

February 12, 2026

Everyone,
Happy Valentines Day!

We had a great afternoon on Wednesday, February 11th where we gathered at Dave Sagert's party room in his complex and had a couple of hours of playing games and chatting with friends and former colleagues. We had approximately 28 members and guests!

We started off the afternoon with three games of Bingo with Doreen Petersen as our bingo caller. We then broke off into smaller groups and played various games such as 99, mahjong, crib and the dice game that Bev Alting brought and taught us all to play!

Door prizes were given out as well as a prize for wearing valentine colours (red, pink, white) and we enjoyed the delicious treats, especially the blueberry cake made by Dave for the event!

We will do this again next year, so try to join us for a lot of fun!

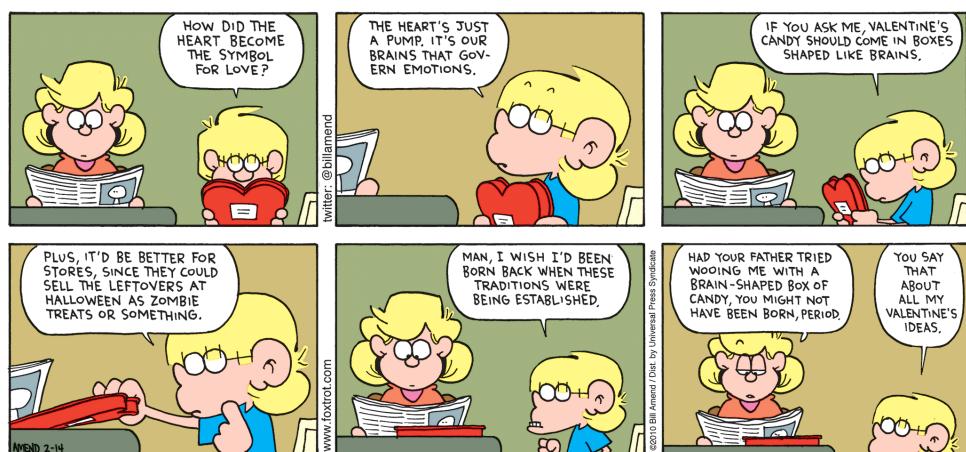


Devastating news this week to hear that the community of Tumbler Ridge had experienced such a terrible tragedy with the school students and staff being terrorized by a gun person. So many lives taken in a short space of time as well as having children shot and hospitalized with serious injuries. Our thoughts and prayers are with the community and we will be sending our condolences on behalf of the ADRTA to the Tumbler Ridge Secondary School.

We have some more events planned for the spring but not confirmed. We would like a representative from Dogwood Insurance to come and talk to us about the new Dogwood plans for BCRTA members and as well we would like to hear about the health of our pensions in this turbulent, crazy world. (I have a feeling we are ok, but it's nice to hear!) We would combine these two speakers along with coffee, tea and goodies for an informative afternoon! More details as they unfold!

As always, I have included photos of our fun afternoon later in the newsletter. Wishing you all lots of sunshine, good health and enjoy each day as it comes. We're still here!

Yours,
Gloria
Prez





What is a fun fact about February?

- February is the coldest month in the Northern Hemisphere.
- It's the only month that occasionally passes without a full moon.
- February's Birthstone is the amethyst. Like the [violet](#) (purple in color), it represents peace, courage, and stability.



Games Afternoon: Playing Bingo with Doreen as the caller! Carol and Ginny were the grand winners!





BCRTA AGM REPORT – September, 2025 (Worth reading again if you are interested!)

As of January, 2026 the newly formed Dogwood Retiree Benefit Board will take over full responsibility for our Plans using a self-insured model which covers our Extended Health & Dental and Travel Plans.

The new Dogwood Board is responsible to the “members of the insurance plans”, NOT the BCRTA membership in general. The Dogwood Board will continue to employ Belairdirect (previously Johnsons) and Manulife as agents of the plans.

The “Dogwood EHC and Dental plans are “secure, healthy and stable”. The Dogwood Board “controls \$2 million in reserve funding to protect the plans”. This amount is “185% of the amount Manulife would require for a similar, insured plan”. Moving to a self-insured plan “has immediately saved our clients about 4.5% on their premiums”.

A new section in the BCRTA Procedures Handbook entitled Dogwood Retiree Benefit Plans will outline the “structure and responsibilities” of the new Dogwood Benefits Board.

The Extended Health Care Plan will proceed as the **Dogwood Extended Health Care (EHC) Plan**. Beginning January 2026, the Dogwood EHC plan will see an “increase in the life-time maximum to \$500,000 from \$250,000” and the annual maximum for Paramedical claims will increase “to \$1,500 from \$1,000”.

The Dental Plan will proceed as the **Dogwood Dental Plan**. Effective January 2026, Level III “major services”

(“crowns, posts, inlays/onlays, bridges, dentures and implants”) will increase “to \$1,000 from \$700” as the “annual maximum”.

The Prestige Travel Plan will continue as the **Dogwood Travel Gold**. Through April 24 – 25 the Prestige TP saw a growth of 3% in policies to a total of 1,618 insured people. In September of 2025 the plan became a “stand-alone” plan allowing any EHC plan holder to participate. Members no longer have to belong to the Johnson EHC plan to qualify for Prestige Travel which uses “sudden and unforeseen claim criteria” as opposed to the “90-day stability clause” used by “most other travel plans”. “No premium increase occurred in September 2025”.

