

# GCPS Progress Report

February, 2020

By Diane Sterne

- On Feb. 3 Dawn Gardner sent an email to Elise asking for an update. We'll let you know when we hear more.
- The RDOS has put out their 2020 budget. I was absolutely shocked to discover how much they have cut the Heritage portion. For the entire RDOS, the 2019 budget was \$5,924. For 2020 the budget for the entire area is \$4,457. I am assuming these numbers are the totals for each region. For Area H (where Granite Creek is located) the 2019 budget was **\$553.00**. The 2020 budget is now **\$437.00**. From what I could see, it appears that every area has decreased their Heritage budget for 2020. It is a sad reflection on the RDOS to realize how little they value the Heritage of the area they oversee. To put this into perspective here is how much Area H is spending on other things: Regional Trails - \$10,623; Nuisance Control - \$1,097; Mosquito Control (is that even done out here?) - \$8,585; Illegal Dumping (I don't believe RDOS actually does anything about this other than give permits for volunteers to take garbage the volunteers collect to the Princeton dump - but I could be mistaken) - \$1,357; Noise Bylaw (I don't know as this is a thing) - \$5,808 and Untidy and Unsightly Premises (I have yet to see them do anything about that other than make threats - but I could be mistaken) - \$28,469 (it should be noted this has gone up by \$21,047 since 2019).
- I was contacted by a woman looking for information on the Oxley family. There are 3 graves at the Granite Creek Cemetery related to this family plus I have two very detailed and lengthy emails I received from Bishop Redmile (another family member) in 2009. These emails tell some wonderful family stories. I emailed the woman copies of the Bishop's emails to me as well as photos of the appropriate headstones at the Cemetery. She thanked me for the information. This is yet another, small example of what the GCPS does to keep families connected with their past.
- I went through 4,710 pages of Ocean Arrivals from 1919-1924 under the names beginning with "De" and could not find Joseph Delprato. There was also no record from 1925-1935.
- I submitted a request for information regarding Joe Delprato's citizenship papers. The cost was only \$5 (which I gladly paid). I heard the following from them: "I wish to inform you that, in accordance with the Access to Information Act, an extension of 60 days beyond the statutory 30 day limit is necessary to process your request. This extension is required in order to undertake consultations that are necessary to comply with the request that cannot reasonably be completed within the original time limit." We should hear from them by April 27.
- Together with a letter, on Feb. 4, Bob Sterne returned the RDOS cheque for the 2020 insurance on the Town Site and Cemetery. This money was earmarked to pay for this year's insurance (due May 1) with the intention that the GCPS would renew our Agreement with the RDOS. Bob Coyne made it very clear to Dawn Gardner that this was the last time he would give the GCPS money to cover the insurance. The cheque would be stale-dated this month and as the RDOS said they still need a few more weeks of deliberation, it seemed sensible to send it back. Bob informed them, again, that unless the RDOS would pay for the insurance annually (insurance that is required by the RDOS), the GCPS will not renew our Heritage Services Agreement with them at the end of April. If we do not look after the site, the RDOS will either have to do it

themselves (and pay for insurance and staff to do the job) or back out of their Agreement with the Province. We will keep you posted. It will be very disappointing if we must walk away from this project as the self-guided tour has been extremely popular with numbers of visitors in the range of 5,000 since its inception. These numbers rival those of the Princeton Museum. We must all remain very proud of the hard work we have done to make this site so important to the area. If we walk away, it will be with heavy hearts; but at least we can hold our heads high knowing we did well.

- The GCPS received a very fragile and very old 1911 map that covers Tulameen, Coalmont, Granite Creek, Blakeburn and Lodestone. It was donated by David Gregory of the Okanagan Historical Society. Thank you so very much David for your generous donation! Bob Sterne photographed the map and I have given it to Ole Juul for our website. We will donate the original map to the Princeton Museum for their Archives. FYI sadly it does not show the Bromley Trail; however, it does show other trails (including the old Blakeburn Wagon Road).