



# FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 18 ISSUE 2

JOHN BOWRON HOUSE

Fall/Winter 2018



**"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**



## FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE-CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

**PRESIDENT:** Hildur Sinclair

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Grant Johannesen

**SECRETARY:** Doug Perdue

**TREASURER:** Tony McDonald

### OTHER DIRECTORS:

Robin Grady

Lana Fox

Richard Wright

Cameron Graham

### DIRECTORS MEETINGS:

Directors meetings are dinner meetings and usually held the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Ulysses Restaurant. We do hold two of the meetings about June and September in the town of Barkerville in the new school building. Members and or the Public can attend these meetings if they like but, cannot vote unless it is at the AGM meeting itself. You can however express your input of suggestions or ideas.

### NEWSLETTER CREDITS:

All persons with submission of articles and photos will be given full credit. Please feel free to send in your items of interest which further helps the newsletter to continue.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

The Friends of Barkerville – Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society mailing address is P.O. Box 4152, Quesnel, BC, V2J 3J2. Our email address is: [friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca](mailto:friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca) and website is [www.barkerville.bc.ca](http://www.barkerville.bc.ca)

Watch for notifications posted for newsletters, and upcoming announcements of hikes and work bees or special events happening at Barkerville. They can always use an extra few hands during these times. We are always in need of volunteers. Any help is very much appreciated!

**POSITIONS:** are good for a one year term at which time there will be another election of officers at the AGM meeting in October.

**COMMITTEE POSITIONS:** membership, special projects, trails, cemetery projects, newsletter, website.

**MEMBERSHIP** is from May 1<sup>st</sup> and ends April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. A season's pass is included with the membership and entitles the bearer to visit Barkerville as often as they wish.

**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.

\***MEMBERSHIP** Contact: Lana Fox

\***NEWSLETTER** Contact: Direct submission of articles to Lana Fox (FOB email address)



## RESULTS OF ELECTIONS HELD AT FOB AGM, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The following is the new Executive and Directors:

### Election of Directors and Executive:

Directors: Tony McDonald, Robin Grady, Lana Fox, Grant Johannesen, Hildur Sinclair, Doug Perdue, Cam Graham, Richard Wright (via email).

### Election of Executive:

Treasurer: Tony McDonald. Acclaimed

President: Hildur Sinclair. Acclaimed

Secretary: Doug Perdue. Acclaimed

Vice President: Grant Johannesen. Acclaimed

The Friends say goodbye to Brenda Beatty and Kristie Seaborn who stepped down from their positions. Thank you for your volunteer services over the years! We now welcome aboard newly elected director, Cam Graham. We have a total of eight directors but we would welcome one or two more to join us. The more the merrier as the saying goes.

If you enjoy the history in the Barkerville area and Barkerville itself and enjoy hiking historic trails, or just getting involved in worthy projects such as trail work/maintenance, helping to keep the Stanley cemetery in top shape, or volunteering your time to help directly with Barkerville during busy times, we would love to hear from you.

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### **BHT REPORT by Grant Johannesen**

Quarterly face to face meetings were held in Quesnel in January, Williams Lake in April,

Barkerville AGM & Theatre Royal Gala event in June & Barkerville in October. Executive meetings are held every second Tuesday via conference call. Additional meetings may occur on an as need basis electronically or in person.

Mayor Bob Simpson attended the January meeting to speak about economic & tourism benefits that Quesnel & Barkerville create & share in partnership within the Cariboo. Barkerville has contracted the same marketing consultant that Quesnel used to come up with new global branding. The consulting companies' name is "will". This process is underway & advertising, letterhead, & signage will be consistent when it is finalized.

There has been a lot of work done within the town site with grant money and operational funds, such as painting of buildings, roof repair, computer backup systems in Vernon, wildfire protection identifying danger trees, falling danger trees, brushing & pruning tree branches, building cottages & cabins, upgrading electricity in campsites, & most recently paving parking lots, as well as other various projects & activities.

