



RAILVETS' NEWS

Spring 2024

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Welcome to spring in Alberta - rain, cold, even snow in some areas; after all this is the long weekend - the first weekend to go camping but "no fires" as fire bans are everywhere account of drought conditions.

We have had good winter, good attendance at our monthly meetings and we are now planning our June picnic (see the details elsewhere in this newsletter.) Edmonton RailVets will honour four centenarians this year; the first one will be June 3rd for Jessie Trotter. On a sadder note, we have lost a couple of former executive members who have recently passed away - Jules Soetaert (93) & Jim Robinson (101).

**President's
Message**

There are a few current events happening now:

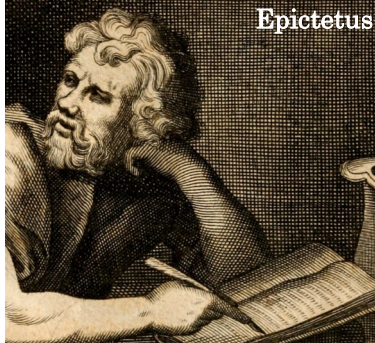
- The Alberta Railway Museum is now open for the season and is always looking for volunteers.
- Fort Edmonton is also now open with its steam engine running; lots of our pensioners are crews on this train.
- The Edmonton Corporate Challenge runs mid-May to the end of June. CN has a large team competing in various events. One in which anyone can participate is being a blood donor; anyone donating please mention you are an Edmonton CNPA member as this will provide points for our organization.
- The CN Pension Committee had meetings in Montreal mid May - we plan to have short information session at our June 12th afternoon meeting.
- National Council will have three positions up for election this fall; if anyone is interested or wants more information please get in touch with me for more details.
- Scholarships are happening again this year. There will be five awarded on the Mountain Region, each worth \$1,500. The program is open until mid August and information can be found on our National web site cnpensioners.org or, if you have any questions, I'm always available.
- As usual we are always looking for ideas, stories, etc. for both our meetings and our newsletters (published three times a year). Your suggestions can be submitted to anyone on our executive. Note - we now have a group email box - cnpaedmrailvets@gmail.com - which also sends out this newsletter, and can be used if you have any ideas, questions, etc.

That's all for now.
Regards,

Al Vodden

If evil be spoken of you
and it be true,
correct yourself,
if it be a lie,
laugh at it.

Epictetus



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My First Day at Work

It's October 21, 1956. My first day of work for Canadian National Railway. They promised me \$180 per month for 6 months of temporary work as a ballast inspector. My first cheque was \$172. I didn't argue. Now I could afford "room and board." No more \$2 per night for a cot at the YMCA.

I came to the realization that I didn't have any work pants so I'm up at 7:00 a.m. out walking the streets looking for a store, any store, to make the purchase. I didn't want to jeopardize my new job by showing up late. Eaton's wasn't open. Woodward's wasn't open. "Too early the morning," I muttered to myself.

I was getting desperate when on 101st Street and 103rd Avenue, I noticed a dim lightbulb come on. It was in a row of small rundown side-by-side stores, all with Jewish proprietors wearing skull caps. I creaked open the door. The pungent smell of foreign fabric surrounded me. Wow! All men's clothes. Nothing else. A single 40-watt bulb hung from the ceiling. I could barely see my hand in front of my face.

The heavily bearded proprietor looked over his half-moon lenses. "Can I help you?" he asks. I meekly told him I needed work pants. "What size?" he asks in an accent I've never heard before. "I dunno size - can you maybe tell by just looking at me?" I haven't got time to be fussy. With his hand on my shoulder he studied my torso up and down, then went to a table. All green pants. No other choice. "Try these," he said. "They're \$2.75."

The price alone blotted out any need to ask more questions. "I'll take them. Don't bother wrapping them up - I'll just put them on here and carry my suit pants to work. I'm employed!" I blurted out. Without lifting his head, he held out his hand. "That's \$2.75. Go behind the rack to change. I'll put your suit pants in a bag."

I quickly pulled on my new pants. Uh oh, the legs are 12 inches longer than my ankles. Too late to find something else. I'll just have to roll them up. Not pretty. And I did - once, twice, three times. Under my breath I swore, "How could he be so wrong?"

