



# FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE

## Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

VOL. 9 ISSUE 5

"Cheers, and Happy Holidays!"

December 2005

### THE CURATOR'S CORNER

by Bill Quackenbush

We are in the process of undertaking a major exhibition at Barkerville that will feature clothing, costume jewellery, fire arms and fabric crafts. This exhibit will be housed in the building that is presently known as the Mme. Bendixon building -- (a name change to the Nicol Hotel is being considered). One of the major problems that I have encountered over the time I have been in Barkerville is the issue of presentation. I have had people tell me that there has been nothing new in Barkerville in many years. We have averaged about three to four new exhibits a year over the last 16 years, and still they say that there is nothing new. After I come down from being angry, I take this as somewhat of a compliment. We have put all these new exhibits into Barkerville and they have fit in. However, these comments usually come from people who think they know something about Barkerville but have not been paying any attention.

Quite often, the ideas people have about Barkerville are derived from popular histories, or things that they learned as children that at times skew the history in particular directions. For example, for years it was thought that Billy Barker was a Cornish miner who jumped ship from the British Navy to go gold mining -- because that is what appeared in the popular press. No one bothered to question this. Due to the diligent work of people like Ken Mather, Dorothy Sweet, Sylvia van Kirk and Branwen Patenaude, we have a much better idea of who Billy Barker was. He was a canal man from March, England who was pushed out of work by the advent of the railway. Similarly, at Barkerville, the development of exhibits has rested on the development of the history -- in research. If you think that you know something for certain, it is bound to become a much more complete story at some time in the future. I also know that should you not put forward the product of your research, no one will ever be able to question it. I expect to have people bring in new and important information on a regular basis -- things are always turning up that are pertinent to Barkerville. We try to incorporate these things into the exhibits and presentations and to add to the general knowledge of the area. We also try to direct attention to areas of the collection that will help tell a portion of the story. And that is the purpose of the Mme. Bendixon building exhibits -- to present what we have learned about a portion of the collection and to allow people to get a closer look at some of the artifacts (continued on Page 3.....)

### THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Pat Pickering

Once again we are scampering to finish up for this year and already planning for the next season. There is little to tell that is new since the last newsletter.

#### **Barkerville Hotel:**

The past year has seen the Barkerville Hotel expand in the variety of merchandise and this has proved to be a good move. We hope to continue this trend for next year. We already have a good selection of inventory to start out the new season as well as get us through the "Old Fashion Christmas" weekends in December.

#### **Barkerville Heritage Trust Report:**

The Barkerville Heritage Trust has been busy as well. We have been working on a draft strategic business plan as well as a Vision statement and a Mission statement. At this time, we have put out a Request For Proposal asking for written submissions to complete our five-year Business Plan. We have had several proposals and will make a decision in the next two weeks. We have been meeting by phone conference which has saved both time and money. Last month we met with the staff to let them know where we are at and the direction for which we are headed in the future. We are pleased that our gate numbers were up and although it was a small increase in the revenue side of things, it is a positive beginning. Hopefully things will continue to improve for the next season.

#### **Ghostly Halloween:**

Those of us who participated in the Halloween Shenanigans had a great time. There was a Haunted House complete with witches, mummies and ghosts. There were ghosts and goblins throughout the town. It is rumored that the Grim Reaper hung out at the Barkerville Hotel, with his very own "familiar" Prancer the Cat close at hand who, on command, chased several people down the street. The visitor centre was appropriately decorated for the occasion, complete with spiders and ghouls. There was apple-bobbing, costume contest with prizes for all and a wiener roast. The evening wound up with a spectacular fireworks display.

When this occasion repeats itself at the end of October, 2006, -- and I am sure it will -- it is truly a Barkerville event that everyone should enjoy.

At this time, on behalf of all the Directors, I would like to wish you a Wonderful Holiday Season. Cheers, Pat Pickering.

