



# Pensioners' news

Keeping pensioners' information on track  
Volume 26 • Number 2 • Summer 2021

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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 write this in June knowing you will read it in August. I hope the world pandemic situation has improved when you receive this newsletter. Irrespective, I would suggest you take advantage of the warm weather and spend as much time as you can outside. Take walks and get healthy exercise if at all possible. Doing that regularly is good for mind and body.

My president's message in the last newsletter generated some feedback and I was happy to get the comments. The intent of my comments in the opening paragraphs of that newsletter were to explain the international nature of today's CN and our pension fund portfolio. They were not intended to make political comment nor promote political ideology nor partisanship. If my words were poorly chosen and did not clearly portray my intent, I apologize to those who may have felt my comments were inappropriate or politically motivated.

In that last newsletter, I said I would explain what happens to the \$1.00 per month you give our associations if you are a contributing member. This \$1 is automatically deducted from your pension cheque each month by payroll deduction (PRD). It is deposited electronically into the CNPA account, which is at present managed by our treasurer Bruce Peacock. In a one-year period, each contributing member, and this includes retirees and surviving spouses, contributes \$12. At present, our by-laws state \$9.00 of that money goes back to the local council to which the member is associated, for their use. In reality, because of a motion passed at our Annual Directors Meeting, \$10.00 goes back to local councils, the extra dollar is to be used to work on increasing local membership.

Each council has full control of what activities they fund with their money. Each council has to conduct an audit each year and submit the results of that audit to regional council. So, each year there is \$2.00 left per contributing member that goes to National Council. That money supports the costs of operating a national association. Finances are managed carefully and some would say frugally, as they should be.

The continued existence of our association is based on membership support. National Membership chairperson Bruce Peacock and the many local membership recruiters work tirelessly to try and convince new retirees, recent survivors and longer-term retirees who are listed as **NI** (Not Interested) persons, to join the association.

A while ago, Denis Cousineau, a recent retiree, was elected by local councils in Quebec to be their representative on the Pension Committee. **(My next President's message will elaborate on the CNPA role on the Pension Committee.)**

Denis asked some questions pertaining to membership benefits and number of members. He was curious as to **why all CN retirees or surviving spouses were not members of the CNPA?**

To try and find an answer, we looked at some facts:

**It shouldn't** be past work career. The proportion of union and management employees at work are about the same in the retiree ranks with even more surviving spouses. We are all Retirees.

**It shouldn't** be because we don't actively represent retirees' interests since we are at all Pension Committee meetings with the company and unions discussing your pension plan. We have representatives at Workers' Compensation Hearing Loss tribunals working for the pensioner, we have a Federal Government Liaison Officer who lobbies on your behalf on issues of concern to retirees and pensioners.

Next newsletter deadline:  
Articles for the Winter edition  
due by September 30, 2021

Continued on page 2

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publishes the CN Pensioners' News three times per year.**

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For a complete listing of the 2020 National Council and  
Executive Committees, including the Regional Vice-Presidents, visit

**[www.cnpensioners.org/councils](http://www.cnpensioners.org/councils)**

National website and national Facebook  
For more information, contact names and numbers  
please go to our National website

**[www.cnpensioners.org](http://www.cnpensioners.org)**  
**[www.facebook.com/cn.pensioners.92](https://www.facebook.com/cn.pensioners.92)**  
**[www.facebook.com/cnpa.french.3](https://www.facebook.com/cnpa.french.3)**

**CN Pensions and Benefits Administration – 1-800-361-0739**  
**Pensioners' web portal: [cnbenefits.hroffice.com](http://cnbenefits.hroffice.com)**

The portal is now available at [CNBENEFITS.HROFFICE.COM](http://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' Help Line 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.*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – CONTINUED**

**It shouldn't** be because we are too hard to reach. Our email and phone numbers are all in this newsletter. We get hundreds, yes hundreds of calls from retirees and spouses looking for help and information. We answer those calls and do help with information and at times advice. Yes, there is a Pensions and Benefits Help Line, which you can also call and often our advice is to call that number, but someone in the Association gets a call and provides that information.

**It shouldn't** be because we do not participate in community programs since we are represented on some seniors' coalition associations. We support CN's Eco Connexions tree-planting programs, Safety Days, Railroaders in the Community, CN 100 celebrations and other local initiatives from councils across Canada.

