CN Pensions and Benefits Administration – 1-800-361-0739
Pensioners' web portal: cnbenefits.hroffice.com

The portal is now available at CNBENEFITS.HROFFICE.COM
It will allow you to access relevant pension information and update your
address and banking information. On your first visit, you will need to
register. You will then be able to access the portal using your CN PIN
(login ID) and the password you created.
If you require assistance with registering or logging in, please call
the Pensioners' Helpline at 1-800-361-0739.

*CN is committed to adhering to the highest standards in all aspects
of its corporate activities. In order to ensure that pensioners receive
the maximum possible information concerning the Company,
its activities, the Pension Fund, and all related matters, it funds
this newsletter. However, the content of the newsletter is entirely
the responsibility of the National Pensioners Associations, and CN
assumes no responsibility for the content of the newsletter, which
is the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Associations.*

Continued from Page 1

questions about your coverage or a specific claim
issue, and unlike other mechanics, they don't have
an hourly wage; they volunteer their time on your
behalf.

So, in terms of **safety features**, this model offers
the **Pension Plan**, the **Healthcare Plan** and teams
of technicians assigned to each to optimize their
performance and provide you with the highest
degree of safety possible. All part of the complete
car care package offered by the CNPA.

In the next edition, we will take a look at the
internal computer systems for this vehicle and
how they can be put to use to benefit you, the
drivers.

Bruce Anderson
President, CN Pensioners Association

Pensioners' news
February 23 • March 2 • November 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1. Pensioners' Message
- 2. Health Care - Easy and Simple Ways to Streamline Your Claims, Did you know???
- 3. 2025 Scholarship Program, Keeping You Connected with your Pension Payments, Save with Specialists
- 4. Was There Anything More Dying at... without First Reading These Two Magical Scripts "Get Absent!" Address Insurance Costly Wives
- 5. To Dream the Impossible Dream, Inspire His, her or Karaoke Gals a Helping Hand
- 6. "The Calith King" Help PS Hospitals, CNPA 50th Anniversary Celebrations, Commemorate Across the Country
- 7. Keepin' PS Carelessly Safe for One 20 Years, CN Pensioners Know Kalamit History Alive
- 8. Celebrate Centennial Birthdays
- 9. Celebrating Seniors & Wishes Continued
- 10. Northern No. 10 Copied - Wheel It All Begins
- 11. Membership Application Form

SIGN UP NOW FOR YOUR E-NEWSLETTER

- ✓ Environmentally friendly
- ✓ More convenient
- ✓ No mail delays or address issues

Be one of the first to sign up!!

Send your NAME, PIN, and email address to:
e-newsletter@cnpensioners.org

FROM HEALTH CARE TO HOUSING: DIALING 211 CAN HELP

There is an easy way to get information on how to find and connect with social and community services provided by community, government and social service agencies and organizations across Canada. From any province or territory, you just have to dial 211.

211 is Canada's primary source of information about government and community-based health and social services. The free and confidential service can be accessed 24 hours a day, in more than 150 languages, by phone, chat, text and web. 211 helps connect people to the right information and services.

A live operator will answer your call with information on how you can contact non-clinical health, social and support services in your own community. For example, if you're looking for information on how to help deal with health issues like diabetes, dementia, ALS or other diseases, the 211 operators can provide you with contact information for the various agencies that offer those specific services

in your area. If you're looking for information on assisted living residences or retirement homes, the 211 operators can help you with contact information for local facilities. The same for information on local senior centre programs, senior-focused physical activity programs, local transportation services for seniors, mental health support services and so on. No matter what you're looking for, these operators have the resources to help.

The 211 program is managed by United Way/Centraide Canada and the 211 National Service Provider Network. These organizations pride themselves on serving communities across Canada and on upholding the highest ethical standards in their interactions, as well as ensuring the accuracy of their listings. You do not have to give your name or personal details to ask for information. Just dial 211.

More information can also be found at www.211.ca.



BIGGAR, SK – BUILDING ON OUR RAILWAY HERITAGE

The Town of Biggar is undergoing a massive revitalization, and for anyone with CN Rail in their blood, this project is something truly special. By the Spring of 2026, the historic Grand Trunk Pacific/Canadian National railyard location will be transformed into Brownlee Square and Gateway Park, two stunning green spaces that will book-end Main Street.



