



# CN Pensioner Association of Manitoba



Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 01:30 P.M.  
 at the  
 Norwood Legion, 134 Marion St.  
 Mar.-April-May 2008

Members:—Check out our Website — [www.cnpensioners.ca](http://www.cnpensioners.ca)  
 Get involved in The Forum....our online community!  
 See what's new.

Janet Lewis Anderson

## The President's Corner

John Mozol

What is the C.O.L.A. clause? It's the Cost Of Living Allowance. Do we have it, yes, it's our indexing clause and financed by the gains (losses) of the surplus in the Escalation Account, (E.A.).

Why should the indexing formula be paid on a percentage rate? Because it's always been that way. In other words the "rich get richer and the poor get poorer". The consumer price index over a 12 month checking period dictates the COLA rate on a percentage basis, but the price increase in the 'basket of goods' that Statistics Canada uses to determine the percentage rate, costs the lower recipient CN pensioner the same as the highest qualifier, which is, \$3,250. For example, the pensioner receiving a monthly pension of \$900 will see their January pension increase \$9.72 while the pensioner receiving \$3,250 (the maximum qualifier), will have a monthly increase of \$35.10. Now is that fair? Of course not.

As of 12/31/2006 the balance in the E.A. was \$552 million. A projected balance at the end of 2007 in the E.A. is \$692. million. We are not privy to the actual balance at 12/31/2007 but that is what has been projected. Let's get more beneficial to everyone and change the payment basis from a percentage increase to an equal dollar monthly increase. The 'minimum guarantee' of \$9.00 to retirees and \$4.50 to surviving partners is paid at the dollar rate.

If your representatives on the National Council have the foresight and will to ask the Company's actuaries to come up with a dollar increase rather than the unfair percentage increase, perhaps the unions will get on board. As their members will be going on pension at some point and their pensions are based on the defined benefit pension plan formula, the increases in dollars better reflect the price of goods that affect us all equally.

## Notice to CN Pensioners who carry a CN Pensioners membership card:—

Choice Hotels are offering CN pensioners a discount when staying at their Hotels. Members who pay their annual fee by pension cheque deduction receive a plastic membership card from the treasurer of the National Council Bruce Peacock. This is a permanent identification card.

"Re:—Preferred I.D. Number for Choice Hotels Reservation"

There are 2 ways to make reservations using this I.D. # 00064447—

1 Call their toll-free # 1 800 424 6423 and quote I.D. #00064447 or

2 Visit their website at [www.choicehotels.ca](http://www.choicehotels.ca) and:  
 —Enter your ID 00064447 in the box on the left hand side of the page and click **Go**

—Your company's welcome page will appear.  
 —To find a hotel, enter the city name in the Location box and add in your check-in and check-out dates. Your SSO rates will already appear in the rate box. Click **"Search Hotels"**.

—A list of hotels will appear with two sets of rates-SSO and the standard rate. The date request will appear in yellow. Click on the SSO rate to select the hotel and proceed with the reservation.

To ensure members are receiving the correct rate it is imperative to advance reservations.

The above information was provided by W.C. (Butch) Whiteman of Edmonton. Butch is the V.P. of the Mountain Region of the CN Pensioners Association.

Mr. Whiteman also advises that this rate is applicable worldwide to all CN Pensioners who have a membership card.

editors note—Thanks Butch for the above information, it should come in handy for all vacationers.

**2007-2008 Executive**

**President**

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kayomoz@shaw.ca

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**A Chuckle or Two: —**

A man walks into a bookstore and asks if they have a book called Men Rule, Women Obey? The clerk says yea, it's in the fiction section.

The first man asked, "What is your name?" The second man said, "Ballpoint." The first man asked, "Is that your real name?" the man said, "No that's my pen name."

Why did the author work in his basement? He wanted to write a best cellar.

**Membership:— Wayne Zaharia**

As of February 29th, membership is as follows:—

Payroll Deduction:— 2,924  
Fees Paid by Cheque- 222  
Exempt 2

Total Paid Membership 3,153

There are 39 members who for whatever reason have not paid their fee's for 2008. If they did not renew because they felt we were not doing something right we would appreciate knowing what it was so we can correct it if possible. Your feed back is important to us.

