

GCPS Progress Report

May/June, 2018

By Diane Sterne

- As you know, our May meeting was cancelled due to flooding. This Progress Report includes May and June.
- Howard Peet made another nice donation to the GCPS. Thank you Howard for your generous donation. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!!!!
- Candice Gartner of RDOS finished laying out our signs and they look BEAUTIFUL! Thank you so much Candice!!!!
- Candice also sent us the contract to sign. Bob, George and I read it over and it looks pretty straight-forward (albeit very long at 45 pages). We decided it wasn't necessary to have a lawyer look at it. It is not a Sub-Licence of Occupation. Instead it is a Heritage Services Agreement. Below are some highlights from the Agreement:
 - Every January 31 we must submit an Annual Operating Plan (Schedule G) and an Annual Service Report (Schedule F). As volunteers work at the site we must record their: name, address, date of birth, qualifications, and the dates they started and stopped performing work at the site. These records must be kept for 7 years from April 30, 2020 (when our Agreement ends) so that means until April 30, 2027.
 - The Agreement is for two years beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2020.
 - The Agreement can be cancelled by either party giving a 30 day notice.
 - Our Agreement with RDOS is very similar to RDOS' Licence of Occupation with the Province of British Columbia (which was also in the paperwork).
 - We must have an Incident Notebook (should any incidents occur) and record: what happened, who was involved, where did it occur, how did it occur, weather conditions (if related to a storm event), when did it occur (date and time), names and descriptions of those involved and contact information and vehicle license plate numbers, how was the incident handled, and was anyone contacted to assist (RCMP, RDOS Rep., Wildlife Protection Officer, etc.)
- The mailbox was ordered for the maps from Home Hardware and it is installed at the town. The maps and tri-fold brochures we ordered have also arrived and Bob Sterne dropped off copies of the brochure to: Value Inn, Villager Inn, Sandman, Ponderosa, Evergreen, Countryside, Ace Hardware, the Museum and the Princeton Tourist Information Office. Thank you Bob!
- After a lot of work, the signs have been installed (YAY!). Special thanks to Ace Hardware for giving us a deal on the wood, concrete, and hardware!
- Super THANKS to Bert and Lori Rice! They got up at 5:30 am on May 23 to install the posts for the signs. Bob had made arrangements to help them at 9:00 am, but they decided to get an early start on it. By the time Bob arrived, most of the posts were installed.
- Chris Goodfellow has done an amazing job inserting the new plaque for the cairn. He has secured it really well and painted the cairn with some white paint. It looks like it is brand new again (like in 1958). Thank you so much Chris for the amazing work you have done on this!!!

- Ernie Rice has agreed to make us two really beefy, 8 foot picnic tables for the town site. They cost \$1,000 installed. Thank you so much, Ernie! These should last many, many years.
- Bob Sterne ordered two signs for the ends of the picnic tables that read: Day Use Only, No Open Fires, No Camping, Please Take Your Garbage With You, Thanks For Your Cooperation. We have purchased these from Auto Tac in Princeton. Bob also purchased 2 gallons of stain, 2 brushes and some paint thinner from Ace for the picnic tables.
- Dawn Gardner has offered to stain the tables and suggested doing it before they are assembled (GREAT idea!). Thank you Dawn! As soon as Ernie has all the wood ready, he will contact you to stain them. Hopefully they will be on site for the big “reveal”.
- Bob Sterne purchased three benches (2 for the Cemetery and 1 for the Town Site) and an extra gallon of stain (we think Dawn may need a bit more) from Ace. The benches are installed and look great. They are metal so should last many years. Thank you Bob for doing this.
- I wanted to thank those who posted our sign video on Social Media. This is a great way to get the word out, so thank you for thinking of doing this! Ole Juul has posted the video on the GCPS website. Thank you Ole! I have also given him (for the website) a map with directions on how to find the town site.
- On June 4 we submitted the final report to Anissa Paulson (of the BC | Canada 150 Grant Committee). We have not had any feedback from her regarding this.
- We have \$439.00 for the reveal party. TamAirah and George have expressed an interest in working on the reveal. Thank you TamAirah and George! Is there anyone else who can help them with this? We should discuss what we are hoping to have/do and a date.
- I updated the “Miscellaneous Information from Hare Diary” to include the name of the boy who drowned in the Tulameen River. I gave Ole the revision to replace the previous version on our website.
- Thank you to Dawn Gardner for forwarding me the Heritage BC links she gets.
- I recently spotted an entry in the GCPS guestbook on our website from March, 2018. I had not noticed it before. A man named Gary Parkes was looking for information on Louis Napoleon Marcotte who was his great-grandfather. Louis was part owner of the Granite Creek Hotel and was responsible for having the Coalmont Hotel built in 1911. I have very little information about Louis, but I sent him what I did know. I also asked him if he has any photos of Louis if he could send them to us. I apologized for being so tardy in answering his inquiry on the website.
- Todd Lester collected \$12.95 from a bag of recycle he had from May and another bag he picked up recently. He will bring the money to us when he is next in Coalmont. Thank you so much Todd for continuing to help us with this fundraising!
- On June 6 while we were sweeping off headstones at the Cemetery we discovered someone had been digging in Abdullah’s grave. Abdullah was buried above ground

and his grave is covered in large rocks. Some of the rocks had been pushed aside and fresh ground was visible. Bob immediately filled in the hole with rocks out of respect for the deceased. If anyone ever spots people digging at the Cemetery they are asked to phone the RCMP to report it. It is a crime to dig in a Cemetery and the GCPS will be sure to prosecute anyone caught committing this horrific crime! The RCMP were notified of this as was the press. Global Okanagan did a story on it. Thank you to members who put notes on various Facebook pages about the incident. Hopefully with more traffic at the Cemetery and Town, incidents like this will end. Bob Sterne ordered a proper sign from Auto Tac to put up at the Cemetery. It states there is a maximum \$1,000,000 fine for desecrating a grave.