**INNER WORKINGS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Pat Pickering</b>	<b>747-0112</b>
<b>Vice. Pres. :</b>	<b>Jean Speare</b>	<b>249-5150</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Mickey Ross</b>	<b>992-3320</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Dianne Nysven</b>	

**FOB ADDRESSES:**

Postal: FOB .Box 4152, Quesnel, B. C. V2J 3J2  
 E-mail: fob-barkerville@uniserve.com  
 Web Site: www.barkerville.ca  
 Phone: 250-747-0112

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**Meeting Dates for the remainder of 2005 followed by 2006** remain as posted in the September issue, with the last meeting of the year evolving into our Christmas Party at Jean Speare's domicile, Bouchie Lake.

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**COMMITTEE LINEUPS:**

**TRAILS COMMITTEE:**

Robin Grady -- 992-2008

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Loretta Grady -- 992-2008

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:**

Jean Speare -- 249-5150

**PHONING COMMITTEE:**

Joan Huxley -- 992-2696

**BLACKSMITH COMMITTEE:**

Ray Peebles -- 992-2251

**BARKERVILLE HOTEL:**

Pat Pickering -- 747-0112

**WATERWHEEL COMMITTEE:**

Ray Peebles -- 992-2251

**CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE:**

Dorothy Knudson -- 249-5013

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**REMINDER**

Normally, our December meeting would have fallen on the 1st of December. However, since this meeting has, for many seasons, become our Christmas get-together at Jean Speare's home, it will be held there again this year on Saturday December 3, starting around 6:00 PM. Please phone Jean, 249-5150, to indicate your contribution to the potluck. Thanks!

**BRIEF RE-CAP OF OCTOBER & NOVEMBER MEETINGS**

At both meetings, it was gratifying to have visiting members sit in on the discussions and to have them voice opinions and suggestions. Certainly, the interest is needed and appreciated.

**Business Arising:** from both meetings, the main subject of discussion was the up-grading of the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery Committee. Over the past two or three seasons, the Cemetery has achieved its "place in glory" due to hours of extended care by concerned workers. ( The decision reached at the November meeting is outlined in a short article of its own following the end of this re-cap.)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Trails:** Following a number of some small, some large, enthusiastic work parties, the accumulated slash from the logging of beetle-diseased trees at the Stanley Cemetery was burned and the area generally tidied up. The committee will have an end-of-year meeting to look into activities for 2006.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter in 2006 will go into a trial run of publishing only three times for the year, rather than four. The cost of postage for our increasing number of postal recipients is a "weighty" item

**Membership:** Loretta Grady reported on the committee meeting held in October with Monty Downs, acting CEO with Barkerville Heritage Trust. It was agreed that distribution of membership gate sales would be shared 50/50 between FOB and the Trust. Our share of those receipts will go to a specific project -- or projects as can be managed, which have not yet been designated. Membership cards for the coming season will be available for purchase as Christmas gifts at the Barkerville Hotel during the Old Fashion Christmas. (Dates and schedule elsewhere in Newsletter, along with Membership application form.)

There were no up-to-date reports from the Blacksmith, Phoning or Barkerville Hotel Committees. Larry, the Blacksmith is, however, busy forging items for next year. The Phoning committee is shaping up, and the Barkerville Hotel along with the Christmas Committee will be working on plans for the Old Fashion Christmas in Barkerville. The appointing of a Fund-raising Committee is under consideration as being necessary as soon as possible.

**Barkerville Heritage Trust Report:** (This will be covered in detail in the President's Report.) **Barkerville Report** given by Bill Quackenbush emphasized the need to carry on with the cataloguing of artefacts and he also underlined the expense the job will entail. Presently the Maintenance Staff is working on repairs to eight roofs and have already completed the foundations for a new shop. Bill also spoke of his desire to see progress made in the rejuvenation of various old industries. Once again, Ann Laing will be giving him assistance with these undertakings.

**Old Business: Dave Brown** (Mr. Grimsby of Water Wheel Fame), reported on the progress of replacement of the water wheel and flume. Through West Fraser's generous

( continued on Page 3.....)

