



CN RAILVETS OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA E2  
Oct 2024 Volume 14 Issue 3

**From the Presidents' Desk:** Wasn't that a scorching hot summer? 😞 And to add to that, Calgary had a couple sessions of water restrictions; so no using the hose to water the parched yard. Some said that was a bad thing, I thought it was just one less thing I had to do outdoors in the heat so enjoyed my time indoors instead. 😊 The weeds, however, did not take a break so the rest of my gardening season will have me trying to deal with that bounty. Now that we are having our meetings near the Kerby Café, we are having more luncheon meetings so, you should note the dates of upcoming luncheon meetings and attend. I try to make them as quick and painless as possible so there's little need to wake folks up when it's over. Be sure to look over the 'deals' the CNPA has wrangled for us and, hopefully, you have internet access to investigate any you wish to have - this section is particularly important if you are planning to travel by VIA! Read about The Picnic *IN* the Kerby inside – getting fewer and fewer turning out 😞. We watched in horror as the wildfires swept into Jasper and were relieved to find out that only one-third of the town was destroyed. Thankfully, the Red Cross had set up a fund to help those in need – read inside to see our input. As of October 10, my flowers are still in full bloom and the tomatoes are ripening on the vine; even so, it is still time to put everything to bed – gardening season (for me at least) is over. I can't believe we're already heading into the Thanksgiving weekend so, Happy Turkey Day to all! Then it's on to my favorite, Halloween, with all the spooky decorations, kids, costumes and candy. Next up, the dreaded shoveling season...so far just leaves but later, who knows? With the 'slippery season' also just around the corner, please take care when outdoors. In advance, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year!  
Talk to me! Comments? Complaints? Suggestions? Call or email me. Sincerely, Judy Woods, President E2

**UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Meetings:**

**Nov 4** – Regular meeting, finalizing the Christmas luncheon  
**Dec 2** – Regular meeting and Christmas luncheon combined, weather permitting

\*Please note phone calls will be made on the Sunday prior to the meetings to confirm that specific date, especially during inclement weather.

**EXECUTIVE**

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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](http://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: November 4, 2024**

MEETING LOCATION: Games Room downstairs at the Kerby Centre, 1133-7 Avenue SW (403-705-3248)  
**TIME:** 13:00

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

- Ms Olive Fontaine
- Bernard Lachance

**Happy Birthday wishes to:**

- Terry McDonough, Oct 4, 97 years
- Madeleine Pelletier, Oct 11, 83 years
- Les Martin, Oct 24, 80 years
- Roland Morin, Nov 11, 87 years
- The VP, Dec 7, 70 years
- Martha Robinson, Dec 7, 88 years
- belated wishes to Terry Eckstadt, Sep 4, 85 years

**Anniversary congratulations to:**

- Emerson (Red) & Martha Robinson Oct 5, 68 years
- Roland & Doreen Morin Nov 11, 60 years "is dat right":
- George & Eileen Merik Nov 12, 64 years

**Obituaries**

- .George Ellis June 03/24 70 years
  - Alice Lorentz July 28/24 92 years (wife of Jim Lorentz)
- 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!

Just recently it was vehicle insurance renewal time and an agent (the agent I had since day one with this company had left within the last six months, I think his conscience got the better of him) went over the policy with me. The policy had increased 3.7 %, some parts went up, others went down, she offered a clause (with extra cost) that covers the cost of a rental vehicle if my vehicle is in the body shop. I questioned, doesn't the collision coverage cover this? No was the answer. Now I understand that the firms have always offered rental car insurance at an extra charge, as long as you had collision coverage, but now you need it to cover what they used to cover in the policy, very sneaky. Years ago Consumer Union, in a vehicle insurance article stated, if your vehicle is over 10 years old, having collision coverage isn't worth the cost, (let's bump that up to 15 years to cover the insane autobody costs of today). If you have collision just to cover up your bad driving habits, the company will jack up your collision coverage so much, you wouldn't be able to afford it!!

So I was glad I had her go over the policy with me, by just looking through your policy paperwork you would be none the wiser of what they cover or in many cases, do not cover. They say insurance is 'peace of mind' but you would lose your 'mind' if you found out too late what your coverage no longer covered. B



Mt. Hood viewed from the Columbia Gorge, WA



Mt. Ranier from Sunset Lookout, Mr. Ranier National Park, WA

### 2024 Picnic *IN* the Kerby

The Picnic *IN* the Kerby took place on June 10, 2024 in the Kerby Games Room. As there were only nine members in attendance, we opted to choose our meals from the Kerby posted menu. Food and fellowship was great but we'd really like to have more people attending as many of our former 'regulars' have passed and replacements are needed!

### Bill Smith, Official Centenarian

Brian and I attended Bill's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on Saturday, June 22, 2024. As the gift from our local, the family requested that we provide the flowers so, we took two large bouquets. We presented Bill with his crystal train, a CN 100 cap and a copy of the CN Red Book. There were many friends and family present for this momentous occasion while enjoying a lovely luncheon and a video presentation that showed Bill throughout his life that everyone enjoyed – especially Bill 😊. Although he's in a wheelchair now (and liked being wheeled around) he was in fine spirits and broke into song on more than one occasion.



