

Friends of Barkerville

Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society Newsletter

- 1985-2025 -

Forty Years of the FOB!



Barkerville Dominion Day Parade, 2025; photo: Thomas Drasdauskis (photodras.zenfolio.com), Bowron Lake Photography

Promote, Preserve, Protect

"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, 1889

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Memberships



Donate to the FOB



Who Are We?

We are the Friends of Barkerville- Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society, a Charitable Non-Profit Organization composed of dedicated volunteers. Our focus is to enhance "Preservation, Protection, and Promotion" as it applies to Barkerville Historic Town and Park and the Historic Cariboo Goldfields area. We have been active in this goal for 40 years.

Director's Meetings

Meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of each month at Troll Ski Resort at 7pm (unless otherwise noted). Occasionally, meetings are held at Barkerville Brewing in Quesnel or at the New School House in Barkerville Historic Town & Park. Members and public are welcome to attend regular general meetings, but we respectfully encourage advance notice.

Positions

Society director positions are a one-year term following election or reelection during our AGM held in November. Committee positions: memberships, special projects, newsletters, and website.

2024/2025 Executive Directors

President: Hildur Sinclair
Vice President: Grant Johannensen
Treasurer: *Interim* – Tony McDonald
Secretary: Adam Perdue

2024/2025 Directors

Lana Fox
Brendan Bailey
Robin Grady
Barry Curtis
Hazel Massier
Colleen Moorhouse
Ross Griffith

Newsletter

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Memberships

If you enjoy this publication and hearing about the work of the "Friends," please consider joining and supporting us! We are a Charitable Organization and our annual memberships extend from January 1st through December 31st. Cost is only \$25 for a single membership or \$40 for a couples membership. See the perks of your membership below!

Directors in charge of membership administration are Brendan Bailey and Lana Fox.

Perks!

- 20% discount on Annual General Admission at Barkerville
- 10% discount on a day-pass at Troll Ski Resort on Highway 26
- 10% off your bill at Barkerville Brewing Co. in Quesnel
- 1 free Ice Cream at Frog on the Bog Gifts in Wells
- 10% off meals, dine in only, at Jack of Clubs Pub
- Free Coffee or tea with meal at Wells Hotel Pub

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Memberships: in-person or via Paypal through website (see QR code)

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From the Editor:

Dear Friends,

The Friends of Barkerville

2025 marks the 40th anniversary of this society! This means that the FOB have been active in Barkerville for 59% of the site's museum history. As we revel in this milestone, let's take a look at what is happening for us and for Barkerville.

Our 3rd Annual Bloody Good Bash, postponed from September 7th, 2024, until Saturday, April 5th of this year, was a more intimately attended event than the previous two. We held a very successful silent auction and our sincere thanks to the generosity of all those who donated. A wonderful meal, grand company, and a meeting of like-minds who are passionate about historical conservation and the future of Barkerville was had.

We had been planning a 40th Anniversary celebration at Cottonwood House this summer, but we do not have the capacity at this time.

However, this past July 9th officially marked the 40 year milestone of our society. Our congratulations and thanks to all have been a part during this journey thus far, whether subscriber, volunteer, member, or director. We appreciate you all.

We continue to progress with the restoration of the Red Roof signage between Quesnel and Barkerville. A number of location sponsors have joined our effort (West Fraser Mills, Ltd., Frog on the Bog Gifts, Barkerville Brewing, Troll Ski Resort, the District of Wells, Osisko Development - Cariboo Gold Project, Seneca Enterprises Ltd., the Cariboo Regional District, Tolko Industries, and the Northern Development Initiative Trust) and the signage content and designs are complete. Location repairs and installation are commencing, the signage is being printed, and we hope to have all locations revitalized by this autumn. We are very excited to be bringing back this critical tourism resource and documentation of local history.

When you visit Barkerville, be sure to stop at each location from Cottonwood House to the Bowron Lake turn-off. You will find a location and elevation map, a write-up regarding location significance, and additional interest stories, photos, and facts.

Our secretary, archeologist Adam Perdue, held an information workshop on location at the Stanley Cemetery on June 14th that was well attended and received. We look forward to developing more guided hikes and interpretive offerings like this in the future. More recently, we assessed repairs required at the Barkerville Cemetery. Legislation surrounding cemetery grounds halted all groundskeeping over recent years. Unfortunately, due to lack of regular maintenance (traditionally completed by the FOB), fences have decayed and are collapsing, rebar supports have breached topsoil, and greenspaces have overgrown. In coordination with Barkerville, we hope to address this in the near future as the cemetery is a place of great beauty, reflection, and transcendence.

Bearing this in mind, we implore you to invest in a membership to our society if you have not already. Your memberships assist in funding requests, in society contributions and supplies (such as the Red Roof project and care of the Stanley Cemetery), they provide you — our members — with great perks, and they open a line of communication between yourself and us so we can keep you informed of special FOB events such as guided hikes, educational seminars, and social workbees. Our memberships are available through our website via paypal or through the QR code in this newsletter. You can also purchase them through Barkerville's Welcome Centre and at Frog on the Bog Gifts in Wells.

The Friends of Barkerville Director's Recognition signage that was designed specifically for permanent display inside Barkerville's Welcome Centre -at considerable cost- in coordination with the site's former commerce manager was removed by the site without society consultation. After inquiries were made by directors who noticed the signage missing in early June, we learned that it had been removed for installation of a future exhibit. The signage has



Attendees, trying their luck at the Bloody Good Bash, 2025



SPRING + SUMMER PROGRAMS
ISLAND MOUNTAIN ARTS

March 6 - 30 | GALLERY | Wells-Barkerville School Show
 March 22 | SCREENING | Young Moviemaker World Premiere
 April 10 - May 11 | GALLERY | Liminal by Danette Boucher
 April 26 | WORKSHOP | Basic Principles of Chocolate Making
 May 16 - June 15 | GALLERY | Liquid Light by Mary Anne Molcan
 May 17 - 18 | WORKSHOP | Linocut Reduction Printing w/ Mary Anne Molcan
 June 27-29 | FESTIVAL | ArtsWells Festival of All Things Art
 July 4 - 13 | RESIDENCY | Toni Onley Artists' Project (Visual Arts)
 July 18 - 27 | RESIDENCY | Slow Process Artists' Project (Celluloid Filmmaking)
 August 11 - 15 | WORKSHOP | 39th International Harp School

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Introducing

For more information, follow us on Instagram and Facebook @coloursofcariboo

COLOURS OF CARIBOO

Stories of Wild Creativity

An exciting new video podcast interviewing rural artists, created in the Cariboo-Chilcotin

Premiering on **April 8th, 2025**



recently been relocated on an exterior wall outside the Welcome Centre. This signage honours all of the Friends of Barkerville directors from 1985 through 2023 who, collectively, contributed (and continue to contribute) thousands upon thousands of critical volunteer labour and marketing hours toward Barkerville's maintenance, operation, improvements, and attendance over the past four decades. The signage is intended to be updated throughout the years to reflect new directors. If you'd like to learn more about the FOB contributions through the years, see: Barkerville's Boom-Bust-Boom-Bust Cycle Continues on page 16, "The Impact of Friends" in our Winter 2022 newsletter (available at our website), and "Projects & Photos" dating back to 1986 at our website.

Wells

If you are visiting Barkerville this year, be sure to stop in at Wells, too! Eateries such as Taco Clubs near the Wells Visitor Centre, Diggy's Diner on Ski Hill Drive, the Wells Hotel on Pooley Street, Jack O' Clubs Pub on the main strip, and to-go meals at the Frog on the Bog (also on the main strip) are available for your enjoyment and refreshment.

There are incredible hikes in the area. If you are venturing out into the hills, be sure to follow safety protocols, be bear safe, and pack-out all that you pack in. If you need lightweight sustenance, Moose Island Foods has a variety of excellent freeze dried items available at Diggy's Diner. Fuel and LV charging is available at the Jack O' Clubs General as well as liquor and convenience groceries. The BNC Mercantile on Pooley Street also provides convenience grocery items. There are art galleries, souvenir shops, and theatre and concert programming events that occur through the summer season. Be sure to check www.whatsupinwells.com for the latest hours and events. IMA's Arts-Wells Festival returned from June 27-29 with great success!

From April 10th through May 11th, Barkerville interpreter and local painter, Danette Boucher, held an exhibit called *Liminal* at the Island Mountain Arts gallery. Boucher's paintings featured the "spaces in between" Wells and Barkerville.

We would also like to note that the St. George Gallery on Bowman Crescent, which is home to the work of renowned plein air artist, Peter Corbett, is a key stop of interest this season. Pete donates some of his work to the Friends of Barkerville for our Bloody Good Bash fundraising auction every year. Recently, he has taken ill. The sale of his evocative artwork will assist in his care and recovery. If you see a work that captivates or interests you, this is the season to take it home. (I write this as an individual who finally purchased a painting of Pete's that my wife and I had been admiring for years.).

Quesnel

If you are visiting in August, Lhtako Dene Nation in Quesnel are hosting their annual Pow Wow Competition from August 1 -3rd. Everyone is welcome!

Barkerville Brewing has specially-labelled cans of Sluice Juice and Mucho Oro available to support ArtsWells and the Gold Rush Cycle Club this summer. They've also released their easy drinking, slightly tart and sweetly clean, 2025 Claim Jumper series: Cherry Pie Sour. This quenching sipper is perfect for a reflective sunny afternoon with a biting cherry flavour and an aftertaste that is reminiscent of delicious pastry. They have also re-released their exquisite Pearl River Lemon-Ginger Pilsner. The flavour intensity has

been reduced slightly from previous year's batches, emphasizing more cleanliness and smooth mouthfeel to accentuate the lemon ginger. This one pairs wonderfully with a traditional Chinese meal - perhaps with your favourite dish from the Lung Duck Tong in Barkerville? Both beers are Limited Releases, so be sure to visit the brewery to fill your growlers soon! Or, when you're in Barkerville, be sure to stop at the House Hotel to enjoy an authentic Barkerville beer in Barkerville itself. Such an experience may be the very definition of sublime.

