

# **FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE**

## **Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society**

### **Volume 13, Issue 2 - May, 2009**



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- Theatre Royal's Gala Opening Event
- The Canadian Claim Mine – and Share Certificate
- Barkerville's New Website

Contact Information

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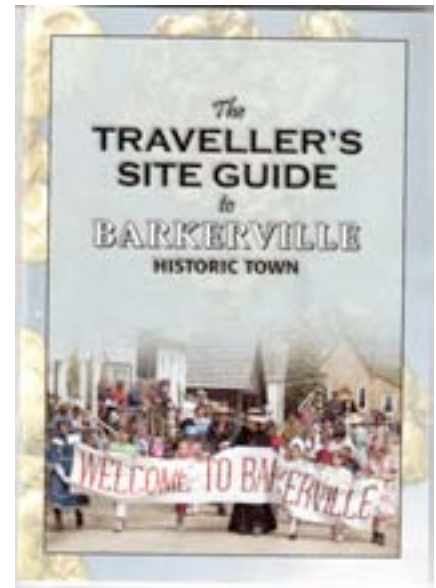
## **Opening Day Is May 11**

### **NEW!**

The book will cost \$7 including GST. It is in a magazine format and 100 pages in length. They will be for sale at the gate, Eldorado and of course at the Friends of Barkerville.

This site guide includes a great guide to all of Barkerville's buildings, complete with pictures, an introduction to Barkerville by CEO Judy Campbell and Curator Bill Quackenbush, a site map, a business directory, some info on the interpretive Programs available, as well as an in-depth article about Billy Barker title "William 'Billy' Barker – Myth and Reality" by Ken Mather.

Well worth every penny!



*Photo by Rick Galbraith*



*Photo by Cathy Eisma*

It's been a long winter. A couple of feet of snow still carpet the town of Barkerville less than two weeks before opening day. Bring your rubber boots!

## **EXECUTIVE**

President: Robin Grady 250-992-2008  
Vice-president: Tony Bensted 250-992-5958  
Secretary: Doug Perdue 250-747-1695  
Treasurer: Tony Bensted

## **OTHER DIRECTORS**

Lana Fox, Loretta Grady, Andy Motherwell, Pat Pickering,  
Dave Jorgensen, Rick Galbraith, Jim Gorsline, Grant  
Johannesen

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Friends of Barkerville-Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society (commonly abbreviated to FOB) has its registered mailing address as P.O. Box 4152, Quesnel, B.C. V2J 3J2. FOB staff is in the Barkerville Hotel (mid-May to end-September), phone 250-994-3360. In the off season, contact any executive director. Our e-mail address is [friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca](mailto:friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca)  
Our web site is linked to [www.barkerville.ca](http://www.barkerville.ca).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

A FOB membership application is invited from anyone wishing to share our enthusiasm for preserving, presenting and promoting knowledge, events and memorabilia of the original Cariboo Gold Rush and its hub city, Barkerville. Membership gives the member (i) a voice and a vote at the Annual General Meeting, (ii) opportunities to attend executive meetings, (iii) the right to run for office, (iv) discounts at associated historical attractions and businesses.

## **DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

Most of our regular meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at @5:30pm in Quesnel. There will be a couple of meetings in Barkerville, no dates as of yet.

## **MERCHANDISE**

The Friends of Barkerville offer souvenirs, gifts, historical books and memorabilia for sale from the Barkerville Hotel during the Town's open season and Christmas weekend.

**THE NEWSLETTER** is FOB's medium for presenting the society's mandatory publications and general news to members. It is published three times a year, exclusively to FOB members and free of charge. It is internet published on the FOB webpage, or is mailed to members without computers. The Editor is Cathy Eisma. Inquiries, letters and contributions can be sent directly to her at [ceisma@goldcity.net](mailto:ceisma@goldcity.net), phone 250-994-3283, or can be submitted to The Editor, c/o FOB. (See Contact Information)

## **CREDITS**

All material in THE NEWSLETTER is copyrighted by FOB and the contributor in common, unless otherwise noted. The contributor is the editor, unless otherwise noted. The front cover illustration is by Diana Gauthier. The Friends of Barkerville and the editor especially, are always looking for help. The organization is involved with restoration and maintenance of artifacts, buildings, machinery, work, publications, and archival work, supporting town activities, fostering growth, providing grants and offering volunteer assistance at many events. The newsletter needs society news and wishes to give our reader's interesting stories along with it. Thank you.

