

THE WELLS CHRONICLE

PUBLISHED IN THE HEART OF THE CARIBOO GOLD BELT

Vol. 2—No. 7

Wells, BC, Wednesday, July 1, 2009

\$2.00 at the stand

Serving the communities of Wells, Barkerville & Bowron Lake

Rural Sports Day at Narcosli Creek School



Kara Haack photo



Beth Collingwood supplied this photo.

Bike Rodeo

Wells RCMP members brought their Bike Safety program to school Friday, June 12 to teach students all about helmet fitting, brake checks, seat height and other safety factors. They then led the class on a group ride down to the Jack O' Clubs Lake, where students and volunteers were treated to a delicious hotdog lunch at Smiling Jack's. Thanks to Cst. Doug Erickson and Cst. Greg Trainor for leading this workshop this year.

Submitted by
Beth Collingwood

THE WELLS CHRONICLE invites submissions on issues and events in the Wells, Barkerville, Bowron Lake area, including: letters, poems, stories, club news, and anything else that will benefit and inform our community.

THE WELLS CHRONICLE is edited and published by Aleta Wallace. **Contact Information:**

Wells Chronicle
Aleta Wallace, Editor
Box 174, Wells, BC V0K 2R0
Phone/Fax: (250) 994-3454
Email: wceditor@wellschronicle.ca
wcsales@wellschronicle.ca
Web: <http://wellschronicle.ca>

THE WELLS CHRONICLE is sold at the following locations in **Wells, BC:**

- ⇒ Wells Service Station
- ⇒ Northwoods Restaurant
- ⇒ Wells General Store
- ⇒ Amazing Space

THE WELLS CHRONICLE is sold at the following locations in **Quesnel, BC:**

- ⇒ 4-Mile Store & Coffee Shop
- ⇒ Big Country Printers
- ⇒ **green tree HEALTH & WELLNESS**
- ⇒ Caryall Books
- ⇒ One World Treasures (Baha'i Store)
- ⇒ Cariboo Keepsakes

Affordable Rates

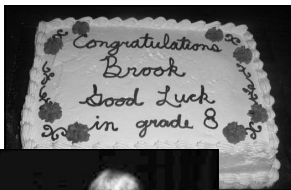
Wells Chronicle ad rates are affordable! \$12.00 puts your business in the Business & Services listings for one calendar year. \$15.00 per issue buys a **business card** size ad (1 3/4" x 2 3/4") or \$90.00 for 6 months. \$1.00 buys a **line** of type (Times New Roman 10pt for 2 3/4") More sizes & rates: <http://wellschronicle.ca>
Wells Chronicle: retail outlet price \$2.00 - Canadian subscriptions \$48.00 per calendar year - International subscription rates to be determined. For more info: Rates & Policy page at <http://wellschronicle.ca>

Rural Sports Day — Narcosli Creek School



The Wells Barkerville kids and parents had an excellent day as guests of Narcosli Creek School for Rural Sports Day. Children from Wells, Nazko, and Narcosli Creek Schools attended. The all around sportsmanship and good times were plentiful and we enjoyed an excellent BBQ and cupcakes courtesy of the school and parents.

Submitted by Kara Haack—photos by Kara Haack



Beth Collingwood supplied this photo

Sports Day Report

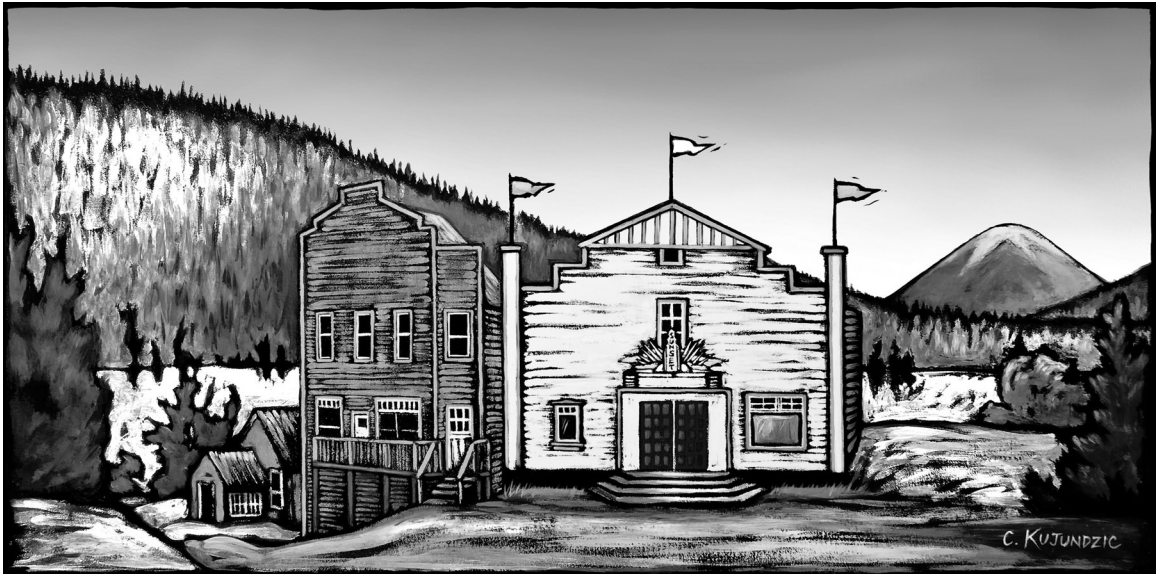
Congratulations to every one of our students for participating in the Rural Schools Sports Day last week. It was a long drive and a very hot day out in the beautiful ranch land of Narcosli Creek. Enthusiasm and fair play by all students made it a spectacular say to watch. Way to go, Wells!