Barkerville

Barkerville special season events have returned this year after 2024 postponement due to wildfire evacuation and associated complications. Be sure to plan your visit to join in the remaining celebrations: Indigenous Peoples Celebrations on August 16th, Chinese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival on August 23rd, and Olde-Fashioned Christmas returns on December 13 and 14th.

While Dominion Day wasn't quite as well attended as in past years, the weather was spectacular and the games, programming, and parade were a highlight as always. And while no one made it up the greasy pole this year, there were some spectacular long jumps, deftly traversed egg and spoon races, well hammered nails, a wildly lofted hammer, outrageously funny silly faces, eggsceptionally lobbed egg tosses, and a passionate tug o' war. Meanwhile, general daily attendance appears to be climbing with higher numbers than those of past post-pandemic seasons. While this is merely an empirical observation, it is an exciting one as one of the best revenue stabilizers for Barkerville's future position is improved attendance. So, if you've been considering visiting, there's no time like the present!

Al Richmond (BHT Chair) and Carrie Chard (site General Manager) were awarded King Charles III Coronation medals earlier this year for their contributions to the region; Mr. Richmond for decades of leadership across the Cariboo, and Ms. Chard for coordinating resources and working alongside BCWS to protect Barkerville as Operations Manager during the 2024 Antler Creek event.

The retired 1979 Barkerville Ford 900 Phoenix Pumper (previously owned by the Quesnel Fire Department) that was housed and maintained by the WVFB for decades to protect Barkerville, recently found a new home as a training apparatus thanks to the dedication of a local community member.

Just in case, the structural protection sprinklers donated to Barkerville last season were all installed in June. Fortunately, the Cariboo weather in these mountains has returned to normalcy. That is to say, sunshine is paired with rain. A few clear, hot days are usually followed by a few rainy, cool days. This reduces local anxiety and worry and has provided the region with a recovery year (thus far) following last season's disconcerting wildfire event and evacuation and the previously worrisome seasons of 2023, 2021, 2018, and 2017.

For those of you that follow Barkerville's social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok, you will have seen the teaser trailer for an excellent marketing campaign by the site: its own webseries! This delectably-Canadiana project explores the trials and tribulations of Barkerville in a shifting sociocultural climate while representing the site's current programming model. In Barkerville: the Series, both a disgraced film actor struggling with addiction and an educator from Lhtako Dene Nation each find themselves unlikely friends and reluctant additions to a charming cast of characters. Will they find Barkerville to be a place of healing, or will they



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BARKERVILLE
 — HISTORIC TOWN & PARK —

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

WWW.BARKERVILLE.CA

leave with more questions than answers? Keep an eye on Barkerville's media channels for periodic episode releases which began on Saturday, July 26th! The series has been produced by the site and the concept was developed by former CEO, Kate Cox. It was written by interpreter and current interpretive site lead, Danette Boucher, directed by site programming and media manager, Stewart Cawood, and features a cast assembled of many faces from Barkerville's past and present supported by a passionate crew (some of whom also appear on camera). It was filmed on site in Barkerville, Wells, Quesnel, and Vancouver in April and September of 2024. We hope that you enjoy, and we hope that this six-episode season is the first season of many! It's quite possible you may see a certain

society director at work in his principal profession (performance) appearing as "Jay."

Lastly, when you visit Barkerville, don't forget that there are numerous stores and exhibits and four restaurants to enjoy in addition to the programming, carriage rides, demonstrative interpretation, discourses, and theatre show. For more, see our December 2024 issue for a write up on Barkerville's merchants!

Looking for some Barkerville-adjacent listening?

All eight episodes of the Colours of Cariboo podcast are now available for your enjoyment! This podcast was created and produced by former Barkerville interpreter, Rohan Keenan, and features local creators. For more, and to follow

Keenan's journeys as they converse with artists of all different ilk across the Cariboo, see the ad in this issue as well as following on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram: @coloursofcariboo. Episode 4 features a Barkerville Interpreter and local actor, playwright, historian, and former fire chief, who may be familiar to you.

What's better than reading Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes' investigations? How about Barkerville historical interpreter, playwright, and musician, JP Winslow, reciting them for you? Winslow played Holmes in the Barker Street independent film adaption of The Doctor's Case in 2016. He returns to the role in Sherlock Holmes Alone and a variety of episodes are available. Enjoy!

- Brendan Bailey

Barkerville Heritage Trust Report

After a year of wildfires & uncertainty, we enter this year with optimism.

After undergoing the procurement process last fall, it was a relief to learn that all the hard work of putting together a proposal was successful. The Heritage Branch (which falls under the umbrella of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture, & Sport) congratulated Barkerville & the Barkerville Heritage Trust on a strong proposal with good local support. The previous Heritage Site Management Agreement has been replaced with a Heritage Property License.

The current Barkerville Management & BHT have a good working relationship with the Heritage Branch consisting of Jennifer Goad - Executive Director Mountain Resorts & Heritage; Theresa McFarland - Heritage & Stewardship Officer, & Roger Tinney - Director.

Barkerville Management - Carrie Chard, General Manager; Stewart Cawood, Manager of Public Programming & Media; Mandy Kilsby, Manager of Curatorial; & Krista Bolton, Manager of Human Resources, & all the employees, Interpreters, Merchants, contractors, (BHT) Board of Directors, & local supporters all played a role in the positive outcome of the Request for Proposal Procurement process.

The BHT Board consists of Chair- Al Richmond, Vice Chair - Craig Smith, Past Chair - Kirstin Clausen, Treasurer - Roger Solly, Secretary - Grant Johannesen, Directors at Large - Chris Lodder, Richard Liu, Kirk

Gable, Glen Thielmann, Melanie Bingham, & the most recent addition to the Board, as of December, 2024 is Coralee Oakes.

From May 16 to 30th, admission to Barkerville was by donation as only a few select shops & exhibits were open during this time. Barkerville & Cottonwood House opened for full visitation on May 31 and will remain open until September 7, 2025. Cottonwood House will be open 7 days a week for special events, picnics, with accessible walking trails.

Upcoming events in Barkerville this year are: Indigenous Peoples' Day Aug. 16; Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Aug. 23, & Olde Fashioned Christmas December 13 & 14, 2025.

Barkerville created a \$1,500.00 Escott Memorial Bursary in memory of Katelyn Escott.

The wildfire alerts & evacuations in 2024 resulted in approximately \$100,000.00 in cancellations at Barkerville. Mark 3 fire pumps & sprinkler systems for roof tops of buildings have been purchased for fire prevention & suppression. Seneca Enterprises, a contractor, provided Barkerville with some fire fighting equipment last year.

In 2023, the Wells Volunteer Fire Department (WVFB) and the District of Wells signed an agreement with the Province designating the WVFB as the provider of Barkerville's structural fire suppression until August of 2033.

The Visitor Reception Centre has a new layout/design for the cashier desks.

Barkerville & BHT are working on communication & relationships with Friends of Barkerville - Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society & First Nations Indigenous Bands, & the District of Wells, scheduling meetings with each.

Staff & BHT Directors & a contractor are reviewing the finances in preparation for the upcoming PMT audit.

Barkerville is looking at succession planning for Chinese Interpretation & are actively seeking a third Chinese Interpreter.

Barkerville & Cottonwood House are still standing & will be open to visitors as usual.

Please plan your staycation in Barkerville, Wells, Bowron Lakes, Troll Resort, Quesnel, the Cariboo, B.C., Canada!

Stop & see the Stanley Cemetery, Blessing's Grave (BC's Smallest Provincial Historic Site), Richfield Cemetery (Catholic & Chinese burials), & the famous Barkerville Cemetery.

By word of mouth or using social media - Post your Likes, recommendations, & positive comments & tell your family & friends to come join you or visit us on their own.

What is more Canadian than the historic town of Barkerville where the first Dominion Day took place on BC July 1, 1868, before BC officially joined the Dominion of Canada in 1871?

- Grant Johannesen, April 24th, 2025



The original Barkerville Heritage Trust Directors, 2004



7 Summits Bike and Hike, 2015



7 Summits Bike and Hike, 2016



Barkerville with Friends of Barkerville at the Quesnel Home Show, 2009



Barkerville Cemetery Fencing and Retaining Wall Work

Rockerbox Rhymes

True Grit & Gumption

Summer heat caused a tinder dry condition.

In the air, a feeling of apprehension.

In July ominous grey clouds began to form.

Net there was a rumbling thunder & lightning storm.

Soon the timber along both sides of Antler Creek were ablaze.

Barkerville's main street was lined with hoses & sprinklers like a maze.

Wild Fire Branch quickly had crews & equipment in action.

Barkerville staff made a safe & planned evacuation.

Staying behind to assist with fire suppression was manager, Carrie Chard.

With sparks flying & flames not far away, Barkerville was saved from being charred.

Within a short time, plans were put in motion.

For the town of Barkerville's gates to reopen.

Some employees did not return.

Fearing that the fire might still burn.

Staff, employees, merchants, interpreters, all did their parts.

Passionate people with smiling faces, & resilient hearts.

Like true professionals, Barkervillians with their best foot forward, the show must go on.

Just like they did with BC Winter Games, hosting cross country skiing & biathlon.

In the end, fewer than 100 days of summer, due to evacuation.

A challenging season salvaged by a team exhibiting true grit & gumption.

A pandemic, fires, smoke, & plenty of adversity, yes, more than you will ever know.