The Medoc Travel Plan will continue as the **Dogwood Travel Silver** plan. By April of 2025 it was servicing 6,228 people and a premium increase of 2% occurred in September 2025.

The Dogwood Retiree Benefit Board will “continue discussions with other groups with a view to expanding our plans” which may “become more attractive to other similar-minded groups who may wish to join us”.

Quoted from Gerry Tiede's submitted report to the 2025 BCRTA AGM of September 26, 2025.



Playing pool at the Games Afternoon!

Hermann Braun, Shirley Tam, Stan Tam and Dave Sagert in the upstairs activity room!





Heather Darlene Hicks
February 2, 1957-December 27, 2025



Heather had begun her teaching career in Saskatchewan and then Alberta. She taught in Langley and then moved to Abbotsford and started teaching at Terry Fox Elementary where she taught music, choir and Grades 3 & 4.



An accomplished musician, Heather played oboe and English horn in a number of community orchestras throughout the Lower Mainland.

She will be missed by her family, husband Allan and son David, as well as her many friends, colleagues and students. She was an enthusiastic member of the ADRTA and loved coming to our gatherings!

Help!



If anyone has any contact with these members of the ADRTA, please let them know that their contact information at the BCRTA is out of date and if they could update it at: bcrt.ca and go to **Update my member info**. They are missing out on the newsletters and all the fun!

Ernie Sloboda

Jetta Taylor

Laurna Ritchie

Bonita Vaughan-Thomas

Sharon D'Souza

Susan Brayton



Bradner Flower Show

Fairy Garden 2026

The Abbotsford District Retired Teachers' Association would like to invite you to come with us to attend the Bradner Flower Show on Saturday, April 11th.

If you would like to come, we will be gathering at 11:15 am and then proceeding to the Tea Room for homemade soups, sandwiches and goodies. We will all sit together! Bring a friend if you wish!

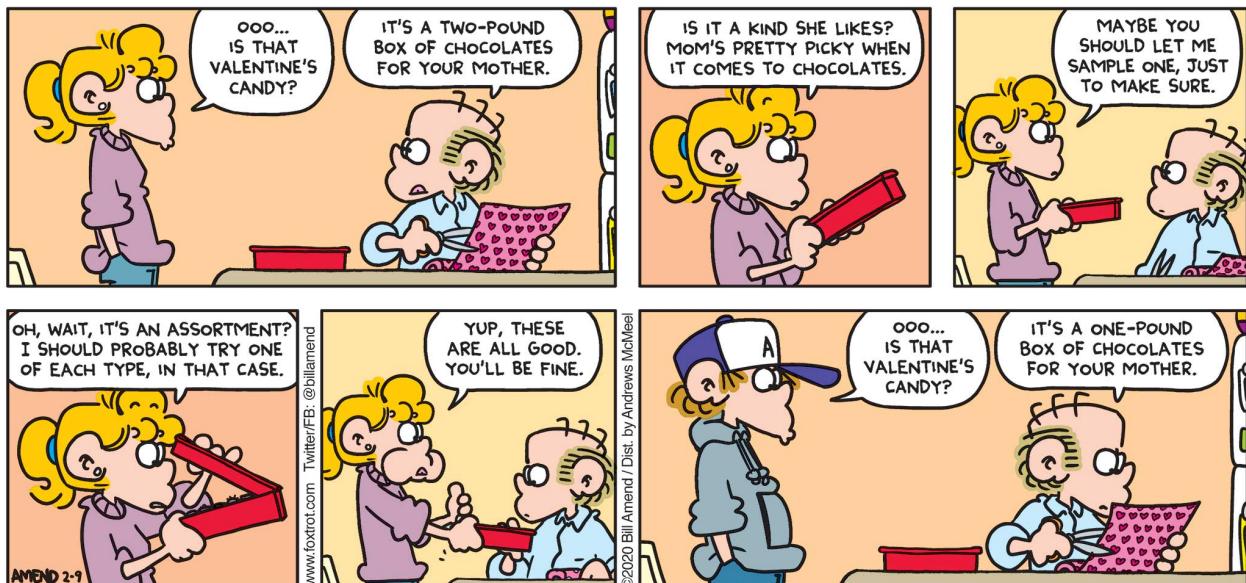
Admission is \$2.50. Proceeds from buying the cut flowers will be donated to the Abbotsford Regional Hospital. After lunch, we will tour the displays and see the 100's of daffodils on display. **This event does not need preregistration, just come!** We hope to see you there!



Cost: \$2.50 per person

When: Saturday, April 11, 2026

Where: 5305 Bradner Road, Abbotsford





Games Afternoon Photos

February 11, 2026



Did you know? Cupid has roots in Greek mythology.

Watch out around Valentine's Day, or else you may be struck by Cupid's arrow. According to [Time](#) magazine, the ubiquitous cherub can be traced back to 700 B.C.

In Ancient Greece, Eros, the Greek god of love, was depicted as a handsome young man and had the power to make people fall madly in love. Over time, he was adopted by the Romans and became known as Cupid, his image changing to the little boy with the bow and arrow.

Because of his love-inspiring powers, he became linked to Valentine's Day by the turn of the 19th century.