Beth Collingwood



Wells Visitor Information Centre

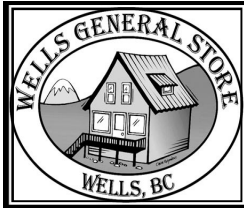
- The Wells Visitor Centre is the first point of contact our visitors have with the Wells, Barkerville and Bowron Lake area. Kirstin Blight and Elizabeth Bell are Visitor Information Counsellors and Wanda Johnstone is the Wells Visitor Centre Manager.
- We offer Tourism Services and we use resource materials (including Tourism BC publications and websites) to provide our visitors with the information they need to enhance and extend their stay while visiting our Community, Region and Province
- We provide information for our visitors about major attractions and events in other areas of British Columbia as well. Travel routes, road conditions, weather conditions etc. are all questions of which our visitors request information
- We send out a weekly event list every Thursday and encourage everyone to submit their events and activities for inclusion to us by Wednesday afternoon
- We showcase a wonderful display of art from our local artisans, a very effective tool in encouraging our visitors to explore our local Art Galleries.
- We rack brochures highlighting RV Parks and campgrounds, Hotel and Motel accommodations, restaurants, galleries and recreational activities from our local businesses to hand out to our visitors
- The Wells, Barkerville and Bowron Lake area Map, Wells Historic Town Tour Map, Cornish Mountain & Meadow Trails and Mount Agnes & Groundhog Lake Trails Maps all are very useful resources for us when sharing Local Community Information services to our visitors.
- We record stats on where our visitors are from and how long they will be staying in our area
- Along with the above mentioned we also have a daily task list for the operation of the Visitor Centre.



Groceries ~ 2340 Pooley Street ~ Hardware

~ Internet ~
C.A.P. Site
Fax Service

~ Local Art ~
Handcrafted
Items & Gifts



~ Cariboo ~
Raw Gold
Proserpine
Conklin Gulch
Gold
~ Nuggets ~

Grizz & Carol Pinette, Owner/Operators

Box 259, Wells, BC V0K-2R0 Phone (250) 994-3301

Email: welstore@goldcity.net Fax (250) 994-3341



Smilin' Jack

Concession Stand & Canoe Rentals

Open for the Summer

7 days a week - 8:00 am to 9:00 pm

Jack of Clubs Lake — Gateway Park

**Wells Historical Society
Fashion Show & Dance**

The Event:

Historic Wells Fashion Show and Fundraiser on July 24, 2009 at 8:30 PM at the Community Hall.

The Look:

Historical figures, people and businesses personified in unique and creative puns.

Jack of Clubs, the nickname of one of the early miners, modeled in an elegant black and red card ensemble.

Doors open at 8:00 PM.

Models are still needed. Please contact Jamie Shippit at the Museum by phone: 994-3422 or e-mail: museum@wellbc.com.

AND

The Wannabe (not quite lame ass) Dance following the fashion show at 10:00 PM

"The Sunset" to raise money for the Sunset

As July rolls around, Wells residents and visitors have been missing the wonderful programming of theatre, cabarets, and concerts we have been able to enjoy at the Sunset Theatre for the last 3 years.

For visitors who might not know, the roof trusses of the Sunset Theatre suffered serious damage this winter due to a very heavy snow load.

Carole Pinette of the Wells General Store quickly spearheaded a "Save the Sunset Roof" campaign, and Claire Kujundzic and Amazing Space Gallery pledged 50% of all sales of her archival reproduction, "The Sunset on Pooley Street", towards repairs.

The campaign has raised over five thousand dollars to date.

As the paper goes to press, estimates for the roof are in the insurance adjusters' hands.

It's likely the work will take about three weeks from the time that contractors get the go-ahead. So it is possible that repairs can be done in time for the ArtsWells Festival at the end of July, when many wonderful events are scheduled to take place there.

As for the "The Sunset" artwork, the giclées are available in several sizes and can be seen at Amazing Space Gallery, the Wells General Store, the Wells Hotel, and the Bear's Paw. Bill Horne

“DELUXE

JUNK”



*ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

*GOLD RUSH ARTIFACTS

*MINING SUPPLIES

*APPLIANCES

*HARDWARE & PLUMBING

*FURNITURE

*GLASSWARE, DISHES & CANNING

*ELECTRONICS & OFFICE

*NEW & USED

*GOLD NUGGET JEWELLERY

*GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

REALLY NEAT STUFF!

“... everything from mooseracks to crystal -
... recycling at its best!”

OPEN - 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM

(sometimes earlier)
(sometimes later at nite)

**CLOSED - Sunday &
Thursday**

LOCATED UPTOWN WELLS



ON POOLEY STREET

"Yatch" Race

When: July 20th, at 7PM

Where: 200 meters up from the 'Y'

Why: To carry on lost traditions.

What?? A fleet of yachts are built by the community: children, adults, businesses using a piece of 2 x 4 plywood and released down the Willow River. These creative boats will be judged on categories such as "Least Likely to Float", "Best Representation of a Business", and "Most Colourful". The Commode D'or will over see the event, the Reverend will ask God to bless the fleet and the Pikers will be around to accept bids and get wet. This is certainly an event you will not want to miss.

One of the Fleet

\$5 registration and boat pick up at Frog on the Bog, General Store and Museum from July 4th - 18th

Rules

- 1) The Fleet will be released into the Creek at 7pm on Monday, July 20th
- 2) All yachts will be registered and purchased through the Museum by July 18th. Once the fleet is released, only the pikers can interfere.

The race will end eventually.

- 3) A number will be assigned to each yacht relating to the number on the registration. This number must be visible on the yacht.
- 4) In case of bad weather, this event may be cancelled or postponed for a future date.
- 5) Anything that can fall off the yacht must be biodegradable!
- 6) When designing the yacht, participants may cut up the wood, re-shape it, but the finished product must contain the entire piece of 2 x 4, including sawdust!

Any proceeds will go towards keeping the pikers happy and the Wells Museum.

For your own discretion, rum, beer and the like are not to be consumed in public places within the Province of British Columbia.

Who to contact for more information?

