

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE

Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

Volume 13, Issue 1 - February, 2009



GOLD RUSH TRAIL DOG SLED MAIL RUN January 2009



The Dogsled Mail Run took place again this January, beginning near Quesnel, over-nighting at Cottonwood, Troll Resort and then on to the finish line in Barkerville. Tony and Liz Bensted and I (Cathy) went up to Barkerville to open the Hotel. Our purpose was mainly to provide hospitality, i.e. a warm drink and a place to warm up in, as the weather was quite chilly. Although it wasn't as warm as we would have liked inside the hotel, we did serve a lot of hot apple cider to the visitors and sold a couple of items, as a bonus. It was quite exciting, when, as the dogsleds came down the street, people came out of the

Dog sled arriving at Troll Resort

buildings to cheer them on. Along with the dogsleds, there were several ski-jorer's (a couple of dogs pulling someone on skis) which looked like it would be a lot of fun.

Having just received my special envelope in the mail, it was interesting to note the many postmarks and dates on it. It was first hand canceled in Quesnel on January 23rd, then again in Barkerville on January 25th. It also bears a hand stamp that says "Carried by dog sled". It is special to have this event happening right here in our community, as it is one of the few opportunities in the country to mail delivery by dog sled, via Canada Post. After closing the



Hotel up, Tony, Liz and I headed to Wells to watch the teams *Photo courtesy of Tony Bensted* come in after the "Dash" from Barkerville to Wells – Great fun for all – both watchers and participants.

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 Johnnesen

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. When Barkerville Historic Town is open (mid-May to end-September), FoB staff are at the Barkerville Hotel on Main Street, phone 250-994-3360. In the off season, contact any executive director. E-mail address for all directors year round is friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca. Our web site is linked to www.barkerville.ca, - click on our logo in the bottom left corner of the Barkerville home page.

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.

MEETINGS

Presently scheduled meetings follow; additions and changes will be published in this newsletter.

DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Our regular meetings take place at @5:30pm @ Wee Chippie. Most of our meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month and will most likely remain at W. C. as they have lots of room and no charge. There will be a couple of meetings in Barkerville, no dates as of yet.

MERCHANDISE

The Friends of Barkerville offer souvenirs, crafts, 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)

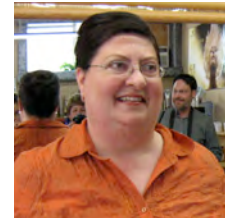
CREDITS

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 *THE NEWSLETTER* editor especially, are always looking for help. The organization is involved with restoration and maintenance of artifacts, buildings, machinery, trails and cemeteries, attending shows, publications, 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 readers interesting stories along with it. Contact any director to offer your help. *Thank you.*

EDITOR'S CORNER

As the new editor of the Friends of Barkerville Newsletter, I am excited to begin the process of producing this first newsletter. I hope to provide the members with the news and events that happen in Barkerville and within the Friends of Barkerville. As the store manager, I spend a great deal of my time in Barkerville during the open season, as well as some during the off season. This gives me a grass roots perspective of the townsite, with which I hope to keep our members in the loop. The Friends of Barkerville could not exist without volunteers, so I am dedicating this first issue to some of the faithful volunteers – the unsung hero's of the Friends. We don't do nearly enough volunteer recognition; maybe this will be a start.

