

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE

Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

Volume 14, Issue 3 - September, 2010

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IT'S BEEN A BUSY SEASON IN BARKERVILLE



Barkerville has been very busy with many events to take part in. It was a very busy Dominion Day, with many activities such as a parade, a BC Provincial Heritage Fair display and parade, children's games and fireworks. There was also a group of Morgan Roadster Cars called "Morgan's Over America" who came and stayed in Barkerville overnight as part of their organized road trip. At the end of July/beginning of August, ArtsWells was again a rip roaring success, with many performances taking place in Barkerville also.

Winners in the BC Provincial Heritage Fair parade down the street.

There were two book readings by authors – one on July 30th by Lynne Stonier Newman and the other on August 1st by Ann Walsh, who read from her Barkerville children's novels in the Barkerville Hotel.

On August 6th, it was St. Saviours Institute Night, where the employees and street theatre people perform in the Church, with many laughs and some funds raised for the Church, as well as refreshments afterwards. On August 15th the Masons had their annual Church Parade



Morgan's parked at Barkerville

The next major event was the Autumn Moon Festival, which was also quite successful, although marred by a great deal of smoke in the air. The fire risk also caused the fireworks to be cancelled. We have had every kind of weather condition this summer – which is usual – now it seems fall is here.



From rain to heat to smoke!



EXECUTIVE

President: Doug Perdue 250-747-1695
Vice-president: Richard Wright 250-994-3340
Secretary: Grant Johannesen 250-992-1296
Treasurer: Tony Bensted 250-992-5958

OTHER DIRECTORS: Lana Fox, Robert Grady, Andy Motherwell, Dave Jorgensen, Rick Galbraith, Jim Gorsline, Larry Gardner

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.

Our web site is: www.barkerville.bc.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 a year in Barkerville.

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, 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, is 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, 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.

The Annual General Meeting will be held October 7th, 2010, 6:30pm at the Wee Chippie Fish & Chips at 490 Carson Ave in Quesnel.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Well, this newsletter is a bit overdue, but with juggling the store and demands of a busy household (my family has been visiting) something had to wait. It's been a great season out in Barkerville, with lots of interesting people, good weather – until lately and lots of fun and well attended events. There has been so much going on that it is hard to pick just one thing to talk about. I appreciate all those who contribute to the newsletter and encourage those who haven't to think about doing so. Barkerville will be open until September 26th, but is still open to wander through – and don't forget about Victorian Christmas – this year on December 11, 12 & 13th/10. Maybe we will see you then!



PRESIDENTS REPORT – BY DOUG PERDUE

Fall is on its way. The Friends of Barkerville Annual General Meeting can't be far behind. The AGM is scheduled for 6:30 pm, October 7th at the Wee Chippie Restaurant in Quesnel. This is a great opportunity to become more involved in the day to day operations of the Friends. If you would like to become a director, let one of the current directors know and they can fill you in on what is involved. You are also welcome to come to the AGM to find out what the Friends have been up to for the year. Remember "the world is run by those who show up." The Friends have been busy over the summer negotiating a trail maintenance agreement with the Government for the historic trails around Barkerville. The agreement will give us the opportunity to manage the types of use on the trails. If we go ahead with an agreement there will be some "work" involved to hike the trail network and identify any safety and maintenance issues that should be addressed. If you are on the trails, an email to the Friends would be helpful if you see something that you think needs some work. The maintenance work at the old Barkerville cemetery went ahead this summer. The trails in the cemetery have been cleaned up which makes getting around a lot easier. The Friends has contributed funding to the maintenance that has been carried out under the direction of the Barkerville Heritage Trust. The Seven Summits hike and ride is scheduled for September 18th. This is a good chance to experience some of the trails around Wells and Barkerville. If you aren't so energetic, volunteers are also needed for the event. Check out www.whitegold.ca for more information on the Seven Summits.

I hope you have enjoyed the summer and have a great fall.