Speaking of which — Activities Season is soon upon us & the Shamrock Tube Run, skating surface, snow shoeing, skiing, snowmobiling, etc. will be starting soon. The café and cottages will be available for use. This past Activities Season was busy & with snow coming mostly late in the winter, made for good spring conditions.

A new fire truck building in Wells was completed with a grand opening event held in June, dedicating the building in the name of former fire chief Ray Beaulieu. In the works is an Indigenous tourism & cultural partnership to develop an interpretation centre in Barkerville at the same time an Indigenous Interpretive Centre is being considered in Quesnel, both in consultation with local First Nations Bands. Also, a partnership with Barkerville Gold Mines is in place to interpret & display underground mining. Funds are being pursued from various grant agencies such as BC Rural Dividend & Northern Development Initiative Trust.

Cottonwood House is being incorporated under the same agreement as Barkerville to be operated & maintained by BHT under a Heritage Site Management Agreement (HSMA). The present agreement is covered until 2020 with an option to extend to 2025.

The Organization chart has been revamped with Management & staff changes. There is a CEO, G M, Managers, Leads, & employees. Recently a couple new Management positions have been filled. Communication between staff, Management, & merchants/contractors, & staff accommodations on & off site are areas of concern, being continuously monitored & worked on for improvement.

#### **The Board of BHT Directors is as follows:**



Honorary Patron — Iona Campagnolo — At Large

Chair & Director— Kirstin Clausen — BCMA HS of BC

Past Chair & Director — John Massier — CRD & City of Quesnel

Vice Chair & Director — Walt Cobb — District of 100 Mile & City of Williams Lake

Treasurer & Director— Rhonda Hunter — At Large Gov't

Secretary & Director— Miriam Schilling — CCCTA

Director— Gary Champagne — District of Wells

Director—Jacqueline Holler — UNBC/SD 28

Director Grant Johannesen — Friends of Barkerville — Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

Director — Richard Liu — At Large multiculturalism

Director — Rob Rummel — Merchant/Licensee

Director — Les Waldie — At Large

Director — Chris Lodder — At Large Industry

Director — Chris Hyde — At Large Business

Director— Kirk Gable — Fraser Fort George R.D. & City of P.G.

I thank you for the privilege of being able to represent the Friends of Barkerville — Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society. I look forward to continuing this 3-year term appointment as I enter my second year in this capacity as a BHT Director.

Respectfully submitted,

**Grant Johannesen, BHT rep for FOB-CGHS**





## FINAL PRESIDENT REPORT.... AGM, Nov.7,2018

*Following the 2017 Annual General Meeting and the approval of our new constitution and bylaws (in order to conform to the new BC Societies Act), I compiled all of the documents into one cohesive one and submitted it to the BC Government, so that process is complete and we now have access to a unified, up-to-date version of our current Bylaws, via the BC Government website. This will be much more productive than trying to locate the hard copies and then assimilate all of addendums that have occurred over the years.*

*In the spring, we had our usual meeting to discuss our group's priorities over the coming season. One of them was to do a hard copy of a brochure to publicise Barkerville and the Friends of Barkerville. With input and photographs from Lana, I designed, budgeted and got the postcards printed locally. The response was positive, with most of the postcards getting distributed at the Barkerville Visitor Reception Centre. We should do this again when we run out of these ones, with a fresh image, as it is a great way to share Barkerville as a memento to visitors, one which visitor can share with others and a way to encourage more memberships in the FOB.*

*The final big project that I spent most of my time on was the Stanley Cemetery Kiosk. Robin did a great job managing the construction of the kiosk, reverting to Plan B as necessary! Lana had compiled her extensive research on the past inhabitants of Stanley and I was to write synopses to format the information in a way that was appropriate to present at the exhibit. We ran into trouble with the quality of work available from the local printing house, but I was away for the summer by then. This project is currently on hold, while we return to a collective editing stage, before sending the final document to Big Country for layout and design and go to Sign Stop once it is ready to print. For me, this has been frustrating, disappointing and an enormous amount of work, without resolution.*

*And so, this will be my final President's Report. I will resign from the Presidency and Friends of Barkerville board, effective immediately. I have enjoyed my time working on specific projects, and with the great group of people that have gathered to take on the task of supporting Barkerville through their shared love of Gold Rush history. I wish you all the best with future projects and I thank you for your effort and passion over the years. May you continue!*

Brenda Beatty





*Many thanks to our past President Brenda Beatty, for your dedicated volunteer time spent with the Friends!*

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**T**he Friends of Barkerville membership is 727, which is just shy of last years total of 746. The last two summers have seen forest fires, last year mostly in and around the Cariboo area and this year scattered around the province. This certainly does have some effect on the tourist industry. We hope to have seen the last and look forward to brighter days ahead!

