



# **FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER UPDATE December 2015**



Photo by Lana Fox

## **“PRESERVE, PROTECT, PROMOTE”**

**“THESE OLD BUILDINGS DO NOT BELONG TO US ONLY; THAT THEY  
HAVE BELONGED TO OUR FOREFATHERS, AND THEY WILL BELONG  
TO OUR DESCENDANTS,” William Morris**



## **ELECTION RESULTS FROM AGM MEETING**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**



President: Grant Johannesen  
Vice President: Derek Burdikin  
Treasurer: Tony Bensted  
Secretary: Brenda Beatty

### **DIRECTORS ELECTED**

Richard Wright  
Robin Grady  
Lana Fox  
Kristie Seaborn  
Bridget Nowakowski  
Jim Gorsline

These positions are good for a one year term 2015-16 at which time there will be another election of officers in November at the AGM meeting.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS: Special Projects, Trails, Cemetery, Website.

MEMBERSHIP is from May 1<sup>st</sup> and ends April 30<sup>th</sup>, of the next year. A seasons pass is included with the membership and entitles the bearer to visit Barkerville from opening in May to the end of September, and as often as they wish.

Membership gives you a voice in the Preservation, Protection and Promotion of the historical sites of Barkerville and the Cariboo Goldfields; Seasons Pass; Newsletter to keep you informed. Members are welcome to Director's meetings held in Quesnel 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month of which two are usually held in Barkerville.

Membership /Newsletter contact person: Lana Fox

Trails contact person: Robin Grady

**VOLUNTEER HELP, WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED!**



## **FOR THOSE OF YOU UNAWARE OF WHO WE ARE.....** We

are a registered non-profit organization comprised of dedicated volunteers. Our main focus is to enhance the preservation, protection and promotion as it applies to Barkerville and the Historic Cariboo Goldfields Area.

## **WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED .....**

Since our formation in 1984, the Society has dispersed well over \$1.5 million in projects and programs. The majority of these funds have been spent in Barkerville for projects such as cataloguing of thousands of artifacts, public awareness campaigns, historic trail development in and around Barkerville and the Gold Rush area, improvements to the cemetery, financial support for repairing the cemetery wall, for reconstruction of the Waterwheel and Stampmill, raising funds to restore the Canadian Claim and donated a new bridge across Williams Creek for access to this site. We continue to make improvements at Blessing's Grave site and Stanley Cemetery. Trail signage and clearing of trails is ongoing.

**VOLUNTEERS.....**We are always in need of volunteers! Work Bees for trail work and spring cleanup at the cemetery's are ongoing projects. Members can also serve as volunteers to assist in various needs at Barkerville Historic Town especially during special events and busy Holiday weekends. If you would like to become involved please contact us via email: [friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca](mailto:friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca) or by mail to: Friends of Barkerville Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

PO Box 4152, Quesnel, BC, V2J 6V6

or if you wish to speak directly to a director, call Robin Grady at 250-992-2008.

Follow us too! [Friends of Barkerville - Cariboo Historical Society - Facebook](#)





**THIS YEARS WINNER.....** (one of two) of the Jerry MacDonald Bursary awards goes to Cynthia Leeanne Dykhulzen of Quesnel. Here is her submission....of Sophia Cameron, wife of John Cameron.



Oh, the cold. It envelops me, making me a prisoner in my own body. Not only has the frigid air numbed my body, but my mind as well, and I've become sluggish and weak. I cannot seem to find it in myself to leave this chair.

John builds up the fire again, and my eyes flick towards the dancing flames, willing their heat to penetrate my skin. I catch John's eye, and he drops his gaze immediately, but not before I can see the worry there, and the fear. He is anxious for me, for my health. Perhaps I should be too, but somehow I cannot bring myself to care.

My gaze moves to the warped window in front of me, where the perpetually grey sky is dark. It must be late night early morning. Down in the town, the other households will have been sound asleep for hours now. That is a common occurrence in a mining village. Early to bed, early to rise.