New members are required to keep our association strong and this is where you can play a major role . If you know someone who has recently retired, sign them up or bring them to one of our meetings.

Following members have moved and did not give a forwarding address. Would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows where they might have moved to. Thanks, call me

**Wayne at 694 5133**

**Badger, Edwin**—1209-928 Arbour NW Calgary AB

**Cassidy, Robert G.**— 1203-1150 Munroe Ave. Winnipeg MB

**Dubesky, Peter**—1040 Talbot Ave. (Moved to Calgary?)

**Forest, Alponsine**— 502-70 Poseidon Bay Winnipeg

**Perkles, Harriet**— 9-303 Furby St. Winnipeg

**Remember if you move, please let me know. Wayne at 694 5133**

**Meals on Wheels:**

Always need drivers and/or servers. Phone **204 956 7711**, seven days a week. They are really short of volunteers.

**I would like to welcome the following new Members:—**

<b>Adams, Charlie</b>	<b>Adams, Daniel</b>
<b>Allingham, Ned</b>	<b>Antosh, Lorraine</b>
<b>Bhullara, Manjit</b>	<b>Brasher, Marie</b>
<b>Caron, Robert</b>	<b>Collett, Sid</b>
<b>Cox, David</b>	<b>Elcombe, Mable</b>
<b>Farrell, Roland</b>	<b>Gibson, Andy</b>
<b>Gill, Tarlochan</b>	<b>Gobeil, Rosaire</b>
<b>Golebioski, Ronald</b>	<b>Grainger, Percy</b>
<b>Greenwood, Dorothy</b>	<b>Hauk, Brian</b>
<b>Huard, Andrew</b>	<b>Janzen, Ed</b>
<b>Maglanque, Oscar</b>	<b>Marquis, Perry</b>
<b>Moderow, P.L.</b>	<b>Molina, Jaun A.</b>
<b>Norman, Keith</b>	<b>Owens, Alan</b>
<b>Rheubottom, Ruth</b>	<b>Ritter, John</b>
<b>Seidler, Raymond</b>	<b>Sloane, Les</b>
<b>Smith, Gordon</b>	<b>Smith, Russell</b>
<b>Strilec, Barry</b>	<b>Striowski, Wayne</b>
<b>Sweatman, Dennis</b>	<b>Telfer, Donald</b>
<b>Uhrich, Ken</b>	<b>Unick, Ken</b>
<b>Wilson Trevor</b>	

Your more than welcome at our regular monthly meetings and encourage you to take part and share your expertise with your fellow retirees.

Coffee and doughnuts are free and there is free parking behind the Legion

editor's note:-us old crocks have been around a long time and it's time to become involved in knowing more about the CN Pension Trust Fund, it's projected surplus and the funding of the indexing formula.

Come on down and get to know the facts Harvey

**Address for CN Scholarships:—**

Assoc. of Universities & Colleges  
600—350 Albert St.  
Ottawa ON, K1B 1B1

U.S. Railroad Retirement Region  
U. S Social Security

Fargo	ND	1 701 239 5117
Grand Forks	ND	1 701 772 5518

Outreach CommitteeBob Gill ChairMel Rusiecki—

256 3897

255 1361

*Hank Gosselin**Geo. Lintick*

255 2722

254 1032

Thanks to the above Committee for their assistance in keeping us updated on the well being of our members. Don't forget to keep us posted on "happy events" such as marriage or a milestone anniversary or birthday that may be occurring amongst our membership. Another reminder-please note that my phone number is 256 3897.

To those previously mentioned on our Sick List, we hope that you are well on the road to recovery and good health. To those that are currently ill or still experiencing health problems, please know you are close in our thoughts and the membership joins me in extending Best Wishes to you.

