Canadian Pacific Pensioners Association of Calgary

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Fall Newsletter 2026

We welcome all CPKC pensioners, spouses or survivors as guests to our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month except July and August.

At our monthly meetings we discuss Pensioner's Club business and topics of interest to pensioners, but more importantly it gives everyone in attendance the opportunity to socialize with fellow pensioners in a comfortable environment. The $5 dollar lunch is an added bonus!

When driving to the Pensioners Club at the beautiful CPKC Head Office Campus (formerly Ogden Shops) you can avoid using the 69th Avenue railway crossing, when blocked by trains, by using the tunnel that has been built allowing us to drive under the mainline rail tracks on 78th Avenue off of Ogden Road.

Message from the President

Greetings everyone and welcome back from summer break. I am excited to announce this is the first semi-annual Newsletter since 2021. The previous newsletter format provided a recap of the previous month's general meetings from that calendar year. We will continue with this format along with some new additional articles or features. I hope this helps keep members informed with respect to discussions at our general meetings.

As a reminder to all members, we welcome all CPKC pensioners, spouses or survivors as guests to our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month except July and August. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our monthly general meetings.

Warmest Regards, your President
Joseph Dragani

In Memory of Departed Members

The "In Memoriam" report is issued by CPKC twice per year and contains the names of all CP Pensioners who have passed in the previous six months. It is posted on the CP Pensioners website. There are previous reports available on the News & Events page of the same website.

The following are some of our local pensioners and club members that departed in 2025 (in alphabetical order) and worked in various departments in the Calgary area:

William Benner, William Christie, Martin Dias, Felix Evangalista, Ronald Ference, Donald Hamilton, Michael Hartney, Lloyd Hildebrandt, Orval Klein, Roy Lindblad, Harold McAfee, William Miller, Robert Nadeau, Michael Nykolichuk, Kelvin Palmer, Stella Pankewitz, Rudolf Platz, James Quesnel, Amritlal Raithatha, Greg Rosval, Laurie Rupert, Kenneth Simpson, Donald Turner, Nico Van Vliet, Arnold Vornbrock, and Raymond Weaver.

We have yet to receive an "In Memoriam" Report this year and losses we know about in 2026 are:

Garry Gartner Dave Seal Gilda Camilli Ken Poole Bernie Supinski

We are saddened by the losses, and once again our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Welcome to Our New Members

We had 17 new members join in 2025 and the following are new members in 2026:
Rob Deman Jackie Howard Joe Szabo

Don Nicoll is a returning member after a long absence.

Further information about memberships and paying dues is available on the last page of this newsletter.

Board Members

Position	Person
President	Joe Dragani
1st Vice President	Jarnail Taggar
2nd Vice President	Don Caroline
Secretary Treasurer	Arthur Wieckowski
Finance	Monique Kovacs
Nominations	Don Northam
Newsletter	Don Seymour
Travel/Social	Peter Tsatas
Sick and Visiting	vacant
Directors at Large	Doug Noakes; Cathy Cowie; Gary Nichols; Vinod Gill;



Announcements

At our October 13 meeting and lunch, we had a show-and-shine for members to show off their classic cars. There were 10 beautiful rides, and we are already planning to do this again in May or June of 2027.

Monthly Meetings and Lunches

January 13 Semi-Annual Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Club and immediately ahead of the Luncheon. We reviewed the following Canadian Pacific Pensioners Association Calgary Club items at the AGM:

1) 2025 Financial overview;
2) 2025 Membership details review;
3) Establish an audit date and committee for finance activities;
4) Establish an audit date for Club property;
5) Review current By-Laws for possible updates and/or changes;
6) Provide highlights for the current CPKC Defined Benefit Pension Fund; and
7) Elect new Board members.

February 10 Meeting and Lunch

We had 57 in attendance. As always, we would like to thank all our members who were involved in sourcing, preparing, organizing, serving and cleaning up lunch. Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 ($105), the Wine draws, and the door prizes. Don Caroline spoke briefly about Radon in the home, and we look forward to more discussion on this topic. As always, we appreciate your continued support and participation!

