

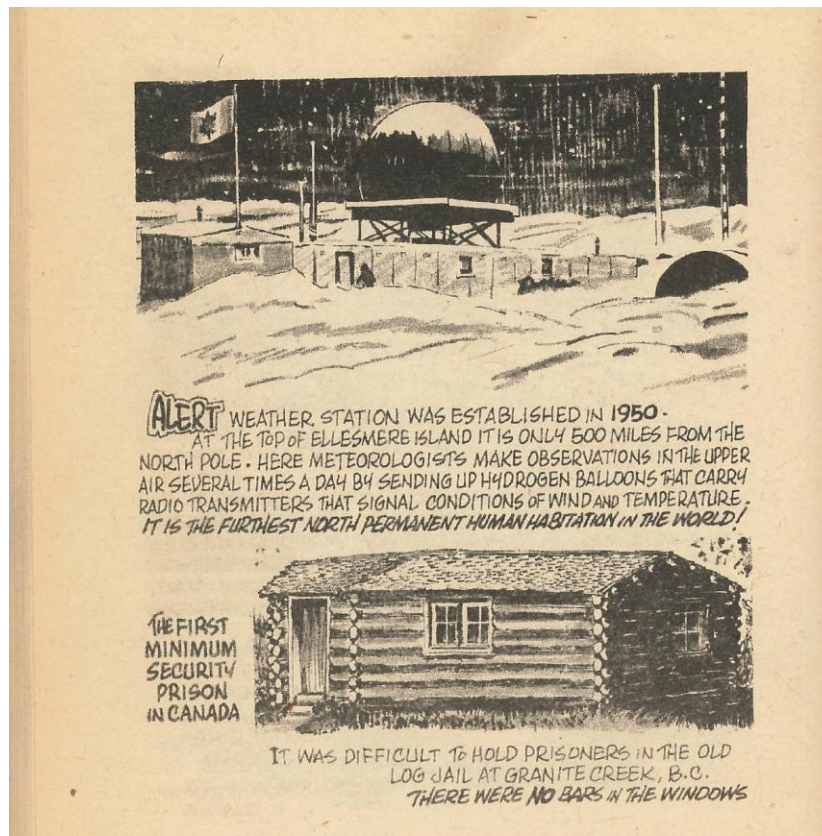
GCPS Progress Report
June/July, 2026
By Diane Sterne

- Bert Rice has built the much-anticipated picnic table, and it now sits at the Delprato Cabin. He did a great job, making us a heavy-duty monster picnic table that is very comfortable to sit at. Thank you so much Bert for your quick, skilled work. This table is a welcome addition to the Cabin property and will last for years to come.



The cost of the picnic table was \$800 as previously agreed to, and Bert very generously declined being paid for replacing the rotted signpost at the Granite Creek Town Site. This saved our group \$200! Thank you Bert for your kind generosity!!!

- Bob and I did some work at the Delprato Cabin. There were two very large holes leading under the Cabin. Bert told us later it might have been from a marmot. We blocked off the holes with rocks and then poured cold wood ashes around part of the Cabin's perimeter. There had been mice in the bucket trap at the Cabin. Mice do not like to cross the ashes, so this is a deterrent to keep them away. I swept the floor inside the Cabin and Bob cut and removed a small tree that had fallen across the path to the outhouse. The inside of the Cabin did not smell of packrats, so that is a good sign they are not in the cellar. Overall, the Cabin looks really good!!!
- Bob Sterne paid our GCPS insurance. The premium was \$660.00 which is the same as last year.
- Greg Nesteroff found a spoof about the Granite Creek Jail:



From a booklet called: Still More It Happened in Canada, by Gordon Johnston, published in 1976. It's a collection of his syndicated cartoon, essentially a Ripley's Believe it or Not! knock-off with Canadian content. Information from Greg Nesteroff,

If only we knew what the jail really looked like. On August 6, 1912, Ernest Eplett died in the jail when it burned down. He was living in the jail (it wasn't used as a jail at that time) and knocked over a lamp while sleeping. The jail caught fire and Ernest died in the fire. Eplett was a miner, about 45 years old, from Cornwall, England. F.P. Cook tried to save him but was unsuccessful. Ernest never married. He was buried at the Granite Creek Cemetery, but we do not know the exact location in the Cemetery.

Years ago, I was contacted by one of Ernest's relatives (Lucky Eplett) who lived in Parksville on the Island. His family in England had been looking for information about Ernest for decades. They knew he had lived at Granite Creek at one point but that was the last they heard from him. Lucky and the family were happy to finally learn what had happened to him.

It is true that the jail never had bars on the windows and that was because the windows were so small, no one would be able to escape through them.

Thank you for sending this bit of trivia, Greg. You always seem to find interesting items!

- Bob contacted Consumer Protection BC and renewed the Cemetery Licence for another year. The cost was \$0. There were 2 interments last year – one full body burial and one cremains.
- Thank you Jon Bartlett for giving me the heads up on a website where you can search many newspapers. It is <https://newshound.tnrl.ca/> It has quite a few articles on Coalmont and Granite Creek and has a great search engine to look for things.
- Neil Gabie has been at work again trimming up the Granite Creek Town Site:



Thank you so much Neil. Your hard work really makes the Town Site look loved and cared for. We are fortunate to have you doing this for us. Neil mentioned that people are leaving their dog waste bags near the Cairn. 😞 It is nice people are cleaning up after their pets; however, I wish they would take the bags away with them. We do not have garbage cans in the town site as people might put food in them and that would be a bear attractant. Thank you Neil for removing the bags.

- Special thanks to Chris and Pat who have recently purchased property in Coalmont. Chris gifted the GCPS with a framed photo of the unveiling of the Coalmont/Blakeburn Cairn. I have donated it to the Princeton Museum. Here is a photo of the photo. Thank you neighbours. 😊



- There are lots of purple asters (I think that is what they are) popping up at the Cemetery. They look quite pretty. The recent windstorms we have had (and continue to have) are bringing down a lot of branches at the Cemetery. If anyone is visiting there, please feel free to remove any that you might see (both on the paths and inside fenced grave areas).
- I am so appreciative of all of our volunteers. We couldn't do this without you. Thank you Lori Frank, Paul O'Toole, Neil Gabie, Ray Boyd, Bert Rice and others who have pitched in or donated to the GCPS.
- Financial Report: paid members 26; current bank balance \$3,389.59 (this includes \$100 for the Cemetery Care Fund that we are required to keep track of separately); PayPal \$96.80; cash on hand \$33.00; balance is \$3,622.01 (which includes the promotional items inventory).