John should be asleep as well. I glance at him again, ready to try once more to convince him to leave my side, but I can't seem to move my lips. It's too much effort, and I am too, too cold.

Johns wants to try for another baby. He thinks that this time, because we have a permanent home and have settled in, will be different. He believes we can be a happy family together, here in the North. I nod every time he brings it up; not willing to give a voice to the part of me that absolutely refuses to attempt to have another child. I know, I just know that if I lose another, I will lose myself along with it. And I am already so frail. So weak. The smallest gust of wind could sweep me away, let alone losing another child.

My mind flashes back to little Alice, staring in confusion as John paraded her proudly through the streets. Then to her body, stiff and cold as I clutched it to my chest, hot tears spilling down onto the marble-like skin. And then to our second child, never to be named. He was never alive, only ever a corpse, stiff and icy and very, very dead.

I raise my fingertips to the window, but they are too cold to melt off any ice. Outside, the clouds hide the stars but cannot dim the moon, which shines brilliantly down, illuminating the crisp snow and dark evergreens.

My eyes start to slip close. I welcome sleep, for it is there that I feel no pain, no regret, no constant cold. John is saying something, but his voice is like smoke on the wind, transparent and formless and quickly blown away. (Continued)

My eyes struggle open, searching for John, but they fall on the window instead. Outside, the first snowflakes of a new storm are beginning to fall. I fall with them. And for the first time in months, I am really, truly warm.

Sophia Cameron

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## TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORK BEE - August 7, 2015

Early on the morning of Friday, August 7, 2015, eight able and willing volunteers set out in vehicles, gathering at the Barkerville parking lot. At 9 a.m. with backpacks filled, a pickup truck full of saws, gear, and safety equipment, two ATV's, and three bicycles, the group made its way through Barkerville and Richfield up to summit Rock and parked at a cabin shelter. [Photo-Jim Gorsline ready to start day off.](#) From there the



crew split into groups and transferred people and equipment along a portion of the Cariboo Waggon Road leading towards Stanley. Recent rainfall had caused some damage to a couple of spots along the trail making tricky access for the ATV's. Three of our volunteers with personal protective equipment (PPE), used power saws to buck limbs, brush, and blown down trees that were on or across the trail. The other five volunteers followed along behind, two on foot and three on bicycles, removing the

bucked pieces from the trail surface. We branched off of the Cariboo Waggon Road following south on the Van Winkle trail. Here, the trail and trail markers were less obvious and visible.

We marked the trail by chopping blazes on two sides of trees using a hatchet to mark the direction of travel coming from the south or north. We followed old blazes, plastic trail marker tags nailed to trees, and signs.





Dianne & Darrell Dagneau cycling in alpine meadow along Elk Mtn.

After clearing debris from this trail for a few hundred meters, we split the crew up. Three volunteers took the ATV's up the Mount Agnes trail to Groundhog Lake where they would wait for the five volunteers continuing on with clearing the Van Winkle trail, up

Photo-Bridget Nowakowski,

and over Elk Mountain to Groundhog Lake. The day was warm and bright for the most part. Rain or showers were in the forecast but thankfully never materialized. We saw some gorgeous scenery, rock formations, wildflowers, streams, alpine meadows and Ella, Black, and Ground hog lakes. We came upon a lone caribou in the alpine, along Elk Mountain after seeing several indicators – droppings and bedding areas in meadows. When we stopped for lunch and snacks along the trail we saw gray jays (whiskey jacks/camp robbers).

With it being late in the season there were few insects to bother us. A sense of history surrounded us as we imagined the original miners/packers/settlers creating, working on, or travelling the same trail we were now working on, many years later. They suffered through many hardships enduring weather, long days and nights, using bare hands and hand tools. We are able to use vehicles, power tools and wear rain and wind proof clothing.