Original Biggar (Grand Trunk Pacific) Station circa 1910



Replica Biggar Station for Brownlee Square under construction, 2025

For over a century, the GTP and CN have been the heartbeat of Biggar. While the original station unfortunately had to be demolished due to its condition, the spirit of the railroad is being brought back to life. The new Brownlee Square will feature a meticulously crafted replica of the original CN train station on the exact spot where the old building once stood. To complete the historic feel, the town is relocating the iconic CN caboose from Highway 14 to its new home at the Square. This area will serve as the focal point of the town, featuring a stage, a farmers' market pavilion, and a grand archway at Gateway Park to the north.

THE MAIN EVENT: "BIGGAR COUNTRY" – JUNE 13, 2026

To celebrate this enormous achievement, the Town is hosting a massive, free outdoor concert called "Biggar Country." Held during the Town and Country Fair days and a major 10-year high school reunion, the event will feature Country recording artist Jess Moskaluke as headliner along with country acts Brayden King and Brock Andrews. Attendance is expected to be between 2,500 and 3,000 people!

A CALL TO OUR CNPA MEMBERS

The Town of Biggar has reached out to the CNPA Saskatchewan and Alberta councils for support. They are seeking partners to help with the logistics of this celebration. Saskatchewan council has already donated funds specifically for volunteer uniforms (T-shirts) to ensure the 3,000 attendees are well supported by a visible team. As a partner, the CNPA would be prominently recognized across radio, newspapers, and social media, showcasing our association's continued commitment to the communities that the railway has built.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Town of Biggar, CN, and the CNPA share a common history, and the Town wants us there to celebrate with them. Formal invitations for our board and members will be distributed in early 2026. Whether you come for the music, the history, or the chance to see the new replica station, it promises to be a proud day for rail fans and pensioners alike.

BIG NEWS: 2026 CNPA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM NOW OPEN!

I am pleased to report that the **CN Pensioners Association Scholarship Program** funding was officially approved by the National Council at our November 2025 Annual Directors Meeting.

As we enter our **13th year**, we are proud to announce a significant investment in the future of our families. Thanks to years of careful management of the \$1.00 monthly contributions from our members, we are offering a total of **39 scholarships** this year, totaling **\$58,500!**

2026 AWARD DISTRIBUTION (\$1,500 EACH)

We have expanded our reach across all regions to support more students than ever:

- **CNPA National:** 25 awards (5 per region)
- **Manitoba Council:** 5 Harvey Hosfield Awards and 1 Trades Bursary
- **Ontario Council:** 1 Provincial Council Award
- **Quebec:** 1 Luc Grenier Trades Award and 1 Montreal Laval Council Award
- **Moncton Council:** 2 Moncton Council Awards
- **Atlantic Region:** 3 Maritimes Awards (**New for 2026!**)



WHO CAN APPLY?

Scholarships are available to the **children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren** of contributing CNPA members who receive a CN pension or survivor pension.

A Message to Our Pensioners (The Sponsors)

This program is one of the best ways we “give back” to the members who make our Association successful. Your only role is to provide the student with your **PIN** and **Council affiliation**.

A Message to Students

This is **your** project! We encourage all eligible students to:

1. Visit cnpensioners.org/scholarships for full rules and requirements.
2. Carefully follow the instructions to complete the application.
3. Use the **dedicated mailbox** on the website if you have any questions.

Our five regional selection committees are eager to review your applications and discover this year’s top candidates. Good luck to all applicants!

Reginald Hebert

National Scholarship Committee Chair

2025 BELAIRDIRECT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED



Sophie Bennett

Congratulations to **Sophie Bennett**, grandchild of Campbell River’s John (Jack) Bennett, on being awarded a \$1,000 scholarship through the Belair Insurance Company Inc. (belairdirect) 2025 Program.

Belairdirect awarded 50 scholarships worth \$1,000 each to the children/grandchildren of a belairdirect recognized group member or group employee.

For many Canadian students, the jump from high school to post-secondary education signals a thrilling transition into adulthood. Along with the excitement and independence, come new financial responsibilities.

Sophie graduated from Timberline Secondary School in Campbell River and is now in her first year of studies at UBC Vancouver in the Bachelor of Dental Sciences, Dental Hygiene program. Through the belairdirect Program—designed to help Canadian students achieve their educational goals—Sophie will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to apply toward her post-secondary tuition fees.

