



Special Points of Interest: CNR Station at Rivers Mb

This railway station in Rivers Mb was built in 1917. The station was designated a National Historical Site in 1992. In 2008, Via relocated its facilities serving The Canadian from Brandon North to Rivers.

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CN Pensioners' Association of Manitoba

Meetings held at 1:30 p.m. on the 1st Wed of the month at the Norwood Legion, 134 Marion St., Winnipeg except for the months of July, August and December

www.cn pensioners.ca
www.facebook.com/cnpensionersmanitoba



Summer 2017



Grace Garroni turned 100 on March 31st, 2017. She celebrated her birthday with all her family. Eighty plus people attended the party at her son's home.

Grace is an amazing cook. She bakes her own bread and buns. She receives all her children in her home on Christmas Eve, making chili, buns and other goodies. Every second Sunday, Grace invites one of her children's family for dinner. Grace excelled in artwork, painting in pencil and charcoal.

Grace's children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces travelled from Lethbridge, Calgary, Toronto, Dundas, Squamish, Fairmont, Hot Springs and Wasaga Beach. Grace was blessed with 8 children (1 deceased), 20 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild. Grace knows all their birthdates, names and ages. She sends birthday cards to all of them. She is the "Matriarch" – go-to-person.

On behalf of the CN Pensioners' Association, Joanne Gaborieau presented Grace with a plaque to commemorate her reaching this milestone. She was deeply moved by CN's gesture.

Grace was married to Herbert Garroni. He worked in the Purchasing Department as a Customs Agent in Winnipeg's Federal building.



Pension Committee Report

Within a month you will be receiving your 2016 Annual Report from the CN Pension Committee. For the first time a personal information sheet will be included with your spousal and, if elected, your beneficiary designation. Check to ensure all information is correct. Any questions or changes can be directed to CN Pension and Benefits Administration 1-800-361-0739.

Executive Council 2016—2017

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Janet Lewis Anderson
Linda Schram
Joanne Gaborieau
Albert Delbaere
Ron Davis, N.C. Advisor

Membership Report - Joanne Gaborieau

Total paid membership - 3894
Pension Cheque deduction - 3825
Fees paid by cheque - 69

Welcome to the following New Members. Hope to see you out at the meetings. We look forward to your participation in the Association!

Allan, Robert	L'esperance, Patricia
Bain, Florence	Lamoureux, Claude
Barbour, Charles	Lotocki, Beverley
Bates, Geraldine	McFadzean, Douglas
Biggs, Douglas	Millar, Judy
Boyer, Stephen	Morken, Kenneth
Drall, Gary	Rutherford, Miles
Dumontet, Doug	Sheldon, Kevin
Feteira, Jose Carlos	Smith, Robert
Futz, Stella	Southall, Dolores M.
Gach, Irene	Stroet, Adrian
Giles, Beulah	Wasylenchuk, Kelvin
Honer, Donna	Wilcock, Margaret
Johnson, Charles	

A hearty welcome to all new members and an especially warm welcome to those who have attended their first General Meeting where they received a Pensioners' pin:

April: Thomas Dare, Henry Smadella, Kurt Miller, Jim Feeny, Garry Hebert, John Bouche, Anthony Bezdek, Joe Bernard, Gord Lockyer and Ash Gysel

May: No First Time attendees

June: Eugene Czynryj

Birthday Draw:

April: Rory Simpson

May: Al Madriga

June: Linda Schram

July: Ron Davis

Attendance Draw:

April: Art Jones, Anthony Bezdek, Gloria Gorin

May: Bryan Labarge, Mel Martin, John Poersch

June: Brent Tingey, Marcel Ratte, Dave Allan

Door Prize:

April: Marion Molnar, Roy Asselstine, Donna Bremner, Gerit Vanderklok

May: Dave Allan, Bryan Harmer, Kevin Rekiel, Gary Bell

June: Ken Carroll, Dennis Boboski, Dave Allan, Kevin Rekiel

We invite spouses to become associate members for all the benefits of the association including the privilege of voting.