MEMBERSHIP FACTS

Another season is almost past. Soon Barkerville will go into hibernation for another winter but will open its doors again to Victorian Christmas weekend, Dec. 11, 12 & 13.

Membership to the Friends of Barkerville has surpassed last year's total of 1130 to 1228 this season. Once again thank you to all who continue to renew and support the Friends and Town of Barkerville.

The bulk of our membership is Quesnel residents followed by Prince George and Williams Lake. Our newsletter mail-out list is down considerably which is good for the Friends as this helps to cut costs on postage and envelopes. The majority of our members use the internet to access and download our newsletter. Till next time....



FOB TRAILS REPORT



FOB is looking into a "Recreation Trail Maintenance Partnership Agreement" with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. This agreement will cover the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail, Grouse Creek Trail, Van Winkle Trail, Williams Creek Trail, Powder House Trail, and a

section of the Cariboo Wagon Road. FOB Directors will over the next couple of meetings discuss the contents of the agreement and decide if this is the way we would like to see these trails maintained. As in most agreements there are sections that some wording is unclear to its exact meaning, a future meeting with the Ministry will hopefully clear up any of these. There is possible problems where there is other users such as horses and the dreaded ATVs, these can destroy a hiking trails surface and give a trail unappealing sections. (Horses have not been a problem on these trails since the 1800s but could, if heavy usage reoccurred). The Barkerville area has been lucky not to have the fire problems the rest of BC has had this summer, although we did have the smoke and even that was not as bad as most areas. Hikers must have enjoyed the high bush blueberries

this summer as you see lots of blue thumbs on people on the street.

Huckleberries seem not to be as abundant, but the size and quantity of the high bush was delicious. If anyone who has hiked the above trails and has any suggestions or concerns please let us know as we would like to address these if possible.

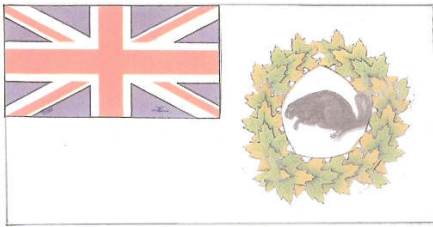
Barkerville and the Cariboo Gold Rush played a significant role in the founding of the Province of British Columbia and a Canada reaching from Coast to Coast!

*By Neil Vant, MLA for Cariboo 1986-1991 and Minister of Transportation and Highways during that era
Neil is Past Master of Cariboo Lodge No. 4 and is a Founding Director and the Immediate Past Chairman of the Barkerville Heritage Trust.*



Dominion Day now called Canada Day has been an important day in Barkerville since 1868! Indeed, before the Crown Colony of British Columbia joined Canada as a Province in 1871, Barkerville's residents pioneered the July 1st Celebrations of the Confederation of Canada. The patriotic Americans that had come north for the Gold Rush made a big deal of July 4th and old Glory flew high in Barkerville. This made many residents in Barkerville nervous as in 1844 the Americans had seized the Oregon Territory which was loosely held under the Hudson's Bay Company and at the time the American President James K. Polk said :- "Fifty Four -Forty or Fight!" This would have the American Territory come up to just north of Prince George! In 1867 President Andrew Johnson purchased Alaska from Russia so American expansion in the west and north was on their agenda. The British wisely thought they better form the Crown Colonies and negotiated with the Americans a line at the 49th parallel. Luckily the American Civil War had delayed the completion of a transcontinental railway to the American west coast or more movement of Americans westward and northward would have occurred. Meanwhile, in Barkerville a member of the Cariboo Masonic Lodge, Bro. W.W. Hill a painter by trade

and an ardent “Unionist” (in strong favour of British Columbia joining Canada) designed what I would call the first Canadian Ensign flag described as:- “ a Union Jack in the fly, and a beaver surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves, on a white background”¹ This “Canadian” flag was put up on the highest flag pole in Barkerville far above the American flag for the very first Dominion Day Celebrations in all of Canada on July 1st 1868! Canada’s first birthday party was held in Barkerville in the Crown Colony of British Columbia!



