

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Introduction to the 2024 Annual Report

Section 98 of the *Community Charter* requires the District of Barriere to prepare an annual report regarding financial and operational information.

This annual report includes a progress report respecting the previous year in relation to objectives and measures established for that year. The report also sets out current and future year objectives and measures. This results in a rolling three, and as of the new term of Council in 2022, now four-year reporting cycle for identifying our achievement of objectives for the previous year, and then setting objectives and measures for the current and following year.

Section 99 of the *Community Charter* requires that the Municipal Council annually consider, at a council meeting or other public meeting, the municipal annual report and any submissions or questions from the public.

We would like to “thank you” in advance for taking the time to review the District of Barriere’s 2024 Annual Report. Comments and feedback regarding this report or any other items that pertain to the District of Barriere are welcomed and encouraged and may be directed to our Administration or Finance Departments by calling 250.672.9751 or by email to inquiry@barriere.ca.



2024 Annual Report
January 1 to December 31, 2024

This document was prepared by the Corporate Services Department, with departmental information provided by each Department Head.

Photos courtesy of members of staff

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



Barriere, British Columbia is a growing, friendly and affordable community that currently boasts 1763 residents who enjoy an urban yet rural lifestyle. Located on the Yellowhead Highway, just 45 minutes north of Kamloops, BC, Barriere became a District Municipality on December 4, 2007. Barriere Council consists of the Mayor and six (6) Councillors. Local Government elections are held every four years. A new Council was elected on October 20, 2022 and their four-year term will come to an end in October of 2026 at the next election.

Recreational opportunities are plentiful for enthusiasts of many activities including great fishing, spectacular hiking, canoeing and cross-country skiing. Downhill skiing is very close at Sun Peaks Resort south of Barriere. Gentle walking and cycling trails are accessible from the town centre. Fadedear park is now home to a Splash Pad, a long-awaited skate park and updates have been done to the District's Multi-Purpose Court which include the construction of a new warming hut. The North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo Association (NTFFRA) has been held in the Barriere area every Labour Day weekend since 1950.

The overall content and success of the Fair is fueled by hundreds of volunteer hours logged all year round to make this the largest single event in the North Thompson Valley. Recent statistics reveal almost 10,000 visitors over the three-day affair.

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE COMMUNITY VISION, MISSION & VALUE STATEMENTS

Vision:

To be an inclusive, sustainable, and proud rural community with a progressive economy that provides purposeful services and a vibrant lifestyle.

Mission:

To provide municipal services that meet the growing needs and enrich the quality of life within our community.

Values:

- ✓ *Conducting the business of the community with integrity, accountability and transparency.*
- ✓ *Inclusive and welcoming to raise a family where everyone wants to live, work and play in a safe active lifestyle.*
- ✓ *Strong, accepting and friendly rural community where families live and grow together.*
- ✓ *A location that provides purposeful services that meet the needs of residents and business.*
- ✓ *Excellence in community involvement with events and activities for all ages.*
- ✓ *Supportive community that provides a vibrant lifestyle that enhances both our quality of life and wellbeing for families and residents.*
- ✓ *Leadership in rural community lifestyle by showcasing our resilience, engagement and achievements together.*
- ✓ *Stand on our own as an emerging vibrant community as an Independent sustainable rural community,*
- ✓ *Protecting our families and residents to the highest possible level.*
- ✓ *Embraces change while respecting our natural environment, rich traditional heritage and recognize that families want a healthy balanced lifestyle and prosperous economy.*



MESSAGE

FROM THE ACTING MAYOR

Hello Barriere, from the District of Barriere Council

It's clear 2024 has been a very busy and productive time for our community. It has also marked some significant changes within our organization.

We welcomed a new Chief Administrative Officer, and we are fortunate to have such a strong and dedicated team across all departments—their commitment to serving Barriere is truly remarkable.

Your Council continues to advocate strongly on your behalf—for better healthcare services, improved highway safety, stronger communication from BC Hydro, and for filling service gaps with Telus.

We also were successful in a grant application to begin a new Wastewater Treatment Plant project and welcomed new businesses to the Louis Creek Industrial Park. Simpcw Resource Group completed the Teniye Market and has plans for future expansion.

Another long-time goal was realized with the creation of the Barriere Business Centre, a project many years in the making. We're also pleased to welcome Taseko Mines as one of the primary tenants in this new space.

Work has also begun on refreshing our Official Community Plan (OCP), which will wrap up by the end of 2025. This will help guide future growth and ensure our community continues to develop in a way that reflects our shared vision and values.

I am proud of the progress we've made together. Council and our dedicated staff will continue working hard to deliver the outcomes that our residents and businesses deserve.

Through collaboration, determination, and community spirit, we will continue making Barriere one of the very best places to live.