Then and now, we enjoy the company of fellow workers/volunteers, fresh air, wilderness, flora and fauna and appreciate hard work. Either way, after a day's work in the mountains in and around Barkerville, it sure was and is nice to return to town and or home to have a hot meal and refreshments to wash it down with.



We ended our day, returning on the empty Barkerville back road, adjacent and parallel to Williams Creek a little past 6:30 p.m.

For this trail work bee, Robin Grady had several metal signs made up by the “Sign Stop” that he posted at trail heads and points of interest, including the Powder house trail, Summit rock, Van Winkle trail, Goldfields ditch line, and Mount Agnes.



Robin Grady at Summit Rock Meadow



There was an abundance of wild huckleberries and we stopped to gorge ourselves at various locations along the trail. There were endless photo opportunities; a few pictures have been included for your viewing pleasure. We highly recommend taking the time to explore and enjoy these and other



trails in and around Barkerville by hiking, biking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc. **Photo-Tony Bensted on Van Winkle Trail.** I want to acknowledge and thank the volunteers for the trail work done August 7<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Darrell



and Dianne Dagneau for their hard labour and bicycle power; Robin Grady (FOB Director) for the use of his pickup truck, power tools, and hard labour; Tony Bensted(FOB Director) and his son Adam for the use of their ATV, power tools, and hard labour; Jim Gorsline (FOB Director) for the use of his ATV, power tools, and hard labour; Bridget Nowakowski (FOB Director) for her hard labour and bicycle power; Grant Johannesen (FOB Director) for his hard labour.



**This photo was taken by Dianne Dagneau**

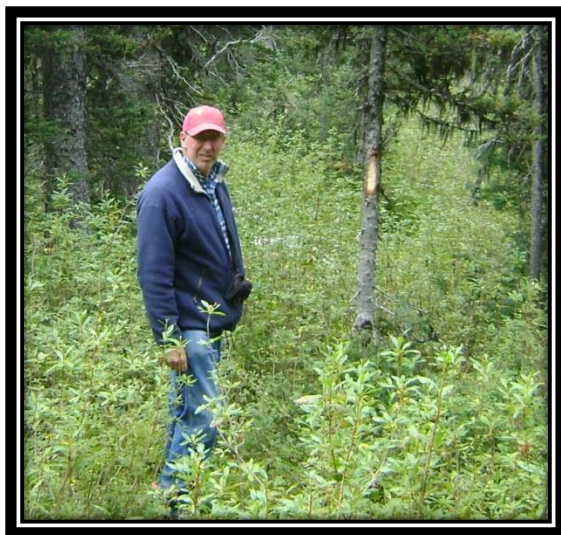
**Bridget  
Nowakowski, Adam  
Bensted, Darrell  
Dagneau at Black  
Lake**







Groundhog Lake at base of Mt. Agnes



Grant Johannesen on Van Winkle Trail

Article submitted by Grant Johannesen,  
President, Friends of Barkerville – Cariboo  
Goldfields Historical Society

Photos by Grant Johannesen , this one taken by Dianne  
Dagneau



## VAN WINKLE TRAIL CLEARED FOR HIKING.....

After a days work with 3 power saws two ATV's and eight Friends of Barkerville members, the trail was totally cleared of blow down and brush. We also cleared the Cariboo Waggon Road from the shelter near Summit Rock to the junction of the Van Winkle Trail near Ella Lake.



The Van Winkle Trail if you don't know its history was used in the 1860's before the Waggon Road was completed from Quesnellemouth (Quesnel) to Barkerville. The first 500 metres follows an old ditchline to access the old trail. At one time the trail may have been named the Lightning Creek Trail. The trail was located to access the Alpine areas to make the foot and horse travel much easier than through the low timbered brushy valleys. After the long steady climb, Groundhog Lake will be reached and during the 1860's a roadhouse had been built and offered bed and food plus liquor and cigars, apparently the best on the trail (liquor and cigars). Part way up along the creek you will find the starting point of the Goldfields Ditchline that eventually provided water for the mining near the present airfield. Also about half way up there is an unmarked trail to the right over to Black Lake located under the bluffs of the north ridge of Mr. Agnes. [Fox photo](#)



