



CN RAILVETS OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA E2

February 2020 Volume 10 Issue 1

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From the Presidents' Desk: I hope everyone is enjoying their start to 2020, well, maybe not the weather. Or at least some of the weather. That cold snap was nasty but almost forgotten now. Hoping we've seen the end of any bitter cold, but my yard and garden still require more snow. Not the howling blizzard type but some light accumulations that don't require too much shoveling. I'd say some rain but it's still too cold and icy roads and sidewalks are too dangerous so, snow it is. We will be hosting our annual *Spring Fling* after our regular meeting on Monday, March 2nd and I'm hoping we will have a good turnout. The sweets are usually sublime and chatting with friends very pleasing, details inside. I have signed the 2020 Rental Agreement with the Kerby and am pleased to let you know that they have not increased our rate; it remains \$1 per person in attendance with no room charge. In these times of lean profit margins plus the Kerby's own financial situation, they have been very good to our group and I hope they will be able to continue with their generosity in future years. I have received a list of 2020 centenarians in our area and will be requesting assistance with the delivery of the plaques. Lately it seems that for each of the months we're supposed to compose this newsletter, Brian and I are off on vacation somewhere and this edition falls into that category (sorry about the lateness). We headed south to the US Gulf Coast to celebrate my aunts' 90th birthday and took in a lot of sites along the way- more of that inside, pictures too. Don't forget to mark June 1st on your calendar so you don't forget our Picnic *IN* the Kerby year-end wrap-up. Now let's all wish for suitable moisture, warm days with sunny skies so those of us itching to get our hands into our gardens can resume those activities. And if you don't enjoy gardening, you can sit back and enjoy some rays while sipping your favorite beverage and not having to scrub yourself clean. Be cautious of the remaining winter and stay safe. Enjoy the spring, if we get one, and we'll be back in June. Comments? Complaints? Suggestions? Just want to say hi? Sincerely, Judy Woods, President E2

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2, 2020: regular meeting and our Spring Fling.

April 6, 2020: regular meeting, and discussion of upcoming picnic in the Kerby

June 1, 2020: Picnic *IN* the Kerby

Passing of One of E2's Centenarians



Fleurette Michetti receiving her centenarian plaque in 2016. What a lovely person with a great family surviving her. Fleurette passed away on December 15, 2019, age 103. Our sincere condolences to Doug and Ken and family and friends. Here's to a life well lived!

National Executive Changes

Yves Bourdon retired as President and Reg Hebert (Moncton) has replaced him; Bruce Anderson (Manitoba) is 1st Vice President; Yves (Quebec) is Past President. Ken Roberts (London) is the new National Newsletter Editor and Joanne Gaborieau (Manitoba) is the Associate Editor. Sandra Barnes remains our Regional Representative for the Newsletter.

All meetings are held refreshments may be provided. Come early for lunch and chat with friends.

NEXT MEETING: March 2, 2020 in room 208

on the first Monday of the month except September when it is the 2nd Monday. No meetings July or August.

MEETING LOCATION: Room 208, Kerby Centre, 1133-7 Avenue SW (403-705-3248) **TIME:13:00.**

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The Membership of E2 welcomes our New Members

- Greg Haberlin

Birthday congratulations to:

Call us with your special date and age

Anniversary congratulations to:

- If you have an upcoming anniversary that you would like to see here, please inform us. We do not have access to your birth or anniversary dates!

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

- Nellie Halifax Nov 19, 99 years

- Fleurette Michetti Dec 15, 103 years

-Mary Francis Dec 23, ? years

Insurance Rant, As Usual

Has anyone had to renew their insurance lately? I've heard horror stories of up to 30% increases. I guess the insurance companies are making up for lost earnings and high payouts! I know from an email chat with a local member that the insurance company that offered CN employees a discounted rate, still gives CNPA members a discount, but they asked for that persons' CNPA card # - so this card has a use! But please do, question the increase your insurance company is passing on to you, not all companies are equal in their increases. And if you feel a loyalty to your insurer, are they paying back that loyalty to you with better rates than their competition?

November Elections

After the votes were collected and counted the National Director position on the Mountain Region was awarded to Al Vodden, a 3-year term ending 2023.

Upcoming Elections

Three positions up for election in 2020 – Regional Director, Alternate Regional Director and Regional Health Care Representative. Give these positions your consideration and let me know if any are of interest so I can answer or re-direct your questions.

MRRC and National News

-MRRC Council elections concluded with everyone staying on for another term: Chair, Butch Whiteman; Vice Chair, Dennis Jensen; Treasurer, Al Vodden; Secretary, Blake Olsen.

-The topic of guest speakers was discussed during the December 2019 teleconference. Some locals provide these speakers as an incentive to increase meeting attendance. This has been voted down by our group in the past but, if you would like to voice an opinion about guest speakers, give us a call.

-2020 audits will now and henceforward, be signed off by two members who do not have signing authority (executives or members). Each auditor will provide, in writing to the local President, that the books are in order. The President will then

notify the Regional Treasurer (Al Vodden) that our audit is complete. Al will then report this information to the National.

-CN Partnership Agreement continues and our local received its share of \$600 for our discretionary use.

Membership Advantages Many of our fellow CN pensioners are still not contributing members of the CNPA. 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. They recently added an association with a 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.

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 Morneau Shepell at 1-800-361-0739, a toll free number.** If in doubt please call Brian Woods, 403-280-9107, for clarification of some (not all) of your questions .