Special Events - J. Wayne Gorin

Our meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at the Norwood Legion on Marion Street and commence at 1:30 p.m. Many arrive earlier to have coffee, donuts and a visit. If you are interested in helping out in any way please contact Wayne at 204-224-4084.

Guest Speakers for Upcoming Meetings:

No meetings held in July or August. See you all at the September 6th meeting when our guest speaker will be:

Lori Yorke from Snowbird Medi-Quote Insurance Brokers. A must for snowbirds and all who travel.

Our October meeting will be held at the Transcona CN Campus, 650 Pandora Ave East.

Enjoy your Summer.



Annual Golf Tournament:

will be held on Tuesday, June 27th at the **Kingswood Golf Course**. Start time is 9:30 a.m. Cost of \$87.00 per person



includes golf, a shared cart, a bbq steak dinner and a prize. Entry must be paid by June 16th. For further information contact Ron Davis @ 204-489-4485 or email: ronvel@mymts.net

Here are some scores from last year:
Lorne Gardiner-78, Jack Sinninghe-88,
J P Poitras-89, Marlon Terlicki-91,
George Lintick-92 and Burk Lusansky-92.

Shooting Star Trip:

The next Shooting Star Casino trip has been scheduled for October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Book your seat soon as the bus fills quickly.



For more information, contact Albert Delbaere @ 204-256-8419 or email: albert1a@mymts.net

CN Eco-Connexions Tree Planting:

The CNPA of Manitoba would like to thank Richard Barrett, Betty Steffens and Thelma Souliere for representing the CNPA at the CN Eco-Connexions Tree Planting in Brandon on May 24th.

Pictured from left to right: Back row

Richard Barrett - CN Pensioner
Barry Cullen - Assistant Deputy Mayor (Brandon)
Betty Steffens - CN Pensioner
Thelma Souliere - CN Pensioner
Larry Maguire - MP (Brandon-Souris)
Dustin Schollenberg - CN police

Front row:

Ken Fosty - Tree Canada
Kate Fenske - CN



Outreach Chair's Report - Rose Chapman 204-832-1105

(Mail Outreach info to 186 Windham Rd, Wpg, R3J 3B8 or email:
(rchapman17@shaw.ca)

Outreach Committee:

George Lintick	204-254-1032	Mel Rusiecki	204-255-1361
Linda Ksionzek	204-669-8308	Albert Delbaere	204-256-8419
Jack Moore	204-224-1019		



Please contact any member on the Outreach Committee with information on pensioners who are hospitalized, or ill at home, and on those who have had or will be celebrating special birthdays or milestone anniversaries. **Remember—please keep us informed!**

Happy Birthday Wishes To:

Correction: Roland Fiola celebrated his 75th birthday on April 25th, not his 85th as reported in the Spring newsletter.

Albert Belhumeur - 87 - June 6th
Sally Bezpalko - 99 - June 21st
Bill Brychka - 89 - August 25th
June Brychka - 85 - June 7th
Dean Danforth - 84 - July 15th
Georgette Fiola - 76 - August 15th
Bill Gerelus - 75 - July 19th
Mary Gilmore - 100 - July 11th
Don Graham - 85 - May 24th
Mary Harkness - 100 - July 6th
Ken Ivanyshyn - 76 - April 17th
Lorna Ivanyshyn - 74 - March 10th
Barry Jackson - 80 - July 22nd
Edward Kelsey - 90 - July 25th
Jean Koralewicz - 86 - July 21st
Denise Larocque - 81 - April 21st
Nell Macauley - 101 - June 20th
Mark Malashewski - 65 - July 14th
Tom Nicholl - 91 - July 8th
Bill Osachuk - 78 - April 8th
Mary Pyra - 100 - August 26th
Hugh Ritzer - 95 - June 24th
Mel Rusiecki - 80 - May 18th
Eric Schultz - 86 - April 30th
Don Smith - 86 - May 17th. *He achieved 30 years retirement last December 31st and is enjoying every minute of it.*
Maurice Trepanier - 85 - August 11th
Bernie Wielgosh - 86 - April 29th

Happy Anniversary To:

Bill and June Brychka - 67th Anniversary on June 7th
Joseph and Helen Caronia - 40th Anniversary on August 20th
Mike and Lavaughan Dubeck - 56th Anniversary on April 15th

Roland and Georgette Fiola - 55th Anniversary on July 28th
Bill and Marlene Gerelus - 54th Anniversary on May 4th
Herb and Alice Hein - 60th Anniversary on April 27th
Ken and Lorna Ivanyshyn - 52nd Anniversary on August 28th
Garry and Julie Kesterke - 50th Anniversary on July 15th
Peter and Jean Koralewicz - 65th Anniversary on June 7th
David and Myra Logan - 25th Anniversary on August 29th
Claude and Irene Martin - 45th Anniversary on May 18th
James and Violet McDougall - 70th Anniversary on July 5th
Gordie and Donna Moar - 54th Anniversary on June 28th
Jack and Bev Moore - 39th Anniversary on June 3rd
Bill and Gail Osachuk - 55th Anniversary on June 29th
Vern and Margaret Peterson - 67th Anniversary on May 27th
Michael and Bernice Polischak - 65th Anniversary on June 30th
Paul and Simone Rivard - 70th Anniversary on July 1st
Ray and Lorna Rybuck - 65th Anniversary on August 23rd
Eric and Erna Schultz - 64th Anniversary on April 25th
Ernie and Alice Smith - 65th Anniversary on August 5th
Murray and Val Strong - 60th Anniversary on August 31st
Edward and Mary Ann Yagilashek - 57th Anniversary on June 30th
Ernie and Gwen Yakiwchuk - 36th Anniversary on June 13th

To those previously mentioned on our Sick List, we hope that you are feeling much better. To those who are currently ill or still experiencing health problems, please know you are in our thoughts. The membership joins us in extending Best Wishes for a speedy recovery. We have received reports and updates on the following Pensioners' since the last newsletter:

Sick List:

Leslie Atkin had a stent inserted recently. He is home and is doing well.

Joe Beaulieu is home from hospital, recovering from pneumonia and is doing very well.

Madeleine Delbaere is on maximum chemo pills and has more good days than bad.

Robert (R.J.) Larocque, of St. Boniface, fell recently and injured his hip. He is in St. Boniface Hospital and has had two surgeries to stop the bleeding.

Eric Schultz is now in Bethania Personal Care Home after suffering a broken pelvis. He is being treated for prostate cancer. Eric has difficulty walking and is now using a wheelchair.

Angele Thienpondt is now home and is slowly improving.

Edward Yagilashek broke his femur last July and spent two months in an Edmonton hospital, followed by two months in the Winnipeg Victoria Hospital. He now uses a wheelchair and a walker. Ed is also being treated for prostate cancer. He has macular degeneration and is left with about five percent side vision.

Obituaries: The following pensioners have passed away since the last report (* denotes member of the Manitoba Pensioners' Association).

