



# Belleville and District Newsletter

Spring 2024 Edition (May)



*May They Rest In Peace :*

<i>James Tugnette</i>	<i>15 August 2023</i>
<i>Thomas William (Bill) Outram</i>	<i>21 November 2023</i>
<i>Antonio (Tony) Chiapetta</i>	<i>8 December 2023</i>
<i>Angus Thompson</i>	<i>12 December 2023</i>
<i>Mary Kathleen (Kay) Enright</i>	<i>20 December 2023</i>
<i>John (Jack) Roland Moore</i>	<i>4 January 2024</i>
<i>Cleo Rosebush</i>	<i>15 January 2024</i>
<i>Jean Wynona Sloneicki</i>	<i>18 January 2024</i>
<i>Anne V Turner</i>	<i>16 February 2024</i>
<i>John Bernard McGinnis</i>	<i>6 March 2024</i>

*"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count,  
it's the life in your years."*

*- Abraham Lincoln*

**Did you know?**

When a contributing member of our association dies, the surviving spouse is welcomed to our breakfast and/or dinner meetings at no charge for a full year!

**IMPORTANT...**

When a pensioner moves or dies, **CN Pension and Benefits Administration** must be advised immediately by calling **(1-800-361-0739)**.

A surviving spouse does **not** automatically remain a member of the CN Pensioners Association. To remain a member of the Belleville Council, the surviving spouse must complete a new membership application and arrange their own payment of dues (\$1.00 per month).

## ***Belleville Council (C3)***

Please address all correspondence to the President.

Directors may choose to hold meetings at any time, virtually, in person, or a combination of both.

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## *President's Message*

Good Day

Hopefully this message finds you Healthy and Happy.  
It's Spring and gardening time, time to get out and plant the flowers and veggies and hopefully to reap the rewards at a later date.

Finally we have some action on our Yardman Monument, it's actually being erected now, and will be completed in the near future.  
Many Thanks go out to Dave Simpson in spearheading this very important project. Dave was the driving force along with a Monument Committee.

Our National Scholarship is back for 2024 and runs April 15 till Aug 15 /24 with 5 National and 1 OPC Scholarship. All instructions and forms can be found on the CNPA website ([cnpensioners.org](http://cnpensioners.org)) under scholarships. PLEASE follow all instructions.

We have an upcoming 100yr Birthday for George Cooper in August.

**2024** - Our CN Pensioners Association is 50 yrs old and this sounds like a party year.

We're always looking for new pensioners to join our Local C3 Pension Executive. The pay is not much but the cookies are good. If anyone needs assistance with their Pension needs you can contact any one of us on our Committee and we will gladly help you. I can be reached at, Email: [jlesmacdonald@gmail.com](mailto:jlesmacdonald@gmail.com)

Have Blue Cross needs?

Please contact Roger McDevitt, Email: [rogermcdevitt@gmail.com](mailto:rogermcdevitt@gmail.com)

Thanks to Our Committee for their time and knowledge for a job well done.

We can't forget our Calling Ladies who get us all together for our luncheons at the Dugout. The Dugout does a great job in putting delicious meals on the table for us.

Hope you all have a Safe and Healthy Summer and will see you at our September 16th luncheon.

Don't forget to look in the mirror and get a Smile.

Cheers

Les MacDonald

*"Every bird loves to hear itself sing."*

- English Proverb

## *Welcome to the CN Pensioners Association:*

*Marie Delaney*

*Elizabeth Barton*

*Franklin J Stolike*

The purpose of the CN Pensioners' Association is to represent the needs of retired CN employees. Our objective is to protect your interests, financial and otherwise, regarding your pension, your benefits and support and enhance your social interests and activities.

### *What Programmes and Benefits Do the **CNPA** Manage or Provide?*

**Health Care:** With the assistance of key partners, our Health Care Committee of volunteer pensioners manages one of the best retirement health care plans in Canada. Our **CNPA** Health Care Plan (93115) for **CN** Pensioners provides coverage for some of the costs not covered by your province.

**Scholarships;** Children and grandchildren of **CNPA contributing** members get access to our annual **CNPA** Scholarship Programme, which offers 25 scholarships of \$1,500 across Canada, plus additional regional bursaries/scholarships.