Cathy Eisma,
Editor



Note from the Curator, January 21, 2009
W.G. Quackenbush

The Barkerville Curatorial team has been working on a number of projects: restoration of the Waterous Engine Works sawmill; a new Guide to Barkerville; a strategy for development of the old Machine and Carpenter Shops for retrofitting for storage and display; presentations at the BC Museums Association meetings; cataloguing and photographing the artifacts at Barkerville; restoration and repair of cast iron heaters for use in stores and walk-in exhibits; preparation for the transfer of the data base and photographs to our web site; and, general research on conservation in the Cariboo in preparation of an exhibit in relation to Frank Kibbee; amongst other things that arise on a daily basis. One of the most difficult aspects of this job is dealing with the perception that our work at Barkerville is seasonal, that somehow, if there are no visitors, that there is no work. The above activities we have been undertaking do not include all of the other things that we carry out during the year. For example, donations, inquires, purchasing, contracting of other services all form a part of the day to day activities. My work virtually never changes from one point in the year to another. As listed above, the planning is an important aspect. For instance, research on the Waterous Engine sawmill produced something of interest. The notes on file indicate that it came from Joe Wendle and that it had been at Bowron Lake. It was thought to have been brought into the Cariboo in order to cut the wood for the steamship, Enterprise. The patent date is 1868 and this company, out of Brantford, Ontario, supplied many of the small mills throughout North America for over a century. It is sometimes referred to as the Canadian. It is only recently that the sub-divisions of this company (all over North America) have ceased operations. However, they destroyed all of their blue prints, etc., back in the 1950s for all of the old material that they produced. We have contracted the Antique Machinery Park, Quesnel to carry out the restoration and Berlin Construction

for the building of the structure in which it will be housed. We hope to have it in a demonstrable condition by at least the middle of 2009.

When I arrived at Barkerville, April 1, 1990, I recognized there was no coherent catalogue of the artifacts. I estimated, given the general conditions of the work place that it would take 10 years to gain a control over the artifacts. While I have still not reached that goal completely nearly 20 years later, the end of what I was told was impossible is in sight. This is the third year of a multi-year project to complete the cataloguing in full – number on the object, data in a computer and a photograph of the object; plus, we have a fairly firm grip on the entire collection with partial cataloguing and an organizational structure on all items. Estimates of 200,000 objects were made after a quick and dirty count was conducted in order to establish a time line and budget for the rest of the project. We now have approximately 100,000 items catalogued to the point that I feel satisfied that other aspects of the job can be accomplished, such as culling artifacts that do not fit our mandate and which have little use for either comparison and study, or for exhibit. However, having a catalogue only eases certain aspects of the work – having a photograph of the object, its location, its state as of 2009, etc. – makes searching for items for exhibit easier as one can review the documents in the data base, have an image to examine that will allow us to locate and identify items for exhibit, etc.. But, exhibit development is often predicated by research. It is difficult to develop stories about the artifacts or general history without research. It is the fundamental and driving force of any museum, heritage site or public expression of history. Museums are perceived as one of the top contenders in our society for expressing truth. This puts a great responsibility on our shoulders, especially when a child comes to Barkerville, sees something and carries this into adulthood and forms part of how they see life. To a degree, this is both a comfort
(continues on page 4)

and plague, as research can turn a truth into falsehood in seconds, destroying some people's ideals or perceptions of life. I believe the key is to accept truths, but to question them and allow others to question your own truths. One of my favorite things is when someone comes up and tells me that there is a problem with an exhibit and it turns out to be a valid point (some are not). There is nothing like being wrong to keep the ego in check and to remind you that the work is not for you, but for others. But research costs money, takes time, and often has conflicting pieces of evidence. It is a slow process, that is often aided by volunteers and people I would consider to be slightly insane – why would anyone in their right mind spend their life looking at all of the facets of the manufacture and history of nails. Well, because they were fundamental to the economic and social changes associated with the Industrial Revolution and the machines of manufacture were co-opted into everything machine made today – whoops, just fell off the hobby horse. To date the cataloguing project has seen 18,200 artifacts catalogued and photographed this winter by Mandy Kilsby, Phoebe Murphy, Jen Ray and Sandy Phillips and there are still two months to go on this project. Together with the digitized photographs from the Archives, the intent is to publish the data base in a user friendly form on the web. The intent is to make the information publicly available. Certain aspects such as fee charges for down loading will be incorporated into this in order to assist in the continued upkeep and maintenance of the Library-Archives. Mike Strong from Kaslo has been contracted to carry out the restoration of some of our heaters. He has carried out this task on other parts of our heater/stove collection in the past and does a beautiful job – witness the Wendle House stove – probably the top of the cast iron line in terms of frills and functions for the 1890s. Cliff Quinn has been working with us since 1994 in the creation of our data base. I have been dreaming up the data base and the web element up for what seems forever, while at

the same time working on the construction of a cross indexed data base that will connect between the books, photographs, maps, artifacts, buildings and thousands of other records in our collections. I can not wait to have it all fall into place and be more accessible to everyone.