Strong leadership by BHT/Management, led to re - opening, safe for all to go!

Time to make some changes & put on a brave face.

A General Manager & team are in place.

All of this may seem somewhat strange.

What is normal is constant change.

- Grant Johannesen, 2024

Cheers to 40 years

People from all places & different cultures, young & old.
Came to Cariboo, the middle of nowhere in search of gold.
Barkerville was established along Williams Creek.
A town we still consider special & unique.
The hills were cleared of every last tree.
For miles, as far as the eye could see.
So many wooden structures, soon all consumed by fire.
Rebuilt by those with determination & desire.
The gold dwindled & people departed.
Some rich, others poor & broken hearted.
A few buildings were still left standing, the landscape was stark.
Someone had a vision & created a Provincial Park.
In 1985 Richard Wright & friends ran Barkerville as a Not for Profit.
The government & BHT later, managed Barkerville & took care of it.
Thousands of adventurous people created the town.
Now, thousands of people enjoy touring the old town.
Robin Sharpe, a long time Barkerville
employee/supporter & volunteer.
This past February he passed away, a loss to many
who were near & dear.
It has been 40 years now for the Friends of Barkerville - Cariboo
Goldfields Historical Society.
Continuing to fundraise & do work bees, supporting Barkerville
as a charitable society.
Recently we upgraded the Cariboo Waggon Road from S
tanley to Barkerville after years of neglect.
Presently our efforts are going into re-establishing the
Red Roof Sign (stops of interest) project.
Freshly painted pickets, fence rails, & a new kiosk informs visitors at
Stanley Cemetery, of who lies buried in plots.
Cornish, Chinese, unknowns, & prominent figures have a place,
sharing space, each laying in their final designated resting spots.

- Grant Johannesen, 2025



Barkerville Cemetery Workbee, 2007



Blessing's Grave Restoration, 2004



Friends of Barkerville Fundraiser, 2000



Friends of Barkerville Boiler Donation, 2004



Friends of Barkerville Boiler Donation

Vanwinkle Butchery!

THE SUBSCRIBER begs to inform his friends and Miners in general that he is once again in the field, and will keep constantly on hand GOOD FAT BEEF and MUTTON, which he will deliver on Burns Creek, Nelson Creek, and Last Chance, free of extra charge. Beef, 25 and 30 cts; Mutton, 35 cts; and no deviation. FRED. LITTLER.

FRED LITTLER, A CARIBOO CHARACTER BACK IN THE DAYS OF EARLY BARKERVILLE AND AREA

By Lana Fox

I chose Fred Littler as an interesting character to delve into. There was mention of Fred in the wonderfully old preserved newspapers that printed anything, everything and about almost everyone, whatever made news. The Cariboo Sentinel of 1865 to 1875 was one, others like

the British Colonist and British Columbian among others. History comes alive again when perusing through these historic newspapers.

Fred Littler was born in 1823 in England according to the Canada census reporting of 1891. He was one of many arrivals upon hearing of the gold strikes of California and Fraser

River strike. The specific year of how and when he arrived in North America is not known at this time and requires more research through Immigration and Passenger Ship lists where he would be found. I would like to present a few highlights of what is known of Fred's life here in the Cariboo.

Fred Littler is listed in the early mining records as having purchased ground on July 04, 1864, again in July 1866, the last time mentioned was Sept. 30, 1870. So, he did do some mining but probably found like many it was not going to make him rich and needed to find other work to support himself if he was going to stick around.

He is mentioned in the British Colonist newspaper July 27, 1865, Vol. 14 No. 39. Here the reporter says, quote, "things are looking lively at the town of Van Winkle; Fred Littler had started a butcher-shop where he supplies the creek with fresh beef, ad lib." The creek referred to is Lightning Creek.

The Cariboo Sentinel of August 26, 1865, Williams Creek, announced that a boxing match is to be held, titled the "PRIZE RING", it says, "Ned Allen and Fred Littler, two London pugs are matched to fight on Williams Creek, on the 14th September next, for \$300 a side, and the



This is a photo of Fred Littler's small cabin that was at the end of Sawmill Flats, ca. 1890s to 1900. Doesn't look like much but at least one could stay warm and dry.



This photo I took around the early 1990s of the site, all grown up with trees. Nothing remains but if you look really hard you can tell something was there at one time. The original lower trail route runs beside here and about a mile back down the meadow from the site is where the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail starts it's climb up to Chumley Summit, Snowshoe Plateau and on down to Keithley Creek.

Championship of Cariboo.” I’m not sure how that turned out but would have been interesting to watch along with a lively audience! There were many street fights amongst men on Williams Creek during the early days. The early newspapers usually captured it all.

In reference to my good friend, Marie Elliott’s book, “Gold and Grand Dreams, Cariboo East in the Early Years”, she writes that Fred Littler was the replacement for Charles Kimball who was a popular figure and had the mail contract from Keithley Creek to Williams Creek. She said that Littler did not have anything named in his honour, but he was every bit as popular and resourceful as Kimball. She refers to Fred as a wiry Englishman. He boxed in various sporting events at Barkerville in the early days. Quote, “his pugnacity led him into the claim jumping altercation known as the “Grouse Creek War,” and with a number of other miners he spent 24 hours in the Richfield jail in 1867.”

Marie continues on, with carrying out Littler’s mail contract, he used a small cabin at the halfway point along his route. Antler creek was

his overnight stopping place. She also says since he was literate and knew the miners and most of the area intimately, he acted as poll clerk on election days, and conducted the 1881 census for the Keithley Creek/Quesnel Forks district. He invested in numerous claims along his mail route, although he must have had little time to do any active mining. Fred acted temporarily as police constable and tax collector until William Stephenson arrived in Quesnel Forks, May 1877.

Another newspaper article dated Nov. 24, 1881, Vol.2 No.26, from the Inland Sentinel out of Yale, BC., reads, “Fred Littler is Post Mast General of the whole district and a right good fellow. On horseback in summer over the badly made muddy trails, he carries letters and newspapers from Barkerville to all the outlying mining camps, and in winter he sails along on snow-shoes, carrying the dust and the letters, always obliging, a good-natured Englishman.”

I personally can attest to the rough trails as having walked them over the years. Some places were extremely muddy, other areas not so, but

brushy and always blowdown to maneuver over. Once Fred left Barkerville during summer time, it was a steady climb up over Bald Mountain then descended down to flatter ground at Racetrack Flat or what is also called Maloney’s roadhouse site, here was another junction to Grouse Creek which he most likely had to make deliveries, then backtrack to Maloney’s to make a slow descend, cross over Antler creek to reach Sawmill Flat. This was an easy go along the long flat meadow till he reached his overnight cabin located at the end of this meadow. From there on it was generally easy going to Keithley Creek.

Winter time was a different story, having to snowshoe most of the way. He would have avoided using the upper high trail on Snowshoe Plateau as it would have way too much snow to fight through. He may have also used the upper 1861 goldrush pack trail in summer if he had to deliver mail to some of the miners who worked up on Snowshoe Plateau then would descend down to Little Snowshoe or French Snowshoe Creeks and on to Keithley. His return trip would be easy most of the way back to Barker-

ville if he used the lower trail back to his cabin site, it would cut off the high alpine area.

In the Ashcroft Journal newspaper, dated Sept 25, 1909, Vol.15 No.17 a small article reads, quote, "The celebrated Littler's cabin, a relic of the early days on Sawmill Flat, has been burnt down. Littler in the former times used to pack the mail from Keithley to Barkerville or Camerontown in two days, staying overnight in this old shack, this was before the wagon road was made.

It seems Fred Littler became a man of many professions while in the Cariboo, an interesting character indeed. Once he retired from being employed as mail expressman, he most likely still worked in mining on his claims till the end. Last known place was at Snowshoe Creek. His recorded death date was September 22, 1898 at age 75. Kept active most of his life which I'm sure helped prolong his life compared to the many who died very young. It also stated that he was widowed on the 1891 census. This surprised me! There is no mention that he brought a wife with him. Did he leave her back in England? Some gold seekers arrived without intending to bring their wives later. More research would most likely answer the question.


It does not say where he is actually buried but only noted on the death certificate, location as Barkerville District. I believe he spent most of his time in the Keithley Creek area as stated of residence on the census and voters list. I have a hunch he could possibly be buried at the Snowshoe Cemetery or Keithley Creek cemetery. He's not recorded in these cemeteries but then again not everyone was, headboards rot and disappear over time. Sometimes many were also buried right at their cabin sites where they lived and mined.


History needs to be kept alive. There are many great stories to be told.

Fred Littler, you are Gone But not Forgotten, Rest in Peace. 1828-1898

- Lana Fox

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Barkerville's New Town, 1955 (current parking lot area); photo provided by Tom Dombowsky, courtesy of Gary Zach

T and T (Tom and Toni)

In early 2021 I moved to New Barkerville along with my girlfriend Trysten, having no idea of the unique characters I would meet and the friendships I would strike up as a resident of this special area. I had purchased my 1932 house sight unseen for \$40,000 in New Barkerville, an area consisting of a mix of 1930s houses that had been moved up from the Barkerville Townsite in 1961 with a spattering of a few newer built homes interspaced between.

Shortly after moving in, I heard about Toni Driscoll - how he was the last living original Barkerville pre-park resident who had been moved to Reduction Road - and that Toni still owned three original Barkerville buildings which had been moved off site but throughout the years had fallen into a state of severe decay. With my background as a historian, I have over time developed a penchant for historic building restoration and discovery and documentation of their past. This information about Toni Driscoll was timely, as I had learned from a neighbour that Toni's buildings were recently acquired by Chris Lodder and slated for demolition. These buildings were long since neglected and any sane individual would have

written them off but I persisted. Upon meeting Chris for the first time I asked if I could have the buildings and move them to my property. Surprisingly Chris agreed to the unusual request of a complete stranger, yet I felt I needed Toni's permission before I took on the task of moving the buildings.

