

# Canadian Pacific Pensioners

## Association of Calgary



## Newsletter Spring 2016

### Message from the President

It was a very mild winter in Calgary and it certainly appears that we will have great spring and summer seasons. Not many snow birds did fly south this winter.

The excellent weather at home as well as the exchange rate were certainly contributing factors.

Members of the Board would like to welcome Ray Beirnes our new director. Ray's expertise will be pivotal in achieving the goals and objectives of the Association. However, I regret to inform that our long time Director John Sparks has decided to resign from the Board.

As a Chairperson of Sick and Visiting committee John and his wife Janette paid many visits to the members and survivors. He was very diligent and passionate in performing the tasks. We will miss him. To that end we are now looking for a new board member. Please let me know if you are interested.

In accordance with the Association by-laws, the members of the executive committee for 2016 have taken on their roles and duties. We are looking forward to serving the members during the coming year. Send us your suggestions and most importantly be connected with your fellow railroaders by attending the events and monthly luncheons. Spending time with fellow pensioners will not only help keep you emotionally engaged and physically healthy, but will also elevate your mood and help you be happy during retirement.

Surinder Rehill

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***Since our last Newsletter:***

***In Memory of Departed Members***

William O’Gryzlo  
Bruce Crighten  
Charlie Belch  
Roy “Ed” Braybrook

Fred Ramsey  
Gus Tzotzos  
Martin Lypka

***Welcome to our New Members***

Doug Hornby  
Kathy White  
Roland Cote  
Hayde Diell



**Executive and Committee Chairpersons for 2016**

President – Surinder Rehill,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Dinah Breu  
2 Vice President – Hugh Carey  
Secretary Treasurer – Frank Mark {Temp.}

***Club Directors***

Ken Brown, Lyle Berge, Bill Benner, Dinah Breu, Surinder Rehill, Hugh Carey, Ray Beirnes & Frank Mark

***Committee Chairpersons***

Audit Committee – Ben Monsees, Bruce Bennett & Art Tetz  
Communications – Dinah Breu  
Bylaws – Bill Benner  
Sick & Visiting – Ray Beirnes  
Memberships – Frank Mark  
Travel & Social – Ken Brown  
Nominating – Bill Benner  
Newsletter – Lyle Berge & Bill Benner  
Pension – Lyle Berge & Ken Brown  
Property – Hugh Carey & Frank Mark  
Financial – Ray Beirnes





Here are our Executive and kitchen volunteers for 2016 – from left, Frank Mark, Ken Brown, Dinah Breu, Surinder Rehill, Pat Brown, Ray Beirnes, Bill Benner, Janet Sparks, Marian Benner, Lyle Berge, Doreen Gruszecki, John Sparks, and Hugh Carey.

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### **Upcoming Events**

April 26 – Quality Time trip to Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump - \$63 per person,  
Final payment required by April 12.

April 12 – lunch at our club.

May 10 - lunch at our club.

June 14 – semi-annual general meeting, followed by lunch and a speaker from CP.

July and August – off for the summer, no regular scheduled events.

September 13 - lunch at our club.

*CP Social Club events:*

**CP Softball League (May 3 – August 16):** The CP slo-pitch league is looking to expand!! League play starts May 3 and the season runs 16 weeks, finishing August 16. Our year-end tournament is August 20. Double-headers every Tuesday night, roughly 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Optimist Athletic Park, Tom Brook Athletic Park and Pop Davies Athletic Park. There are 8 teams in the league currently (2 from outside CP). While the league is made up largely of CP people, employment with CP is not required to play. For more information about the league and to join, contact Bill Blackwell ([Bill.Blackwell@cpr.ca](mailto:Bill.Blackwell@cpr.ca))

**Royal Canadian Circus SPECTACULAR! (May 20 – Jun 5):** An all new thrill show under the BIG TOP – two locations, three exciting weeks! The Royal Canadian Circus will be in Calgary May 20 – June 5. Once you purchase a ticket they are good for any location or date the circus is in town (see poster for dates and locations). Tickets are \$12 each (66% off the door price). Contact Christie Cameron at [CPR.SocialClub@cpr.ca](mailto:CPR.SocialClub@cpr.ca) to reserve your tickets!

**Dragon Boat Festival (Aug. 13/14):** CP is gearing up for another exciting season of Dragon Boating! There will be two boats this year, each with its own practice schedule. Training begins at the end of May, up until the event in Mid-August one evening a week @6PM. All enthusiastic paddlers welcome!! Please e-mail Lisa ([hew0031@cpr.ca](mailto:hew0031@cpr.ca)) to sign up or ask for more details!

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**2015 Remembrance Day Ceremony at Ogden.**

The 2015 ceremony was held at the Ogden CP cenotaph. Unlike last year, the weather was pleasant, and the ceremony was again very well done.