It's only a block to the CN Station. Maybe I can find a pair of scissors when I get to work and go somewhere to chop the excess material. No such luck. They put me to work making blueprints in a room filled with ammonia, a key ingredient for making blueprints. Now it didn't matter how embarrassed I was about the pants. That is, until coffee time when the staff invited me to "stop work and take a break." I was a bundle of nerves so I decided to decline the invitation and just keep on working while humming the lyrics to that famous parody: "Sam, You Made the Pants Too Long!" (written in 1932 by Milton Berle and recorded in 1966 by Barbara Steisand)

Harold Tipler

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.



As previously reported, the 2023 RRITC program showed some significant increases year over

year in the number of registered volunteers, the dollars raised, as well as the number of contributing members qualifying for the additional \$100 bonus.

Just for a general comparison, the average amount of money raised, per volunteer, excluding bonus money, was \$1.297 and the High/Low range by region was between \$1,190 and \$1,376 so a pretty balanced contribution per volunteer across the country.

I now have the regional breakdown in each category and you can use these numbers to report on the program, regionally:

Number of Volunteers

AB 54 (last year 48)

BC 38 (last year 28)

Money raised

AB \$60,922 (last year \$52,437)

BC \$48,561 (last year \$37,702)

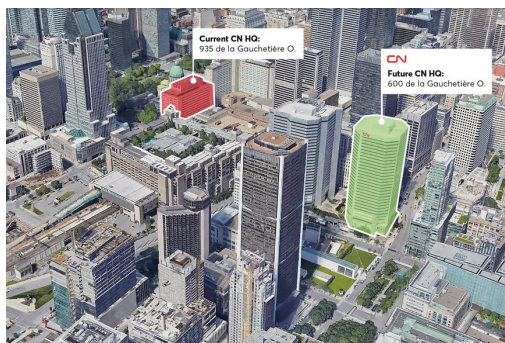
Bonus

AB \$5,300 (last year \$4,600)

BC \$3,500 (last year \$2,600)

Move 600

CN has announced plans to move out of the current HQ building to a new location along the street at 600 de la Gauchetière West. The plan is still in the preliminary phase of design and construction and the move in date is expected to be the end of 2026 or the beginning of 2027.



GOVERNMENT NEWS

National

CDCP (Canadian Dental Care Plan) Health Canada held an info session on March 25th. As you know, there is some confusion surrounding this Plan, and Health Canada was kind enough to provide handouts including a FAQ. You are welcome to share this information with your locals as you see fit. The handouts from Health Canada are attached to this email.

Alberta

Building housing for the future

If Budget 2024 passes, its capital plan would invest \$840 million over three years to provide more than 5,000 affordable housing units and support more than 6,000 jobs

The right care when and where Albertans need it

Alberta's government is investing \$1.7 billion in continuing care to improve access to health care by reducing wait times for alternate level of care patients

Working together to provide better health care

Alberta's government is making progress on a refocused health care system by engaging with Albertans to ensure the system provides the right care, at the right place and the right time.

Using tech to fight drought in Alberta

With the risk of drought facing the province, Alberta's government is investing in projects to maximize water supply and deliver adequate drinking water to communities.

Improving access to surgical care

Alberta's government is making significant investments to ensure more Albertans receive the surgeries they need within clinically recommended wait times

Keeping life affordable for seniors

Alberta's government is fulfilling its promise to provide seniors with a 25 per cent discount on personal registry services

Celebrating more affordable housing in Edmonton

This project is a meaningful step forward in addressing affordable housing in Edmonton.



Steve Mihell

Mountain Region
Government Liaison Officer

Alzheimer Society



Arlene and Holly, from the Alzheimer Society, gave an informative talk and short video at our May meeting about the different types of dementia, a disease of the brain for which there is no cause or cure. Alzheimer's disease is one type of dementia.