Toni Driscoll is the kind of person whose reputation easily precedes him, very few locals have not heard of him - most have a personal story about Toni. Upon meeting Toni I found him to be easily the most friendly and welcoming person I had ever met. As a complete stranger I had told Toni that I was interested in saving his three old buildings and he met my request with ecstatic enthusiasm. Toni wanted to see the buildings utilized, as he no longer used them nor the contents, and was thrilled to find someone interested in them. Toni went so far as to make me record him saying the buildings and all the contents therein were mine, no exceptions. Toni is a self-described "scrounge and packrat", and what a packrat he is. Toni told me that throughout his life he had used less than one percent of all the stuff he ever acquired yet he was glad to acquire it anyway. Toni had

packed his old buildings full and much of the land surrounding as well. I was told when clearing up Toni's estate 30,000 pounds of scrap metal had been hauled away. How Toni came to own this much I cannot fathom as he never owned a car nor held a driver's license.

Toni's estate consisted of three small houses. The first was a yellow house that was moved up to New Barkerville in 1961 for Walter Smith, who had been the first operator of the Eldorado Gold Panning in Barkerville. Brian Pavich had purchased this building from Walter Smith around 1975 and gifted the building to Toni in 1982. The house was dragged up to Toni's land after Brian had completed the construction of his new house. The second building was Toni's original house which he had come to ownership of in the late 1950s from his friend and mentor Harold Tensing. The third building was a log cabin built on the lot during the late 1930s to early 1940s and used as housing for the Shamrock Goldmine. Toni chose to have his original Barkerville house to be moved to this lot as there was already an abandoned log cabin on the property. Toni's original house had begun life as a hardware store built by John McInnis between 1932-33 in Barkerville's New Town. Several photos from the Barkerville Archives show a billboard on top of the building advertising 'John McInnis Lumber'. In 2022 while renovating the building, we removed the shiplap on the walls and discovered a calendar from 1937 for the Jack Campbell Estate advertising general merchandising and trucking services. We also discovered several business licenses for the Bradley Sheet Metal Company nailed into the wall cavity dating from 1935 to 1938. This find illustrates that this building also operated as the sales office for Harry Bradley's sheet metal business. At some point after 1938 the building was converted into a domicile where the interior was boarded up with shiplap and became a residential space. Harold Tensing, a longtime Cariboo resident and miner, came to own the building by at least the mid 1950s. Toni met Harold for the first time in Vancouver in 1957 when Toni decided to grubstake Harold and they became business partners. They moved to Harold's Barkerville house in October of 1957. Toni left for Vancouver for the spring of 1958 but returned to Barkerville in the summer where he has lived ever since. Harold gave Toni the building around 1959.

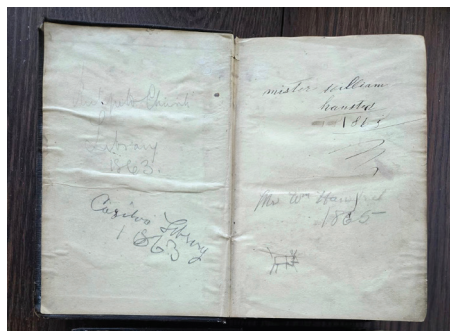


Tom Dombowsky with Toni Driscoll

In the fall of 1961 Toni and a number of other Barkerville residents had their homes moved up to the New Barkerville townsite as the Barkerville restoration project necessitated their removal - the site that had once been home for many residents was levelled to become a parking lot for tourists. In total around 25 buildings were moved to the New Barkerville townsite. Since 1961 Toni packed the building full with various belongings where it remained until I took ownership of the building in 2021.

When I came to own the building, it was stuffed full of Toni's long-lost belongings, nearly six foot tall with a small foot passage in between. Toni is an avid reader and a prepper who had filled the building with countless books and post-apocalyptic necessities - mainly 50-year-old foodstuffs. After clearing out the backroom I was able to enter the front room where I came across an old table piled with what seemed to be dynamite. Appearing before me was a bundle of several red paper wrapped sticks, decayed and oozing white powder, bearing the mark "CIL", something which shocked me to my core. I tiptoed out of the building and phoned Chris Lodder who had an explosives expert from the mine come by to identify the sticks. They came out to be nothing more than a pile of decayed road flares. Toni previously promised me there was no dynamite in the building and I told Toni about the incident and he simply remarked that they were road flares. I said: "Yes, but in the same room I found empty dynamite boxes, blasting caps, and fuses!" Toni responded, "But I told you there was no dynamite - was I wrong?"

It was in this front room a week later that I came upon an old steamer trunk of books. I had gone through several dozens of crates of mildew worn books but the contents of this steamer trunk immediately appeared different. Toni had taken interest in the eccentric, obscure, and extraterrestrial - this included books and magazines from the 1950s to 1970s pertaining to such topics but it was in this old steamer trunk that I found something truly amazing. I pulled the trunk out of the building and had a look through it. Immediately something unique caught my eye. Instead of the old rotten pulp fictions I was used to seeing, older fabric bound and leather-bound books began to appear. These books were coated in a thick layer of white mold, attesting to their time endured in the old steamer trunk. Trysten and I began sorting through the books outside the house. The oldest copyright date we discovered was from 1795, with most books ranging from the



Book recovered by Toni Driscoll in the 1950s, as Barkerville made the transition from a town into an historic site

1850s through the 1930s. I opened a particular book and checked the front cover when I read the words "Richfield Church Library 1863" and "Cariboo Library 1864". Another book read "St. Patrick's Lending Library Richfield B.C.". These two books were originally from the Richfield Church library and were books that had survived the Barkerville fire of 1868. These two books were found amongst many other books from the 1850s and 1860s including books of Welsh poetry, histories of England, and popular stories of the time. About a dozen of books were found originating from the personal libraries of Thomas Nicol, Johnny Butts, and Len Houser, all residents from Barkerville's past.

We were astounded by this find and I had to ask Toni where he came across such books. Toni relayed the story to me of when he first

moved to Barkerville during the fledgling days of the Park's establishment: there was a building that was being cleared out and the contents of which were thrown with no regard into Williams Creek. Toni, being the self-admitted scrounge, pulled the books out of the creek and stowed them away in his house. These books remained in the steamer trunk Toni put them in for over 60 years. If it weren't for Toni's scrounging nature, these books would have been lost back in the 1950s when they were discarded unceremoniously. As hard to believe as it is today, the environmental impact of refuse dumping was barely a consideration in days past. And if it weren't for my (some would say crazy) desire to save a few rotten old buildings from Barkerville's past, the buildings and these historic relics of the Cariboo gold rush would have been lost. Toni's original house today stands fully restored as an addition to the house I purchased in 2021 with a small annex built between the two. In a strange irony my house and Toni's house had been built as neighbours in the 1930s and separated as they were moved to the New Barkerville townsite in 1961.

They were reunited as neighbours once again after I moved the building and finished the restoration in 2024. In the end, some buildings were saved and some artifacts preserved, but the most valuable thing I gained was Toni's friendship and his stories. I have extensive recordings of interviews with Toni and vow to one day dedicate them in writing so that like the books Toni saved, I can save and share the entertaining and inspiring story of a true character from our rich Cariboo history.

- Thomas Dombowsky, May 2025



Toni's house, 2021; photo by Tom Dombowsky

Barkerville's Boom-Bust-Boom-Bust Cycle continued after the Cariboo Gold Rush

This is an excerpt from *Where the Past is Present* by Brendan Bailey; a work in progress

What the heck makes Barkerville so important?

In the 19th Century, Barkerville rose to prominence as the most significant community of the Cariboo Gold Rush during the 1860s; as a mining camp in 1862-63, a boomtown from 1864-1867, and a growing societal community after 1868. Barkerville itself served as more of a business, hospitality, and entertainment district. The community of Williams Creek was comprised of four settlements, south to north: Richfield, Barkerville, Cameronton, and Marysville. It was a 1.5 mile stretch that became the principal economic driver for the Colony. As such, it's not an exaggeration to suggest that colonial British Columbia was financed by Barkerville gold (and by interest in Barkerville gold). Barkerville was famously referred to as being the largest city north of San Francisco and west of Chicago, however this excessive-population claim has long been rebuked by modern curatorial research. Historian Isabel Bescoby, MA, noted in 1933 that the highest population on Williams Creek "recorded" was 10,000 persons during the summer of 1864. That was a tremendous population count for such a small region and Bescoby's specificity and adjective-use suggests that viable documentation once existed even if it is no longer citeable. Even if a population of 10,000 isn't verifiable today, it's important to note that 1864's population was the highest peak amongst lesser peaks and deep valleys.

Undisputably, Barkerville's richest production output and highest population counts were limited to its early years. After the town succumbed to fire during the autumn of 1868, the era of its boomtown days came to a jarring close. Barkerville was never going to achieve the

population growth so hyperbolically attributed to it. The residents that stayed either did so because they had limited options elsewhere, or they'd come under the intoxicating spell of the place. The story of Barkerville's rebuilding is an exemplar of human resilience and community commitment, but it signalled the end of the town's wild rush.

