

GCPS Progress Report January, 2017

- A Christmas card was made and emailed to all our members.
- On November 29 our Society was registered with the BC Societies Online. This is something new the Government is requiring of all Societies. I went ahead and completed the Societies Online since I needed to do something else for us online as well. I have given Jon our password and user name.
- On December 8 Murv and Shirley invited us to their home together with George, to discuss the idea of hosting an Antiques Roadshow for a fundraiser. The proposal was to use Peter and Marian Blundell of Guardian Estate Appraisals. Murv went to a lot of trouble collecting information from Peter and Marian regarding their costs and then he looked into where to hold the event. The idea was that multiple non-profits in Princeton would work together to hold the event. After discussing the costs of renting a hall, insurance, pay for a custodian to clean up, and pay for a hotel room for two nights for Peter and Marian, it was agreed that it would not be viable for multiple non-profits to be involved with the idea. We felt it would make more sense for the Museum to hold the event at the Museum (no hall costs, etc.) and keep all the profits made for themselves. Shirley was so kind to bake us lots of Christmas goodies and there was coffee and tea. Everything was delicious and we are so grateful to Shirley and Murv for all they did to try to get this idea off the ground. Thank you for a great afternoon!!! I am giving Jon the details of the idea to keep in our records in case we ever want to look into it in the future.
- A reminder that **we will be looking for a new Secretary in March**. Jon has his plate full with other commitments so sadly will not be able to continue on in this role. Please let us know if you would be interested in becoming our new Secretary. Thank you!
- Thank you Jon and Rika for the Christmas get-together that you hosted at your home for the various volunteer groups in the area. It was fun to meet with so many like-minded people!
- I received an email from Heritage BC asking for our organization's support of a Private Members' Bill for the rehabilitation of historic buildings in Canada. "Designed to support those who invest in our cultural heritage, this Bill will have the potential to encourage rehabilitation of properties in the Canadian Register of Historic Places." While the Bill wouldn't really apply to us because it involves a tax credit, I felt it was important to give our support. I sent an email to Dan Albas using a template letter from Heritage BC as well as a letter to The Honourable Catherine McKenna MP, Minister of Environment and Climate Change (as suggested by Heritage BC). I received a response from Dan Albas saying he is in support of the Bill. He asked if he could include our group as also supporting it and I said yes. I then received an email from the office of the Hon. Peter Van Loan, MP - York-Simcoe asking for a quote to use that supports the Bill. Below is what I sent:

In 1885 a gold rush at Granite Creek resulted in the creation of a town that was, in 1886, the third largest centre of population in British Columbia. The town died in 1918 upon the passing of Merchant and Post Master Foxcrowle Percival Cook. The Granite Creek Preservation Society was formed to preserve the history, site and memory of this unique town. Only one building remains - Coomes' cabin. Built after the big fire of 1907 and lived in until the 1960's, today it is a derelict shell. This is one tiny example of Canadian history that can silently disappear.

Canadian historians understand the importance of preserving our past. It is a way to honour those who created this great country and teach our children what Canada was built upon. Unfortunately this comes with a financial burden. The passing of a Heritage Tax Credit Bill is one way to alleviate a portion of that costly encumbrance. Whether Bill C-323 can help save Coomes' cabin or some other building in Canada, if even one historic structure is rescued because of it, the Bill has done its job. Regardless of in whose backyard history might lie, it must be saved. The Granite Creek Preservation Society wholeheartedly supports the passing of the Heritage Tax Credit Bill.

I also mailed the above, in letter form, to the Hon. Peter Van Loan, Member of Parliament, York-Simcoe, Official Opposition Critic for Canadian Heritage and National Historic Sites.

- I received an email from Andrew Sutherland of Forgotten British Columbia (he had stopped by our place a few years ago). He is putting together a piece for BC Magazine about Granite Creek. He asked me for some information and photos which I sent to him. I asked him to send me a copy of the article when it gets published and he has said he would. Andrew also happens to be a computer tech. He said if we have any questions regarding wifi, etc. we could call him to get advice.