

GCPS Progress Report

January, 2020

By Diane Sterne

- A Christmas card was sent out to all GCPS members as well as people from the government who we have been dealing with for various projects.
- Special thanks to Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat for the Christmas party they hosted at their beautiful home. As usual, all of us had a wonderful time!!
- A special thank you to Howard Peet for his generous donation to the GCPS! We greatly appreciate all that you have given to the group over the years. Thank you so very much!!!
- A special thank you to Roy Roberts for his generous donation to the GCPS! We greatly appreciate your generosity to our group! Thank you so very much!!!
- A special thank you to Bill Day and Lynn Wells for their generous donation to the GCPS! We greatly appreciate your generosity and thank you so very much!!!
- Last January I nominated the Granite Creek site for a BC Historical Federation contest for top BC sites to visit. I heard from Mark Forsythe of the BC Historical Federation and he said: "We did not have as many entries for this as we had hoped, but we're thinking about featuring some of the nominations on our BCHF web page." He put together a piece using the information and photos I sent to him. You can view it online here: <https://www.bchistory.ca/granite-creek-ghost-town-granite-creek-preservation-society/> It looks good and will be great advertising for the Town Site and Cemetery.
- Paul Mehrabian sent us some great photos of the Delprato cabin (most of them in the winter). I should be able to use one for next year's Christmas card! Thank you so much Paul for sending these. Ole Juul, if you set up a Delprato section on the GCPS website I will forward these to be included in it.
- I have been trying to find the cremains of Joseph Delprato (if they still exist somewhere) so we can bring him back home to Coalmont for burial. Contacts made have been to: Princeton RCMP, BC Coroner's Office, Special Investigations Unit that looked into the cremains from the Princeton Funeral Home debacle, BC Funeral Association, and the Providence Funeral Home in Penticton that took over old records from closed funeral homes. The Providence Funeral Home said they do not have Joe's cremains as they don't keep unclaimed cremains for that length of time. If they had them at one time, they would have been scattered in a scattering garden. The person at their office who could look up the old records is on vacation. When they return they will go through them. I asked them to contact me to let me know if they find any record of Joe so we will have some closure.
- Lori Rice sent me a photo of Bert Rice so that we can print it off and frame it for the Delprato Cabin. We are trying to get photos of all the previous (and current) claim holders to display on a wall at the cabin. Thank you, Lori, for sending this to us. Bob has asked Paul Mehrabian to send us his photo for the Cabin as well.
- Dawn Gardner very kindly nominated Bob and me for a BC Heritage Award. We will be presented with an award of recognition in the Distinguished Service category. There will be a ceremony in Chilliwack on May 8 so we are hoping to be able to attend.

Thank you so much, Dawn, for nominating us. We feel very honoured to receive this award!

- Bob Sterne was shocked when he saw the service fees for the GCPS account at Valley First Credit Union. We used to pay \$5 per month plus .80 per transaction. Typically we had 2 transactions a month so that was \$6.60 per month. The rates went up to \$6.00 plus a \$2 paper fee plus a transaction fee. This increased to about \$9.60 per month. Bob went into the Credit Union to find out what was happening and they adjusted the account fees. We will now pay \$2.00 per month for up to 30 transactions. FYI apparently Valley First made some changes to their customers' accounts. My business account fees doubled. We asked about them while we were there and they dropped them to less than half what I was previously paying. If you have an account at Valley First I would suggest you check to see if your fees have gone up. If they have, go in and complain and you will most likely get them lowered.
- On Dec. 28 Bob Sterne and I went to Keremeos to pick up various old items donated to the GCPS by Paul Lacny. Paul is 80 years old and was born in Princeton. His father worked in Princeton in the late 1930's. Paul's niece was holding the items for us. The items consisted of old tools, coveralls, boots, a picture frame, a wash board, bow saw, and axes. Thank you very much Paul for thinking of our group and for your kind donation to us!! Dawn Gardner sent him an email thank him for his donations.
- On Dec. 30 I completed Schedule F (Annual Service Report) and Schedule G (Annual Operating Plan) for the RDOS as required under our Services Agreement with them. In Schedule G I stated that in order for the GCPS to renew our Agreement (due in May, 2020) with them, we would need the RDOS to provide the necessary funds to purchase insurance (as required by them). Cory Labrecque of the RDOS has acknowledge receipt of the documents (January 9, 2020).
- Bob Sterne and I have been working on the ladder sign for the cabin. It is completed and looks quite nice and rustic. It reads: Welcome to Joe Delprato's Cabin. We used an old oil lamp that was in the cabin (it was not usable as an oil lamp because it leaked). We put 50 mini solar lights in it and it hangs from the side of the ladder sign. A bird house, shaped like a tea pot, is on the top and a small metal bird hangs just above the sign. I donated the bird house and bird as I had them here at home. The ladder is the old Beatty ladder Dawn Gardner and I rescued from some cabin ruins on the site. The actual sign is made of 3 old boards we found on the ground at the cabin. The words were painted on after the boards were whitewashed. Afterwards they were sprayed with a varnish sealer to protect them. To keep the legs of the ladder a bit protected from damp, I think we will probably sit the ladder on some old bricks that we have at our house. I already had the paint and sealer. The only item that was actually purchased for the project was the string of solar lights and I am donating those. They were very inexpensive and I have a second set should we need it for anything (they came two sets to a package).
- I purchased a set of two smoke alarms (on sale after Christmas at Home Hardware) for the cabin. One of our members noticed that the old alarm that was in the cabin no longer worked even though I had put new batteries in it. When we next go to the cabin, we will decide if we should mount both of the alarms, or just one of them. We could put one in the loft (where the broken one was) and perhaps put one on the main level near the back (away from the wood stove).

- Joe Delprato was known to walk to Blakeburn carrying a bucket of rocks. It is said one could hear him from quite a distance. Bob Sterne and I took an old tomato juice tin and put some marbles in it. Bob tied a rope to it and I have made a sign explaining that it is a reproduction of what Joe would have used to keep the animals at bay - the original version of bear bells. We will mount it outside the cabin in the spring.
- Bob Sterne had a lightbulb moment when he realized that if the GCPS gets the lease to reopen the Granite Creek Cemetery and then pre-sells plots, if, in the future, the GCPS folds, what will happen to the plots that were pre-sold? The Cemetery would likely close but anyone who prepaid would be out their money *and* the plot they purchased. We decided it would be prudent for the GCPS to NOT pre-sell plots. The Cemetery will be a "pay as you go" Cemetery, meaning that when someone dies they will contact the GCPS to purchase a plot for their loved one at the time of need. This will protect both the GCPS from potential liability suits against them and also will be the moral thing to do to protect families from the potential of paying for something they can't use.
- Bob Sterne and I spent the entire day (Jan. 15) preparing a time line of events for the GCPS as they pertain to the sign project, LoO, application for a Cemetery lease, etc. We felt this would be good to have when dealing with the RDOS and other government agents. Cory Labrecque of the RDOS has asked if the GCPS would be willing to pay \$300 per year for insurance. We have not answered him but my personal opinion is still no. I do not feel the GCPS should be paying for insurance that the RDOS has insisted upon, for the "privilege" of volunteering countless hours to maintain a site that is bringing in a lot of tourists to the area and good PR to the RDOS.