



# NEWSLETTER

Vol.11 Issue 1 - Spring 2007

## Friends of Barkerville

Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

*It is that time of year -- our season  
for new memberships and member-  
ship renewal comes on May first,  
along with the birds and the bees.  
You'll find the Membership Form  
for the current season on our website,  
and the offer for Volunteering.  
Thank You!*







# Newsletter Content

Vol.11 Issue 1 - Spring 2007



The President's Perch

Book Review



The Curator's Corner

Ramblings



The Ultimate Entrepreneur

Committee Reports



A Bit About the Fraser River

Executive Committee





# The President's Perch

by Pat Pickering

Well folks, here we go again! It seems like only yesterday that we closed Barkerville down at the end of September.

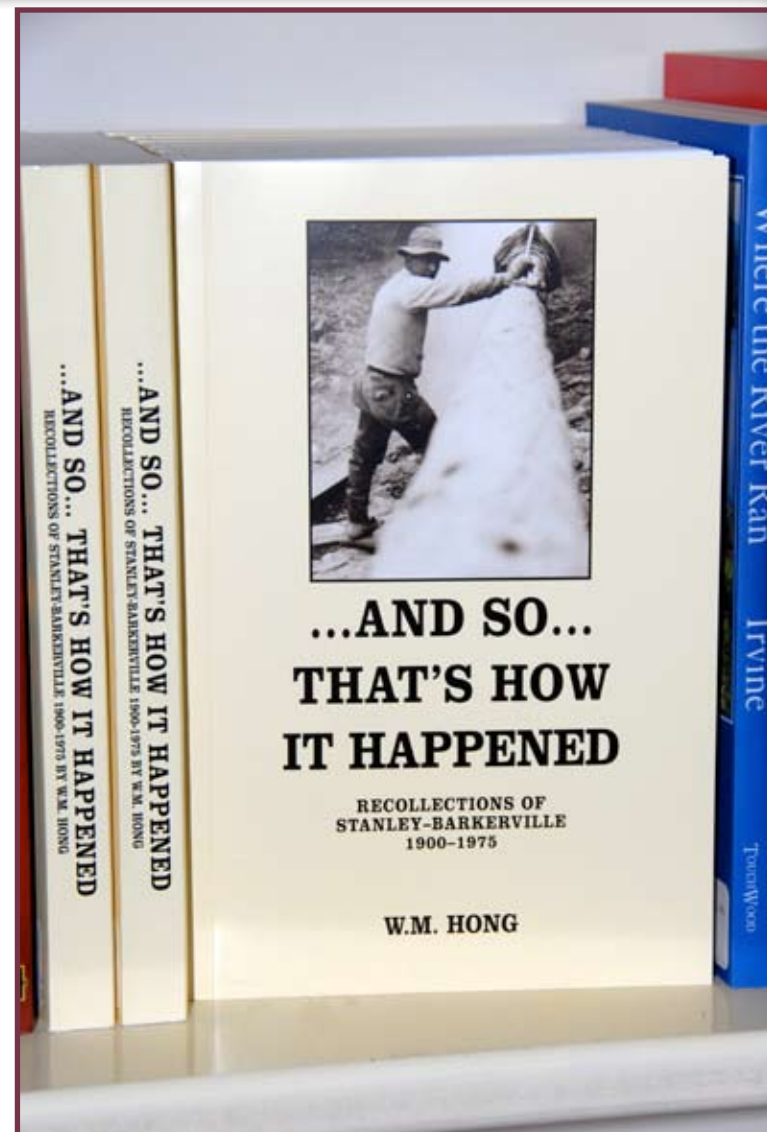
The Friends had a fairly successful summer last year, thanks to our diligent staff and volunteers. Hopefully we will have the same success this season. Cathy Eisma will be back to hold the fort, but regretfully (for us) Phyllis will not be returning. We wish her well in her new position at Willis Harper in Quesnel. At this time, we are still looking for a two-day-per-week person to fill her position. Many of the Merchants in Barkerville are still looking for staff. Part of the problem is, there is no accommodation for staff available.

