



# **FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**VOL. 18 ISSUE 1**

**Relics from the Past**

**Spring/Summer 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



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

**PRESIDENT:** Brenda Beatty

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Grant Johannesen

**SECRETARY:** Doug Perdue

**TREASURER:** Kristie Seaborn

### OTHER DIRECTORS:

Robin Grady

Lana Fox

Richard Wright

Tony McDonald & Hildur Sinclair

### DIRECTORS MEETINGS:

Directors meetings are dinner meetings and usually held the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Savalas 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:

The contributor is the editor unless otherwise noted. 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.

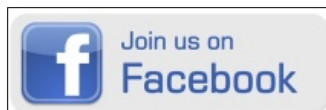
**COMMITTEE POSITIONS:** membership, special projects, trails, cemetery projects, newsletter, website.

**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)



## **SOME EARLY YEARS OF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE-CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**1984** - First meeting held under "Friends of Barkerville Heritage Society."

**1986** – Organization of Barkerville Resource Information Centre Library, Archives and Data Entry on computer – BC Government Grant (Job Development) ● Financed original school travelling educational trunk "Edukit" and assisted financially in the privatization of their production ● As-Found Drawings of Quesnelle Forks – Grant from Heritage Trust.

**1987** – Signed a co-operating Association agreement with Ministry of Lands Parks & Housing.

● Hillside Trail above Barkerville was located, marked and cleared by FOB ● Staff of 27, budget just under \$300,000 ● Operated the Cariboo Sentinel under a park use permit ● Stanley Trail – clearing and improvements ● Corral built on back street in Barkerville ● Agnes/Bald/Proserpine trail cleared, upgraded and garbage cleaned up around Groundhog Lake annually ● Pleasant Valley Ski circuit/trail had 4 km added, cleared through Job Trac Grant ● Cariboo Waggon Road was cleared and upgraded, Lowhee Ditching loop upgrade all through Job Trac Grant ● Barkerville cemetery restorations, graveyard fence repaired and reinforced banks ● Hydraulic pit across from Waterwheel was slashed and cleared ● Waterline from Barkerville mountain slashed and troughs built ● Fenced and cleaned Barkerville cemetery ● Organized, inventoried and catalogued Lee Chong and Boyd collections through Canada Council of Archives (Government Grant) ● Catalogued a rare book collection, 10,000 artifacts and 12,000 of 40,000 manual records transferred to date base ● Hosted and arranged an overview flight for Minister Bill Reid, from the Bullion mine to Barkerville with a landing at Quesnelle Forks.

**1988** – Prepared the exterior and opened the Friends new office in Wells ● Built a boardwalk in Wells ● Oral history interviews re Quesnelle Forks ● Ran the Cariboo Sentinel Printshop; apprentice printer for Printshop ● data entry of mining records from 1861 to 1931 ● Brushed and cleared Richfield courthouse and Hydraulic Pit, Community Tourism Employment Training Program ● Cleared and straightened headboards/stones in Barkerville cemetery and painted fence around the cemetery ● Slashed and cleared last mile to Richfield and built benches along the route – Community Tourism Employment program ● Establishment of the "Friends" office, full-time secretary and Heritage counsellor – BC government Grant

Indexed mining records, ledger and land records and entering into the computer -Job Trac Grant ● Continuation of cataloguing; initiation of 1870 census records; Cariboo Land records on database 1800's to 1951, a total of over 50,000 entries – Job Trac Grant ● Office Co-ordinator and Fundraiser – Section 38 BC Government Grant.

**1989** - Organization of Barkerville Library; Data entry of hand written documents; File documentation; General file maintenance and file referencing – Challenge '89 ● Completion of data entry of all catalogued information that was stored on paper in excess of 3000 records –



Employment Plus Grant ● Uncovered a number of foundations and brushed out the sites to make way for stabilization and restoration – 25 foundations uncovered at Quesnelle Forks ● Library and archival work; data entry ● Data entry of 3000+ and catalogued information; catalogued 1100+ artifacts and entered on data base; photographed 5100+ items for cataloguing and resource information – Employment grant ● Friends funded Office Manager; fundraiser, office co-ordinator, project supervisor, grant applications – Society money.

**1990** - Construction of Gunn Hydraulic and Canadian Mine display, Barkerville; Friends of Barkerville – donations from the public, grants ● Construction of Lowhee walking trail, donations from public, grants and society ● Running Highway 26 and 97 Information Centre – Grants from Municipal Affairs, Government of BC ● 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail project begun.

