

GCPS Progress Report

June, 2021

By Diane Sterne

- Thank you again to Howard Peet for another generous donation to the GCPS! You are AWESOME!!!
- As you know, over the winter the stovepipe at the Delprato cabin was sheared off leaving a gaping 2 foot hole in the roof. Member, Roy Roberts alerted us to the issue and Bob Sterne and I went up to assess the damage. It was worse than anticipated, but Bob managed to put a temporary patch on the hole.
- The patch will not last through the next winter, so I polled members to find out if they wanted the stove pipe replaced and the roof repaired, or just repair the roof and leave the stove unusable. Nine members voted and the votes were 8 in favour of just repairing the roof with one member wanting the stove pipe reinstalled. Since the majority have voted for a repair only, we will pursue that route.
- In the meantime, Bob also emailed Theresa McFarland of Heritage BC, to advise her of our dilemma and ask if she knew of any funds we could access for repairs. She passed on our concern to Roger Tinney. He is Manager of Stewardship and Historic Place Operations, Heritage Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Mr. Tinney spoke with Bob at length over the phone and asked Bob to email him some photos and a synopsis of the situation and the history of the GCPS, which Bob did. Bob advised him we are hoping to find enough money to repair the roof, re-roof the sauna/shed, replace the picnic table (which was flattened over the winter under the snow load), fix the fences at the Cemetery, and put up a sign to indicate the Granite Creek Wagon Road.

After some consideration, Mr. Tinney thinks it may be possible to get some money for the work needed. He asked for a detailed letter with quotes on each job. Bob has managed to get quotes for the sign and the picnic table (which Ernie would make like the ones at the Granite Creek Town Site) and we are just waiting for a quote from Ray the roofer (All Purpose Roofing) Ray is planning on going to see the cabin and shed soon. As soon as we get that quote, we will send our letter to Mr. Tinney.

Ernie Rice has stated he will donate the wood for the Cemetery fences so we will add money for the screws and paint from Mr. Tinney. Ernie has also offered to remove the metal that has been pulled from the pit dump. Thank you Ernie!!

- Bob and I were at the cabin today and the road is drying out really well. It won't be a problem driving in now. On our first visit, the road was very mucky and wet. Also, it should be noted that the new corral up there has two gates. One is usually left open and the other is closed but not locked. The chain is wrapped around to make it look locked. If you do visit the site, please leave the gates as you find them. I would suggest you leave the normally closed gate open while you are visiting the site. This will show the rancher that you are there and will prevent you from getting locked in should she be herding her cows and want to lock the gate. If you see any cows in the area, please try to stay away from them and let them graze uninterrupted.
- When Bob and I were at the cabin today, there was a tree across the road. Bob cut it up and we threw it off the road. It looked like a bird had built a nest in the rafter of the porch but the wind had blown it down. It was lying in pieces on the porch. There were no signs of eggs or baby birds.

Here is a list of the jobs that were done today:

Bob took out a couple of trees in the Delprato “yard” where we would like to put a picnic table (assuming we get the grant we are requesting).

There were no mice in the bucket trap and no signs of them in the cabin. It seems the wood ash that we are spreading around the cabin (more was put down today) is working at keeping them out. I only wish I could say the same for the pack rats. We could smell them upon entering the cabin but there were no signs of them on the main floor or loft.

I went into the cellar and found many nests. There was only one pack rat down there and he was the biggest I have ever seen! Maybe he ate his friends. ☺ I was able to dispose of him with my airgun.

We moved more garbage up from the pit dump but there is still a lot down there. We are going to need some young, strong volunteers to help if we are going to be successful cleaning all of it up. Some of the metal is quite heavy!

Bob took many photos of the cabin roof where repairs are needed (both inside and out) and also of the shed roof. He also recorded measurements for Ray.

I put some bottles of water in the fridge in the cabin. Help yourself if you are in there and are thirsty. Remember that we have a cabin key here if you would like to go inside the cabin. Just return it when you are done.

I took back the salvaged notebook that had been damaged when the roof opened up. It dried nicely and I have it in the cabin. I purchased a new notebook to use now as the old one is a bit wrinkly. I also put in a new deck of cards and the other items I was able to salvage from the roof damage.

- If you have strong, healthy family members visiting and you wish to take them to the cabin, it would be appreciated if they could help pull garbage from the pit dump to the pile near the roadway. We will also be needing volunteers if we replace fencing at the Cemetery.