Rob Kerstake

Acting Mayor, District of Barriere

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE

Council



*L-R: Councillor Colin McInnis,
Councillor Louise Lodge,
Councillor Donna Kibble,
Councillor Rob Kerslake,
Councillor Scott Kershaw,
Councillor Judy Armstrong*

FRONT: Mayor Ward Stamer

Our citizens are represented by an elected Council consisting of the Mayor and six Councillors. Council also meets to discuss civic matters in a more informal Committee structure. Members of the public join Council representatives on other Select Committees, as well.

Regular Council meetings are normally held at the District office at 7:00 pm on the first and third Monday of each month, unless otherwise advised. Committee meetings are held throughout the year as needed. Due to Provincial Health Orders & Guidelines, the District of Barriere Council, along with most local governments, began hosting their meeting electronically via audio-conference in 2020/2021. Council used funds received from the Provincial Government which was provided to help offset costs in managing operations as part of its Communicable Disease Prevention Plan, to purchase audio-visual equipment to permit hybrid participation and live streaming. This equipment has been installed, and all public meetings are now live streamed.

Mayor Ward Stamer resigned on October 21, 2024, following his successful election as the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Kamloops-North Thompson. Councillor Rob Kerslake was then appointed Acting Mayor until a by-election is held in 2025.

Please visit www.barriere.ca for up to date meeting agendas, minutes and to access the live-stream meeting links.



COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Committee of the Whole – *Standing Committee*

A Committee of the Whole (C.O.W) comprises all members of Council. At the beginning of 2013, Council delegated administrative power to the Committee of the Whole, meaning, decisions made during its meetings would no longer require being reported back to Council for final approval.

Either the Mayor or the Acting Mayor of the month in which the Committee of the Whole Meeting is to be held, may preside as Chair. No Bylaws can be formally read or adopted in Committee of the Whole (C.O.W).

Recreation Committee – *Standing Committee*

Chair: Councillor Louise Lodge

Members: Councillor Judy Armstrong, Councillor Colin McInnis, Councillor Donna Kibble, Jen Crosman, Glenda Feller

Staff Liaison: Jamie Mosdell

Wellhead Protection Committee – *Select Committee*

Chair: Mayor Stamer

Members: Chris Matthews, Jim Warman, David Thomson, Doug Borrill, CAO



2024 Parks & Recreation Department Overview



New Warming Hut



Exercise Equipment



Splash Pad & Park View



Barriere Skate Park



Ballfields



Wildfire Monument

Parks

Department Overview

The Parks Department is largely seasonal, with up to three crew members during peak season. Much of their time is dedicated to the weekly mowing and maintenance of approximately 30 acres of parkland and public spaces, but the team also carries out a wide variety of other responsibilities.

These include the spring start-up and winterization of the community's irrigation systems, splash pad, concession, and public washrooms. There are also various cemetery related duties, roadside vegetation control, and the upkeep of 64 flower beds and planters. Regular duties extend to the care of the ball fields, community garden, bike park, skate park, multi-use court and warming hut, playgrounds, dog park, bandshell, and restored wildfire monument, as well as noxious weed management and general park infrastructure upkeep.

In 2024, Parks staff focused on enhancing community landscaping and planting additional trees throughout Barriere, supporting the District's commitment to greener, more welcoming public spaces.

Wastewater Department Overview

The District of Barriere is responsible for three Wastewater Treatment Facilities:

1. The “Clary Developments Wastewater Treatment Facility” (Siska) which is a Small Wastewater System that treats roughly 4,500L/day of domestic wastewater in a small area in the North/West part of Barriere.
2. The “Barriere Acres Sewer System” (Riverwalk) which is a Class II Facility, treating roughly 5,000L of domestic wastewater for a group of homes in the North section of Spruce Cr. and Birch Ln.
3. The “District of Barriere Downtown Wastewater System” (previously known as “SAWRC”) is our main downtown wastewater treatment plant and is a Class II Facility that currently processes around 110,000L/day of municipal wastewater.

The downtown facility performed relatively well in 2024 utilizing a conventional activated sludge treatment process. Effluent quality has been better and more consistent in contrast to what the Solar Aquatics system had produced in the past. However, the system still lacks true stability and requires a significant amount of labor to maintain good quality and consistent wastewater treatment. The District has been awarded grant funding and has initiated preliminary steps to construct a more capable and reliable treatment system within a District owned lot off Kamloops Street.

Overall, 2024 was a positive year for wastewater. Each facility was able to achieve acceptable effluent quality results and are currently on track for another good year in 2025.

2024 – Wastewater Department



2024 Administrative Activities & Highlights

Council Highlights

20 Regular Council meetings were held
2 Special Council meetings were held
10 Committee meetings were held
3 Public Budget Discussion meetings were held
0 Public Hearings were conducted
0 Development Variance Permits (DVP) were submitted.
3 Board of Variance Applications (BOV's) were submitted.
2 Development Permit Application were submitted
4 Subdivision Applications were submitted
2 Rezoning Applications were submitted
12 Bylaws were passed
36 Bylaw complaint files were opened & responded to.