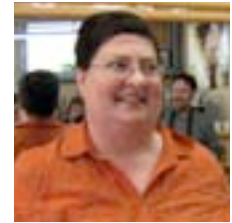
**Meeting Notice:** The next regular meeting will be June 20, 2009 at 2 p.m. in Barkerville.

## **EDITOR'S CORNER**

Another season in Barkerville is looming and this past winter, although it has been a long one for some, has gone by amazingly fast for me. There will be lots of changes in Barkerville again this year. A new stagecoach operator, new contractors for the Wake Up Jake's and many new people on the streets – many of which I have yet to meet. Yet there will be lots of familiar faces, too and it will be nice to reacquaint ourselves with these folks.

There is a new Traveler's Guide to Barkerville available for sale and it looks very good. Matter of fact – I want one for myself! Barkerville has launched a new website, which should make it easier for visitors to plan their visit. There will also be something new to replace the "Theatre Royal Gala Opening" dinner, which will see many businesses open before and after the shows offering snacks and beverages. The Friends also has a new project this year. We will again be selling shares to raise funds for the restoration/rebuilding of the Canadian Claim Mine, which can be seen over on the creek. Lot's of exciting stuff to look forward to – See you in Barkerville!

Cathy Eisma, Editor



## **Presidents Report - by Robin Grady**



I just visited Barkerville on April 23/09 and yes you can see the ground in some places where the top layer of snow has been removed. There is lots of the white stuff like about 6 feet at Groundhog area, although looking at conditions in a snow pit there was lots of wet granular sections, so we need some serious warm weather to help move it. Williams Creek gave everyone quite a scare on April 21, after a day of steady rain there was a huge build up of water and slush, somewhere above Richfield Courthouse. This finally started to move down the creek channel building volume and speed. The tsunami-like wave breached a dike near the waterwheel intake and caused some damage there, not too serious I hope, it rejoined the main creek and took the decking and some logs off the walking bridge to the Canadian Claim. The bridge across the Cariboo-Hudson Road was high enough above the flood not to be damaged. Thankfully there was not lots of debris and didn't have enough power to get into the streets of Barkerville. Barkerville has produced a booklet showing the before and after photos of the buildings in the town site, looks interesting and should be a good seller. Opening date is May 11/09, and the rates are the same as last year, so see you soon.

**Note from the Curator, May, 2009**  
**W.G. Quackenbush**

## The Canadian Claim and Gunn Hydraulic Pit



This year the Friends of Barkerville are raising funds for the restoration of the Canadian Claim and Gunn Hydraulic Pit mining exhibits. These were constructed in 1991 with money raised through the sale of entrance fees at Barkerville in 1989. It was subsequently repaired in the late 1990s and is in need of repair. The plan is to

restore the existing exhibit and to put in a trail to the top of the pit, as well as, reconstructing the pen stock that was part of the hydraulic operation. The trail to the pen stock will also provide a 'vista view' of Barkerville from the top of the pit. A bridge to the exhibit was washed out in April by the spring floods and will also have to be replaced.

The Canadian Claim, the drift and building portion of the exhibit was modeled after the Canadian Claim cabin which was photographed on Lightning Creek in the early 1860s and is situated in the area where that company had a claim on Williams Creek during that time period. The Company also had interests on Grouse in the 1860s. With the sale of entire claims down to fractions of claims, the early period in Barkerville's history is marked by a rotating set of names.

Who owned what is always an interesting exercise, as mining claim names might stay the same for a long or very short time, or, the company may have added claims to an area by having people join the company, or portions or all of the claims could be sold. For example, the first Barker Company had six people in the registration, yet just a month later there were 15 claims attached to the company. Barker was finished with the company by 1864 yet the Company continued well into the 1880s. Things are just not as cut and dried as we would like them to be in order to explain a history of a person or a place. The Gunn Hydraulic pit is the remnants of work that was carried out by Jack Gunn in 1947 and 1948 and includes the piping, monitor (or giant), wingdam and sluice from that operation. Vinse Halverson, whose family home now houses the mining exhibit, worked for Mr. Gunn clearing areas with a D-4 Caterpillar. Gunn had other claims in the area and lived in Wells. He evidently ceased operation for fear that the gravel being displaced from the pit would create a flood in the town.