\*Check out the Friends of Barkerville website [www.friendsofbarkerville.bc.ca](http://www.friendsofbarkerville.bc.ca) to see complete accomplishments up to 2017. Lots of photos to look through from over the years!

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEMBERSHIP**.....Thank you to everyone that have renewed their membership/seasons pass this season and a warm welcome to all new members! All monies brought in from membership and donation box's all go back into Barkerville and area towards worthy projects. We appreciate your continued support! Lana Fox, Membership

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BASIC SAFETY PRINCIPLES AROUND WILDLIFE** - by Brenda Beatty

Spring is a great time to take a slow drive to Barkerville and enjoy the wildlife sightings along the way. Bears (black and grizzly) and moose are feasting on the fresh spring greens and can often be seen in the meadows and ditches along highway 26, especially in May and June. As the snow melts in the hills, hikers are eager to explore the wealth of trails near Barkerville, but we'd like to remind everyone of the basic safety principles around wildlife:



1. Travel in Groups
2. If a trail is closed due to recent bear activity, stay off that trail.
3. Keep children and pets close.
4. Always carry bear spray and know how to use it.
5. Make Noise, especially when traveling near rushing water.
6. Be Alert to signs of bear (such as fresh scat) and wind direction (wind at your back could carry your scent to bears ahead, while a headwind might allow you to startle a bear ahead of you).
7. Leave no Trace. Take all of your food wrappers and waste back home with you to avoid attracting and habituating bears.

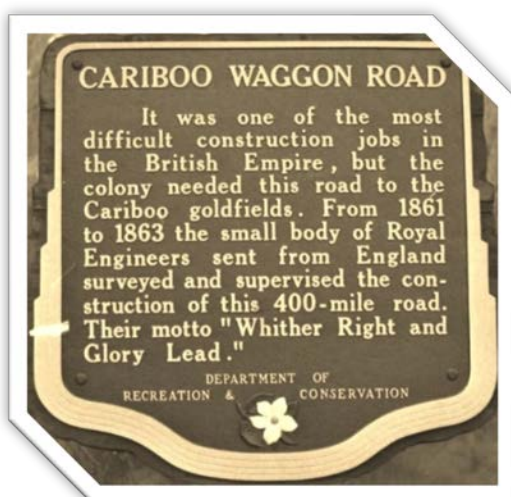
In general, wildlife is intelligent and will choose to avoid humans, but they have to know that you're there first. Give them space and respect their habitat.

## SAPPERS – ROYAL ENGINEERS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Who were they? They were an elite corps. They came from Britain to British Columbia in 1858 when the gold rush began. They are most noted for the building of the Cariboo Wagon Road. What is a sapper? He is a man of all work of the Army and the public, a geologist, astronomer, surveyor, draftsman, architects, explorer, road builder, mechanic, soldier and sailor, ready to do anything or go anywhere. When their job was done, they headed back home but not all, some stayed here in British Columbia. Two are buried in the Barkerville Cemetery and one other is buried at Grouse Creek. Here is a bit of history on one that spent his remaining years in the Richfield / Barkerville area.

Photo Courtesy of BC Archives, Call # G-09709

Centre left photo by Lana Fox



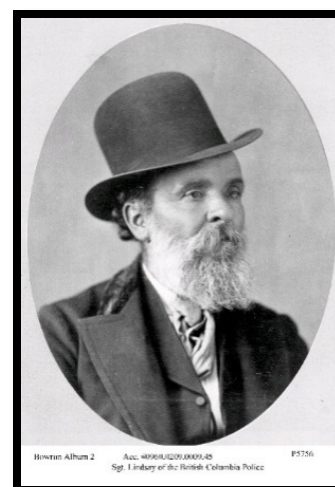
JAMES SYME LINDSAY was born August 28, 1829 and baptized on St. Valentine's Day, 1830, at Kilconquhar, Fife, Scotland. The Scotland births and baptisms, 1564-1950 record says his mother was Margaret Syme and father Lindsay. No other records could be found while doing a search on James Lindsay. He is found in the 1881 census for Cariboo, Richfield listed as a constable.

Below photo courtesy of Barkerville Archives, P5756  
Bowron Album 2

An obituary for James Lindsay was found in the Inland Sentinel newspaper, Kamloops, BC. Vol.9 No.25, February 22, 1890.

DIED IN HIS BED, BARKERVILLE, BC, Feb. 17.