**It shouldn't** be social interaction since a member can choose to go to local meetings to see and meet old friends and make new ones, or they may choose to not attend meetings at all. There is a lot of good newsletter information on pension and senior life shared at meetings, but attendance is completely voluntary.

**It shouldn't** be for lack of benefits for membership. The Association offers a Blue Cross Health Plan; a scholarship program; enhanced Railroaders in the Community program; a travel, hotel and rental car discount program; home and auto insurance discount program; new car purchase discount program; Rocky Mountaineer discount program (recent addition to be highlighted in our next newsletter); free CN employee calendar; People magazine annually; and a website where information on all of this is maintained. Plus, since January 2020, CN pays the first two years of membership for new retirees who join the Association. For the most part, these benefits are available to members only as they are funded by membership fees and managed by member volunteers.

**It shouldn't** be because we are not changing with the times. We have web sites, some councils are on Facebook, newsletters are on paper and electronic, all councils are connected on line, last year's Annual Directors Meeting was conducted on Zoom technology, your Association continued to function and provide service through the COVID-19 pandemic and all work on all initiatives continued in an electronic virtual world. All that was set up at the drop of a hat!! Meanwhile we still provide all those services to those who are not "On the Web" but using paper and telephone.

**It shouldn't** be cost. One dollar (\$1.00) per month dues would seem almost insignificant in 2021. And that dollar is automatically deducted from the person's pension deposit so there is even no need to write cheques.

There are at present a total of 31,840 retiree and surviving spouses. Of those, there are 7,743 people who are categorized as NI (Not Interested) in joining the Association. That total breaks down to 4,203 retirees and 3,540 surviving spouses. We believe some of the NI's think they are members but are in fact not.

Your annual pensions DEPOSIT STATEMENT will show your \$1.00 contribution if you are a member. If you are not sure if you are a member, ask one of the contacts listed in this newsletter. We will get back to you!

**If you are NOT a member, I would like to know why.**

We would really appreciate you sharing your reasons for not being a member. Perhaps we need to make changes to some of the things

we offer. You can send me an email with your comments at this address: [cnpensioners@yahoo.ca](mailto:cnpensioners@yahoo.ca)

Please show **Membership** in the Subject line.

If you wish to participate in our Association and help support our initiatives, you can do so by indicating that in the email to the address above, (include your PIN), or fill in the form in this newsletter, or contact Bruce Peacock, phone and email listed in this newsletter.

Thanks, and enjoy the rest of the newsletter...Oh, did I mention the Association puts this and local newsletters together?

**Reg Hebert**

*President, CN Pensioners' Associations - People looking out for your interests.*



**Summer 2021- Fund «CN Family»**

Directly support children with cancer!

**New this year:** The Cancer Research Society is a Canada-wide organization dedicated to funding research on **all types of cancer** since 1945. All your generous donations will be directed to a special fund dedicated to pediatric cancer research. The first of its kind and created by the Society, the fund will proudly be named **“CN Family”** and will help make a difference through prevention, treatments and healing sick kids.

**Your contribution will go a step further in the fight against cancer: All donations to this campaign will be matched by CN up to \$25,000!**

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE?**

Do not hesitate and help make all the difference to save lives! To participate in this special Fund, make your online donation at [www.communityfundcn.com](http://www.communityfundcn.com) or you can mail a cheque payable to “Community Fund – Fund “CN Family” to the following address:

Community Fund  
935 de La Gauchetière West – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Montreal, QC  
H3B 2M9

\*Tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$20 or more

\*\* This event is in conjunction with the CN employees' Jeans Day activity for the same cause.

For further information, please contact us:  
at 1-877-552-7555 ([communityfund@cn.ca](mailto:communityfund@cn.ca))



## CN and CNPA work as ONE TEAM for pensioners

Everyone knows the purpose of our Association (CNPA) is to represent the needs of all retired CN employees. CN also continues to recognize their retirees by promoting membership in the CNPA. What is not widely known is that CN supports the activities of the CNPA in many ways through a partnership agreement. In 2016, CN and then CNPA President, **Yves Bourdon**, signed a three-year partnership agreement, which was renewed in 2019 for an additional five years. Through this strong relationship, CN encourages participation by members of the CNPA in various local community activities throughout Canada.