The main speaker this year from CP was Martin Cej, Assistant Vice President, Public Affairs and Communications. Bruce Bennett was our pensioner representative, and laid a wreath on behalf of pensioners and employees. Wreaths were also laid by the new Member of Parliament for Calgary-Shepard riding, Mr. Tom Kmiec, Ward 9 City Councillor Mr. Gian-Carlo Carra and others. Representatives of Lord Strathcona's Horse were there, plus our military, cadets, scouts, and CP Police.

Attendance was again at least 300 people - employees, pensioners and their friends and families.

This year a pipe band led the march of representatives to the cenotaph and this was quite impressive. Mr. Cej told us that in both World War I and World War II,

some 33,000 CP employees either served directly in the military, or the war effort in some capacity – that is an amazing number.

After the minute of silence, one long train whistle was sounded – this is always very moving.

After the ceremony, CP again provided hot beverages and cookies to warm the body and soul.

by Lyle Berge



### **NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING AND LUNCH**

The regular November meeting of the Calgary C.P.Pensioner's Association was held on November 10, 2015 at the Ogden Club Rooms . We had a good turnout with 53 members in attendance thanks in part to a beautiful sunny but cool day.

Although our guest speaker was unable to attend our meeting, we still had a gathering of old friends which made for an enjoyable time with old work mates and many stories of the old days were exchanged. We are still looking forward to our guest speaker, from C.P. Rail to visit us in the near future.

Lunch was served by our efficient ladies in the kitchen and consisted of ham, scalloped potatoes and salad. Muffins were served for dessert . Thanks to all who participated in the preparation, serving and clean up.

A 50/50 draw was held and the winners were;

Jacques Ranger.....\$30.00  
Sid Mitchell .....\$ 30.00  
Pedro Denegri ..... \$ 30.00

Wine Raffle winners were ;

Anne Hewitt  
Doreen Gruszecki

Thanks to the donors of the 2 bottles of wine Vic Renny and Richard Boittiaux

By Bill Benner



## **Christmas trip to Banff.**

On December 1, 2015, we went on our annual bus trip to Banff. Quality Time Tours picked 15 of us up at Ogden, and we departed at 09:15 a.m. We picked up another 40 or so seniors from Bethany Village and went to Banff. There were two buses, one green and one red, so we were very much in a Christmas tradition! The second bus had picked up seniors in the northwest.

We arrived at the Banff Park Lodge just before noon, and the hotel had the meal ready for us in their Glacier View room on the second floor. We had a lovely turkey dinner, preceded by a vegetable soup, and followed by a truffle-type dessert - all delicious! One of the hosts, Beth, gave each of us a bag of home baked goodies. Once again we were very well treated by the hotel.

After dinner some of us walked around downtown Banff, contributing to the economy there. The weather was perfect, sunny and about -4. There was a fair bit of snow so for our trip out and back, and our time in Banff, the scenery was beautiful.

The two buses had our favourite drivers, Tom, Mike, Barry, and a new driver, Gentry, and it was a very enjoyable time.

Traffic back to Calgary was cooperative and we arrived back at Ogden at 16:30.

by Lyle Berge

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## **DECEMBER MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The regular monthly meeting of the Calgary C.P. Pensioner's Association was held on December 8, 2015 at the Ogden Club Rooms. This was also the time of the year to hold our Christmas party. The Club Rooms were nicely decorated to reflect the Christmas season. Thanks to the volunteers for the decorating and the preparation for this festive event.

The nice weather was in part responsible for the good turnout of 56 members. The spirit of the season prevailed and made for a very enjoyable event along with the good food and the companionship of old friends. Thanks to the members who participated in donations of food and money to the Calgary Food Bank; and to Hugh Carey for making the delivery to the food bank.

A 50/50 draw was held and the winners were ;  
Jacques Ranger.....\$30.00

Jagajeet Banga ....\$ 30.00

Mike Bek .....\$30.00

Wine Draw winners ; (3 draws )

Kathy White Thanks to wine donators Vic Renney, Laurie Rupert

Vic Renney and Richard Boittiaux

Jay Banga

By Bill Benner





Pictures from our December 8, 2015 Christmas lunch

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### **Early Beginnings – Calgary Pensioner Association.**

On May 19, 1952, a dinner was given to the CP pensioners at the Palliser Hotel by the Calgary Officer's Association. There were 325 pensioners there. There was some entertainment (we don't know what). The Vice President, Prairie Region, addressed the pensioners and was responded to by pensioner T. Kenny.

N.R. Crump, Senior Vice President spoke and congratulated and thanked the pensioners for their past services in helping to "build the Company to the high position it holds today in the Dominion and across the years."