Depiction of Canada's First Ensign copyright Vant Explorations

This same flag was also flown on February 20th, 1869 and subsequently on the flag pole atop the newly re-built Masonic temple in Barkerville.

Unfortunately the original temple had burnt in the great fire of September 16th, 1868 when all of Barkerville had burnt except for the extreme south end of the town. Alas, W.W. Hill did not live to see his dream of the Union of British Columbia with Canada in 1871 as he died at Cottonwood House on October 23, 1869. The following picture taken on July 1st, 1935 shows a more recent Dominion Day Celebration with races on the Main Street of Barkerville. The Masonic Hall is on the left with the lower part rented out for a Barber Shop and a News Stand and Confectionery.



Copyright by Vant Explorations

It is noteworthy that members of the Masonic order played a significant role in the formation of Canada. Our first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald was a Mason. The second master of Cariboo Lodge in Barkerville Joshua Spencer Thompson was the first Member of Parliament for Cariboo from 1871 until his death in 1881. Moreover, the first Premier of British Columbia, a **Member for Victoria City** was also a Mason. I am referring to John Foster McCreight. A friend of Sir John A. Macdonald was Sir Anthony Musgrave who succeeded Frederick Seymour as Governor of British Columbia. A former Governor of Newfoundland, Musgrave shared Macdonald’s enthusiastic vision of a great Dominion that would extend from sea to sea. Musgrave, therefore arrived in the colony ready to bring about it’s entry into

Confederation. He would have to use a great deal of skill to get everyone to agree to British Columbia joining Canada. No less that 104 merchants in Victoria had petitioned the U.S. President to annex the Colony in November of 1869. Others like J.S. Helmcken had expressed strong anti-confederation sentiments and wanted British Columbia to stay a crown colony.

Barkerville and Cariboo held fast to the pro-confederation movement as we find this evidence in Margaret A. Ormsby’s “British Columbia”: A History” in which she refers to Governor Musgrave’s long journeys in his attempt to win support of the Colonists to join Canada:- “At Barkerville he ended his journey. All along the way, the Governor’s welcome had been warm, but Barkerville gave him his most enthusiastic reception. The town was *en fete*. Evergreen arches spanned the streets; the firemen had constructed an arch of ladders and buckets, the Chinese had festooned another with fire-crackers, banners lettered “Union Forever” and “Success to the Dominion” proclaimed the sentiments of the citizens.”

Recently, it has come to light that according to the 1924 minutes of the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada that Barkerville is a site of National Historical Significance. The building of the first Cariboo Highway (the Cariboo Waggon Road) by the Royal Engineers was firmly noted as an event of National Historical Significance and somehow Barkerville the destination of that road was overlooked. At last the significance of Barkerville is coming to light and the largest historic site in British Columbia is being appropriately recognized by the Federal Government.

Every year on July 1st Dominion Day will be celebrated in Barkerville with a great birthday cake for Canada made in our very own Gold Fields Bakery and a parade and races etc. Just think if it wasn’t for Barkerville’s strong support for joining Canada in the early days Canada as we know it today might not even exist. We do indeed deserve a prominent place in the National Historical significance category!

1. *Cariboo Gold*, J.T. Marshall. Grand Historian of G.L. of British Columbia. 1967

RESTORED SAWMILL TO BE OPENED

The Waterous Engine Works Sawmill, built in 1868 in Brantford, Ontario will be brought back to life as 2:30pm on September 18th in Barkerville. The McKittrick Family donated it to Barkerville in the 1969’s. The machine was restored by Quesnel Antique Machinery Park and was funded by the Federal Government & Western Economic Diversification .

This is an email from a visitor who spoke to us about the piano in the Barkerville Hotel and about the striking resemblance to his friends' parents piano. He also enclosed some photos and was gracious enough to allow us to print them in our newsletter.