Sergt. Lindsay, an old and favorably known pioneer and for a long time Chief Constable for Cariboo District, was found dead in his bed on Saturday last. Death was the result of the bursting of a blood vessel. Deceased was one of the early settlers, having come to this country from Stirlingshire, Scotland, with the Sappers and miners, under Col. Moody, when the Yale-Cariboo trunk road was being constructed. He was a popular official, and many will learn of his sudden death with deep regret.



**JAMES LINDSAY**  
**LATE QUARTER MASTER SERGEANT**  
**ROYAL ARTILLARY**  
**DIED FEB. 17, 1890**  
**BARKERVILLE CEMETERY**

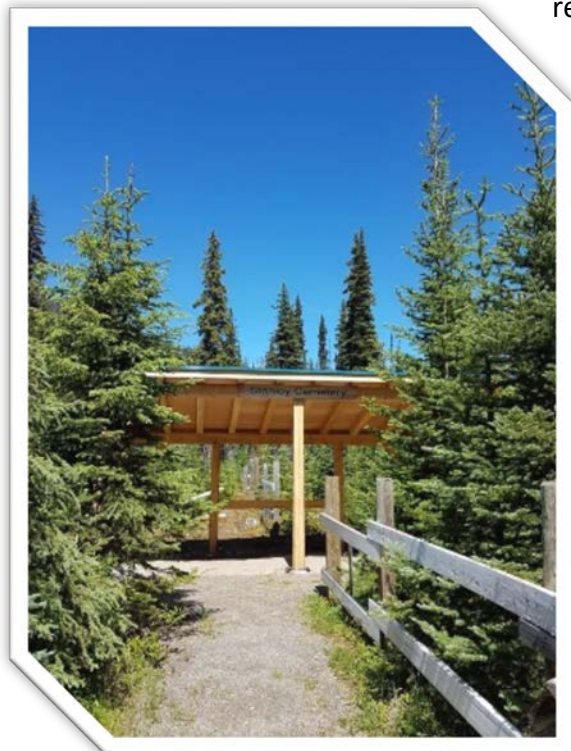


Lana Fox Photo

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SPECIAL PROJECT IN THE WORKS – Stanley Cemetery**

The Friends of Barkerville are caretakers of the Stanley cemetery and organize on a yearly basis, work bees for the general up-keep and clean-up of the old historical cemetery. Last year saw the replacement of all wooden headboards with new, as the old were rotting and barely visible to read anymore. On your way to Barkerville detour around the Stanley road and stop by to see.



As you walk up the path to enter the cemetery you will see the workings of a new Kiosk, thanks to local Ian MacDonald who built the wooden structure.

When the project is complete hopefully by the summer, this structure will contain short histories of the people buried there and will include any photos that are available. We also hope to be able to include information regarding the Chinese section which is to the left of the old section.

Photo courtesy of Carrie Chard







Photos  
courtesy  
of  
Richard  
Wright.



Robin Grady has been working hard getting this project rolling. After the main structure was built, then came time to get a work bee going to get the roof on.

Grady says, "It was a good turn out on Sunday with 10 helpers who carried plywood, tin, lumber and moved gravel. A few trees were removed and fence work done. With the plywood and tin roofing on, this completes one of the steps for a completed kiosk. Next step is to have the information of the cemetery processed, (already researched by Lana Fox), secured to the panels and have the panels installed in the kiosk."

Photo to the left is of Carrie Chard and Hildur Sinclair who were there. **Thanks for your photo Carrie.**

A big thank you goes out to Tony Bensted, Doug Perdue, Loretta Grady, Carrie Chard, Hildur Sinclair, Tony McDonald, Richard Wright and Jeremy Cover.

**Thanks everyone for all your help!**





## ***JERRY MACDONALD BURSARY AWARD –***

**Established in 1999 by the Friends of Barkerville-Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society. Jerry MacDonald was our President at the time of his sudden passing. We have selected and presented two winners each receiving \$400 each year since. Garnet Currie is one of two winners for 2018 and is chosen for this issue. Congratulations!**

### ***THE CARIBOO GOLD RUSH.....***by Garnet Currie

Occurring between 1860 and 1863, the Cariboo Gold Rush is British Columbia's most famous gold rush. The gold rush involved huge amounts of travelling, prosperity and formed a very diverse group of people. The Cariboo Gold Rush took place in the remote, isolated Cariboo Mountains region. It began when prospectors drawn from the Fraser River Gold Rush discovered gold farther north on the Horsefly River. News spread of the rich payload found near bedrock, a large number of gold-seekers were drawn to the area.