Plans and Grant Applications

The following list shows the status of studies/plans and grants that have been applied for in 2024:

Grants

1. UBCM Community Works Fund
2. BC Fairs, Festivals and Events
3. BC Hydro Community ReGreening
4. Canadian Heritage – Canada Day
5. CEPF Flood Mitigation
6. ETSI Building Economic Development
7. Infrastructure Planning re: LCIP & Bulk Water
8. Interior Savings re: BBC Boardroom
9. LGDAP Development
10. REDIP re: Hwy 5 Wastewater
11. CEPF Fire Departments Equipment

Status

Successful
Successful
Successful
Successful
Successful
Successful
Successful
Successful
Successful
Unsuccessful
Successful



Just a few of the trees that were planted with funds received from the BC Hydro Community ReGreening Grant



The Barriere Business Centre was officially opened in 2024, providing new office and meeting space to support local entrepreneurs, small businesses, and community partners. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked this exciting addition to Barriere's growing commercial hub.



On January 1, 2024, Bob Payette resigned as CAO in order to relocate closer to family. Corporate Officer, Tasha Buchanan, served as Acting CAO until June 10th, 2024 when Council formally appointed **Daniel Drexler** as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Mr. Drexler relocated from his previous position as Corporate Officer for the City of Grand Forks.



Mayor Ward Stamer Resigns – Elected MLA for Kamloops North Thompson

District of Barriere
P.O. Box 219
Barriere, BC V0E-1E0

October 21, 2024

Attention: District of Barriere Council



RE: Resignation as Mayor of the District of Barriere

It is with mixed emotion that I inform Council, and the residents of Barriere, that as of today's date, I am officially tendering my resignation from Council as Mayor of the District of Barriere following my successful election in the Provincial MLA candidacy for the Kamloops North Thompson on October 20, 2024.

As you know, I have been on formal leave from Council since September 3, 2024 during the Provincial campaign period. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Council for granting me this leave, and to Councillor Kerslake for graciously stepping in as Acting Mayor during this time period.

I have been humbled and honored in serving the residents of Barriere since being elected as part of Barriere's first municipal Council in 2007. Working with each Council and with all District staff, both past and present, has been especially rewarding over these past seventeen (17) years. That said, I am excited to embark on this new journey in representing not only the residents of this community that I am so thankful to call home, but to everyone living, working and visiting in the beautiful North Thompson.

I will continue to work hard in supporting and representing Barriere's best interests as your MLA and I wish each of my colleagues and friends, both on Council and staff, all the best as you continue to serve our community.

To each one of you - thank you for your support,

Ward Stamer

Ward Stamer
MLA for the Kamloops North Thompson

Ward Stamer served as the Chairman of the Barriere Improvement District from 2001 to 2007 and was elected to Barriere's first Council as a Councillor after incorporation in December 2007. He was then elected as Mayor in 2018 and acclaimed in 2022.

On October 19th, 2024, Ward Stamer was officially Elected as MLA for the Kamloops North Thompson and subsequently resigned as Mayor of the District of Barriere. Councillor Rob Kerslake was appointed "Acting Mayor" for the District of Barriere until a local bi-election was called.

The local bi-election is expected to be declared in January of 2025 with the voting for a new Mayor to take place in March.

"The District of Barriere recognizes Ward Stamer's dedication to his community serving on Council for seventeen (17) years and the hard work he exhibited in his efforts to make Barriere a place where people, business and sense of community will thrive and grow, will forever leave large indelible footprints for future community leaders."



Water Utility

Monthly & Annual Water Usage

Month	2024 PW1	2024 DW2	2024 DW3	2023 PW1	2023 DW2	2023 DW3
January	270	12090	13169	455	11611	11350
February	261	15773	15697	460	10665	10434
March	218	22655	10899	435	12281	12458
April	541	12866	13072	335	16512	17139
May	237	19002	23695	380	20342	23788
June	269	19911	25363	634	22296	36172
July	2016	25981	38358	3369	19665	49066
August	3038	24134	30717	1498	22637	40969
September	167	17479	21405	484	19751	2192
October	370	12725	12454	263	12356	12398
November	268	10770	11114	300	10821	10163
December	292	12178	12371	292	10711	10578

Total Annual Water Consumption 2024 = 441,825 m³

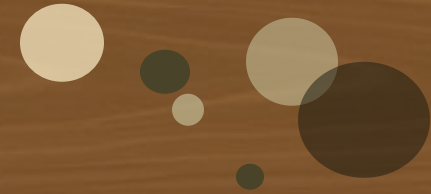
Barriere- Average Consumption per person, per day (pop.1,932) in 2024: 0.63 m³ / 179.6 US Gallons

*Clearwater Annual 2024 Water Consumption Total -1,325,680 m³ (pop. 2,491)

*Logan Lake Annual 2024 Water Consumption Total - 387,399 m³ (pop. 2,327)

