



Pensioners' news

Keeping pensioners' information on track
Volume 27 • Number 2 • Summer 2023

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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

I am writing this on a cold, dreary, rainy Sunday morning in Atlantic Canada. Colder than normal times but following a dry spring, it resulted in record wildfire damage in Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec this year. Global weather patterns are certainly changing!

This note is to our CN Pensioners. People who also have seen significant change in their lives, long enough not to be considered Gen X or Gen Z. It is often hard to keep up with all the changes, particularly with technology. In many ways that fact is what makes, us as seniors, more vulnerable to scams and fraud.

The values of honesty, hard work, family support and trust were instilled in us by loving parents as we grew up in the 40s, 50s & 60s. We have tried to pass these same values to our children, which makes it hard for us to accept that someone would use those values to manipulate our handling of a particular situation. But there ARE such people! This is never truer than when dealing with our money or ACCESS to our money. Here are three tips you should seriously consider:

1. No legitimate person or government institution will EVER ask you to send them payment in the form of gift cards, Bitcoin or any of the other crypto currencies. Never! They use that form of payment because it is untraceable back to them.
2. No financial institution will EVER call or email you to "Update" your information, ask your PIN or check ANYTHING in your bank accounts. If you need to speak to your financial institution for anything or if in doubt, YOU call THEM at their published number. NEVER call back a number that was in an EMAIL or voicemail you RECEIVED!
3. If ever your children or grandchildren have a car accident or a medical emergency in another country or while travelling anywhere, they will NOT call you for financial assistance in any form. Discuss this with your family!

This common scam relies on the caller knowing something about you or your grandkids, which was likely gleaned from your or their Facebook postings. Again, scammers will likely ask for gift cards, Bitcoin etc., and the need will be said to be URGENT! When it comes to money, think twice!! Be suspicious!

Our CNPA revamped website www.cnpensioners.org is up! Go take a look. The up-to-date Blue Cross Health Care Plan booklet is there, scholarship applications and rules, pensioner discounts, contact information for CN Pension and Benefits Administration phone number (1-800-361-0739) where you can make changes to your address or report the death of a CN Pension recipient and arrange survivor benefits. The website is easy to navigate, up to date and you may be surprised at what you find. As summer comes to an end, your CN Pensioners' Association (CNPA) Local Council meetings will start up in September. In July, you should have received your CN Pension Committee Annual Report in the mail. In it is the financial and actuarial status of our Pension Plan PLUS, information on indexation for 2024. While you are likely busy, it is still important to read it, maybe on a rainy day. Make note of items you want to question or understand better. Bring those notes to your next CNPA Local Council meeting or call your local representatives to get answers to your questions. If they are unsure, they will get a complete answer for you.

This is your pension plan, your pensioners' association and your future financial security. Get involved!!

Thanks.

Reg Hebert

President, CN Pensioners' Association

Next newsletter deadline: Articles for the
Winter edition due by Oct. 31, 2023

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including the Regional Vice-Presidents,
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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.

Message from the Web Master

Hi folks! I hope that many of you have had a chance to access and explore the newly redesigned website. It's been a long process but feedback so far seems to indicate that people like the site and are finding information. The "Contact Us" feature, a new addition when compared to the old site, is certainly getting a lot of use!

The new foundation that the website is built on has allowed me to introduce new content and pages quite easily – at least so far. The most recent set of improvements was the first version of all of the local council pages. They are still very much a work in progress. Each of those pages will continue to evolve as I begin to engage with each local council to determine what type of content is important for them to see/post. As well, we have added a limited Obituary listing that currently covers the last several months, with the hope that I can learn enough behind-the-scenes magic to make it a 12- or 13-month rolling history. Finally, hopefully you've also noted the scrolling banner on the homepage to highlight new updates to the site. This is limited to 4-5 items so depending on how much is new, not everything may be listed.

That's all for now. Feedback is always welcome at cnpa.webmaster@gmail.com. I still haven't found the time to get switched over to a @cnpensioners.org email but that will be coming – hopefully in time for the next newsletter!