The Old Fashioned Christmas was beautiful as usual and the weather co-operated. Sleigh rides were a big hit as was Santa. The staff and merchants did a bang-up job. The Barkerville Hotel was dressed up for the season as well. Thanks to staff and

volunteers, we were able to serve up hot Apple Cider and cookies from the Goldfields Bakery as well as sell our goods and merchandise.

At this time, it still looks like Christmas, as there is between two and three feet of snow. We open on May 14, which, at this writing, is less than three weeks away. Hopefully the sun will come out and the temperature will rise well above freezing so that the snow melts in time for our first stream of visitors. If you come during the first month of opening, be sure to wear your boots and warm clothing. See elsewhere in the newsletter for a list of events happening over the summer.

Bill Quackenbush is introducing a new programme this year. It is an Archaeological dig and can be found along the bulkhead on the back road. At this time, Barkerville has hired an Archaeologist, but time and schedules have not been set.. Check with Barkerville later in May.





# The President's Perch

by Pat Pickering

We will be having some "clean up" bees for both the Wells/Barkerville and the Stanley Cemeteries. Watch for the dates to be posted on our website.

We are pleased to announce that the book, ".....AND SO ..... THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED -- Recollections of Stanley-Barkerville 1900 -1975 by W. M. Hong" is at last being republished. The Friends of Barkerville will be the main distributor.

Have a safe and happy summer and I look forward to seeing many of you in Barkerville.

*Respectfully Submitted.....Pat Pickering*



Quesnel Home and Garden Show 2007





# The Curator's Corner

by Bill Quackenbush

## Curatorial Report April 2007

The Curatorial staff at Barkerville has been busy on a project to properly catalogue all artifacts. Brandee Rea and Tracy Norman led the project with assistance from Duane Abel, Ursula Drasdauskis, Cliff Quinn and Anne Laing. Dorothea Funk also digitized 2,500 public access photographs as part of the project. We started by integrating seven data bases developed over 50 years into one. Phase two of the project, slated to start this summer, will see the artifacts on exhibit, photographed and catalogued.

The project included a major data base crash, but we were able to complete it on time and within budget. Half the funding was from the Federal Government Museums Assistance Program. Seventy-nine thousand artifacts were reviewed, with 121,000 items left to be fully catalogued or accounted for in the general inventory. While 121,000 and an estimate of 20 minutes an item seem insurmountable, there is a structure and organization to the collections that allows for ease of access and an understanding for all of the artifacts. For example, the photograph negatives file alone comprises over 50,000 items and we have some information on almost all -- but they have not been cross-indexed and properly identified in the data base. This 'backlog' is not an unfamiliar aspect of Museum keeping, as most museums in Canada have residual issues associated with their collections. What is unusual is the fact that this project is

finally being undertaken at Barkerville where cataloguing has been confined to newly donated items and those going onto exhibits for many years. The next phase of the project is to catalogue everything on exhibit, then to concentrate on all those things in storage.

The summer is ramping up to be one of our finest with a new hands-on Archaeological project. Starting in May, both students and the general public will participate in sifting the dirt from beneath the Barkerville Hotel to help recover the history. The station will be located at the south end of town near Stouts Gulch. One of the least understood elements of the 1860s to 1900 time period are the artifacts that make up the exhibits and collections. Limited information is gleaned through looking at old documents, but few describe the artifacts, what they looked like and how they were used. Quite often the past is obscured by recent memories and/or based on the wealthy -- things for which we have the best records. Those years saw the greatest change for the human condition as the 'modern world' moved from piece manufacturing to machine manufacturing; from individual artisans to managers of large groups of people; from hand power to steam to electricity; etc.. It is our role to piece together how the modern world impacted in this area and in turn made an impact. Over the years, material gathered from the ground at Barkerville has assisted in transforming our understanding of the past, but also provided a reminder that change is a slow but constant process. See archaeological examples in the Chinese Free Mason's Mining in the Cariboo and Visitor Centre exhibits and elsewhere throughout the town. WGQ





# The Uitimate Entrepreneur

by Branwen Patenaude

During the 1860s the gold rush in the Cariboo brought thousands of men and some women from all over the world to work and live there.

