



# RAILVETS' NEWS

Winter 2022

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In case you are unaware, the CN Pensioners association has a web site that has lots of useful information.

[WWW.CNPENSIONERS.COM/](http://WWW.CNPENSIONERS.COM/)

Winter! It seems every time I write one of these the weather acts weird and I'm confused which season it is. Today it was plus three, then minus three, snow and wind, then back up to plus three. Tomorrow's forecast is plus ten - is this really early February?

The Edmonton Council executive has been staying in touch via monthly zoom conference calls; our last general meeting was held in March 2020. We are hoping rules become more relaxed and are actively planning for a June picnic, and hopefully follow up with a general meeting in September at the Chateau Nova. Depending on covid rules, time will tell.

As both Sandra Barnes and Chris Randall are stepping back, I would like to thank them for all their hard work and help the last several years; I also welcome John Wiebe and Cliff Gervais to our executive.

As one of three regional directors, I attended a mid November annual Directors' meeting held for two days by zoom. Blake Olson and Dennis Jensen, both from B.C., are the other two. Many items were discussed and scholarships, audit review, finances were passed.

Our National Membership Chair and Treasurer, Bruce Peacock, announced he is planning to step down in the fall and, planning ahead, has two members in training; the plan is to split the workload and have the two ready to assume duties in the fall.

The national website CNPensioners.org was updated because spammers are getting more active with all the personal information, i.e., email addresses and phone numbers have been removed. Our RailVets newsletter will still have this information so please refer to that source if you need to contact any of the local executive with concerns, ideas, questions, etc.

I, along with a few other members, helped out in mid December at the West Edmonton Mall Casino at a fund-raiser for the Alberta Railway Museum. I was one of the lucky ones and got to count money in the count room until the middle of the night - reminded me of working the night shift on the railroad. Thank you to the other members who also volunteered.

Chris and I attended a celebration to honour Kassam Omar Aoughoushe, who turned one hundred years young, and presented him with a nice crystal engine. (Write up is in the newsletter on page two.) Thanks to his family for including us.

We have 19 members on the Mountain Region who are turning one hundred this year; Edmonton Council has the first from Camrose in March and another from Sherwood Park in April.

I hope everyone has been staying safe and healthy. Take care.

## President's Message

*Al Vadden*

## Your Executive

### President

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### Vice President

Bruce Macdonald

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### Auditor

Joe English (780) 458-7691

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## Kassam Omar Aboughousse



Congratulations to CN Employee Pensioner, Kassam Omar Aboughousse, known to many of his co-workers as “Omar” who celebrated his 100th birthday on December 5, 2021. His celebration was surrounded by his loving family and attended by Al Vodden, President and Chris Randall, Treasurer, CNPA Edmonton Railvets. Mr.

Aboughousse

immigrated to Canada from Lebanon in 1955 and immediately got a job with CN Rail in Edmonton, Alberta as a Laborer. Regretfully after only one month on the job he was seriously injured but was able to transfer and retain work with CN for the next 31 years as a custodian. If you worked at any time in Calder or the downtown CN tower, you may remember Omar doing his work with great pride over the next 31 years. He enjoyed his work and the many friends he made and kept in touch with at CN. Kassam Omar has 7 children, 16 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

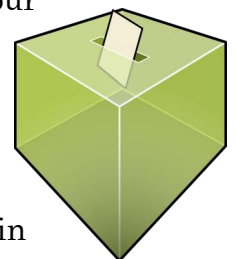
## CN Pensioners' Help Line



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.

## Elections

There has not been the annual election of officers for our Edmonton RailVets chapter for the last couple of years because of covid and the same members have been on the executive since elected in November 2019. Covid rules permitting, elections will be held again in November 2022. If you have any interest in these positions your help may be needed so keep that in mind for November 2022.