Selected by a third-party committee from hundreds of applicants nationwide, Sophie is one of only 50 students to receive this award toward their post-secondary education. We are pleased to see her hard work recognized on a national level. Congratulations, Sophie!

For more information about the 2026 belairdirect Scholarship Program, please visit www.belairdirect.com/en/scholarship.html in the spring or call 1-844-567-1237.

belairdirect is a proud insurance partner of CNPA.

Visit <https://www.belairdirect.com/en/group-insurance/group-benefits.html> for more information.

NORTHERN BC COUNCIL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH NEW BENCHES

To mark the 50th anniversary of the CN Pensioners Association—both nationally and here in the Central and Northern BC Council—two new benches have been added to the Railway and Forestry Museum in Prince George, along one of its major paved pathways. While there was no formal ceremony, the installation itself became a meaningful moment for council members, who saw the benches completed just in time for the annual CN/EFAP Picnic in 2025.

The benches were chosen not only as a practical addition to the museum grounds, but as a lasting tribute to the generations of CN employees whose work shaped rail history in Northern BC. Positioned along a well travelled route through the museum, they offer visitors a place to pause, reflect, and enjoy the surroundings. That's something especially fitting for a community built on decades of shared service and connection.

Council members Jeanette Dydruk and Brenda Latta are pictured seated on one of the new benches, with Jeff Mohr and Gordon Davis standing behind them. All four played a role in bringing this project to life on behalf of the CN Pensioners Association.

The council hopes the benches will spark curiosity among pensioners who haven't yet joined the CNPA, encouraging them to ask questions, reconnect with former colleagues, and consider becoming part of the Association's next 50 years.

For anyone in the region—members, families, and neighbours alike—the Railway and Forestry Museum on River Road remains a wonderful place to explore the intertwined histories of rail and forestry in Northern BC. The new benches are now part of that story.



Bench donation

THE WHISTLE BLOWS FOREVER: BELLEVILLE HONOURS THE YARDMEN'S LEGACY

In the heart of Belleville, where the rumble of the trains once dictated the rhythm of daily life, stands a monument to more than just sport. It stands as a testament to a vision known locally as the “**Railroaders’ Dream.**” For those walking into the Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre today, it's easy to focus on the modern glass and high-tech rink. However, the ground beneath the CAA Arena carries the weight of a different era, the era of the Belleville Yardmen.

Decades ago, Belleville was a vital hub for the Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian National Railway. The “Yardmen”—hardworking crews who kept the engines running and the freight moving—had a vision that extended beyond the tracks. They dreamed of a premier facility that would put Belleville on the provincial map and provide a home for the next generation of athletes.

Through the **Belleville Yardmen Benefit Fund**, these workers didn't just ask for an arena; they built it. Their relentless fundraising and community spirit led to the 1978 opening of the **Belleville Yardmen Arena**, a venue that would eventually host 34 years of Belleville Bulls history and today serves as the home of the AHL's Belleville Senators.

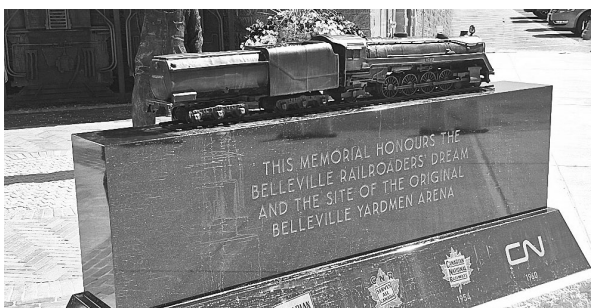
MORE THAN JUST A NAME

While naming rights often change with the seasons, the city has made a conscious effort to ensure the “Yardmen” name remains a permanent fixture. The memorial site at the arena serves as a reminder of:

- **Community First:** The arena was born from the pockets and passions of local workers, not corporate sponsorships.
- **The “Dream”:** The transition from a railway town to a “hockey town” was a deliberate, hard-fought victory led by the railroaders.