The exhibit's purpose is to illustrate two of the main methods of mining used in the area. Hydraulic mining represents the bulk of the placer mining from about 1895 to 1972. Shaft and Drift mining, along with the water wheel, demonstrate the earlier dominant form of mining. Both forms were used throughout the history of Barkerville to varying degrees, along with Lode (hard rock) mining. Lode mining dominated through the 1930s to the 1960s. The method of mining depended on expertise and money – with drift mining being the easiest to carry out with simple tools. Hydraulic mining required sophisticated piping and water systems to operate at peak efficiency, but was much less expensive than Lode mining, which required considerably larger amounts of start

up capital, as well as testing – as most mines relied on investors to carry the ball. People are often surprised to find that hydraulic mining was practiced in the area prior to 1862, or that some of the first registered claims were 'quartz' (lode) claims, as much of the history has focused on the success of the placer miners drifts and shafts. And, in recent years, excavators, trommels, bull dozers have begun to dominate in placer operations - one can see a 'cat' track sticking out of the bank of Williams Creek at the mouth of Conklin's Gulch. One thing is certain, given the right conditions, mining will form part of the areas economy for a long time to come.

## Just Ask Lana

Now and then, the Friends will receive a query by email asking about an ancestor who once lived and mined in the Barkerville area. It's always nice to know that some of those gold seekers did marry, settle down somewhere and raise a family, whether in Barkerville, be it for a short time or elsewhere.

The most recent request was from Doug Wilson who lives in England. He is descended through the "Wintrips." The Wintrip brothers were in Barkerville in the very early years and were first mentioned as early as 1874 in the BC Directory as miners.



Doug wanted to know if there was mention of Mary Wintrip in the old cemetery. It just so happened that I was wandering through the old section of the cemetery last summer and thought I would take pictures of the graves for future reference.

I looked through my collection and found the headboard of Mary Wintrip. I sent this on to Doug and he was very pleased to receive this. There are many buried in the cemetery and at times I have spoken with some descendants that stop by to pay their respects. It's always nice to meet and chat with them! If there is anyone out there that would care to share stories about their ancestors who were in the Barkerville and area, please do.

Mary Wintrip died 1879. *Photo by Lana Fox*



## Geocaching

The New Pathways To Gold Society is scheduled to attend the May 7 Friends' meeting to talk about big plans to market soft adventure travel and multi-cultural tourism in the Gold Rush corridor. Over the next three years, they expect to set up 150 secret caches for visitors to find on their way to Barkerville. Watch for more news releases about this great concept and get in on the fun. Valuable prizes are being planned for successful geocachers. The Friends of Barkerville are reviewing how they might help out with this ambitious project. Key executives of New Pathways To Gold are Gord Rattray, who is also on the board of Barkerville Heritage Trust, and Donald Hauka, author of the best selling book McGowan's War. Check out their website!

**THIS DIRT HAS COLOR**

By Rick Galbraith

The Friends Of Barkerville have organized a fund-raising campaign for the purpose of helping with the restoration of the Canadian Claim on the Creek just north of the world famous Sheepskin Claim (you know - the one with the waterwheel and the eccentric characters who run it).

Of significance to the Canadian Claim was its intense use of hydraulic mining procedures. The restoration project The Friends are supporting will concentrate on providing interpretation of this type of mining. The current exhibit and lay of the land give good clues to the visitor, but a clearer explanation and a live demonstration will be a treat to watch. The restoration also provides a great opportunity to build a link to the trail system around Barkerville, including a viewpoint giving a panoramic offering of most of the town.

There are at least three interesting disputes surrounding the Canadian Claim, one between original partner A.D. Osborne and Dr. S.E. Crain. That was reported in the British Colonist May 28, 1863 and was in context to a report that the claim had yielded \$133,000 between November and April, in the dead of a harsh winter. Another disagreement, apparently, involved the famous Barker Company and was heard in the Supreme Court. The third, probably a misconception, suggests The Canadian Claim partners were involved in the Grouse Creek War.

John Bowron, wearing the hat of Gold Commissioner at the time, reported in the 1880's that the total extracted from the Canadian Claim was about \$350,000.00, making it one of Barkerville's top producing claims. Today, that money would approximate \$20,000,000.00. Mind you, that's Canadian dollars, eh?

