

GCPS Progress Report

March, 2020

By Diane Sterne

- On March 6 the GCPS received an email from Cory Labrecque of the RDOS informing us that the RDOS has cancelled their Agreement with the Province regarding the Granite Creek Self-Guided Walking Tour. This was in response to our emails to him concerning the insurance that the RDOS wanted the GCPS to be responsible for. The GCPS will not be renewing our Agreement with the RDOS for this site. This means that the site will not be looked after by anyone. I find it ironic that what the world is going through now with COVID-19 is partly a lesson in history. By studying the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, we can learn what worked and what didn't work in helping slow the spread of the virus. History does repeat itself, and if we don't study history and learn from it we are likely to repeat the same mistakes. The RDOS has made it abundantly clear that they have no interest in history.

It should be noted that when the GCPS joined with the RDOS to create the Granite Creek Self-Guided Walking Tour, our liaison with the RDOS told us that the GCPS was to be their "poster child". The GCPS would illustrate how much the RDOS cared about the history of this area. As the revolving door of RDOS employees has turned, with each new staff member emerging to work with us, it has become obvious that the RDOS has changed its focus away from historical preservation. It is a sad reality. Our Executive has agreed that a small volunteer group that puts in hundreds upon hundreds of hours of work, should not also be required to pay for that privilege by purchasing RDOS required insurance on the site.

- I sent an email to Ryan Hunt of the BC Museum's Association to inform them that there is no longer an Agreement between the GCPS and the RDOS to look after the Walking Tour. It was the BC Museum's Association that were responsible for the GCPS in getting the Canada 150 Grant that paid for the signs, picnic tables and benches at the Town Site and Cemetery. I felt they should be aware of the change.
- By not renewing our Agreement with the RDOS for the site, the GCPS should be able to move forward to try to re-open the Granite Creek Cemetery (if that is what our members still want). The License of Occupation with the RDOS was holding up the Lease application for the Cemetery. If the GCPS still wishes to become operators of the Cemetery, we will need to find funds to pay for insurance to do this. We have known all along that this would be an issue so now, before we proceed further, we need to decide how we will go about it. Please feel free to email me with your thoughts about the Cemetery and any ideas you might have about obtaining the annual funds which will be needed for insurance should we do this.
- On Feb. 20, I sent an email to Heritage BC asking how to go about getting a Notation of Interest on the cabin we have been caring for. I will let you know when I hear back from them. I also sent an email to Anissa Paulson (who helped us with our Canada 150 Grant Project) to see if she might have suggestions. Sadly, she is no longer working with the BC Museum's Association.
- As you know, our scheduled March AGM has been postponed due to the COVID-19 virus. As a Registered Society, the GCPS is obligated to send an Annual Report to Societies Online after our AGM. I have contacted Societies Online to advise them that our AGM has been postponed until we feel it is safe to once again gather together. Surprisingly, it appears this is something they hadn't thought about. I was assured:

“Your society is currently up to date and in good standing. You are not at any risk to lose your Society status unless you were to fall 2 years behind in filings. Generally speaking you are able to hold your AGM any time within the calendar year.” The person who responded to my email cc’d the Societies Registry to ask *“if there are any unique considerations regarding AGM’s given the recent health concerns.”* As there are many Societies who are in the same boat regarding AGM’s I am glad this is now on their radar.

- We are a family joined with the passion of preserving our history. To my GCPS family I wish you health during these tumultuous times and peace of mind. Stay safe!