One in three people are affected or know of someone with dementia, a disease more prominent in women than men; 63 percent are women. Ten warning signs and lifestyle choices for brain health were outlined. It was noted that 62,000 Albertans have been diagnosed with dementia and in Alberta 1.2 billion dollars are the costs related to dementia

IMPORTANT NOTICE: **We would like to hear from you!**

We all have stories to tell about our time at CN... a funny story, a happy occasion, a special event, a favourite mentor, a memorable co-worker, an unusual incident, an odd occurrence, a unique opportunity! Your submission could simply be a picture, a few lines or an article up to a page in length.

We would like to thank those who have already submitted articles and would like to see many more. **Let us hear from you so we can make this a regular feature in our newsletter!** Please keep your submissions coming in; just send them to any member of the executive!

2024 Scholarship Reminder

The CN Pensioners' annual scholarship program will again be available this year!

Applications will be accepted beginning April 15, 2024 until August 15, 2024.

Applications will **ONLY** be accepted by EMAIL and must include all scanned or electronic supported documentation as one complete PDF document.

Rules, terms, conditions and all pertinent information are available on our website at www.cnpensioners.org under "Scholarships". Make certain you tell your grandkids to read **ALL** the scholarship materials on the website. Every year there are some applications rejected due to incorrectly completed, missing information or the sponsor is not a contributing member the CN Pensioners Association.

Note: The email addresses for application submissions are questions have changed this year so check the website for the latest and correct addresses.



Canadian Northern Society

Shawn Smith, a Director from the Canadian Northern Society, made an interesting and informative presentation at our March meeting.

The Canadian Northern Society is a registered charity dedicated to "Preserving Heritage and Building Community." Founded in 1986 to preserve the 1913 heritage railway station at Meeting Creek, Alberta, the society takes its name in honour of the old Canadian Northern Railway. The original railway branch linked Vegreville with Drumheller via Meeting Creek, Donalda, Stettler, Big Valley, and Rowley.

Operated by volunteers, the society is a not-for-profit registered charity. Over the years the activities of the society have grown and evolved from the initial preservation of the Meeting Creek depot. Today, its primary focus is the preservation of three distinct heritage railway depots and adjacent community parks (at Big Valley, Camrose, and Meeting Creek, Alberta), a classic prairie grain elevator (at Meeting Creek), and a host of artifacts-related not only to the railway but also to certain connected aspects of rural western Canada's history. The society is also actively engaged in educational programs, historical research, and documenting history. Volunteers from the Canadian Northern Society also work with other like-minded organizations to capture history and build community, which has become the fitting theme and motto for the Society's continued efforts. Projects affiliated with the Canadian Northern Society include the stations in Canora, Saskatchewan, Viking, Alberta, Donalda, Alberta, and the roundhouse in Hanna, Alberta.



Alberta Life Lease Protection Society

What is a Life Lease?

General example: A Life Lease may involve payments up to \$500,000 to a senior home's owner/operator in exchange for reduced rent, with the funds to be held in trust. Most of this money is expected to be returned within three months after a leaseholder moves out or passes away.

There are variations of Life Leases which have been around for about 25 years.

Would my money be protected?

Only Manitoba has any "Life Lease" legislation. In the other provinces, should an agreement falter, individuals would be left to recover their funds independently. In Alberta, 170 families, some of whom have moved or are deceased, have been waiting up to three years for reimbursement from one operator. As a result, relatives have established the "Alberta Life Lease Protection Society" (ALLPS). The ALLPS have successfully prompted the UCP to propose Bill 12 under the Consumer Protection Act "Life Lease." The first draft of Bill 12 is currently before the House and being challenged for improvements.

What measures should I take before signing up for a Life Lease?

INFORM yourself!

Visit the Alberta Life Lease Protection Society's website for more details.

Review the Alberta Government's Bill 12 - Consumer Protection Act (Life Lease) Legislation.

Consider getting legal advice before signing any contract.

ALBERTA LIFE LEASE
PROTECTION SOCIETY



June Newsletter 2024 - Flower Fund Report

The Edmonton RailVets' will acknowledge members' milestone Birthdays and Anniversaries; we would like to send you flowers/gift card on your 85th, 90th, 95th, and 100th birthday and also on your 50th, 60th and 70th Wedding Anniversary. In the event you were not contacted when you experienced one of these milestone events, contact John Wiebe –email jjwiebe2@gmail.com or phone 780-460-9202 so we can correct this situation.