Jamie "Ship it to the Willow River" at the museum, 250-994-3422 or museum@wellsbc.com

**Good Eats Gallery
Open 7-9 pm except Thursdays**

You are invited to participate in a thought provoking and beautiful installation gallery in Well's historic flat iron building. The Gallery will host a series of art installations throughout the summer of 2009. These will include photography, extreme textiles, sculpture, and other rather extraordinary artistic pursuits. Children are welcome.

The Good Eats is located at the corner of Pooley and Blair across from the Well's Hotel in Wells, BC.

Summer Installations

July 1-July 31

Accumulation- a poignant look at materialistic gathering as an aspect of hope and the creative process.

Primary artist is Vancouver fashion designer and photographer Tina Ozols...

August 1 - August 31

Burnt Offerings- Haunting, poetic and romantic textile layerings by Scottish lace designer Hilary Young.

**St. George's Gallery
open 10 am to 5:30 pm *except Thursdays***

The St. George's Gallery is located in a beautiful and historic church on Bowman Crescent. It was formerly known as the Marie Nagel Gallery.

The Gallery features the work of 24 B.C. Artists including photographers, textile artists, potters, painters and printmakers. Local and regional work is displayed.

Come and bask in the beautiful view of Wells. Sit and enjoy the lovely, shady grounds of the old church.

Children are always welcome and can participate in making and displaying their own masterpieces in the Children's Gallery.

Cards, books and smaller works are also available for sale.

Curator Patricia Chauncey
Phone 250-994-3274
E-mail: kat-kehoe@hotmail.com

Wells' Past, Present & Future, an overview

The Wells Historical Society has been in operation in one form or another since at least the early 1950s. Records in the Barkerville Archives indicate meetings were held, funds raised and functions held. Since there is a hiatus between the early period and 1972, when the society was created under the Societies Act, I suspect that a good deal of the efforts towards preservation were directed towards the preservation of Barkerville – all active elements of the 1950s Wells-Barkerville community. After 1972, it is easier to follow the activities, but I have not had sufficient time to collate the entire known history of the Society. From Judy Campbell's memory, which goes back to her introduction to the Society in 1974, the initial stages centered on the preservation of the structures. So that buildings like the Hill Meat Market were taken over by the Society for \$1 from the Hill family. That building went through several stages in terms of its restoration. Eventually, with no success in obtaining funding, the Society passed the structure along to the emerging Island Mountain Arts Society, again for \$1.

The Society started to use the emerging language and methodologies of preservation. With the development of the heritage Branch of the Provincial Government, other factors came into play, as funds started to flow for preservation projects. Other buildings came under the ownership of the Society, money was invested in the creation of As-found drawings (architectural drawings of the buildings as they stood, useful in planning and carrying out histories of the building), which are seen as the preliminary element in the preservation of a structure. The Society also took a thirty year lease of the old Miner's Union Hall from Crown Lands and is now in a state of poor repair around 1975 and put in the first museum. The Sunset was considered, but remained under a similar lease until the 1990s. In both cases, the Society relinquished the leases, the Old Museum/Union Hall because we had raised the funds to refurbish the present Museum – which was more structurally sound. In the case of the Sunset, Society members felt that if we relinquished the lease, a private operator might have the power to restore the structure. Also, the Society was dependent upon raising funds to carry out restoration and there was not a lot of

money in grants to try and restore all of the buildings in Wells – and as the 1990s drew to a close most grant money had dried up. Other buildings that the Society became involved with include the old Pooley Mike pool hall. Again a building with major structural issues, so much so, that when the owners of the Jack O'Clubs complained about the building threatening to fall over, the Society had to tear it down. This occurred in the 1980s. In 1990, during my first meeting with the Society, it was decided to purchase the Island Mountain Dry from Della and Charlie Hubensky and to make application on what was then Crown property, the Island Mountain Mine Office. We bought the Dry and then spent several years waiting for the Crown moratorium on the sale of Crown Land (as a result of the contamination issue in Wells) to be over. While the application went in when the building was valued at \$5,000, when the moratorium ended the value had risen to \$15,000. In order to pay for the building and initiate the development of the new museum, the Society sold the then empty Pooley Mike lots. Grants, major donations, auctions, etc. became the life blood for the new museum.

During the early 1990s, town meetings were held – with the general theme of how we could work together to preserve Wells' character. Collectively a list was drawn up. Since the new museum was well underway, we placed the Hall as the next priority, with the Sunset next on the list, with the Island Mountain Dry next. We agreed to hold off competing for rare grant money while working towards the restoration of the Hall. A new Society was formed to deal with the Hall and the Historical Society more or less held off on any major fund raising towards the Dry. Grants, auctions, major donations became the life blood of the Hall – for ten years, until it has been almost completed (there are still bits to do there, but it is quite functional now).

The Wells Historical Society began the entire auction cycle for restoration of structures by holding antique auctions. When the antiques ran out, it became the Comedy auction. When the Hall started up, their auctions became major fund raising campaigns – hugely successful and very well supported with volunteers. However, the Historical Society began to lose its focus, even though we continued to hold fund raisers, it was nothing in the range

that we had seen prior to the Hall auctions, and the membership became involved more and more in the Hall and/or moved away. While the New Museum provided the services usually associated with Visitor Centres and the three washrooms in the building were built for that purpose, the development of the town as a municipality – which was part and parcel of many of the 1980 and early 1990 meetings, the new District of Wells helped revitalize the Chamber of Commerce and they developed the Visitor Centre aspect including their new presence down by the lake. That new service building marked the end of a direct relationship between the Visitor Centre element and the museum element.

At the present moment, the Historical Society is on a new campaign to revitalize the Society, so as to get back on track to carry out the preservation of the Dry, as well as to consolidate their holdings, including both artifact and archival materials – once all in the old Miner's Union Hall. The latter building was actually larger in terms

of storage and presentation, than the new building, plus it did not have three toilets. The reserve collections are now scattered around Wells, in the school, in the Dry, in my basement, in one of my out buildings and the archives are more or less another portion of the Barkerville Archives.