Cheers,
George Rowan

HEALTH CARE MATTERS – THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN CANADA

The price you pay for prescription drugs in Canada is determined by both the federal and provincial governments. The Feds are responsible for the patents drug companies receive and that is used in part to set the price of the original drug. These patents are usually for 20 years. On the other hand, the provinces generally are the ones who determine the prices of the generic drugs, which are listed at a certain percentage of the original drug. About 90% of the drugs you, as a pensioner, consume are generics, which are essentially a copycat the original drug made after the Original drug patent expires. Generics, in many cases, cost only about 15–30% of the original drug cost.

In recent years, you may have heard about biologics, likely on US TV advertising. Biologic drugs come from living organisms or from their cells and are usually made using biotechnology. Insulin and antibodies are a couple of simple examples. However, in recent years, there has been an influx of new biologic to treat a variety of illnesses. Biologic, in most cases, are extremely expensive. One familiar biologic example is Humira, which costs about \$70,000 per year per person. Because of these high costs, most Canadian provinces have now mandated that they will generally only cover the cost of a biosimilar. Biosimilars are highly similar to the original biologic drug, and will, in most cases, treat the illness the same as the original.

While our CNPA Health Care Plan, covers some biologics/biosimilars, they are highly restricted due to cost and available

suitable alternative treatments. This is similar to the various provincial pharmacare restrictions. While we have only a small number of Plan members using high-cost drugs, it is driving up our costs. In 2022, only 146 of all 23,000 Plan participants claimed about \$3.5 million of the \$18 million in total claims. As a result, this is putting upward pressure on our premiums. To help control some of these increased costs, Medavie Blue Cross negotiates directly with the drug companies on our behalf, which provides some assistance.

Canadians spend MORE per capita on purchasing their drugs than any other country in the world EXCEPT the United States. We even pay about 20% more for generic drugs than any developed country. While there was some talk by some politicians about a National Pharmacare Program, the reality is, it will likely never occur. All of the countries that have a national medicare program, have a universal pharmacare program EXCEPT Canada.

Your CNPA Health Care Committee works hard at managing the Plan and controlling costs to help limit premium increases, however, with inflation and higher drug costs, it is getting more difficult each year, especially in provinces with limited or no prescription drug support for seniors. Remember, our Plan is FULLY financed by your premiums. So every dollar you pay covers the full cost of what all members claim. Higher claims usually mean higher premiums. Medavie Blue Cross merely manages your claims and contract on our behalf for a small fee.

THE ATLANTIC REGION COUNCIL HELD ITS 48TH ANNUAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN MONCTON, NB, ON JUNE 3, 2023

Directors attended from Campbellton, Edmundston, Saint John, Truro, Halifax and Moncton.

THE FOLLOWING LEADERS WERE ELECTED FOR THE YEAR 2023–2024

President

Robert Chiasson (Campbellton)

Vice-President

John Bailey (Moncton)

Secretary Treasurer

Bruce Peacock (Moncton)



Photo left to right: **Walter Agnew**, Moncton, **Paul Eustace**, Truro, **Earl Garland**, Moncton, **Jimmy Flynn**, Saint John, **Bruce Peacock**, Moncton, **John Bailey**, Moncton, **Robert Chiasson**, Campbellton, **Jean-Marc Morneault**, Edmundston, **John Stewart**, PEI, **Whitney Trenholm**, Halifax

INFLATION AND COST OF LIVING, EH?!

Over the last couple of years, we have all felt the impact of high inflation on our finances. In early July you received a booklet in the mail from CN titled “2022 Pension Committee Annual Report” (Report). If you read the Report section on indexation you would have seen, that those eligible, will receive a 3% increase in their pension in January 2024. (Based on 50% of the reported Consumer Price Index [inflation]). As the Plan maximum pension eligible for indexation is \$3,250, your 2024 increase could be up to \$97.50 per month.

In the same Report, you will find an explanation of how the Escalation Account works. This notional account is within our Pension Fund, and is what determines any potential indexation increase and it is very important to understand how both indexation and the amount of money in the account are connected. If you have not already read this section in the Report carefully, I would strongly encourage you to do so.