Our **National Newsletter** and local communications with members keep you up to date on what is happening, like Family Days, special events, or changes to legislation, policies or programmes. We also provide the annual **CN** Employee Calendar, **CN** Magazine and **CN in the Community** brochure to *contributing* members.

As a *contributing member*, you can attend various events coordinated by the local councils across the country. Most hold regular meetings where current or special issues are discussed, as well as other local activities and events.

While **CN** Pension and Benefits Administration (**1-800-361-0739**) is the primary contact for your specific Pension Plan issues and questions, you or your spouse can also ask your **CNPA** contacts about any issues or **concerns you may have**.

Find out more on our extensive website, **[www.cnpensioners.org](http://www.cnpensioners.org)**.

*“The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age.”*

*- Aldous Huxley*

## ***May Birthdays***

3. Terry Burn  
11. Nancy Carrol  
17. Ann Crabbe  
25. Anthia Dwyer

7. Les Macdonald  
11. Mary Czechowski  
18. Robert J. Cousins

10. Larry Bunnett  
12. *Happy Mother's Day*  
20. Kathleen Bronson  
27. Dave Muskiluke

## ***May Anniversaries***

1. Doran Jack, Shirley  
10. Bunnett Larry, Shirley

2. Bellwood Robert, Donna

4. Thrasher Doug, Shirley  
31. Millerchuk Barry, Barbara

I shot one under at golf today...  
One under a tree, one under a bush and one under the water.

## ***June Birthdays***

1. James G. Burns  
6. Faye Grant  
13. Mary Walsh  
20. Allan O'Hara

4. Roger McDevitt  
7. Geo. Christopher  
16. June Burns  
21. Kenneth Trolley  
25. Deanna Spice

6. Rosemary Quibel  
8. Elaine Chipman  
16. *Happy Father's Day*  
22. Brian Murray

## ***June Anniversaries***

5. Crawford Norm, Darlene

6. Di Genova Bruno, Peggy

8. Burns James, June

"Golf is a game of morals.  
There's always an opportunity to be a scoundrel.  
That's why it is a gentleman's game."

- Katt Williams



### *July Birthdays*

- |                        |                       |                      |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Joyce Bowers        | 2. Elaine O'Hara      | 4. Allen Bushell     |
| 8. Robert Duvall       | 8. Alice Knox         | 8. Irene McGinnis    |
| 9. Heather Mueller     | 10. Derrick Knott     | 11. Mary Wade        |
| 13. Bernice Den Hartog | 13. Dale Grant        | 13. Ada Schreider    |
| 15. Estelle English    | 19. Marjorie Smith    | 19. Betty Glenn      |
| 21. Donald Dafoe       | 21. H. Patricia Moore | 22. Virginia Perry   |
| 24. Nora Mortimer      | 25. Birgit Meers      | 26. Joseph Chappelle |
| 27. Rick Phillips      | 28. Sandra Smith      | 31. Dave Schulz      |

### *July Anniversaries*

- |                              |                               |                           |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9. Newton Norm & Lyons, Jan. | 12. Den Hartog Bert, Bernice. | 14. Farr Harold, Gail     |
| 15. Craig Joe, Carmel        | 19. Birt Gord, Heather        | 27. Hebbourn Harry, Emily |

*If your opponent has trouble remembering whether they shot a six or a seven, they probably shot an eight.*

The only problem with golf is that the slow people are always in front of you  
and the fast people always end up behind you.

### *August Birthdays*

8. Marg Cousins  
17. Marilyn Lamorre  
27. Jan Lyons

8. Margaret Haskin  
19. Donalene Hebden  
29. Larry Hampson  
31. Freda Tracey

9. Shirley Doran  
21. Clark Coveduck  
30. Irene Craig

### *August Anniversaries*

16. Coveduck Clark, Marion

31. Fargey J. Lorne, Olive

I once played a course that was so tough,  
I lost two balls in the ball washer!

**Newsletters are published each January, May and September.**

We would love to have some contributions from you for future newsletters.  
How about it? Do you have a story or tale to share with our readers?  
Maybe you have an idea or other topic of interest to submit.  
Perhaps you could report on an event you attended.