One of these was Jack Boyd, a teen-ager of fifteen, who left Belfast, Ireland in 1848 for California, where he mined with his older brothers, and married Elizabeth Mullen in 1860. A daughter, Mary Ann, was born the following year, but Elizabeth died shortly after..

By this time, the gold rush in California had subsided, and hearing of gold up north in British Columbia, John left his baby daughter with friends, and travelled to the Cariboo. Trained as an accountant, John worked for the Cunningham Co. on Williams Creek until 1863.. During this time Boyd purchased Billy Barker's share in a claim on upper Williams Creek. For some time the claim had failed to produce, and when Barker staked another claim below the canyon, Gold Commissioner Thomas Elwyn insisted that Barker give up one of these, he sold his share on upper Williams Creek to John Boyd. A week later, the company struck one of the richest gold deposits on the creek.

By 1863 Boyd had partnered with Charles Heath, a lawyer at Quesnel Mouth, in acquiring the Wade ranch at Cottonwood Crossing, enroute to the goldfields.

By 1865 the coach road to Barkerville had been completed , but the Boyd and Heath Ranch was off the road. Realising their loss in business, the partners leased an acre of ground beside the high-

way and the trail to the Swift River. Here they built a roadhouse, ColdSpring House, which was in operation by May of 1866.

By the 1870's there were as many as half-a-dozen roadhouses on the way to Barkerville, and competition was keen. Boyd realized this, and endeavoured to eliminate most of them.

The Cottonwood Ranch which had been in a transitory state for ten years, was purchased by Boyd in 1874, and Pine Grove House in 1872 for \$472.00.

Now in the prime of life, Boyd turned to mining, and staked several claims along Lightning Creek, where he and his employee, Angus McPhail, found gold in a quartz ledge. A company was formed, the Big Bonanza Company, and while they did not discover any great amounts of gold, they sold the ground in 1889 to the Lightning Creek Gold Gravels and Drainage Co. for \$2000. This later became the mine known as Wingdam.

Moving his family to the Cottonwood Ranch in 1886, Boyd continued in business until his death in 1909. For many years the hay fields along the Cottonwood River brought far more money to Boyd than the roadhouses or the store.

The many ledgers and daybooks kept by John Boyd during those years, are today housed in the Quesnel Museum and Archives. They are most interesting and give insight to the wide assortment of people there at the time, although one has to study the beautiful penmanship to decipher some of the words.





# A Bit About the Fraser River

(unearthed by the editor)

Sometimes in random reading, we are surprised to find a glimmer of light coming through from the past which sheds light on, and adds to, our knowledge of the present. For instance, the name of our river -- the Fraser.

A brochure written in 1990 by a Donald Fraser offers a few such "glimmers". In the Forward to the brochure, Fraser states that "in the summer of 1989, my mother produced a "potted" history to fit on two sides of foolscap." This so-called "potted" history was concerned with the Fraser lineage of Guisachan House (pronounced "Eusachan") located in the region of Inverness, Scotland., and commences circa 1500.

Between that time and the 1800s, a good many generations and issues thereof transpired. The history begins with Hugh Fraser, 2nd of Guisachan, who assumed that title upon the death of his father, William, 1st of Guisachan in 1500. From this point, the history moves fairly quickly through a succession of rightful owners of the estate: Alexander, Hugh, William, Hugh, William, William, and finally another William whose third son broke the hand-me-down names, becoming known as Simon.. (But this is not "our" Simon; "our" Simon was the fourth and youngest son of the former Simon.)