**We have received updates and reports on the following Pensioners since the last meeting.**

(An asterisk \* denotes member)

**Ned Allingham\*** had knee surgery, now home recuperating.  
**John Balak\*** is having heart problems, was in Concordia Hospital for observation.  
**Duane Brown\*** is now in the Waverly West Nursing Home.  
**Marcel Comeault\*** has lung problems, was in St. Boniface Hospital.  
**Bob Deans\*** in Grace Hospital, recovering from surgery.  
**Barry Duncan\*** had by-pass surgery, now home recovering.  
**Gurment Kaur Gill** wife of **G. Singh Gill\***, had a gall bladder operation, now home.  
**Wilfred (Bill) Hobson\*** is in the Grace Hospital.  
**Kal Juvenon\*** had a triple by-pass at St. Boniface Hospital, now home.  
**Percy Grainger** had a double by-pass at St. Boniface Hospital, now home recuperating.  
**Nellie Kunka** wife of **William Kunka\*** had carpo tunnel surgery on right hand, now home..  
**Bill Lewco\*** had an eye operation, now home.  
**Arlene Lovie** wife of **Lloyd Lovie\***, is in poor health suspect lung cancer, under doctor's care.  
**John MaxLise\*** is back in hospital.  
**Pat Rockwell\*** had some laser treatment done to his eyes, now home.  
**Al Scowan\*** had a by-pass now home.  
**Bill Shakespeare\*** having some hearth problems, however is at home.  
**Helga Stanik** wife of **Egan Stannik\*** was in Concordia Hospitaalfor operation on her hips, now home.  
**George Turnley\*** had a cataract operation at the Misericordia Hospital, now home.

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 The following pensioners have passed away since the last report, ( an asterisk\* denotes member MB Association.):

<b>Daniel Adams</b>	<b>Thomas Allen*</b>	<b>Phillip Armbruster*</b>	<b>Jakobina Arnold</b>
<b>Ralph (Pixie) Atkins*</b>	<b>Deloroës Badlo</b> wife of <b>William Badlo*</b>		<b>William Badlo*</b>
<b>Andrew Balanyk*</b>	<b>Paul Beauchamp*</b>	<b>Mary Berg</b>	<b>Charles B. Blyth</b>
<b>Elvin Boggs*</b>	<b>Hank (Vic) Boissonneault</b>		<b>John Brasher</b>
<b>Anne Brown</b> wife of deceased Honorary Member <b>Stan Brown*</b>			<b>Innes Campbell</b>
<b>Roberto P. Cantafio</b>	<b>John Charles*</b>	<b>John Ciwko*</b>	<b>Roberta J. Clark*</b>
<b>Ken Cooper*</b>	<b>Harold Cox*</b>	<b>Mario Crass</b>	<b>Albert M. Desrochers</b>
<b>Bob Didur</b>	<b>Stanley Dilay</b>	<b>Jean Dutchak*</b>	
<b>Lawrence W. Dzdra*</b>	<b>Raymond Elcombe*</b>	<b>Louisa G. Evanchuk</b>	<b>Norman Evans</b>
<b>Thomas Futty*</b>	<b>M. (Mickey) Gembey*</b>		
<b>Ruby A. Giguere</b> mother of <b>Ray* and Ross*</b>		<b>Gildo Gosgnach</b>	<b>Ann Grymaluk</b>
			continued