A stellar example of community engagement by CNPA members was their volunteer support of the CN100 – A Moving Celebration tour in 2019. Hundreds of retirees and their families volunteered as tour guides at events across Canada, proudly representing not only our Association, but also CN's centenary. Widely hailed as a success in every community where it was held, CN100 was a shining tribute to the contribution that can be made by the CNPA and its members.

CNPA members participate in many other community events each year, such as Rail Safety Week and EcoConnexions tree plantings, where they can actively show their support for CN and their roles in these programs.

CN, for its part, provides support to the Association in many ways. Examples include:

- Member communications, such as this national newsletter, which you receive three times a year, and the beautiful yearly CN Calendar. CN People magazine, which is usually published quarterly, was unfortunately cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19.
- The CN Railroader in the Community program provides rewards to charities, where retirees and their spouses/surviving spouses volunteer. In 2020, that represented a contribution from CN of more than \$385,000 to charities selected by 266 retired volunteers.
- CN retirees also have access to the CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund to make personal donations to selected charities. Where eligible, CN matches the donations made to specific campaigns.
- CN provides the centenarian awards that our Association presents to retirees or surviving spouses celebrating their 100th birthday.
- Since Jan 1, 2020, and for the five years covered by the current partnership agreement, CN is paying the first two years of CNPA membership dues for each new retiree who opts to join the Association.

In summary, our partnership agreement with CN provides substantial support for our Association, both with direct financial contributions, as well as initiatives that allow our retirees to contribute to local community organizations. In return, retirees, in concert with active employees, provide their support at community events. The CN-CNPA Partnership Agreement is the definition of a win-win!

## Bench dedication at Capreol Museum June 6, 2021

In recognition of this ongoing and enduring 102-year relationship between the Town of Capreol and the Canadian National Railway. The Ontario Council of the CN Pensioners Association took pleasure in donating two respite benches to the Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre in honour of this anniversary.

It is anticipated that they will provide a spot for visitors to relax and enjoy the work of the management, staff and volunteers of the NORM&HC.

That makes this display of railway artifacts such a meaningful reminder of CN and the impact, it had on life in Capreol and throughout the Ontario northland.

The Barrie Council of the CNPA is also donating \$250.00 to assist in the ongoing maintenance of the "Bell Display." May these bells continue to amuse the kids and remind the older generation of the sounds of railroading in days past.



*Back row: Ross and Sue Denney, Mylan Gill, Rick Deforge – A/Supt Capreol, Scott and Wendy Paul.  
Front row: Stu Thomas – President NORM&HC, Frank Madigan, Eileen Thompson, and Raj Kohli – TM Capreol.*

## CNPA travel discounts

On our national website, <https://www.cnpensioners.org>, under the “Members” then “Travel & Discounts” tabs, you will find a list of several discounts that are available to CN retirees. For the most part these are discounts that CN has negotiated with suppliers that they deal with, and have been able to provide access to them for our Association as well. In each of the next several editions of this newsletter, we will highlight a specific discount and what the value is to our Association.

In this edition, we will focus on the discount rates for rental cars provided by **Budget/Avis** and provide some examples of what savings are possible by using the discount codes they provide. They each provide their own discount code to be entered when you are booking a car.

**Budget – A077300** – on their online booking form you click on “Offer Codes” and enter this code in the box titled “BCD Code.” There is also a code for truck rentals, which is A077380.

**Avis – C810900** – on their online form you click on “Discount Codes” and then enter this code in the box titled “AWD#.”

Just a quick sample of the rates, using a full-size car, 14-day rental, same pickup and drop-off locations and times. March was used for the US locations and August for Canada. All rates, except Costco US rates, are quoted in CAD.

SIZE FULL SIZE	TIME PERIOD 14 DAYS	SEASON MARCH 2022	Fort Lauderdale Airport	Phoenix Airport
COMPANY	PAYMENT TERMS	SAMPLE CAR	PRICE	PRICE
BUDGET (no discount)	Pay Now	Toyota Camry	\$1,340.14	\$1,265.53
BUDGET (with CNPA discount)	Pay at Pickup		<b>\$650.62</b>	<b>\$836.54</b>
ALAMO INSIDER	Pay at Pickup	Chevy Malibu	\$1,116.09	\$1,499.54
COSTCO TRAVEL (with membership)	Pay at Pickup	Ford Fusion	\$882.00	\$1,040.00
THRIFTY (through Expedia)	Pay Now	Chevy Malibu	\$1,049.10	\$1,106.00