Of this second Simon, Donald Fraser writes, very briefly, "Simon earned great fame as an explorer and trader. On the instructions of his company, 'Mactavish,

Frobisher & Co.," he entered the wilderness of the Canadian Rockies and established trading posts throughout the region, during which adventures he discovered a "Great Golden River" which now bears the Fraser family name. He, in turn, had one son and two daughters, the son becoming a Colonel in the British Army, serving as Military Secretary to the Duke of Manchester when his Grace was Governor of Jamaica."

It is of interest, too, that apparently Simon Fraser broke ranks with living a Guisachan House. In Gordon R. Elliott's book, "Quesnel" --(now out in its second and up-graded printing) -- we are told that "Simon Fraser, like Mackenzie and others of the early explorers of this province, was a "Nor'Wester." Unlike so many others who were Scottish, he was of United Empire Loyalist stock." So it seems, that right about here, we have a missing link in the arrival of Simon Fraser from Scotland to the North American far west. For the sake of continuity, an explanation of this would be a discovery in itself.





# Book Review

by Andy Motherwell

## **"LADY FRANKLIN'S REVENGE"**

by Ken McGoogan,  
(Harpers 2005)

The fabled search for the Northwest Passage at the top of Canada, consumed the interest of hundreds of people for 100+ years including outstanding explorers such as Mackenzie, Franklin, Rae, McClintoch, Amundsen, and as a result, literally millions of dollars have been spent looking for the exact path or searching for lost ships' crews and recently the reasons for sailors' deaths --(lead poisoning, scurvy, starvation, murder, etc).

The searches were carried out at a time when few women were challenging their traditional role as housewife, mother and companion (but never as thinker, professional, or person of influence). The Cariboo Gold Rush, beginning roughly in 1850, was when women were starting to revolt, (the process is still on-going), against male-only dominance, of the Victorian era.

Lady Franklin was outstanding in exerting her influence as a person by being outspoken, by traveling by herself, by climbing mountains and exploring, when these deeds were considered as very unbecoming to a woman. She had to exercise her wishes through men because 'men only' counted. Her quest for stature led her to manipulate the British Admiralty and others in financing arctic explorations, especially that of her husband, in total to \$72 million dollars. Her personal fortune, spent in searches, amounted to millions in today's currency.

If the reader has an ounce of wanderlust, he will enjoy this story of exploration, opening of new lands, (Tasmania, Australia) with accurate analysis of what each arctic explorer accomplished.

*Andy Motherwell*





# Ramblings

**Left-overs:** The Christmas Party at Jean Speare's home in early December was well-attended and successfully enjoyed. However, Jean still has three reminders, i.e.: two pair of winter-weight Th-insulate gloves and one very exquisite square-cut onyx drop ear ring. Our President claimed on pair of the gloves, and if no one claims the other, the editor has a good start on next winter. The ear ring is still here at 249-5150, and we can only think that it is very much missed by its countrerpart, and no doubt by its owner! Please call to claim.

## A GOODBYE -- Sort of.....

For a good many years and issues of our newsletter, we have carried a column on Quesnel Ski and Sports, promoting all their delightfully new and magical sports products and not forgetting the good old standbys from season to season.

All John Marien's customers and friends were saddened beyond words to see the doors of his business close mid-April. None of us really thought they would.

John and Linda have asked that we convey the gratitude they feel toward their past customers who also became close friends.

We'll miss QS & S -- it was a great place to make seasonal plans and just "hang out."

But for John, those canoeing rivers of the north are coming closer all the time. Happy Paddling!

**The Newman & Wright Theatre Company** -- the Cariboo's bejewelled entertainment group -- will be with us again this season. Perhaps we are very fortunate to have them, considering the

popularity of their programme throughout the spring when they shone above the footlights in Fort Langley, Duncan, Campbell River, White Rock, Chilliwack, Lillooet, Clinton and many others, and all points north.