From Groundhog Lake, one may follow the road down to Barkerville, or continue upward along the base of Mt. Agnes and a choice of two trails to Bald Mtn. The lower trail will put you on the arm of Bald where you access the Powderhouse trail to go to Summit Rock. The higher trail will put you on the plateau of Bald, and on the NE edge of the Williams Creek valley you will find the connection to the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail along an arm of Proserpine Mtn. You then follow the GRPT from the 6k sign to Richfield and eventually Barkerville. This is a long hike of about 26km.

by Robin Grady



## GRAND OPENING OF LOW MOBILITY ACCESS TRAIL FROM BARKERVILLE TO CEMETERY

On Saturday, June 27, 2015, Newman & Wright Theatre Company officially premiered its 2015 summer season as part of the Barkerville Heritage Trust Annual General Meeting and Theatre Royal Gala. Invited guests and ticket holders were treated to two day admission to Barkerville; the BHT AGM at 11:00 a.m.; a look at the Billy Barker Shaft that was under construction; a behind the scenes tour at noon; the grand opening of the low mobility access trail at 2:00 p.m.; a 4:00 p.m. presentation of the 1940's musical "radio show" WCFB: On Air; Dim Sum served in the Barkerville Visitor Reception Centre with dignitaries giving speeches; a benefit auction at Theatre Royal, immediately followed by *The McGuinely Family Troupe Musical Revue*, an 1860's musical variety show; and refreshments, snacks, and live music at the House Hotel from 9:00 p.m. to midnight. The newly completed low mobility access trail from the Barkerville Visitor Reception Centre to the Barkerville Cemetery was officially opened at a 2:00 p.m. ceremony on Saturday, June 27th. It was complete with dignitaries, speeches, and a ribbon cutting. Among the crowd, watching the ribbon cutting ceremony, were past FOB



presidents, Alex Coffey, Richard Wright, Doug Perdue and current president, Grant Johannesen. This was a jointly funded project by: Barkerville Heritage Trust, Cariboo Regional District, Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, Northern Development Initiative Trust, Government of BC Community Recreation Program and we, the Friends of Barkerville - Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society (FOB) contributed \$5,000.00 towards the signage and cement benches situated along the trail. We encourage and invite you to come to Barkerville. While you visit and explore, we welcome you to try out the new trail and maybe sit and rest on a bench as you snack or drink. Enjoy the historic town of Barkerville as well as the

surrounding scenery and outdoors as you take a leisurely walk to the Barkerville cemetery.



Above photo of Ed Coleman CEO speaking and Al Richmond, CRD at right.

Photo of John Massier, CRD and Al Richmond also CRD standing at new sign at beginning of wheelchair accessible trail.







A total of five benches have been spread out and placed along the way of the wheelchair accessible trail from Barkerville to the cemetery. For those of you who make the trek up and back, you will now be able to stop and rest along the way.

The Friends of Barkerville were pleased and happy to play a part in supporting this worthy project.

All photos by Grant  
Johannesen. Photo on right  
by Lana Fox





## GRAND OPENING OF BILLY BARKER MINE SHAFT & SHAFT HOUSE -2015

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 was a day of excitement for many of us in Barkerville as it was the grand opening of Billy Barker's mine shaft and shaft house display. The Friends of Barkerville donated \$5,000 toward it's making which by the way is as close as you can get as shown in this original drawing done by P. Toft in June 1863. There were many of us standing around in the warm sunshine watching and listening to the speakers take their turn. A wonderful song was sung and an actual showing of how the system worked back then with lots of fun, laughs



Courtesy of Barkerville Historic Town: 2005.0042.0005 and pure enjoyment! It has been asked by many a tourist over the years, "where was Billy Barker's mine?" Now you will be able to take in demonstrations.....will be fun! Quoted from sign, "The exact site of the original building is unknown, but it was located in this part of Barkerville. Before the bulkheads were built to control Williams Creeks path, water flowed freely through the valley and deposited large amounts of sand and gravel. As a result, the ground level today is 10 to 20 feet higher





than it was in the 1860's, making it difficult to pinpoint the location of early structures."