"Thank you for being so gracious in allowing my friend Ted to play the piano in your general store. It was a real highlight in his first experience of Barkerville.

I have attached few photos of the piano we were telling you about that his parents own. There isn't much of a story behind the piano. The only information that they have on it is that the piano was purchased from two gentlemen in Miami that had to sell it due to relocation and a lack of space. They sold the piano to Ted's parents almost 40 years ago for a total of \$750.00 from which I gather is a steal at that price.

Hope you enjoy the photos and we look forward to receiving a copy of your news letter "Friends of Barkerville". Just on a side note, I did mention you may have a web site of which they may be able to obtain more information from the identification number. I do hope you may have had some success in locating."

Thank you again!
Mark Robinson

STORE REPORT - BARKERVILLE HOTEL

The store in the Barkerville Hotel has been successful this season, despite the economic downturn. Some of the most popular items were our bath salts & soap; jams & jellies; our new kitchen corner with dishcloth's and towel & tea cozies and our new hand knit woolen hats, slippers, mitts & socks. We are still open for business until September 26th from 10 - 4. Come on out and support the Friends of Barkerville and help Barkerville to grow.

Barkerville Curatorial Projects – Summer 2010 – W.G. Quackenbush, Curator

This summer was business as usual with a few extra hands with funding from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs funding. Of the student helpers, Mica Jorgenson and Jacob Moffatt were the Conservation Cleaners – arriving at 7AM and keeping the exhibits clean. Bethany Scott was processing photographs in anticipation of mounting more onto our web site. And, Mike Szepvolgyi was cataloguing our backlog of archaeologically collected artifacts, as well as assisting in the Chinese Garden excavations. Our summer programs in Archaeology and the Library-Archives were operated by Mike Will and Mandy Kilsby respectively. The full time staff of Anne Laing (design, signage, planning and exhibit maintenance) and Duane Abel (cataloguing, planning, ground and exhibit maintenance and all round Curatorial Assistant) kept things operating relatively smoothly.

Mr. Will's excavations in the Chinese Gardens may have uncovered the remains of a 19th century Chinese residence that may have burnt down. The material recovered also includes a cistern that appears to have formed part of the system used to water the garden terraces. A couple of 1930s photographs show a building near here, but it has since been identified as a chicken coop that was removed in the early 1980s. The principle time diagnostic elements, machine cut nails suggest the building was constructed in the 19th century and charred wood suggests that it burnt.

Ms. Scott's perseverance at reviewing the photographs that have been digitized has identified several thousand more that we can publish as owned by Barkerville on our web site. There will be close to 4000 photographs that will soon be available for viewing.

I should note that a few of the old gardens are starting to take shape under Mandy Kilsby's guidance. The big issue is what will survive the winters (favoring perennials) and what the Columbian Ground Squirrels won't eat (as well as the people who plant their feet – evidently the feet don't grow and are invasive to boot). Mandy is finding the gardening a great break from cataloguing books, reference files and artifacts and gets her out onto the site. Mandy has been working in the Curatorial team, on and off, for several years now and her work has led to a much smoother flow of information and knowledge about the site both for the visitors and staff.

J.H. Todd's seven shot pistol was stolen from the Nicol Hotel along with a derringer in July. Smoking related items – two ornate wooden pipes – were stolen from a Chinatown exhibit and a match box/cigar cutter were taken along with a very old cigar from another exhibit at the same time. In total, the loss is invaluable in historical terms, but is estimated at around

\$5,000 in monetary value. While this is still under investigation by the RCMP, a tip from a concerned citizen has provided a good lead to the culprit's door. We are hoping that the artifacts will be returned unharmed. Of particular concern is the fact that all of these items have direct connection to people who were important in the development of Barkerville. We in the Curatorial department have taken it very hard, as had all of the staff, as our hearts are tied to the things that we work with. These things present us with elements of awe and wonder and it becomes most personal when something violates that communion with the past and our humble attempts to convey this through exhibiting and caring for the artifacts.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The 7 Summits Bike & Hike Challenge – September 18th
- Also on September 18th – Amazing Race Event called the Williams Creek Fire Brigade Day.
*The Hotel is one of the stations.
- September 18th – Opening of the Waterous Engine Works Sawmill
- Last day of Theatre Royal Shows – September 26th
- The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Barkerville will be held October 7th, 2010, 6:30pm at the Wee Chippie Fish & Chips at 490 Carson Ave in Quesnel.