\*NOTE: Costco rates quoted in USD

SIZE FULL SIZE	TIME PERIOD 14 DAYS	SEASON AUGUST 2021	Toronto Airport	Vancouver Airport
COMPANY	PAYMENT TERMS	SAMPLE CAR	PRICE	PRICE
BUDGET (no discount)	Pay Now	Hyundai Sonata	\$1,288.92	\$1,693.98
BUDGET (with CNPA discount)	Pay at Pickup		<b>\$531.11</b>	<b>\$570.15</b>
ALAMO INSIDER	Pay at Pickup	Toyota Camry	\$1,345.98	\$1,777.27
COSTCO TRAVEL	Pay at Pickup	Chevy Malibu	\$1,187.00	\$1,440.00
ZOOM/THRIFTY (through Expedia)	Pay at Pickup	Toyota Camry	\$603.45	\$1,691.00

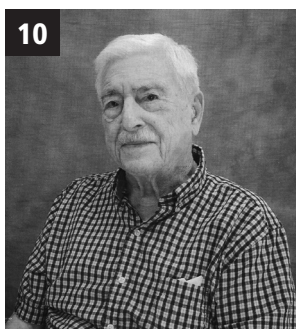
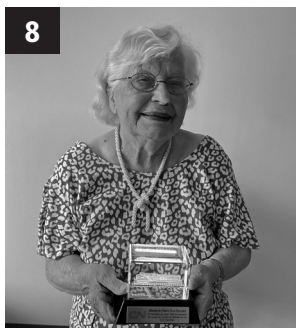
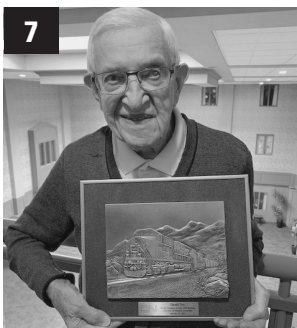
**NOTE:** This is not intended to represent every available rental option, and you may have others that you have found. Rather, this is intended to demonstrate the value of the discount compared to a sample of other major companies

It is important to remember that in order to ensure you get the specific car category that you booked and the rate that you booked it at, you may be required to show your CNPA membership card as proof of eligibility for the discount.



## Celebrating centennial birthdays

CN and CN Pensioners' Associations have always shown respect for their pensioner population, especially 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 birth date. We will publish the names and dates and, when possible, photos from the presentation in our national newsletter published and distributed to all pensioners three times a year.



**1** Mrs. Anna Clara Magro, February 28, 2021, Woodbridge, ON. Widow of the late Secondo P. Magro – Mechanical Services, Carman.

**2** Mrs. Barbara Manary, May 3, 2021, Brockville, ON. Living at the Chartwell Wedgewood Retirement Home Brockville. Widow to the late Elmer R. Manary, staff at Chartwell arranged a small celebration for her birthday and presented her with the CN Plaque.

**3** Mr. Cecil Loughlin, February 28, 2021, Capital Care Kipnes Centre for Veterans, Edmonton, AB. Received his plaque and enjoyed a family Zoom meeting with Cathy and Conrad Michael.

**4** Mrs. Cecilia Roy, March 5, 2021, Manotick, ON. Widow of the late Roger Roy who was employed by CNT Ottawa. Presentation made by her daughter Diane and her husband Ed Filby.

**5** Mrs. Eva Radulski, May 5, 2021, Providence Care Centre, Calgary, AB. Widow of the late Walter Radulski. She celebrated her birthday outside on a patio at Providence Care Centre with her family.

**6** Mrs. Evelyne Wynne, June 15, 2021, Oshawa, ON. Widow of the late Donald Wynne, her son Robert and daughter Lorraine presented the plaque to her on her birthday.

**7** Mr. Gerald E. Tino, January 23, 2021, Windsor, ON. Living at Shoreview at Riverside Retirement Home, Windsor, ON. Mr. Tino retired from the Mechanical Car Department (Carman) in Windsor after 43 years of service. The plaque was presented to Gerald by his son Brian Tino.

