



CN RAILVETS OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA E2  
Feb 2025 Volume 14 Issue 1

**From the Presidents' Desk:** After a bit of winter in December, we had a lovely January. But, as they say, "that was then and this is now". And the now is not pleasant; as I was writing this (Feb. 6), it was snowing again/still, -22°C with a light breeze. Roads and sidewalks can be treacherous so, please use extreme caution if you have to be out and about. We seem to be having a bit of reprieve from the bitter cold right now (7<sup>th</sup>) but I'm still keeping my warmest gear handy. The bright and optimistic (?) part in all of this – the seed catalogues have started to arrive. Talk about dreaming in colour! 😊 Be sure to read the timely information about the CNPA Scholarships inside. The photos used herein are all from the past because I was looking for sunshine and warmth and not what's out my door right now. Hang in there, spring is around some corner somewhere 😊! Happy Valentine's Day (14<sup>TH</sup>) - are you planning something special? Family Day (17<sup>th</sup>) is also on the horizon so, a long Valentine's Day weekend makes it longer to celebrate with family and friends? Mardi Gras, the celebration began earlier this month and ends on Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>) which precedes Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. This pre-Lenten time is a month-long festival with parades, parties and overall indulging until the leaner times of Lent. After witnessing this first-hand, I can relate it is definitely a party! What, if anything, are you giving up for the forty days of Lent? Prior to Easter is the beginning of Ramadan (28<sup>th</sup>) that finishes with Eid al-Fitr (March 30) where Muslims fast from sunup to sunset every day, all while attending to their regular days plus providing acts of charity. If you're wearin' the green, happy St Patrick's Day (March 17<sup>th</sup>). Later, in April, is Passover and Easter. National Flag of Canada Day (Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>) is a great day to show your pride in Canada, maybe display a flag large or small. And of course, happy spring equinox on March 20. Hopefully we won't be under three feet of snow by then but...it will be springtime in the Rockies.

Talk to me! Comments? Complaints? Suggestions? Call or email me. Sincerely, Judy Woods, President E2

**UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Meetings:**

**Mar 3** - Regular Luncheon meeting/ Spring Fling

**April 7** - Regular Luncheon meeting

**May 5** – Regular Luncheon meeting, discuss Picnic *In The Kerby*

**June 2** – Picnic *In The Kerby*

**Note:** the April, May and June dates are yet to be determined.

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**All published CNPA newsletters can be read at [cnpensioners.org](http://cnpensioners.org).**

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

**HOW DO YOU GET THIS NEWSLETTER?**

1. by **Canada Post** (most expensive, our least desirable),
2. by accessing it yourself on **cnpensioners.org**,
3. by receiving it directly in your **email** in-box from our local council (best choice for us). Please advise Brian Woods at 403-280-9107 or woodsbj@nucleus.com if this option works for you.

**Any changes** to your pension - address, telephone number, power of attorney, death etc. must be called into **Life Works at 1-800-361-0739, toll free**. They can also help with all questions regarding your pension or rail pass.

**NEXT MEETING: Mar 3/ 2025**

MEETING LOCATION: Games Room downstairs at the Kerby Centre, 1133-7 Avenue SW (403-705-3248)

**TIME:** 12:30

**The Membership of E2 welcomes our New Members**

- David Livingstone
- Phylis Melbourn
- Edward Kaizer
- Martha Robinson
- Carol Kissner
- Veronica Messmer
- Allen Billings
- Jane Tang

**Happy Birthday wishes to:**

- CN, June 6, 106 years
- Eilleen Merick, March 7, 85 years
- Claire Roberts, April 19, 94 years
- Judy Woods, April 27, 74 years Yikes!
- Edith Hynes, May 12, 91 years
- Evelyn Peterson, May 21, 93 years

**Anniversary congratulations to:**

- I do not have any listed so, if you provide me with your date and time served, I'll put it in print.

**Obituaries**

- Walentyna (Val) Stecewicz Oct 6/24, 101 years
- Red (Emerson) Robinson Dec 12/24, 92 years
- Ron Kissner Dec 22/24, 82 years

Want to see your name in print? The Company keeps all your details secret so if you want to see your name in print, call to give us those details so that can happen. A pseudonym for any nefarious members could be arranged 😊.