CNPA Scholarship News

The scholarships have been renewed for 2020. In 2019 there were 208 applications with 8 rejected, probably by non-CNPA sponsors so this is an important reason to belong to the CNPA. Be sure to encourage your children/grandchildren in or heading to post-secondary schooling to get the on-line application, fill it out and send it in. The committee reviews all eligible applications before deciding the winners.

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 if this option works for you.

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

Christmas Luncheon 2019

Held on December 9th at the Kerby. By group vote, we started the festivities at 12:30, an hour later than previously. Seemed to work well for everyone. Contrary to my concerns, the roast beef dinner was very good although some were disappointed it was not turkey (sorry Doreen). The luncheon was well attended, 28 persons gathered to enjoy the occasion. We had recorded musical entertainment thanks to Brian and fabulous desserts provided by many. My thanks to all of you for your generosity. Normally I print photos of the event but my photographer, Brian, was so involved with conversing with as many attendees as possible that he forgot to take any snaps! Oh well, we all know we had a good time and who was there so I'm looking upon this a challenge for my memory hahaha. I also am extending my thanks to the Kerby kitchen staff, particularly the chef, Mike, for providing us with another enjoyable Christmas Luncheon.

February 2020

Seems our dates to provide you with this newsletter are getting tangled up with our penchant to travel. As we reprint some information from Edmonton, we use their production schedule. I'm open to discuss possibly changing our routine so, let me know if you think we should stay or alter the course.

Now back to our trip, a 14-day fly and drive vacation. Flew Calgary to Birmingham AL for a day to visit the Civil Rights Museum and surrounding neighbourhood. Drove to Ocean Springs MS through some of the worst torrential downpours I've ever witnessed, stayed there for 4 nights, much fun and one 90th birthday party. Carried on driving to New Orleans MS for a night then it was on to Baton Rouge for a bit of sightseeing at the State Capitol and a late lunch before heading to Austin TX for 3 nights. Lots to see, do, hear and eat there so we'll probably go back in the future. Our last 'touristy' stop was in Memphis TN for 3 nights to see as much as possible before flying out of Memphis to Atlanta and then back to Calgary. Good to be back, not so good to have to be 'back at it' though. 😊 We hope you enjoy these photos. Brian and Judy



New Orleans LA – Bourbon Street



Baton Rouge LA – View from the 34th storey of the State Capitol building. CN/IC rail yard is on the right side of the Mississippi River shown on the extreme left of the photo.



Austin TX – Salt Lick BBQ Smokehouse restaurant in the hills southwest of Austin. Delicious brisket!



Birmingham AL – Statue of attack dogs used on Civil Rights Protesters in the '60's.

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Vicksburg MS – Site of the Civil War Seige National Monument



Memphis TN – Beale Street on a Saturday night at Midnight.



Delta Blues Highway 61 in Mississippi

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IN MEMORIUM**

I have just received word that Byron Jonah, an Edmonton volunteer for the Calgary CN100 Celebration in July passed away on February 5 at age 74. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

- Myron D. Bagan Technical Engineer
- Marion Bentley General Clerk - Marketing
- Alister Blair Locomotive Engineer
- Arnold L. Blair Section Forman
- Alice Bodnar Asst. Manager, Macdonald Hotel
- Harvey Boychuk Conductor
- Patrick Brown Train Dispatcher
- Clair Chidiak Widow of Kamel
- Andrew Christie Terminal Traffic manager
- Gordon R. Cullis Machinist
- Walter Cwenar S&C Lead Maintainer
- Ted E Deynaka Field Maintainer
- Ruby Dick
- Margaret Dickson Agent/Operator
- Herbert Dofka Regional Engineer, S & C
- Helma Dreise Estimateur Headquarters
- Edmund Dudek Trainman
- Philippe W Dumontier Locomotive Engineer
- Doris Evanchu
- Metro Fedirchuk
- Raymond Feehan Clerk - Place Bonaventure
- Roland Fradette Leading Hand Machinest
- Louis Gusta Locomotive Engineer
- Mary E. Hanasyk
- Bert Harvie Locomotive Engineer

- Anthony Heuman System Manager, Customer Services
- Loren G. Hick Engineer
- Phillip Hiebert Trackmobile Operator, Car Shops
- Dragan Jelacic
- Rubin Kelm Locomotive Engineer
- Nazir Khatib Intermodal Calder
- Wanda-May Korenchuk Bridgeman/Truck Driver
- Pauline Lafrance Conductor
- John W Low Recoverable Expense Clerk
- Antonia Lynkowski
- Alan Mabee
- Norman Mcfall Laborouer
- Johnny Novelletto
- Elfriede Pietruszka
- Robert Playford Welder
- Walter Pohranychny Engineering Cost Control Supervisor
- Lenore J. Rampling Payroll Deduction Clerk
- Gordon Randall Foreman
- Peter Rosychuk Station Agent & Telegrapher
- Margaret Ryz
- Oscar Schmiegel
- Margaret Schneider Widow of Union Officer
- Patricia A. Shaw Gen. Mgr. Express Trans. Assoc
- Gerald S. Smith Manager, Intermodal Services
- William A. Smith Operator MO Office
- Manuel Sousa Section man
- Reginald Spallin AT CN Container Yard
- Blaine Taylor Track Maintanemce Foreman
- Janette K. Taylor Widow of Special Agent, CN Police
- Maria Ursuliak Yardmaster
- Vassiliki Vouronikos Widow of George
- Robert Webber Carman
- Marvin Yakubow Track Maintainer – Scotford