*Let me tell you something about....**YOU**....CNPA member*

***Your** story is much more interesting than **you** think!*

*How and when did **you** become involved with **CN**?*

*Where did your journey take **you** and what stops did **you** make along the way?*

*We would all like to know a little more about **you**.*

*Contact the editor at the CNPA meetings or send an email to [jwmueller44@yahoo.ca](mailto:jwmueller44@yahoo.ca) subject line "CNPA Belleville Newsletter".*



Do you volunteer in your community?

## Railroader in the Community

The *CN Railroader in the Community* programme provides grants to employees, **retirees & spouses** in recognition of time volunteered to registered charities in their communities. It is highly recommended to participate in this programme if you qualify. Not only can your charity benefit from your volunteering, it may also benefit financially! Go to [cnpensioners.org](http://cnpensioners.org) click on “**CN Community**” for more information.



WELLINGTON COUNTY – Dave Dougherty “DMD” presents a \$2,500 cheque to Victorian Order of Nurses exercise program coordinator Kelly Gee on Feb. 22.

Retired from a career with Canadian National Railway, Dougherty now leads exercise sessions for older adults as a VON volunteer with Canadian National Railway donating \$15 for each hour Dougherty volunteers, up to a maximum of \$2,500. “Dave’s dedication was undeniable as he presented VON SMART with the full \$2,500 for his hours of service,” Gee stated, adding Dougherty has invigorated the lives of older adults who look forward to his visits at retirement homes and condos.

At last, Spring has arrived and it feels like a good time for a road trip.

Maybe a drive to Marmora would be fun. Last time there (more than a few years ago), the Marmora slag heaps were still visible and east of town you could stop and view the big (I mean really big) hole that used to be the site of the Marmoraton Mine.

Here's what the [marmoraandlake.ca](http://marmoraandlake.ca) website says about that hole:  
"In 1953, engineers had to blast through 120 feet of limestone before reaching high-grade ore. The open-pit mine measures approximately 1700 feet by 1200 feet and reached 600 feet deep."

Why dig a hole there? Here's the answer from [marmorahistory.ca](http://marmorahistory.ca):  
"Four years before the defeat of Germany in World War Two, the Canadian Government joined with the American-based Bethlehem Steel Corporation to finally take an interest in the mineral riches of the Marmora region in Hastings County. Due to the large amount of tonnage lost at sea through German submarines and the fact that iron was necessary for the manufacture of war weapons, they joined forces in an endeavour to combine and upgrade technical knowledge and finance the search for iron deposits. At the peak of production the Marmoraton Mine yielded half a million tons of rich pelletized iron and the final depth of the open pit reached seven hundred and fifty feet. On June 29, 1973 the Belleville Intelligencer published an article stating the Marmoraton is the biggest hole in Hastings County and also the richest."

More from the [marmoraandlake.ca](http://marmoraandlake.ca) website;  
"The mine employed some 300 men who worked to fill the 30 to 35 railway cars, daily, for transport south to Picton port where it was loaded into boats. The mine produced 520,000 tons of pellets annually. When the mine closed in 1979, it had mined almost 1.3 million tons of iron ore. Over time, underground streams and rainfall slowly filled the mine with water. So much so, that it is now officially classified as a lake."

After visiting Marmora, maybe drive over to the county and visit Picton.

More from [marmorahistory.ca](http://marmorahistory.ca):  
"In the second year of operation, Directors of the steel company, in conjunction with the Canadian Government, decided to build a special dock at Picton Bay, an arm of the Bay of Quinte on Lake Ontario. Picton was chosen because of its strategic location and close proximity to a readily available employment pool from Prince Edward County. It was necessary for the dock to stretch twelve hundred feet into deep water so it could accommodate the largest lake vessels of the day. The dock also had to be strong enough to hold ore-storage bins with a capacity for many tons of weight when pellet loaded rail cars disgorged their precious burden. After the dock was completed carriers of every description were crossing Lake Ontario on regular runs. They docked at Lackawanna, New York, unloaded the ore and returned to Picton to load again."

Home again, Home again. That's a full day road trip.

The ORE TRAIN used to do that road (rail) trip daily, five days a week.

Working as an Operator at Belleville, and copying train orders I remember thinking, "this is an awfully complicated set of instructions for a relatively simple task."

First a train order to run extra to Marmora.