VISITING THE MEMORIAL

Next time you head to the rink for a game, take a moment to pause at the commemorative plaques. You aren't just standing at a sports complex; you are standing on the site of a fulfilled promise. The “Railroaders’ Dream” lives on every time the puck drops and the crowd roars—a sound not so different from the powerful whistle of a 1920s locomotive heading into the Belleville yards.



Memorial to the Belleville Yardmen located outside the facility.

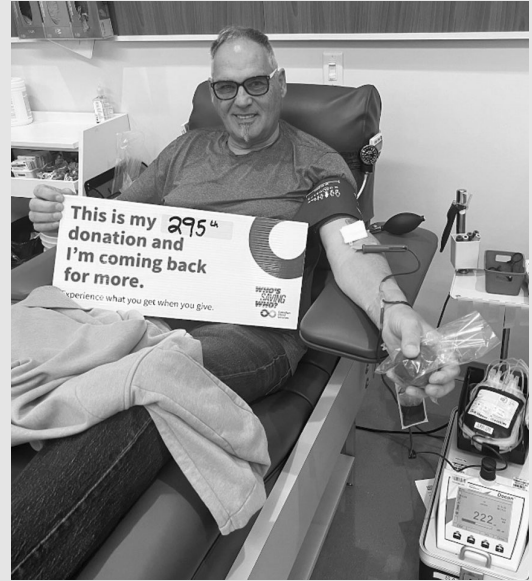
THE GIFT OF LIFE, 295 TIMES OVER



Canadian Blood Services
it's in you to give

Carl Moslenko from Saskatchewan Council D2 is no stranger to Canadian Blood Services. Carl retired from his job as a locomotive engineer in 2014 after almost 30 years of service. Carl's mother had an illness that required her to receive blood transfusions during her operations, and there was a notable shortage of blood at the time. Carl was too young to donate and vowed to start donating as soon as he was 16 years of age. Well, he did—and has been donating regularly ever since. He is currently up to 295 donations and continues to donate as often as he is able to. Carl encourages everyone to “give the gift of life” as often as they can.

Congratulations Carl and thank you for your continued support to Canadian Blood Services and their grateful recipients.



Carl Moslenko

A DEEP CONNECTION TO CN

105-YEAR-OLD GEORGE VINCE FONDLY RECALLS HIS TIME AT THE RAILROAD

The CN Pointe St. Charles rail yard in 1936 was a sprawling, bustling place of shops and maintenance facilities that is fondly etched in George Vince's memory and in his heart.



105-year-old George Vince has an enduring connection to CN. A healthy lifestyle, the love of family and friends, and a zest for life have all contributed to his longevity.

The rail yard operated from the 19th century through the 1990s. George was just 16 years old when he signed up to be an Apprentice Labourer at CN in 1936, an energetic local kid with an electric toy train collection, who wanted to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, father, uncles, cousins, and siblings, who were career railroaders. “So many members of the Vince family worked at CN, we practically ran the place!” jokes George, who walked or rode his bicycle to his 5:00 a.m. shift in the Stores—the supply depot for spare parts and components required for the maintenance and ongoing operations of locomotives and cars.

“I LOVED my job!” George enthuses. “I made 42 cents an hour and worked every day including 4 hours on Saturday. I worked outside a lot in the lumber yard overlooking the St. Lawrence River to fill the orders. It was a clean and healthy job with good physical work. No one babied us. To earn extra money, I sold The Star newspaper to guys coming on their shifts for 14 cents a week, plus tips if they were generous. I gave it all to my mother to help with raising our family of five. Employees would get free passes to travel on CN's passenger rail network, which we used to go to Old Orchard Beach in Maine for holidays. It was such a happy time.”

George got married to his sweetheart, Joan, in July 1943, but was shipped out shortly afterwards to Gander, Newfoundland, during WW2 to work as a mechanic. After the war ended, he and Joan raised a family, and George started a career in sales, later becoming the general manager of a refrigeration company.

Now a spry 105-year-old, it is that brief but poignant time at CN that brings him the happiest of memories. “I still feel a deep connection to CN,” George says with nostalgia. “CN was like my second family, and I felt proud to be there. I remember being on the talented CN soccer team, which won the Canadian championship one year. I was also on the bowling team and was an excellent bowler with a 142 average! I will always carry those wonderful experiences with me.”

From CN Spotlight: September 2025



HELP WANTED? NO – HELP NEEDED!

