

*Located in  
British Columbia, Canada.*



**Historical Overview...** The discovery of gold in 1858-9 in the Horsefly and Likely areas radically changed settlement patterns. Prospectors from all over the globe rushed to the boom towns of Harper's Camp (now Horsefly), Quesnel Forks, Keithley and Cedar City in Likely, later migrating to Barkerville. Large populations of Chinese settled where Europeans had been and once the gold fever abated, huge scale hydraulic extraction facilities, like the Bullion Mine in Likely replaced many of the small placer mines.

Road houses set up along the early gold rush trails to service prospectors became ranching homesteads, like the Alkali Ranch just outside of Williams Lake, reported to be the oldest beef producer in Western Canada. The Cariboo Wagon Road attracted many transient miners who decided to make the Cariboo their home, but it also enabled early pioneers to bring their wagons and stock into fertile valleys and clear the land.

Today, Williams Lake hosts one of the best professional rodeos in British Columbia, attesting to the importance of ranching in the area. Large open pit mining operations exist in Likely and Williams Lake and logging remains one of the main sources of income for residents in all three diverse regions of the Cariboo Chilcotin.

*For further information or appointments, contact:*

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