## Changes at CN

Blake Olson, our regional CNPA representative on the Pension Committee, advised of the Pension Committee changes that will affect current non-unionized active members effective April 2024. These changes will only affect active (still working) non-unionized employees who are presently contributing in the CN Pension Plan. To help us understand the impact these changes will have he gave us this overview of CN's past, recent and upcoming plans regarding CN pensions:



- CN and its board of directors own the CN pension plan which is the largest private pension plan, by dollar value, in Canada.
- The plan was introduced in the 1950's and everyone joined; all management and non-scheduled employees were in the pension plan.
- Our Defined Benefit pension (DB) is based on an employee obtaining 85 points, i.e., their age (minimum 55) + service = 85. The pension is calculated on a percentage of salary in your best or last five years of service and on total years of service.
- For the Defined Benefit Plan each employee contributes about six percent of their salary and the company matches that amount; this money goes into a fund which is managed by CN. It has been a very well-managed fund with an average annual return of over 9 percent for more than 25 years. The plan is fully funded on both a on-going concern and solvency basis. CN has the obligation to manage the fund and also to pay a pension to every eligible member (and their eligible spouse) from this fund until they die.
- The Defined Contribution Plan (DC) is a much simpler plan. The employee and CN make a defined contribution each month similar to the DB plan. These contributions are invested on the employee's behalf and maintained by CN for them. This value grows over time and when the employee leaves CN the money is transferred to the employee in a locked-in RRSP. CN's obligation ends at that time. The employee can access that money based on government regulations for withdrawals.
- Most companies worldwide are in or are moving to the Defined Contribution plan. In Canada only 15 percent of pensions are the DB type.
- In 2006 CN made the decision that newly hired non-unionized employees would join the Defined Contribution plan and not the Defined Benefit plan.
- Since 2006 CN has hired about 1700 new managers and supervisors who had to join the DC plan and not our DB plan. In many cases, newly hired employees prefer the more flexible DC-style plans.
- In January 2021 CN announced that newly promoted supervisors would also transition from the DB Plan to the DC plan as well.
- As announced recently, in April 2024 the 1800 or so remaining managers and supervisors at CN, who were all hired before 2006 and still in the DB plan, will be transitioned to the DC plan as well. Based on some examples, this will affect these members in different ways based on their service years and age. In each case they will all still get a DB pension at some time; some may be required to work longer to get it and also some may see a reduced benefit when they retire.
- In Blake's opinion there will be limited impact to the plan from a CN or pensioner or financial point of view. Everyone affected by this change will still get a DB CN pension at some future time. These members are eligible to become CNPA members and still have access to the CNPA health care plan.
- In all cases where the employee is in the DC plan only there is no connection with the CNPA when they leave CN. (This may need to be discussed with CN.) They also have no access to CNPA health-care coverage.
- There is no impact to current CN pensioners (35,000) and also to those unionized members still working for CN (14,000).



## MILESTONES November 2021-March 2022

### 85 Years Old

Julian Saluk	Nov 1
Herbert G. Bennett	Nov 4
Herman Berkenbosch	Nov 5
Jean Davidson	Nov 6
Earl Miller	Nov 16
Adeline Korchinsky	Dec 1
Neil M. Anderson	Dec 4
Ernest Domijan	Dec 6
Hans P. Poess	Dec 8
William A. Callander	Dec 20
Albert Pelley	Dec 29
Reginald Bellerose	Jan 15
Maria Dos Ramos	Jan 18
Mario Lapina	Jan 19
Mary Lou Hansen	Jan 30
Camille Boos	Feb 7
Alfred Rode	Mar 4
Samira Attia	Mar 18
Grace Weigl	Mar 23

### 90 Years Old

Joo Hee Lee Lee	Nov 1
Flora Shockey	Nov 12
Donna Harmon	Nov 17
John T. Leslie	Nov 20

Lou Johnston	Nov 24
Norbert Hauck	Nov 30
Verne Billings	Dec 12
Walter Sharek	Dec 20
Clara Grant-Johnsson	Dec 25
Mary Zaplitny	Jan 9
Maria A. Chrapko	Jan 16
Anne Wilinski	Jan 20
Morris J. Soetaert	Jan 21
William E. Jubien	Feb 2
Ini Jager	Feb 7
Ronald Gosse	Feb 10
Gloria S. Glab	Feb 17
Frederick P. Pylypow	Mar 2
Rudolf Kiel	Mar 14
Gilbert Whitham	Mar 25
Jacob Bretzer	Mar 31