The miners, merchants, and families that remained witnessed an ebb and flow of changing mining techniques and short-lived booms and busts over the next 90 years. Barkerville's legacy reputation began to draw tourists as early as the latter quarter of the 19th century. This can most likely be attributed to tales (some almost certainly "tall") and reminiscences told by those who had been present during the famous rush and then built lives elsewhere. Additionally, James Anderson's popular 1869 edition of *Sawney's Letters and Cariboo Rhymes* was widely read beyond Williams Creek and likely cultivated interest in the region. Sawney's Letters also saw a republication and circulation in the mid-1890s. Meanwhile, novels such as *Gold, Gold in Cariboo!* by C. Phillips-Wolley (published in 1894) would become quite popular. Furthermore, across the ocean in the British Isles readers were being treated to serial "highland romances" featuring mining adventures in Cariboo penned by James Anderson's son. Much as the revisionist myths of the American West were incredibly popular and heavily serialized at the turn of the century, so too were the legends of the great gold rush in a land called Cariboo.

The 1920s saw a resurgence of interest and a surge in population. The Cariboo Wagon Road was designated a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada, leaving Caribooites rather perplexed as to why Barkerville hadn't also been recognized; the wagon road was built from Yale to Barkerville and conclud-

ed as Barkerville's main street. The 1866 Confederation of the Colony of British Columbia and the Colony of Vancouver's Island has been attributed to Barkerville and was actively promoted in Barkerville's Cariboo Sentinel Newspaper. Additionally, Barkerville residents such as Dr. Carrall had been instrumental in BC's Confederation with Canada (1871) and in establishing a new national holiday called Dominion Day (1879; now Canada Day). In fact, the very first Dominion Day was actually celebrated on July 1st, 1868, in Barkerville by Canadians, advocates for Confederation, and individuals who wanted to "rib" their American brethren. That is to say, there wasn't (and isn't) a modern Canada without Barkerville featuring as a leading player. Therefore, an appeal was made to also recognize Barkerville as a National Historic Site of Canada. This designation was granted in 1924.

A newcomer to Barkerville named Fred Wells proved rich ore in Cow Mountain in 1927. After six years of lobbying, Wells kicked-off the Cariboo's second Great Gold Rush, transitioning from placer, tunneling, drifting, dredging, and hydraulic mining to hard rock mining operations. He formed the Cariboo Gold Quartz Company which later established a townsite after his namesake: Wells. This was not unlike Barkerville having been named for Billy Barker's Barker Company Claims 70 years earlier. This new town was built in 1934 on the other side of the mountain opposite Barkerville. Not only did many Cariboo Gold Quartz employees live in Barkerville, but many keen placer miners also began venturing there to try their luck as the Great Depression struck.

It's true that gold rushes are known for their tales of fever and greed, but so often overlooked is the desperation and hope that piques the everyperson's interest in the precious metal in the first place. Just as word of gold in Cariboo

became international news in the 1860s, news of the new gold rush in Cariboo appeared in the New York Times in 1935. Meanwhile, both a Barkerville reminiscence and a biography of Cariboo Cameron were published in Maclean's Magazine in the January and April 1936 issues. Barkerville remained relevant, continued to fascinate, and lingered within popular culture. Meanwhile, the population of Barkerville and the surrounding hills and camps climbed to a reported 3,000 persons. A placer miner named Fred Ludditt dreamed-up an idea: perhaps one day Barkerville could be preserved as an historic site?

War changed everything. The value of gold was frozen in 1934, Cariboo residents signed-up to serve the war effort, and Barkerville began to slip into a slumber. By the early 1950s, tourists and curious passers-through dubbed it a dilapidated ghost town, but it wasn't, not really, not technically: not from the perspective of culture and community. It could better be described as a dying town with a tremendous will to live.

In the mid-30s select buildings began being torn down after condemnation as fire hazards; other structures were lost to fire. In 1947, the 1870s government assay offices (located where the government hill campground operates today) were torn down and disposed of, historic files, ledgers, and all. This was followed by the Scott Saloon, a structure that had survived the 1868 fire. Then, it had been time for Tommy Blair's store to be destroyed followed by the 1868 Hudson's Bay Post, again with records having been disposed of. Three unnamed Chinese dwellings and a business were also dismantled and used for firewood. Many buildings were abandoned and falling into disrepair or had been razed by antique hunters. Ludditt recalled that the practice of trespassing into empty buildings was disturbingly commonplace and that "tourists" would unabashedly load their vehicles with "chairs, tables, mirrors, books, letters, and photos." Today, we recognize this kind of domineering trophy and souvenir hunting as being rooted in colonialism, so it is interesting that a townsite which emerged during a colonial period in a colony was also victim to a colonialist practice that numerous cultures and societies around the globe have been subjected to.

Barkerville was still home to approximately 200 residents, though. This population shift

is comparable to present-day Wells, a town of 4,500 persons in the 1930s that is now a small but thriving arts, tourism, and mining community of just over 200 persons. The residents who stayed in Barkerville during its recession either had, similar to after the fire of 1868, limited options elsewhere or they loved the place.

A Barkerville Historic Society was established, but the group of volunteers had little influence over protecting the town and soon became a branch of the Quesnel Historic Society. Feeling that volunteer advocacy alone was inadequate, Ludditt established the Barkerville Historic and Development Company in 1952 and chartered in 1953. Fortunately, Barkerville also had another ace in its pocket.

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Miss Lottie Bowron had been raised in Barkerville as the daughter of John and Emily Bowron. Her career was prestigious. In her 30s she spent six years as the personal secretary of BC Premier, Richard McBride; in her 50s she was an iron-willed and courageous Rural Teacher's Welfare Officer for the Ministry of Education for six years; and in her late-50s she operated the Lottie Bowron Service Bureau in Victoria. Miss Bowron was deeply respected socially and professionally and had the ear of many a provincial influencer. Throughout her 70s, she advocated extensively for Barkerville's protection and preservation to members of the legislature in Victoria.

In tandem, Ludditt lobbied every government official who would listen to him and pled Barkerville's case. Together, Bowron and Ludditt invested considerable time extolling their noble cause. By 1955, their efforts were receiving press. The Governor-General, Vincent Massey, visited Barkerville to learn more regarding the efforts being made to protect the site; the Wells Board of Trade handled all the details and Miss Bowron ensured that the import of the visit was well acted on. It hadn't hurt that Ludditt had already amassed a small collection of Barkerville

artefacts and interest pieces, and both Bowron and Massey took great interest in the potential of his museum.

Ralph Chetwynd, the Minister of Trade and Industry, was also keenly interested in Barkerville's preservation and brought the matter before the House (he would pass away before seeing Barkerville protected). Around the same time, George Kelly opened his family Barkerville museum in 1957 and it became an instant success. The Wells-Barkerville Centennial Committee drew further attention to Barkerville's cause and Ludditt published a small 40-page pocket guidebook for 50 cents, *Gold in the Cariboo*, to raise awareness, funds, and promote Barkerville's restoration. Gold in the Cariboo highlights stops-of-historical-interest between Quesnel and Barkerville. Suddenly, interest and visitation to Barkerville surged to the point of becoming overwhelming: too much too soon, with too few resources.

Eventually, thanks to further advocacy in the House from a Cariboo representative, Barkerville's case gained momentum. MLA Bill Speare's maiden speech emphasized Barkerville's importance and potential and was so compelling that it convinced the Cabinet that Barkerville needed protection. The SoCred (Social Credit) government, led by Premier W. A. C. Bennett, were very keen on driving provincial tourism... literally. Highways were being expanded across the province while 1858 Centennial Committees were hard at work planning their grand community celebrations. Protecting Barkerville aligned with these initiatives and the provincial vision of the SoCredits. While many Caribooites probably considered the timing to be providence, the work of residents and advocates such as Miss Bowron and Mr. Ludditt, and those who joined their cause, is, to this day, immeasurable. It was work driven by passion, purpose, identity, faith, community, and a prosocial commitment to future generations.

Saving Barkerville meant turning it into a provincial heritage park, but it was still an active townsite, "ghost town" or otherwise. The Barkerville Restoration Advisory Committee was established (Ludditt served as an interim lead until Les Cook assumed the position). Work to restore Barkerville began during the summer of 1958 and the legislation caught up in 1959 when the site was formally declared

an historic site and park on January 12th. Residential properties had to be purchased by the provincial government, and residents (and in some cases their homes) moved out of the townsite. This process was led by Walter Kelly of the Barkerville Housing Committee in 1961. Because nothing of this scale or design had ever been undertaken previously, there were mixed feelings. For some families it was an amicable process. For others, bitter memories persist to this day. Some residents, like the Ludditts, were forced to leave but other residents continued to live in the site. Wilf Thompson was Barkerville's last full-time resident (1921 – 1979) until his passing at 89 years old; his 1890s-era cabin sits on the site of the original Wake-Up Jake restaurant.

Planning began for Barkerville's Centennial which was to take place the following year. The Barkerville Community Hall, rebuilt where the historic Theatre Royal had stood until 1937, was rechristened the Theatre Royal. A production of a mid-19th century farce, *The Rough Diamond*, was coordinated while interpretation of the famed colonial Judge, Matthew Bailie Begbie, was planned. Horse and Carriage rides were arranged as was the opening of the Wake-Up Jake restaurant. A functional and demonstrative Cornish Waterwheel was built just north of the Eldorado (where the site administration and archives are presently located) for interactive goldpanning. The Barkerville Restoration Advisory Committee and the Queen's Printers republished James Anderson's *Sawney's Letters*. Societies across Wells and Barkerville were invited to participate with special tasks. For example, the Barkerville Fire Brigade - as their last contribution before disbanding - held a fundraising raffle then repaired and restored the cemetery grounds in thanks for the service of those past. The Wells Volunteer Fire Brigade rebranded the annual Klondike Night fundraiser that they'd been facilitating since the mid-30s to the Gold Rush Night. Even during the Centennial Committee planning in 1961, the then uncast Theatre Royal performers had already been committed to attend the Gold Rush Night in character; a theme that would continue for decades afterward. Barkerville was officially opened as an interpretative destination historic site in 1962 following a grand Centennial parade.