(continuing Re-cap of Oct. & Nov. Meetings....

donation of all the logs necessary to complete the project, the rebuilding is expected to start in the spring of 2006.

**Gas Session: (Something new!!)** Following Robin Grady's motion to adjourn the meeting, we sat around for a while airing our views on various things....very informally! We thought about the impact of advertising the Hallowe'en Party in Barkerville next year, as well as more participation in it. We asked Bill Quackenbush to advise Jean Speare (Newsletter) of any and all new exhibits which will greet the visitors to Barkerville next year. We felt that the Highways Department should be involved in the installation and up-keep of a toilet at Blessing's Grave at Pine Grove. We felt that in "signage" there should be more recognition of the Friends. We felt there should be application for grants in the Beautification Program, and someone advised us that Murray Kraus was prepared to donate "old style plants for gardens." .....And with all this impact behind us, who knows how far we will go

**MEETING OF THE WELLS-BARKERVILLE CEMETERY TRUST – prior to the November Meeting:**

Prior to the monthly meeting of the Friends of Barkerville, the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery Trust members gathered to discuss the transferring of Cemetery funds to be under the directorship of the Friends of Barkerville. Members of the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery Trust are Carol McGregor, Bill Quackenbush, Lana Fox, Tony Bensted, Louise Gilbert and John Premischook. Following a period of languishing, the present board will now have the support of the Directors of the Friends, which will administer funds separately and provide additional volunteer support. Tony Bensted put forward all aspects of the Cemetery Fund Committee. Bill Quackenbush outlined the outstanding work to be done on site. Among these were the capital projects of developing more pathways and constructing a memorial facility. Maintenance of existing features covers the reinforcement of an unstable concrete retaining block, the installation of wheel-chair access and the painting and clearing of the perimeter fence.

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**Committees Overlooked on Page 2.....**

**WELLS-BARKERVILLE CEMETERY:**

Tony Bensted -- 992-5958

**B. C.'s 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE:**

Three people are named to this committee:  
Judy Leclercq, Sandee Mackinnon and Dorothy Knudson.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** No names attached to this committee yet.

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*"Christmas itself may be called into question  
If carried so far it creates indigestion."*

-- Ralph Bergengren

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(continuing Bill Quackenbush.....)

The other half of the criticism that I have heard lately is that people are confused about Barkerville because they see it as a Gold Rush town and that we have been moving away from that one-horse style of presentation. Barkerville is much more than a picture book story of the 1870s. It is a study of human behaviour in Northern British Columbia in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is a portion of a phenomena that occurred with the development of the modern world. The free wheeling gold rushes of the 19th century emphasized the independent miner with free thinking thoughts of democracy and free trade, as opposed to the serf mentalities that were part and parcel of Feudalism throughout the earlier development of human social interaction and in gold mining. It is seen in the rushes that crossed Asia in the expansion of Russia during the 19th century. It is seen in the development of the Co-hongs of southern China that spread their influence in a way that is comparable to the Hudson's Bay Company and the East India Company. They were companies sanctioned by an aristocracy to do business with people (i.e. barbarians such as the Malaysians and Europeans) seen to have inferior capabilities and knowledge. All of these aspects form parts of the story that is at Barkerville through presentation of the artifacts, the buildings and the landscapes, along with the many stories of the people who travelled across the world to be part of the history. To tell only the story of the 1870s at Barkerville would leave out 95% of the artifacts, buildings, stories and landscapes that are quite visible to the people who visit Barkerville. To create a false identity by pretending that the Black Smith Shop was not a bus garage built sometime in the 1920s, or that somehow the Victoria morals of Great Britain were transferred lock, stock and barrel onto the streets of Barkerville in 1870 is creating a fantasy that has no basis in reality. Should one wish to build such a "Barkerworld", I would suggest that it be carried out closer to the population that will support it. But do not pretend that it has anything to do with the history of Barkerville. If one would like to enjoy the fruits of many years of research about the Cariboo, its people and their place in the world, then I would suggest that they come and enjoy both the new and old exhibits and take in the one that will be opening on the May 24th weekend. And while you are at it, take a look around at the 125 display rooms, many that have been recently completed, and listen to some of the new stories that are being told by the interpreters -- all is not the 1870s.

