



ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



November 10, 2025
(8 pages)

Everyone,

On November 4th, we had a casual drop-in lunch at the Mennonite Museum where we had perogies, sausages and borscht with good conversations. The ADRTA executive then met for our November meeting to plan the next few months.

Our next outing is the Christmas luncheon on December 9th at the Bradner Hall on Bradner Road. Be sure to let me know if you would like to attend! We will have games, prizes, turkey dinner and lots of laughs and fun!

Our February meeting will be our annual Games Afternoon where we dust off the old games and learn new ones. We always start the afternoon off with games of Bingo just to warm up! Come for the conversation and laughs!

Enjoy this calm period before Christmas starts. Take time for yourselves and enjoy not doing anything! I hope to see many of you at some point during the next few months...

Cheers,

Gloria

Prez

P.s. Our committee work on the History of Abbotsford Schools, "What's in a Name?" has won a national award! Hooray for us! More details later in the newsletter!



This should be sent only to those whose level of maturity qualifies them to relate to it...

1966 : Long hair

2025 : Longing for hair

1966 : KEG

2025 : EKG

1966 : Acid rock

2025 : Acid reflux

1966 : Moving to California because it's cool

2025 : Moving to Arizona because it's warm

1966 : Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

2025 : Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

1966 : Seeds and stems

2025 : Roughage

1966 : Hoping for a BMW

2025 : Hoping for a BM

1966 : Going to a new, hip joint

2025 : Receiving a new hip joint

1966 : Rolling Stones

2025 : Kidney Stones

1966 : Screw the system

2025 : Upgrade the system

1966 : Disco

2025 : Costco

1966 : Parents begging you to get your hair cut

2025 : Children begging you to get their heads shaved

1966 : Passing the drivers' test

2025 : Passing the vision test

1966 : Whatever

2025 : Depends



It's a Red and Green Christmas!



Wear something red or green or both and have a chance to win a prize at our Christmas luncheon!

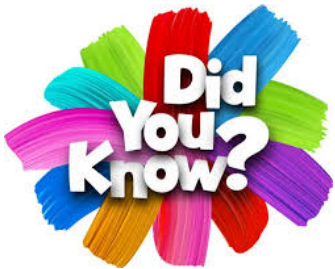
Where: Bradner Hall
5305 Bradner Road

When: Tuesday, December 9th at 11:30 am for coffee, tea and visiting. Food service begins at 12:15 p.m.

RSVP: Gloria (604-854-6194) or gloriaadam@shaw.ca or gloriaadam28@gmail.com by December 2nd!

Cost: \$30.00 pay at the door. If you are one of our Super Seniors, your meal is paid for! Just make sure you are on the list!

Enjoy: A turkey dinner with all the fixings, games, door prizes and a visit from those two old hippies, Harmony and Flower. Don't miss out on all the fun!



Centuries ago, ancient Celtic peoples revered red- and green-coloured holly plants for being evergreen, and they believed holly was meant to keep the Earth beautiful during the dead of winter. They used the bright plant as a symbol of protection and prosperity in their midwinter celebrations.



District Communications Team Wins Two National Awards of Excellence

October 20, 2025

The Abbotsford School District's Communications Team has been recognized nationally for excellence in school communications, earning two Awards of Excellence from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) for its Journey to 2036 and What's in a Name? Projects.

The honours were announced on October 18th at the 2025 BRAVO! Awards, where education communication professionals from across Canada gathered to celebrate exemplary work in public relations, marketing, and engagement across school districts.

Presented annually, the Award of Excellence is the highest recognition for education communications programs and campaigns in Canada. This year, the CACE judging panel reviewed 57 submissions in the Communications Project category, with only 18 projects achieving a score of 90 points or higher - and the Abbotsford School District was the only organization in Canada to receive two Awards of Excellence in this category.

"These awards highlight the creativity, strategy, and collaboration that define our work," said Kristi Ferguson, Senior Manager of Communications & Community Relations. "We're proud to tell the stories that connect our schools, celebrate our students and staff, and strengthen relationships across our community."

