



RAILVETS' NEWS

Winter 2023

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President's Message

The year 2023 is starting out much better than 2022... covid is still around but we are getting on with our lives. We have started our monthly meetings and have had five successful sessions, including our big Christmas luncheon with close to two hundred pensioners attending. Writing this, it is the third week in January - plus two degrees, a little breezy, but still better than minus thirty.

I attended our National Directors' meeting in mid November. As opposed to everyone gathering in Montreal, it was held by video conference calls for the third year in a row. This will be a busy year with lots of personnel changes, and a new updated National website which should be up and running by the time this arrives in your mailbox. Hopefully more of you will receive the newsletter via email, which is a colour version and usually arrives a couple of weeks sooner than by postal service. Please advise Peter Treloar, our Membership Secretary, of any change in address and Butch Whiteman of any change to your email address.

Congratulations to our four Edmonton scholarship winners for \$1,500 each. We will be giving away five again on the Mountain Region this summer. Information will be on our National website cnpensioners.org and applications will open mid April.

Congratulations also to Edmonton member Peter Moloney who has taken over membership duties on the National Council; he and Nancy, a member in Ontario, will co-chair this role formerly held by Bruce Peacock who stepped down from these duties the end of December.

Our February meeting will be held Wednesday, February 8th, commencing at 1100. A buffet lunch will be served at a minor cost for those attending. As everyone is aware food costs have been going up, but our executive is hoping to keep the cost low for those attending.

I also want to thank Wanda Johnston for procuring a large selection of door prizes for the last two meetings.

Take care.

Al Vodden



The only way to get rid of temptation is to give in to it.

Oscar Wilde

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.

Your Executive

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Fitness Center Access

Nationally, CN has re-opened the facilities, but they are currently only available to active CN employees, not to their family members or to pensioners. The reason they have provided is they are using enhanced cleaning protocols within the facilities and are therefore limiting the number of users in order to facilitate those protocols.

We will review with them, from time to time, but until further advised, CN Pensioners do not have access to CN Fitness Facilities.



The Hobo Jungle

A popular song from the 1920/30's begins: One evening as the sun went down and the jungle fires were burning, down the track came a hobo hiking, and he said boys I'm not turning.

Well, I couldn't believe my eyes what I saw in a large open area of the Wainwright CNR Station grounds. I too was walking down the tracks and, hidden by trees and bush, I found large as life evidence of a hobo jungle with some of the shacks and fire pits still intact. "How can this be?" I muttered. Hobo jungles from that old era should have long ago disappeared. This is 1960+.

I decided to step back in time to try and visualize a day in the life of a hobo. I recalled another song from the past written by Roger Miller that begins: Trailers for sale or rent, rooms to let - 50 cents. Ain't got no boots or shoes, don't pay no union dues. Which in a way explains that "any lock that ain't locked" is fair game to the hobo.

In the case of "unused" CNR property - Wainwright, it was probably a case of CNR people knowing it was there but, because of the hard times everyone was experiencing, they just closed their eyes to reality.

But then I got thinking again about some more of the jungle songs, which went: In the big rock candy mountain, all the cops have wooden legs, and the bulldogs all have rubber teeth. The cops in this song are railway policemen who probably had a 'bulldog' on a leash to send the hobos scattering away from the comfort of their jungle, where they discussed their daily plight with other poor unemployed souls??

Maybe, maybe not. I dunno! We spent a whole summer living in a bunk car on the back tracks in Wainwright. I asked the question of many long-service CN employees, but they had no idea whatsoever as to how the hobo jungle came to be.

It's 2023. Should I go back to take a peek?