Deceased report continued from page 3

<b>John Heath</b>	<b>Christian R. Handkamer</b>	<b>Francis Harvey</b> wife of <b>Herb Harvey</b>	
<b>Ron Holmes</b>	<b>Peter Kohuch</b>	<b>M. Vailla Koppers</b>	<b>Viola Lillies</b>
<b>E. (Alex) Logan*</b>	<b>John Lukasiewicz</b>	<b>Anne Lysy</b>	<b>Janet T. MacDonald</b>
<b>Ora Magill</b>	<b>Ernie Mataford</b>	<b>Irene Maxwell</b>	<b>Lawrence Neill</b>
<b>Michel Nesplichk*</b>	<b>Brian Ogden*</b>	<b>Norman Okrusko*</b>	<b>Albert G. Payne*</b>
<b>Benjamin J. Pitre*</b>	<b>John N. Poklitar*</b>	<b>Lloyd Rheubottom*</b>	<b>John Ritter*</b>
<b>Alexander RI. Sartin*</b>		<b>Audrey Scott</b>	<b>Samuel Shulinsky</b>
<b>Orest Smelski</b>	<b>Gerry Soltowski</b>	<b>Casmir A. Specht</b>	<b>Bill Stewart*</b>
<b>Orest M. Storozuk</b>	<b>John Sutherland*</b>	<b>Wilfred R. Telfer</b>	<b>Arsene Thienpondt*</b>
<b>Maria Torchia</b>	<b>Ray W. Tremain*</b>	<b>Kenneth L. Thulbeck*</b>	<b>Charles M. Turk*</b>
<b>Cliff M. Van Norman*</b>		<b>Harry T. Wells*</b>	<b>Arthur E. White</b>
<b>Leonard Young</b>	<b>Mar G. Zakrisson*</b>		

Our condolences go out to the Family

and Friends of the Deceased

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Here are our most recent Birthday of the Month Winners:—

December—**Henry Klatt**  
 January —**Fred Diachum**  
 February —**Carson Hull**

We encourage all members to come out to our monthly meetings—especially if you are having a birthday that month—you too, could be a winner.

You must be at the meeting to be a winner.

**Special Events Report:— Diane Walton 269 1303**

Hi Folks!

Hope you are surviving the winter—spring is coming! Many of us were fortunate to escape for a while this winter but it’s always good to come back home.

Continuing our tradition of outstanding speakers we have the following:—

March 5th—Lynn Silver, Winnipeg Humane Society, talking about the new facilities as well as volunteer opportunities for Seniors.

April 2nd —Update on ABC’s of Fraud—a very popular and important topic from last year.

May 7th —Honorary Luncheon

June 4th —Jean Guy Mercier, Green Acres Funeral Home —Funeral Planning. continued

You will note from the enclosure in this mailing that we are promoting a cruise to Alaska on the Celebrity Cruise Ship the “Mercury”.

This will be a one week cruise departing from Vancouver and stopping at Ketchikan, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Sitka and then back to Vancouver. If you have never cruised before, this is a great opportunity to do so.....luxury living which includes your accommodation, all meals and snacks, entertainment and transportation to a magical world.

Why not give your grandkids the adventure of a lifetime....it would be something that they would never forget!

We need 20-30 people to confirm by April 30th in order to make this happening.....any questions....please call me at 269 1303.

I can guarantee you will have a great time!!

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Editor’s note—my wife Sonia and I took a similar cruise last May to Alaska , not identical but we did stop at Juneau. Instead of the organized tour, we took a city bus to the end of the line and returned which took 4 hours at a \$1.50 each. We sailed from Vancouver at 17.00 but were able to clear customs, and board the ship at 1300-1400, settle in and have a lunch before the evening meal. I highly recommend this. Harvey.

**Website Report—**

**Janet Lewis Anderson**

www.cnpensioners.ca

Log on to our website and find out what's happening. See who our upcoming speakers are, what events or trips we have planned and keep in touch with your friends.

**The What's New Tab/Page**—is frequently updated with important announcements including new enhancements to our website. Or just check out our Headlines column on the Home Page. It will give you a quick overview of any announcements, updates, additions or changes we have made to the website. If you click on individual headlines, it will also link you to the appropriate section where you will find out more information on the subject.

**Alaska Cruise with Diane**—How about cruising to Alaska this summer with Special Events Chair **Diane Walton** and friends. More information and a booking form can be found on our What's New page.

**Choice Hotels Special Rate Program**—Choice Hotels Canada is offering a special rate program of 15-20% off their standard hotel room rate (dependent on season) to members of the CN Pension Association. Just quote the Preferred Rate I.D. number (00064447) when making your reservation and then present your CN Pension Association Membership Card at check in to verify that you qualify for the discount rate. For more information, go to our FAQ page or Choice Hotels at 1 800 424 6423.

**The FAQ Section**—In need of more information or have a question, click on the FAQ link (located on the Home

Page on the right hand side under a section called "More Information"). If your question/answer isn't there, then e-mail us with your question and we will attempt to answer it or point you in the right direction.