While inflation for the 2022/23 measured period was 6.8%, we will get 3%. Our Plan rules on indexation provide for 50% of inflation to a maximum of 6%. There are very few pension plans today that are fully indexed to inflation, and those are usually in federal or provincial government-related plans. Fortunately, your Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS) are indexed with inflation and have therefore increased with inflation over the past few years.

So, can the CNPA do anything to change this financial circumstance in the short and long term?

Over the last year, your CNPA executives have been reviewing potential options to improve the Plan indexation provisions with CN. We did our own comprehensive research and presented our case to CN on how our Plan provisions lag behind inflation and how we could potentially increase indexation. We made proposals that could have provided you some inflation relief. It is very difficult however to compare pension plans and provisions. Our Pensioner population is aging and there are limited new younger employees joining CN. On the other hand, the CPP has younger people paying into that plan annually. OAS is funded out of our taxes. The provisions for indexation are embedded in the CPP and OAS, and backed by the government, so rate increases are generally automatic.

However, in our Plan, indexation is conditionally linked to the amount of money in the Escalation Account. This account is funded by a percentage of our Pension Fund annual investment gains and is reduced each year when an indexation increase is awarded.

Successive annual indexation awards compound and increase the account liability over years and reduce the money in this account. This is further impacted when there are limited or NO financial gains to the Pension Fund, like in 2022. This account needs to have enough money available to fund past and future increases. If not, future increases may be lower or not possible at all.

We have reviewed various options but they are expensive. The options we proposed were discussed with CN and were costed by the Plan actuaries (Mercer). The potential options included: a) increasing the indexation percentage to possibly 70% when the Escalation Account can support the payments, b) increasing the indexation maximum from \$3,250 to say \$3,750, or c) increasing the maximum CPI % allowed from 6% to 8%. Another suggested option was for CN to make a one-time payment of a certain amount to all Pensioners to assist them now with the increased inflationary costs they are being hit with every day. None of these provisions are currently in our Pension Plan. The proposals we made would cost CN up to \$48 million per option, plus any ongoing liability.

As mentioned in the Annual Report, the Pension Fund lost 14% in 2022, which means the Escalation Account did not increase but rather decreased, and it is essential to funding past and future indexation. With global financial uncertainty, and continued potential recessionary pressures, CN is focused on managing their operations and money in a fiscally responsible manner. CN has advised that there is no intent at present time to change any Plan rules or provisions relating to indexation of pension payments as this could have a negative impact on future indexation.

We will continue to monitor the financial health of our Plan with the view that we may have an opportunity to reintroduce our proposals when financial markets and the economic conditions improve. In the meantime, we are continuing to discuss with CN, opportunities to enhance Pensioner discounts and other benefits, which we could share with CN in dealing with various travel and service companies.

I am sorry I am not able to report more positive news. However, it is important to remember that our indexation provisions are superior to most private sector pension plans in Canada, and we still have one of the best managed, fully funded defined benefit pension plans in Canada.

Reg Hebert

President, CN Pensioners' Association



HOLO ALERT, IS A PROVIDER OF MEDICAL ALERT AND FALL DETECTION DEVICES WITH THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- Emergency alert button for events requiring medical assistance
- Automatic fall detection for emergencies where the button cannot be pressed
- Two-way voice communication directly through the device during an emergency
- Cellular network coverage throughout Canada and US, no personal cellphone required
- GPS-enabled to provide emergency response personnel with your precise location
- Water-resistant allowing for usage in the shower or bath
- Multiple options available: pendant worn around the neck or watch for usage on wrist
- Watch includes heart rate monitoring and step counter
- Chargers for devices are included, no battery replacement required
- Watch requires charging daily, pendant approximately every three days

HOW IT WORKS

1. Upon pressing the emergency button or when a fall has occurred, family members and monitoring professionals are immediately notified of the emergency
 2. Utilizing the built-in microphone and speaker, our monitoring professionals are able to verify the emergency by speaking with you directly through the device
 3. Upon confirming the emergency, our monitoring professionals will aid in dispatching the local emergency response team to your precise location
- Please note that the monthly subscription for medical alert monitoring does not cover any medical expenses incurred as a result of the emergency, including ambulance costs. The subscription fee is solely intended to provide access to the monitoring service, which ensures prompt response and assistance during emergencies.