### 95 Years Old

Jane A. Oberg	Dec 6
Anna Bojkewich	Dec 22
Walter J. Daniels	Dec 23
Connie M. Storrier	Jan 24
Edna Lerl	Feb 18
Mark A. Stumph	Mar 15
Russell Lovejoy	Mar 16

Helena Sass	Mar 26
Mildred E. Wiuff	Mar 28

### 100 Years Old

Kassam Aboughoushe	Dec 5
Bertha Sonnenberg	Mar 16

### 50 Years Married

F. Edward & Ruth Locke	Nov 15
Jinatalli & Zarina Alwani	Dec 12
Steve & Maureen Wischer	Dec 18
Tony & Ilda Borges	Dec 18
Zeljko & Manda Kavaz	Dec 19
Harry & Lillian R. Holden	Jan 21
George & Helen M. Lau	Mar 18
Ray L. & M. Jeanne Golden	Mar 25

### 60 Years Married

William B. & Carol Sawich	Dec 9
Robert & Marianne Fallowfield	Dec 9
Harry & Myros Lava Kornak	Feb 10

### 70 Years Married

Edward & Delena Buchmeier	Dec 9
Mike & Joyce Basok	Jan 10

## New Members Since September 2021

Kaare Andersen	Joanna Corbett	Bahadurali Jiwa	Lloyd Reid
Colleen Anderson	Gerrald Dames	Daralyn Johnson	Claudette Rodrigue
Rhonda Anderson	Henriette Desrosiers	Elsie Karall	Don Rusnak
Nick Andrusiak	Beverly Edey	Lee Kennedy	Donald Schneider
Merunnisa Bandali	Lucille A. Edwards	Richard Kim	Nicolas Smith
Albert Banting	Matilde Ferreira	Margaret Klut	Oi Len Tsen
Dant Barron	Doris Gill	Ray Kroeker	Marites Walters
Ram Bhasker	Rodney Gordey	Jim Mannella	Lucyna Yakubow
Verne Billings	Mary Lou Hansen	Dave Marchand	William Yeast
Ed Boos	Steve Hanson	David McGlashan	Don Zorn
Joyce Boychuk	Robert Hebbard	Mary Myschuk	
Alvin Breault	Mike Hilton	Randall Oszust	
Mary Buba	Geneua Horban	Cheryl Pietracupa	
Don Butz	Sharleen Horchuk	Brian Poltorak	
Tim Chambers	Dan Husak	Charmaine Pringle	
Katherine Chanakos	Marie Hutchison	Grant Proulx	