I had the pleasure (that's me, Lana) to cut the ribbon that day! Standing with me was Don Basserman, Chair of Barkerville Heritage Trust. Below, the gang from the Waterwheel came to demonstrate a few things.

Very entertaining!

Submitted by Lana Fox



Photos by Lana Fox



Photo by Carleigh Drew



Mr. Grimsby, Miss Playfair

and Mr. Teach



**PRESERVING PAST FOR THE FUTURE.....** The Friends of Barkerville became registered “caretakers” of the historic Stanley Cemetery at Stanley, BC a number of years ago and participate in activities such as spring cleanup, repairing fences and general upkeep. We have been able to make it wheelchair accessible with help from the CRD through a donation. This summer was the grand opening of this venture. It is also the newest wheelchair accessible wilderness trail in the Cariboo Chilcotin. A full write-up can be found on the Cariboo Regional District Facebook site, <https://www.facebook.com/caribooregion>



Photos  
courtesy  
of Cariboo  
Regional  
District.

Below  
standing  
beside  
Harry  
Jones new  
plaque.

Left to right, John Massier, CRD representative;  
Robin Grady, FOB director and Grant  
Johannesen, President, FOB


On your next trip to Barkerville remember to  
take the Stanley loop road to stop and visit  
this historic little cemetery.





## Seven Summits Bike and Hike Challenge by Grant Johannesen

This was the eighth year for this event. It took place Saturday, September 19, 2015 in the mountains in & around Barkerville and Wells. Dave Jorgenson's company, Whitegold Adventures received an environmental stewardship award for organizing this event & he & Cheryl Macarthy, of the Bears Paw Cafe, did a fantastic job of organizing the event & providing food, drink, and encouragement. They had a crew of about 20 hardy & helpful volunteers & organizers out along the trail, in the mountains, & at the Bear's Paw Cafe to ensure a safe & successful day of biking/hiking.

Some volunteers & all participants endured howling winds, rain, sleet, mud, & bear sightings.  In particular, Jim Kurta, Bill Horne, & Linda Moon were brave souls manning check points at the top of Slide Mountain & Murray ridge, in less than favourable conditions. I do not name all the volunteers but each was an integral part of the team & contributed to a successful mountain experience for all bikers/hikers.

A few Directors of Friends of Barkerville – Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society volunteered their time helping out. Richard Wright donated his van for transportation & a shelter at the Yellowhawk trail checkpoint, where he helped out in the afternoon & waited for the last volunteers to exit the mountain. Robin Grady was posted at the Bald Mountain check point. Grant Johannesen was Race Co-ordinator & a floater helping out with various tasks at Barkerville, Wells, & at the base of Yellowhawk trail. Brenda Beatty donated prizes for the event from Rocky Peak Adventure Gear. Another Friend's Director, Bridget Nowakowski, participated in the event & received the coveted "Most Average" time award, finishing in 9 hours 23 minutes & 54 seconds (this was the second time she received this award).



There were 69 registered participants from 13 different cities in BC. The fastest male & fastest overall, was Tom Skinner of Prince George, finishing in 5 hours 37 minutes & 41 seconds. The fastest female was Bonnie Hooge of Prince George, finishing in 7 hours 23 minutes & 49 seconds. Cam Macknamara of Prince George, finished 7th overall with a time of 7 hours 13 minutes 37 seconds. Kevin Sturt of Quesnel, received the "Hard Luck" award after losing use of brakes & getting some bumps & scrapes, but still completing the race with a good time. Along the route, participants collected playing cards at various check points. Upon completion of the bike/hike, poker hands were revealed & prizes awarded.

