

**GCPS Progress Report**  
**September/October, 2023**  
**By Diane Sterne**

- I am making one Progress Report to cover September and October. This is likely the last Progress Report until our AGM in March.
  
- Special thanks to fellow Coalmontian, Tom English for his unique donation. About a month ago, Tom stopped by our house to give us a chair that is from the Coalmont Hotel. Tom asked that it be placed in the Delprato Cabin. The chair looks quite old and when we received it Bob realized it needed some fixing up. One of the legs was shorter than the rest, the seat was badly warped, and the back rungs were not in position anymore. The wood was also extremely dry. Bob used clamps to flatten out the seat and then glue and plastic wood to keep it in place. He cut off a bit of the other 3 legs and levelled out the chair. Bob also managed to get the back rungs into position and glued in place. After lots of sanding, Bob coated and coated and coated some more Danish oil on the chair. It sucked up the oil and Bob kept coating it until it couldn't absorb any more. I made up a printed note of the donor and the origin of the chair. The note is fastened under the seat of the chair. The chair looks amazing!!! Great work, Bob!! I just wish I had taken before photos so that you could appreciate the work done to repair it. The chair is beautiful and quite comfortable to sit in. **Thank you so much Tom English** for your amazing addition to the Delprato Cabin!!! **Thank you, Bob Sterne**, for fixing up the chair to make it usable again. Below are some photos of the chair inside the cabin:





- On our last visit to the Cabin, I took many photos inside and out. I asked our Web Master, Ray Boyd to add a section for the Delprato Cabin to the Archives part of our website. You can see his amazing work here: <https://www.granitecreekbc.ca/arc-delprato.html>  
**Thank you Ray Boyd**, for making our website so interesting! I am thrilled to have this section on our website to highlight the historic Cabin.
- The Cabin has been winterized as we anticipate cold weather coming soon. There was one mouse in a trap in the oven and one or ? mice in the mouse bucket. They had obviously been there a long time, so it was difficult to determine how many mice were in there. They really smelled bad. Bob held his nose and cleaned out the bucket trap and put antifreeze in it for the winter.
- Unbelievably, someone stole the fairy lights (and accompanying solar panel) that were inside the old oil lamp on the welcome sign at the Cabin. They probably would have taken the oil lamp as well had Bob not fastened it to the ladder it was on. It is disheartening when some people steal from historic sites. We won't bother replacing them as they will likely get stolen again.
- **The railing on the Cabin porch is broken and will need replacing.** It appears the wood rotted and when someone leaned on it, the railing fell apart. If anyone is skilled at such a job (the railing was just made of small tree parts), please feel free to go up there and do your magic. It should be replaced either this fall or next spring.

- The front door to the Cabin is sticking quite badly from the building settling. Hopefully next spring Bob can go in and shave some of it off to make it work better. It might be best to shave the floor boards it is sticking on rather than the door since it is important to have a tight fit all around the door to prevent rodents from entering.
- I wrote an article for Andrea DeMeer for the Similkameen Spotlight paper about Frenchy. I used the obituaries uncovered by Greg Nesteroff (**thank you again, Greg Nesteroff**). She published it in the October 5 edition of the paper.
- We have put out all the Walking Tour Maps in the mailbox at the Granite Creek Town Site. We started with 5,000 maps and have just put out the last 500. The Walking Tour has proven to be a great attraction for tourists visiting the area. I never would have guessed so many people would visit the site. Bob has been pricing out the cost to have the maps reprinted. He thought just printing one side in colour would be more affordable than double sided as it is now. The back of the maps is just thank you's, so are not necessary anymore. We were dumbfounded to realize the costs have gone through the roof!!! Bob contacted the place we used before, but it appears they have been bought out by a new company. Bob was quoted \$750 + \$60 shipping + tax. This is way too costly. If anyone knows of a more economical company to use (Staples is also very costly) please let us know. We originally paid about \$350! I will keep you updated if we find a better price. There is no rush to do this as we just added 500 maps to the mailbox, and they will last a long time.
- Financial Report: 27 paid members; current bank balance \$3563.56; PayPal \$96.80; cash on hand \$0; accounts payable to Ernie Rice when he builds and installs the Delprato Cabin picnic table \$800; owed to Bob for supplies to repair the chair \$60. Balance is \$2800.36