

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE

Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

Volume 14, Issue 2 - June, 2010

In this issue:

- * Husky/Mohawk Community Rebate Program
- * Baseball Player with Barkerville Connection
- * Upcoming Events



BARKERVILLE IS OPEN FOR THE SEASON



Barkerville opened for business again on the 10th of May. There is little to no snow left – only a bit in the corners – and everything is in full swing. Come on out and join us on the creek – take in a show, or maybe a town tour. Drop in to the Wendle House and see what is cooking or watch the Blacksmith at work. Have a meal in one of the many fine eating establishments or do some shopping in the numerous gift stores on the creek. Have your photo taken in Victorian finery – or perhaps sit in on a school class or a church service. Take a stagecoach ride or

Photo by Cathy Eisma

watch the waterwheel show. Whatever your pleasure - it is here for your enjoyment!

VICTORIA DAY CELEBRATIONS A ROARING SUCCESS!

Every year the Victoria Day Long Week-end seems to get better and better. Although the weather was not nice on Saturday – it snowed and hailed and blew – by Monday it was reasonably nice and as a result the people came out in droves.

There were lineups to have high tea with Queen Victoria at the Wake-Up Jake's Restaurant and it seemed to be busy no matter where you went. Perhaps we should arrange to hold a few more activities on that weekend.



Photo by Julie Marie McRae

PRESIDENTS REPORT – BY DOUG PERDUE

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-membership, Robert Grady-Trails, 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.

Spring has arrived. I encourage everyone take a break from gardening and other spring activities to head up to Barkerville for a spring visit. Drop into the Barkerville Hotel to browse the new FoB merchandise, or just to say hi to Cathy. Don't forget to get your annual pass at the hotel so that you can come back throughout the year.



The Directors have been busy getting ready to help make 2010 a great year at Barkerville. We have been busy on a number of projects over the winter to help make this happen.

The Friends of Barkerville website has been redesigned. Thank you to everyone involved in the project for all your ideas and for putting the site together. Take a look at www.barkerville.bc.ca to see the results.

A new feature that I am impressed with is the maps of the trails surrounding Barkerville. These maps are available for downloading to take with you on the trail. The photography on the website, both historic and current is also impressive.

The Friends are contributing to a project to help with maintenance at the old Barkerville cemetery this year. The goal of the project is to hire a contractor to help spruce up the grounds. The project will be run through the Barkerville Heritage Trust with the Friends helping out in the funding department. We also plan to help with some work bees at the cemetery.

Another project that we are focused on is the rebuilding of the Canadian Claim display. Fund raising is continuing for this project through sales of shares in the claim. The Friends have donated a bridge for the project to cross Williams Creek to access the claim. We hope to install the bridge sometime this summer. This is a big project that may take several years to complete.

I hope that you all take the time to come up to the townsite and the surrounding area. I know that I get busy with work and all the other things that "need" doing over the summer. Before I know it, summer is gone and I find myself thinking that I should have spent more time doing the things I truly enjoy. This year will be different. I hope to see you at Barkerville.

Congratulations to Rick Podger of Quesnel – winner of the Friends of Barkerville Family Membership drawn at the Home Show.



EDITOR'S CORNER

I have been working on this issue of the newsletter for some time, but the store seems to have gotten in the way. Not such a good idea to try and do too many things at once – nothing gets done

properly. So, now that the store is up and running I can concentrate on the newsletter. It has been a very busy few weeks; with clean up, set up and ordering and receiving merchandise. It is always great to get back to work in Barkerville and see all the familiar faces and meet some of the new people on the creek. There are always exciting new plans for upcoming events and there is always lots of merriment as we all get back into the swing of things.

There is also a new building in use – the Myatovic House (Chinese Private School) and are holding Chinese School Classes. Some of the events that we have to look forward to are: Theatre Royal Gala Opening Shows – June 18th & 19th

July 1st – Dominion Day Festivities

Arts Wells – July 30 – August 2

Ann Walsh Reading - Barkerville Hotel – August 1st

Williams Creek Sports Day & Pie Eating Contest – August 7th

Tin Man Triathlon – August 7th

Caribou Migration – a bike ride from Quesnel to Wells – August 14th

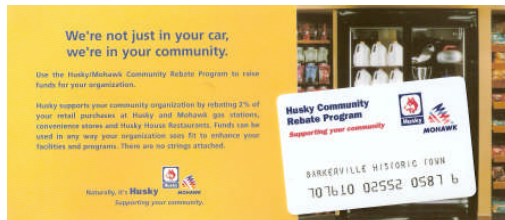
The Masonic Lodge Reunion – August 13 – 15

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival – August 21st

7 Summits Bike & Hike Challenge – September 18th

Last day of Theatre Royal Shows – September 26th

HUSKY/MOHAWK COMMUNITY



REBATE PROGRAM

By using this card – available at the Barkerville Hotel – your retail purchases at Husky and Mohawk gas stations, convenience stores and restaurants will result in a 2%

rebate to Barkerville. Everything is eligible except tobacco and lottery tickets. Since the beginning of Barkerville's involvement with this program in late summer 2008, they have received cheques every three months and to date have garnered \$406.00.