January Pension cheques were less than the December cheques. The reason for the change in your cheque amount is from a change in your tax deductions, and the explanation is as follows. From January to July 2025 the tax rate used by the Alberta Government was 10 percent. In July, the Alberta Government announced they would change the tax rate to 8 percent for 2025. Since they had already taxed at a 10 percent rate from January to July, they then taxed at a 6 percent rate for the remainder of the year after the July 2025 tax exemption change to average out the year at 8 percent. The Alberta Government then taxed at the 8 percent rate starting in January 2026. So, in the end, your December 2025 pay cheque was taxed at 6 percent and your January 2026 pay cheque was taxed at 8 percent. This is why you saw a difference in the tax deduction and a slightly lower net amount on your cheque.

March 10 Meeting and Lunch

At our March 10th meeting, we had a T-Shirt on display. They come in four colors: Maroon/burgundy, Blue Denim, Black, and Brown. They were very reasonably priced at $17 for small to extra large and $19 for any shirt larger than extra large. Bill Wynne was the driving force in making the T-Shirt order a reality. Great job, I would not know who to contact or how to get it done. Great job. Thanks.

At the January 13th meeting, we filled two of three vacant board positions. I, Don Seymour, was nominated for the newsletter position. Since I had been traveling, this meeting was my first opportunity to accept the position, which I did. Thanks for the opportunity. I will do my best to keep our members informed of activities that take place in our Association.

However, the Director position for "Sick & Visiting" remains vacant. If you are interested in this position, please contact Joe Dragani or Arthur Wieckowski and we can discuss it further.

April 14 Meeting and Lunch

At this meeting it was brought up that we will again have a bowling afternoon for all members on May 20 and that everyone interested should sign up. There will be pizza for all.

May 12 Meeting and Lunch

We had a very special event that happened at the meeting. Anne Lesyk turned 100 years young, and we celebrated her birthday at the meeting. We had a birthday cake for her, and Anne said a few words about her history coming to Canada, living in British Columbia and then her move to Calgary. I really enjoyed being part of celebrating her 100th birthday and was amazed that she was still driving herself to our meeting. Awesome.

We also had a guest speaker, Dorothy Bewernick from Great West Radon, who gave an excellent presentation on radon. She answered many questions and had free reading materials available from both Great West Radon as well as Health Canada.

Anne Lesyk story for her 100th Birthday

Anne grew up in Germany just outside of Frankfurt. Her and her family suffered through the tribulations of WW2. After the war, the American Military set up a base near Frankfurt and close to her home. That is where she met her husband, Nick Lesyk.



Nick and Anne were married in 1949. Nick left for Canada to join his father in 1950. Nick took a job on a CPR section gang with his father in Flat Creek British Columbia. In April 1951, Anne made the journey by ship to Halifax and then by rail to Calgary to join her husband. After a week of enjoying Calgary, they returned to Flat Creek. A few months later, they transferred to Glacier. Anne went from a home in Germany with all the modern amenities to a house in Glacier with no running water. She said she had to carry pails of water to the house. The water was piped in from the side of the mountain. Quite often, she had a two-year old bear follow her like a puppy dog. They often made trips by rail to Revelstoke for shopping or to visit friends.

In December 1952 they transferred to Calgary where Nick took a machinist position at Alyth Shops. They lived in Bridgeland and Anne worked at the Hudson's Bay Company downtown and later at Woodwards at Chinook Mall. They raised two daughters in Calgary. After working many years on the midnight shift, Nick retired in 1985. Nick and Anne immediately joined the Canadian Pacific Pensioners Club of Calgary. After making a trip to Mesa Arizona, they planned to purchase a winter property there. However, Nick passed away suddenly in 1991.

Anne lives with her daughter in a villa in SW Calgary. She cooks, bakes, frequently drives her own car and still does her own taxes. Anne is quick-witted and has a wonderful sense of humor.

Anne has been a member of the Pensioners Club since 1985. She considers the members of the Pensioners Club her family and never misses a monthly meeting. Anne turned 100 on May 26, 2026, and we helped her celebrate her birthday at the Club. Happy birthday Anne and wish you many more.

June 9 General Meeting and Lunch

This was our last meeting before the break for summer. As usual it was a special meeting. This year was no exception. Spolumbo's supplied the entire meal at no cost and it was excellent. Spolumbo's wanted to repay the support our members have given them over the decades. This is the second time that the company has provided meals for everyone in attendance at no cost to the Pensioner's Club. For the members that were there, it was a great way to go into the summer break.



At the meeting, members who ordered the T-shirts were able to pick them up. Around 90 T-shirts had been ordered.

