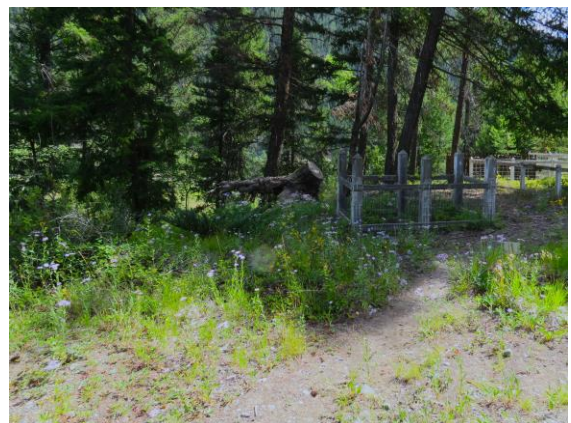


**GCPS Progress Report**  
**July, 2023**  
**By Diane Sterne**

- The new bench we ordered for the Chinese section of the Granite Creek Cemetery arrived. Bob Sterne and I put it in place, and it looks really nice. That should be enough benches now.



While we were at the Cemetery we did a walk-about to check on things. A grave from 2007 had pretty lilies planted on it. It looks like those lilies are spreading with the help of birds and now they are popping up in different places throughout the Cemetery. They are lovely!! There are also quite a few asters coming up.



Some of the graves are getting very overgrown. It would be much appreciated if we could have some volunteers do weed whacking where they see fit.

Maurice Chartrand and Tim Wiebe took out the dead trees in Valley View and the area looks much better. Thank you so much Maurice and Tim for your hard work.



We need help raking up in the Valley View area. There are many small tree limbs that could pose a tripping hazard. If you do decide to rake, you will see an area near Valley View where we are pushing all the tree debris, so you can place the limbs there. Thank you!

- On July 23 Bob and I took a group from the BC Historical Federation on a tour of the Granite Creek Town Site and the Cemetery. It was part of their Annual Conference which was hosted by the Princeton Museum. Thirteen people attended and the tour lasted about two hours. Everyone seemed quite interested and asked many questions. One member is an expert on Chinese graves which were exhumed from old BC cemeteries decades ago. He has promised to write an article for us so that we can include it on our GCPS website.
- **EXCITING DISCOVERY!!!** Greg Nesteroff (who attended the above-mentioned tour) emailed me. He managed to find the **real name** of Frenchy (the Chinese prospector and gardener from Granite Creek). This is something that has evaded me, so I am thrilled that the mystery is solved. Greg learned Frenchy's real name was **Wah Sing**. Greg found two obituaries for Frenchy. One from the Vancouver Sun dated March 22, 1913, and the second from the (Kamloops) Inland Sentinel from June 25, 1913. Both articles claim he was over 100 years old; however, the obituary in the Similkameen Star stated he was 71 years old (more believable). The newly discovered articles claim that Frenchy spoke English, French, German, Chinook and Siwash. They both relate quite a fantastic story of Frenchy previously being a pirate and the captain of a private junk. His vessel was sunk by the H.M.S. Terror in Sandu. His crew was captured and taken to Hong Kong where they were hung, but Frenchy managed to escape to shore. The story states that upon his death, \$500 in gold dust

was found at his home. You can find the articles here:

[https://www.granitecreekbc.ca/archive/The Inland Sentinel Wed Jun 25 1913 \[frenchy\].jpg](https://www.granitecreekbc.ca/archive/The_Inland_Sentinel_Wed_Jun_25_1913_[frenchy].jpg) and here:

[https://www.granitecreekbc.ca/archive/The Vancouver Sun Sat Mar 22 1913 \[frenchy\].jpg](https://www.granitecreekbc.ca/archive/The_Vancouver_Sun_Sat_Mar_22_1913_[frenchy].jpg) Click on them to make them larger for reading.

I am not sure how to verify the story unless we can find the ship's log from the time of the event and that is unlikely, but it does make for a great story.

I am sure Thomas Murphy had a hand at creating both articles as they smack of his work. 😊 **A HUGE THANK YOU to Greg Nesteroff** for his amazing detective work!

- Bob and I have noticed some of the signs on the Granite Creek Walking Tour are beginning to show wear. The sun is cracking the plastic coating on a few of them. At some point we will need to replace them. I think we will ask Jackie at Auto Tac if she might be able to make them rather than have the original place in Penticton print them.
- Financial Report: 20 paid members; current bank balance \$3,249.71; cash on hand \$55.00; PayPal \$96.80; accounts payable to Ernie Rice when he gets the Delprato picnic table made and delivered \$800; owed to Diane Sterne (for bench) \$139.98. Balance is \$2,461.53.