It is my dream to see the Dry restored, with several of the areas of the building reserved for apartments for summer staff and for year round use, along with room enough for the reserve collections. The Archives has about three bays of material that need organization and data input, as well as restructuring (Carol McGregor and Susan Gooding constructed the finding aid and organized material way back in the early 1990s – see www.wellsmuseum.ca – under Archives). The area of the new museum needs landscaping and protective shelters for the machinery. Jamie Shippit, who has been the summer manager for the last two years, would like to see picnic tables

amongst the machinery, the museum painted and the sign on the roof repainted, as well as new highway signage. But most of all, we need new members to help shoulder the burden of operating the Society. We need someone to take over the role of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President. I would be willing to stay in the latter role, so long as there is an effective working Directorship and a group of members from the community willing to carry out tasks – at least until people feel comfortable with their roles within the Society, at which time I would gladly resign (20 years is a long time). There are no rewards other than being able to say

you've done your part. These are not jobs that can be taken lightly and will often eat up a lot more of your time than you ever thought could exist. It is important to the future, not only of this community – which survives principally on aspect of culture and the history of the area – but to yourself – yes, you can do your part. And, if you work it right it can be



fun, with a little bit of self satisfaction thrown in.

So, come on down to the Museum and become a member (\$15). We will be holding an AGM in the third week of August, as well as several events through the summer. Jamie Shippit will be sending out fliers and posters and talking to everyone about the events and meeting, so keep an eye out. If you live in Wells, we need you and whatever support you can. W. (Bill) G. Quackenbush

President, Wells Historical Society

Wells Historical Society's Annual Fundraiser takes place at the Community Hall on Friday, July 24, 2009 at 8:00 PM. — Comedy is the traditional theme and this year a 'fun' fashion show with an historical theme adds to the mix. Jamie Shippit is the woman of the hour and needs your help. Catch up with her at the museum: 994-3422 or e-mail: museum@wellbc.com or leave her a message at home: 250.994.3454 AW

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

== Wells-Barkerville Community School ==

Wells Playgroup

Wednesdays, 10am-12pm, upstairs at the school

For the last 3 years our under-5 children have been able to join a wonderful playgroup program at the school once a week, organized by Megan Topham. This program has been recognized as valuable by the School District senior staff and the District Literacy Teacher as a valuable and important introduction to early school skills. Teachers and parents have commented on the school readiness of the children who have come to the school to "play" before kindergarten, and how much it helps them settle in to the regular classroom routine. It is also a great social break for parents, especially new moms and dads who can connect with other parents.

The playgroup program has received joint funding from the Quesnel School District and the District of Wells this year for programs and supplies, in recognition of its value, high attendance last year and the dedication of the facilitator (Megan). This year, 6 of our playgroup children moved on to kindergarten or moved from the community. In the last few months attendance has dropped sharply, and the playgroup room is very quiet on Wednesdays. We are in danger of losing our playgroup program if it is not being used by our children and their caregivers.

If you know of any children from birth to school age who could attend this program (even some weeks), please ask them to consider coming. The program will break over the summer, then resume in September if there are enough children. Please contact Beth at 250.994.3216 or Megan at 250.994.6809 for details.

School T-Shirts — a great new design!

Once again, the fabulous Bill Horne has compiled our students' artwork into a snazzy line drawing and silk screened the image onto forest green t-shirts. This year all students will receive a free school shirt, compliments of the Parent Advisory

Council. Extra shirts (child and adult sizes) have been printed and will be for sale as a school fundraiser at the Year End Awards Night, and at other venues around Wells. If you would like a shirt for yourself or others please purchase directly from Beth for \$20 cash or a cheque made out to the Wells School.

School Playground Grant Update

A committee of PAC members has been wading through regulations, consultations and prices to assess what can be purchased with the \$17,000 playground equipment grant the PAC received this year. The playground plan can be viewed in the main hallway of the school beginning on Awards Night on June 23. The grant money may only be used for equipment purchase, so we are looking for donations of approximately \$2000 to cover the cost of the cement footings, pea gravel surfacing required under the equipment, and the machine time to install it. We plan to have the new equipment installed this fall. Please contact Beth for more information at 250-994-2310 (home).

==Happy Birthday==

Happy Canada Day birthday to Haley Almond!!
(from Kara) and to everyone in our community celebrating a July Birthday!
AW

== Postcards ==

The Wells Chronicle supplied the capital funds. Amazing Space supplied the professional expertise. Bill's talent, great contacts and Claire's eye for typesetting developed and executed this project.

Contributors include Sylvia Feder, Jason Griffin, Yael Wand, Chris Harris, Thomas Drasdauskis, Susan McMurray, Bill Horne, Claire Kujundzic, Aleta Wallace, & Gary Seale/Spartan Printing.

We have eleven superior postcards of Wells and related scenes. You will find them in Amazing Space now, and the Visitor Centre, Wells General Store, Wells Service Station, the Hubs Motel and every other outlet that wants them after July 2nd.

Inquiries? Phone Aleta Wallace at 250.994.3454 or Bill Horne at 250.994.2332

Wells RCMP Report by Cst. Greg Trainor

Once again I missed the deadline for last month and I apologize to those readers who enjoy my riveting tales of crime fighting in the Wild West.

OK, back to reality. I called the editor at the last minute to say that I could whip up a quick article and she kindly informed me that I was a bit late and my usual space had been filled. I always knew that I was replaceable but she certainly reminded me of this in no uncertain terms. Enough of my rambling, time for some more serious issues.

Last month, Cst Erickson initiated a public safety awareness initiative by speaking to the motorizing public about seatbelt use and other moving violations.

This sparked debate in the community but I believe that the desired effect was achieved.

