



AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CN PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are having a wonderful and safe summer. It has been great meeting and getting reacquainted with many of you at our meetings in Whitby and Brampton and at the golf tournament in Stouffville. As we approach fall, we are looking forward to four more events for you.

The first is our Blue Jays Day where we have purchased a block of tickets for a game on Sunday, Sept. 10. Look for details on how to obtain tickets in this newsletter.

We are looking at a busy November with three events. On Wednesday Nov. 1, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. It is at this meeting where we will look at what we have done in 2023 and look forward to see what things we will do for our members in 2024. I encourage members to attend and offer suggestions. Details on the location of the AGM will be available in our October newsletter.

On the afternoon of Thursday Nov. 16, we have booked ice time at the Richmond Hill Curling Club for those who have curled before or want to try it. A form with details will be in our October newsletter.

We are also planning a Year End / Christmas Dinner in November. We are searching for a venue that would be convenient and reasonably priced. Again, our October newsletter will have information on the date and location.

Please keep these events in mind but in the meantime enjoy the rest of the summer and we hope to see as many of you as possible at these events.

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2. TORONTO COUNCIL EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR-CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| President | Ron Charles | Tel: (905) 884-5470 |
| Secretary | Nancy Zajacz | Tel: (905) 836-2266 |
| Vice-President | Wayne MacFarlane | Tel: (416) 846-8169 |
| Past-President | Dave Bradshaw | Tel: (905) 763-8754 |
| Treasurer | Dave Bradshaw | Tel: (905) 763-8754 |
| Membership Chairperson | Ron Charles | Tel: (905) 884-5470 |
| Newsletter Editor | Mark Hallman | Tel. (416) 686-6192 |
| Director | Gunn Lee | Tel: (416) 588-2901 |
| Director | Aubrey Gill | Tel. (416) 574-3445 |
| Director | Lou J. Lisi | Tel: (647) 284-9646 |
| Director | Vacant | |

3. TORONTO CN PENSIONERS - THE BLUE JAYS IN ACTION SEPT. 10, 2023

A block of tickets has been purchased for the Sept. 10, 2023, Blue Jays/KC Royals game at Toronto's Rogers Centre.

The tickets can **only** be provided electronically. The cost is **\$30** per person and are located as follows: Section 139B, row 5, row 6, and row 7.

A portion of the cost of these tickets are being subsidized by the Council.

The tickets will be available for purchase on Friday, Aug. 18, 2023 at 9 a.m. Tickets will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and the person making the request must be a member of the Toronto Council.

Procedure for obtaining tickets is as follows:

Forward request for two tickets to our Secretary, Nancy Zajacz, at email: nzajacz@hotmail.com or call 905-836-2266 **only on Aug. 18 after 9 a.m.**

Nancy will advise if tickets are available.

If available, log on to your online or mobile banking app, select account, select INTERAC e-Transfer, enter amount (2 x \$30 = \$60) and a security question, and send to Nancy via email address above. By separate email, send the answer to your security question to Nancy.

Tickets will be sent to you by email in which you will transfer to your phone to show when you go to the game for entrance into the building

4. SUCCESSFUL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday June 20, our Golf Tournament was held at Clublink's Rolling Hills Challenge Course. There were 48 golfers in attendance playing a Best Ball format.

The winning foursome of Rob Murphy, Joe O'Brien, Dan Emms and Mark Gray ended the day with minus 9. Other winners on the day were Debbie Friedrich – Women's Longest Drive; Debi McGinty – Women's Closest to the Pin; Winston Barbour – Men's Longest Drive; and Dave Campbell – Men's Closest to the Pin.

Thanks to Wayne MacFarlane and Steve Jennings for arranging the day and a special thanks to David Barwise for contributing to the prize table.

Everyone had a great day and look forward to next year's tournament.

