



BARKERVILLE

— HISTORIC TOWN & PARK —

Governed by: Barkerville Heritage Trust
14301 Highway 26 East
PO Box 19, Barkerville, BC, V0K 1B0 (www.barkerville.ca)

Job Description: Historical Interpreter – Judge

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Historical Interpreter – Judge

Classification: Presentation 1

Position: Full-time, Seasonal

Duration: 35 hours per week, May 1 – September 13, 2025

Posting: Internal/External

Closing Date: March 26, 2025, or until it is filled.

Salary: \$26.71 plus privileges as dispersed according to the Collective Agreement between the BCGEU and Barkerville Heritage Trust.

Barkerville Historic Town & Park is the largest and most significant living museum and heritage asset in Western North America. It was the centre of the Cariboo Gold Rush, which opened the Colony of British Columbia to international settlement and ensured a Canada from “sea to sea”. 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.

Your Role:

As a member of the team, you will be part of a group that constantly strives to meet the vision of an authentic, unique, world-class experience for everyone to enjoy. You will be required to perform a variety of skills that will aid in the presentation and interpretation of Barkerville’s history focusing on performances in the Theatre Royal, the Courthouse, and out on the streets of Barkerville. Your portrayal will focus on one of the Gold Commissioners who lived or could have lived in Barkerville during the historical period.

Orientation and Supervision: (how the position fits into the company structure)

- The position receives training, guidance, general direction and reports to the Manager of Public Programming & Media and their designated representatives, including the Artistic Producer.
- Position works within the Presentation Department, under the leadership of the Manager of Public Programming & Media and their designated representatives, including the Artistic Producer.
- Performs all operational duties based upon museum/heritage industry standards and guided by the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* and the *BC Heritage Conservation Act* to ensure the continued conservation of collections.
- Works as a team member with all Barkerville Heritage Trust site staff and contractors.
- Performs all duties with a heritage conservation focus to ensure the continued protection and conservation of Barkerville Historic Town & Park.

Main tasks or responsibilities (core duties of the position, including but not limited to):

- Deliver high-quality performances in designated comedic, music, instrumental, vocal, ensemble, and other rehearsed theatrical acts in the Theatre Royal Variety Show during each working day according to the performance schedule provided daily by the Department Manager, and ensure that these performances meet a high standard of quality and entertainment, requiring rehearsal, memorizing lines, collaborating with other performers as part of an ensemble, and taking direction from the Department Manager and their approved representatives.
- Research the life and occupation, and convincingly portray and maintain the authenticity of an historic character assigned by the Department Manager during the interpretive history of 1865 - 1900 through the working day's theatrical, performing, and hosting activities, and maintain an energetic, positive personae with visitors providing high quality and consistent demonstrations of late-19th to early-20th century, etiquette, speech, mannerisms, occupations, and general behaviour.
- Perform memorized entry-level presentations according to the performance schedule provided daily by the Department Manager and ensure that these performances meet a high standard of quality and entertainment, while considering and addressing the perspectives of multiculturalism, including but not limited to Indigenous, Chinese and Black heritage in line with the BC and Canadian Multiculturalism Acts.
- Perform demonstrations, historically themed vignettes and/or discussions, one-on-one or public hosting, informal happenings, and special event programming throughout the heritage zone of Barkerville according to the standards and daily performance schedule provided daily by the Department Manager and ensure that these performances meet a high standard of quality and entertainment.
- Undergo archival research focussing on the general history of Barkerville, the Cariboo region, and British Columbia. Solicit feedback from the Curator to ensure that heritage values and historical authenticity are upheld in the Presentation Department's performances and programming and seek out advice on the proper treatment of artefacts, historic buildings, and heritage landscapes from the Curator prior to proceeding with any work that may affect these assets.

Additional tasks or responsibilities:

- Perform flexible and varying duties depending on the shifting needs of Barkerville. Contribute to daily tasks within the Presentation Department when support is needed and participate in cross-departmental project planning.
- Contribute to a positive morale and work with all site staff to ensure a supportive and enjoyable work environment, and work in a healthy and safe manner and follow all health and safety guidelines.
- Assist with the construction, organization, and maintenance of the Show's set pieces where possible. Assist with the effective organization and maintenance of the Show's props and musical instruments. Ensure that all props and set pieces are reset to their first positions at the conclusion of each performance of the Show when required.
- Assist the overall organization and cleanliness of interpretive spaces.
- Pivot activities to adapt to shifting circumstances, including weather related programming shifts, understudying, and engagement with visitors through live virtual broadcasts.

The Position requires that the following laws, regulations, policies, and procedures be adhered to:

- The Workers Compensation Board regulations.
- The Barkerville Heritage Trust Safety Management and Accident Prevention Program.
- The Barkerville Heritage Trust’s policies and procedures.
- Adherence to the Job Performance Expectations of the position.
- Barkerville’s Personal Presentation Standards.
- Performs all operational duties based upon museum/heritage industry standards and guided by the occupation health and safety regulations.

Qualifications, Skills, and Abilities (requirements needed to perform the job):

- University degree in Theatre, History and/or Education, or similar post-secondary experience is an asset.
- Energetic and engaging stage presence.
- Excellent musical performance ability with both musical instruments and singing is an asset.
- Excellent vocal projection.
- Experience with stage craft is an asset.
- Prior experience performing programs related to the job description is an asset.
- Ability to take direction during the rehearsal process.
- Extensive understanding of the history of Barkerville and the Cariboo Gold Rush is an asset.
- Passionate and proactive approach to historical interpretation and historical research.
- One or more years of experience in the tourism industry is an asset.
- One or more years of experience in historical interpretation is an asset.
- Demonstrated development of cultural awareness, diversity, and inclusion skills.
- High level communication skills and a proven commitment to customer service.
- Ability to work under own initiative with minimal supervision, as well as a member of a team.
- Basic computer skills, including website sign in procedures, email operation, and use of Word and Excel.
- Ability to lift 25-50 pounds.
- Ability to walk at least 5 kilometres in a day on uneven surfaces and climb stairs and ladders.
- Ability to improvise when engaging with the public and as needed during programming.
- Ability to write scripted material when required is an asset.

Working conditions: (physical environment of the job, including on and off site):

- Working indoors and outdoors, sharing workspace with other workers.
- Highly paced performance schedule.
- Dress completely in historically authentic clothing provided by the Barkerville Heritage Trust and maintain the historical authenticity of the character whenever in costumed view of the public.
- Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment as required.
- Walking on uneven surfaces, climbing stairs and ladders, bending and lifting.
- Performing basic costume maintenance according to the instruction of the Costumer.
- Successful candidates must be available to work for the duration of the season.

For audition material and to apply, contact Stewart Cawood, Manager of Public Programming & Media, Barkerville Historic Town & Park at stewart.cawood@barkerville.ca or 1.888.994.3332 ex. 41 or Krista Bolton, Human Resources Manager, Barkerville Historic Town & Park at krista.bolton@barkerville.ca or 1.888.994.3332 ex. 21.