Harold Tipler

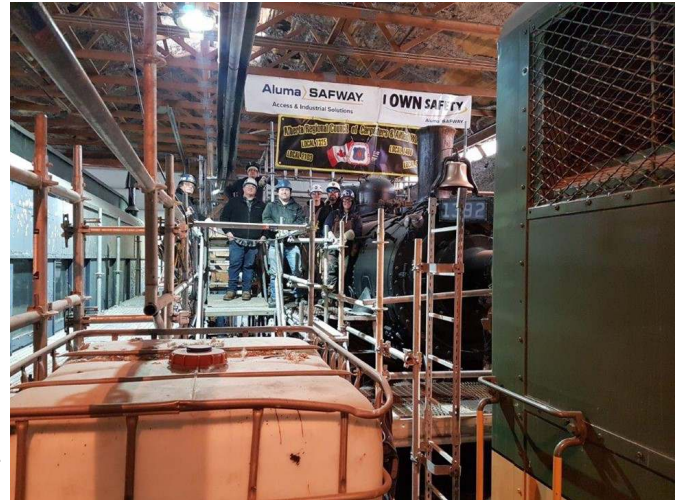
Don't Quit

Having just celebrated her 98th birthday, Muriel Watterworth is still skiing and loving the freedom she feels while doing so. Muriel first donned skis shortly after her honeymoon in Lake Louise with her husband Jack and has been skiing ever since; she taught skiing to school children at Snow Valley for thirty years and still skis there twice a week ... her advice about skiing into senior years - "Don't quit. And always finish your turns!"

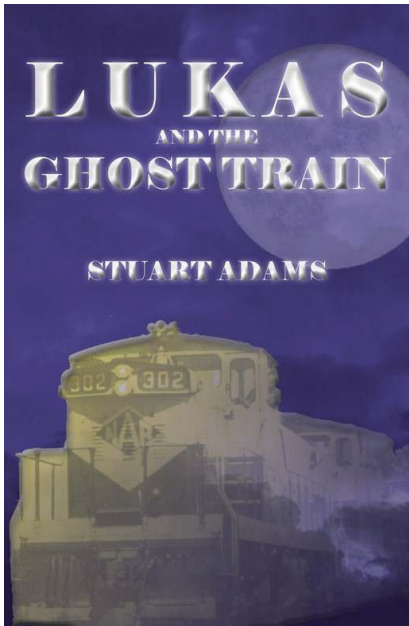
Alberta Railway Museum 

The Alberta Railway Museum had a successful full visitor season in 2022, welcoming visitors back after being closed for the pandemic's first year and only open to visitors for an abbreviated season in 2021. The museum in North Edmonton hosted regular visitors, preschool tours, wedding photos, Member of Parliament Ziad Aboultaif, and finished the season with the launch of the young adult book *Lucas and the Ghost Train*, written by friend of the Museum and former NAR brakeman Stuart Adams. It is available at Audreys bookstore.

Restoration season is well underway. Exterior work on NAR Business car Dunvegan is going well. On the north side of the car, metal cladding has been applied, and the south side is in progress. The windows have been removed and are being rehabilitated. Work is starting on tearing 1392 down for its 5-year, 1472 day inspection and boiler recertification. Scaffolding materials courtesy AlumaSafway allow shop volunteers to work safely on the equipment.



Other ongoing projects include the creation of new displays and exhibit space in CN baggage car 8730, and a reorganization of displays in St Albert station. The Alberta Heritage Fund grain car (named after Edmonton) - one of the first of the ubiquitous cylindrical Canadian hoppers to be preserved -- will be refurbished this year as well.



We encourage everyone to reflect on institutions such as the Alberta Railway Museum that bring so much joy and learning to so many. The organization, along with other not-for-profit historic and cultural groups have weathered the COVID storm, but the long term ramifications — the loss of visitors and volunteers, possible funding cuts by governments coping with massive pandemic-related debts — are still unknown.

When supporting your favourite causes, please consider the Alberta Railway Museum for all the great work it does to save and promote the history of the rail industry in this province. If you have time to donate, the museum can find uses for an extra set of hands!

Feel free to contact Kevin Franchuk (the museum's treasurer and a current CN management employee) at franchuk@telusplanet.net if you have questions. You can donate online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/alberta-railway-museum>. The museum association's Annual General Meeting will be held on January 28, 2023 at the Namao Hall. More information can be found at www.albertarailwaymuseum.com

Kevin Franchuk

New Members Since September 2022

Roy Andresen
Lance Blackley
Mary Celeste Cairns
Barbara Campbell
Ronald Cherewyk

Steve Chmelyk
Willy Farhat
Helen Harcott
Joyce Hayes
Kenneth Hutchison

Linda Lorrene Kryzanowski
Yit Liew
Joanne Nightingale
Val Nixon
Glennis Ostertag

Vicki Ryan
Greg Simmons
Greg Spaetgens

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

Wednesday February 8th Luncheon Meeting 11:00 am—Guest Speaker - Matt Toth of Holo Canada

Did you know?....Falls are the #1 Cause of Injury Among Seniors in Canada?