Building Inspection Department

Permit Statistics



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Barriere: Total Permits Issued	54	55	34	32
Construction Value	\$3,999,000	\$3,831,000	\$2,675,000	\$1,775,715
Clearwater: Total Permits Issued	40	20	19	29
Construction Value	\$12,893,500	\$4,075,000	\$1,724,548	\$6,304,111
Logan Lake: Total Permits Issued	13	15	11	11
Construction Value	\$2,564,700	\$2,605,000	\$2,721,000	\$2,814,000



Building Inspector, Scott Abel.
Scott also serves as a
volunteer firefighter for
Barriere Fire Rescue

Solid Waste and Recycling Collection

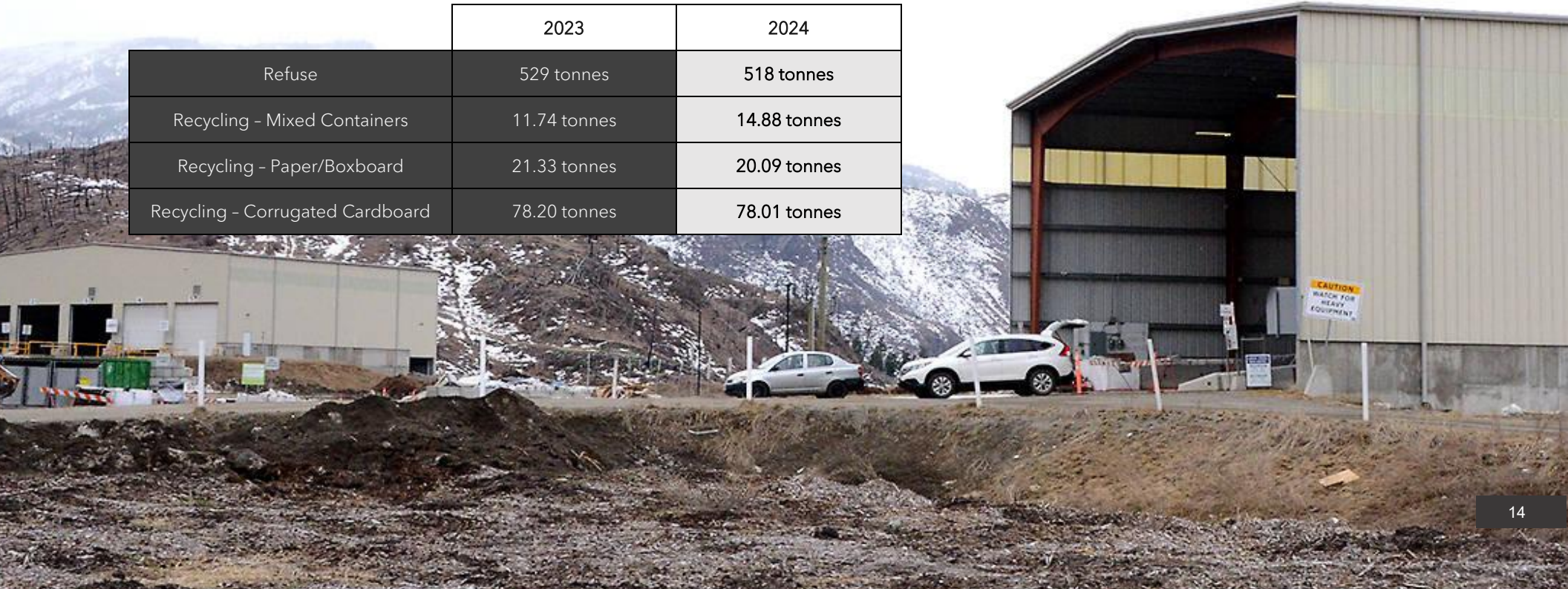
The District of Barriere is committed to our environment and is proud to have been the second community in the area to implement a curbside recycling program. We offer the following services and products to our community members:

- Weekly curbside solid waste removal
- Weekly curbside recycling pick-up
- Household battery recycling
- Household composters (\$25 to purchase at the TNRD Eco Depot - minus the 50% subsidy from the District of Barriere)



In April of 2013, the Thompson Nicola Regional District closed the Barriere Landfill, indefinitely, and opened the Louis Creek Eco Depot located on Agate Bay Road. Household refuse is collected curbside and brought to the facility with a tipping fee of \$90 per tonne. Residential recycling is also curbside through the District's contract with Recycle BC. Residents sort their recycling into two categories: "Paper & Boxboard Products" and "Container (Plastic & Tin) Products". Each category is collected on an alternating week basis from the clear recycling tote provided at no cost to each household in June of 2020. Additional totes can be purchased through the District, at cost, for \$17.99. In 2022, Council approved a compost incentive program by providing a 50% rebate on the cost of a TNRD composter. Residents of the District of Barriere can purchase a composter for ½ price at the District Office and show their receipt at the Eco Depot when collecting their composter. Corrugated cardboard became a "Mandatory Recyclable" item by the TNRD in March 2023 and is no longer accepted in residential garbage. The District of Barriere planned a free residential yard waste collection event in partnership with the TNRD to take place in the fall of 2024.