About three years ago, I reached out to the Association, offering to help with the national website. That “help” has ended up being quite rewarding. While moving the

website onto a new generation of technology, I’ve been able to learn several new things for myself and I’ve pushed to adopt practices and tools that will ensure the business continuity of the CNPA—most of them successful. The change from using personal email accounts for CNPA business to using Association emails (e.g., president@cnpensioners.org) is the most obvious of these. These accounts can be transferred as people move into/out of the roles over time, preserving the history of the role.

However, business continuity also means having someone capable of quickly stepping in when a position becomes vacant either by choice or by circumstance. There are various roles that the CNPA is well positioned to cover should the need arise, but there is one glaring vulnerability: I am the weakest link! I’m currently the only one with the ability to log in and update the website and the email accounts.

I don’t plan on giving up this role any time soon, but I don’t control the circumstances! I’m looking for help. I need to find at least one or two people who would like to come aboard and serve as associate webmaster. It would be hard to describe what you would do in this short article. I can tell you that it’s not a lot of work and won’t take long to learn. Once you’re up to speed, it normally takes just a few hours each month to do the role. If you’re willing to consider it and want to find out more, just send me an email at webmaster@cnpensioners.org with your contact details, and I’ll reach out to discuss.

As I said, the work can be rewarding and gives you the opportunity to keep learning as you go. Hopefully, that interests you and you’ll raise your hand!

George Rowan
Webmaster

MANITOBA EXECUTIVE WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS

As we recognize the importance of filling Executive vacancies for councils at all levels of our Association, the Manitoba Executive Council is very pleased to welcome three new members effective January 2026.

The three new members are: Secretary Gloria Gorin, Outreach Chair Vivian Horvath, and Member at Large Ed Faldereau. Thanks so much to Gloria, Vivian, and Ed for stepping up to the plate to help support and grow the Manitoba Council and the CNPA into the future.



Front row, left to right: Ernie Yakiwchuk, Vivian Horvath, Janet Lewis Anderson, Gloria Gorin, Dennis Brown. Back row, left to right: Mark Barda, Patrick McMullin, Bruce Anderson, Ed Falardeau, Carson Hull. Missing from photo: Joanne Gaborieau and Jim Feeny.



FROM THE RAILS TO THE STARS: THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF JAMES SOMERVILLE EDGAR

For many, a 40-year career in the railway would be the achievement of a lifetime. For James Somerville Edgar, it was simply the first act. From his early days in the yards of British Columbia to his current role as a leader in the Canadian astronomical community, James's story is one of constant learning, precision, and a passion for discovery.



James Edgar

A LIFE ON THE TRACKS

James's railway career began in Kamloops, B.C., where he hit the ground running as a Yardman. He took to the work immediately, and within just six months, he rose to the rank of Yard Foreman. In 1966, he moved to the West Coast, navigating the busy assignments of Port Mann and the Vancouver Main Yard.

The 1970s marked a shift into specialized expertise. After qualifying through the ESB program at Gimli in 1973 and working as an engineman for a time, James eventually returned to the classroom—this time as an instructor, where he spent the next four years shaping the next generation of student engineers. His leadership journey took him across the Prairies, serving as Master Mechanic in Sioux Lookout and Trainmaster at Symington Yard. Following a series of regional management roles, James found his home in Melville, Saskatchewan, in 1987, where he capped off a distinguished four-decade career.

CRAFTING A LEGACY IN WOOD

Retirement didn't mean slowing down. Instead, James turned his focus to the workshop. What began in the 1970s with a few homemade tools gifted by his father-in-law has evolved into a high-tech woodworking studio.

Today, the homemade lathes of his early days have been replaced by advanced technology. In 2014, James introduced a CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) carver to his shop, which he has since upgraded alongside the addition of a laser engraver. These tools have allowed him to transform raw lumber into intricate works of art with mathematical precision.



Wooden box created by James

REACHING FOR THE HEAVENS

While his hands were busy in the shop, James's eyes were often on the sky. His interest in astronomy was sparked during the Apollo Moon missions and furthered by volunteering as a docent at the Vancouver Museum in 1973.

In 2000, a birthday gift of a membership to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) changed everything. James didn't just join the Society; he became a pillar of it. Over the last two decades, he has climbed the ranks from National Secretary to National President (2014–2015). Today, he holds the prestigious title of Editor of the Observer's Handbook. In the publication's 117-year history, James is only the eighth person to hold that seat.