Come hear all about the latest Fall Alert device technology from Holo Canada

Learn why The Holo Fall Alert watch and pendant with automatic fall detection and GPS location capability differ from the rest, and will provide peace of mind for yourself, friends, and family 24/7

**Wednesday March 8th General Meeting 1:30 pm—Guest Speaker -Chiropractor Dr. Jide Busari, of Divine Spine
 Albany Location**

Discover a New Age of Computerized Chiropractic Care!

Designed to gently, and effectively restore motion to your joints. No Popping! No Cracking!

Gentle, yet effective Computerized Chiropractic treatments without fear of getting hurt to slow degeneration of joints, relieve sciatica pain, neck pain, back pain, headache, and so much more.

Wednesday April 12th – Luncheon Meeting starting at 11:00 am—No Guest Speaker

**Wednesday May 10th – General Meeting 1:30 pm—Guest Speaker - Shelaine Sparrow of SAGE (Seniors
 Association of Greater Edmonton)**

Let's Talk Everything Seniors!

Learn how SAGE is a must have resource if you have questions about, senior social activities, meals, accommodation, senior abuse and everything else senior related.

Wednesday June 14th – General Meeting 1:30 pm—Guest Speaker TBA

MILESTONES February 2023—June 2023

85 Years Old				100 Years Old	
Ian H. MacDonald	Feb 3	Darlene Middleton	Jun 11	James A. Robinson	Feb 5
Glenna Kostiuk	Feb 8	Harold Tipler	Jun 15		
Sylvia Sziva	Feb 13	Dorothy Jean Tipler	Jun 19		
Valentim C. DeBrito	Feb 14	Hildegard Weintz	Jun 22		
Gary E. Kelly	Feb 18				
Joyce Boychuk	Feb 22	90 Years Old			
Edward Terence Mowbrey	Feb 23	Janice Phillips	Feb 9	Antonio & Lisete Rito	Feb 24
Eunice Rosenberg	Feb 28	Robert L. Buntin	Feb 17	Dushan & Spasenija Hull	Mar 10
Irene Eyre	Mar 3	Maria Cabral	Mar 25	Floranne & Bill Davison	Mar 10
Yvette Turin	Mar 5	Walter Teveniuk	Mar 27	Giuliano F. & Elaine Slanzi	Mar 24
Karlast Bhardwaj	Mar 11	Ruby Ann Havell	Apr 17	Randy & Janice Gelasco	Apr 7
Irene Kiyooka	Mar 13	Harvey Soltis	Apr 19	Douglas & Barbara Daymond	Apr 28
Fred Somers	Mar 19	Morris E. Davidson	May 8	Edward & Linda Gallacher	Apr 28
Orest A. Tkachuk	Mar 24	Walter A. Footz	May 12	Paul & Gail Estell	May 5
Sylvia Boylan Robbins	Mar 28	Irene Donison	May 12	Ronald & Phyllis Lemaire	May 5
Daniel Martinuik	Mar 29	Steve Wischer	May 24	Peter & Debbie Klippenstein	Jun 8
Stanley R. Chajkowski	Apr 1	Stephie Chychul	Jun 26	Shakoor A. & Firdous Uppal	Jun 21
Norma Sturgeon	Apr 3	Pietrina Carducci	Jun 29	David & Dorothy Marquis	Jun 22
Jennie Marko	Apr 19			60 Years Married	
Lois Campbell	May 2	95 Years Old		R. Gary & Carolyn Morris	Feb 23
Diaun Rondeau	May 18	Anne Gregory	Feb 10	Melvin & Josephine Hill	Mar 29
Mae Hyland	May 20	Jean M. Rogers	Feb 17	Elias & Sharon Palichuk	Apr 11
Kim Yun Cgong Tsen	May 22	Harold A. MacKintosh	Mar 11	Charles & Vivian Mallett	Apr 27
Matilde Ferreira	Jun 6	Marion Spencer	Mar 29	Larry W. & Gloria Forbes	May 18
Barbara Ashwell	Jun 9	Frances O'Hara	Jun 6	Antonio & Rosina Bruni-Bossio	Jun 22
		Josephine Hawley	Jun 25		