	2023	2024
Refuse	529 tonnes	518 tonnes
Recycling - Mixed Containers	11.74 tonnes	14.88 tonnes
Recycling - Paper/Boxboard	21.33 tonnes	20.09 tonnes
Recycling - Corrugated Cardboard	78.20 tonnes	78.01 tonnes



2024 Administrative Activities & Highlights

Climate Action Charter

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction

In 2007, the Provincial Government passed Bill 44- the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*- thereby committing the Province to reduce GHG emissions by 33% below 2007 levels by the year 2020 and 80% below 2007 levels by the year 2050. In order to help achieve this commitment, the Province enacted the Local Government (*Green Communities*) *Statuses Amendment Act* ("Bill 27"). Under this legislation and Section 877(3) of the Local Government Act, Official Community Plans are now required to include targets for the reduction of GHG emissions as well as policies and actions to support the reduction targets.

As signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, the District of Barriere has voluntarily agreed to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals:

- being carbon neutral in respect of corporate operations by 2012
- measuring and reporting on the community's GHG emissions profile; and
- creating complete, compact, and more energy efficient community

Targets

The Province is providing each local government with a Community Energy & Emissions Inventory (CEEI) report to track and report annual community-wide energy consumption and GHG emissions. Reducing transportation emissions is a challenge in rural communities therefore additional Provincial and Federal Government policies, actions and initiatives will be needed to support the community-wide GHG reduction targets set by the District.

Recognizing the challenges of reducing GHG emissions in rural communities, the District of Barriere sets the following community-wide GHG reduction targets:

- **10% by 2020 from 2007 levels**
- **33% by 2050 from 2007 levels**

We look forward to working with our community members on these initiatives and hope that by our pledging to the Charter, our residents will be inspired to do their part for the environment as well.

Each year, we are required to audit and report our advancements towards this goal. The Provincial Government provides a rebate to each community involved in the amount of 100 per cent of the carbon costs incurred on fuel purchases. The District of Barriere received a Climate Action Revenue Incentive grant in the amount of \$1,656.00 for such purchases.

For more information on the Climate Action Charter, please visit www.cd.gov.bc.ca

2024 – Community Events



Halloween
Fireworks
Courtesy of
Barriere Fire
Rescue



2nd Annual Winterfest!



Welcome
Summer Block
Party



Canada Day

Recreation Committee
Float in the Fall Fair
Parade



Bandshell Upgrades include a projector & screen and new sound equipment



2024 was a standout year for community events with the District of Barriere Recreation Committee continuing to build on its momentum by offering new experiences while supporting long-standing community favourites.

The year began with Barriere's annual Family Fun Night, held the Sunday before BC's Family Day. This popular event once again supported the NTACS After School Program through its fundraising component.

Building on the momentum from 2023's ParticipACTION win, the Committee used the \$15,000 prize to purchase a projector, screen, and sound equipment for the Bandshell. This investment expanded Bandshell Fridays to include both live music and "Movies in the Park" throughout the summer.

The new equipment made its debut at Barriere's first Welcome Summer Block Party—a full afternoon community celebration that transformed Fadear Park into a lively hub of activity. The event featured an afternoon of live music, the community's first-ever beer gardens in the park, a bustling vendor market, Kids Zone, Show 'n Shine, and a wide selection of local food trucks. The event was a huge success and is expected to become a new annual tradition.

Barriere's Canada Day Celebration returned with its traditional mix of music, hot dogs, games, cupcakes, and prizes, while other annual favourites including the North Thompson Fall Fair & Rodeo, Father's Day Fishing Derby, Barriere Blooms Contest, Terry Fox Run, Worldwide Paint-out, & more all resumed their annual event & programming.

Department Overview

Once again, this year was an extremely busy year for the water department that consists of three full-time staff.

In addition to the standard, daily water sample testing that takes an average of 1.5hrs to complete, 52 water samples were sent to an accredited laboratory for Interior Health testing; all coming back in full compliance.

Staff continue to perform watermain flushing annually to prevent any buildup in our supply lines.

Water conservation remains a priority for the District of Barriere and to encourage this goal, changes to the fee structure were initiated in 2021.

Finding and repairing leaks in the community system remains an ongoing priority to the water department. A number of repairs were successfully made in 2024.