In other words, more people are wearing their seatbelts, not rolling through stop signs, and using their signal lights. In a small community we have the unique position to know a majority of the residents and can raise awareness through conversation and education not simply enforcement.

The bottom line is that habits are formed whether good or bad and the excuse of "just being in Wells" will not cut it. Seatbelts save lives and I don't believe there is a legitimate argument against that.

The only argument that I heard regarding seatbelt use that seemed to be truthful and well thought out was that one person just didn't like being told what to do. I understand this but truly believe in seatbelt use and have witnessed crashes where a seatbelt has saved a life and not using one resulted in the loss of life.

Cst ERICKSON and myself had a great day on June 12th with the school kids and some pre-school

children as we did a bike safety presentation, bike inspection, and had a short ride to Jack of Clubs Lake where we enjoyed lunch prepared by Brendan at "Smilin' Jack's". Thanks to the school staff and parents who helped out.

I have not been in the habit of reporting on specific files since most people are aware of what goes on by the time I write my article anyway, another result of living in a small community, but want to briefly mention a few occurrences.

In the past month or so there have been three incidents where people from out of town have journeyed to Wells for one reason or another and thought that along the way they would consume liquor to the point of being intoxicated.

These three incidents have led to a variety of charges under the Motor Vehicle Act as well as the Criminal Code of Canada.

I wanted to mention these since I believe that it is impossible for myself and Cst Erickson to effectively stop all incidents of Impaired Driving in our community.

I am asking for the community of Wells and outlying areas to support and help us keep these people off the road.

In all of these incidents the drivers had contact with people before we dealt with them and could have been prevented from driving further and endangering our friends, neighbors and families.

Turning a blind eye to these situations is not an option, call us and make a complaint (anonymously if you wish) or better yet, convince the person not to drive.

Do something, anything! Please!!

Until next time...



— **AUTHOR READING** —

Join Ann Walsh at Beck's Pottery and Books in Wells, July 30, 7 p.m. to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of her first novel, *Your Time, My Time*.

Set in Barkerville and Wells in 1980, this book reflects the author's love of both these places, as well as their haunting appeal. It is also a moving love story with a time travel twist. One of the characters in the book is modeled after Peter Burgis, who for many years, was Judge Begbie during Barkerville's summer performances.

Written after the author took a creative writing course with Robin Skelton at Island Mountain Arts in Wells, *Your Time, My Time* has been called a Canadian classic. The fact that it has been in print

consistently for 25 years attests to its continued popularity.

Although Ann has written many more books for young readers, including the Barkerville Mystery Series (which begins with *Moses, Me and Murder!*), she still receives fan mail about *Your Time, My Time*.

Please join Ann and Joan for this evening celebration. Ann will read from the novel and talk about how Barkerville and Wells influenced its creation. There is no charge, refreshments will be served, and copies of the book will be available for sale and autographing. My books: <http://annwalsh.blogspot.com>

This event is sponsored by The Canada Council for the Arts and the Writers' Union of Canada and, of course, Joan Beck and her wonderful pottery. AW

To the Editor of the Wells Chronicle:

I recently had the pleasure of taking a UNBC history course at Barkerville with Dr. Jacqueline Holler. The course was only a week long, but it was packed with speakers who gave us their views and perspectives on

Barkerville's history. Some of our presenters included Bill Quackenbush, Dr. Ying Ying Chen, Richard Wright and five graduate students who shared their specialized knowledge and expertise.

We enjoyed a wonderful breakfast at Bear River Mercantile, a show at Theatre Royal and tours given by various historical interpreters.

For one week we were immersed in some of the sights and sounds of the 19th century gold rush. What a wonderful way to learn! I can't think of any better way to take a history course and to better understand the importance of our common heritage. It was a truly exciting and memorable experience!

Thanks to everyone in Barkerville for their hospitality!

On a personal note I would like to thank the ladies of the King House B&B for their kindness.

Sincerely, Janet McEachen

Beck's Pottery



**NOW
OPEN**

Functional Pottery & Raku

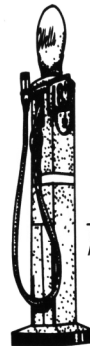
Paintings, Photography

New & Used Books

www.beckspottery.com

Open Daily 'til September 25th. 994-2315

On the Barkerville Highway in Wells



Jay and Donna Vermette

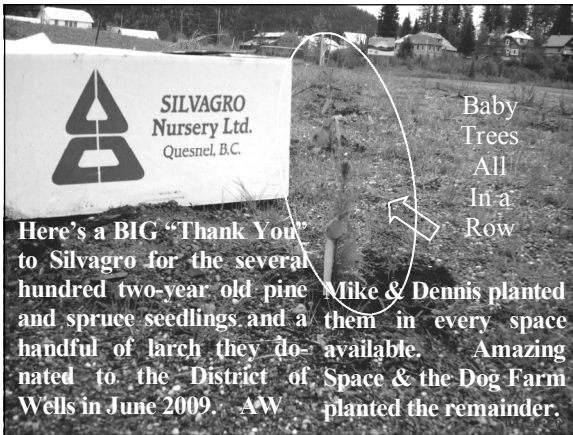
Phone (250) 994-3224

Fax (250) 994-3353

Wells Service Station

ATM • Postal Outlet • Gas • Groceries • Liquor Agency

P.O. Box 130, Wells, BC V0K 2R0



Baby Trees All In a Row

Here's a BIG "Thank You" to Silvagro for the several hundred two-year old pine and spruce seedlings and a handful of larch they donated to the District of Space & the Dog Farm Wells in June 2009. Mike & Dennis planted them in every space available. Amazing AW planted the remainder.