Come in and grab a card – no strings attached - and help contribute to Barkerville's future.

JUST ASK LANA

BASEBALL PLAYER WITH BARKERVILLE CONNECTION

An interesting letter arrived in the Friends of Barkerville's mail

box from Myles Green of Quesnel. He states that the first British Columbian-born Major League ball player was **BERT SINCOCK**. Bert made his major league debut in 1908 with the Cincinnati Reds of the National Baseball League. His record, no wins, no losses (0-0). When he played as 20 year-old left-hander that year, Nappy Lajoie was managing Cleveland, Connie Mack was at the helm of the Philadelphia Athletics and John McGraw was managing the New York Giants. According to Neft & Cohen's 1990 edition of the Sports Encyclopedia of Baseball, **Sincock was born September 8, 1887 in Barkerville.**

Thank you to Myles Green for sharing this with us. If any of you out there have local history, "Cariboo Connections" to share, please let us know as we always need articles to use in the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FACTS

The last few years I have been keeping close track of our membership tally and where our members come from. The years 2006 and 2007 were very good for memberships but 2008 was considerably less. Of course the



recession happened and played a role in a drop as people were not traveling. In 2009 it was comparatively the same as '08.....this is a good thing as it did not fall any lower but seemed to hold in there. Special thanks go out to the Cariboo people for their continued support to this fabulous gem of ours, "Barkerville," and as well as new members signing up. Going through our guest book at the Hotel, I found people have come from places such as Holland, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Scotland, Netherlands and including New Zealand and Australia. What a great search tool the internet! It's wonderful the tourists chose "Barkerville" as one of their destinations. Back in the old days the men and women came from all over the world and it appears they still are but for other reasons, "to visit now." Till next time.....

****ITEM OF INTEREST****

On our last issue of the newsletter there was a photograph taken by Lana Fox of Barkerville's main street at dusk during the Victorian Christmas event. Lana sent this photo to Global TV's Wayne Cox earlier this spring and the photo was chosen as the "photo of the day" on Wayne's Weather Window! He also gave Barkerville a bit of a plug, too.



Trails Report

By Robin Grady

Friends of Barkerville are in the early stages of setting up a Trail Management agreement with the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts. Presently it looks like the

Waggon Road and the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail will be the first one to be written up with the rest to be added as the Ministry gets their agreements with other stakeholders in the areas of concern. The main holdup is with the miners and their leases. When we have the agreement in hand it will allow us to have some say in how the trails are to be used. We will be required to carry out an inventory of what may be need to bring a trail up to a certain standard and indicate how we plan to carry that out. Our first year may only be that of doing the inventory.

Now that lots of low and mid elevations are clear of snow and replaced by mosquitoes it will be time to do some trail hiking. The view trail above Barkerville needs a crew with rakes to remove branches etc left from the work done on the hillside last winter. We also need to arrange with Wells town staff to get together for a day at the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery.

I have made a replacement headboard for the Blessing's grave site and hope to have it installed before you read this note. Also re-sent a request for a toilet to be installed at this site has been sent.

Wells has their Trail Site now on the web.

(www.wellsbarkervilletrails.com)

The Friends updated site has their Trails in a downloadable format (1:20000) and also on Google Earth, which is quite neat. (you will see on G.E. if you go too low that the trail sometimes is somewhat off of where it should be, will tune that up at a later date) A big thanks to Jim Kurta from Westroad Resource Consultants for the map work.

ROBIN SHARPE RETIRES

Robin Sharpe was roasted, toasted and raked over the proverbial coals at the Wells Community hall for on Saturday, May 22nd. There was great entertainment – some of the "old" Barkerville street music and lots of speeches. Chinese Dim Sum was served, and there was music and dancing. The hall was full and a good time was had by all!



Barkerville Heritage Trust (BHT)

Update By Neil Vant, Chair of the Board.