Louis Creek Reservoir



Community Water Backup Generator



LCIP Water System



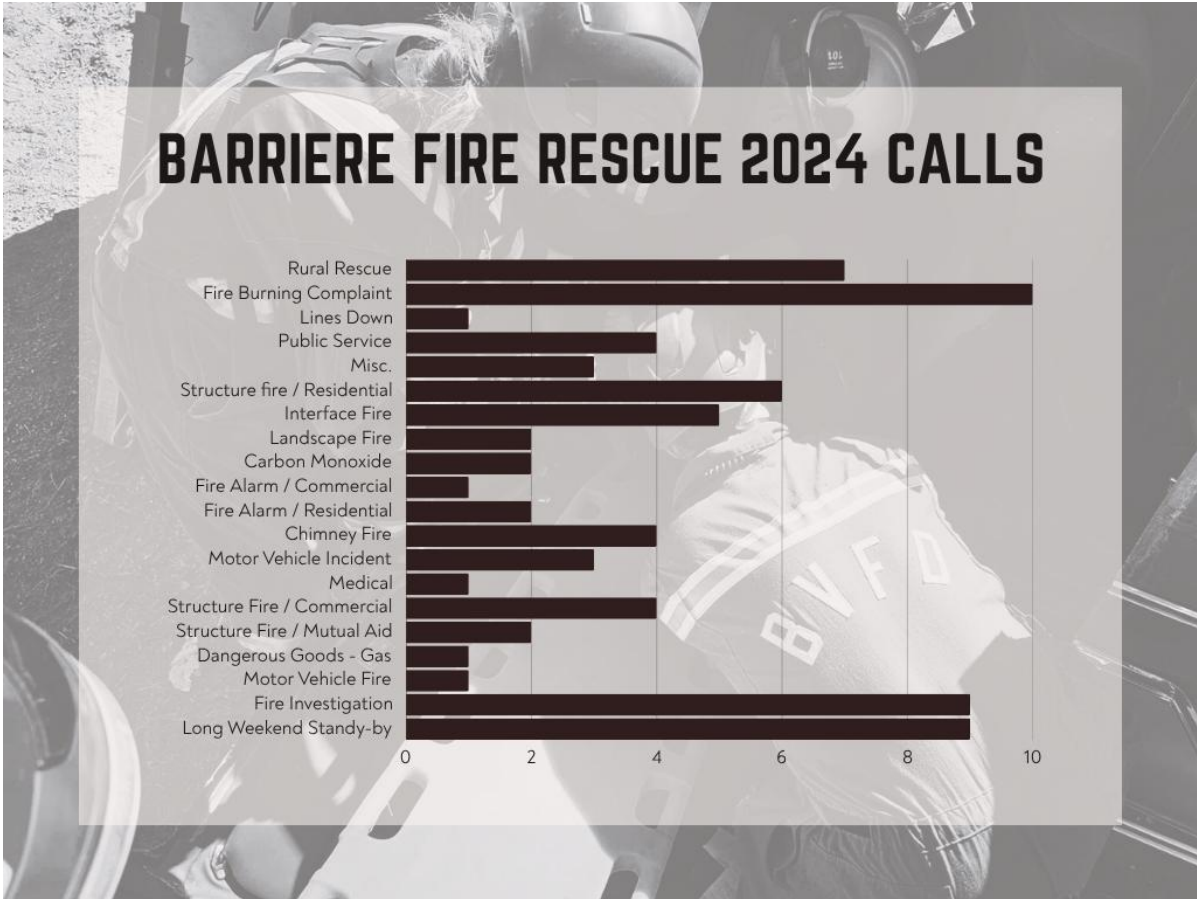
2024 – Barriere Volunteer Fire Rescue

The Fire Department consists of a Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Assistant Deputy Chief, Captains, Safety Officer, Training Officer and approximately eighteen (18) firefighters.

Fire Chief Ashley Wohlgemuth retired on September 9, 2024, after 26 years of service. Her leadership and dedication have left a lasting impact on the department and community alike. Alexis Hovenkamp was awarded the role of Fire Chief on the interim on September 9th and accepted a full-time position to start in 2025. Deputy Chief Derek Ive retired from active duty but continues to support the department as the Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief.

The Department is dedicated to offering the best equipment and training for the firefighters to ensure the safety of our residents and properties. The Department also provides Highway Rescue Service. The services area of the Fire Department includes a portion of the TNRD Electoral Area O. The Electoral Area pays approximately 35% of the Fire Department’s operating costs.

Volunteer firefighters are the heart of Barriere Fire Rescue. These men and women leave their families, jobs, and daily routines behind at a moment’s notice to respond to emergencies. Their role extends far beyond putting out fires—they provide emergency medical aid, assist in traffic accidents, respond to wildfires, and contribute to the community through public safety initiatives.



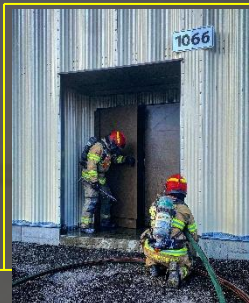
Barriere Volunteer Fire Department Overview

The year 2024 was one of growth, transition, and resilience for Barriere Fire Rescue. Our department continues to stand as a cornerstone of safety and service for the community, thanks to the tireless dedication of our volunteers and the strong support of the District of Barriere. With new certifications, important FireSmart initiatives, and a provincial wildfire deployment, 2024 highlighted just how vital volunteer fire departments are to small communities like ours.

