

GCPS Progress Report
November, 2020
By Diane Sterne

- We truly have amazing members in our group! One of them is Bill Day who has paid for the insurance for next year!! Bill's generous donation(s) plus the positive feedback from members to get the Cemetery re-opened has prompted us to get the ball rolling again.
- The Cemetery Bylaws, Record of Interment form, and Right to Control Disposition of Remains and Plot Purchase form have all been completed and sent to Tegan Scardillo of Consumer Protection for their files. Tegan has approved them and now we wait to hear about the Lease from Front Counter BC. I am attaching the Bylaws and forms for your perusal. Admittedly, they are pretty boring, but necessary to re-open the Cemetery.
- I mentioned the information below at our AGM, but for those who weren't there I will include it in this Progress Report. I did not have this until the day of our AGM so that is why it wasn't included in the October Report. While this doesn't pertain to Granite Creek, it is related to Coalmont:

I received an email on October 15 from a woman named Fiona Conway. She has worked for ABC Good Morning America, ABC News World, Global and CTV. She has also won many awards including two Emmy Awards for her reports on 9/11 and a Gemini Award. She informed me that back in 1978 she was the producer of a radio station in Ottawa. A cab driver dropped off a destitute man, hoping someone would help him. That man was John Prosper Ralston the world famous harpist and "opal king" who briefly lived in Coalmont.

Fiona got Ralston settled into a home in Ottawa and he died two years later. It should be noted that, while I have tried numerous times to find out what happened to him, I was never successful (now I know). Ralston gave Fiona his diaries and photographs! She wants to tell his story and asked for information I might have. I gave her what I could and also suggested that she donate the diaries and photographs to a museum when she is finished with them.

In a follow-up email Fiona told me she intends to create a podcast of Ralston's story and "who knows maybe one day this could be a screenplay!" I'll let you know if I hear more from her regarding her podcast.

- After our AGM I registered it with the BC Societies online and paid our \$40 annual payment. Our Executive stands as it did last year: Chair - Dawn Gardner; Vice-Chair - Diane Sterne; Treasurer – Bob Sterne; Secretary/Communications and Webmaster – Ole Juul; Directors – Todd Lester, Ernie Rice, Lori Rice. Thank you to all of our Executive for agreeing to stand for another year. Your dedication to the GCPS is greatly appreciated!!
- On October 22 Bob and I managed to get into the cabin to winterize it. Below is what was done:
 - Batteries removed from devices;
 - Pop and water removed;
 - The remnants of the rat nest in the loft was finally vacuumed out (we took in the generator so I could run the vacuum);
 - Went into the cellar and spotted one rat but it ran off before I got the gun down there ☹;
 - Spotted two tunnels in the cellar – blocked them off with a tin can and a jar and then used spray foam around them to hold them in place. Bob used spray foam outside on spots that looked like possible entry points;

Lit the woodstove (thank you Dawn for the lesson last year ☺) and the fixed chimney works great;
Bob put a nail strip above the Delprato sign as rats were peeing on it. I cleaned the sign;
Took some pretty fall photos of the cabin (they are attached);
Bob put RV antifreeze in the mouse bucket trap (no mice were in it);
I swept the cabin floor and porch;
Bob hung the 1930 license plate that Roy Roberts donated, beside the wash board shelf and to the left of the wood stove;
Dumped more wood ashes outside near the cabin;
This year's dead mouse count is 14 and the dead rat count is 4.

- Todd Lester very kindly posted one of the fall Delprato cabin photos on the Granite Creek Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/pg/HistoricGraniteCreekBC/posts/?ref=page_internal
Thank you so much Todd!!!
- Special thanks to Sandra Klein for donating four photos of the Granite Creek townsite to the GCPS website. We think the photos were taken in the 1980's. Thank you very much Sandra!! Ole Juul has promised to post them when he is able. Thank you Ole!!
- Financial Report from Bob Sterne: Bank Balance as of October 30 - \$1856.89; General Funds – \$1856.90; No outstanding bills; Paid Members – 25; Volunteer Hours – 140.5 which equates to \$2810.00.
- We don't usually do too much over the winter months, so I do not plan on sending any more Progress Reports unless we hear from Front Counter regarding the Cemetery Lease or if there is anything significant to report. Hopefully you will all stay healthy and safe during this second wave of the pandemic. I, for one, am very tired of not seeing any of my family or friends and hope that by next summer we will be able to see each other in person again. Take care, GCPS family!