**THEATRE**



**Why not invest in Barkerville ? !**

***Come in to the Barkerville hotel and buy your shares for the Canadian claim mine! Only \$5.00 per share***

The money raised by the Friends of Barkerville will be put to use in restoring the Canadian Claim Mine so that it will become an accessible part of the mining history in Barkerville Historic Town.

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**Barkerville Launches their Updated Website**

= [www.barkerville.ca](http://www.barkerville.ca)

Barkerville's new website contains all the information that is needed to plan your visit to Barkerville. It includes directions to the townsite, rates, where to shop, where to eat and where to stay. It also includes other things to see and do in the area such as Cottonwood House, nearby Wells and Bowron Lakes Provincial Park.

Another section of the web site features Programs and Events, including Daily activities and the daily schedule, a yearly calendar of special events, so that you can plan the timing of your visit and also touches on weddings in Barkerville

There is another section, although still under construction, that will highlight the research and the large collection of artifacts that will be available to see online. A large Photo archives database and the entire collections database will allow students and writers to do online research.

There is also information available for teachers to plan their classroom visits, as well as a Kids Zone and a Media Rooms for the press, with reports and press releases to be regularly updated

## ROYAL GALA OPENING

Due to a gradual decline in attendance and interest in the Theatre Royal's opening events, and increased costs, the former dinner/dance event is no longer working. More importantly it results in drawing folks away from Barkerville, rather than keeping them in the town.



8 pm - "Gold Rush Review" – our 2009 variety show featuring Amy Lee Newman & Marcello Sequeira with Thomas Boutilier, Jenny Moase and Corey Payette.

After much thought and feedback from BHT, a few merchants, our staff and advisors, we have come up with a new plan by putting an emphasis on Barkerville. We will continue with the Premiere Shows at Theatre Royal. However, these will be focused more on Barkerville.

First of all we are adding a Friday evening show to the events. On Saturday, in place of the dinner/dance in Wells N&W will be hosting after-show receptions in Barkerville. We will have food at the Theatre, and a piano player, food and drink (no-host bar) at the House Hotel. Mason & Daly and Strouss have agreed to be open that evening and will be offering some kind of snacks. [Ed. Note: The Barkerville Hotel will also be open.] As it is virtually the longest day of the year it will still be light when we exit the theatre and with businesses and perhaps the stagecoach running, we can show folks what Barkerville used to be like in the evening.

9 pm – Receptions and entertainment in Barkerville at Theatre Royal, House Hotel, Mason & Daly.

Come and join us for refreshments and nightlife in Barkerville.

*Admission - 3 shows plus the receptions: \$30.00 per person, 2 for \$50, plus GST. On site personnel - \$10*

Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> - Regular shows at 1pm (Gold Rush Review) and 4pm (Fire Storm).

3 pm – Back stage tour for the public.

**Join us at the Theatre Royal for a Barkerville weekend.**

## **2009 Gala Premiere June 19-20<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday evening July 19<sup>th</sup>** Our Gala weekend begins with a Premiere performance of Matt Quick's one-man show "**Tis A Grand Adventure**" at 7 pm, Friday evening. Light refreshments at the theatre with a chance to meet Matt and his crew will follow this. (*This show will fill our regular cast's Thursday day off, allowing us to maintain our shows 7 days a week.*) Matt has been a resident of Barkerville for five years – initially as a street interpreter and for the last two years as Company Manager with Newman & Wright. Matt is a talented comedian and actor and will bring new life to the Theatre Royal stage.

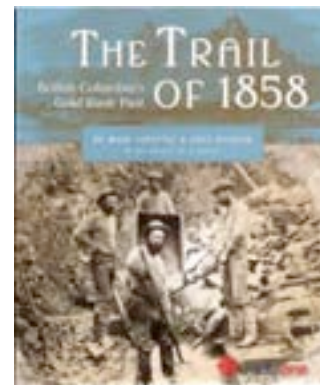
**Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>** 4 pm – "**Fire Storm**" – our afternoon show premieres.