The BC Museums Association meetings went well, as Robin Sharpe, Judy Campbell, Anne Laing and I reconnected with a lot of the museum people from all over the Province. We also had a panel presentation about Barkerville which was well received. Barkerville is a finalist for northern region of the Premier's Award for Innovation in the Public Service for its partnership with Service BC and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources for the research, restoration, display creation and operation of the Provincial Government Office this year. Debora Lipscombe, Manager of Government Agents for the area spearheaded this project. Debora, originally from the Quesnel offices, immediately thought of working with Barkerville on this BC150 project in celebration of the 150 anniversary of BC as a Crown colony and subsequently a Province of Canada due to the fundamental aspect of gold being discovered in large quantities on Williams Creek.

Most recently, the Chinese Free Mason's building has been declared a National Historic Site, all due to the perseverance of the Barkerville Heritage Trust board member, Lily Chow.

Anne Laing is busy finishing the new Guide to Barkerville which we intend to have for sale for under \$10 for the 2009 season and is part of the BC150 funding distributed by the BC Museums Association. This has been a stressful undertaking given all of the other work that is going on and Anne will be ecstatic to move on to other projects.

Presidents Report – by Robin Grady

Well here it is 2009 already, and I hope everyone had a great Holiday and is looking forward to a great summer.

We had our Victorian

Christmas at the Hotel on December 20th, 21st and the 22nd. Unfortunately, the

weather didn't help, being -42 C. on

Saturday, which scared almost everyone in the Cariboo except for a few last minute shoppers. Sunday actually warmed up to -15C which seemed balmy after Saturday.

Our season passes to Barkerville will remain the same as last year, being \$20 for Singles and \$45 for Families. You may purchase these either at the gate when you visit or mail in the attached form plus a cheque payable to Friends of Barkerville. One of our 2009 projects will be to help Barkerville with some funds to upgrade the Canadian Claim. This was a project that the Friends had done many years ago and since then it has required some serious work to make the area safe. We hope the selling of "Shares" in the Claim to help with this funding and may tie into the Waterwheel show somehow as it is located directly across the creek. There has been some discussion with the Wells town council to see if they would take over the day to day administration of the new portion of the Wells/Barkerville cemetery and FOB would continue to help with the maintenance of the site. We should know the outcome soon as it has been presented to a council meeting. We would like to thank Cathy Eisma for taking over the production of the Newsletter along with the running of the Barkerville Hotel, and hope everyone will send her items for future issues.

"History balances the frustration of 'how far we have to go' with the satisfaction of 'how far we have come.' It teaches us tolerance for the human shortcomings and imperfections which are not uniquely of our generation, but of all time." Lewis F. Powell, Jr.



BOOK REPORT – by Andy Motherwell

"How the Scots Created Canada" – Paul Cowan, Dragon Hill Publishing, 2006
Unbiased as I am about Scots, this book is an interesting read, stating on the opening page that "there is something to the claim that the Scots have played a far greater role in creating modern Canada than any other immigrant group." Some Scottish blood may have accompanied the Vikings in their sailings to



Canada, since the Vikings had previously landed and lived in Scotland. A Scot showed General Wolfe a little known trail up from the St. Lawrence to the Plains of Abraham, thus surprising and

defeating the French.

Scots were used to the harsh life of the Orkney Islands and adapted well to the harsh wilderness conditions as employees of the HBC, a company that ruled most of Canada for 200 years. As explorers for the fur trade, Scots are easily found: Alexander MacKenzie, Simon Fraser, Governor James Douglas and George Simpson HBC "Emperor", to name a few.

Tartans were the chief means of Scot's identity, but did you know that there is a BC Tartan, an Albertan Tartan, a North Vancouver Tartan and a North West Mounted Police Tartan?

Scot's were well educated and that tradition was implanted in Canada as many universities show Scottish influence.

It's an interesting read, best accompanied by a glass of 12 year old Glenfiddich single malt scotch whiskey. I dedicate this report to Robin Grady, the chair of the FOB and of course, of some Scottish descent.