Cover of RASC handbook
– James Edgar, Editor



James Edgar (far right) with members of the RASC and then prime minister Stephen Harper (centre)

WHERE ART MEETS SCIENCE

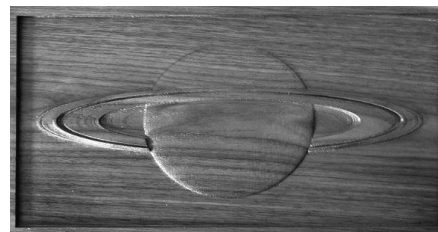
Perhaps the most inspiring chapter of James's story is how he has merged his two worlds. Using his CNC carver, James creates "tactile carvings" of astronomical phenomena.

By translating data into physical texture, he allows the beauty of the universe to be experienced by those who cannot see it. His works include:

Saturn's Rings: A thin, tactile slice created for the University of Toronto.

Jupiter's Clouds: Intricate carvings for the astronomical community.

Total Solar Eclipses: Specialized carvings that have allowed sightless enthusiasts to "feel" the majesty of an eclipse.



Wood carving of Saturn's rings

From the steady rhythm of the railway to the silent wonders of the cosmos, James Somerville Edgar continues to prove that retirement isn't an end. It's an opportunity to build, to lead, and to help others see the world (and the universe) in a whole new way.

Over the past several years, we have seen both individual participation levels and volunteer hours for this program steadily increase. We attached annual slogans to promote each year's efforts like **Stretch Targets, The Sky Is the Limit**, and after we had 572 registered volunteers and donations on behalf of those volunteers totalling \$940,473 in 2024, we went all out and the 2025 slogan was **To Dream the Impossible Dream**. Well, I couldn't be more pleased to tell you that **Dreams Can Come True**. In 2025, including the bonus donations, your volunteer efforts on behalf of the CN Railroaders in the Community Program raised **\$1,052,425** for your charities, an increase of 12%. While this is remarkable, it was accomplished by only 458 registered volunteers, a 20% decrease from 2024.

For 2025, there will be a reduction in eligible hours per volunteer from the 2025 limit of 220 hours, down to 100 hours, which will reduce the maximum donation per volunteer to \$1,500. While this may seem disappointing, it is also our opportunity to reinvigorate the volunteer population and maximize the contribution levels. That can be done by making sure that everyone who is volunteering for a registered charity is also registered and logging those hours in the RRITC program. Staying at or above the \$1 million threshold is not going to be easily achieved. However, all of your collective efforts—both in the time you spent and the financial donations made on your behalf—are truly appreciated by the charities who have likely seen an increase in the demand for their services this past year.

At the risk of repeating myself, take a step back and feel good about the benefits you have collectively provided to the many charities you volunteer for, not only through the hours you have given on their behalf, but also through the additional financial support you have provided to them under the CN Railroaders in the Community program. Your time has made a difference!

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

As mentioned in the December edition of the newsletter, the RRITC bonus program changed for 2025. We decided to hold a draw and select two eligible volunteers from each Region, and CN will donate an additional \$2,000 to their respective charities. The draw was held on January 20, and the winners were:

- **Atlantic:** Gloria J. Churchill King (St. John's, NL) and Herve LeBlanc (Dieppe, NB)
- **Quebec:** Claude Cote (Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu) and Richard Laprise (Senneterre)
- **Ontario:** David Ogden (Plainfield) and Crystal Garbutt (Welland)
- **Prairies:** Linda Wachal (Winnipeg, MB) and Ernie Gazdewich (Canora, SK)
- **Mountain:** David Ball (Edmonton, AB) and Axel Peterson (Smithers, BC)

We will work with our Local representatives, the winners, and their charities to arrange for cheque presentations as soon as possible. You can look for their photos and stories in future editions.

Congratulations to all the winners. I'm sure your favourite charities will be extremely thankful for the additional donations from CN. This is one more example of how your time volunteering, as well as your participation in the CN Railroaders in the Community Program, can make a positive impact.