FOR CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE CN PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

- \$44.99/month for monitoring services (originally \$59.99/month) for a pendant or watch
- Rate is guaranteed for 36 months from your signup date
- No contracts, cancel any time without penalty

FOR NON-CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE CN PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

- \$49.99/month for monitoring services using a GPS pendant
- \$54.99/month for monitoring services using a GPS watch
- Three-year contract required

FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE CN PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

- \$0.00 device and activation costs (originally a \$250 savings)
- 10-day money-back guarantee
- One-time \$50 credit towards any approved fall prevention accessory
- Must be a HOLO Alert customer for a minimum of six months to be eligible

HOW TO GET STARTED, OR REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION

- Call: 1-888-411-4656
- Email: hello@holoalert.ca
- Website: www.holoalert.ca

**** To qualify for the Contributing Member discounts you must provide Holo Alert with an image of your CNPA membership card (Name and PIN) ****



RAIL SAFETY WEEK

SEPTEMBER 18-24

Contact pierre.bergeron@cn.ca
for more information



Ward Burr at the local curling club. Due to a prior injury, he wears a clear plastic shield in place of a mask to comply with Covid protocols.

Active in his community: Ward Burr makes a difference in so many ways

CN retiree **Ward Burr** wasted no time throwing himself into volunteer work with his community after retirement in 2011. In fact, he drove straight from his last shift at the railroad to the local curling club in Forest, ON, to lend a helping hand. Today, he is a board member of the club and spends a few hours every week organizing the seniors' bonspiel in which he participates. "Curling is great exercise, requiring a lot of hand-eye coordination and hard work," says Ward. "Anyone who doesn't think so never swept a fast moving rock!"

In addition to his work at the Forest Curling Club, Ward speaks at schools, bicycle safety rodeos, farm safety groups, service clubs and church groups about rail safety. "I've seen a lot of close calls around tracks involving the public," says Ward, who was a Conductor. "I like to think that the next life saved at a rail crossing might be the result of something I've said."

Ward is also an active member of the Kiwanis Club, which obtained a Building Better Communities grant from CN to restore the Kineto Kiwanis Movie Theatre, a historic venue established in 1917 that is housed in a building from the 1800s.

Since 2004, Ward has been Chair of the Kiwanis Club's Seniors' Birthday Program, which delivers a free birthday cake or two theatre tickets on a senior's special day. "I visit about 250 people a year and it's a real labour of love," says Ward. "The people love the social interaction more than the gift. It makes me happy to bring a smile to their faces." Thanks to Ward's volunteer work, the Kiwanis Foundation of Canada receives a yearly grant from CN, which it applies to its Mel Osbourne Fellowship award for service and dedication. The Fellowship honours long serving members and provides scholarships to post-secondary students.



Driving for a good cause: Bill Schmitt goes the distance for his community

Retired Locomotive Engineer **Bill Schmitt's** volunteer work with the Wheels of Hope program is dedicated every day to the memory of his best friend, Stan Miksovsky. The two met at 14 while attending Fort Erie Secondary School and were friends for 42 years until Stan died of cancer at age 56 in September 2019. "I vowed to Stan's widow that I would do something in his memory. I always wanted to volunteer, and having someone close to me affected by cancer is what drew me to the Cancer Society," says Bill, who retired from CN in 2018 after 34 years of service. The Canadian Cancer Society's Wheels of Hope Transportation Program provides people living with cancer rides to and from their cancer treatment appointments. Dedicated volunteer drivers donate their time and use their own (or Society-owned) vehicles to help people living with cancer get to the hospital or cancer centre.