With this authority he could leave Belleville, Westward on the Campbellford Subdivision a distance of 19.8 miles, passing Foxboro, Madoc Jct, and Stirling to Anson (because Anson was listed as a register station the Conductor was required to record his presence to show that his train had arrived, or to prove his existence, or to mark his territory, or remind himself on the return trip that he had already, in fact, been there). Leaving Anson he would travel Northward on the Marmora Subdivision a distance of 5 miles, passing Bonarlaw before arriving at Marmora.

When work at Marmora was completed another train order authorized the train to run Southward, **BUT**, the train order made it very clear that it could not leave Marmora until after it had arrived. Working as a Dispatcher at Belleville, I was very cognizant of this because, apparently, the Rule Instructors who audited the Train Order Books were convinced that, theoretically, the crew on the ore train had the capability to run into themselves head on if the train orders did not prevent it. And even though the Operator at Belleville delivered all their train orders to the Extra West at Belleville, this particular order was addressed to the Extra South at Marmora care of the Extra West at Belleville. A "Do not open before Christmas" type of thing is my guess. Or a Rule Instructor thing.

Another train order provided authority to "Work Extra" on the Southern portion of the Marmora Sub. This basically let them operate Southward from Anson a distance of 50 miles, passing Frankford, Trenton, Trenton Yard and Wellington to Picton and back to Trenton without any concern regarding conflicting movements.

After a full days work had been completed and back at Trenton, signal indication provided authority Eastward on the Kingston Subdivision a distance of 12.1 miles to return home to Belleville.

Disclaimer.....I try not to let too many facts get in the way of my stories.

Sometimes, I disremember things, but, I can convince myself I know the truth.

**JWM**

*p.s...* In Toronto at 277 Front St W many years later (mid 1990's?) working as a Rail Traffic Controller, I received a phone call from the local Track Supervisor asking for authority on the Marmora Sub between Trenton and Picton. Since there had been no activity on the Marmora Sub for a long time, I was curious. I asked if he was inspecting the track in advance of renewed rail activity. No, quite the opposite. He was chaperoning a steel buyer from Montreal who wanted to see the condition of the rails before placing his bid.

## CN Pensioners' Association

### *Benefits of membership:*

- *Blue Cross Health Care Plan*
- *National newsletter 3 times per year plus the **CN** calendar*
- *Regional and Local Association newsletters*
- *National Council Scholarship Programme*
- **CNPA** *members discounts*
- *and more!*
- *check out our website [cnpensioners.org](http://cnpensioners.org)*

### *..May is Road Safety Awareness Month..*

Regardless of age, it's crucial to remain vigilant and cautious to ensure the safety of ourselves and others on the road. Here are some key traffic safety tips:

Adjust your driving to weather and road conditions, and give extra space to other drivers and pedestrians.

Drive with your full headlight system on.

Travel with a fully charged cell phone but don't use it when driving.

Be alert and *not* distracted when walking or driving.

Wear bright or reflective clothing and use marked crossings when walking to make yourself more visible to drivers.

Do *not* drive with your 4-way flashers on unless you are slowing down suddenly or stopped.

Both drivers and pedestrians have a responsibility to keep everyone safe on the roads.

### **Did you know...**

...data shows that the majority of collisions happen close to home.

“I hit the ball as hard as I can.  
If I can find it, I hit it again.”

- John Daly

## Canada Dental Care Plan

By mid 2024 most Canadians over 65 may be eligible to receive treatment and coverage under the plan. You need to review the provisions, eligibility, timing and how and when to apply. You should receive a government letter when you are age eligible.

When you receive the letter:

- .Follow the instructions in the letter to apply by phone.
- .Wait to receive confirmation from Service Canada that your application was successful and you qualify for the Canada Dental Care Plan.
- .Wait to receive your welcome package from Sun Life before scheduling any dental appointments. It will explain when you can start to get dental care paid for and how.

Golf is like life - you strive for the green  
but end up in the hole.

## Scholarships 2024

The **CNPA** annual scholarship programme is available again this year.

Applications will be accepted until 15 August 2024.

Rules, terms, conditions and all pertinent information are available on our website at [cnpensioners.org](http://cnpensioners.org) under scholarships. It's important to read all the scholarship material. Every year some applications are rejected due to being incorrectly completed, missing information or the sponsor is not a *contributing member* of the **CNPA**.

“As you walk down the fairway of life, you must smell the roses,  
for you only get to play one round.”

- Ben Hogan