Thank you to all who came to visit and support us through your purchase of a membership and donating to the donation boxes located throughout the site, this helps us to achieve our goal, and to continue to support Barkerville and area towards future projects. This past spring FOB donated money to BHT to purchase another medi scooter for Barkerville. These are very popular for the folks that have difficulty walking the distance up main street, which is slightly up-hill.

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## **JERRY MACDONALD BURSARY AWARD**

Each year the Friends of Barkerville selects two winners for the bursary award. The following submission is from the second winner. The first winner was printed in the spring issue of the newsletter.

**CARIBOO CAMERON** by Caitlin Macdonald

For my family the story of Cariboo Cameron began in Ontario, where my father grew up hearing about a great ancestor Cariboo Cameron. He remembers as a child driving past the mansion along the St. Lawrence Seaway, between Lancaster and Cornwall Ontario, and hearing Cariboo Cameron's story. Here's how the story was told.

*"You see that mansion, that was built by Cariboo Cameron, a great great uncle of yours. Its door knobs are made of gold. He was a miner. Cariboo Cameron struck it rich in the California Gold Rush. When he came back, he got married. He then went out west with his wife, promising her that he would strike it rich and build her a house with golden door knobs. Out West Cariboo Cameron struck it rich, but only after his wife died, with a final wish to be buried at home. He had to bury his wife 4 times and have her pickled in order to take her home. He and several others hauled her coffin through snow to Victoria where they buried her, while Cameron returned to his claim. Several months later the coffin was dug up again and brought back to Glengarry where it was buried. He built this mansion for her. After several years' rumours began flying around that that wasn't his wife buried there, and that she had been sold into slavery. To disprove the rumour her coffin was dug up and the alcohol poured out. Inside the coffin lay his wife perfectly preserved. Legend has it the grass never grew again where they poured out the alcohol. He died a pauper having given all his money away to his siblings and spending it on this mansion."*



Photo by Lana Fox

Having grown up hearing this story every time they drove past the mansion; my father was surprised when while visiting Barkerville he saw a sign about Cariboo Cameron. He had moved to the very place where Cariboo Cameron's fortunes and misfortunes took place. It seemed incredible to me that Cariboo Cameron actually pickled his wife and so I did some more research into his story. All of the facts held true. John Angus "Cariboo" Cameron

was born in Charlottenburg Township, in Glengarry County in 1820.

In 1853 Cariboo Cameron and his two brothers set out for the California Gold Rush, where they made a decent profit. Upon return he married Sophie Groves who was 12 years his junior. By 1861 the couple had a daughter and it was not long after, that news about the Cariboo Gold Rush filtered their way. Unable to resist the temptation, Cameron packed up once more and headed for the goldfields, this time with a young family in tow. Five days after setting foot in Victoria, the couple's 14-month-old daughter Alice died. It was here that Cariboo Cameron and Robert Stevenson began a business association. Robert lent Cameron \$2,000 dollars which he spent on candlesticks. This was a wise investment, for he later sold them for \$10,000.

In 1862 a company was formed consisting of Robert Stevenson, John and Sophia Cameron, Richard Rivers, Allen McDonald, Charles Clendening, and James Clendening. This group staked 6 claims and became known as Cameron and Company. Sadly, Sophia Cameron died of typhoid fever before Cameron struck it rich. Her dying wish was to be buried back home. Cariboo Cameron adhered to this wish, pickling her with alcohol and burying her for the time being in Barkerville. He dug her up and made the 1000 km trek through snow.