People travelled from all over the world in hope of finding gold. While travelling to the Cariboo gold-fields from places like England, China, Hawaii, Germany, Australia, and the United States of America, passengers would have to prepare for long and exhausting travel. Depending on which route you took, a trip from England to Victoria, British Columbia would take up to 5 months. There were steamships leaving from England every month for North America. From Victoria, there was still a long journey to the Cariboo mountain region where gold was being found. In order to travel this long distance, the Cariboo Wagon road was built to allow safer and more reliable access to the Cariboo regions. Some travellers also arrived on the east coast of North America, and had to travel west across land, mountains, rivers, and lakes to reach the trails to gold country. People across the world were very committed to finding gold in Canada.

A miner could make at least \$40 a day, and sometimes up to \$300 a day on some of the gold claims in the Cariboo. Some prospectors had been known to get \$75 or \$100 dollars' worth of gold in a single pan! As areas became claimed by many gold miners, many other miners moved north to new, unmarked areas such as Williams Creek. Miners began by staking their claims in the winter, and then back out to register the claim at the nearest mining office, 70 miles away, at Williams Lake. By the summer of 1861 there was a great deal of excitement. One company estimated that they had made a profit of \$80,000 by early August. A day's worth of work was not being measured in ounces of gold any more, but in pounds of gold. By the end of the 1861 mining season, \$2,600,000 worth of gold had been produced, most of it from the Cariboo region.

By the end of 1863 over 100 companies had staked around 3000 claims, and the value of the gold removed that year was just under \$4,000,000. The years 1864 and 1865 saw similar gold production levels. Most of the gold was found during the first five years of the Cariboo gold rush. Many of the claims were still being worked in 1900. Today, Barkerville is still an operating mining



town. It is estimated that William's Creek and two of its tributaries, Conklin and Stout's Gulch, produced \$30,000,000 worth of gold between 1861 and 1898. The gold in the Cariboo provided people with great fortune and fame.

Cariboo gold had an integral role in creating jobs and new industries in British Columbia. In the spring, the miners had more work to do before they could begin taking gold out of the ground. Large trees had to be chopped down, and then turned into lumber. The lumber was used to build mining equipment, such as rockers, sluice boxes, and flumes, as well cabins and shelters. Many workers were needed to complete these tasks. Jobs such as blacksmiths and tree cutting became useful in creating mining equipment and selling it to the gold miners. Lumber was used to build homes and shelters for the gold miners. As the mining population grew, the lumber was used to build communities in the Cariboo region. Gold industrialized and populated the Cariboo region, it offered new opportunities for jobs, businesses and prosperity.

The men and women who came to the Cariboo during the gold rush formed a very diverse group. Barkerville had a strong Chinese community by 1862. Mining wasn't the only work done by members of the Chinese community. Other occupations included doctors, herbalists, lodging-house keepers, storekeepers, restaurant owners, and cooks. The Aboriginal residents of the area were essential to the mining community, providing them with goods, such as canoes and food, and services, such as guide and translators. Many different cultures and groups of people became involved in the Cariboo gold rush.

Occurring between 1860 and 1863, the Cariboo Gold Rush is British Columbia's most famous gold rush. The gold rush involved huge amounts of travelling, prosperity and formed a very diverse group of people. The Cariboo gold rush has had a lasting impact on British Columbia and Canada. It formed a new culture that offered a new life with money, jobs and entertainment. Historical towns such as Barkerville can show us what life looked like at the time and what commitments and risks people took to form these still lasting communities in the Cariboo region.



## A BURNING DESIRE

**A**fter the smoke cleared from last summer's wildfires throughout BC, fall & winter quietly settled in. The Activities season in Barkerville became the focus & the Shamrock Tube Run & Visitor Reception Centre (VCR) café & gift store were open to the public. Victorian Christmas was held Dec. 9-11, 2017.

**B**arkerville town & park officially opened for the Spring School Program & Summer Interpretive Season on May 17. Admission fee until the end of May was pay what you can. Record attendance was set on the July long weekend.

**S**moke & flames may have influenced your travel plans last year. Like the miners & pioneers who settled B.C., the people of the Cariboo are hardy, resilient souls. Some were put on evacuation alert & some were evacuated. Make your plans & pack your vehicles & head to the Cariboo where you can see how close the fires came to our communities & residences. As you will soon see, we survived & are ready for you to visit & enjoy our friendly hospitality & great outdoors. Support our people, businesses, parks, & have some fun.

