

There's still a foot of snow in the back yard but the pussy willows are blooming!

Janet Koschzeck from Whitehorse Yukon

The title pretty much sums up Janet's attitude. As we have been reporting that Janet has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer. In Vol. 4 No 4 "*From the Yukon . . . April Azalea Bluebells*" Janet told us of how she created a clown character (pictured above) as a way of dealing with the death of a friend – for her, for her family, and for her community. Now Janet has created a new clown Wanda OneBe (i.e., one breast). Here is some of her email correspondence:

“Yes, it's true! The third clown was born last September at the residence for cancer patients, in Vancouver, BC. I will tell you her whole story one day.

“My daughter said, ‘Mum, you're the only one I know of who thinks chemotherapy is FUN!’ My last four treatments took at least 4½ hours, including therapeutic touch done by a friend before the IV was started. Because these last treatments included dinner at 4:30, I started calling them *Dinner Theater* #1, #2, etc.! The "dinner" is self-explanatory and the "theater" was when Janet got tangled in the IV line trying to get to the toilet in time. Picture Janet trying to get a tall IV pole through a bathroom door, unsuccessfully!

“Oh, yes, there were tough times, too, but the support, loving prayers, caring clowns, cards, gifts and meals from many dear people helped us get through these seven months beautifully. Lots of humour certainly helped!

“Someone delivered a bunch of daffodils to our back door today, and I'm thrilled to bits. Here in the Yukon, there's still a foot of snow in the back yard, but the pussy willows are blooming! I'm hoping that while I'm in Vancouver, all the snow will melt here, the mud will disappear and the garden will be ready for my ministrations!”



“The plan was for us to be able to visit each of the children in the hospital after their procedures, but that didn't work out. Unfortunately the lady who was in charge of the floor they were on all at the hospital in Dallas (not my usual Children's Hospital) does not allow clowns on the floor! I couldn't believe it! I even offered to provide references from both major children's hospitals here in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.