**The story of four Barkerville residents, Mrs. Catherine Parker, Sgt James Lindsay, Frederick Dally and Miss Annie, caught up in the fire of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1868. It is a story of challenge and hope – a story of a desperate year for a challenging time. This features our returning stars Amy Lee Newman, Marcello Sequeira & Thomas Boutilier and introduces pianist Corey Payette and actor/singer Jenny Moase.**

7:30 – Theatre Royal/N&W - Welcome to guests

## **BOOK REPORT**

Just a reminder to all those who haven't yet picked up your copy of the "Trail of 1858". This book is available at the Barkerville Hotel and is a really great read. By Mark Forsythe & Greg Dickson of CBC Radio's BC Almanac, it is a great collection of history



written by prominent historians and also many stories written by quite a few of our members. Included in this illustrious company are Lana & Gary Fox, Branwen Patenaude, Richard Wright, Andy Motherwell, Ann Walsh, Lily Chow, Jeffrey Dinsdale. There are many excerpts from the old Cariboo Sentinel Newspaper and some excellent photos from the BC Provincial Archives and many other archives. The book chronicles the beginning of the Fraser River Gold Rush, through to the end of the rush, touching on many subjects such as Government, multiculturalism, and colony building after the rush. There is even a section about living history and the gold rush today.

So don't forget – pick up your copy today and support the Friends of Barkerville.



## Historical footnotes

By Andy Motherwell

### FORT GEORGE CANYON OF FRASER RIVER

Early exploration of the Cariboo almost always followed water courses because larger loads of supplies could be floated, rather than carried. The same principle applies today as large shipments by water are vastly cheaper per unit as evidenced by the growth of container shipping.

At first, most vessels were small and lightweight because propulsion was by paddle or oar. As the need grew for larger vessels, steam engines were installed with considerable power to climb up rivers.

B.C.'s larger rivers tend to have parts that are slow moving but broken up with rapids and canyons where the current is often 12 km. per hour or more. Large engines were essential to push sternwheelers through the Cottonwood and Prince George canyons on the Fraser, for example.

The Prince George canyon was a major obstacle for larger boats which were often "loaded to the gills". Large steam winches were mounted on the bow and ropes or cables run to anchors up river – often trees, but in many cases large rocks were used. The photo below shows an iron bar imbedded in a hole drilled in a rock that the line could be attached to. This anchor is on land, accessible from West Lake Park, south of Prince George.

The first boat through was the Enterprise (built at the foot of Chin hill) in 1871. The last was the Quesnel in 1921, which wrecked in the canyon. In all, 12 boats operated on the Fraser and 5 of them were damaged or wrecked here, making this canyon the most dangerous on B.C.'s navigable rivers.

Of course, in 1833, David Douglas – the famous botanist (Douglas fir) upset his canoe while heading downstream from Fort St. James. He nearly drowned and lost his notes and 400 species samples.

Another example of making winch spots is in the rapids at the outlet of Trembleur Lake, where a ring has been installed at water level in the stream to allow windlassing up the river. Undoubtedly, the Enterprise hooked on and went up to the lake where it wrecked in bad weather. Parts of its engines are by the Fraser River footbridge in Quesnel.

*Photo credit – Kent Sedewick. Prince George*



## THE QUESNEL HOME AND TRADES SHOW - MAY 1,2,3, 2009

The Friends of Barkerville had a booth at the Trades show along with Barkerville this year. The Friends sold memberships, and advertised what we do as an organization. We also had Barkerville Virtual Tour CD's for sale and a book by Jean Speare about Bowron Lake that was available with a membership or also just for sale alone. We sold about 42 memberships – a good start to our season, which opens May 11, 2009.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped man the booth and helped to get the word out about our organization. Thanks also to Robin Sharpe for the set up and the great backdrop for the booth – which made it really noticeable.



*Photo by Cathy Eisma*

### Meet the Directors:

A new feature, which I hope will introduce you to some of our many directors over the next few issues of the newsletter.

Meet **Lana Fox**, (pictured above) a long time member of the Friends. She has been a member since 1987 and has been a director for quite a few of those years (since at least the early 1990's). She has also been an active member of many committees such as Trails, Membership, and the Hotel.

Her special interest in the history of the area is mainly centered on the trails of the goldfields and the cemetery. She and her husband Gary also purchased the old Grubstake Store on Reduction Road from Lorna Robb, where they have a cabin and eventually hope to build a house and move there permanently. This sparked more interest in the history of the area.

Lana and Gary have two (grown-up) sons and live just off the Barkerville highway, close to Quesnel at the present time. She works during the season in Silva culture and Gary has recently retired (still on break-up, as he puts it).

So, I think we can expect to see lots more from this director, as she pursues her interest in the history of the area.