**Check out our Photo Section**—you never know when you might just spot a picture of yourself from one of our recent events. Send them along to us electronically or bring them to us at one of the general meetings. We will be sure to get any originals back to you.

**Check out "Bits and Pieces"**—If you have stories you would like to submit about interesting experiences and milestones including accomplishments and achievements of our members both past and present, please contact us either through the link on the website or at one of our meetings.

**The Forum Tab**—Don't forget to use the Forum. Check out the Humour category or perhaps you have read a great book lately and want to chat about in the Forum. Or if you are looking to buy or sell something such as furniture or a vehicle, use the Forum as a tool. This is a great online community.

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**The Newsletter**—You now have a choice—you can either access our newsletter on line via the Forum on our website or you can continue to receive a paper copy in the mail. Please let us know your preference by checking the appropriate box and returning to us. We will implement these changes effective with the Fall newsletter. If we don't hear from you, you will continue to get the newsletter by mail.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Newsletter Online** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
**Newsletter Regular Mail** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Or e-mail us—** janet@cnpensioners.ca

**Canadian Railway Hall of Fame**

Since 2002, the web-based Canadian Railway Hall of Fame has been celebrating the success of Canada's railway industry. Participants and friends of the industry are invited to nominate those individuals, communities and technology they believe to be deserving of recognition. Perhaps it is someone you've worked with in your career, or someone who, looking back over the years, has made a significant contribution to modern railway operations, safety improvements, or the betterment of our industry as a whole. Maybe you can think of a specific technology that we should be promoting that has played an important role in the industry's evolution. The Canadian Railway Hall of Fame invites you to visit their website at

www.railfame.ca

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**Carson Hull at 269 2692** wants to know, if any member wants to order a selected item, (s), with our Manitoba CN Pensioners embroidered logo? Here's how!!!

Would anyone who is interested in purchasing a CN Pensioners jacket, golf shirt or golf towel please contact me at 269 2692.

We currently have 11 pieces on order. We require a minimum of 24 pieces purchased to place an order.

Jackets are \$39.99, golf shirts range from \$16.99 to \$24.99 and golf towels are \$7.49 each.

Embroidery is included. Plus taxes on each item. I will have the new catalogue on hand at our March 5th, meeting.

**The Pensioner's Help Line number :---**

**1 800 361 0739**

Always have your P.I.N. to better identify you when making inquiries. Adjustment to tax deducted off your cheque advise the above number. If you are married at the time of retirement, make sure that CN has your spouse's name on file. Direct Deposit, never close your old account until your cheque shows in the new account.

Canada Pension and Old Age Security information call

**1 800 277 9914**

Canadian Customs & Revenue Service General Inquiries, re Income Tax,

**1 800 959 8281**

Blue Cross in Winnipeg, contract number is 93115 for information call

**775 0161**

Letters to the Editor are much appreciated. If you have something of interest to share with other CN Pensioners I will be happy to pass it along.

Mailing address: —

122 Borebank St.,

Winnipeg MB R3N 1C9

**T h i s   N e w s l e t t e r**  
is mailed out by your local Association five quarterly. Total cost of the Newsletter is the responsibility of your Association.

Dec.-Jan.-Feb.

Xmas Luncheon & AGM of the National Council report.

Mar.-April-May

Income tax time! Ugh!

June-July-Aug.

Start of new season. Election of local officers at the Nov. mtg.

Sept.-Oct.-Nov.

Start up after recess  
Local elections in Nov.

**From Health Canada for 2008**

Old Age Security: — Jan to Mar  
Maximum — \$502.31  
Number of Benefits — 4,397,011  
Repayment level —  
\$64,718 to \$104,903

Canada Pension Plan — \$884.00  
Quebec Pension Plan — 844.00

At age 65, reduces .5% a month  
under age 65 to earliest, age 60,

CPP recipients — 3,433,490  
QPP recipients — 1,239,852

Many more figures pertaining to O.A.S. and C.P.P., Disability and Survivor rates and Guarantee Income Supplement, phone Health Canada at — 1 800 277 9914  
and/or — servicecanada@gc.ca.