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**Two Errors in the September Issue which need correction:**

- 1) First correction, at the end of "Walk On The West Side" by Ursula Benischek, the editor said that these west side trails will probably become part of the "Trans Canada Trail" which is wrong. "The National Trail" -- or "The Hike Canada Trail" is more correct. This lengthy trail is for hikers only.
- 2) While "Quesnel Ski and Sports" is not wrong, the common name in use now is "Quesnel Ski and Outdoors." These errors pointed out means that *someone* reads the Newsletter!



**BOOK REVIEW by Andy Motherwell**

**“SIMON PETER GUNANUT -- TRAPLINE OUTLAW”  
by David R. Williams -- 1982 -- Sono Nis Press, Victoria**

David Williams was a Duncan attorney (and our family lawyer) who turned his legal ability to historical figures in this book and previously in “The Man For A New Country” -- the biography of Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, in 1978.

The story of Gunanut is more or less well known in B. C. in all its many versions. David Williams did considerable research in the provincial archives in Victoria, in newspaper files, in court records, and with Gunanut family members, uncovering in the process much new and more accurate information.

Gunanut became a folk hero partly because he eluded many attempts at capture for thirteen years, finally surrendering voluntarily in Hazelton. He also earned respect for his ability to survive in country not well explored and very harsh. His travels took him to cabins and caches of the Yukon Telegraph Line, by its own merits an amazing project in a vast wilderness.

The author took pains to know the geography by visiting many of the locations such as the old HBC Fort Graham on Takla Lake at the mouth of the Driftwood River.

Gunanut is remembered across northern B. C. with a lake north-east of Hazelton, a road west of Williams Lake, a mountain between Telegraph Creek and Hazelton.

His real name was Johnson but he and his later family used Gunanut ; he died in 1933 after being acquitted in a trial in 1906 in Vancouver. His fellow co-accused, Peter Himadam, was never brought to trial and died while trapping in 1937 on the banks of the Sustut River.

The author concludes that Gunanut was actually guilty by his own admission, to others, through his children recalling the events, and through later evidence gathered by a B. C. policeman.

To really appreciate this book, you need a good map of north-central B. C.. Guy Lawrence in his book, “40 Years on the Yukon Telegraph”, gives one of the versions of the murders; Williams restructures the evidence to support his case of guilty.

Enjoy, as I did!                      Andy  
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**BURSARY ANNOUNCEMENT** Both Correlieu Secondary and Quesnel Secondary Schools have been notified that the Jerry Macdonald Memorial Bursary will be available again for a Grade XII graduating student in 2006. The criteria remains the same -- an original piece of writing of at least 500 words relating to the history of the Cariboo prior to 1900. Preference

is given to a student entering the field of History and/or Journalism. Sponsors of this bursary is the Friends of Barkerville Historical Society.

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**SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP BENEFICIAL**

It has been much more than a month ( September 30) since many of us attended a workshop upstairs in the Reception Centre, Barkerville, facilitated by Alastair Kerr. This was an investment in the continuity of Barkerville for all of us.

Kerr drew members of the audience into the discussion, encouraging their opinions and concerns, and without a doubt instilled all in attendance with a strong feeling of “belonging to Barkerville” and we came to know each other through this sharing of ideas.

Alastair Kerr shot out to us in the audience such questions as : 1) “How do we create authenticity to make Barkerville a good ‘sell’ to the public?” Another point he gave us to ponder: 2) “Should we have the money *first* to carry out the project, or should we produce the idea first and *then* find the finance?”

Kerr reminded us that the aim for consistency throughout Barkerville is important. “Among merchants, interpreters, curator, B & B proprietors,” he advised, “ frequent meetings are a must.”

He touched on changes of venues throughout Barkerville which would keep viewers and frequent visitors interested, this, he specified, as apart from the shows at the Theatre Royal which are the sole decision of the production manager.