Reports by Committee

Financial

The Club's finances continue to be in very good condition! Thanks to income from Membership Dues, General Meetings, Donations from Members and the hard work and dedication of previous and current Executives and Directors and many loyal members. Transactions are scrutinized annually by our Audit Team, and details are reported at the Annual General Meeting which, as of the January 2026 AGM, was moved to March.

As a result of mergers over the past few years our financial institution has moved from Legacy to Connect First and most recently to Servus Credit Union. We experienced and heard of some service issues during these transitions and the Servus team assures us that they are working it out for all their members. We look forward to working with the Servus team and we hope all individual members who have been riding these merger waves for so many years continue to trust the Credit Union process. Servus is the one of the largest Credit Unions in Alberta with more than 100 locations in 60 communities. All deposit amounts are insured by the Alberta Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation.

Secretary Treasurer's Report

Membership continues to hover just above 150 with most members paying before the end of March so we can have our numbers ready for the Annual per capita payment to the National Council of CP Pensioners. Many members pay for three years at a time to enjoy the savings of $1 per year. Thank you to everybody who pays their memberships on time or in advance! More details on paying memberships on the last page of this newsletter.

Communication

Communication has evolved to mainly email with most members preferring this method. If you or anyone you know does not have e-mail and wants to hear from us, please let us know so we can arrange phone calls to advise of meetings or events.

Sick & Visiting

This important function remains an open position and is handled by the Directors on an ad-hoc basis. If you are interested in taking on any part of this work, please talk to any Director. Also, if you know of anyone that is in a situation where contact from the Club would be welcome, please let us know.

Travel Committee

After Covid we tried to restart travel but were not successful due to a lack of available options and much higher costs. This function has been absorbed into the Social Committee and discussion is limited to more affordable travel within the Calgary area. We are open to discuss any ideas for affordable travel activities, please talk to any Director if you have suggestions.

Social Committee



On May 20, nearly twenty of us got together for an afternoon of 5 pin bowling. There were bowlers of all levels, and the common denominator is that everyone had fun.

On October 28, twenty of us got together again at Toppler Bowl for lunch and a wonderful afternoon of 5 pin bowling. There were a lot of laughs and one of us even bowled a "Turkey" which, for those of you who are not familiar, is 3 strikes in a row in the 10th frame! Some avid bowlers never get a "Turkey" in their entire bowling career!

Upcoming events

As in past years the December Luncheon admission will be a food or cash donation to the Veteran's Association Food Bank.

Next spring we will combine indoor mini-golf and 5 pin bowling for an evening of laughs and fun!

Pensions Report

For those eligible the COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) this year was $15 per month. Discussions between the Unions and Management about the COLA calculations are ongoing.

National Council of CP Pensioners Associations

Robert Cameron re-elected as the Pensioner Representative

The election results for the position of Pensioner Representative were recently released, and the results are as follows: Robert Cameron 1,314 votes; Louis Wilson 986 votes; Roger Gallant 302 votes.

Robert (Bob) Cameron may be contacted in the following ways:

By phone: 1-250-837-4248 or 1-250-837-1083 (cell)
By mail: PO Box 885 Revelstoke BC V0E 2S0
Or by email: rjc48@telus.net

Your NCCPPA Executive effective July 01, 2025, is available on the CPKC Pensioners website "About" page NCCPPA Executive July 01 2025 – pictures and short biographies (PDF)

Memberships

We have 158 active members. There are 122 paid members; 3 new members; 25 Gold; and 10 have not paid. For those unpaid members or to check the status of your membership, you can see Arthur at the next meeting and also on most Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at the Club. Please contact him by phone at 403-262-1238 or 403-870-1897 (cell), or by email at cp.pensioners.association@gmail.com.

Membership is $15 per year or $42 for 3 years. You can come to a meeting and sign up or send a cheque payable to CP Pensioners Association Calgary.

The cheque can be mailed to:

CP Pensioners Association Calgary
Main Floor, Building 10
7550 Ogden Dale Road S.E.
Calgary, AB. T2C 4X9

Alternatively you can send an e-Transfer to cp.pensioners.association@gmail.com. The account is set up for automatic deposit, and we will receive an email to confirm the bank has received the money.

Thank you and warmest regards!

Don Seymour, Newsletter Committee, donseymour@shaw.ca