Don't forget about The Cariboo by the Carload during the month of September. Car loads of up to 6 people pay \$30.00 and Van loads of up to 16 passengers pay \$60.00. So load up your friends and family and come on out to Barkerville and celebrate another great season!

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE RECIPROCAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Barkerville Historic Town

Barkerville, BC www.barkerville.ca

- Season pass to Barkerville Historic Town

Friends of Barkerville (Barkerville Hotel

Barkerville, BC www.barkerville.bc.ca

- 10% discount in the gift store

Island Mountain Arts Public Gallery

Wells, BC www.imarts.com

- 20% off IMA Merchandise - \$5.00 discount to the Arts Wells Festival (August long weekend)

Quesnel & District Museum and Archives

Quesnel, BC www.quesnelmuseum.ca

50% Admission Discount and 10% off gift shop

PG Railway & Forestry Museum

Prince George, BC www.pgrfm.bc.ca

2 for 1 admission, excluding special events

The Historic O'Keefe Ranch

Vernon, BC www.okeeferanch.ca

-\$2.00 off individual admission, \$5.00 off family

- 10% off in gift shop

Kamloops Art Gallery

Kamloops, BC www.kag.bc.ca

- Free admission

Penticton Art Gallery

Penticton, BC www.pentictonartgallery.com

-Free admission, 10% discount in the gift shop

Kelowna Art Gallery

Kelowna, BC www.kelownaartgallery.com

- Two for one admission

Vernon Public Art Gallery

Vernon, BC

www.vernonpublicartgallery.com

- 10% discount in the gift shop

The Art Station

Fernie, BC www.theartsstation.com

- 10% off Art Station Concerts, Films & Workshops

- Opportunity to exhibit in the Gallery

- 10% off in restaurant "The Blue Touque"

Boundary Museum

Grand Forks, BC

www.boundarymuseum.com

Gallery 2 - The Grand Forks Public Art Gallery

Grand Forks, BC

www.grandforksartgallery.com

- Free Admission & 10% discount in gift shop

- Membership privileges for Gallery Events

Kootenay Gallery of Art, History & Science

Castlegar, BC www.kootenaygallery.com

- Free admission, 10% discount in the gift shop

Langham Cultural Centre

Kaslo, BC www.thelangham.ca/artgallery.ca

- Membership Benefits

Touchstones: Nelson Museum of Art & History

Nelson, BC www.touchstonesnelson.ca

- 50% off admission, 10% discount in the gift shop

The Nickle Arts Museum

Calgary, AB www.ucalgary.ca/~nickle

- Free admission, 10% discount in the gift shop

Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

Banff, AB www.whyte.org

- Free admission, 10% Discount in the Museum Store

Winnipeg Art Gallery

Winnipeg, MB www.mag.mb.ca

- Free Admission

McMichael Canadian Art Collection

Kleinberg, ON www.mcmichael.com

- Free admission (parking not included)

Old Log Church (Yukon Museum)

Whitehorse, Yukon

www.yukonmuseums.ca/museum/oldlog

- free admission & 20% off in gift shop

Northwest Museum of Art & Culture

Spokane, WA www.northwestmuseum.org

- \$2.00 off adult admission, \$1.00 off senior & student admission

Stonerose Interpretive Centre & Eocene Fossil Site, Republic, WA

www.stonerosefossil.org

- dig for free & 10% discount in gift shop

Updated September 11, 2110