Joseph Allen	Machinest, Edmonton	Pyarali Lakhani	
David Bagan	Carman, Edmonton	Vernes Lozinski	Widow of Bronie, Transportation Clerk, Walker
Ronald Barrie	Sr. Transportation Engineer, Edmonton	Reine Lupky	Widow of Alex, Crane Operator, Winnipeg
Mike Basok	Trainman, Edmonton	John Maas	Machinist, Edmonton
Bernadette Brown	Widow of George, Stores, Edmonton	Keith Macdonald	Manager, Labour Relations, Edmonton
Mabel Brown	Widow of Douglas, Locomotive Engineer, Jasper	Teresa Maguire	Car Mechanic, Edmonton
William (Bill) Burgess	Rules & Training Instructor, Edmonton	Reuben (Bud) Mastre	Senior Trainmaster, Edmonton
James Cairns	Electrician, Edmonton	Aileen R. Moore	Secretary to Vice-President, Edmonton
John Collyer	Supervisor Data Processing, Edmonton	Lyle O'Donnell	Crew Management Centre, Edmonton
Levinus Cysouw Jr.	Transportation Clerk, Calder	Marie Oliver	Widow of Neil, Heavy Duty Mechanic Intermodal, Edmonton
Christine Denna	Widow of Vernon, Heavy Duty Equipment Operator, Edmonton	Ralph Ostertag	Track Maintainer, Wabamun
Suzanne Frissell	Widow of Edward, Telegraph Operator	Allan Pelechosky	Sheet Metal Worker, Edmonton
Jose Furtado	Trackman, Edmonton	Ronald Polak	Conductor, Edson
William Gordon	Yard Foreman, Edmonton	Valentine Poldama	Widow of Evald, Foreman Bridge Construction, Pr. George
Rosina Greco		David E. Quilley	Regional Mechanical Officer, Edmonton
Erik T. Hansen	Carman, Calder	Eva Radulski	
Dixie Kay	Sr. Engineering Clerk, Edmonton	Treva Rimney	Widow of Isador, Carman, Edmonton
Marjorie Kearney	Widow of Eric, Asst. Manager Operations, Edmonton	Marilyn Shuster	Widow of Morley, Methods Analyst, Edmonton
Annie Kenny	Widow of Leonard, Conductor, Edmonton	Raymond Spink	B&B Foreman, Edmonton
Elizabeth Klass	Widow of William, Sectionman, Edmonton	George Wanchulak	Brakeman, Edmonton
Gloria Klyne	Widow of Walter Sodke, Conductor, Edmonton	Mildred Wiuff	Widow of Jim Harrison
Murray Knight	Signals & Comm. Supervisor, Edmonton	Walter Wolinski	Boom Truck, Vegerville
Dennis LaFrance	Sr. Lead Hand, Intermodal, Edmonton	Wayne Worobec	Locomotive Engineer, Jasper

Our sympathies go out to Jose Oliveira, Machine Operator, Walker, upon the death of his wife Elisa



Christmas Party



Back: Cliff Gervais, Al Vodden, Butch Whiteman, John Wiebe, Andy Novak, Peter Treloar
Front: Mary Jean Strachan, Chris Randall, Diana Novak





The latest Christmas lunch was a roaring success. Almost 200 members and guests got together at the Chateau Nova, Yellowhead to celebrate the end of a challenging year.

A very special thanks to Wanda Johnston whose fantastic effort produced a wide array of prizes.



Flower Fund Report

The Edmonton RailVets' like to recognize members' milestone Birthdays and Anniversaries; we would like to send you flowers on your 85th, 90th, 95th, and 100th birthday and also on your 50th, 60th and 70th anniversary. Between the months of September and December 2022, the Flower Fund had flowers delivered as follows:



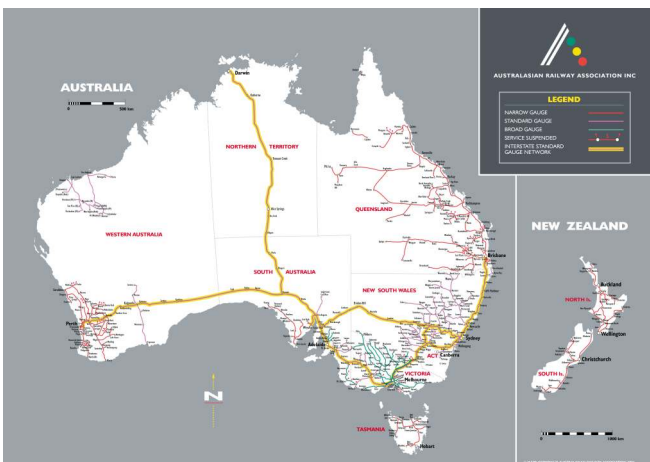
Month	Flowers	Gift Cards
September	13	3
October	5	7
November	6	3
December	8	2

Note:

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 peteretre76@gmail.com or phone 587-338-6014 to update your status.