The Department also services the North Thompson fire area in regard to Roads Rescue, rope rescue and livestock rescue assistance. For Roads Rescue incident calls dispatched to the department from outside of Barriere's jurisdictional boundary, the Province provides the Department with financial compensation.

In 2024, our members trained and responded in a wide variety of disciplines, including:

- **Highway Rescue & Vehicle Extrication** - responding to motor vehicle incidents and safely removing trapped occupants.
- **Large Animal Rescue** - training to assist farmers and ranchers when livestock or horses are in distress.
- **Swift Water Awareness** - ensuring preparedness for emergencies on rivers and waterways.
- **Low & Steep Angle Rescue** - responding to incidents in challenging or hazardous terrain.
- **Structure Fire Suppression** - protecting homes, businesses, and public infrastructure.
- **Wildland Fire Operations** - tackling fast-moving wildfires that threaten our community and region.



2024 Highlights:

- **NFPA 1001** - 3 members successfully completed their Full-Service Firefighter certification, achieving a nationally recognized standard of professionalism.
- **Engine Boss Training** - Hosted a course welcoming BCWS and 40 firefighters from all over BC
- **Western Canadian Rescue Symposium** - Two members attended
- **UBCM FireSmart funding** - The District was awarded this funding allowing for the hiring of a FireSmart Coordinator and initiation of a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.
- **Tender Deployment to Williams Lake** - Supported provincial wildfire response efforts.

Looking Ahead:

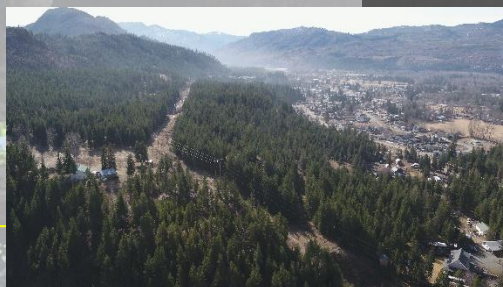
As we look to the future, Barriere Fire Rescue remains committed to serving with professionalism, compassion, and resilience. Our volunteers are continually enhancing their training, our community is taking proactive steps to reduce wildfire risk, and our department is embracing both tradition and innovation. Together, we will continue to build on the strong foundation laid in 2024.

2024 Highlights:

- **FireSmart Coordinator Hired** – A dedicated coordinator leads local initiatives, coordinates education and supports residents.
- **Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan initiated** – Providing long-term strategies and actions to reduce wildfire risk.
- **Community Engagement** – Present at numerous community events through the year with overwhelmingly positive feedback.
- **Awareness** – Increased information of wildfire risk and prevention which has build a foundation for long-term community safety.
- **Collaboration** – Strengthened relationships between residents, the Fire Department and local leadership.

Looking Ahead:

Building on the success of 2024, the FireSmart program will continue to expand outreach, complete the CWRP, and provide residents with tools and knowledge to protect their homes and properties. With continued funding and community support, Barriere is well on its way to becoming a model FireSmart community.



2024 FireSmart Program Overview

In 2024, the District of Barriere was fortunate to receive funding through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to support our community's wildfire resiliency. This funding enabled the launch of a dedicated FireSmart program designed to engage, educate, and protect our residents. With the increasing threat of wildfire across British Columbia, FireSmart principles are more important than ever, ensuring that communities like ours are prepared, proactive, and resilient in the face of wildfire risks.

Wildfire poses one of the most significant natural hazards to rural communities. As climate change continues to bring hotter, drier summers, the importance of adopting FireSmart principles has never been clearer. The program provides a framework for reducing wildfire risks around homes, properties, and critical infrastructure, while also strengthening community awareness and readiness. FireSmart focuses on prevention, mitigation, education, and collaboration—ensuring that wildfire resiliency is not just a fire department responsibility, but a shared community effort.

The FireSmart program is more than a set of projects—it is an investment in the safety, sustainability, and future of Barriere. Thanks to UBCM funding, the leadership of our FireSmart Coordinator, and the enthusiastic involvement of our residents, 2024 marked an important step forward in building a wildfire-resilient community.

Key Principles of FireSmart

The FireSmart program is built on seven core disciplines that together reduce wildfire risk:

1. **Education & Outreach** – Raising awareness about wildfire risks and how to reduce them.
2. **Vegetation & Fuel Management** – Reducing flammable materials in and around the community.
3. **Legislation & Planning** – Incorporating FireSmart into community planning and policies.
4. **Development Considerations** – Promoting FireSmart building practices and materials.
5. **Interagency Cooperation** – Building partnerships between local governments, First Nations, and fire services.
6. **Cross-Training** – Supporting knowledge-sharing and capacity building.
7. **Emergency Planning** – Ensuring the community is prepared for response and recovery.