HAPPY JULY~HAPPY CANADA DAY

Fun facts! Submitted by Kara Haack

- ~ This year we celebrate the 142nd anniversary of Confederation as well as the hosting of the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games!
- ~ In Quebec, Canada Day is also known as "Moving Day" because many home leases start on July 1st and last for exactly 1 year.
- ~ In the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, July 1 is also Memorial Day. This commemorates the heavy loss of life in the Newfoundland Regiment on the first day of the Battle of the Somme during World War I. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the morning of July 1 is usually somber. Flags are flown at half-mast and memorial services are held at cenotaphs (war memorials). In the afternoon, Canada Day celebrations in the province are similar to those in the rest of the country.
- ~ The name Canada comes from an Iroquoian word for village, kanata, that French explorers heard used to describe the area near present day Quebec City. Today Canada is made up of 10 provinces and 3 territories.
- ~ On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act united the British colonies of Upper Canada, Lower Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia into "one dominion under the name of Canada." These four colonies became Canada's first four provinces; Lower Canada was renamed Quebec and Upper Canada was renamed Ontario.



*New Menu Items! New Organic Coffee!
Cool Outdoor Stuff for Sale! Experience It!*
www.thebears paw.ca

FROG ON THE BOG

*Toadily Unique Gifts!
We Did It Again!*

*New 2009 Items.
More clothes and Really Unique
Things you'll like.
Great Deals!*



www.frogonthebog.ca 250-994-2345
naturally@frogonthebog.ca

Stay at the

Hubs Motel

... on the highway next to the service station

**~ Great Rates ~
~ Great Rooms ~**

**in room Coffee, Phone, TV
Kitchenettes**

**Your Home Away From Home
for Summer Fun!**

**With your hosts
Dianne and Harald Andreeson**



Marilyn K Allin RHN CR

t: 250.991.0298

351 Reid St, Quesnel, BC · V2J 2M5

e: greentreehealth@uniserve.com

f: 250.991.7922

vitamins · supplements
personal care · natural foods

Goldfield

BAKERY

In Barkerville

OPENING MAY 11
7 DAYS A WEEK—9 AM TO 4 PM
FRESH BAKING

Special Occasion Cakes

To order call

Barb Cirotto

BOX 13,
BARKERVILLE, B.C.
V0K 2R0

PHONE/ FAX
250-994-3241

Racing Pigeon, *continued*

We released the pigeon at noon on Monday. He circled his old haunt (Virginia's house) a few times, then perched above Marie Nagel's church, then took off again and hasn't been seen since. I'm still trying to get through to his owner in Merritt to see if he arrived safely...

Happy summer,
Beth

P.S.

Remaining school t-shirts can be purchased from
Amazing Space Gallery.



Kids playing at the swing set beside the community garden....good times in Wells!!!
Kara Haack words & photo

24K Nuggets In Your Pockets:

⇒ To everyone in our community who found time to write articles, take pictures, check on facts, and run errands for this issue of the Wells Chronicle — and especially to Mike, who makes everything right. AW

Kara Haack
Photo

A sure sign that summer is here!
Cassidy — Will — Ice Cream



Wells, BC
2326 Pooley Street

EST 2004

ART RUSH GALLERY

Fine Art, Jewelry & Gifts

July Hours of Operation:
open Thursday to Tuesday from
10 AM 'til 9 PM

ART RUSH GALLERY

Phone: (250) 994-3468 www.artrushgallery.com

Pigeon Pete

Wells received a very unusual visitor this June. A homing pigeon showed up in the community around June 1 and hung around various bird feeders and yards. He finally wandered into a house and was recognized as being a racing pigeon, with identity bands on his legs.

Isabelle took the lead on catching him and reading the band. We tracked down his owner through the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union website. He comes from Merritt, and was part of a racing team released in Prince George on May 31.

His owner said it sometimes happens that racing pigeons run out of “poof” during a race and touch down somewhere to fuel up and rest. He requested that we keep Pete and fatten him up for a couple of weeks, then release him to fly the 500km home to



Merritt.

He estimated it will take about 5 hours for the pigeon to return home. Winning pigeons can fly up to 1700m per minute!

The students have enjoyed having Pete in the classroom for the last two weeks and wish him a safe and speedy journey.

If he returns to Wells please call me at 250.994.2310 so we can arrange him a ride back to Merritt! Beth



Wells Curling Club

I wanted to thank everyone for their support at the 2nd annual Spring Fling held at the Curling Club recently.

We had a good turnout and were able to raise some much needed funds to keep things going.

It was nice to see the group of 4-wheeling enthusiasts from Prince George attend and many spoke to me about the kind reception they had in Wells and how they appreciate the efforts of groups like the Recreation Society in trying to keep Wells going.

Thanks to the business owners for sending them our way and thanks to the rest of the community for

the support of our event.

In the past few weeks I have submitted Grant Applications to a variety of Government Programs for some much needed repairs and upgrades as well as to help offset operating costs.

We will not know the result for a couple of months.

I want to thank Jason at the District Office for his help with the application process and others who supplied letters of support and have expressed interest in volunteering time, equipment, and supplies.

Let's hope we can make this happen.

Thanks again everyone.

Greg Trainor
Wells Recreation Society President



HOME AWAY FROM HOME SINCE 1933

HEARTY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
PUB WITH SPECIAL EVENTS
ROOF TOP HOT TUB

FAMILY DINING IN OUR “POOLEY ST. CAFÉ”

ASK ABOUT OUR PACKAGES & SPECIAL RATES

**RESERVATIONS (250) 994-3427
OR 1-800-860-2299**

Web: www.wellshotel.com

Email: whotel@goldcity.net

Backward Glance – Hydrogen Balloon Sighted Over Cariboo in 1898 – Part 2

By Sandy Phillips

Omitted from last month's edition were the particulars about the article "Andrée's Balloon in Canada." This article was published in The New York Times, N.Y., N.Y. on Jan 14th 1898, some 7 months after Andrée's launch of the Ornen. This suggests that, not unlike the Franklin Expedition of 1845, the unsuspecting world waited eagerly for word from the expedition and eyes all over the globe were cast to the sky searching for signs of the lost Balloon. Unfortunately the search proved to be in vain... and the 1898 sighting of Andrée's Balloon over Cariboo had to be an overzealous mistake. For on about the fourth day after take-off, at a distance of 295 miles, the worst of the prophecies was fulfilled as the hydrogen balloon sank out of the sky beyond the eighty-third degree of North latitude, far from the Pole, far from human beings, alone onto the pack ice.