**Membership Advantages:** The Scholarship Committee will deny any applications sent by non-contributing members children or grandchildren. **Only** contributing members receive the annual CN calendar, delivered to your home – for only \$1/month. Also added is an association with the travel discount company, Colette Travel, plus the opportunity to join the CNPA Blue Cross plan when you initially retire. If you join the Rail Roaders In The Community program, a \$100 bonus donation is available. Be a promoter of the CNPA and encourage any non-members you know to call Brian Woods 403-280-9107 where, for that mere \$1/month (by PRD), they will become members. Also, they'll receive a copy of this wonderful newsletter! **Please Note:** Membership for a Spouse or survivor is **not automatic**, but they are invited to attend meetings (no voting unless in good standing - paying that is) and special events. **Social memberships** are also available (\$10 paid to us annually), this entitles the member to attend all functions of the local, and vote on local, non-CNPA, matters. Matters of the CNPA may only be voted on by the Pensioner or the surviving spouse per the constitution. **New incentive to join** – There is currently an offer of a two-year FREE membership so let's chat up anyone about to retire!

Well, I see the Provincial government has made the determination to go towards no fault auto insurance by 2027; this could have major implications for us 'good' drivers. I understand the premise is that this caps payouts for personal injuries (probably a good thing for insurance company payouts), but what is the cost to us average drivers? Some speculate this could increase our premiums by 5-7 % for your average driver, plus you lose right to get a fair accident settlement.

The government states there is only one insurance company turning a profit in Alberta (their own government website disproves this assertion) and supposedly claim costs have also been dropping. And yet just recently, most if not all of the Insurance firms working in Alberta, were fined for overcharging, incorrectly applying coverage, not informing and being transparent with their clients on their coverage. The years covered were 2022-2023, and the fines ranged from \$5,000 to \$500,000, if this applies to you, supposedly you have already been contacted, and refunded? Do check.

Now onto the homeowners side of insurance, I personally have not contacted my insurer, as my policy isn't due until late March, and going to the dentist is more pleasurable than dealing with them. But with all the natural disasters, Jasper and Los Angeles wildfires, the hurricane and flooding in the US southeast with their major damage costs - someone has to pay for this. And I bet it's not *just* those jurisdictions that will take the blunt of it, but everyone will bear these costs.

B.



### Christmas Luncheon

Held on Monday December 9, 2024 at The Kerby. A pleasant three-hour luncheon with eight people in attendance. As always, the Kerby provided tasty food but the fellowship was the highlight. Such a great opportunity to sit back, relax and chat with each other. It would be even better if a few more members would join us (hint hint)

### February 2025

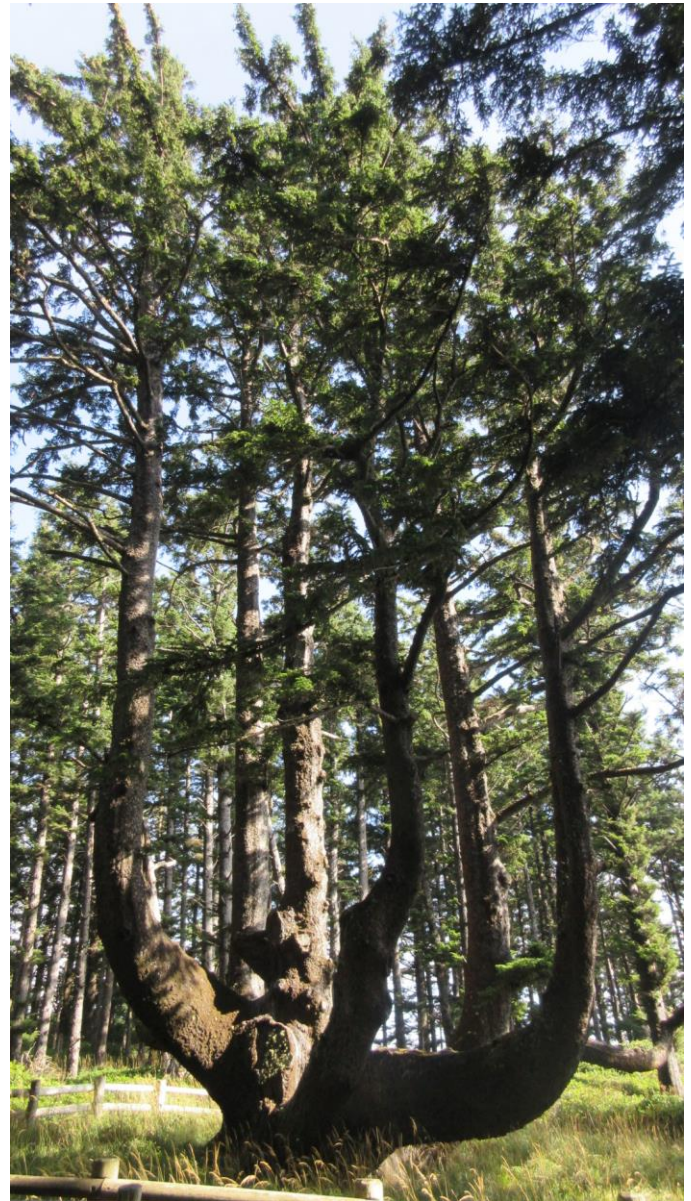
Our scheduled February 2025 meeting was canceled due to cold weather. All meetings, especially winter meetings, are described as 'weather permitting'. Each regular attending member receives a phone call to let them know they can stay bundled up indoors for that day.