After the dinner a meeting was called to form a pensioners' association. About 15 pensioners stayed due to a misunderstanding about the meeting. George Yeats took the chair advocating the formation of the association for Social and Friendly feeling among the pensioners the same as is held in Vancouver. After a discussion, T.V. Hunt moved, seconded by J. Gordon that an organization be formed and an executive be nominated protem to sign up enough pensioners to make the Association.

Forms were to be printed asking the pensioners to sign up if they were in favour of an association being formed, and a table be placed in the Pay Room at the Station where they get their cheques on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of June. An executive

meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June at an executive's home. 35 men were present – it was reported that 250 had signed the forms.

The executive met a couple more times and the first meeting of the membership was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July. Executive meetings were held in the Herald board room, and membership meetings were held monthly in the East Dining room of the Palliser (when available).

Membership fees were set at \$1. Per year. 500 membership cards with the CPR crest were printed. The executive was to draw up bylaws for consideration at a future meeting.

The first group of pensioners were 30 running trades, 14 Telegraph, 14 Dining Car, 4 Police, 10 Express, and 6 Palliser.

Contributed by Ken Brown.

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 12, 2016**

The meeting was opened at 10:30 A.M. by President Surinder Rehill. He asked for one minute of silence in respect of deceased members of the past year. Reading of the minutes were omitted in order to save time and this was approved by the members.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Financial Committee Frank Mark reported on the state of our finances specifically on cash investments and accounts, stating that our finances are in good order.

Secretary Treasurers Report Frank Mark reported on various incomes;

Raffles ..... \$472.00

Donations ... \$262.00

Pool ..... \$208.00

Sale of sundries /books \$15.00

Total revenues generated \$ 955.00 (Sale of memberships are not included in these Figures)

Communications internal. The President reported on the upcoming pension increase of \$9.75 per month. To be eligible pensioners must be 65 years of age and have been retired a minimum of 5 years.

Sick and Visiting Committee - John Sparks reported on members requiring visitations If members know of anyone requiring a visitation please phone the club rooms.

Travel Committee -Ken Brown reported on our bus tour provider Quality Time saying that we still are not getting enough people signing up so that we cannot have our exclusive bus and we must join with other groups in order to fill a bus.

Social Committee - Pat Brown - reported on last year's functions saying that we served meals to 463 members for \$1121.57. Pat thanked all the volunteers for the preparation serving and clean up for these events.

Newsletter Committee- Bill Benner reported on the publishing of a Spring and Fall Edition of our Newsletter at a total cost of \$471.34 including printing and postage.

Pensions - Reported by our president. Our pension fund appears to be in good shape and stands at 11 billion dollars and is growing.

Communications - Dinah Breu reported that our phoning system is working well and encouraged members to use our e-mail system in order to save us time and money when phoning and sending Newsletters.

Memberships - Frank Mark reported that up to date we have 268 members and 29 members over 90 who are not required to pay dues.

Nominating Committee - Nominations were held with 2 members Ken Brown, and Dinah Breu being re-elected and Ray Beirnes elected for a first term . These are 3 year terms and we are still short one member.

National Council - Lyle Berge reported on the work of the National Council and the work they are trying to do for Pensioners like updated indexing and improvements to Blue Cross and many other things for the benefits for Pensioners. See his report in the Spring News Letter.

We had an excellent speaker, Mr Nadeem Valani Assistant Vice President of Investor Relations for CP Rail Who gave us a progress report on the railway as well as the accomplishments of the past years.

A Raffle was held and the winners were;

Mike Bek.... \$35.00

Surinder Rehill ...\$35.00 donated to the club .. Thanks Surinder !!!

Wine Draw ... Bob Jackiw

John Costalima

Thanks to our wine donors ; Vic Renney & Richard Boittiaux

by Bill Benner

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## **National Council Report for Calgary Pensioners Annual meeting, January 12, 2016**

The National Council of Canadian Pacific Pensioners Associations (NCCPPA) was founded in 1984. We currently have 15 chapters located from Montreal through to Nanaimo, BC. As a national group, we are a voice to the company, for improved pensions and benefits. The more chapters who belong, the stronger our voice.

Every two years since 1991, we have held a biennial convention at one of our chapters' locations across the country. In 2015, we held our convention in Montreal. This was

hosted by our Montreal Marketing and Sales chapter. These conventions are a good opportunity to touch base with other chapters. We are now looking for a location for our 2017 convention.

Officers elected at this convention, and whose terms run to 2017 are - president Lyle Berge (Calgary), 1st Vice President George Hucker (Red Deer), 2nd Vice President Peter Landry (Toronto), 3rd Vice President Tom Sonier (London), Treasurer Don Jennings (Barrhead, Alberta), Secretary Bob Cameron (also our Pensioner Representative) (Revelstoke).