Barkerville, once one of the most populated townsites in the colony-turned-province and a major economic force, was reborn as an outdoor museum, historic site, and entertainment experience. Its legacy as a major economic driver for the province was also about to be re-established.

26 Years of Parks Branch | Department of Conservation and Recreation

From 1959 through 1986, Barkerville was managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation through their Parks Branch with funding secured through Premier W.A.C. Bennett's Centennials Projects. Miss Lottie Bowron passed away in 1964 at 84 years of age after having seen her hometown protected. Unfortunately, the Cariboo Gold Quartz Company in Wells ceased operations in 1967, but Barkerville's century-established tourism draw and associated administration positions maintained some economic strength in the region. However, Wells itself began to slip into population decline with the sudden loss of hundreds of mining-related jobs. By 1974, there were only 261 eligible voters in Wells and nearly a quarter of those individuals were Barkerville employees.

During this period, interpretive programming in Barkerville developed to include demonstrative and interactive interpretation including blacksmithing, woodworking, the development and implementation of the highly esteemed late-spring school program in 1975, and the contracted street actors offering hosting, tours, musical performances, and scenes beginning in 1983. The latter two programs, which marked the birth of immersive "living history" interpretation in the site, were developed and instituted by future Barkerville CEO, Judy Campbell. Restaurant and merchant business brands (that are still active today) were established. Major film projects such as *El Hombre Desnudo* (1973); *Klondike Fever* (1979); *Harry Tracy*, *Last of the Wild Bunch* (1981); and *Eureka* (1983) were filmed in Barkerville. Special seasonal events such as the Theatre Royal Gala, Dominion Day Parade, Invitational Hose

Carriage Races (competitors travelled from as far as Vancouver), and Labour Day Sports Games were developed and instituted, inspired by prior community traditions. Centennial celebrations continued in 1966 (Confederation of BC and Vancouver Island), 1967 (Confederation of Canada), and 1971 (BC's Confederation with Canada), and they involved the site heavily. Provincial delegates visited regularly. Prime Minister, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, visited to partake in the site programming in 1970; attending the Theatre Royal and taking the reigns of the stagecoach for a spell.

The Theatre Royal troupe routinely toured outside of Barkerville's season. Mostly they circulated through regions of the province (like historic travelling troupes), but they also travelled the country and held a performance residency in Montreal, Quebec, during Expo 67. Bruce Ramsay published the popular *Barkerville: A Guide to the Fabulous Gold Camp of the Cariboo* in 1961 (adopted as a site guidebook), and Fred Ludditt published his quintessential *Barkerville Days* in 1969 (part biography and part memoir). It was republished as a popular paperback in 1980 (and recently republished with a forward by his daughter, Karin). Richard Thomas Wright worked extensively with the site's curatorial and archives team in 1983 to write *Discover Barkerville: A Gold Rush Adventure* for BC Outdoors, published in 1984. Wright's later expanded editions would become recognized as the seminal biography of the site and remain as such to this day.

Barkerville building restoration and reconstruction also continued, including the removal of visible electrical and communications infrastructure, and the installation of formal fire suppression infrastructure and hydrant systems by the mid-60s. Summer staff were housed right in Barkerville (until the early 1990s), but permanent staff lived in Wells. Meanwhile, predictors of future financial woes were beginning to raise concern.

Following in the footsteps of the Barkerville Historical Society and the Barkerville Historic and Development Company, both established thirty years prior, the formation of a charitable lobbyist society, The Friends of Barkerville Historical Society, was spurred. Formed on July 9th, 1985, the Friends began advocating for increased funding of Barkerville. They hired staff

and held office in Barkerville (beside McMahon's Confectionary), they wrote and managed grant funding, mapped and restored historical trails, assisted with curation, interpretation, exhibit development, archival accessions and cataloguing in Barkerville, operated the Cariboo Sentinel, restored and protected the Stanley Cemetery, restored and protected the Barkerville (Cameron) Cemetery, and blazed the path that led to the restoration and protection of the Quesnelle Forks historic site. Their work in Barkerville and the Cariboo goldfields has been considered by many to be historically instrumental in maintaining tourism interest in the region and in protecting Barkerville.

Annual visitation numbers varying between lows of 100,000 and highs of 280,000 were reported; the former in 1964 and 1968 and the latter in 1973. However, these quantities were based upon an averaging system where four (and sometimes six) persons were attributed to each vehicle in the visitor parking lot. A more accurate averaging system would have been to assume two and half persons per vehicle. Therefore, one can assume that the reported numbers were inflated by at least a third. When adjusting for an inflation by that count, annual attendance was still impressive and fluctuated between 70,000 and 196,000 during ten-week seasons; not insignificant at all.

It's important to note that the traditional summer vacation of the era was the iconic family road-trip. As the Bennett-led SoCreds had laid blacktop across most of the province, and Barkerville (and the Bowron Lakes) were two major provincial attractions, it's no surprise that Barkerville's domestic tourism draw was so immense. Barkerville was heavily promoted. While those tourism numbers seem utterly baffling compared to recent annual visitation lows of less than 13,500 (during the pandemic) and highs of only 35,000 over the past five years, recency, confirmation, and availability heuristic biases can impact presentist opinions and skew one's ability to even conceive that the site was once so popular: it was a different era. Barkerville had been bustling.

But why then and not now? There are many reasons. The 2020 pandemic, 2023 Highway 1 landslides in the Fraser Canyon, and 2024 wildfire evacuations were contributors to recent low attendance. Regardless, research indi-

cates that outside of last year's extreme event, highway events and wildfires throughout the province and in the Wells-Barkerville-Bowron area have had significant impacts on tourism to Barkerville since its inception as an historic site in 1958. The reduction of tourism to Barkerville between present day and 40 to 60 years ago is indicative of cultural change more than seasonal circumstance.

A newcomer to Barkerville named Fred Wells proved rich ore in Cow Mountain in 1927. After six years of lobbying, Wells kicked-off the Cariboo's second Great Gold Rush, transitioning from placer, tunneling, drifting, dredging, and hydraulic mining to hard rock mining operations.

Barkerville had been free (except for the merchant concession contracts: stores, restaurants, carriage, and theatre), it had been both experiential and educational, it had been immersive, it had been a part of the provincial curriculum, and it had been part of the provincial popular culture. It certainly hadn't hurt that Westerns remained one of the most popular film and fiction genres at the time. Meanwhile, Lerner and Loewe's ardently satirical gold rush musical, *Paint Your Wagon*, had debuted on Broadway and the West End in the 1950s. Its 1969 film adaption featuring Clint Eastwood was relatively popular and turned the attention of the general populace to boomtowns, gold rushes, and pioneer-settler narratives. Why yes, they do call the wind Maria, don't they?

Barkerville's success as an historic site during this era was probably due as much to its socio-cultural relevance as had been its success as a boomtown during the 1860s. Furthermore, it wasn't just Barkerville that saw this success: all the small roadside towns with motels, hotels, eateries, and fuel stations that had to be passed through to reach it, including Wells, benefited from its popularity. While the SoCreds' highways project promoted domestic tourism of "Beautiful British Columbia," it also drew tourists to the beautiful former boomtown of Barkerville in droves.

18 Years of Provincial Management

In 1986, Barkerville's management transitioned from the Parks Branch of the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Ministry of Tourism. This transition required Barkerville to operate on a tourism-based business model. The (still) divisive entrance fees were implemented, but this change spurred opportunistic strategic development that advanced immersive curation and programming. However, it remained a challenging era of transition with many growing pains. In 1987, the site had already been transitioned to the Heritage Attractions Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation, and Culture. The provincial government garnered negative attention when it became delinquent in paying its 11 contracted "living history" actors by deciding to withhold paycheques for 90 days. Out of financial desperation, the entire cast nearly walked-out on the site before the issue was resolved. The Honourable Neil Vant, Minister of Transportation and Highways, met with the actors. They expressed that they were a day or two from quitting, but not because they wanted to; they had to find other jobs if they were to pay their rents and buy groceries. The Minister listened to their concerns and within only a day or two the actors had received their paycheques.

Mr. Vant held (and continues to hold) deep personal ties to Barkerville. Amongst them, he was the last Vicar (i.e., manager) of St. Saviours Anglican Church (1966 – 1974), was a founding director of the Barkerville Heritage Trust in 2004 and would later be appointed Chair during his tenure.

The Friends of Barkerville Historical Society, colloquially known as the "FOB," experienced turbulence as well when the province attempted to direct their activities. The Ministry did so by appointing a Heritage Branch delegate to the board. Not only was the FOB's ability to serve as an accountability and ethics watchdog for the site at risk of being redirected, but there were also growing suspicions that the grant funding they were receiving from the province (to create employment positions) was actually being awarded to them in order to eliminate

jobs for unionized Barkerville employees. The directors trusted their intuition. As the FOB was formed to enhance and support Barkerville, including its valuable employees, their concern was significant.

Bill Speare suggested that the society name be changed in order to reflect a wider scope of activity. Without involving the province, the FOB dissolved and reformed as a new society: The Friends of Barkerville – Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society. Their mandate: “Protect, Promote, and Preserve” not only Barkerville but also the surrounding Cariboo Goldfields. Not only did this subtle alteration better reflect the society’s existent scope, it allowed the FOB to work both independently and in partnership with Barkerville at their discretion. Effectively, they became a liaison for the site, continued to seek and secure grant funding, personally met with Premier and Cabinet to discuss support for the site, assisted with site operation, lobbied on the site’s behalf, and essentially fulfilled many of the responsibilities that a governance trust would eventually fulfill.