Bruce Anderson
CNPA – CN Liaison Officer

**KEEP YOUR
ADDRESS CURRENT
HERE'S WHY IT MATTERS**

Even though your monthly pension is deposited directly into your account, keeping your address up to date with CN Pension and Benefits Administration is essential. Here's why:

YOUR ADDRESS IS USED FOR:

Mailing your annual tax slips (T4A/RL-1) at the end of February

Sending important pension plan updates and notices

Delivering your annual pension statement

Forwarding information to Medavie Blue Cross if you're enrolled in the CN Pensioner Healthcare Plan

Updating the CN Pensioners Association records

Ensuring we can contact your loved ones in the event of your passing and that benefits are paid promptly to your surviving spouse or beneficiaries, if applicable

UPDATING IS EASY:

Online: Log in anytime at <https://cnbenefits.hroffice.com/> to update your address instantly.

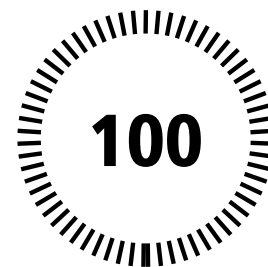
By phone: Call the CN Pension Help Line at 1-800-361-0739, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time.

Moving? Don't forget to let us know! A few minutes now can save you and your family headaches later.



CELEBRATING CENTENARIANS BIRTHDAYS

CN and CN Pensioners Associations have always shown respect for their pensioners, especially for those reaching the ripe young age of 100. To honour these centenarians, an award designed and approved by the CN Pension Committee will be presented to this special category of pensioners/survivors to commemorate this milestone. The award is inscribed with their name and date of birth. We will publish the names and dates and, when possible, photos from the presentation in our National Newsletter, released and distributed to all pensioners three times a year.



1. Annie Manson

November 19, 2025

Annie Manson celebrated her 100th birthday on November 19, 2025. Annie is the surviving spouse of Gordon Manson, who worked as an agent/operator at various locations in Manitoba. The CNPA-MB Special Events Coordinator presented Annie with several distinguished gifts, including the crystal locomotive and CN's 100th anniversary commemorative book (shown in the photo).



2. Beatrice E. Duncan

November 4, 2025

Beatrice recently celebrated her 100th birthday on November 4 and was pleased to receive a gift from CN and the CN Pensioners Association. Beatrice is the widow of Victor A. Duncan, who worked as a deckhand for CN Marine for 28 years. Beatrice comes from a family of 18 siblings.



3. Bridget Tobin

November 10, 2025

Bridget Tobin celebrated her 100th birthday on November 10, 2025. Bridget was born in Conche, NL, in 1925. In 1955, she married Captain John Tobin of CN Marine. Today she enjoys her life in St. John's, with her family, her friends, and her garden. A celebration was held and was attended by many, including Hubert Butt, VP A9 Council, and Wayne Greenland, National Director CNPA.



4. Doreen Seston

October 25, 2025

On October 25, Doreen Seston turned 100 years old! Doreen is the spouse of Fred Seston, who worked for many years at Macmillan Yard in Toronto. Ron Hewson, President of Council C7, along with Rick Dixon, Secretary/Treasurer, and her daughter, Cindy Sutherland, met with her at her Dearness home and presented her with her milestone gifts.

5. Dorothy Cadigan

October 11, 2025

Dorothy celebrated her 100th birthday on October 11, 2025. She is the spouse of the late Bill Cadigan, who worked as a tinsmith—sheet metal worker at both Fort Rouge and Transcona Shops. The event was held at St. James Kiwanis Court and was attended by a large group of family and friends. Dennis Brown of CNPA Manitoba presented Dorothy with a crystal locomotive and the red CN 100th anniversary commemorative book.



6. Edna Rachel Morris

October 16, 2025

Edna Rachel Morris from Stratford, ON, celebrated her 100th birthday on October 16, 2025. Edna is the spouse of the late Lorne A. Morris (Mike). Mike and Edna lived in Stratford during Mike's career at CN, where he worked as a B&B employee.



7. Elmer Pollock

April 6, 2025

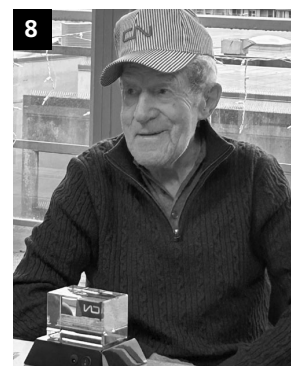
Elmer Pollock celebrated his 100th birthday on April 6, 2025. Elmer started his career with CN as an operator doing Morse code, then became a dispatcher in Stratford, ON. He moved on to developing timetables and ended his career as a CN rules instructor. Elmer still knows Morse code and has all the equipment. Louise Bayer presented Elmer with his 100th birthday gift.