However, the 2007 Theatre Tour with its energetic well-loved



members is back in Barkerville with, according to Richard Wright, many new, exciting and hilarious acts on the programme.





# Ramblings

All details of these and much more may be found on the Events page on the Barkerville website, <http://www.barkerville.ca>

In Addition to Pat's Report, she has the following notices for our readers:

## **WANTED** by The Friends of Barkerville:

Part-time worker for the Barkerville Hotel.  
Two Days a week for the Barkerville Season.  
Sales background would be an asset.

Duties will include: Greeting visitors, making sales , assuming light housecleaning duties such as vacuuming and dusting, as well as interpreting the Hotel. \$10.00/hr.

For more information call Pat Pickering 747-0112

Mason & Daly General Merchants are looking for additional sales staff for their stores in Barkerville.

Contact: Rob MasonAndDaly@telus.net

**WORKPARTY** at Wells/Barkerville Cemetery : This is a call for all hardy volunteers! The Work Party will be held on June 17th at 10:30 am at the cemetery. Bring along tools appropriate for the usual springtime jobs, such as rakes and loppers, etc., and any others in the gas-operated area that you may have in your collection.



The Friends of Barkerville attended two Home and Garden Shows over the past several days -- at Quesnel on the weekend of April 21, and again in Prince George this last weekend in April. Volunteers shared a booth in Quesnel with Barkerville Historic Town and with the Friends of the Quesnel and District Museum, all three drawing considerable interest from visitors and selling renewable and new memberships. Since taking part in the Prince George show was a first for us, the interest shown was gratifying. A large number of our summer visitors are from Prince George.





# Ramblings

***IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME!***

**CLICK HERE TO DOWN LOAD FORMS**

*YES! It is that time of year -- our season for new memberships and membership renewal comes on May first, along with the birds and the bees. Attached below is the Membership Form for the current season, and the offer for Volunteering.*

***THANK YOU!***





# Committee Reports

**Trails:** Robin Grady mentioned that the Committee is looking into replacing nine or ten grave enclosures at the Stanley Cemetery and also the replacing of old pickets, and that \$2,000. will be needed to complete the project. Rhonda Wilkins, CRD rep for Wells/Barkerville, has had \$500 designated for a high-way sign at Stanley.

**Newsletter:** Pat Pickering reminded the members that donations of articles for the spring edition should be forwarded to Jean before the end of April. She also included the fact that a new editor is being looked for as Jean hopes to step down.

**Membership:** The FOB will participate in the Home and Garden Show in Quesnel on April 20, 21 and 22. A

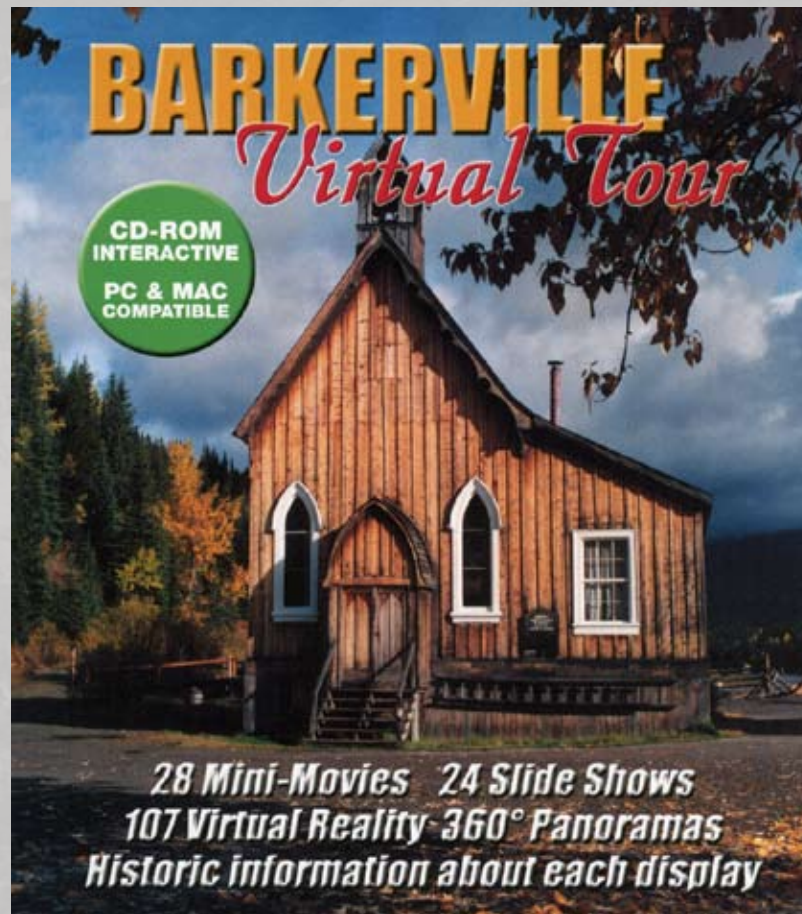
schedule for participants was passed around.