<b>Jose Anastacio</b>	Foreman, Edmonton	<b>Marie Lord</b>	Widow of Frederick, Electrician, Calder
<b>Therese Auger</b>	Widow of Raymond, Engineman, Edmonton	<b>Jim Lorentz</b>	Truck Driver, Calgary
<b>William Billings</b>	Regional Mechanical Officer, Edmonton	<b>Cecil Loughlin</b>	Conductor, McLennan
<b>Roy Bishop</b>	Diesel Shop Labourer, Edmonton	<b>Blanche Lowe</b>	Widow of Art, Track Maintainer, Drumheller
<b>William Borrow</b>	Track Foreman, Calgary	<b>Anna Luchkanych</b>	Widow of John
<b>Joseph Boychuk</b>	General Transportation Clerk, Edmonton	<b>Moe Mahendran</b>	Director Operations Planning, Edmonton
<b>Ken Brown</b>	CP Rail & CP Air, Lethbridge	<b>Sally Majchar</b>	Widow of Theodore, Gen. Welding Supvr. Edmonton
<b>Randall Chan</b>	Customer Support Rep., Edmonton	<b>Gordon Maxwell</b>	Foreman Switchman, Hanna
<b>Margaret Cooke</b>	Widow of Arthur, Marketing	<b>Bruce McBain</b>	Operations Supervisor, Edmonton
<b>R. Floyd Cormin</b>	Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton	<b>Elizabeth Milanovich</b>	Secretary, Law Dept., Edmonton
<b>Thomas Cotie</b>	Conductor, Horne Payne ON	<b>Barbara Miller</b>	Widow of Merv, Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton
<b>Grant A Dawson</b>	Traffic Coordinator, Edmonton	<b>Florence Munro</b>	Widow of Doug, Manager, General Claims, Edmonton
<b>Arthur (Jim) Dove</b>	Senior Manager, Industrial Development, Edmonton	<b>Hector Neveu</b>	
<b>Marie Dudek</b>	Widow of Edmund, Trainman Edmonton	<b>Loreen Nilson</b>	Widow of Carl, Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton
<b>Robert Edwards</b>	Locomotive Engineer, Biggar	<b>Grace Pearce</b>	Widow of Art, Carmen, Edmonton
<b>Norm French</b>	Conductor, Jasper	<b>Annie Pochtar</b>	Widow of Gregory, Carman Helper, Edmonton
<b>George Gavinchuk</b>	Agent, Scotford	<b>Helen Robak</b>	
<b>Robert Gill</b>	Conductor, Smithers	<b>Ernie Robinson</b>	Conductor, Jasper
<b>Audree Goring</b>		<b>Domingos Rodrigues</b>	Labourer, Edmonton
<b>James Horban</b>	Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton	<b>Dorris Rowe</b>	Wife of Art, Supvr Pensions & Benefits, Edmonton
<b>Yvonne V Horne</b>	Widow of Allan, Work Equipment Buyer, Edmonton	<b>Christa Schwanke</b>	Widow of Horst Gunter, Electrician, Calgary
<b>Helga H Iwanow</b>		<b>Michael Strickland</b>	Car Equipment Walker Yard
<b>John Kalyta</b>	Engineman, Peace River	<b>Jim Thomson</b>	Signals Maintainer, Edmonton
<b>Elsie Karall</b>	Widow of Ted, Asst. Supvr. Plant Mtee., Edmonton	<b>Shen Tsen</b>	Machinist, Calder
<b>Anne Kawchuk</b>	Widow of Steve, Transportation Clerk, Calder	<b>Elvira Valentini</b>	
<b>Sarah Edith Keegan</b>	Widow of William, Bridge Inspector	<b>Olga Walsh</b>	Widow of James
<b>Michael Kruper</b>	Yard Foreman, Edmonton	<b>Shirley Wheele</b>	Widow of Ernest, Conductor, Jasper
<b>George Kuziw</b>	Machine Operator, Edmonton	<b>Thelma M. Williams</b>	Leading Hand Lab. Equipment, Hanna
<b>Aime Lambert</b>	Track Maintainer, Edmonton	<b>James Williams</b>	Loss & Damage Analyst, Edmonton
<b>Ethel Lang</b>	Widow of Gordon, Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton	<b>Douglas Tong Wong</b>	
<b>Wilfred Laughland</b>	Track Maintenance, Jasper		
<b>Hee Lee</b>	Electrician, Edmonton		
<b>Julia Lesoway</b>	Widow of Edward, Stores Attendant Edmonton		
<b>Phyllis Lindsay</b>	Widow of Lewis Arthur Carman Calder		
<b>Reg Lissimore</b>			

Our Sympathies go out to John Beloglowka upon the death of his wife Grace.



The CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund has been in existence for over 50 years and is run by CN employees and pensioners acting on behalf of their colleagues and peers. Thanks to the generosity of CN employees and pensioners, and the diligence of its many volunteers over the years, our Fund is one of the largest and most successful of its kind in Canada. The Fund is a registered charity that plans fundraising activities and annual campaigns in support of various Canadian charities.

Last year's campaign was met with unprecedented success, raising a total of more than C\$2 million.

Over the past ten years, the Fund has raised more than C\$19.1 million in support of a range of registered charities to help the less fortunate.

### TOP 5 REASONS TO GIVE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FUND

- Plan your annual donations in one place.
- Give 100% of your donation to your registered charity, subject to zero administration fees.
- Choose from over 500 Canadian registered charities.
- Maximize your tax return.
- Receive a personalized letter of recognition for any donation of \$500 or more to a registered charity.

Moreover, contributions to United Way of \$1,000 and over are acknowledged by the Community Fund and we ensure that donors are registered in the organization's recognition program, established in each region.

It is important to note that you can take advantage of the convenience of automatic payroll or pension deductions and that a tax receipt will be issued for all donations over \$20.