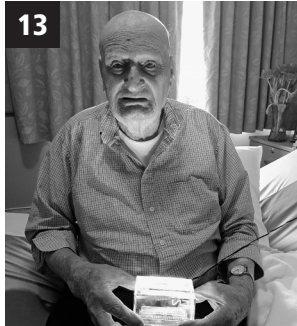
**8** Mrs. Clara Guy-Boulais, May 21, 2021, Knowlton, QC. Widow of the late Charles-Emile Boulais, a Frozen Product Inspector for CN. Presentation of the 100th Anniversary Plaque was made by her daughters Nicole and Denise Boulais.

**9** Mrs. Helene Guérin, February 28, 2021, Levis, QC. Presentation of the CN Anniversary plaque was by her son Louis Guérin.

**10** Mr. Hugh Ritzer, June 24, 2021, Winnipeg, MB. Living at the Meadowood Manor Home with his wife Annabel, Winnipeg, MB. Hugh was a Carman at the Fort Rouge Shops then at Transcona Shops.

Not Pictured

Mrs. Dirkje (DIPPY) Carisse, April 14, 2021, Barrie, ON. Roberta Place Barrie, ON. Widow of the late Maxime Carisse. Presentation was made by her son Hess Carisse, Sadly Dippy passed away on May 22, 2021.



**11** Mrs. Irene Legassic, April 17, 2021, Chateaugay, QC. Widow of the late Bruce Lagassic. The plaque was presented by her longtime friend Debbie Robinson, at her residence in Chateaugay. Friends and family were in virtual attendance throughout the day to greet and leave well wishes for Irene.

**12** Mrs. Jeanne Masse, June 5, 2021, Laval, QC. The plaque was presented by her daughter Martine. Her late husband Maurice Masse was director for the industrial expansion of the St. Lawrence Region.

**13** Mr. Joseph Balbon, April 1, 2021, Winnipeg, MB. Living at the Golden Door Geriatric Centre, Winnipeg, MB. Mr. Balbon was a Machinist, joining CN in 1946 and retiring in 1982.

**14** Mrs. Loretta Healey, July 11, 2021, St. John's, NL. Widow of the late Alexander (Sandy) Healey. CN Conductor/Yardmaster at St. John's, NL. CNPA plaque arrangements by Graham Hill CNPA (A9) President.

**15** Mrs. Lucie Lanthier, February 13, 2021, Matagami, QC. Widow of the late Roland J. Lanthier – Mechanical Service (Carman).

**16** Mrs. Marguerite Beaupré, March 10, 2021, St. Clet, QC. Widow of the late Paul Beaupré – Work Equipment. Presentation of the CN plaque was made by her son Daniel Beaupré.

**17** Mrs. Marion Freeman, February 22, 2021, Petitcodiac, NB. Living at the Jordan Lifecare Centre, The Glades. Widow of the late Stafford L. Freeman, making the presentation was her son Len Freeman.

**18** Mrs. Mary Saville, April 23, 2021, Markham, ON. Widow of the late William J. Saville. The CN anniversary plaque was presented by her daughter Marlene Rae.

**19** Mrs. Mary Smook, March 31, 2021, Winnipeg, MB. Living at the Metropolitan Kiwanis Courts, Winnipeg, MB. She is one of 12 siblings.

**20** Mrs. Muriel Gard, May 8, 2021, Kelowna, BC. Widow of Ernest Gard.

**21** Mrs. Patricia McNulty, March 28, 2021, Toronto, ON. Widow of Gordon P. McNulty. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a celebration was impossible, however her family were able to facilitate the presentation of her award.

**22** Mrs. Paulette Lépine Pin, January 31, 2021, Dorval, QC. Widow of the late Gérard Pin.

**23** Mrs. Rose-Aimée Pelletier, February 20, 2021, Rivière-du-Loup, QC. Widow of the late Léonard J. Pelletier, formerly a CN Conductor. The plaque was presented by her son Benoît Pelletier.

**24** Mrs. Victoria Deagle, May 21, 2021, Edmonton, AB. Widow of the late Russell Deagle, Electrician with CN in Edmonton. Victoria remains living independently and has a close network of friends and family who helped her celebrate with a COVID-friendly drive-by parade on her birthday. Presentation was made by Brian Darkes. (Pictured: Victoria Deagle and Brian Darkes)





*Solange Poirier-Moran and Francis Moran*

## CN retirees helping fellow seniors in their rural community

In 1999, **Francis Moran** retired from his job as Superintendent Transportation in Edmundston, NB, after more than 34 years of service and moved back home to New Carlisle, QC, in Gaspésie with his wife, **Solange Poirier-Moran**, who had also recently retired from her position as Administrative Assistant Transportation. Back in the day, New Carlisle was a terminal on the CN network and the railway has a long history in the municipality.