At this point, our curator, Bill Quackenbush, expressed that every year, three or four new exhibits *are* assembled, but do not seem to be recognized. It was suggested that we meet with Bill every spring and come up with a promotional plan for the recognition of the season’s new exhibits.

Kerr next placed great importance upon Barkerville achieving international recognition through some annual event such as Eldorado’s “National Goldpanning Championship” which will now be going into its tenth year August 2006. Another suggestion was to have some recognition for visitors who come with personal reasons born of early family involvement.

“Heritage,” Kerr reminded us, “ results from a “value-added” attitude, especially toward original buildings and artifacts.” But adds that we must look at what is sustainable.

A number of varying ideas came from the floor on the subject of “authenticity” and we were once again reminded to ask ourselves, “What is the value of this to Barkerville? Does it have integrity?”

(concluded on Page 7.....)

*For our Christmas Story this year, we have a delightful offering written & submitted by Joan Ramsay Harker of Alexandria.*

### A QUIGGLEY CHRISTMAS

Right smack dab in the middle of Beeootiful Bee Cee, there is a scenic valley where two rivers meet. Nestled in the valley is the town of Quiggley, a place where people care about their town, and about each other.

Most of the people in Quiggley are so happy that they live long and healthy and independent lives. But eventually, some of them find it is time for them to move into Elder Lodge to get the assistance that they suddenly need.

Annie McMartin and Angelina Frank and Amrita Keyla are five years old, and best friends. They met in Mrs. George's kindergarten class in September and immediately declared themselves to be the "TripleA's". Angelina's mother is a nurse at ElderEase.

Annie is particularly interested in the preparations for the Christmas Party at ElderEase this year, because her grandmother has just moved there. Annie misses having her at home and every day she wears the red mittens that her grandmother made for her. Amrita is interested in anything that is important to her friends. --- *and it does sound as if it will be a wonderful party!* Even Santa has promised to attend.

But now, exactly two weeks before Christmas, a terrible thing has happened. Old Mrs. Baker became horribly ill last night, and by the morning, five others have also come down with a mystery illness. Dr. Merriweather and Angelina's mother and all the other care-givers are run off their feet, and the hospital lab is working overtime to find out what is making them sick. Whatever it is, Dr. Merriweather has decided that ElderEase will have to be quarantined for three weeks, and that will mean no visitors, no party, and no Christmas for any of the residents.

It is now Christmas Eve, and snow has been falling all week. The TripleA's have been making snow angels all over the schoolyard at recess -- a whole host of angels. At ElderEase, there is good news. All of the elders who became ill are recovering, and only four more have come down with the mysterious influenza. Still, there will be no party tonight, but all of the elders will be able to gather in the lounge before dinner.

None of the planned activities can take place inside, but all of the relatives and special friends of the Elders have decided to gather outside the lounge window for a candle-light parade. And that is what happens. They all, including the TripleA's, gather in the parking lot in the late afternoon, and as darkness falls, each person lights a candle. Santa leads the parade as they all file around the building and line up row on

row on the sloping lawn outside the lounge where all of the Elders are gathered. Inside, the Elders can see the rows of flickering candles and feel the love and care of the people outside. But the TripleA's are nowhere to be seen.

On Christmas morning, Angelina's mother is the nurse who goes into each room to wake the sleeping Elder and wish him or her a "Merry Christmas." In each room, she pulls back the curtains to reveal an angel image sculpted in the snow on the sloping lawn outside. And the angel outside Annie's grandmother's room is wearing red mittens.

The fine weather holds through all the last week of the quarantine, and each day the snow angels keep the Elders company. On the day that the Quarantine ends, it snows thick and soft and white. When the first visitors walk through the door, the Christmas angels have flown away. J.R.H.

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### IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS AND.....