Superintendent Dr. Nathan Ngieng congratulated the Communications team on this national recognition, noting how their work advances the district's vision and strategic priorities.

"Our Communications team continues to elevate how we share the Abbotsford story - with heart, integrity, and purpose," said Dr. Ngieng. "Their storytelling helps our community see the strength of our schools, the dedication of our staff, and the incredible potential of our students. These awards are a reflection of that meaningful impact."

About the Award-Winning Projects:

Journey to 2036 is a video series created by the Communications team that follows a group of Abbotsford students from Grade 1 through to Grade 12. Each year, the students share

their thoughts, dreams, and experiences, offering a glimpse into their learning and growth as they move through school. The second season of the series will be released in January 2026. [Read more about the project →](#)

What's in a Name? is a collaborative legacy project in partnership with the Abbotsford Retired Teachers Association, exploring the origins and stories behind the names of Abbotsford's schools. The initiative preserves local history while celebrating the individuals and communities that have shaped public education in Abbotsford. [Learn more about the initiative →](#)

The BRAVO! Awards Program is the only Canada-wide initiative recognizing excellence in school board communications. They showcase the best in storytelling, strategic engagement, and innovation across the country.

The Abbotsford School District congratulates all 2025 BRAVO! Award winners and extends special recognition to its Communications team for their ongoing leadership in connecting students, staff, and community through storytelling.





Bursary news:

This year our bursary will be given to two Robert Bateman Secondary students. The amount will be \$1000 each to pursue post-secondary education.

If you would like to donate by cheque, bring the cheque to the **Christmas luncheon on Dec. 9th** or send it to Erin in the mail (if not on strike...).



She will send it in to the R. R. Smith Foundation for you and you will receive your tax receipt as soon as possible.

Please note: **Wednesday, December 31st: Deadline for cheque donations:** Cheques must be postmarked on or before December 31st, 2025 and received by our office no later than January 15th, 2026.

Cheques should be payable to Vancity Community Foundation and mailed to: 409 - [312 Main Street, Vancouver B.C. V6A 2T2](#)

Remember to put: "Friends of Abbotsford Retired Teachers Association" and let Erin know (erinmquast@gmail.com)

Wednesday, December 31st: Deadline to donate online: Receipts for online donations are provided instantly by email.



Donate online to our bursary fund in 10 easy steps! (Actually 11, but who's counting?)

1. Go to the Vancity Community Foundation at vancitycommunityfoundation.ca
2. Click "Funds" at the top of the Home Page.
3. In the box type in **R. R. Smith Community Fund** (upper or lower case).
4. Then, directly below, click on "RR Smith Community Fund".
5. In the "Donate" box, choose from the given amounts or enter your own value.
6. The "Leave a Comment" box is optional. I just leave it blank.
7. Click "Donate".
8. In the "Summary", go to "Your Information".
Click "**Organization**". **This is the MOST important step!** In the "Organization Name" box enter your "**Friends of Abbotsford District Retired Teachers.**", **email and phone number.**
Click "Review",
9. If the information is correct, click "Continue".
10. Enter your Credit Card information and Address. **Check it all.** Click "Pay".
11. **Let Erin (erinmqvast@gmail.com) know immediately that you have donated and the amount so that we add it to our total.**

Please be generous!



Ida Gladys McDonald

October 12, 1921-April 1, 2025



Ida's lifelong ambition was to be a teacher, she fulfilled this role in Saskatchewan as well as several locations in BC. She spent her last 18 years of teaching at South Poplar Elementary. She lived to be 103, amazing!



George Winston Peary

October 30, 1940-September 29, 2025

George led a multi faceted life as an educator, politician, mentor, family man and community builder. He will be missed by his many friends, colleagues and especially by his family members.



In the recent Postscript there was a notice that Donna Burgar has passed away. I have been unable to find any information about Donna. If anyone has a photo or information where she taught, please let me know.