### Picnic – Hawrelak Park

If covid restrictions allow, we plan to hold our annual picnic again this year at Hawrelak Park, picnic site one, on Wednesday, June 15th. Details will be confirmed in our next edition of the newsletter which is published in June, but if you plan to attend please advise John Wiebe at [jjwiebe2@gmail.com](mailto:jjwiebe2@gmail.com) so plans with Hawrelak Park can be finalized and confirmation of the details emailed to you.



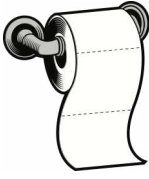
### Railroaders in the Community

The number of RRITC volunteers was 61, up from 42 in 2020 and there was a total of \$74,925 donated by CN on behalf of those volunteers, including the \$100 bonus for each contributing member.





In 1890 the Scott Paper Company became the first company in the world to market Toilet paper dispensed from rolls .



In 1935 Northern Paper Mills of Green Bay was the first company in the world allowed to advertise that it was "Splinter Free".

### Call for Volunteers

Two local sites open to the general public during the summer months - Fort Edmonton Park and the Alberta Railway Museum - are looking for ex-railroaders as volunteers. If this is of interest to you please contact the following for further information - John Reynolds at [robert.reynolds@edmonton.ca](mailto:robert.reynolds@edmonton.ca) for Fort Edmonton Park or Kevin Franchuk at [franchuk@telusplanet.net](mailto:franchuk@telusplanet.net) for the Alberta Railway Museum.

### Joint Protective Board Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen



I'm sure there are many members who have historic pictures like this and a story to go with them. It is important to capture this information, or risk losing it.

This one was provided by Gerry Fox. His Grandfather Thos. Walker is third from the left .



### Membership Cheques

Members who pay their membership fees by cheque are reminded to send their cheques to our Treasurer John Wiebe as soon as possible. John's phone number is (780) 460-9202.

### Tracy Robinson, CEO of CN



CN has announced that, as of February 28th, they have a new President and CEO. According to her Bio., she spent 27 years with CP in executive roles in Commercial, Operations, and Finance.



## THE FLOWER FUND

Each month the Edmonton RailVets acknowledge our members' milestone events: 85th, 90th, 95th and, of course, the 100th birthdays; we also acknowledge wedding anniversaries, the 50th, 60th and 70th. We like to arrange for a bouquet of flowers to be delivered to your address. Therefore, if you have registered your birthday or anniversary date with Peter, our Membership Secretary, he will add your name to the list when your special event occurs. It is important that you, as a member of our organization, keep Peter informed of any changes that occur, including a change of address.



In addition, over Christmas we like to send a poinsettia to any member who is hospitalized or shut-in over the holidays. This year we canvassed our membership for names of people in this situation and received a good response; we sent poinsettias to 17 members in and around Edmonton and also 6 to members out of town.

If you help us keep our information current we can spread a little bit of joy and acknowledge your special event. Before sending out flowers we call each member on the list to confirm their current address and also to advise them when to expect their delivery. Sadly sometimes we are unable to contact a member listed and as a result that member is missed. Please keep Peter informed of your special milestone events and any address changes; you can contact him at 587-338-6014 or email [petertre@gmail.com](mailto:petertre@gmail.com).

### Is there anything more beautiful than a sunset ?



The question is, in which of the following photographs is the sun below the horizon?

The answer is: **All of them.**

The sun's rays are refracted by approximately 6° by earth's atmosphere. What you are seeing is an optical illusion similar to seeing a stick bending when placed in water.

### Age of Members

55-65	616
65-75	746
75-85	463
85-95	343
Over 95	42
Unk	176



**Poinsettias/Flowers** were sent to the following members who were in extended or long term care this past Christmas:

Emily Strocki, Santo Cerminara, Gurshinder Gill, Sylvia Sziva, Floyd Cormin, Edna Bruckman, Ray Golden, Marjorie Kearney, Rueben (Bud) Mastre, Violet James, Helen Fedorchuk, Bruce McBain, Aileen Moore, Mike Basok, Joan Hanasyk, Robert Bunten, Ed (Charles) Grant.

If there are others we should know about, please let us know.

Year	Members Died	New Members
2019	131	103
2020	104	82
2021	104	106
2022	5	14
Total	344	305