**Wednesday, May 7th Honorary Members Luncheon 12.00-3.00 P.M.**

Masonic Temple, Pembina & Osborne (confusion corner).

Tickets: — \$15.00 each; free parking, easy bus access.

Help honour those who have given so much to the Association over the years as well as an enjoyable day with old friends.

**Honorary Members are: — John Almdal & Maralyn, George Clements & Doreen, Jim Harris & Gerda, Fred Humprey, Vern McGregor & Barbara, Stan Stiwik & Leona, George Turnley & Gerrie, Lawrence Webb & Florence.**

**Egon Stanik, at 668 2552 needs your help!**

**Egon** has a model railroad HO locomotive that requires a wheel replacement "job".

When he took it to the retailer for repairs, they were only interested in selling him a new one. Give him a call if you can help.  
He'll pay for your time and work.

**ANNUAL RETRIEMENT BANQUET  
SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2008**

Canad Inns Club Regent Casino Hotel  
1415 Regent Ave. West  
Cocktails at 16.30 — Dinner 18.00

Sponsored by the: —

B.L.E./T.C.R.C. and the U.T.U.

There are 16 Locomotive Engineers being recognized and 18 Conductors recognized by the UTU locals 990 & 1874

Tickets are \$40.00 each and available from: —

Ken Fox  
832 3720

Bill Dance  
222 6592

Dino Plawuchi  
222 7797

Cost of printing and mailing  
this Newsletter is born entirely by the local pensioners Association.

**Volunteers in mailing:**

**Tom Cassels, Lyle Corbett, Joe DeReuck & Myrtle, John Derksen, Eleanor Grey, Hank & Verona Gosselin, Jim Harris, Harry Kaye, Marge Jacobson, Lloyd Lovie, Tom Nicholl, Karl Olafson, Chontel Paterson, Bill Reilly, Mel Rusiecki, Gerry Savoie, Peter Sliwa, Gord Stein, Egon & Helga Stanik, Wally Thomson, plus the Executive Members and Wives.**

**Thanks to you all**

**Harvey**

**National Council Directors:—**  
**2007-2008 Atlantic Region**

John McNeil Halifax  
 Reg Hebert Moncton VP  
 Bruce Peacock Moncton Treasurer  
 Bren Everard St. John's NL

Quebec Region

Reginald Cloutier Quebec VP  
 Jean-Noel Cloutier Jonquiere  
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Chuck Lewis Coquitlam  
 Sig Poepfel Kamloops  
 William Whiteman Edmonton V.P.

Past President:

Ron Davis Winnipeg

Executive Secretary:—

Wayne Greeland Mount Peart NL

Liaison Officer

Peter Maslak London

These people all volunteer their time to represent you. Legitimate expenses are paid.  
**Women are encouraged to run for Directors positions on the National Council.**

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**Jim Miln**, retired CN pensioner compiles personal income tax.

I know that tax returns must be completed and date marked by April 30th. Call **Jim** at 253 0137

.....  
 For Revenue Canada individual income tax inquiries call 1- 800 959 8281

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**An Editorial Comment:—**

Why did we get such a small cost of living increase for qualifying pensioners on our January pensions?

Two things we should be thankful for ....

- 1 The inflation rate was so low in the continued

12 month checking period which was 1.8%

2 That qualifying pensioners receive a cost of living increase as most private pension plans do not have this provision.

Why didn't we get the 1.8% rate? The formula used is that when the 5% threshold (or \$351. Million ) is exceeded re the Escalation Account, the vehicle that finances the indexing formula (at 12/31/06 the balance was \$552. million) we participate at the maximum rate of 60%.

In 2000, the CN Pension Committee in their wisdom withheld \$130 million that was 'ear-marked' for additional pension improvements to be applied the following year, but in 2001 the stock market went "into the tank" and this money along with it. The old saying "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" is a phrase that comes to mind, but then "hind sight" is wonderful.

