

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Barkerville opens with WINNING news for the 2011 season**

**May 10, 2011 (Barkerville, BC)** - With its “golden” gates now officially open to welcome Barkerville’s first guests for the 2011 season, visitors and staff at BC’s Gold Rush Town have a lot to be excited about.

“Receiving two industry awards recognizing the significance of what we do in Barkerville is a great way to start the year,” said James Douglas, Manager of Visitor Experiences. “We are particularly pleased that Red Beak Productions received the 2010 Bronze Award from Interpretation Canada, our national Association for Heritage Interpretation, because it recognizes excellence in the people who enrich the experiences of our guests.”

Red Beak Productions is entering its fourth year delivering the Historic Street Interpretation Program at Barkerville, and Artistic Director Mark Dawson is quick to acknowledge Katherine Gorham, Stewart Cawood, Rebecca Wohlgemuth and Scott Schreiner as the performers in the adjudicated tour.

“Our mandate is to work with the entire community in making Barkerville the highest rated interpretive site in Canada,” said Dawson. Not surprisingly for BC’s Gold Rush Town, he is going for the gold medal next time.

Tourists are equally enamoured with British Columbia’s largest historic site, according to RV West Magazine. Barkerville received a platinum award as a Favourite Historical Site in British Columbia in the fifth annual Readers Choice Awards.

On Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Barkerville will host its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Victoria Day Royal Tea Party at the world-famous Wake Up Jake Restaurant. “Queen Victoria” and “Prince Albert” will be in attendance for several sittings during this popular, historically interpretive event. Reservations are recommended, as seating is limited, so be sure to call 1-888-994-3332 for more details, or visit [www.barkerville.ca](http://www.barkerville.ca).

Whether you’ve been here before or 2011 will be your first experience, Barkerville is an unforgettable glimpse into gold rush history and “living in the past” has never been this much fun!

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## **ABOUT BARKERVILLE HISTORIC TOWN**

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BARKERVILLE HISTORIC TOWN is the largest historic site in Western North America ([www.barkerville.ca](http://www.barkerville.ca)). Barkerville is provincially, nationally and internationally recognized for its historic significance associated with its place in western Canada’s gold rush era and the role the gold rush played in BC joining Canada. Barkerville is widely known as a “must see” for travel itineraries in western Canada. The historic town is also a significant contributor to the Cariboo regional economy and is widely regarded as a unique component of the regional identity.

The Barkerville Heritage Trust, as Barkerville's operating and managing partner, works in conjunction with the Province of British Columbia, the owner and statutory guardian of Barkerville's heritage resources, to ensure that Barkerville is efficiently managed, entertaining and educational to visitors, and financially stable as the premier heritage resource and tourism attraction for the Cariboo. The ultimate aim is to maintain and enhance Barkerville's position as a nationally significant heritage resource and tourism attraction for British Columbia and Canada.

Barkerville is situated 80 km east of Quesnel, British Columbia in the foothills of the Cariboo Mountains, close to Troll Mountain Ski Resort and Bowron Lake Provincial Park. The nearby community of Wells (8 km from Barkerville) is the service and housing centre for the area ([www.wellsbc.com](http://www.wellsbc.com)) and is itself a dynamic cultural community, home of Island Mountain Arts, the acclaimed Toni Onley Artists' Project, the International Celtic Harp School ([www.imarts.com](http://www.imarts.com)), the dynamic indie music festival ArtsWells ([www.artswells.com](http://www.artswells.com)), and the Sunset Theatre ([www.sunset-theatre.com](http://www.sunset-theatre.com)). Wells is also situated close to a wide variety of winter and summer outdoor activities.

#### **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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