Darned if **Quesnel Ski and Outdoors** don't have the answer to dozens of those smaller Christmas gifts -- you know the kind, when, after the skis and the boards and the boots -- (and now we hear "snow-bikes?") -- have been bought, one wonders how he is going to manage the necessities? OKAY! **TOQUES** -- from Mountain Hardware, Kootenay and Ambler -- all British Columbia-made with several of the Ambler hand-crafted in Tibet and imported as "fair trade". Look also at the **Alpaca Wool Scarf, Toque and Mitt Sets** in grey, black and brown. The "touch" of them spells "luxury" -- \$100. a set.

**GLOVES!** Just about any type of glove for any type of activity is hanging on the rack -- **Converts, HyVent from North Face; Auclair, Porelle** and **Xstatic**. **Auclair** are in the \$60.00 range.

And have a look at these fairly new devices! **AZZPADZ!** and unless you are a snowboarder, you don't need to look that up in the dictionary! They come in four sizes at about \$64.98 each and save the bum from abrasion.

Ask to see the **ICEBUG running shoe with Tungsten Carbide Outsoles**. (They look like a Sherman Tank!) and are not too far removed from the same price at \$160.....and I would like to have a pair if only to leave for Santa -- Think of the miles he has to cover on Christmas Eve!

But there are others, like **YAKTRAX** -an attach-to-the-sole device in two models: **PRO and WALKER**. They come in three sizes, small, medium and large. The PROs are more durable and sell for \$39.98, while the WALKERS sell at \$29.98

If you want to look like a dog musher or a very authentic North-west Mountie, check out the "**SIWWY WABBIT**" winter helmets enhanced with furry ear flaps and visor. S, M, & L @ \$59.98. Then there are sun & snow glasses, starting at about \$30. And to be outfitted from Head to Toe, try on the Down Mitts at \$39.98 and the apres ski down slippers, \$50. You don't even have to have been out in the snow to love them. **MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL!**

**AN OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS  
IN HISTORIC BARKERVILLE**

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**Hours of Operation 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10.**

**Displays:** The Gold Mining Museum, Chinese Museum and other displays will be open. The 'Tregillus Family Collection' and Julia Wheatley's miniature display is in the Visitors Reception Centre.

**Businesses that will be open:**

Goldfield Bakery, soup and sandwiches are available for lunch. Gingerbread men are great stocking stuffers.

Kelly House Bed & Breakfast (Call(250)994-3312 or (250)994-3328 to reserve.)

The Kelly Saloon and the Barkerville Hotel are open for unique Christmas shopping.

Cameron and Ames Blacksmith Shop selling their own products that are made on site.

Mason and Daly and MacPherson's Watchmaker Shop both have special Christmas gifts.

McMahon's Confectionery has great fudge, popcorn, hot dogs and lots of stocking stuffers.

Mrs. Neate's Sewing Room is open for special gifts.

The Wake Up Jake Restaurant opens at 3:00 for afternoon tea and for Christmas Dinner by reservation, seating at 5:00 p.m.

**Activities:**

Taste the delicious home baking in the Wendle House.

Visit St. Nicholas in the Enchanted Forest with your friends and children, give him your Christmas wishes and take keepsake photos all in the Visitors Reception Centre.

Take an Old Fashion Horse-Drawn Sleigh Ride.

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**SUNDAY DECEMBER 11:** The schedule remains the same as for December 10th with one or two changes:

**Businesses Open:**

Wake Up Jake Restaurant opens at 3:00 for afternoon tea.

**Activities:** (In addition to Saturday 10th, read:

Join the Christmas carolers in front of the Anglican Church at 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m..

Church Service in St. Saviour's Church at 3:00 p.m.

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**Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides will run four days December 10 & 11, 17 & 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day**

**Welcome to a Barkerville Old Fashion Christmas.**

**AN OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS  
IN HISTORIC BARKERVILLE**

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**Hours of Operation 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17:**

**Displays:** The Gold Mining Museum, Chinese Museum and other displays will be open. The "Tregillus Family Collection" and Julia Wheatley's miniature display is in the Visitors Reception Centre.

**Businesses that will be open:**

Goldfields Bakery (Soup and Sandwiches are available for lunch., and extra seating is available at the Wake Up Jake for you to relax and enjoy coffee, snack , lunch.