The other item that had a financial effect on the Escalation Account was the reduction of \$198.3 million in 2005. This had never been satisfactorily explained to me by the Company but never the less it remains a fact.

The good news is that the actuarial assumptions, provided that market remains strong in 2008, is that the 10% threshold will be exceeded in 12/31/08 and pension improvements should be the order of the day.

The National Council has determined that their number 1 priority is that the maximum indexing rate should be increased from 60% to 100% for qualifying pensioners.

The 10% threshold is \$703 million. This figure is derived from the actuarial liability of all pensioners on an "on going basis" related to the CN Pension Trust Fund which is, as of 12/31/06 has a market value of \$14,837., billion or \$7,030 billion.

We as pensioners and all members of the CN Pension Plan should be grateful for the guidance of the CN Investment Division President, Tulio Cedra-

shi who is retiring as President and C.E.O. of CN Investment Division as of January 31, 2008.

At several investment presentations made by President Cedraschi he was always articulate and patient answering questions from the likes of myself and a quote that I remember well he said, "that no question is a dumb question". When I asked why he was selling a particular holding, he stated that in his opinion, the directors of the company were too greedy and the investment had served "us" well.

Since 1970 when investment records of the CN Pension Plan became public knowledge, the Fund has shown a smoothing return of over 10%. This is remarkable as there have been some poor investment years as well as "good ones".

How vital are investment returns relative to contributions? In 2006 the Company and the actives contributed \$135 million while the CN Pension Plan paid out \$858 million in pensions and lump sum returns. The difference of \$723 million was made up by the Trust Fund.

Lets hope President Cedraschi's replacement has had a good training background.

The so called "basket of goods" that Statistics Canada uses to determine the consumer price index over a 12 month checking period doesn't seem to match my cost of living costs. What with the price of a barrel of oil nowadays, which affects everything transported to the grocery stores, sewer and water increases that we hope guarantees safe water and proper sewer disposal, prescription drugs, reality and school tax increase each year reflecting their costs re labour and replacement costs and the list goes on. Please, will someone out there hear our plea for a better share of the pie.

**A Practical Application of Our Indexing Formula:—**

As the cost of living increases for all equally, let's change the payment from the percentage increases to an equal payment for **ALL** qualifiers.

The lowest pensioner recipient receives the least but it cost them the same as the higher recipient.

Income Tax Time is fast approaching. If you file your own income tax return the following might be of interest:

**JOINT ELECTION TO SPLIT PENSIONER INCOME**—form T-1032 a two page form must be filled out to accompany your return. Revenue Canada’s phone number for required forms is 1 800 959 2221.

Line 116 is the appropriate line on your return where you will enter this amount.

The two page form advises the proper procedure on how to file and what your spouse or common-law partner’s responsibility is.

.....  
The average exchange rate to convert U.S. funds to Canadian dollar for 2007 as provided by the Bank of Canada is 1.0748%.

If you are an International pension recipient, U.S. funds must be converted to C.A. dollars to be included on Line 115

PERKS OF BEING OVER 60

Kidnappers are not very interested in you.  
In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first. No one expects you to run — anywhere.  
There is nothing left to learn the hard way.  
Things you buy now won’t wear out.

You can live without sex but not your glasses.  
You get into heated arguments about pension plans.

You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.

Your eyes won’t get much worse.

Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can’t remember them either.

You can buy a lifetime supply of things without financing.

**Membership Application We recommend \$1.00 a month off your CN pension cheque. Please mark “New or Renewal”**

Please accept my application for membership in the **CN Pensioner Association of Manitoba**. The annual fee is \$12.00, due January 2005, by cheque mail to address shown or by pension cheque deduction of \$1.00 a month. Phone **Wayne Zaharia** with your P.I.N. at 694 5133 to arrange for pension cheque deduction.

I wish to pay my membership fee, (check one)

(     )     Pension Cheque Deduction

(     )     \$12.00 Cheque enclosed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your application to:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

**CN Pensioners Association of Manitoba**

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**P.O. Box 2669**

P.I.N.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Winnipeg MB, R3C 4B3**

Phone Number: