

GCPS Progress Report

July/August, 2025

By Diane Sterne

- It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of our friend and neighbour, Tim Wiebe. Over the years Tim removed trees at the Granite Creek Cemetery and together with Maurice Chartrand, they fixed the Delprato Cabin roof and replaced the roof of the shed at the Cabin. Tim was a man of deep faith, honour and kindness. He never hesitated to help those in need. He will be greatly missed by so many. Our deepest condolences to his wife, Rose-Marie Wiebe and family. Tim has been interred at the Granite Creek Cemetery. RIP Tim.
- Bob Sterne posted on the Tulameen/Coalmont Facebook page asking if there was anyone the GCPS could **hire** to help us at the Cemetery. He received many responses from people who offered to **volunteer** their time and work at no cost to the GCPS. A humungous thank you to Neil Gabie, Lori and Paul O'Toole, and Mike McDonald for offering to help clean up the Granite Creek Cemetery! We met, at the Cemetery, with Lori, Paul and Mike to walk around and explain what we are hoping to have done. Not only do they have the skills and smarts to do an excellent job, but they also have heavy equipment to make the work easier. The GCPS is so fortunate to have them helping us!!! Thank you to all of them!!
- And just like that, the amazing clean-up volunteers have already been doing their magic. I cannot describe how much I appreciate their hard work. Here is a small example of what they have done to date:



You will notice that there was clean-up done at the Granite Creek Town Site as well. Neil Gabie offered to do that, and he has plans to do work at the Delprato Cabin as well! Incredible!

- Bob Sterne and I have added more Walking Tour maps to the mailbox at the Granite Creek Town Site. All of the old ones were gone (a total of 5,000), so the maps currently there are the new design that have QR codes for our website and the Cemetery website.
- I am having a special plaque made to mount on the large tree in the old plots beside the Cook family plot at the Cemetery. It will identify the two plots as likely to be the first and second burials at the Cemetery. The plaque will list the men's names and some information about them.
- This month there have been two interments at the Granite Creek Cemetery. The first was Tim Wiebe, who I have already mentioned. His was a full body burial. The GCPS was paid \$400 for that plot. The second is Gordon Swanson who passed away in 2023. His ashes were buried next to his father's (Bill Swanson) in a previously reserved plot. The GCPS does not charge money for grandfathered, reserved plots. The GCPS will pay for a small, black marker (like the ones we have previously placed) to identify Gordon's resting place. Tim Wiebe's family has a beautiful wooden cross on his grave. Tim's wife informed us that it will be replaced with a stone marker in the near future.
- On the Find A Grave site, I noticed someone had listed a Blakeburn Burial Grounds section with 40+ interments. There isn't a cemetery at Blakeburn, so I spent many hours researching each listing until I found where they actually were buried. I made the correction, and the listing for the Blakeburn cemetery is now gone. I know Blakeburn isn't under our oversight, however, I felt this needed correcting.
- There are still hats and one t-shirt available for purchase. Hats are \$20 each and one 4XL tall shirt we have in inventory is \$35.00.
- Financial Report: 21 paid members; current bank balance \$3,853.46 (\$100 of which is in the Cemetery Care Fund – the government requires us to hold back 25% of money received for an interment); PayPal \$0; cash on hand \$0; accounts payable to Ernie Rice when he builds and installs the Delprato Cabin picnic table \$800 (Chris Goodfellow is talking with Ernie about this project); Total balance \$3,096.08 (this includes the inventory of hats).