

GCPS Progress Report

April, 2020

By Diane Sterne

- Even though we are not meeting due to COVID-19, I want to keep all of our GCPS family up-to-date on what has been happening with the GCPS. I will send out these Progress Reports monthly with any news I have to tell you.
- Bob reports the following financial information to date:
20 Members (4 people have not renewed). If you wish to renew, you can do so on the GCPS website at: <http://www.granitecreekbc.ca/>. Click on the donate button at the bottom of the page. Alternately, you can mail a cheque to the Granite Creek Preservation Society at 1841 Main Street, Coalmont, B.C. V0X 1W0. Membership is \$10 per person per year.
Bank Account Balance: \$979.99 (after the Insurance was paid - cost was \$550.00)
Volunteer Hours: 41.5 hours = \$830 (for 2020). A record of our volunteer hours is kept should we apply for a government grant to do work.
- After consulting with our Executive, it was decided that we would go ahead and renew our insurance for this year. If we did not do this and decided to have insurance at a future date (for example, if the Cemetery is successfully re-opened), it would cost over \$700 to start a "new" policy. It seemed more prudent to renew, especially since we had the money available in the GCPS bank account.
- We have not had further discussions with the various government bodies regarding opening the Cemetery. Before we proceed, we are waiting to hear from the families who had originally offered to pay for the insurance costs. We want to make sure they are still onboard to do that as the GCPS cannot commit to this annual cost.
- I prepared a Statement of Significance for the Delprato Cabin which I have submitted to the appropriate governing body. I had it approved by our Executive first, and upon Dawn Gardner's suggestion, added a couple of items in the "Character-Defining Elements" section. I am so happy to tell you that I received an email the next day (March 30) from the Provincial Heritage Registrar. She told me the following:
Thank you for sharing the Statement of Significance for the Delprato Cabin. I wanted to update you that the Heritage Branch has reviewed the information you've submitted and is planning to move forward with submitting a request for a Notation of Interest under the Lands Act for the Delprato Cabin. We will be in touch if we have any questions about the site and what you've submitted as we fill out the necessary paperwork.
This is GREAT news! Since her response, she emailed asking for maps, etc. so that she could prepare the Notation of Interest (this is something that accompanies the Statement of Significance and only a government body can prepare it). I turned that over to Bob as he is the "map guy". He corresponded with her and supplied the necessary information which she was very happy to receive. Now we just need to wait until everything is completed and put together. I want to note, however, that doing this does not "protect" the cabin. What it does is put it on a government map so that in the future, should anyone wish to use the land for a specific purpose that could put the cabin at risk, the location will be flagged and the government will then need to decide what to allow. As an example, the Granite Creek Town Site and Cemetery show up on their map now as a "Historic Environment".

It will also mean that the Delprato Cabin will be listed as a heritage site for the province and country. Being on the Heritage Registry does not limit what repairs, etc. we can do to the cabin.

- The Cemetery clean-up which was scheduled for May has been cancelled due to COVID-19. Having said this, if any of our members wish to do any work there on an individual basis, please feel free to do so. Work that could be done is: sweeping headstones, cleaning headstones (plain dish soap mixed with water and a scrub brush are safe to use), removing downed branches, and fixing fences. If you do any Cemetery cleaning, please let me know at gammierne@gmail.com so I can record your volunteer time in our records.
- Bob and I took the ATV up the Blakeburn Road (a week and a half ago) to see if we could access the Cabin. There was still one foot of snow on the dirt road leading to the Cabin so we didn't proceed. Hopefully things have been safe over the winter without four or two-legged creatures causing any damage. I will report back to you when we are able to get in there. One of our members, Justin Thomson, has expressed an interest in mapping out the old wagon road on the site. That would be most appreciated, Justin, as it will take a younger body to do this job and we know you are very knowledgeable in this. ☺ We thank you greatly, for your offer and hope the weather will co-operate so you can get in there soon.
- If any of our members are visiting the Cabin, Granite Creek Town Site, or Cemetery and notice anything amiss, please report it to us as soon as possible (gammierne@gmail.com). The more eyes we have on these sites, the less likely bad things will happen. Even though we are not working with the RDOS on the Town Site or Cemetery, we are still overseeing them to ensure things are in good order and there has been no vandalism.
- Due to COVID-19, this will be a very different year regarding work on the sites the GCPS oversees. Social distancing will prevent us from having work parties but this does not mean individual members can't do odd jobs should they feel like doing them. All I ask is that you let me know what you are doing and please ensure you follow government guidelines regarding social distancing, etc. We must all stay safe and healthy during these unusual times.
- Special thanks to Howard Peet for his generous donation to the GCPS! Words can't express how much we appreciate your generosity, Howard! Thank you so very, very much!!!
- A couple from Find-A-Grave sent me some information regarding the grave of William Moses. I have added this to the site and have also made notes of the information in my Cemetery binder. Thank you Betty and Dan for your helpful information!!
- Thank you to all our members for your support over the years. We registered the GCPS back in 2013 and have been going strong ever since. We have accomplished a lot and should all be very proud of our efforts to preserve the history of this area.