Since my last report the hard working Board met in Quesnel on April 17th and April 18th. Also on April 20th I

reported to the Wells District Council whom I am proud to represent on the BHT Board. Being a founding Director of the BHT I can reflect back to 2004 and a year of monthly meetings working on the first Site Management Agreement between us and the Province which runs from April 1st, 2005 until March 31st 2020. So far, believe it or not, we have worked with no less than four Ministers of Tourism Culture & the Arts! First, Minister Murray Coell, then the late Minister Stan Hagen, then Minister Bill Bennett (no relation to WAC) and now Minister Kevin Krueger. Indeed, the Executive of the BHT, myself as Chair, Sue Morhun, Vice-Chair and Roy Spooner, Secretary & Chair of our Fundraising and Revenue Development Committee met with the Hon. Kevin Krueger on May 4th where we were warmly received. We were pleased that Minister Bill Bennett, now of Rural and Community Development accompanied by Donna Barnett his Parliamentary Secretary and Minister Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range attended. Regrets were received by Minister Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. Also at the meeting were senior staff of the Heritage Branch and the Ministry of Small Business, Economic Development and Technology. There were so many wanting to attend our presentation that it had to be held in a meeting room instead of in the Minister's office! Our hard working CEO Judy Campbell and our Fund raising advisor, Janice Hamilton accompanied us as we shared our Achievements, Continuing Challenges,

Required Investments both short term and long term and the anticipated Benefits. We shared our major fund raising plans for Barkerville and the Provincial and Federal Government's part in this endeavor. Minister Kevin Krueger wants to meet with us again, soon, and he also wants to visit Barkerville soon. Moreover, it is very noteworthy to advise you that the Federal Government actually noted Barkerville as a site of National Historical Significance way back in 1924! This was recently confirmed when a bureaucratic maze was unraveled within the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board Minutes. The building of the Cariboo Waggon Road was an event of National Historical Significance and the original minutes of 1924 mentioned Barkerville also. This was somehow lost in the Trudeau era when all of the Federal Plaques were changed to include French and somehow Barkerville was overlooked!

While this doesn't give us any Federal money it does put us on several radar screen and does, in my opinion, enhance our chances of getting the Federal government to contribute to our major fundraiser.

Finally, given the multi-ethnic nature of Barkerville's early residents and especially the very significant Chinese presence and connections it is possible that Barkerville could eventually achieve World Heritage Status! This would really put us on the map!

Anyway, those who have said in the past that Barkerville is British Columbia's best kept secret, may now have to say: - Barkerville is indeed an Historical Jewel to be carefully cared for and enjoyed by more and more, in our time and for generations to come!

**COME ON OUT TO THEATRE
ROYAL'S GALA OPENING
NIGHTS - JUNE 18 & 19TH For
reservations call 250-994-
3225 or
email:wright@theatreroyal.ca**

STORE REPORT – BARKERVILLE HOTEL

We have a few new products in the store this summer and a few more yet to come. Children's items such as bean bags and sets of bean bags with a sheet of games to play with them included are one item and from the same supplier we also have soap on a rope kits for kids – which includes a large enamel mug and all the fixing to make the soap. There is also a Sunday Doll kit for kids to make. Still to come – but on order – is something new - Wooden boxes with embroidery on the wood. Denim shirts with stitched pictures, fleece blankets and stitched placemats are some of the new items yet to arrive.

We also have a few new books on the shelf. One book is from a local author Chris Harris and is a good resource for those planning a trip on the Bowron Chain. It has great maps and lists of what to take and not to take.

Another book is called “Peter O’Reilly – the Rise of a Reluctant Immigrant” by Lynne Stonier-Newman. It tells the story of an immigrant from Ireland who landed in Victoria in early 1859 and went on to make his mark as a gold commissioner, assistant land commissioner, county court judge and Indian Reserve Commissioner.

Another book is “Kootenai Brown – The Unknown Frontiersman” by William Rodney. In it is an entire chapter titled the “Goldfields of Cariboo”.

We also received two titles (and over 12 books) as a donation from a writer named D. M. McGowan, from Northern BC. One book is called Partners and tells the story of a man named Thomas Brash, who teams up with Frank Clement, and they help each other – one with fatherly protection and guidance and the other with wilderness life skills. The other book is called “Homesteader – Finding Sharon”. Set in the 1880's, it is a story of a man who looks for a homestead and a woman and finds both, but lots of troubles too.

So – come on in to the store and see what is new! Maybe you'll find something new to tickle your fancy or your funny bone.