### CNPA Scholarship Program Mountain Region

This is the 12th year for the CNPA Scholarship program, I've been part of the scholarship program for the 12 years, 6 in Ontario, 6 in BC (The last 2 years as Mountain Region Chairperson). In 2024 the Mountain Region had 34 applications of these 10 were rejected. My team of Gord Wheatly, John Weibe, Cliff Gervais, & Tony Duhaime did an awesome job of grading the 24 and we came up with the top 5 winners:

Adrian Cheng, sponsor Vernon Cheng, grandfather, Edmonton AB E3

Jordyn Shaw, sponsor George Watt, grandfather, Lacombe AB E3

Owen Gibbs, sponsor Huguette Mehedran, grandmother, Edmonton AB, E3

Lauren Zaharia, sponsor Ken Klepachuk, grandfather, Kamloops, BC, E4ab, E3

Elizabeth Casemore, sponsor Wayne Casemore, grandfather, Edmonton AB E3

This year, Nationally we received 168 applications of which 42 were rejected for various reasons under the rules. Disqualifications due to:

- No resume submitted (14)
- Missing or incomplete marks (10)
- Applicants sponsor not a CNPA Contributing Member (9)
- Unacceptable proof of registration

#### CRITERIA

- Applications are accepted from children, grandchildren, great grandchildren (includes legally adopted and stepchildren and step grandchildren) of CNPA Contributing Members.
- Minimum 80% grade average over the most recent 2 full academic school years to qualify.
- Applicants must be a full-time student enrolled and attending a Canadian or United States accredited University or College.
- Applications will only be accepted from April 15th to August 15th.

#### SCORING

- 60% Based on the Average mark from last 2 Years
- 15% of overall Community Involvement
- 10% of overall Personal achievement
- 10% of overall Academic Participation
- 5% Other - goals, initiative, special situations

In closing, if you are interested in being part of the Scholarship selection team, please let me know. Thanks, Mike Englehart

## 4-E2

### Jasper Wildfire Relief

We contributed to the CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund to benefit the Canadian Red Cross 2024 Alberta Wildfires Appeal in time to receive marching amounts from CN, the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta. That meant that for every dollar we donated, \$6 was donated to the Appeal.

### Hockey Helps the Homeless

CN signed on as the Premier National Partner with the Hockey Helps the Homeless (HHTH) program for three years, starting in 2024. This program consists of organizing and holding hockey tournaments in locations across Canada and where available, they include NHL, AHL (etc) alumni, local teams and, if there is sufficient interest, a CN team of active employees.

The tournaments run approximately the same time period as the NHL season. For each tournament, the organizing committee could use between 10-15 volunteers.

For 2024, Calgary was chosen to host a tournament on November 1.

Of course, I was not contacted prior to this being announced to me. When I asked at our regular meetings, there were no volunteers. If any of you wish to volunteer, please let me know as soon as possible and I will direct you to how you have to register and be informed of the various positions available to choose from. Shifts begin at 07:00 and the tournament ends at 17:00. I believe a meal is planned for the volunteers after that time. Note this is also a fundraiser but "fundraising for volunteers is not a requirement".

### CNPA Deals

**HearingLife** – providing the best hearing care service to members. HearingLife and its Network Partners have over 400 clinics and for the largest network of Hearing Health care providers in Canada. Details:

<https://www.cnpensioners.org/membership/membership-discounts/discounts-hearing-life>

**Ford/Lincoln** – through the Ford Partner Recognition Program. Our members can login on the Ford portal to generate their own personal identification number (PIN) for the program and then use that PIN and their proof of CNPA membership to access Ford/Lincoln price discounts at any Ford dealer. Details:

<https://www.cnpensioners.org/membership/membership-discounts/discounts-ford>

**Rogers** – This cell plan is not available through your local Rogers kiosk but instead, it is a CNPA negotiated group rate by *their* group supplier **Planet Mobile**. Any enquiries *must* be made through [vcapsis@planetem.com](mailto:vcapsis@planetem.com) at Planet Mobile and Vangy can walk you through your available options.

**HOLO Alert** – medical alert pendant and watch. For further information, or assistance in registering, contact Matthew Toth at [mtoth@holoalert.ca](mailto:mtoth@holoalert.ca) or [www.holoalert.ca](http://www.holoalert.ca) or phone 825-401-1905

**Via passes** – some passes no longer work within the new VIA reservation system. As of November 2023, VIA reservation system no longer accepts initials. *IF* your pass contains only initials, contact CN Pension & Benefits Administration (1-800-361-0739) at least 4 weeks prior to travel to have a new pass issued. It is the members' responsibility to create an online profile with VIA, and members should contact VIA customer service for any online issues at 1-888-VIA-RAIL (1-888-842-7245)



Grand Coulee Dam, WA