It was decided the new/renewed memberships would be sold for \$32.00 and they could purchase a Barkerville CD for \$5.00 at the time of membership purchase, while the single memberships would sell for \$16.00 at which time a Barkerville CD could be purchased as well for \$5.00. Outside of these offers, CDs may be purchased for \$24.95.

It was also decided that the FOB would participate in a Prince George Trade Fair on April 27, 28 and 29 to sell memberships and CDs.

## Barkerville Hotel

**Committee:** The Committee is preparing for the opening of the venue on May 14. There is a need for part-time staff for two days a week. Volunteers are







# Committee Reports

needed to participate in the pricing of goods for sale at a workshop on April 17.

**Barkerville Heritage Trust Report:** The B.H.T. will be meeting in Quesnel at UNBC on Sunday, April 22

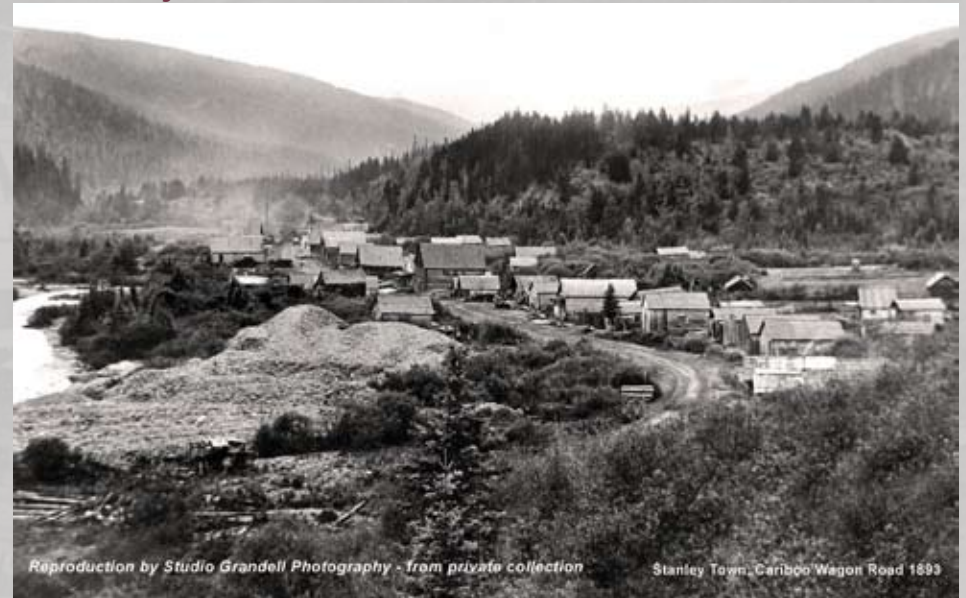
9.00 - noon The meeting is open to the public.