On August 15, 1897 the Philadelphia Times, Philadelphia, PA wrote in part:

"Although news of Dr. Andrée and his intrepid companions, which for weeks has been anxiously looked for but which may be some time yet in reaching their fellow-men, according to the greater or lesser distance from civilization at which they may alight on land again, there is, in the opinion of many experts, every reason to hope that the voyage will be successfully accomplished. There is, indeed, great peril in the undertaking, but so there must be in all Arctic exploration. The risks run by Andrée and his companions have the additional danger of novelty, but the experience and the foresight brought to bear upon the venture have, it is to be hoped, rendered the voyagers' balloon equipment nearly perfect for the work in hand.

Before the daring explorer sailed from Spitzbergen he told his friends that if no news were received from him in two months probably nothing would be heard of him for a year, as he

would have then landed in such localities that it would take months for him and his party to reach a point where they could communicate with the outside world.

It is believed by some that Andrée has struck a southwest wind, as these are the winds that almost usually prevail at that time of the year in the Northern latitudes, and that he has been carried into Siberia. If this is true it may be months before he will be heard from."

The expedition carried enough food for about three and a half months, including specially formulated lemon lozenges to prevent scurvy and a concoction made of 55 pounds of chocolate and pulverized pemmican shaped into solid cakes.

There were also 36 homing pigeons, housed in wicker cages, which had been trained in the Arctic and were supposedly capable of taking messages back to Spitsbergen from any faraway point along the route.

Andrée, something of an inventor, had devised a sledge that would come apart into two pieces, a collapsible canvas boat, and other unique items of equipment. He even had several supply 'caches' stationed at various remote fishing and whaling camps for the event that they had to finish their journey over the ice. With the balloon he devised a clever system of "automatic ballasting" that consisted of dangling three heavy coconut fibre ropes, each a little over 1,000 feet long, from the balloons basket. The ropes, waxed at the bottom ends, were supposed to drag easily across the surface of the ice and water, their combined weight being enough to pull the balloon down approximately 10 feet for each 20 feet of length the aeronauts hauled into the basket. In the standard trailing position, the ropes would hold The Eagle at about 600 to 700 feet as she rode.

Despite Andrée's foresight and attention to detail, the balloon had one dangerous flaw: she leaked. Even after varnishing the seams the balloon was losing a lift capacity of 99 pounds every twenty-four hours.

From later evidence, correspondence with fellow explorer Fridtjof Nansen, and remarks others remembered later, Andrée may have known before hand that his flight would be a failure. Perhaps he had hoped to at least reach the Pole and send out one glorious message by pigeon and achieve fame before vanishing forever, but he ran into trouble much sooner than anticipated.

On the third day out, Andrée wrote a note and attached it to several carrier pigeons:

"From Andrée's Polar Expedition to Aftonbladet, Stockholm. July 13, 12:30 noon. Lat. 82 degrees, 2'. Long. 15 degrees, 5' East. Good passage each 10 degrees south. All well on board."

Although this was the third pigeon post sent in the same number of days, along with two buoy drops into the sea, it was the only message successfully delivered to the outside world. No one heard another word from the Polar expedition.... until the summer of 1930.

On August 5, 1930 a Norwegian sealer called Bratvaag accidentally stumbled across the remains of the Andrée Expedition on White Island north east of Spitzbergen. The Bratvaag was also carrying a scientific expedition led by Dr. Gunnar Horn, whose group was studying the glaciers and seas around Great Island. At the time, White Island was principally unexplored, typically made inaccessible to sealers and whalers because it was usually surrounded by a wide belt of thick polar pack ice and often hidden by thick ice fogs. It was known, however, to be a prime hunting ground for walrus. The year of 1930 had been exceptionally warm and the sea was virtually free of ice. The fog was light that afternoon, so some of the men decided to approach White Island to

hunt walrus and to do a little scientific exploring. The men noted that they were "delighted to have reached the 'inaccessible island' with such ease and were overjoyed at the opportunity to visit it even if only for a very short time." (Horn, 1930) It was here that Andrée's remains were found.



KVITØYA - SVALBARD Kvitøya is completely covered with ice (White Island). It is on Kvitøya, that the three members of the 1897 Andrée balloon expedition to the North Pole were discovered.

The discovery of the Andrée remains 33 years later, set off a journalistic bomb. During the next few weeks, the story was patched together. There was no doubt that the relics found on White Island were from the Andrée Expedition: a canvas boat, a sledge, some food, a rusty rifle, clothing, a cook stove, a camera, still loaded with film, and a boatswain's hook with the words "Andrée's Polar Expedition, 1896" engraved upon the visible portion. Two skeletons were found, still dressed in furs.

Continued on page 18...

Backward Glance – Hydrogen Balloon Sighted Over Cariboo in 1898 – Part 2 by Sandy Phillips, *continued from page 17*

[...Two skeletons were found...]

One was Andrée's, leaning against a supporting ledge of rock; the other was that of Strindberg. The bones of Fraenkel were not found until a few weeks later, when further searches were made at White Island. But most important of all was a diary.

Andrée, even in his dying hours, fortunately practiced the same meticulous care that had been characteristic of his life. He had padded the diary in straw, sealed it as tightly as possible in oilcloth and then clutched it to his chest; safely inside the protective clothing he wore. Its recordings were as nearly complete as anyone could have imagined.

The bodies of Andrée, Strinberg and Fraenkel were returned to Sweden together with their diaries, photographic film, and camp remains where they received heroes' funerals. Even after they were discovered, the mystery as to the cause their deaths still continued to baffle, because ample food and fuel were found strewn all around the area.