Laura Adam	Sven Haglund*	Sylvester Parker
Leonard Ariano	Donald Hassman*	Helen Perchaluk
Grant Beakley*	Sally Hildebrand	Eugene Prusak*
Kelville Blanchette*	Anna Hodgson*	Leo Quigley
Harold Boychuk	Gerald Honer*	Fred Radford
Adolph Boyko	Margaret Johnson*	Joaquim Reis
Murdina Brownlee*	Arthur Kidner*	Slaw Ribachuk*
Marinus Busser*	Henry Klassen*	Shirley Richlo*
Phyllis Calvert*	Stan Kowalski*	Colleen Rindall, <i>wife of Joe</i>
Donald Collins*	Eugene Kutcher*	<i>Rindall*</i>
Inga Demchenko*	Lorraine Lambert*	Allan Robertson*
Thomas Douglas*	Dorothy Laurie*	Sylvia Robertson*
Joan Dumontet*	Charles Lesperance*	Dorothy Ryan*
Elizabeth Dyzandra*	Kristina Lindquist	Isaiah Saunders*
Edna Empey*	Teckla Luczenczyn	Czeslawa Sieklicki
Doreen Erlendson	Elizabeth Lutz*	Garry Sowa*
Marie Field*	Angus MacLellan*	Audrey Stevenson *
Maria Figueiredo	Anna Malanczuk*	Bernice Swistowich*
Alexandre Fouillard	Bruce Massey	Catherine Taylor*
Agnes Galayda*	Raymond Mihalyk*	Leah Taylor
Eva Giardino	Howard Mitchell*	Wally Thomson*
James Gibbons*	John Murphy*	Wallace Titanich*
Eila Gill, <i>wife of Robert Gill*</i>	Jenny Najdych*	August Wagner*
Wasył (William) Gnutel*	Amelia Neyedly, <i>mother of Ken</i>	Irvin Walker*
Donald Gordon*	<i>Neyedly*</i>	Jan Wiersema
Eleanor Graham, <i>wife of Don</i>	Dorothea Nugent*	Edna Yaeger*
<i>Graham*</i>	Ted Olbert*	
William Gray*	Harold Pappin*	

The CN Pensioners' Association of Manitoba extends our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.



Congratulations to the following:

Jim McKendry - \$500 to the Canadian Cancer Society for his volunteer work.

Janet Lewis Anderson - \$500, this is an additional \$500 to Daughters of Nile whose philanthropy is for the Shriners Hospital for Children. The additional \$500 is through the "Refer a CN Friend" Incentive.

Kathy Krokosh - wife of Jim Krokosh, applied for and received a spousal grant of \$250.00 for the Daughters of the Nile, whose philanthropy is for the Shriners Hospital for Children.

Rose Chapman - applied for and received a grant of \$500 for the Grace Hospital Auxiliary.

Myra Logan - wife of David Logan, applied for and received a \$250 spousal grant for the Grace Hospital Auxiliary.

Bert Andrews - applied for and received a \$500 grant for the Winnipeg Seniors Amateur Radio Club.

Harvey Hosfield Bursary Program 2017

The CN Pensioners' Association of Manitoba is continuing to offer a Bursary Program to the children, grandchildren or great grandchildren of members of the CN Pensioners' of Manitoba who are members in good standing and in receipt of a CN Pension as outlined in the Terms and Conditions of this program. Deadline for applications is August 15th, 2017. We want to remind all new applicants as well as those who were **NOT** successful recipients in previous years, that as long as your application meets all of the Association's criteria, you can re-apply for the current year. The application requirements can be found at www.cn pensioners.ca.

CNPA of Manitoba Trade Bursary

CN Pensioners' Association of Manitoba has introduced a Trade Bursary for children, grandchildren or great grandchildren of members of the CN Pensioners' Association, who are members in good standing and in receipt of a CN Pension as outlined in the Terms and Conditions of this program. The intent of this bursary is to assist financially in the educational pursuit and career development of families of the contributing members of the CN Pensioners' Association of Manitoba who are going into the Trade industry.

Applications must be received by August 15th, 2017. A link to the Application and Terms and Conditions can be found on the home page of our website at www.cn pensioners.ca.

National Council Scholarship Program 2017

The National Council of the CN Pensioners' Associations will once again be offering a Scholarship Program. After reviewing the results of last year's program, we are pleased to advise that we have made some enhancements to the program.

Deadline for applications for the 2017 program will again be August 15th. For more information, and to down-load the Application, Terms and Conditions, visit www.cn pensioners.org and then click on the Scholarships tab. Children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of CN Pensioners who are members in good standing and in receipt of a CN Pension are eligible.