Between the months of January and April 2024, the Flower Fund had flowers/gift cards delivered as follows:

Month	Flowers	Gift Cards	Unable to Contact	Birthdays	Anniversary
January	8	7	1	11	4
February	10	3	3	9	1
March	8	3	1	9	1
April	5	4	4	6	3

In addition, we sent bouquets to 4 members that had been hospitalized.

Note:

Recipients, unable to contact – due to (not answering their phone, not responding to voicemail message, phone no longer in service, on vacation, contact information out of date, moved.)

Recipients, outside of the Edmonton area, will be sent a Gift Card in lieu of flowers, after their current address has been verified.

We cannot recognize your significant event unless we have the event data and your current address, please keep us informed – email Peter Treloar at petertre76@gmail.com or phone 587-338-6014 to update your information.

Save The Date!!!!
Future Meetings To Look Forward To

Wednesday June 12th – General Meeting 1:30 pm

Guest Speaker – Representative from the YMCA

Let's discuss "Active Aging"!

Strong body – strong mind!

Showcasing all the programs offered by the YMCA for seniors that help enhance your mental and physical well-being.

Our Blue Cross Representative Blake Olson will also be presenting an overview of our Blue Cross Benefits

THE CNPA ANNUAL PICNIC – RUNDLE PARK JUNE 20th

Maximum 125 people – so get your tickets early!

Further details to be announced at General Meetings

JULY & AUGUST – SUMMER BREAK - NO MEETINGS!!!!

First General Meeting back from Summer Break – **September 11th** – 1:30pm

Guest Speaker – Jolyn Hall – Aging In Place Specialist

Choosing to stay in your home instead of moving to a residential facility? What YOU need to know to ensure you have all the support you need to live safely and independently in your home for as long as you wish and are able!

** If there are guest speakers you are interested in having at one our General Meetings, please feel free to let someone on the executive know and we will do our best to make it happen.

Chris Randall



Chris Randall has decided to pull the pin and officially resign from the RailVets executive. She will be sorely missed as she contributed much to our meetings with valuable input, novel ideas, good suggestions, and a knowledgeable background ... she was a real asset to our group. Chris was our treasurer for several years, sold tickets to our functions, often worked at the door, arranged for poinsettias to members in care centres, read the obituary lists never mispronouncing any of the difficult names, and was always willing to help wherever necessary.

We all sincerely wish Chris the best in her future endeavours and will look forward to seeing her and Kevin at our general meetings.

Thanks soooo much, Chris, for doing such an exemplary job on our executive ...

We will miss you!

MILESTONES April 2024-October 2024

85 Years Old

John Ciesla	Apr 6
James Choo	Apr 6
Monnie Moir	Apr 19
Edward Yanitski	Apr 22
David J. Horbay	Apr 26
Charles Matthews	May 3
Nancy Semotiuk	May 11
Marnie Daniel	May 13
Ruth Doris Kiel	May 18
Elsie Anderson	May 27
Julie Heuman	Jun 1
Joan Higgins	Jun 9
Garry Lank	Jun 14
Christa Begert	Jun 29
Christina Berkenbosch	Jul 2
Cirila Bernadas	Jul 5
Ivy Stone	Jul 21
Edna Lavallee	Jul 23
Elias Palichuk	Jul 24
Robert A. Lloyd	Jul 25
Nai Tong Goh	Jul 25
Yvette McGill	Jul 29
John R. Fraser	Aug 4
Allan B. Laarz	Aug 8
Theresa M. Hummel	Aug 10
Shirlee Bielefeld	Aug 22
Beverly Smith	Aug 29
Donald Ebbinghoff	Sep 1
James Powell	Sep 3
Walter Burry	Sep 3
Fred J. Ragnitz	Sep 13
R. Gary Morris	Sep 23
Ted Van Gunst	Oct 1
Henry Hoogenberg	Oct 23