ODE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We have many volunteers who come out on a regular or sporadic basis to assist the Friends and Barkerville in any way that they can. I feel that in order to keep volunteers, you need to recognize and thank them often, as this is the only “pay” they get! Many take great pleasure in helping out. I thought it would be nice if we could recognize some of these volunteers in this issue of the newsletter. If anyone is forgotten, please forgive me, as the memory can be faulty. The volunteers I have highlighted are those who have no “official” position on the executive of the FOB.



The first volunteer I have chosen is **Ray Peebles**. He is a long time volunteer with the Friends and has been a very valuable member. He is also a past director. Ray lives in Quesnel and comes out to

Barkerville usually once a week during the summer, to assist in the hotel. There is nothing he likes better than to talk to the customers/visitors and impart some of his vast wisdom about the history of Barkerville and the Barkerville Hotel.

The second volunteer chosen is **Tina Crantz**. Tina has been an invaluable help to me in the hotel, willing to do anything and everything. She lives in Fruitvale, near Trail and usually spends the summer on Reduction Road in New Barkerville. She usually brings her grandson Samuel, who is also a helper around the town. Tina can often be found in costume and her best talent is her ability to sell (I say she could sell an igloo to an Eskimo!)



This dapper looking individual is **Stan Hack**. He is another volunteer always ready to do anything. He lives down in the lower mainland and usually tries to come up at least twice a summer. He often camps out in a tent and is most identified

by his little bright green Smart Car. He really enjoys working outside and can often be found gardening around Barkerville.

Monty Scott is another man who really enjoys bending the visitor’s ear. He lives in Kamloops and tries to spend part of the summer in Barkerville. Last summer, both his daughters worked in the town. He likes to help out around the hotel and is willing to take on many different chores for both Barkerville and the Friends.



These next volunteers are often found together, as they are best friends and business partners. Left is **Linda Martin** and Right is **Pat Davidson**. These ladies run Dragonfly Soap Co. and love to come out to Barkerville to

help out during the events held. They have also made donations to the Hotel for us to sell.

Hat’s Off to Our Fabulous Volunteers!

**Friends of Barkerville – Cariboo Goldfields
Historical Society Annual General Meeting
of September 4, 2008**

Held at Barkerville, B.C.

The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm with Robin Grady in the chair

Directors present: R. Grady, D. Perdue, A. Motherwell, L. Fox. R. Galbraith, P. Pickering,
Directors absent: R. Peebles, D. Jorgenson, B. Patenaude, T. Bensted, L. Grady.

Members Present: Bill Quackenbush, Richard Wright, Jim Gorsline, Cathy Eisma, Tina Crantz, Gordon Crantz, Jean Speare.

Agenda: Additions to above or Agenda

Election of Directors.

**Minutes of the September 6, 2007 Annual
General Meeting** were accepted as distributed.
Moved by Pat Pickering and 2nd by Lana Fox.

Correspondence: Nothing to report.

Financial Report: The year end report to date as prepared by Tony Bensted was presented by Robin Grady. The account has been moved to the Credit Union from the Royal Bank to reduce service charges. Motion to accept the report as distributed. Moved by Andy Motherwell, and 2nd by Pat Pickering. Motion accepted.

President's Report: Robin Grady presented the Presidents Report outlining a successful year for the FOB. A copy of the report is attached.

Committee Reports:

Trails- Robin Grady reported that no significant work has been required this year. Hikes organized by other groups are occurring on a steady basis.

Membership: The report as presented by Lana Fox shows 1358 members this year. Lana presented a detailed regional breakdown of the membership.

Newsletter: The report as presented by Rick Galbraith indicated that three newsletters and a special edition were produced over the year. Rick took over the editing position in 2008. Rick has made progress, despite some growing pains, in moving the newsletter into a digital publication. Thanks to the Grandells for their assistance with the newsletter during the year.

Barkerville Hotel: Cathy Eisma presented the Hotel report. A copy of the report is attached. Sales are up slightly over 2007 although there have been fewer visitors to Barkerville. Stan, Ray, Tina and Lana were all a great help and are thanked. As stated by Andy, the Directors would also like to thank Cathy for all the hard work over the year.

