

Visitors find Christmas presents from Christmases past at Barkerville Historic Town

Barkerville, BC – The alpine snow is glistening and the rhythmic jangling of bells can be heard throughout BC's Gold Rush Town, as a horse-drawn sleigh glides through a magnificent winter wonderland... it must be time for Barkerville's annual old-fashioned Victorian Christmas!

This coming weekend Barkerville Historic Town will celebrate a time when the Christmas season was filled with simple pleasures and genuine holiday cheer.

Visitors to Barkerville, from Saturday through Monday, December 11th-13th, will be able to enjoy interpretive displays like the Halverson House Mining Museum, the Nicol Hotel Museum, and the Lee Chong Company Store and Chinese Museum. Joe and Betty Wendle's Victorian home will be open for warming hands and sampling fresh baking; Christmas specialty baking and lunch will also be available at the Goldfield Bakery.

Christmas shoppers can purchase traditional Victorian gifts for that special someone from the Barkerville Hotel, the Mason and Daly General Store, C. Strauss General Merchants and McPherson's Watchmaker's Shop; satisfy their sweet tooth at McMahan's Confectionery, attend services at St. Saviour's Anglican Church, listen to roaming carolers, and even visit Father Christmas in the Enchanted Forest. The Visitors Reception Centre will play home to a chorus of spectacular bell ringers at 11 am on Saturday, December 11th, a local harp and pipe band will follow at noon, and Barnard's Express will be offering sleigh rides all weekend long. Guests can even stay overnight in one of Barkerville's popular Bed and Breakfasts, to linger in the holiday atmosphere of times gone by.

And this year - back by popular demand - the Theatre Royal's Newman & Wright Theatre Company will produce a brand new holiday classic at Barkerville's Wesleyan Methodist Church, called *Frozen Christmas on Humbug Creek*. Don't miss this exciting yuletide treat!

For more information about Barkerville's old-fashioned Victorian Christmas call 1-888-994-3332, or visit www.barkerville.ca. Yule treasure the experience!

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ABOUT BARKERVILLE HISTORIC TOWN

Barkerville Historic Town is the largest historic site in western North America (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) and is itself a dynamic cultural community, home of Island Mountain Arts, the acclaimed Toni Only Artists' Project, the International Celtic Harp School (www.imarts.com), the dynamic indie music festival ArtsWells (www.artswells.com), and the Sunset Theatre (www.sunset-theatre.com). Wells is also situated close to a wide variety of winter and summer outdoor activities

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