90 Years Old

Cecile Thibeault	May 1
Nick Rogoza	May 23

Madelene Boston	May 25
Doreen Brodeur	Jun 24
Gisele Dumontier	Jul 28
Audrey V. Tibbs	Aug 20
Albert Rokovetsky	Sep 5
Wilma England	Sep 5
Noreen Footz	Sep 7
Walter Zelazo	Sep 21
Olive Brandenburg	Oct 2
Bryan C. Turner	Oct 3
John Wowk	Oct 7
Shirley Mae Tomlinson	Oct 15
Helen Haffie	Oct 16
Steve Iwanow	Oct 16
Rachel Van Gunst	Oct 18
Anne Glowinski	Oct 21
Page J. Clarke	Oct 24
Ruth L. McGettigan	Oct 27
Maria L. Macedo	Oct 31

95 Years Old

Mary Leis	Apr 7
Sue Stumph	Apr 15
Katie Mary Anderson	Apr 24
Linda Faoro	May 1
Jean Stoyko	May 2
Vera Arnold	May 2
Nancy Lischuk	May 29
Frances Achtemichuk	Jun 3
Paul Majnarich	Aug 14
Wilfred Sawyer	Sep 2
Paul H. Hawirko	Sep 30
Viola Duncan	Oct 5

100 Years Old

Justine Trottier	Jun 3
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50 Years Married

James & Malitta Love	Apr 6
Dennis & Michelle Herbison	May 3
Dave & Lynn Hawryluk	May 18
Martin & Sylvia M. Jennings	May 24
Wayne & Carolyn Jackson	Jun 15
Conrad & Catherine Michael	Jun 15
Ken & Suzanne Threlfell	Jun 29
John & Stephanie Krupicz	Jun 29
Gilberto & Ana De Costa	Jun 30
Phil M. & Pam Reiser	Jul 27
James & Patricia Lee	Jul 29
Susan & Leonard Boisvert	Aug 3
Duarte & Zenaide Resendes	Aug 17
Jeff & Marlaine Mohr	Aug 31
Francois & Dorine Dubrulle	Aug 31
James & Lynn Stanger	Aug 31
Alvin & Judi L. Heigh	Aug 31
Derrick & Susan Wilgosh	Aug 31
Ralph & Faye Paquette	Sep 7
Calvin & Lorraine Enokson	Oct 5

60 Years Married

Ken L. & Isabel Skjersven	Apr 3
Peter W. & Helena Boos	Apr 4
Richard & Annette Gaunt	May 9
R. Wayne & Gail Casemore	Jun 13
Dale L. & Novella Allbee	Jun 26
Henry & Ann Hoogenberg	Aug 1
Daniel & Judith Clarke	Aug 29
Don & Marguerite Ebbinghoff	Sep 1
Edward & Raymonde Boyachuk	Oct 10
Patrick T & Stella Ebenezer	Oct 14

70 Years Married

Doris M. & Anton Small	Apr 24
Walter A. & Olga Footz	Jun 19

New Members

Sheila Bossert	Kevin Gourlay	Christopher Millar	David T Sutherland
Myrna Crichton	Spasenija Hull	Luba Moe	Nel Tambasco
Randy Czorny	Lynda Mackenzie	Alex Molnar	Dave Wolfe
Glen Evans	Donna McMillan	Harry Riedel	
Dwayne Golanowski	Ann McPherson	Helen Shewchuk	