All participants crossing the finish line were cheered & applauded by fellow competitors, fans, & volunteers. All competitors & their bicycles were coated in a layer of mud. Some grinned, some grimaced, some yelled, & some were silent. All are to be congratulated for their effort, whether they finished the entire circuit or not. It was quite the site to see mud-splattered bodies transform into human beings again as they were hosed off. After a warm shower or bath & change of clothes, everyone gathered in the Bears Paw Cafe & was treated to a delicious hot meal, warm & cold drinks, & a yummy home-made dessert. The awards presentation took place during dinner, amid much laughter, friendship & socializing.

Special thanks to everyone that organized, volunteered, donated prizes, & made this a successful event. Dave & Cheryl invite & welcome you to join them next year on Sept. 17, 2016 as a volunteer, spectator or as a participant. (*\*Dave says you can expect much nicer weather - with a chuckle and LOL!*) We want to thank Dave & Cheryl, for generously donating money from this event, over the past several years, to the Friends of Barkerville - Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society.



Above photo by [Eva Grandell](#)



These two photos were taken by  
[Dave Jorgenson](#)





**THE FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE CARIBOO  
GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

have been busy this year; we've had a great bunch of volunteers that helped to clean up the historic Van Winkle Trail from blowdown, which seems to be never ending these days, brushing, installing new signs, and also cleaned up the Stanley Cemetery from winter havoc. We sure do appreciate any and all help on the trails especially, and with other projects as well! Many good things have happened in Barkerville during this 2015 season.



Photo courtesy of Barkerville Archives, P5687.

Another project worthy of mention is the grand opening of the Barkerville School house in September. It is a replica of the historic school which stood on this site. This photo shown is the original from the 1930's but burned to the ground in 1946.

The facility will be used for a variety of Barkerville activities and programming. Some projects the Friends plan to work on in 2016 will be more trail work, a sheltered/secured bicycle rack set up on the back road of Barkerville and to support and work with BHT on the Richfield Chinese and Catholic cemetery.



## **GOLDEN GEM OF THE CARIBOO**

Poem by Grant Johannesen

Main street layered in gravel, mud, and water  
Miners seeking gold, down to their last dollar.

Cows, chickens, horses, pigs and dogs  
Buildings of hand cut shakes and logs.

Hand dug ditches transport water long distances to staked claims  
Hard earned cash lost, spent on dominoes and poker games.

Merchants sell food, drink, hardware, clothing, and accommodation  
Dominion Day or Autumn Moon, all about celebration.

The Theatre Royal provides lively entertainment  
A taste of culture and laughter, time and money well spent.

Travel on foot, bike, stagecoach, or horseback  
Follow a road, clouds, river, or train track.

Historic trails winding their way through rock, trees, and snow  
Discover alpine meadows where wild flowers grow.

At St. Saviors' Church – services, funerals, baptisms, wedding ceremonies  
Final resting places – Stanley, Blessings, Richfield, and Barkerville cemeteries.

Come as you please, travel with relative ease, come for the thrill  
What the heck, go on a trek, visit Historic Barkerville.





FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE  
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Friends of Barkerville Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society Membership entitles you



to an annual season pass into Barkerville Historic Town and a voice in the Preservation, Protection and Promotion of the Historical sites of Barkerville and the Cariboo Goldfields. Your support is greatly appreciated! Membership within the Society is



from May 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the last date, you will receive an email from the Friends of Barkerville that it's time to renew. Membership can be renewed by visiting our website and using PayPal or printing off the form on site and mailing in.

2016 Rates: Family \$65 or \$70 includes Cottonwood House entrance

Couple \$60 or \$64 includes Cottonwood House entrance

Single \$30 or \$32 includes Cottonwood House entrance

We hope to see you all again in Barkerville in 2016 to enjoy our awesome Cariboo Gem and to help keep it alive with your presence!

**Best Wishes and Happy New Year in  
2016!**

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