A Word (or 7500 or so) from the

Curator – W. G. Quackenbush



The Curatorial section at Barkerville has secured grant funding and I have been able to hire four students to assist in the cleaning of exhibits, maintenance of the gardens, research on a variety of subjects, continue preparation of the data base for publication on the web, as well as to carry out an archaeological research program.

Mike Will, who has often worked for Barkerville, including many As-found drawings, analysis of the bottle collection, authoring statements of significance, etc. is operating the Archaeological dig this summer. This includes the school groups who are slowly sifting through the material from beneath the Barkerville Hotel, as well as excavation of the Chinese Terrace Gardens. Mike Sveplovgyi, an Archaeology student, will be assisting Mr. Will and cataloguing and analyzing artifacts.

Beth Scott, a Spanish and History student, is assessing the over 7,000 digitized photographs for the web and cleaning fabrics on display. Jake Moffatt, a Biology student, and Mica Jorgenson, a History student, are carrying out the bulk of the Conservation Cleaning. Each student will complete an essay/report that will add to our knowledge of Barkerville – all bright young minds.

Anne Laing, Duane Abel and Mandy Kilsby have been working hard at preparing for the opening of the Kibbee House, Conservation in the Cariboo exhibit that we hope to announce the opening day shortly (amongst getting the Curatorial element of the site up and running, designing and creating signage and just about a million other things). Mandy is our summer librarian again this year (hours are 9 to 4:30 Wednesday to

Sunday or by appointment – which is the recommended method at all times).

The data base is presently on the web, but we are in the process of changing it so that it is more direct. Go to Barkerville.ca and click on Collections and Research and then again click on the left hand column Collections Database in order to enter the data base (most of the things on the side bar are in the Collections Database section). Just over 1,800 photographs appear there, along with elements of the entire database.

Clean up around the site this spring has been a rush job, as opening still sees much snow on the ground that disappears during the first weeks of May revealing the debris from roofing and foundation work carried out in the late fall and winter (take a look at the back street and some of the new roofs) – all part of the trials of working at a Heritage site where major construction work has to happen outside of the ‘open’ season. Reuben Berlin, of Operations and Maintenance, has been pulling his hair out getting that work done.

We are moving forward, slowly, with the development of the Barkerville Conservation and Learning Institute. The Institute idea formed over the last year in response to moving Barkerville forward into the 21st century and is intent on taking our research and presentation to the next level. Envisioned is a full conservation lab and storage facility with web casting, theatre and audio-visual elements that will allow us to hold work shops for all aspects of historic preservation and presentation, from the singing and dancing to the preservation of the proverbial kitchen sink (that in most people’s eyes would have been thrown out 100 years ago). This will help strengthen our ties to the academic world, assist in the long term presentation and preservation of Barkerville, as well as to reach the younger web oriented generation.

We waved good-bye to Robin Sharpe in May upon his retirement after 24 years of outstanding service to Barkerville – we will surely miss him, but wish the best to him in his endeavors.

Sadly, I send out condolences out to the family of Ruth Stubbs, who passed away this spring. Ruth who was Curator at the Quesnel Museum and Archives, did an outstanding job and was great supporter – I will miss you.

And, finally, I send out condolences to the family of John Premischook, who also passed away this spring. John was a much well loved and respected long term Manager of Barkerville. It had been 18 years since his retirement, yet I still relied on his knowledge and expertise and would call him to get the straight goods on issues on Barkerville and spent many hours talking about everything from the minutiae of the crustaceous period to the preservation of kitchen sinks – a fount of knowledge and a dear friend.

BARKERVILLE LOSES A PIONEERING ADMINISTRATOR

John O. Premischook died on Tuesday May 18th at the Prince George Regional Hospital. He was 74 and would have turned 75 this December.

After a career in logging John Premischook started with the Parks Branch in 1963. In 1966 he came to Barkerville and took over as Parks Superintendent from Les Cook. John, known to the staff as J.O. continued the important work of Restoring and Preserving Barkerville.

He served two terms in Barkerville The first from 1966 to 1976 and then he served again from 1986 until 1992 after working in other parts of the Parks system and in Headquarters in Victoria.

He retired in 1992 settling in Kersley with his wife Veda. His 16 years of service being in charge of Barkerville is a record that will probably never be equaled. Judy Campbell the present CEO started under J.O. in 1974 and Robin Sharpe who recently retired also started out in Barkerville under J.O in 1986. Of course, many others did too! J.O. will be missed by his family and his many friends that he made over the years. He loved Barkerville and it's History and he contributed significantly to what Barkerville is today for the people of British Columbia, Canada and the world to appreciate and enjoy.