Jim Allen	Sr. Manager Dimentional	Pauline McBain	Widow of Bruce, Operations Supervisor, Edmonton
Rene Ayotte	Conductor, Jasper	Robert McMillan	Training Supervisor, Edmonton
Delores Bachand	Widow of Eugene, Dragging Operator Edmonton	Angus McPherson	Mail Room Clerk, Edmonton
Jacqueline Ball	Widow of Don, Conductor, Mirror	Rose Poloway	Accounting Clerk, Edmonton
Joyce Basok	Widow of Mike, Trainman, Edmonton	Dennis Pombert	Carman, Edmonton
Mary Beanblossom		Peter Purdy	Manager FPS
Frank Benko	Train Movement Clerk, Whitecourt	James Robinson	Conductor, Edmonton
Robert Boucher	Track Foreman, Boyle	Richard Saluk	Track Maintainer, Scottford
Edna Bruckmann	Widow of Widow of Hostler Calder, Hostler, Calder	Jules Soetaert	Carman, Edmonton
Edward Buga	Trainman, Edmonton	Colleen Spink	Widow of Raymond, Forman B&S, Edmonton
John Carlyle Bell	Machinist, Walker Yard	Ella Stefura	Widow of William
Elnardo Chaves	Car Checker, Calder	Nes Paul Swain	Conductor, Edmonton
Grant Crichton	Manager, Signals & Communications, Edmonton	Sylvia Sziva	Widow of Joseph, Locomotive Engineer
Eduarda Desousa	Widow of Jose, Trackman, Edmonton	Maria Tavano	Widow of Ralph
Gordon Dolynchuk		Marlene Thompson	Widow of John, Yardmaster, Edmonton
Roger Dube		Hilda Tomlinson	Widow of Walter, Highway Services
Deena Elder	Widow of Jacob, Engineer, Edmonton	Sang Huynh Tran	Widow of Tin, Store Attendant, Edmonton
James Foote	VP Sales & Marketing	Mary Voll	Widow of Ed Norman, Conductor, Edmonton
Brian Funnell	Director, Accounting - Western Canada, Edmonton	Gerald Warren	Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton
Doreen Geislinger	Widow of G.D., Track Maintainer	Florance Willier	Widow of Jack, Foreman, Track Maintenance, NAR
William Kemp	Car Mechanic, Edmonton	Ahfoo Yong	Diesel Shop Machinist, Edmonton
Robert Kerr			
Frank Koenig	Lead Hand, Diesel Shop, Edmonton		
Robert Loader	Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton		
William MacDonald	Electrician, Calder Diesel Shop		
Glen May	Locomotive Engineer, Edmonton		

Our condolences go out to **Jose Cabral** on the death of his wife **Maria**

Annual Picnic

The Edmonton RailVets “Annual Picnic” event will be held on Thursday June 20th 1000 – 1400 Rundle Park, at the Rundle Family Centre (**same place as last year**) for RailVet contributing members and one adult guest. In order to prevent cancellation due to inclement weather we will be using the Rundle Family Centre which will accommodate 125 participants. An entry fee of \$10 per person will be charged to help with the expenses. Ample vehicle parking is available at the site in the designated parking lot.

The Rundle Family Centre, located in Rundle Park – 2903 – 113 Ave, Edmonton, will set up enough tables and chairs to accommodate 125 guests indoors, surrounded by huge windows and doorways overseeing a large patio area and green space with outdoor picnic tables. Garbage cans are provided to help keep the site clean and orderly.

Each attendee must purchase a ticket for the event; the color of the ticket will reflect your menu choice. The ticket holder will be entitled to one entree, one fry and one cold beverage. All cost over the ticket prices will be covered by the Edmonton RailVets.

This event will be catered by Fat Franks Food Truck. They will be offering 4 different menu options:

- first menu option: hot dog, fries, and a pop,
- second menu option: chicken strips (4), fries, and a pop,
- third menu option: cheese burger, fries, and a pop,
- fourth menu option: smokie, fries, and a pop.

The cost of these menu items is included with the purchase of a ticket. Coffee, tea and water will be available continuously free of charge. In order to provide Fat Frank’s an estimate of food required, you will be required to indicate your food choice when purchasing your ticket.

Tickets will be available at General Meetings held on May 8th and June 12th. Due to limited space; only 125 tickets will be available, once they are sold sales will be discontinued. For those that cannot attend one of the General Meetings, tickets may be reserved by sending a cheque to: RailVets, 61 Estate Crescent, St Albert, AB T8N5X2 OR by E-Transfer to jjwiebe2@gmail.com; ensure you include your menu choice. Tickets will not be sold at Rundle Park BUT you can pick-up prepaid tickets at the Rundle Park Family Centre.

This event will provide a gathering place to reconnect with former colleagues, celebrate milestones with friends and giving attendees an opportunity to stay informed of what is happening in the lives of their former colleagues; visit and renew acquaintances. Getting together, sharing a few stories, visiting and sharing food will be the main event. Due to limited space and the number of attendees, no entertainment in the form of games will be provided.