***Blue Cross.***

As retirees reach their early 80's, the current Blue Cross Part 1 and Part 2 limits are more likely to run out - just when they are needed the most. We have asked Blue Cross to examine the possibility of a Part 3 (or an extension of Part 2), which would add another \$20,000 at a cost determined by Blue Cross, to be paid by retiree. We asked Blue Cross work up the numbers, and we also asked that these numbers be prepared, by province, without the requirement of 100% buy- in of all retirees. We have not had a response to our enquiries, and so we have asked CP for their support and assistance in helping us obtain an answer from Blue Cross.

Don't forget about the Blue Cross "Blue Advantage program". Check out the website [www.blueadvantage.ca](http://www.blueadvantage.ca). This program allows Blue Cross members to save on medical, vision care and many other products and services offered by participating providers across Canada. The program is unique because it provides discounts at point-of-sale on the total cost of products and services from participating providers across Canada, regardless if the item is covered under your benefit plan. How does it work? Present your Blue Cross ID card and mention the Blue Advantage program to the participating provider.

***Resolutions to present to CP:***

In January, we presented the resolutions passed at our Montreal convention to CP by letter, requesting a meeting with them. These resolutions relate to ad hoc increases, indexing, and health benefits. Hopefully I will be able to report in more detail at our June semi-annual meeting.

Report respectfully submitted.

Lyle Berge, President, National Council of Canadian Pacific Pensioners Associations



**FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING AND LUNCH**

The regular February Meeting of the C.P Pensioners was held on Tuesday, February 9th in our Ogden Club Rooms . The weather cooperated with spring like

temperatures and because of the nearness of Valentine's Day it was considered to make it our theme for the occasion. The club rooms were appropriately decorated with this theme in mind.

Members enjoyed a lunch of Lasagna and salad with a dessert of cake and squares. Thanks to the volunteer ladies who planned, prepared and cleaned up after lunch. There were 38 members in attendance.

We had some very informative speakers for this time of year who spoke on Income Tax and what you should do with investments and other issues involved with tax procedures. Thanks to Riaz Mohamed CPA ,CA and Manwinder Gill, CA from Investors Group .Their presentation prompted many questions from our members .

A 50/50 draw was held, and the winners were;  
Rashal Sandhu \$ 30.00                      Surinder Rehill     \$30.00  
A wine draw was also held and the winners were ;  
John Costalima                              Ken Brown  
Thanks to Vic Renny for donations of the wine

By Bill Benner



### **MARCH CLUB MEETING AND LUNCH**

The regular March meeting of the Calgary C.P. Pensioner's Association was held on Tuesday March 8, 2016 at the Ogden Club Rooms. Apart from the regular meeting, we also celebrated St. Patrick's Day , a yearly event for our Association .

The club rooms were decorated with the appropriate St. Patrick's Day decorations even including the wearing of the green with Walter and Doreen Gruszecki wearing their green attire that reflected the mood of the occasion.

Even our lunch had an Irish theme with Irish Stew being served with apple pie and Ice cream. It was a great day for the Irish. Once again thanks to the people involved in the preparation and clean up that made this day so special. Representatives from the CP Social Club informed us of upcoming events that we are invited to and asked for pensioner volunteers for some of these events

A 50/50 draw was held and the winners were;

Surinder Rehill \$25.00 ...Donated to the Club - Thanks Surinder !!!  
Les Domotor     \$ 25.00

Wine Draw Winners:     Ray Beirnes                              Ken Brown

Thanks to Vic Renney for the wine donation

by Bill Benner

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## **Website for CP Pensioners – [www.cp-pensioners.com](http://www.cp-pensioners.com)**

As of February 26, 2016, CP has upgraded the website for us. The upgrade included an updated “In Memoriam”.

### **Contacts:**

The CP Pension Services Call Centre is available to answer your pension related questions. Service is available in French and English and the hours of operations are from 7 AM to 1 PM Mountain Standard Time (MST).

Please review the “How do I” page in the pensioner website for answers to some our most commonly asked questions.

- Toll Free: 1-888-511-7557
- Calgary Area: (403) 319-3035
- Fax number: (403) 319-3669
- email: [pension@cpr.ca](mailto:pension@cpr.ca)

Or by mail at:

Canadian Pacific Pension Services  
7550 Ogden Dale Road S.E.  
Calgary, AB T2C 4X9

CP Headquarters Main Switchboard number (403) 319-7000

### **Blue Cross**

Toll free – 1-888-873-9200

### **Claim Secure Inc.**

Toll free – 1-888-513-4464

**\*\*Remember, the dues are now \$15.00 per Year**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU MAY REMIT YOUR DUES TO:**

**FRANK MARK Secretary Treasurer, Canadian Pacific Pensioners Association**

**Main Floor Building 10. 7550 Ogdendale Road SE. Calgary Alberta T2C 4X9.**

**Phone Club: 403-262-1238 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10AM – 1 PM**

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**HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A NICE FOREVER**