

# Remembering Keith Hunt



**W**hen Keith Hunt passed away on April 21, we mourned a great Canadian and a great railroader. Keith began his railway life in 1940 as an apprentice electrician in the London Shops. Like so many of his generation, he put his life on hold in 1942 when he enlisted in the RCAF. As a member of 437 Squadron (The Huskies) he became one of only a few navigators to become a commissioned officer. He held the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

After the War, Keith returned to the London Shops to continue his apprenticeship. CN granted him a leave of absence to study at Queen's University where he graduated in 1951 with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Keith soon advanced through the managerial ranks and held operational positions in Belleville, London, Toronto and Montreal. When he retired in 1981 he was Corporate Vice-President Administration.

Most people would sit back and breathe a sigh of relief that their working days were over, but Keith Hunt was different. For the next 16 years he was a leading force in the CN Pensioners' Association and the pensioner representative on the Pension Board (later the Pension Committee). Jim Campbell in Victoria and Paul Hawirko in Edmonton worked closely with Keith during this time. Here are a few of their comments when hearing of his death.

Jim Campbell – Keith Hunt was one of the finest people I ever had the privilege to know and work with. I got to know the measure of the man when we were working hard to make our case as CN pension reps that CN would do well to listen to our collective pensioners' concerns. Keith was most knowledgeable in statistics pertaining to actuarial matters and he always weighed both sides of any controversy before taking a solid stand.

Paul Hawirko – I worked with Keith on the National Council and on the old Pension Board for some eight or nine years and always had nothing but respect for his gentle but effective leadership. He had a wealth of knowledge of our Pension Plan and Trust Fund. He devoted most of his retirement years to trying to improve the lot of all of us pensioners. May his memory live on as one of the early pioneers who assisted Dick Worraker in the formation of our National Council. He carried on Dick's work for many years in different capacities.

We extend our sympathies to Keith's widow Marion, and his daughters Lynn, Dawn, Victoria and their families.

*If you are interested in learning more about Mr. Hunt, please refer to the July 21, 2008 issue of the Globe and Mail.*