However, in 1952 a Danish doctor proved that the deaths were caused by trichinosis, a disease caused by the invasion of the parasitic nematode worm *Trichinella spiralis* that the men had contracted from eating raw polar bear meat. Although the team did not reach the North Pole, or even get near it, the expedition of the Ornen was a pioneering use of aviation in polar exploration.

For those of you who are intrigued by this story and would like to learn more, there are several links about this fascinating Expedition on the Internet:

1. For a complete account of the ill-fated expedition including diary entries and pictures visit - <http://www.aviation-history.com/airmen/andree.htm>
2. For a collection of historic paper articles from 1896 to 1930 regarding the Andrée Polar Expedition visit -<http://ku-prism.org/polarscientist/andreemystery/andreeindex.html>
3. Other reference sites used for this article - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S. A. Andr%C3%A9e's Arctic balloon expedition of 1897](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S._A._Andr%C3%A9e's_Arctic_balloon_expedition_of_1897)
<http://www.answers.com/topic/salomon-august-andr-e>
<http://www.answers.com/topic/trichinosis>
<http://www.svalbard-images.com/spitsbergen/kvitoya-e.php>



Wells-Barkerville School End-of-Year Fieldtrip

Left: outside Two Rivers
Art Gallery in Prince
George. They got to see
Claire's show: 'Cariboo'

Right: at the Huble
Homestead making butter
and munching chips

Photos by Kara Haack



Businesses and Services

- Amazing Space Studio (250) 994-2332
- Art Rush Gallery (250) 994-3468
- Beck's Pottery (250) 994-2315
- Friends of the Wells Community Hall (250) 994-3223
- Frog on the Bog Coffee & Gifts 1-866-994-2345
- Homespun Gallery (250) 994-2327
- Island Mountain Arts (250) 994-3466
- Laurie Landry-Graphic Designer (250) 994-3339
- Wells and Area Trails Society (250) 994-3349
- Wells Community Library (250) 994-3324
- Wells Chronicle (250) 994-3454
- Wells General Store (250) 994-3301
- Wells Museum & Archives (250) 994-3422
- Wells Service Station (250) 994-3224
- Wells Volunteer Fire Brigade (250) 994-3330

==Accommodations==

- Cariboo Joy RV Park (250) 994-3463
- Hubs Motel (250) 994-3313
- White Cap Motor Inn (250) 994-3489
- Wells Apartments (250) 994-3296
- Wells Hotel (250) 994-3427

==Places to Eat & Drink==

- Bear's Paw Café 1-866-994-2345
- White Cap Motor Inn (250) 994-3489
- Northwoods Restaurant (250) 994-3325
- Pooley Street Café (250) 994-3276
- Royal Canadian Legion, #128 (250) 994-3208

==Area Facilities==

- Wells-Barkerville School (250) 994-3216
- Wells Community Hall (250) 994-3223
- Wells Curling Club (250) 994-3454

 District of Wells Town Hall (250) 994-3330

Wells & District Chamber of Commerce
www.wellsbc.com info@wellsbc.com
 (250) 994-2323 1-877-451-9355

Wells Emergency: DIAL 911
FIRE – AMBULANCE – POLICE

-Limerick Corner-

My calendar tells me the truth;
 I look at the date and—forsooth!—
 It's the end of the month,
 Yes, July 31th,
 Only two days till August the 2th.

By Richard Stehr from www.oedilf.com

Classifieds

== For Sale ==

What have you got for sale? Put it here! \$1.00 a line

== Real Estate ==

Your real estate listing is posted on the Wells Chronicle web site for the data-miners to find.

== Repartee ==

[“No uncertain terms”, eh? I won't let you off the hook so easily 'next time' Constable. AW]

Part-time Paramedic Opportunities

INTERESTED ?

For more info or a full application package contact
 Jody Hunter, 994-3229 or

BCAS Human Resources Division -- Northern BC
 3732 Opie Cres., Prince George, BC V2N 4P7
 Tel: 250-614-9982 Fax: 250-614-9983

<http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/bcas/index.html>

LAURIE
 MONIQUE
 LANDRY graphic designer

website: designer.laurielandry.com
 email: laurie@laurielandry.com
 phone: 250-994-3339

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

July 2009

Community Calendar

			<p>1 Library Hours 3-5:30 pm Fire Practice 7pm Celebrate Dominion Day In Barkerville ! Canada Day</p>	<p>2 Council Agenda Items in today</p>	<p>3 Legion Meat Draw 6:00 pm</p>	<p>4 Library Hours 1-3:30 pm</p>
5	6 Library Hours 6:30-9 pm	7 Council Mtg. 7pm Library Hours 6:30-9 pm	8 Library Hours 3-5:30 pm Fire Practice 7pm	9	10 Legion Meat Draw 6:00 pm	11 Hose Carriage Races-Barkerville Wells' 75th Birthday Party Community Hall 6 pm Library Hours 1-3:30 pm Lodge 6 pm
12	13 Library Hours 6:30-9 pm	14 Library Hours 6:30-9 pm	15 Library Hours 3-5:30 pm Fire Practice 7pm	16 Council Agenda Items in today	17 Legion Meat Draw 6:00 pm	18 Library Hours 1-3:30 pm
19	20 Library Hours 6:30-9 pm	21 Council Mtg. 7pm Library Hours 6:30-9 pm	22 Library Hours 3-5:30 pm Fire Practice 7pm	23	24 Legion Meat Draw 6:00 pm <u>Chronicle Deadline</u>	25 Library Hours 1-3:30 pm
26	27 Library Hours 6:30-9 pm	28 Library Hours 6:30-9 pm	29 Library Hours 3-5:30 pm Fire Practice 7pm	30 Council Agenda Items in today	31 Legion Meat Draw 6:00 pm	