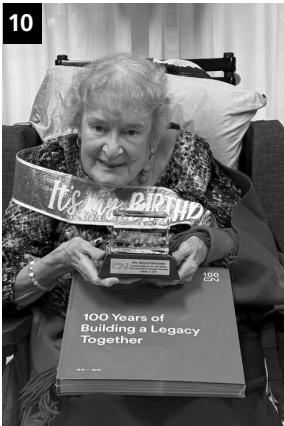


8. Frank Ziola

December 4, 2025

Frank used to work as a locomotive engineer in Regina, SK. He celebrated his special day with his family in Vancouver. Blake Olson, who worked with Frank over 50 years ago, presented him with some special gifts and shared their history.





9. James Dyke

September 10, 2025

James (Jim) Dyke celebrated his 100th birthday with an event held at the SUF hall in Eastport, NL. Jim started his career with CNR on January 1, 1953, as a labourer in Toronto's Spadina Yard. He moved on to the wheel shop area and finished his career as a crane operator. Today, the Rogers Centre has replaced his work area, but Jim loved his work there. The celebration was marked with a reception, followed by a formal ceremony and a potluck supper. Wayne Greenland, National Director and Pension Committee representative, travelled with his wife, Jeannine, to present Jim with his gift.

10. Marjorie Manchester

January 13, 2026

Marjorie Manchester turned 100 on January 13. She celebrated her special event with family and close friends in North Vancouver. Marjorie's husband, Keith Manchester, was a conductor working out of Vancouver for 39 years, from 1949 to 1988.

11. Norma Lentz

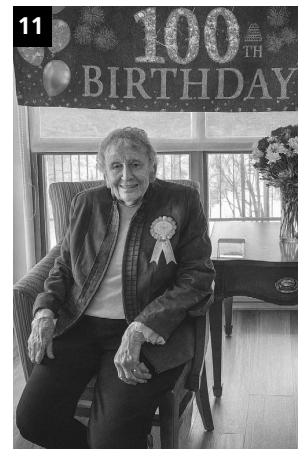
January 30, 2026

Norma Lentz celebrated her 100th birthday on January 30, 2026. Norma is the wife of Henry Lentz, who worked for CN for 29 years as an Express clerk in Trenton, Belleville, and Peterborough. Henry passed away in 1978.

12. Peter Koralewicz

November 4, 2025

Peter Koralewicz celebrated his 100th birthday on November 4, 2025. Peter started working at CN as a trainee operator with the Railway at the Elma MB station, where he was to meet his wife, Jean. They had four children and were married 74 years until Jean passed in 2024. Dennis Brown of CNPA Manitoba presented Peter with the crystal locomotive, CN's 100th anniversary commemorative book, and the new CNPAMB pin at a celebration attended by family and friends.



THANK YOU!

CN Pensioners gave over **\$900,000** to our 2026 campaign, an incredible achievement!

A big thank you to all those who donate through the Community Fund every year, or who have just started. It is with your support that we are able to help so many communities across Canada.

CNPA Membership Application Form

EMAIL to: membership@cnpensioners.org

Or Mail to: CN Pensioners Association at
33 Dunfield Crescent St. Albert, AB T8N 6R8

Return Address:
Peter Moloney
33 Dunfield Crescent
St. Albert, AB T8N 6R8

Please accept my application for membership in the CN Pensioners Association.
I understand that the monthly fee of \$1 will be deducted from my CN pension payment.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

PIN: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like your CNPA Newsletter sent to you by email? Yes No

Would you prefer: E-Membership Card Plastic Wallet Card No Card

Which Local Association would you like to join: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Go to our website at www.cnpensioners.org
and send in your application electronically.

NB: For all matters directly related to your pension benefits, such as changes of address, changes in marital status or inquiries regarding pension matters, please call the **CN Pension and Benefits Administration**, the CN Pensioners' Helpline at 1-800-361-0739. Have your PIN handy.