Some additional key annual events emerged during this era: Victorian Christmas (now rebranded Olde-Fashioned Christmas) from the 80s, and the Dog Sled Mail Run (not a Barkerville event per se as it runs three-days beginning at Troll Ski Resort and eventually concludes at the Barkerville Post Office), Ghostly Hallowe’en, and the Chinese Autumn Moon Festival from the 90s. New immersive experiences were also instituted such as the development of the Bed and Breakfasts within the site. Of more significance, however, missing multicultural programming, specifically Chinese Interpretation, was developed and implemented (Chinese formed 40% of Barkerville’s historic population).

After the bed and breakfasts were opened, seasonal workers were no longer housed within the site. A new Cornish Waterwheel (they typically have a 25-year lifespan) was constructed within the site’s heritage zone as new administrative infrastructure was built in the parking lot area, specifically the Visitor Reception Centre (recently rebranded the Welcome Centre). Film productions ceased following *Showdown at Williams Creek* (1990) which marked the last feature film shot in the site for over two decades. Richard Thomas Wright published *Barkerville, Williams Creek, Canada: A Gold*

Rush Experience in 1993. An expansion of *Discover Barkerville*, it was followed by a revised version in 1998 (with reprintings in 2000 and 2006). Ann Walsh published two young-adult historical fictions set in historic Barkerville: *Moses, Me, and Murder* and *The Doctor’s Apprentice*, and they would be incorporated into grade school curriculum igniting curiosity and intrigue amongst younger generations.

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Unfortunately, the trend of funding cuts to the site continued. As the province progressively whittled away at key staff positions, the site still maintained an average of 100,000 visitors annually with a 10-15% decline entering the millennium (85,000 in 2000 and 86,000 in 2001). At this time, it was projected that Barkerville generated an average of \$7.3 million in annual regional economic value. It was estimated in 2003 that every \$1 invested in the site by the province generated \$3.36 for the central interior economy and thereby for the province. During this era, visitor tracking was—quite accurately—completed directly through site admissions to improve historical data resources used to develop metrics for strategic marketing and measuring the impacts of external factors such as the weather, highway construction, environmental concerns, etc.

Due to the continuing cuts (and through a want to develop unique and immersive visitor experiences), serious explorations into revenue-generating ventures were undertaken. These explorations included researching a proposed historical education-based brewery. This enterprise would have honoured Nicholas Cunio’s award-winning 1860s-1880s Barkerville Brewery, the establishment for which Quesnel’s Barkerville Brewing (est. 2014) now

takes its name. Another ambitious exploration was the possibility of acquiring a gaming license and operating a casino with historically relevant games. This was seriously considered. As a short-lived venture, the idea actually did metamorphosize into a brief life in nearby Wells with the 1930s-inspired Jack O’ Clubs Casino in 2003. Today that building operates as the Jack O’ Clubs General Store, Post Office, Fuel and LV Station, and Pub.

The Diminution of Barkerville and the rise of the Barkerville Coalition

By 2002, the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services (under the BC Liberal Party) oversaw heritage site management. The province dissolved the B.C. Heritage Trust, a critical funding resource for historical conservation that had been active since 1978 (Richard Thomas Wright had been appointed as a director in 1999). The cuts of this era are no secret. Recently, the BC Museums Association reported that, between 2000 and 2017, “the Province of BC spent less per capita on arts, culture, and heritage than any other province in the country” which has contributed extensively to cultural decay and has detrimentally delayed present-day conservation and advocacy efforts, including Truth and Reconciliation.

It didn’t end with the dissolution of the Heritage Trust. The province also began a diminution process to transition twelve non-static (living history/interpretive) heritage sites from provincial management to community (non-profit) management, including Barkerville. Simply put, they intended to permanently reduce the perspective of “value” that Barkerville held so that they were no longer accountable to funding and protecting it. While there may not have been a risk that Barkerville would lose its protected status (it was a national historic site as well as a provincial historic site), there was a very real fear and probable risk that Barkerville’s program funding would cease alongside its maintenance and operations positions. If that were to have happened, the site would still have fallen into ruin and decay and one of the Cariboo’s principal economic drivers would have disappeared. Such a loss would have

been significant for local municipalities such as Wells, Quesnel, and Likely. The direct impacts would have stretched far south of William's Lake and far north of Prince George, but the indirect impacts would have wreaked havoc on the entire province's tourism economics. The sociocultural cost, emotional cost, and loss of psychological trust in the province would have been far worse. It was, after all, the province that had ultimately transitioned Barkerville into a park and historic site.

After decades of passionate work had been dedicated to protecting and developing Barkerville, the diminution (also referred to as devolution) process flew in the face of historic conservation initiatives. Although diminution demonstrated shrewd fiscal awareness on behalf of the provincial government, it also raised important questions about bureaucratic ethical integrity and the importance of culture. Barkerville was never intended to be a "cash cow" (a business entity that doesn't require significant resources and yet produces tremendous cash flow), yet it had become a cash cow for nearly two decades in the 60s and 70s. Now that it wasn't generating the same revenues, it was instead considered an economic "dog" (a business entity that doesn't require significant resources -relatively- but also doesn't generate a strong cash flow). More to the point, Barkerville was viewed as a healthy but old dog; one that was slowing down and required too much care.

The diminution of Barkerville might have appeared logical on a spreadsheet, but it was actually "anything but" when considered in a real-world context. Barkerville's annual visitation of approximately 100,000 persons was a major economic driver. Compared to today's cultural relevance and economic significance in terms of attendance, it would be similar to two sold-out Taylor Swift "Eras" concerts being held in Prince George each year. Put simply, a less than \$2 million annual investment generated over \$7 million for the central interior and province: a 250% return on investment. Not bad for an old dog.

In 2003, Amy Newman was a former Barkerville interpreter now performing in the 1930s musical revue at the Jack O' Clubs Casino in Wells. Unbeknownst to her, she was soon to begin a 16-year legacy proprietorship managing Barkerville's Theatre Royal with her

partner, Richard Thomas Wright (yes, the same: author, historian, legacy site interpreter, and former Heritage Trust director). Newman would become one of Barkerville's most beloved interpreters; known primarily as either CADA-founding member, Mrs. Parker, or touring Vaudeville matriarch, Mrs. McGinley. However, in 2003, Newman had no financial investment in Barkerville. Still, she wrote a compelling open letter to the Premier articulating Barkerville's international connections and importance. That letter was published in the Cariboo Observer with the tagline: "Barkerville experience is a part of all of us." This was true in both a contemporary and historical context. As previously noted, in the 1860s Barkerville was the economic driver for the Colony of British Columbia. Furthermore, it also served as one of the globe's first diversely multicultural communities. Our contemporary province doesn't exist without Barkerville as its economic (and its cultural) keystone.

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As the diminution attempts to transition Barkerville to the private sector became provincial news, concern for the site's future erupted into national concern and condemnation. Outcry spanned from grassroots community protests to peer-reviewed academic journals. It included heated "Letters to the Editor" and "Letters to the MLA" to heated replies from that MLA. It spanned provincial news outlets, alternative news, and even included nationally read op-eds in the Globe and Mail. An opinion repeatedly printed in the latter (as well as locally in Cariboo Observer) strongly suggested that if

the provincial government was neglectful of their responsibility and commitment to fund Barkerville, then it was very clearly the Federal Government's responsibility to step-in and manage the site.

Julie Cowie, an archeologist, cautioned the province's taxpayers in *The Mitten*: "What does the situation at Barkerville indicate and why should we be concerned as citizens of British Columbia? ... if we don't fight to protect our heritage now, future generations will only know the wonder of the past through the internet instead of exploring with their own eyes." 23 years and massive technological and communications strides later, her words still read like they could have been written yesterday.

Other "Letters to the Editor" in the Cariboo Observer cited legitimate and significant concerns: snow removal (to protect assets from roof sloughs and weight damage), collections protection (thousands of family artefacts had been donated to Barkerville with the promise that the provincial government would protect them in perpetuity), fire protection, and impacts on the regional tourism economy. The overarching theme of these letters, however, was a deep love for a place and townscape that many across the nation considered to be sacred in its own right.

A former director recalled that – unbeknownst to most, the Friends of Barkerville had been awarded management of Barkerville by verbal agreement in a meeting with the Heritage Branch, but before the contract was drawn the following day, it was withdrawn. The Heritage Branch's director explained that the FOB board had been too excited by the privilege and opportunity granted them. This suggested that bad blood between the bureaucratic entity and the non-profit, infected by the circumstances leading to the FOB's reformation as a new society over a decade previous, had continued to boil.

While worry for Barkerville's future (and preservation and protection of history) spread, the District of Wells seriously considered operating the site. Ultimately, the district felt it was beyond their capacity at the time. Supposedly, according to rumour, philanthropists in the private sector were also approached but declined. Not only was Barkerville's provincial funding already inadequate, the diminution process was

still slated to continue decreasing annual funding until eventually ceasing altogether. Another solution was required.

A satirical brochure designed by activist and artist, Murray Bush, circulated during 2003 inviting tourists to “Visit the *New Ghost Towns of British Columbia* [emphasis added].” By September, layoffs to fifty percent of Barkerville’s staff (including all security and maintenance positions) were announced. Bill Horne noted in *The Tyee* that a Barkerville Coalition formed of “actors, merchants, and supporters” had marched up Barkerville’s Main Street in late September to raise awareness. The Coalition had significant reach with a web presence and were supported by various Chambers of Commerce, multiple stakeholders, MLAs, the BCGEU (government employees union), Barkerville staff, Barkerville merchants, and Barkerville contractors. They were a formidable group to contend with.

On October 22nd, 2003, available members of this coalition alliance travelled nearly 1000kms to rally at the Victoria Legislative Assembly. The BCGEU rented shelter and amplification for the cause and 60 members of the public attended to show support. The event was reported in numerous news publications and on Moe Sihota’s *VILand Voices* broadcast. Some of the Barkerville Coalition members present included Royal Engineer re-enactors, Barkerville historical interpreters, Wells-Barkerville community members, and Barkerville merchants and contractors; all individuals whose communities, homes, employment, and lives were interdependent with Barkerville’s past, present, and future.