Francis and Solange knew there were many retired people living in New Carlisle who were getting up in age. There was a great need for a retirement residence. The couple, along with several others in New Carlisle, started lobbying the government and fundraising. After about nine years of continuous effort, the **Gilker Residence** was built. Both Francis and Solange serve on the Board of the non-profit association that manages the 26-apartment independent-living facility. In addition to his administrative duties, Francis also clears the snow from walkways in winter and does other odd jobs. CN's Railroaders in the Community grant was used to provide an addition to the front door to prevent snow accumulation and to buy tents for outdoor activities in summer.

Francis has also volunteered for the Linda Lemore-Brown Foundation for about 15 years. The foundation provides financial assistance to cancer patients who need to travel to larger centres like Rimouski, Quebec City and Montreal to receive needed treatment. Francis spends time every day at the foundation helping with paperwork and fundraising.

## Service to others keeps Bruce and Betty Peacock going

**Bruce Peacock** never worried about how he would fill his days after retiring from a long career in Financial Planning at CN. That's because Bruce and his wife, Betty, are big believers in community service, and give generously of their time to various charities in Moncton, NB. "I've got something to do every day," says Bruce, who, since 1998, has volunteered in various capacities for the CN Pensioners' Association. Today, he is President of the Moncton Local Council, Secretary-Treasurer of the Atlantic Region Council as well as the National Council Treasurer and Membership Chairman. "I like to keep in touch with other CN retirees and provide a link to the railroad," adds Bruce.

For many years, Bruce and Betty volunteered with several community organizations in the city, like Moncton Headstart, Headstart Recycles, Mobile One (The Soup Bus) and Food Depot Alimentaire. During the holidays, they would dress up as Santa and Mrs. Claus and visit residents in long-term care facilities. "It always put a smile on my face and warmed my heart," says Bruce.

For the past 10 years, both Bruce and Betty have been volunteer board directors with the Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick, an organization focussed on educating youth about the perils of alcohol, drugs and other social issues. "CN's support through the *Railroaders in the Community* program helps keep the organization afloat and defrays the cost of our outreach to local schools," says Bruce.

The couple shows no sign of slowing down. "We like helping people and our work helps us stay healthy and active. Service to others is what keeps us going."



*A dynamic duo: Bruce and Betty at home*





*Gordon Wheatley and his wife, Janis, are active members of the community*

## Feeding a need in the community

When CN retiree **Gordon Wheatley** moved with his wife, Janis, from Mississauga, ON to Victoria, B.C., almost sixteen years ago, he didn't hesitate to volunteer where the need was great.

Today, Gordon is an active volunteer with the **"Our Place Society,"** a social services organization that provides transitional housing, nourishment, counselling and hope to Greater Victoria's most vulnerable citizens. "There are many who are stretched to the limit and cannot afford both rent and food," observes Gordon.

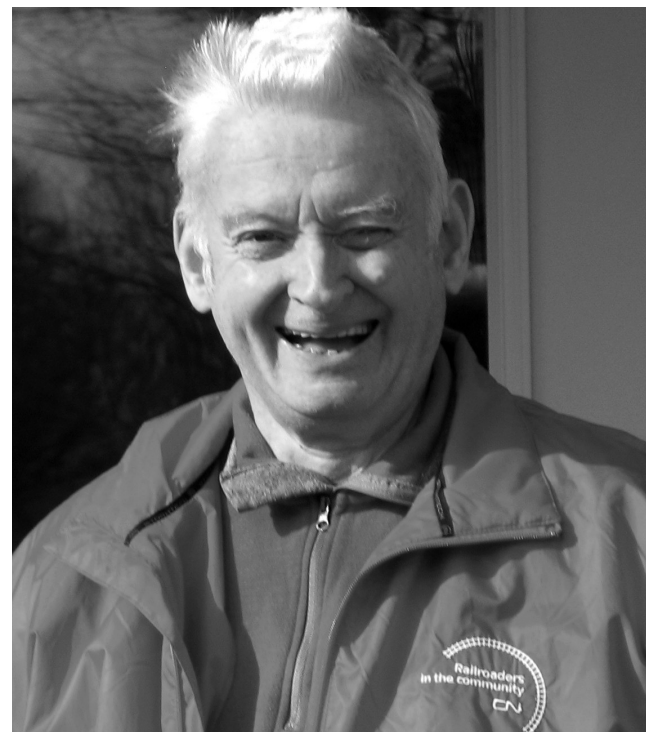
Twice a month, Gordon and a team of volunteers serve breakfast and supper to patrons, clean up after meals and do meal prep for the chef. "We have been known to serve 500 to 600 patrons at these services," says Gordon, who retired after 30 years of service with CN. "The monthly cost is approximately \$600 per service. Thanks to our participation in the Railroaders in the Community program, CN contributes the cost of about one full meal service to the needy, which obviously defers some of the organization's costs."

