

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Iona Campagnolo to Serve as Honourary Patron of Barkerville**

October 13, 2011 (Barkerville, BC) – The Barkerville Heritage Trust is tremendously pleased to announce The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, P. C., O. C., O. B. C. as inaugural Honourary Patron of Barkerville Historic Town.

“As an influential and respected Canadian, Iona is a woman of many roles and, among them, many ‘firsts’,” said Sue Morhun, Chair of the Barkerville Heritage Trust. “We are genuinely thrilled that Iona is adding another by joining us at this significant time in Barkerville’s history - its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.

“As an iconic champion of the North, and with an unwavering commitment to excellence, Iona will help advance Barkerville with its ‘no small dreams’ at a time when we are creating a vibrant and sustainable future.”

Campagnolo, the first woman to be named Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, is a lifelong supporter of BC’s heritage.

“I am pleased to be joining the women and men associated with The Barkerville Heritage Trust as an Honourary Patron,” she said. “We are charged with keeping faith with all those individuals who helped to create and build the rich legacy that we and future generations inherit.

“In all our diversity of backgrounds, complicated beginnings and bright promises for tomorrow, B. C. remains unique in Canada. Sustaining that special trust demanded by our shared past is what Barkerville is all about. It is a joy to be associated with a living, breathing evocation of ‘who we were’ 150 years ago and how we came to be who we are today.”

Barkerville Historic Town, the largest and most significant living history museum in western North America, was the undisputed centre of the Cariboo Gold Rush. The site is owned by the Province of British Columbia and managed on their behalf by the Barkerville Heritage Trust, a non-profit society and registered charity. Barkerville, a designated Provincial Heritage Site, has three National Historic Site of Canada designations. Barkerville is the anchor tourism destination in central and northern BC, drawing on average 66,000 visitors per season and creating an annual economic impact of \$16.9M.

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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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