Notably, Danette Boucher, who had interpreted Miss Florence Wilson for a decade at that time (and continues to in Barkerville to this day), portrayed Queen Victoria for the rally. Premier Gordon Campbell was invited to join “the Queen” for tea, but he declined. The Barkerville Coalition did not go unheard, though. Dr. John Wilson, MLA for the Cariboo North, raised the Coalition’s concerns in the House that afternoon. The minister responsible for heritage at the time, George Abbott, responded: “Clearly, the first concern of the heritage branch is the preservation and protection of both heritage values and heritage buildings and artifacts. Clearly, what we have in Barkerville is a vital heritage site, and we also have a great tourism generator for the Cariboo and north-

ern British Columbia. The protection of assets there is obviously a key concern to the ministry. What we want to do at Barkerville is build on the successes with non-profit and local management of heritage sites, which has occurred in other parts of the province.” Seemingly, the province did understand Barkerville’s value.

Partially due to the publicity of the diminution process, the 2003 programming season in Barkerville saw a slight reduction in visitors. This was also attributed to SARS and Mad Cow Disease scares and additionally to major wild-fire events across the province. 2,500 fires had raged, including the Okanagan Mountain Park Fire which burned 230 homes, and the McLure fire near Kamloops which burned 72 homes and 9 businesses. Barkerville’s manager, Jake van der Merwe, had hoped to begin implementing an Easter through Halloween season to expand upon the critical May through June school programming. Van der Merwe wasn’t able to reach his goal as proposed, but for the first time in the history of the site, Barkerville did extend its operating season to include September.

In the midst of diminution, public outcry, and Barkerville Coalition lobbying, an independent consultant had been engaged by the province. This consultant’s task, according to a December 5th, 2003, provincial news release, had been to “identify new revenue and growth opportunities for Barkerville and to identify viable business pursuits while maintaining Barkerville’s heritage integrity.” Based upon this consultant’s findings, an interim governance board was formed. This board became the Barkerville Task Force.

The Barkerville Task Force was not the first committee put to task to analyze Barkerville and to develop strategic planning for the site. There had been three previous objective-centric task forces: the 1977 Task Force, the 1981 Concept Plan, and the 1991 Barkerville Futures teams. The new Barkerville Task Force was structured by assigning principal Barkerville stakeholders as members, combining a wider scope of knowledge pertaining to Barkerville’s regional and provincial impact.

In our next issue, we will explore the next 21 years, 2004 – 2025, of Barkerville’s management and tourism trends. Or, rather, from a presentist perspective, the past 21 years. This will include the establishment of the Barkerville Heritage Trust, the Friends of Barkerville’s on-

going contributions to the site’s development, the increases to programming and seasonal events, and the peaks and valleys of attendance that sometimes help and sometimes hinder the site from season to season.

Until September, Dear Readers –

Brendan Bailey

Sources: Provincial Ministry Press Releases; Hansard Transcripts; Personal Interviews; Author’s Personal Collections; Barkerville Archives; Provincial Archives; Friends of Barkerville Newsletters; WVFB Meeting Minutes (1961-1962); Canadian Inflation Calculator - Official Inflation Data (Alioth Finance, 2025), The Tyee; The Globe and Mail; The Mitten; The Quesnel Cariboo Observer; The New York Times; MacLeans Magazine; Society in the Cariboo During the Gold Rush (Bescoby, 1933); Beyond Hope, Past Redemption: The Lottie Bowron Story (Fleming & Smyly, 1991); Barkerville: A Guide to the Fabulous Cariboo Gold Camp (Ramsey, 1966 2ed.); Barkerville, Quesnel & the Cariboo Gold Rush (Elliott, 1958, 1978); They call it the Cariboo (Skelton, 1980); ...And so... That’s How it Happened: Recollections of Stanley-Barkerville 1900-1975 (Hong, 1978); Harvey’s Story: Memories of Cinema, Wells and Quesnel (Bryant, 1998); Ten Golden Years: Barkerville-Wells, 1932-1942 (Harris, 1984); Packers, Pans and Paydirt: Prospecting to the Cariboo (Duclos, 1995); Building Representation (Pollock, 2018); British Columbia’s History of Under Investing in Heritage & Why That Matters Today (BCMA, 2025); Gold in the Cariboo (Ludditt, 1958); Barkerville Days (Ludditt, 1969, 1980, 2022); Barkerville and the Cariboo Goldfields (Wright, 2013); A Traveller’s Guide to the Buildings of Barkerville (Laing et al., 2009, 2017); W.A.C. Bennett and the Rise of British Columbia (Mitchell, 1983); All Roads Lead to Wells (Safyan, 2012); British Columbia by the Road: Car Culture and the Making of a Modern Landscape (Bradley, 2017).



Opening of the Canadian Claim, 2014



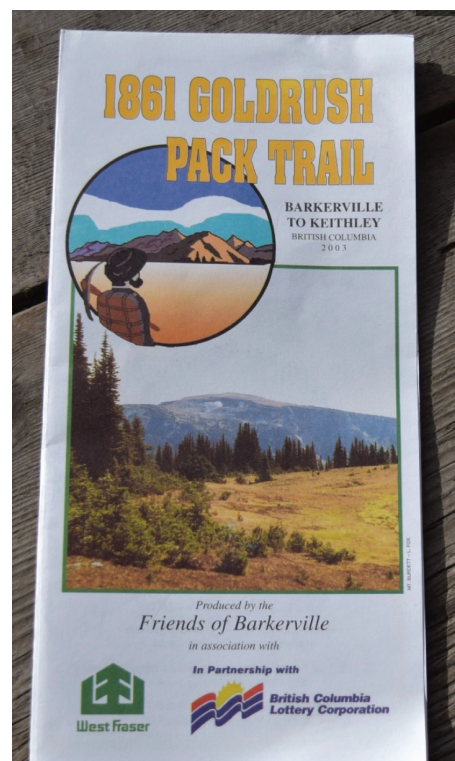
Grand Opening of the Barker Shaft, with Lana Fox Cutting the Ribbon, 2015



Gold Rush Pack Trail Map in Richfield



Richfield Cemetery Chinese Monument Celebration, 2005



The Work of the Friends, 2003



Newly Constructed Waterwheel, 2009



Stanley Cemetery Workbee, 2012

EDITORIAL

On January 18th Richard Wright chaired his final meeting as President of the Friends of Barkerville • Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society. Wright has been a force majeure in the Society since its inception in 1986 as the Friends of Barkerville Heritage Society.

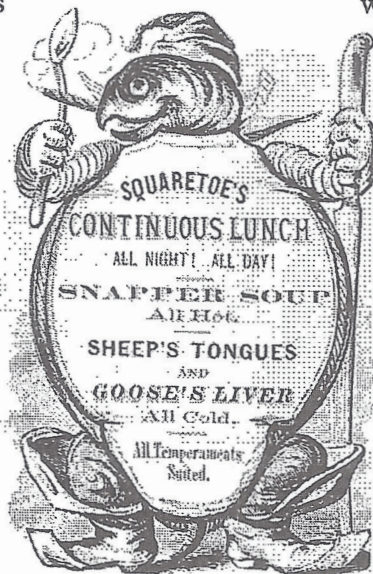
I remember the afternoon in Barkerville when Richard and Kevin Brown dropped in to my studio to ask me if I'd be interested in getting involved in the formation of a Barkerville historical Society. Although I am not a historian by most definitions the idea sounded exciting and I felt I could contribute to the vision that Richard, Kevin and Ron Candy had for a Society that would act as an adjunct to a government run site and bring to life a lot of projects, (not just within Barkerville but throughout the Cariboo gold fields), which the government just could not undertake.

Following discussions held variously on the boardwalks of Barkerville, in John Premischooks' palatial office (we took turns on the chair), in the Wake Up Jake restaurant and living rooms in Wells we called our first public meeting. It took place at the old Sunset Theatre in Wells where each of the four of us were to expound on the visions society might undertake. We were idea that may have made us seem men in Tuktoyaktuk and to others miniums in Florida. (There is a dif-able- the other the imponderable).

Unfortunately Ron Candy didn't injured his back while climbing in house (his dog swallowed the sticking to it!). But we were met the concept of a "Friends of Bark-with the intoxication of three paid

Although the Society has enjoyed support at times it has persevered, together a few loyal supporters many spare hours for no tangible ganization that will attempt to preserve Cariboo history in areas where government or public interest has either been unable to address the issue or lost sight of it altogether. The artifacts and edifices of the Cariboo's pioneer era are disappearing at an astonishing rate. Quesnelle Forks, Wrights' pet project, is a prime example. Although the Society hasn't done anything earth shaking at the Forks what has been accomplished is of much value. Restoration or even conservation of the site may prove to be beyond the resources of BCG but the photographs and 'as found' drawings, once completed, will be an invaluable reference for historians a hundred or five hundred years from now. The interest that has been sparked in the Forks by BCG's activities has already caused a ripple effect that may lead to much greater community and government involvement in it and similar undertakings.

The Society hasn't even scratched the surface of it's potential but with support, imagination, and a lot of commitment it may be able to play an important part in conserving the essence of that which Canadians often vaguely refer to as identity. Cultural identity as the distillate of history can clarify through the process of conservation and study of history. To that end we owe a vote of thanks to Richard Wright for his leadership in furthering the process.



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make the meeting because he the upper story window of his key... that's his story and he's with a favourable reception to erville" society and left flushed up memberships.

what may be called minimalist as has Mr. Wright; drawing who have been willing to trade reward in order to build an or-