While COVID-19 may have put a temporary stop to large gatherings, Gordon is hopeful the meal services will pick up soon and fill a need in the community once more.

## Supporting the community where his roots run deep

**Garry Bickes** has lived in Hemmingford, in south-west QC, since 1950, so preserving and sharing the history of the small town is close to his heart. Volunteering at the Hemmingford Archives Educational Research Centre and community museum seemed like a natural fit. "There's a lot of information collected in the Archives from wills and land grants to family records," says Garry, who was a Manager in I&T before retiring with 36 years of service.

Garry's devotion to preserving the history of the town led him to volunteer to record the names from the headstones of every person buried in the cemeteries in Hemmingford for the Archives, a special project for the town's centennial. "My wife Jeannie and I recorded 6,000 names and dates over two summers," reports Garry. As Treasurer of the Archives responsible for paying the organization's bills, Garry is grateful for CN's support through the Railroaders in the Community program. "The generous grants from CN are a great help to us, especially since there is an operating cost to running our own building," says Garry. "Charities all over have been in desperate need since the pandemic hit and no one has stepped up like CN."



## Federal Government Liaison Officer

### *A Little-Known Benefit of CNPA Membership*

One of the benefits of membership in the CN Pensioners Association is the fact that the interests of our members are monitored in the House of Commons and the Senate by our Federal Government Liaison Officer.

As a member of the National Council, I have had the pleasure of serving in this appointed position since 2014.

I am a retired Locomotive Engineer and former Provincial Legislative Chairman on seven railroads in the province of Ontario for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (now Teamster's Canada Rail Conference). I served in that position for 12 years, and a subsequent 5 years in the construction trades sector, as a Workers Advocate in the areas of Workers Compensation-Canada Pensions-Employment Insurance claims and appeals.

I monitor the progression of legislation through the House of Commons and the Senate in the areas of federally regulated pension plans, Canada Pension Plan benefits, Old Age Security, health-welfare (in concert with our Health Care Committee Chairman Blake Olson), finance, taxes, seniors' issues, and some transportation issues that affect our membership. From time to time, I am called upon to assist with issues arising out of provincial legislative matters.

If after consultation with the various CNPA Standing Committee Chairs and the National President, we are of the opinion that a legislative issue at hand deserves lobbying on behalf of our Association, we take steps to do so. This exercise is accomplished through letter-writing campaigns to Cabinet, encouraging CNPA members to lobby their MPs, as well as the opposition party critics, on the specific issue in question. We also make contact with appropriate parliamentary secretaries to cabinet ministers and their staff. Occasionally we have opportunities to personally lobby MPs/members of Cabinet, or Parliament Hill lobbyists relative to our membership concerns.

In order to initiate all of this activity, the National Council provides me with several research tools to accomplish these tasks in the form of newspaper subscriptions, access to government websites, such as the House of Commons-Senate, Legislative website. I am



also provided a high degree of support from the National Council Executive and Directors at the National level.

One piece of legislation we worked on in 2020, was lobbying the Minister of Health relative to the importation of Canadian drugs into the United States, a process to which CNPA voiced strong objections. The passage of such legislation, would cause shortages within our health care system, and would be extremely detrimental to the health and welfare of our membership, as well as Canadians overall.

We also participated in and prepared a Submission on behalf of CNPA to a Department of Finance Consultation Paper on Strengthening Federally Regulated Pension Plans. This was a somewhat complex paper, with terms of reference that required a good deal of research and preparation. It was compiled and submitted by five members of the National Council after some six weeks of intensive work. No decision on the results of that paper to date.