Cemetery: The cemetery report was presented by Doug Perdue. The project to shore up the wall

at the Barkerville cemetery is now complete. The FOB donated \$10,000.00 towards this project.

Fencing requirements need to be resolved.

Discussions with the Wells Mayor and Council over maintenance of the cemetery need to be made.

Special Projects: The corn boil at Forest Rose campground resulted in net proceeds of \$219.47 for the FOB. Thanks to Andy and Carol, Tina, Lana, Andi, Kris, Rose, Caleb and Samantha for making the event a success.

The Theatre Royal show in Quesnel sponsored by the FOB was also well received. Thanks to all the Directors and everyone else who in making the event a success.

Barkerville Heritage Trust Report: Pat Pickering will continue as the FOB representative on the Barkerville Heritage Trust Board. Pat is moving to Vancouver and will participate from the lower mainland. Pat presented an overview of the BHT structure.

Barkerville Report: Planning for 2009 projects is scheduled to take place in November. FOB ideas should be forwarded to Judy Campbell by early November for inclusion in the process. The sawmill project is still in the tender phase, as a suitable tender has yet to be received.

New Business: To make the banking switch work, on-line banking is needed. A motion by Andy Motherwell to authorize on-line viewing of the bank account was accepted.

Election of Directors

The election was conducted by Andy Motherwell. The constitution of the Friends of Barkerville reads that there should be 12 Directors. Nine of the current Directors wish to remain, they being: Tony Bensted Lana Fox Robert Grad, Dave Jorgensen, Rick Galbraith, Loretta Grady, Doug Perdue, Andy Motherwell, Pat Pickering. Two members have let their name stand to become directors, they being: Jim Gorsline Grant Johnnesen.

A call for further nominations took place.

Hearing none, the 11 directors are appointed.

**The Directors wish to thank retiring Directors
Ray Peebles and Branwen Patenaude for their
help over the years.**

In calling for the election of the Executive: Robin Grady is appointed as President, Tony Bensted is appointed as Vice President, Doug Perdue is appointed as Secretary, Tony Bensted is appointed as Treasurer.

Adjournment: Andy Motherwell adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.



**FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE
CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM
2009**

DATE _____ Please print clearly

	NEW	RENEWAL	FAMILY \$45	SINGLE \$20
NAME: (1)	_____	_____	_____	_____
	given		surname	
(2)	_____	_____	_____	_____
	given		surname	

ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ PROV/STATE: _____
 POSTAL CODE: _____ COUNTRY: _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

Friends of Barkerville publish a Newsletter three times a year; these may be viewed or downloaded from our Web Site and members are encouraged to do so. If you do not have access to the internet, we will be happy to mail them to you.
 Please return this form to the Friends of Barkerville at the Barkerville Hotel for your membership cards or you may mail it to:

**FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE
CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 4152
QUESNEL, B.C. V2J 3J2**
 email: friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca website: www.barkerville.ca

Please fill out the following if you would like to volunteer for the Friends of Barkerville. The following are examples of the types of volunteer positions that might be available. Please check any that might interest you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting visitor's | <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting with historical interpretation and sales in Hotel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events(set up, food service, hospitality, clean up) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phoning committees' | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Researching heritage plants and gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street clean up | <input type="checkbox"/> Cataloguing of artifacts (*special training required). |

All volunteers will be provided with any training needed and will be asked to sign in and sign out of the site, as well as to sign a volunteer agreement.

Please check any skills that you might have to offer, either at Barkerville or on trails or in cemeteries:

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> building maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> research skills | <input type="checkbox"/> carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> telephone skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer skills | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | | |

Please indicate what times/days you would be available to volunteer:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> weekends | <input type="checkbox"/> weekdays | <input type="checkbox"/> summer only | <input type="checkbox"/> during entire year |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|

Circle the best time to contact you – day or evening; by phone or e-mail.

Thanks for volunteering for the Friends of Barkerville. We will try to contact you as soon as possible.