Please note: all applications will only be received by email and must include all scanned or electronic supporting documents.

Health Care Committee Report - Linda Schram

Are you taking too many medications?

If you are, you are not alone. About 2/3's of seniors in Canada are taking up to 5 different medications on a regular basis and about a 1/3 of them are taking up to 10. While seniors represent only about 15% of the population, they use 40% of the drugs prescribed. The number goes up the older we get.

CN Pensioners covered by the CNPA Health Care Plan for CN Pensioners are no different. Most of the drugs we are using on a regular basis fall into about 5 major categories. The highest number of the drugs prescribed and paid for by our Plan generally fall into the following categories: 1. Hypertension/High Blood Pressure/Heart Drugs. 2. High Cholesterol. 3. Gastrointestinal or Stomach/Ulcer/Reflux Issues. 4. Diabetes. 5. Osteoporosis or Respiratory related Issues.

Will you need to be on these drugs forever?

Your Doctor is the one who fully understands your specific medical history and should always be consulted before you change your lifestyle or eating habits. But today, several medical agencies and medical experts in Canada are promoting a healthier lifestyle as a way to potentially reduce your dependence on prescription drugs. So discussing with your Doctor your ability to get more exercise, to start eating healthier and maybe losing some weight might have a positive impact on your health. It may assist you in the future with the drugs you currently take, or possibly avoiding additional drugs. The next time you go to get your prescription refilled by your Doctor, ask him about things you might be able to do to reduce your requirements in the future. You might be surprised what he says.

Talk to your Doctor. Before you visit your Doctor, you may want to do a little preparation so you can ask more specific questions. One thing that will be helpful to your Doctor and you is what your Body Mass Index or BMI is. This is a measure of your weight and height that determines if your weight is in a safe or healthy zone. Your Doctor will likely want to discuss the types and amounts of food you eat regularly, so make some notes. You may not like his recommendations, but they may help you live longer, healthier and maybe with fewer medications. Staying active and any amount of exercise is always helpful. So talk to your Doctor about what type and amount of exercise he recommends to fit your current medical or physical conditions and capabilities. Your Doctor will likely help you create a plan, or maybe get you to see a dietician, or others to assist you. You have to be motivated, follow their instructions and keep track of what you do to change your approach to your health so you can share that with your Doctor on future visits.

We will be adding healthy living related links and articles to our CNPA website (www.cnpensioners.org) HealthCare section from time to time. So please go to the CNPA website, or get someone to help you get online and read information that you may find helpful. As a reminder, always ask your Doctor before you change anything related to your health.

Here are just a few agencies and associations which offer healthy lifestyle tips.

Canadian Diabetes Association - <http://www.diabetes.ca>

Heart & Stroke Foundation - <http://www.heartandstroke.ca>

Government of Canada sites:

GC - Healthy Living - <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/healthy-living.html>

GC - Healthy Eating - <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/healthy-eating.html>

GC - Physical Activity - <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hp-ps/hl-mvs/pa-ap/index-eng.php>

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email:

If so, please send an email to:

Joanne Gaborieau @

joannegabor@hotmail.ca

Janet Lewis Anderson @

jelretiredmama@hotmail.com or

Jack Moore @ jandbmoore@shaw.ca

We currently have 257 members who receive their newsletter by email which means they receive it quicker and it also helps reduce our mailing costs.

CNPA Bowling League:

CNPA Mixed 5 pin bowling league meets every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at Billy Mosienko Lanes. New bowlers are needed for the start-up in September 2017. If you would like to join or spare, contact:

Ron Yarema - President

Dean Danforth - Treasurer

Donna Bremner - Secretary



Tick Season is Here - Be Tick Smart!

What is Lyme Disease?

Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses are infections by disease causing pathogens such as viruses, parasites, and bacteria that are contracted through the bite of an infected black legged tick (also known as a deer tick). Lyme can be transmitted by other ticks as well, although this is less common. There are currently three reportable tick-borne illnesses found in Manitoba:

Borelliosis (Lyme) - first reportable 2009

Anaplasmosis – first reportable 2015

Babesiosis – first reportable 2015

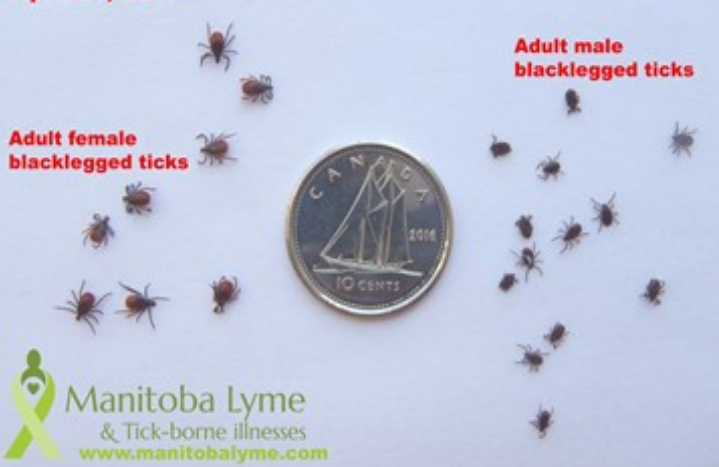
Quick Facts:

According to the Centre for Disease Control, lyme disease is the fastest growing vector-borne infectious disease in the U.S. affecting more than 300,000 a year. This has huge implications for us as well.

Fewer than 50% recall a tick bite.

Fewer than 50% develop the telltale bullseye rash.

**Blacklegged ticks collected from Seine River Greenway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
April 21, 2017**



A tick can be the size of a poppy seed and therefore easily missed. Lyme Disease is known as the “Great Imitator” as it mimics over 300 illnesses including MS, Chronic Fatigue, Fibromyalgia, Parkinson's, ALS, Alzheimer and many others. A “Negative” test result does not rule out lyme disease. The current lyme test only looks for one strain of the lyme bacteria, nor does it test for other tick-borne pathogens. Early treatment has better results. If not caught early, treatment and recovery can be much more challenging.

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Prevention:

Walk in the centre of a trail; avoid leaf litter and long grass

Wear light colored clothing, long pants and tuck them in your socks

Wear bug repellent containing at least 20% DEET

Shower or bathe after being outdoors

Do a proper full body tick check (hair, scalp, ears, armpits, waist, groin, bellybutton, behind the knee)

Don't forget to check your clothes and your pets for ticks

How to Remove a Tick:

Disinfect your tweezers!! Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth parts with tweezers. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water. Save the tick in a sealed tight container with a damp cotton ball so it can be identified and available for future testing. Never crush a tick with your fingers. With tick removal the head may get stuck, remove as you would with a splinter or sliver. Remove with a sterilized needle or tweezers. Wet the bite spot first. If the head of the tick remains inside, the salivary glands may still be there so the risk of contamination is still possible. If you can't get it out, go to your doctor or a Walk-in Clinic. Do not use other methods as they might irritate the tick thus increasing the chances that the tick might produce extra saliva and then regurgitate it into you.

What Next:

Take a photo of the tick; Note the date, time and geographical location of where you were bitten and submit to: MB Health, Seniors and Active Living at <http://forms.gov.mb.ca/tickSubmission/>

The tick can be submitted for testing to:

Cadham Provincial Laboratory

750 William Avenue, Wpg

R3E 3J7.

If you have any kind of a rash, take a photo of the rash. If the rash you have is a bullseye type rash, this is confirmatory of Lyme disease. Seek immediate medical attention and treatment.

If you don't have a visible rash, you may still have been infected with another tick-borne disease.