**T**he Board meets face to face quarterly, with Executive conference calls a couple times per month. Quarterly meetings are moved around to various communities within the Cariboo & Prince George. Their January 19-21, 2018 meeting was held in Quesnel. The April 20-22, 2018 meeting was held in Williams Lake. June 15-17, 2018 was the AGM & Theatre Royal Gala event held in Barkerville.

**I**t is recommended to take the time to visit the Richfield Courthouse by horse & wagon or on foot to enjoy a lively & thoroughly entertaining re-enactment of an actual court case from the early 1800's, take a stage coach ride through town, check out the blacksmith shop, the Cariboo Sentinel print shop, the waterwheel gold mining presentation, Chinatown walking tour, street interpreter stories & sing-alongs, the 3 different shows in the Theatre Royal, stay in one of the 3 B&B's (St George's, Kelly House or King house) to experience Barkerville after hours when the streets are bare & quiet, purchase unique & familiar products & gifts in the merchants' stores. Take the time to bike or hike some trails & explore the area by taking a leisurely drive. Stay in a campsite (Lowhee, Government Hill, or Forest Rose) in a tent, RV, or trailer, or rent a cabin or cottage. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife along the roadsides & enjoy the wildflowers, trees, & mountainous scenery.

**C**heck out historic Cottonwood Roadhouse, Stanley Cemetery, & Blessings Grave site on your way out and/or on the return trip. The colourful community of Wells is worth driving through & stopping at art galleries, shops, & restaurants. A half hour drive east to the world renowned Bowron Lakes canoe circuit is a nice side trip. Check out the surrounding area including but not limited to Troll Ski Resort, several walking, hiking, biking, snow shoe, ski, ATV & snowmobile trails that lead to mountain tops or alpine meadows.



Some campsites have power & coin operated showers & flush toilets. There are walking trails connecting some campsites to the Visitor Reception Centre (VRC). If you are biking, there are bike stands to lock them up at the entrance. You can book your dogs into self-serve kennels. The new Pavilion building beside the VRC is ideal for gatherings, reunions, meetings, & weddings. The VRC has a new veranda along the west side. There are 4 electric scooters available for public use and we are purchasing a 5<sup>th</sup> one to be in place for this summer.

The historic buildings undergo regular maintenance to repair roofs, walls, & windows. Infrastructure is in place for water, sewage, & electrical. Timber adjacent to the town, within the park, & at Cottonwood House is assessed for danger trees. For wildfire protection & safety purposes, trees are pruned or removed.

We look forward to a productive & fun summer. Hopefully the only flames & smoke we see come from fire pits at campsites as you roast hot dogs. When you renew or purchase a new Friends of Barkerville membership it enables us to support & fund projects within & around Barkerville town & park.

Grant Johannesen - V.P. Friends of Barkerville - Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

### **Barkerville Heritage Trust AGM and Theatre Royal Gala, June 15 -17, 2018**

A sunny weekend in Barkerville set the scene for the quarterly meeting of the Barkerville Heritage Trust Board of Directors. The Annual General meeting was held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> in the Grand Room of the Visitor Reception Centre.

The Barkerville Heritage Trust Board of Directors consists of:

Iona Campagnolo, Honorary Patron

Kirstin Clausen is the new Chair – BC Museum Association & Historical Society of BC

John Massier is the past Chair - Cariboo Regional District & City of Quesnel

Walt Cobb is the Vice Chair – District of 100 Mile House & City of Williams Lake

Miriam Schilling is the Secretary – Director at Large Tourism

Rhonda Hunter is the Treasurer – Director at Large Finance

Kirk Gable of Prince George replaces Don Basserman as representative for Fraser Fort George Regional District and City of Prince George

Richard Liu replaces Eileen Lao as Director at Large – Multicultural

Gary Champagne – District of Wells

Jacqueline Holler - Director at Large Education

Grant Johannesen - Friends of Barkerville - Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

Rob Rummel – Merchant Licensees

Les Waldie – Director at Large Human Resources

Chris Lodder – Director at Large Industry; Chris Hyde – Director at Large Business

There was a ribbon cutting ceremony & BBQ in Wells for the Ray Beaulieu Fire Truck Building.

**Photo credits to Grant Johannesen**

## A large group of people, including firefighters and community members, are gathered outside the Ray Beaulieu Fire Truck Building. A woman in a pink dress is cutting a red ribbon. A fire truck is visible inside the building.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER EVERYONE!