Bill applied to volunteer as a driver in October 2019 but his work stopped in March 2020 due to the pandemic. Today, he is back in the driver's seat, taking clients primarily from Haliburton County, Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes to their appointments. "During my years working on the railroad it wasn't possible to commit to a fixed time to pick someone up and drop them off," recalls Bill. "Now that I'm retired, it feels very good to give back to the community and support people in need – and there is very much a need for all kinds of service today. I encourage all my fellow retirees to please volunteer for something. It really does make a difference in the lives of people."



Bill Schmitt on one of his rounds for Wheels of Hope.



Sheila proudly displays the artwork of her young mentee from the CAS.

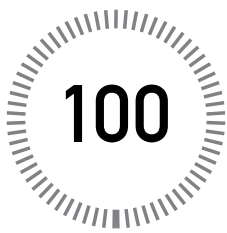
Sheila Parker continues a proud family tradition of giving back

The CN Railroaders in the Community program supports the volunteer efforts of the entire CN railroading family. Spouses and kids qualify for grants to their charities from CN in recognition of their volunteer time.

Sheila Parker really loved that idea. "It seemed to be a win-win-win. It gave people the opportunity to support charities, allowed charities to benefit from the valuable contribution of volunteers and enabled CN to walk alongside you in supporting communities. It was so much more valuable than just cutting a cheque," says Sheila, whose husband, Neil Hoag, retired from CN Oakville Yard in 2014 after 37 years of service as a Carman.

Sheila, a retired Chartered Accountant, threw her considerable energies behind the Children's Aid Society (CAS) of Halton Region. "We live very fortunate lives in Canada and I really wanted to help disadvantaged children any way I could," says Sheila, who mentors and guides teens in such things as money management, and is also a driver for younger CAS kids. "The variety of the work and flexible hours really suited me," adds Sheila. "I give time to the charity when I can, from 2 hours to 60 hours a month. It all makes a difference and feels great." The grants from CN help to provide food, shelter and educational opportunities for CAS kids.

In 2022, Sheila was the recipient of the Volunteer Halton Impact Award for her compassionate and dedicated service to the CAS. "My mother and adult son are passionate volunteers and Neil's father, George, gave generously of his time to the Railway Museum of Northern Ontario in Capreol for many years after his own retirement as a CN Conductor. I am very proud the commitment to volunteerism has been passed down through the generations."



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

1. Marie Agnes Sylvia Giasson

March 29, Winnipeg MB. Widow of Leo Emile Giasson who worked at CN Fort Rouge Shops, was transferred to Symington Yard and he later transferred to Transcona Shops as a Supervisor. Marie is very appreciative of the 100th birthday gift from the CNPA and proud of being made a member of the centurion club.



2

2. Claire Froste

May 26, Bath ON. Presentation was made by David Delcloo President of Kingston and Brockville C6 Council. Claire is the widow of the late Wilfred Frost.



3

3. Cyril Cross

March 21, North Sydney NS. Cyril was presented with his gift from CNPA on the occasion of his 100th birthday. He served as Chief Officer (First Mate) on the CN coastal vessel S.S. Baccalieu serving the south coast of Newfoundland & Labrador. He later became Assistant Operations Supervisor at the CN Terminal in North Sydney, retiring in 1985.



4

4. Lise Bényic

April 15, Gatineau QC. She was accompanied by all her family during a weekend in a typical Quebec Inn. The family presented her with the commemorative plaque on behalf of the CNPA. Lise is the widow of Paul Bényic. He was a professional chef. Who worked on CN dining cars and in Quebec hotels.

5. Mary Bretecher

April 3, Winnipeg MB. Widow of Charles Bretecher. Edward Bretecher, Mary's son presented her with the Crystal locomotive plaque.



5

6. Mona Belyea

February 7, Nanaimo BC. Jason Belyea presented her with the CN gift. Mona is widow of former CN pensioner Herbert Belyea, a sheet metal worker who passed away in 1971.



6

7. Rose Melnyk

February 19, Welland ON.



7

8. Alzira Estima

April 6, Brossard QC. Presentation was made by her son Manuel Estima. Widow of the late José Estima 1924-2012 who worked as a Warehouse Clerk and Maintenance at Central Station.