Canuck gets Down Under Rail Experience



Greg Spaetgens gave an interesting talk about his experience with railways in Australia.

Imagine running a railway with 3 different gauges and each state/province had its own running rules.



CN Pension Committee & CNPA Annual Directors Meeting Year End 2022 Updates– Blake Olson

1. The **CN Pension Committee** met virtually on November 16th 2022 and will continue until November 2023
2. In 2020, the CNPA requested **training session(s)** for NEW and existing Committee members and the first such presentation was held on November 10th and was excellent. Over 25 members participated and it educated or re-freshed us a variety of provisions. The second session is scheduled for December 1st.
3. We also had a pre-meeting with CN and reviewed some concerns and recommendation on the Plan processes and provisions and CNPA President Reg Hebert asked to meet live with the Company co-chair early in early 2023. At the Committee meeting there was the typical review of all new/outstanding Pensions and approvals.
4. **INDEXATION 2023** – We approved the communications that pensioners will receive in January. Essentially, **eligible Pensioners** will get a 2.46% increase in their monthly payment up to a maximum of \$79.95. The minimum will be \$9.00 and \$4.50 for spouses.
5. **T4's from CN** - Reminder as with every year – The CN issued Income Tax T-4 is MAILED about the END of February and you will likely not receive them prior to **mid March** – so please don't call and ask about them unless you have not received them by the end of March. You want it earlier? – log into your account on the CN Pension & Benefits **WEB PORTAL** at <https://cnbenefits.hroffice.com> . If you are not registered click on **register** and follow the process, and get your T4 earlier & usually just before the end of February.
6. **Financial Status of our CN Pension Plan** – we received a detailed presentation from CN Investment Division (CNID) on the financial status of our Pension Plan to early November 2022. It has been a difficult year in the markets, and our Plan was equally affected. Our Plan has **lost about 16%** of its value year to date, due primarily to volatile Equity and Bond markets. Obviously if you take a \$20B Plan and reduce it by 16% the value has dropped to around \$16B. In some areas we fared better than market trends and averages but in others we did a bit worse. We also need to still pay our bills. Our pension payments total about \$1B annually, so that was reduced from the Plan as well. We had a very strong **Solvency and Going Concern Ratios** going into 2022, and while they will take a big hit as well, we will likely fare better than other Pension funds. We will get those preliminary numbers in the spring of 2023. CNID advised of potential risks for a recession and more inflation!
7. **Centenarians** – We started the year with 19 potential Mountain Region Centenarians of which we presented 16, two deceased before their dates and 1 was not found. We have asked CN for a new 2023 listing and expect that in the next couple weeks.
8. **Annual Directors Meeting – November 17-18, 2022 (virtual) - Some Highlights (more detail available)**
 - a. The National officers and Directors from the region attended this 2 day affair which was well managed and chaired by our President. Al Vodden, Dennis Jensen, Gordon Wheatley and myself attended for the Region. We had reports from all the key areas: Membership, Finances/Budget, Health Care, Government Liaison, Newsletter, Scholarship, Website, CN/CNPA Partnership, Johnson Insurance, Bylaws and Constitution, etc..
 - b. **Financially** the CNPA is solid and rebates to locals will continue as last year. **SERIOUS** concern with Local councils who are not contacting and reporting results on **membership recruitment** to National. **AUDITS** of finances of local councils must be completed by MAY 2023 and reported to Al Vodden. We have a NEW Treasurer, Ron Charles from Toronto. We are working on a replacement for **Bruce Peacock** in Membership.
 - c. **CN Scholarships** have been approved for 2023. We need to **ENCOURAGE** all our **members to UPDATE** their address when they move ASAP with CN Pension & Benefits Admin (1-800-361-0739). We did a major cleanup of the **National Constitution and Bylaws**, which will be distributed in a few weeks. Good time to review and make sure we are complying with the provisions. I will send the highlights when translation complete. **Reimbursed KM** increased to \$.60. We need to advertise to all our pensioners who volunteer, to get the added benefit of the **RRITC program**. NEW and slimmed down **National Website** and new Webmaster coming early in the 2023. Deadline for **National Newsletter articles** are January 31, June 30th and Sept 30. We need more articles from our Western Canada.