Kelly House Bed & Breakfast, (Call (250)-994-3312 or 994-3328 to reserve.)

The Kelly Saloon and the Barkerville Hotel are open for Christmas shopping.

Cameron and Ames Blacksmith Shop selling their own products that are made on site.

Mason and Daly General Store and MacPherson's Watchmaker's Shop may have that special gift idea for you.

MacMahon's Confectionery has lots of stocking stuffers, fudge, coffee, popcorn, hot dogs and more!

Mrs. Neate's is open for those special gifts you have been looking for.

The Wake Up Jake opens at 3:00 for afternoon tea and for Christmas Dinner by reservation, seating at 5:00 p.m.

**Activities:**

Taste home baking in the Wendle House.

Take an Old Fashion Horse Drawn Sleigh Ride.

Visit St. Nicholas in the enchanted Forest with your friends and children, give him your Christmas wishes and take keepsake photos -- all in the Visitors Reception Centre.

Join in for music and singing in the Visitor Centre at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

Join the Christmas Carollers in front of the Anglican Church at 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. to sing along the main street.

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**SUNDAY DECEMBER 18:** The schedule remains much the same as December 17.

**Activities:** Taste the home baking in the Wendle House.

Visit St. Nicholas in the enchanted Forest and have your picture taken with him by the Friends of Barkerville in the Visitors Reception Centre.

Join the Christmas Carollers in front of the Anglican Church from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m

Church Service at St. Saviour's Church at 3:00 p.m.

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**"We are glad you came, and hope that you are, too!"** Call 1-888-994-3332 ext. 29 OR barkerville@barkerville.ca for more information.





**"THE 14TH ANNUAL GOLD RUSH TRAIL SLED DOG MAIL RUN"** will be held January 27, 28 and 29. The route varies this year over other years, this year traveling from Quesnel to Cottonwood to Pine Grove House to Beaver Pass House to Stanley to Van Winkle to Richfield to Barkerville to Camerontown to Marysville to Wells, British Columbia. Going into the Web <[www.wellsbc.com/sleddog/event.html](http://www.wellsbc.com/sleddog/event.html)>, one will find a full rota of events along with advice for protection of dogs and all other participants. Since the route touches in on the Barkerville road at several points, one can safely say that Sled Dogging has become a spectator sport. The envelope symbolizing the Mail Run was designed this year by Wells artist Claire Kujundzic. These may purchased well in advance of the run at both Quesnel and Wells post offices. An interesting prelude to the "Run" is the **"First annual Sled dog History and Adventure Symposium, January 25 and 26.** For full information on all aspects of this famous weekend, contact Jeff Dinsdale (250)992-9143, or email <[jdinsdale@quesnelbc.com](mailto:jdinsdale@quesnelbc.com)> It is emphasized in the weekend resume that The Mail Run is *not* a race; it is a PARTICIPATION event.

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**A BARKERVILLE MEMORY:** Once in a while I like to take out a memory I have of Barkerville and "live" it all over again. --There are six or seven, sometimes eight, skiers, all with headlamps, poling our way past Richfield after a weekend of skiing on Mount Agnes. We pole on past the "suicide cabin", (always with a furtive glance thrown to the site), and in a matter of minutes, we emerge from the darkness of Black Jack Canyon. One by one, we stop and turn off our headlamps. There, just beyond us, is Barkerville's main street, with its few street lights swirling amber and silver in a glass-globe snowstorm. The snow banks are ploughed into miniature cliffs, and some homes are entered through tunnels.

Then we see a lantern swinging not far away, and as we glide closer, we hear Bill Hong calling us in for a cup of coffee while we wait for a taxi to Wells. "How does he know the exact time we will be returning to Barkerville?" we always wonder! With gratitude, we warm ourselves in Mrs. Hong's aromatic kitchen and share in genial moments that only Barkerville can offer. **J.Speare**

*(And if anyone else is into the business of making memories, news has it that Tracy Carson will be teaching us how to "pull taffy" at the Barkerville Hotel on December 18.)*

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