### 2024 Donations

In 2024 our local sent donations to the Jasper Wildfire Relief Fund (matched by CN), Calgary Food Bank, Mustard Seed and the Veteran's Food Bank.

### CNPA Scholarship Program Mountain Region

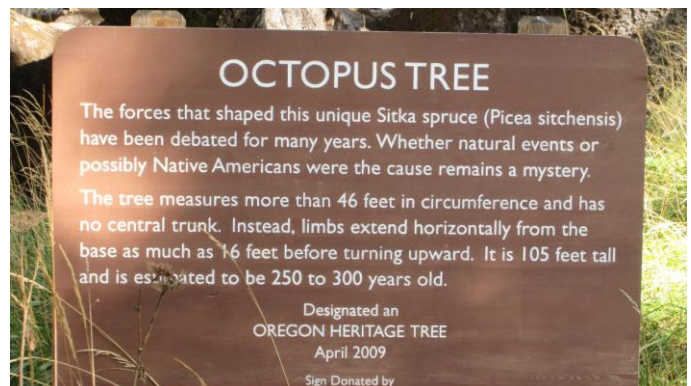
Available again this year – always voted on annually – 5, \$1,500 scholarships for the Mountain Region (AB & BC). Open for application in April. All necessary information and documentation forms are available ONLY on our website, [cnpensioners.org](http://cnpensioners.org). Any and all requested information must be included as instructed. Be sure to have our children/grandchildren read this information early to avoid last minute surprises.



Cape Lookout, Oregon 2022



Remember CN100? Linda and Jack after a long day 2019



### President's Rant

The state of the locals across Canada is causing concern Nationally because of the number of our older members being no longer able to attend and the newer members (mostly) never have attended a meeting since retiring. This is especially true for the smaller locals, of which we are one. When only two or three members are showing up, there seems to be little incentive to continue. In our local, our average attendance has dwindled to approximately seven to eight members, including the Executive (5). As some of these members are beyond their seventh decade, they may become unable to attend, dropping us down to three or four attendees. As a local we receive a portion of your \$1 per month dues (quarterly rebated) and CN provides an annual rebate from a deal negotiated by our National Representatives (who need your votes to continue their hard volunteer work) so, there is money in our coffers. Our arrangement with the Kerby, grandfathered in from our years of associating with them, is the envy of most, if not all, other locals. The on-site parking is free (just sign in) and the C-Train stop is right at the front door. All our meetings are luncheon meetings, and our Treasury picks up the tab. I keep the very informal meetings as brief as possible to allow for ample socializing. And still no new (to us) members show up! Please let Brian or I know what more we could do to entice a few of you (spouses are welcome too) to join us for a free lunch, some CNPA information and friendly conversation



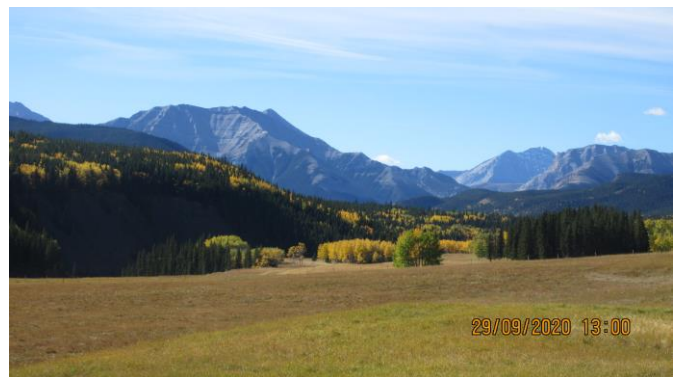
Sittin' by the dock of the Ontario lake 2019



A nice sunny winter day for skating on the, now defunct, Olympic Plaza 2019

### Emerson (Red) Robinson

Passed away on December 12, 2024 in Hanna, AB. Leaving behind his wife, Martha, four daughters, 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Followed his friend Andy into service with CN and stayed until retiring in 1990. His second career was with the Alberta Prairie Railroad where he returned to his roots as a steam engineer. Never sitting idle, he also worked as a guard for the Hanna RCMP and also, transported vehicles for Hanna Motor Products. Donations can be made in Emerson's memory and his love of reading to the "Read with Red" program at JCC School.



A beautiful fall day in K-Country 2020

And one last shot at winter:

### CANADA...

COME FOR THE CULTURE AND SCENERY.  
STAY BECAUSE YOUR CAR WON'T START.