5. CNPA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Applications will once again be **accepted by email only** and must include all scanned or electronic supporting documentation as one complete PDF file. The application package must be received **no later than August 15, 2023**. Applications are accepted from children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren (includes legally adopted and stepchildren and step grandchildren) of CNPA Contributing Members. Applicants must have a minimum 80 per cent grade average over the most recent two full academic school years in order to be considered. Go to the CNPA website cnpensioners.org where you will find more information and the application form

6. CN RETIREE OBTAINS THIRD UNIVERSITY DEGREE AT AGE 76

John Bond, 76, a CN retiree who spent 36 years in CN's Bridges & Structures (B&S) group in the Great Lakes Region, recently bagged a degree from the University of Toronto, Mississauga, (UTM) campus.

But it took a while for John to finish his latest educational milestone; in fact, it took him 12 years to graduate with a double major in history and classical civilization from UTM amidst his engineering work and world travels. He was the oldest graduate at UTM's June 7, 2023, convocation.



John receives third U of T degree at UTM convocation ceremony, June 7, 2023.

John first obtained a degree in engineering from the University of Toronto's St. George in 1968, followed by a master's degree in applied engineering.

John started at CN in 1969 as an inspection and planning engineer in the B&S group and retired in 2005 as a structural engineer. He was one of the few CN engineering employees who spent their entire career in the Great Lakes Region.

After CN, he worked for AECOM on rail engineering assignments for 12 years, mostly on VIA Rail Canada Inc. bridge work programs in southern Ontario, including the carrier's Chatham Subdivision and lines in the Ottawa area.

John said: "My best sense of accomplishment at CN was working on bridges, transforming some dicey structures into first-class bridges."

One particularly challenging job was upgrading a CN bridge over the French River in Northern Ontario, with only a small group of men working in an area with no road access and dealing with the challenge of getting materials to the site solely by rail.

His least favourite work was wreck or washout response, with the unrelenting pressure from Operations to get the mainline open again for traffic.

John has mixed his love of history with a passion for travel, having visited London, Dublin, Paris, Lisbon, Rome, and Amsterdam. He plans to visit London again with his son, who has never been there.

As for his studies, John says he has benefited from his wife Lynda's admonition to always "Read with a purpose."

"That means that I've picked out areas of history that stand out, that teach us about the world and how we got here."



John on the deck of CN's Desjardins Canal Bridge, Hamilton, Ont., Sept. 1990

John is not finished with school yet-- he intends to continue university studies as a non-degree student at UTM. His next course is entitled, *Worlds Colliding: The History and Ecology of Exploration, Contact, and Exchange*. The course is described as follows: "Before 1492, no one in Europe ate tomatoes, no one in South America herded cattle, no one in Asia cooked with chili peppers, and no one in North America fell sick with influenza. The exchange of plants, animals, and microbes between the Americas and Afro-Eurasia in the wake of Christopher Columbus' first voyage across the Atlantic

forever changed the world's histories and ecologies. In this course we will examine these changes, which created global systems and ecological challenges that continue to shape our world today."

7. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Toronto Council of the CNPA

New Members

| | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| Hayden | Atherton | Ajax |
| Colette | Chow | Markham |
| Clare | Fernandes | Etobicoke |
| Penny | O'Hare | Etobicoke |
| Srbo | Rankovic | Oakville |
| George | Stuart | Georgetown |

IN MEMORY OF

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families and friends of our members and former CN work colleagues who have passed.

Deceased

| | | | |
|---------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Charles | Burness | Brampton | 2023 06 03 |
| Lily | Duke | Milo, Alberta | 2023 06 11 |
| Mary | Edwards | Barrie | 2023 04 09 |
| Anthony | Fernandes | Etobicoke | 2023 04 13 |
| James | Hutchinson | North York | 2023 06 01 |
| Barb | Mullin | Bradford | 2023 04 18 |
| Louis | Nemeth | Azilda | 2023 04 11 |
| James | Paul | North York | 2023 03 30 |
| Evelyn | Shaddock | Mississauga | 2022 03 27 |
| John | McGee | Brampton | 2023 05 26 |
| Douglas | Thompson | Toronto | 2023 07 12 |
| Eric | Trethewey | Etobicoke | 2023 03 24 |