They traveled by snowshoe, horse, and steamer. His wife was buried again in Victoria while Cameron went back to his claim. He wanted to mine his claim as quickly as possible in order to get his wife home. To achieve this, he hired 75 men to work his claim giving rise to Camerontown. Once home he buried his wife. He shared his money with his family and built a mansion. Several years later he remarried. About ten years after having buried his wife in Glengarry, she was exhumed and identified, putting the rumours of her being sold into slavery to rest.

After several failed investments Cariboo Cameron had used up his money. He returned to the Cariboo, and died a year later a poor man. Today the mansion still stands and you can find Cariboo Cameron's grave in the Barkerville cemetery.





**FOB Directors Dinner Meeting at the Wake-Up-Jake, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Twice a year the Friends hold a directors meeting at Barkerville, usually in June and September. Attending this meeting sitting from front left going back around the table to the right is Grant Johannesen, Lana Fox, Tony MacDonald, Kristie Seaborn, Brenda Beatty, Richard Wright and guest Amy Newman. Missing was Robin Grady, Doug Perdue and Hildur Sinclair.

The remainder of our monthly meetings are held in Quesnel, the first Wednesday of the month. Members and the Public are always welcome to attend.

We look forward to hearing from others for their views and new ideas. If you're interested and would like to join us in volunteering your time to the historical site of Barkerville and surrounding Goldfields areas, that includes trail maintenance, Stanley cemetery work bees and more, give Grant a call at 250-992-1296, or Robin Grady at 250-992-2008.



***A big thank-you goes out to the Wake-Up-Jake for the delicious meal served to us!***



**F**LASH BACK.....A few photo's covering projects from earlier year's on trail and cemetery work. Trail work was re-discovering the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail. The trail first used by the gold rush seekers looking for gold in the Cariboo area. It started from the historic town of Quesnel Forks which lead them to Keithley Creek, named after W.R. "Doc" Keithley an American from Missouri in 1860 and was then all up hill from there.

*Lana Fox  
Photos.*

Photo # 1, is a view from near the Bald Mountain and Van Winkle trail connector. The Cariboo Mountains are in the distance.

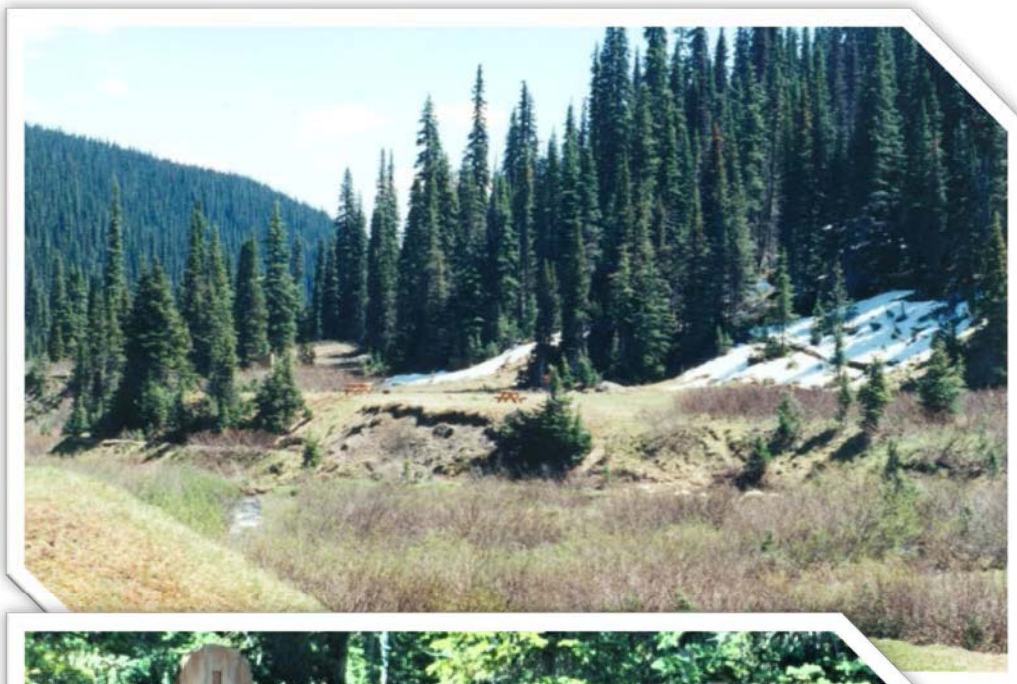


The photo was taken in 1993, the same day Gary and I (Lana) made the connection.