In conclusion as you will note, we make every effort to stay current on behalf of the legislative needs of our membership, and it is my pleasure to serve in this position on your behalf.

**J. H. Houston**

## STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

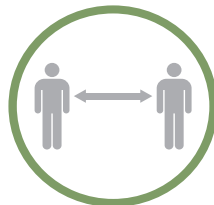


**Wear a mask.**



**Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.**

**Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.**



**Maintain at least 6 feet / 2 metres of distance from others whenever possible.**



**Avoid groups of people.**



**Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth.**



## CN 2747 enclosure project and capital campaign

On April 19, 2021, the Transcona Museum (Winnipeg, MB) launched a \$493,000 capital campaign project for the construction of a protective structure over historic locomotive CN 2747.

CN 2747 is an artifact of significant historical importance not only to the community of Transcona but to Canada. It was the first steam locomotive constructed at the Transcona Shops and the first built in Western Canada in April 1926. After 34 years of service, CN 2747 was retired and placed on permanent outdoor display in 1960. Since taking ownership in 2015, the Transcona Museum has undertaken necessary preservation work to ensure the stability and longevity of the locomotive. This work has totalled over \$63,000 to date.

We are excited to be moving forward on the next major step of the project – the construction of a protective enclosure over the engine. This structure will help protect the engine from the elements, increase security around it, and provide more opportunities for the public to

see, interact, and appreciate the historical artifact. It is our goal to provide more consistent access and interpretation of the engine, including programming and tours. The chosen conceptual design (see image) best addresses the preservation and display goals of the project. We are now actively soliciting donations and sponsorships to help us make this project a reality. Your support means that you understand just how valuable preserving CN 2747 is to the community of Transcona, Winnipeg, and Canada. This project would be difficult to achieve without your support. Please visit our website at [www.transconamuseum.mb.ca](http://www.transconamuseum.mb.ca) to donate and learn more about the project. We hope we have inspired you to “GET ON BOARD,” to help support the development of a permanent structure over this important historical asset in the community of Transcona.

**Jack Moore** *President, Transcona Museum*

## A proud railroading family

CN has always played a big part in the life of **Lisa Fraleigh**, retired Administrative Assistant in Montreal. When she was growing up, she and her family moved with her father, **Don Fraleigh**, during his CN career. She then joined CN herself and was with the company for 48 years before retiring last year.

In addition, Lisa’s two grandfathers and an uncle were CN railroaders, and today so are a brother-in-law and nephew. “CN has always been good to our family,” she says.

Lisa’s first memories are of life in remote Hornepayne, ON, where her father was a fireman, shovelling coal on steam locomotives. “It was very isolated; the railroaders in the community became our second family,” explains Lisa, the eldest of four daughters. “When my father was travelling for work, my mother kept everything on track. My parents were devoted partners who worked as a team to make a good life for us.”

Don’s career took him from Allendale to Hornepayne, ON, to Capreol where, as a locomotive engineer, he continued his involvement in the union, and then moved to the other side of the table to various positions in Labour Relations in Toronto and Montreal until his retirement in 1991 as Assistant Vice-President.

“Family and change were the two constants in my years at CN,” says Don, a grandfather of 10 and great-grandfather of eight. “I started at the bottom of the chain, and ended up being



*Left to right: Don’s son-in-law Michel Pinsonneault, Assistant Manager, Crew Systems; grandson Christos Kastamoulas, Mechanic Advisor; Don Fraleigh, and Lisa Fraleigh.*

part of the changers,” he explains, recalling milestones such as dieselization, removal of the caboose and closure of the Newfoundland Railway.

Return address:  
Bruce Peacock  
51 Weyburn Road  
Moncton, NB E1A 5M5

# Membership Application Form

Please accept my application for membership in the CN Pensioners' Associations. I understand that the annual fee is \$12.00, which I can pay through a monthly pension cheque deduction of \$1.00.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME FIRST NAME

PIN: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To which local/council association do you wish to belong?

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail application to:  
National Council of CN Pensioners' Associations Inc.  
Bruce Peacock, Treasurer  
51 Weyburn Road  
Moncton, NB  
E1A 5M5

Or email to: peacock1942@gmail.com



Go to our website at [www.cnpensioners.org](http://www.cnpensioners.org)  
and send in your application electronically.

N.B.: 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' Help Line at 1-800-361-0739. Have your PIN handy.