Symptoms of Lyme Disease - some examples are: Spasms or weakness, numbness and tingling, ringing in the ears, swollen lymph nodes, fever or chills, malaise, headache, stiff neck, nausea, cough, anemia, night sweats, vomiting and/or diarrhea, sore throat, sore joints or muscles, abdominal pain, dizziness, Bell's Palsy, insomnia, heart palpitations and more.

Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections can affect each individual differently. Please be sure to discuss with your doctor any concerns that you might have. For a copy of the MB Health Physician Letter (we recommend you print this out and take to your doctor) and Tick-borne Disease Quick Reference Guide, please visit:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/hcp/2017/040717.pdf>

http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/tickborne/docs/tbd_guide.pdf

For more information:

Manitoba Lyme Inc: www.manitobalyme.com

Facebook: Manitoba Lyme & Tick-borne Illnesses

A Short History of The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway

The busy Canadian National Railway line, which passes through the Municipality of Daly carries both freight and passengers from coast to coast. The re-introduction / or relocation of the passenger depot from Brandon North to the Town of Rivers has put that town back on the map of important railway towns. The line has its origins with the Grand Trunk Pacific, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Grand Trunk Railway, which established the Town of Rivers as a divisional point on its new line in 1908.

At that point The Grand Trunk Railway was a well-established successful company, it had completed a line between Montréal and Toronto in 1856, then expanded rapidly through takeovers and new construction. It built the Victoria Bridge over the St. Lawrence River at Montréal, a bridge over the Niagara River and a tunnel under the St. Clair River at Sarnia. By the 1880s it had lines from Chicago to the Atlantic coast, and ranked among the largest railway systems in the world.

As the twentieth century approached, railway operations in western Canada were under the control of the Canadian Pacific, which in 1885 had completed its cross-country line, and by the Canadian Northern which had begun the start of a second transcontinental. The Grand Trunk had missed an opportunity to expand westward in the 1880's when the Canadian Government was actively seeking bids for the construction of a transcontinental line.

The R.M. of Daly was without any rail connection until 1902 when the Great Northwest Central Railway built a line from Forrest to Lenore. The new villages of Bradwardine, Wheatland, Pendennis and Carnegie were established on that line. All of these names except Carnegie were already on the map as Post Offices but locations were changed.

In 1903 the Grand Trunk established a subsidiary, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, to build a line from Winnipeg to the Pacific. This Canadian company was incorporated by act of the Dominion Parliament, 24 Oct. 1903 (The National Transcontinental Railway Act). It was a time of seemingly endless prosperity and growth, and its creation was encouraged by the newly-elected Liberal government of Sir Wilfred Laurier at the urging of Sir Charles Rivers -Wilson, Chairman of the Grand Trunk Railway.

The line was constructed using loans provided by the Government of Canada. The company had a mandate to build west from Winnipeg, Manitoba to the Pacific coast at Prince Rupert, British Columbia. East of Winnipeg, the Federal government would build the National Transcontinental Railway (NTR) across Northern Ontario and Quebec, crossing the St. Lawrence River at Quebec City and ending at Moncton, New Brunswick. The conceptual plan was to have GTR operate both GTPR and NTR as a single transcontinental railway, competing with the Canadian Northern Railway (CNR) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR).

This second Canadian transcontinental rail route would feature a terminal on the Pacific that would actually be nearer to Asia than was the existing terminus of the C.P.R. at Vancouver. It was to follow one of the routes surveyed by Sandford Fleming much earlier for the first transcontinental line and rejected. The original survey ran from Winnipeg to Port Simpson at the end of the Portland Canal, which formed part of the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska.

Under Charles M. Hays, the Grand Trunk's energetic general manager who also became Grand Trunk Pacific's president, the new company pushed its line west.