Photo # 2," All in a day's work." This photo taken in 1995, finishing up for the day. We are standing on the old pack trail that was used by hundreds of men, women and pack animals. Surprisingly after 135 years, the trail still existed and was well preserved underneath overhanging brush and weeds.....just hidden at times. You soon developed a good eye for finding it, which took 6 years piecing it together. The length is 40 km long from Barkerville to Weaver Creek, latter is head of navigation, and located a few km's from Keithley Creek. A lot of the trail is above in alpine, with breath taking views! This photo shows section between Sawmill Flats and Chumley Summit, the long haul up hill depending on your direction.





**Photo # 3,** is at the head waters of Antler Creek and entrance to Maloney's Road house of 1862 and site of the "Racetrack" which no one seems to have found any records to confirm that this was an actual racetrack.



Beside the trail is one of 2 overnight camping sites located here, each with an out house, metal cache to store your food and a picnic table.



**Photo #4 and #5,** was during the 1997 FOB work bee we had at Maloney's Roadhouse site, to

install two headboards that Dave Falconer from Likely, BC made. He found old grave sites, throughout the Likely, Williams Lake and Chilcotin area. He made headboards and put up at those sites, so not to be forgotten. He was a school teacher and would take his class out camping to historic sites in the area. Dave was also intrigued with finding the old pack trail too. He is standing in the background while Ed Storlarski and Ann Stackhouse were measuring with the level.







Friends of Barkerville Hike to Maloney's Road House site in 1994. Some of you, local area residents may recognize a few of the hikers in the photo below.





**Ghost Town and Boo's.** It was smooth travelling from Quesnel to Barkerville on Highway 26, the Barkerville Highway, as new pavement was recently laid from Wingdam to Barkerville. The parking lots in Barkerville were paved as well. Keep your eyes open for the possible sighting of Santa's reindeer if you drive this highway, as you may be lucky to see some mountain caribou.



October 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> was Halloween in Barkerville and it quite literally transformed into a true "Ghost Town" with a haunted house. Depending upon the time of day that you entered the Haunted House, you may or may not have encountered goblins, spirits, monsters, and heard groans, moans, and a few Boo's. There were several merchants open for business with a "ghost crew" selling products, giving out treats and maybe even a few tricks here and there. The Wells school children carved pumpkins which were placed in store fronts, dispersed along the elevated wooden walkways. People in costumes wandered up and down the main street resembling colorful zombies. Snow fell overnight Friday and into the wee hours of Saturday. This made things crisp, clean, and cool. A fire pit was available to sit around and keep warm and for those with a monstrous appetite, hot dogs and s'mores could be purchased. Pumpkin carving and face painting took place upstairs in the Visitor Reception Centre. Hundreds of ghosts and goblins and scary characters wandered throughout the town over the weekend. Consider taking in this Spooktacular event next year for a frightfully exciting time. Hot drinks, bags full of treats and goodies, and plenty of fun was had by many.

Respooktfully submitted by Grant Johannesen

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## **L**OOKING BACK THROUGH EARLY NEWSPAPERS

The following was found in the Cariboo Observer Newspaper, Sept. 25, 1926, VOL.19 No. 8, pg.1 **DISASTROUS FIRE.....**The historic old Lightning Hotel and general store, at Stanley, owned by Jas. F. Williams, was completely destroyed by fire at seven o'clock on Wednesday morning, together with the contents, including all the personal belongings of Mr. and Mrs. Williams. The fire started in the attic over the kitchen while the occupants were at breakfast, and the flames spread so quickly that there was no chance to save any of the contents. The old dance hall next door was also destroyed, Mr. Williams dynamiting it to prevent flames from spreading. This old hostelry was famed all through the Cariboo, especially for the meals served to its patrons. A regrettable feature in connection with its destruction is the fact that Mr. Williams was preparing to remove to another building, recognizing the danger of using the hotel any longer. The sympathy of many friends will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Williams in their misfortune. We understand no insurance was carried.