8



9

9. Fernande Bérubé
June 10, Rivière-du-Loup QC.
Widow of Raymond (Zoo)
D'Amours, who held various
positions at CN Rivière-du-
Loup for nearly 40 years. The
CN crystal locomotive was
presented to her by her
children François, Marie-
Pierre and Louis as well as
their spouses and
grandchildren.



10

**10. Gertrude
Marcheterre** January 25,
Longueuil QC. Wife of the
late Gérard Marcheterre
1919-2015 Gérard
Marcheterre was Station
Master in Québec City and
Montreal 1940-1970.
Presentation was made by
her daughter Danielle
Marcheterre and her
brothers.



11

11. Helen Granger Young
November 1, 2022,
Winnipeg, MB. Helen was
married to William Allan (Bill)
Young who worked as a
Checker to General Manager
in the Intermodal Division.



12

**12. Jeannette
Bouffard-Filteau**
March 12, Longueuil QC.
Wife of the late Jean-Paul
Filteau. Presented by her
daughter Marguerite Filteau
as well as her brothers Jean-
Guy and Denis both CN
retirees.



13

**13. Jeannette
Cormier Leclerc**
February 2, New Richmond,
QC. Wife of the late Joseph
Honoré Leclerc Station
Master in Maria, Gaspésie.

14. Margarita Gautreau
January 31, Shediac NB.



14

**15. Marguerite
Jean Bolduc**
February 21, Levis QC.
Her late husband was René
Bolduc and he worked for
33 years as an Agent at
Gare de Levis and Laurie.
Her son André Bolduc made
the presentation.



15

16. Maria Guiseppa Melfi
February 1, Hamilton ON.
The gift was presented by
her son John since she is in a
family only facility. Her late
husband Vince was
a section foreman in the
Hamilton ON area.



16

17. Maria Pittiglio
March 23, Montreal QC.
Wife of the late Antonio
Pittiglio. Presentation of the
Centenarian gift as well as a
beautiful bouquet of twelve
white roses was made by
the President and Treasurer
of the Montreal/Laval
Council



17

18. Valentyna Stecewicz
April 30, Calgary AB.
Wife of the late Waclaw
(Bill) Stecewicz, Bill started
his career with the B&B
in 1949 and retired as a
Carman at the CN yards in
Calgary in 1983.
Photo: Daughter Donna,
Valentyna Stecewicz, Son
William and Daughter
Theresa



18

WE GET MAIL



Leadership Class at Crandall University

Hi Ken,

As mentioned, Betty and I have devoted a lot of time and energy in community volunteering in our married life and continue to do so as long as we have the energy to continue.

Today, we were invited to address a Leadership Class at Crandall University of 28 students from many countries around the globe as you will see in the attached picture, who are enrolled in the Crandall University Organization Management Program.

Because both of us have been involved with so many organizations in leadership roles, like Presidents, Board Chairman, etc., we were honoured to be asked to describe the “principles” that we used to govern the success of our leadership over the years, and a bit of information on the organizations that we represented. I am not in any way attached to Crandall University; however, Betty is, and just received an Emerita Award from the university after stepping down from 25 years as President of the Crandall University Auxiliary.

Bruce Peacock



CN EMPLOYEES'
AND PENSIONERS'
COMMUNITY
FUND

2024 Fundraising Campaign from September 28 to December 6, 2023

**As of September, be on the lookout for your
donation form in your mailbox!**

As a retiree, your role is important within your community. By donating or organizing a fundraiser through the CN Community Fund you can give back and have a positive and lasting impact.

Over the past 10 years, Community Fund members have donated over \$19.1 million to support a range of charities helping the less fortunate.



- 100% of your donation goes to your chosen charity, with no administrative fees.
- Donate to the registered charity of your choice. *
- You can contribute by automatic monthly deduction from your pension benefit, by cheque or by credit card.
- Receive a single tax receipt for the year for all donations of \$20 or more.