Construction began on the Canadian Prairies in 1905, the year that the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were established with the first sod turned near Carberry, Manitoba on August 29. Construction proceeded west to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1907, Edmonton, Alberta in 1909, and through Jasper, Alberta into Yellowhead Pass crossing the Continental Divide in 1910-1911. The last spike ceremony heralding completion of the rail line across the prairies, and through the Rocky Mountains to the newly constructed seaport at Prince Rupert, British Columbia was held one mile east of Fort Fraser, British Columbia on April 7, 1914.

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In 1907 the Grand Trunk Pacific entered the municipality from the east with stations at Levine and Myra, and most importantly, a divisional point and major town at Rivers.

In 1910, the company also built a dock in Seattle, the Grand Trunk Pacific dock, which was the largest dock on the west coast at the time it was built. On July 30, 1914, the dock was destroyed by fire.

In Manitoba, villages with either sidings or stations were created in alphabetical order, starting just west of Portage la Prairie with the siding known as Arona and continues with Bloom, Caye, Deer, Exira, Firdale, Gregg, Harte, Ingelow, Justice, Knox, Levine, Myra, Norman, Oakner, Pope, Quadra, Rea and Stenberg. The next two letters are reversed, so Uno comes before Treat, while Victor concludes the sequence in Manitoba.

The Grand Trunk Pacific was a widely anticipated and vigorously debated attempt to create a new transcontinental rail line. It was optimistically pursued and for a relatively short time was a very influential factor in the development of Western Canada. This vital connection to the rest of the country forever changed life in Rivers and area. Rivers was just the right distance from Winnipeg to be designated as a divisional point. It would require a large station, a roundhouse and a host of storage, maintenance and house facilities.

The GTP proved to be controversial for Hays as he was criticized for various decisions, such as choosing Prince Rupert as the Pacific terminus, underestimating Mackenzie and Mann's competing CNR system, and committing the entire Grand Trunk company to the GTP project. Hays' zeal to pursue construction of a well-engineered mainline in lieu of developing a network of branch lines for feeding local traffic proved to be a considerable hurdle as well.

The railway, although located in a more northerly latitude than any of the existing transcontinental lines, passes through elevated territory in a lower altitude, considerably lessening the cost of operation. The line crosses the extensive region of the Canadian northwest, which is enormously rich in agricultural and mineral products.

As president of the Grand Trunk, Hays committed to competing with the CPR in a number of other areas, namely shipping and hotels. In fact Hays died while returning from England to Canada where he was scheduled to attend the 26 April 1912 grand opening of the Château Laurier Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario. Hays had chosen to return from England on the maiden voyage of the ocean liner RMS Titanic, which struck an iceberg south of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland the night of 14 April and sank. Not long after Hays' death, the Grand Trunk reneged on its agreement to operate the federally owned National Transcontinental system east of Winnipeg, and the Grand Trunk soon faced financial ruin over its decision to build and operate the GTP west of Winnipeg, particularly after the First World War caused traffic on the prairies to decline precipitously.

Despite some advantages, the GTPR had not immediately realized the traffic potential they had predicted. The CPR occupied the more populous southern route in the prairies through Regina, Saskatchewan and Calgary, Alberta to Vancouver, British Columbia and was using land grants provided by the federal government as well as government incentives to draw immigrants and businesses to settle along its route. GTR did not have a coordinated marketing plan, and efforts at further settlement were disrupted by the First World War.

By 1919 it was obvious that the GTPR was not paying its way. The financial strain broke on March 7 when GTR defaulted on repayment of construction loans to the federal government, whereby the GTPR was nationalized and taken over by a Board of Management operating under the Department of Railways and Canals while legalities were resolved. On July 12, 1920 the GTPR was placed under the management of Crown corporation Canadian National Railways (CNR) and in 1923 was completely absorbed into the CNR.

While the Grand Trunk Pacific may not have been successful as a National enterprise, locally it was an important stimulus to the economy, a convenience to the citizens, and an influential factor in the lifestyle of the region. The Town of Rivers owes not only its very existence to the railway, but a great deal of its character and success came directly down those rails.

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