**Barkerville Report:** Bill Quackenbush summarized the early annual work in Barkerville -- the applications for summer job money, dealing with Barkerville infrastructure, dealing with Museum Assistance and Archaeological programs and recruiting for various assistants.

**New Business:** It has been reported that Fran Dowie's ashes may be deposited beneath the floor of Theatre Royal according to his wishes. A Celebration of Life event may be concurrent, July 28th.

**TRAILS REPORT** by Robin Grady: The Trails Committee had a meeting to discuss the upcoming summer. First we want to complete the Stanley Cemetery as this project has been dragging on for some time. We plan to build ten grave enclosures and use treated wood for

the frames and use the fence pickets for the enclosures. The fence will not be replaced until it is felt it is needed. The boundaries of the graveyard and that of the Chinese section will be marked in some manner. The ten new enclosures will be mostly done in town and will be trucked to Stanley for a work bee.



The prior meeting still has some issues to address, such as repairs to several campsite items such as tin on out-house doors if the doors are still intact, a new door and insides for the one at Racetrack (Begbie's Campsite), repair to tables at Snowshoe Campsite and re-inforce all remaining tables. There are quite a few signs to be





# Committee Reports

put up when one travels trails where signs are missing. Again this summer we will need to find out which trails will require cleanup of blowdown. (We don't need to do as much as is being done at Stanley Park.)

**Just a note of interest** for hikers who would like to go out on hikes, since we do not have any planned as yet, the Quesnel Naturalists have a hiking group with several hikes planned for each month, and their membership is very reasonable.



Mt. Burdette overlooking Racetrack

Photo: Eva Grandell





# Executive Committee

President : Pat Pickering 747-0112  
Vice. Pres. Bill Quackenbush 1-888-994-3332  
Secretary Branwen Patenaude 747-2654  
Treasurer Dianne Nysven 250-994-3452

## FOB ADDRESSES:

Postal: FOB, Box 4152, Quesnel, B. C. V2J 3J2  
E-mail: [friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca](mailto:friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca)  
Website: [www.barkerville.ca](http://www.barkerville.ca)  
Phone: 250-747-0112

## Meeting dates slated for remainder of this active year up to the Annual General Meeting:

May 3/07: at Tower Inn, 5 p.m.  
June 7/07: at Visitors' Centre, Barkerville, 6 p.m.  
July 5/07: at Tower Inn., 5 p.m.  
Aug. 2/07: at Tower Inn, 5 p.m.  
Sept. 6/07: at Visitors' Centre, Barkerville  
Directors' Mtg.: 6 p.m.      General Mtg.: 7 p.m.  
September 6, 2007 Barkerville - upstairs in the Visitors' Centre - Directors' Meeting at 6 p.m. – Annual General Meeting at 7 p.m.

A Review of Recent Meeting Minutes: (Minutes of the meeting April 5, 2007 held at the Tower Inn Banquet Room, Quesnel.

The meeting recognized a delegation comprised of Ed. Coleman, Principal of Helen Dixon Centre and Manager of Cottonwood Historic Site, along with Kevin Brickwood, Course Programmer of Continuing Education. Their concern lay in the fact that revenue made at the site is not adequate for the operation of it. Coleman explained that 70% of their visitors held FOB Membership cards and therefore do not pay admission, nor do they generate sales on the site. Later the meeting decided that the Friends of Barkerville membership card would discontinue offering free admission to Cottonwood Historic Site in order that funds may be collected on site to further its growth. The FOB, however, will continue to promote the site and hand out their brochures.

The President mentioned that a meeting would follow the Directors' Meeting which would concentrate upon the setting up of a Business Plan for the FOB.

Work on the republishing of the W.M. Hong book, "... And So ... That's How It Happened", is continuing.