Submitted by Lana Fox

## BARKERVILLE HERITAGE TRUST, HONORARY PATRON, IONA CAMPAGNOLO



Above scanned copy is from Cariboo Observer newspaper, May 18, 2003. Real Photo by Autumn MacDonald.

In the above photo left to right is Bill Quackenbush, Curator at Barkerville at the time, Dave Hendrixson, ex mayor of Wells, Lieut. Governor Iona Campagnolo and Pat Pickering, Past President of Friends of



Barkerville, and Jake van der Merwe, Past CEO of Barkerville barely visible.

Of course, it just happened to snow this day, hence, big white snowflakes falling.! You can see by the smiles in their faces, they enjoyed it all.

Photo to the left is when Iona came to

Barkerville on this day May 14, 2003, to cut the ribbon and officially declare the opening of the newly renovated Barkerville Hotel open for the season. The Friends occupied this building from 2003 to 2013. Iona Campagnolo became Barkerville's honorary patron in 2011. She was the first woman to be named Lieut. Governor of British Columbia and is a lifelong supporter of BC's heritage.



## Wells Experience

Wells has been known for its eccentric and artistic characters and quirky and colorful architecture. There are many thriving businesses in the historic mining town. The Barkerville Gold Mine has employees staying in Wells and in summer, seasonal workers from Barkerville town and park take up lodgings in various parts of Wells.

Arts Wells Festival sponsored by Island Mountain Arts, draws crowds over the August long weekend. Many local merchants and businesses create or bring in unique, crafted, handmade items. There are great places to eat, drink, shop, sleep and visit.

I was fortunate to take in the one woman show, Jake's Gift, performed to a capacity crowd in the Sunset Theatre October 27<sup>th</sup>. Julia Mackey did a marvelous job of portraying several characters and making you believe they were each different people. Dirk Van Stralen directed the show. This is a must see if you get the opportunity. Be sure to carry a box of tissues with you. This was the perfect time to air this show as it was leading up to Armistice Day and the story is about a World War 2 veteran.

There are lighthearted moments and emotional scenes. My attention was fixated on the actress the entire 65 minutes of the performance, drawing me into the story.

I was impressed and moved by the fact that all the proceeds from that Saturday night show were donated to the Wells Royal Canadian Legion Branch #128. After the show, people were invited to the Wells Legion to visit and listen to more local talented artists play guitar and sing.

The Sunset Theatre will be putting on live shows throughout the year, so try and make it out to see a show or all of them.

While in Wells, be sure to visit Barkerville for a tube run, walk through the town, lunch or snack, snowshoe, ski, or snowmobile in the surrounding mountains on a variety of trails. Come prepared for changing conditions and let someone know where you are and when you intend to return in the event of an emergency. Take extra clothing, drinks, food, fire starter, matches/lighter, flashlight/headlamp, and first aid/survival kit and your camera.



Be safe and enjoy your winter wherever and however you spend it.

Grant Johannesen





FOB Victorian Christmas at Barkerville Hotel in 2011. "Prancer" the town cat is sitting under the tree.



BARKERVILLE HISTORIC TOWN  
&  
FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE  
CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
Annual Pass & Membership Form 2019



*\*Please circle below and fill all fields of this form*

Family (\$65) **(\$70)**

Couple (\$60) **(\$64)**

Single (\$30) **(\$32)**

For an additional \$2 Single, \$4 Couple and \$5 Family, this  
entitles you to visit Cottonwood House for the season.

Name: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Tick this box if you do not want to receive news on special offers, promotions, upcoming events or new products.

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership entitles you to an Annual Pass into Barkerville Historic Town and a voice in the Preservation, Protection & Promotion of the Historic Site of Barkerville and the Cariboo Goldfields.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



WISHING EVERYONE PEACE, JOY, HAPPINESS & GOOD HEALTH  
SEE YOU IN 2019!