



Ref: BKVL 2022

May 17, 2022

Barkerville Historic Town and Park
Box 19 | Barkerville, BC | V0K 1B0
14301 Hwy 26 E. Box 19

Attention: Kate Cox – Chief executive Officer

Re: Future Protection and Preservation of Barkerville Cemetery

The .93 ha (2.32 acre) Barkerville Cemetery (the Cemetery) located within Barkerville Historic Town and Park (Barkerville) Cariboo Land District Lot 7532, is designated under the Heritage Conservation Act.

The Cemetery's Historic Character Defining Elements are as follows:

- its location in eastern British Colombia, at the heart of the historic mining district;
- its setting above Williams Creek and the Historic Cariboo Waggon Road; its rustic sub-alpine wilderness landscaping, narrow winding pathways and location on a steep wooded mountainside;
- its remaining grave markers in their original form, construction and materials;
- its significant number of unmarked graves;
- the integrity of any surviving or as yet unidentified archaeological remains relating to the 1862 Barkerville and the 1868 reconstruction, which may be found within the site in their original placement and extent;
- its relationship with the Chee Kung Tong National Historic Site of Canada and the Cariboo Wagon Road National Historic Event of Canada;

The Barkerville Cemetery has a complex history of use and documentation dating from its earliest burial in 1863. The Cemetery's management has evolved with changes in heritage conservation practices, and burials of human remains have continued in recent years under a Consumer Protection Agency (CPA) Permit held until recently by the District of Wells. In May 2022, following extensive consultation with Heritage Branch, Archaeology Branch, and the Barkerville Heritage Trust, CPA rescinded this permit to ensure that the Cemetery and the people buried there would be protected from any further ground-disturbing actions that could lead to

inadvertent desecrations and subsequent violations of the Heritage Conservation Act and the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act.

In addition to the Town and Park designation, the Barkerville Cemetery is further protected under Section 12.1(2)(b) of the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) and by the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act. The purpose of the Heritage Conservation Act is to encourage and facilitate the protection and conservation of heritage property in British Columbia.

The Barkerville Heritage Trust (the Trust) manages and stewards Barkerville Historic Town and Park and all park assets, including the Cemetery, under a Heritage Site Management Agreement with the Province of British Columbia (Heritage Branch). The Trust's legal stewardship agreement includes but is not limited to the protection and preservation of approximately 250,000 artifacts, 187 heritage and replica buildings in, 457 hectares of sub-alpine forest and 4 historic cemeteries including the Barkerville Cemetery.

While burials at the Barkerville Cemetery will no longer be permitted, the placement of ashes of those who are currently confirmed to hold plots will be accommodated through a Heritage Alteration Permit (HAP) process with the Heritage Branch. Alternatively, for refunds of purchased burial plots, please contact the District of Wells office at (250) 994-3330.

Heritage Branch and the Barkerville Heritage Trust in coordination with the District of Wells will schedule and hold a public information meeting later this year about the future care and maintenance of this important heritage site as well as the finalized HAP process that will determine future placement of ashes.

Roger Tinney

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Tinney".

Manager of Stewardship and Historic Place Operations
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
Roger.tinney@gov.bc.ca
778-698-4193