Contact us:

✉ communityfund@cn.ca

☎ 1-877-552-7555

➔ communityfundcn.com

**Please note that
your monthly
contribution must be
renewed each year.**

* An organization must receive a total of \$300 or more to be eligible.

Bugle Sgt. Arthur Seymour Tyler

New Brunswick history is full of fascinating stories that often have the misfortune of falling into the cracks of history. One such story is that of Arthur Seymour Tyler. He was born in 1897 in the city of St. John. He was working as a teamster when the First World War began in 1914. He was eager to serve, but Black Canadians were not allowed. However, the need for men on the western front soon became apparent and the No. 2 Construction Battalion was established to recruit Black Canadians and Seymour enlisted in 1916. The No. 2 Construction Battalion was sent to England in 1917. The unit did not have the numbers for a full battalion and was rechristened the No. 2 Construction Company. The unit was shortly thereafter sent to France attached to the Canadian Forestry Corps, serving along the Swiss border cutting trees and milling boards. The Company was returned to Canada and was demobilized in 1919. Returning to civilian life, Seymour settled in New Maryland, near Fredericton, and remained interested in military life. He joined the York Regiment, a militia unit based in Fredericton. He eventually enrolled in a bugler's course in Halifax in 1925.

In 1929, Seymour married Lenetta Vivian Holmes, of Lakeville Corner. The two moved to a farm in New Maryland, raising a large family of five boys and three girls. In 1937, the York Regiment was combined with the Carleton Light Infantry to form the Carleton & York Regiment. For his experience and training, Seymour was made Bugle Sergeant of the new Regiment. With the outbreak of the Second World War in September of 1939, the Carleton & York was activated as part of the Canadian Army and made ready to be sent to England. Shortly after, on November 15, Seymour Tyler was presented with a silver bugle for his 21 years of service.

The Regiment was sent to Britain at the very end of 1939, arriving in Scotland and being stationed at Delville Barracks, Aldershot,



England. While stationed there, the regiment was visited by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth I on their tour of the newly arrived Canadians. As Bugle Sergeant, Seymour Tyler played the royal salute for their arrival and greeted them both. Seymour Tyler was injured while stationed in England in 1941 and returned to New Brunswick. He was discharged, but reenlisted a few months later. Although he was declared medically unfit for active duty, he became an instructor training new recruits. When the war ended in 1945 and Seymour's final discharge came, he signed a three-year contract with CN Rail as a porter. He would remain a porter until he retired in 1959. Arthur Seymour Tyler would pass in 1985, he was 88 years old.

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Man of Steele

A 56-year railway career comes to an end.

Bruce Steele considers himself a very lucky man. For 56 years, he got to live out a love of working with machinery of all kinds with a railroad he had admired as a child.

"My grandfather used to take me out to an escarpment overlooking the Turcot Yard when I was five years old. We would watch the steam engines move onto the massive turntable and into the roundhouse. It was very exciting," recalls Bruce, who retired as a machinist earlier this year. "My grandfather, who was from England, helped to rebuild steam and diesel engine ships and inspired my love of all things mechanical. I still have the micrometer (a measuring device used to measure flat surfaces or different geometries) he used, which is very special to me."

Bruce started a four-year apprenticeship at the Pointe-Saint-Charles Mechanical Shop on January 3, 1967. After finishing, he was transferred to the shop at Taschereau Yard as a full-fledged machinist, changing filters on the locomotives, power pistons and rings and doing bigger repairs on the traction motors.

"The biggest change by far over the years has been the focus on safety," says Bruce. "When I first started, I used to work the night shift outside in the yard, often walking without a care in the world on the roof of the locomotive at 2 a.m. in the winter as another employee passed up a hose for me to fill the water tank. I had no security or PPE. It is unthinkable today. So much has changed for the better," says Bruce, who was fortunate not to have had any major injuries during his career.

Bruce says he will miss his colleagues the most. "I was always treated with respect by kind and friendly co-workers," he says. He plans to "live a quiet retired life" working on a small home business that repairs lawnmowers, chainsaws and other small engines. "I'm mechanically inclined," he laughs. "It's what I was born to do."

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