Goals & Highlights

Fun Stats

Barriere has:

30 Acres of Green Space with
a Splashpad
a Skatepark
a Bandshell
a Multi-Purpose Court
2 Dog Parks
3 Playgrounds
4 Ball Diamonds &
1 Cemetery

30 Paved Roads
& 29 new trees were planted in 2024

RECREATION & PARKS

2024 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Rehab areas to regain mowable status	Ongoing
2. Reduce reliance on sub-contractors with equipment purchases	Ongoing
3. Create & Enhance Community Events at Bandshell	Ongoing
4. Replace old non-functioning sprinklers in Parks	Complete
5. Seek funding for Parks & Trail Master Planning	Ongoing
6. Continue to develop downtown trail network	In planning stage
7. Promote increase of rec & fitness programming for all ages	Ongoing
8. Complete Rental Policy Draft	In process



Goals & Highlights

RECREATION & PARKS 2025 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Rehab areas to regain mowable status	Ongoing
2. Reduce reliance on sub-contractors with equipment purchases	Ongoing
3. Create & Enhance Community Events at Bandshell	Ongoing
4. Continue to plant shade trees	Ongoing
5. Continue to develop downtown trail network	Ongoing
6. Promote increase of rec & fitness programming for all ages	Ongoing
7. Complete Rental Policy Draft	In process



Goals & Highlights

kisco
Water Treatment Company
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

1

INFRASTRUCTURE 2024 Goals:

	Item	Status	Comments
1.	Complete Wastewater System Upgrades - Downtown Core	Funding Approved	In progress
2.	Construct water & sewer upgrades south end of Barriere Town Road	Funding dependent	Scope and all alternatives considered
3.	Install security fencing around critical water infrastructure locations	Budgeted	Completed
4.	Plan for Bulk Water Station at LCIP	Funding Dependent	Grant approved for planning with TNRD
5.	Continue to Develop Louis Creek Water System including new reservoir	Funding Approved	New reservoir commissioned
6.	Continue to develop Asset Management Plan	Funding Dependent	
7.	Develop Wastewater Feasibility Plan	Funding Dependent	
8.	Plan for additional water source as community grows	Ongoing	Funding dependent

Goals & Highlights



INFRASTRUCTURE 2025 Goals:

Item	Status	Comments
Expand water & sewer infrastructure	In Progress	Scope and all alternatives considered
Plan for bulk water station at LCIP	Funding Approved	In progress
Develop asset management plan	Funding Dependent	
Develop wastewater regulations bylaw	In Progress	
Update waterworks bylaw	In Progress	
Implement SCADA system at all facilities	In Progress	

Goals & Highlights

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSIFICATION

2024 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Complete conversion of old HY Louie building to downtown business hub including leasable space.	Barriere Business Centre Completed
2. Promote tourism through the Lower North Thompson Tourism Society	Ongoing
3. Work with the Barriere and District Chamber of Commerce to retain existing businesses and to attract new businesses	Ongoing
4. Support numerous types of housing developments to help address the shortage for workers in the area	Complete
5. Engage & collaborate with Simpcw First Nation on mutually benefiting economic projects	Complete

2025 Goals:

Item	Status	Comments
1. Market old Chamber Building for potential development	Ongoing	Expression of Interest
2. Promote tourism through the Lower North Thompson Tourism Society	Ongoing	Sub-Regional contract in place
3. Work with the Barriere and District Chamber of Commerce to retain existing businesses and to attract new businesses	Ongoing	Contracted to manage BBC Building
4. Update Official Community Plan (OCP), Development Approvals Processes and Subdivision & Development Bylaws	Funding Approved	TRUE Consulting awarded contract to complete updates
5. Engage & collaborate with Simpcw First Nation on mutually benefiting economic projects	In Progress	MOU in final draft

126 Business Licenses were approved in 2024

Goals & Highlights

LIVABILITY

2024 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Support Healthy Living for All Ages	Ongoing
2. Become a green community	Ongoing
3. Community Cleanup & Beautification	Ongoing
4. Research alternative collection options to prepare for future Recycling Legislation Changes	In process
5. Explore Affordable Housing Funding Opportunities	Ongoing
6. Continue to work with North Thompson Activity Centre and other non-profits that provide healthy programming	Ongoing
7. Increase engagement with Simpcw First Nation to enhance trail & other recreation opportunities in the Valley	In progress

2025 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Support Healthy Living for All Ages	Ongoing
2. Become a green community	Ongoing
3. Community Cleanup & Beautification	Ongoing
4. Research alternative collection options to prepare for future Recycling Legislation Changes	In process
5. Explore Affordable Housing Funding Opportunities	Ongoing
6. Continue to work with North Thompson Activity Centre and other non-profits that provide healthy programming	Ongoing
7. Increase engagement with Simpcw First Nation to enhance trail & other recreation opportunities in the Valley	In progress

Goals & Highlights

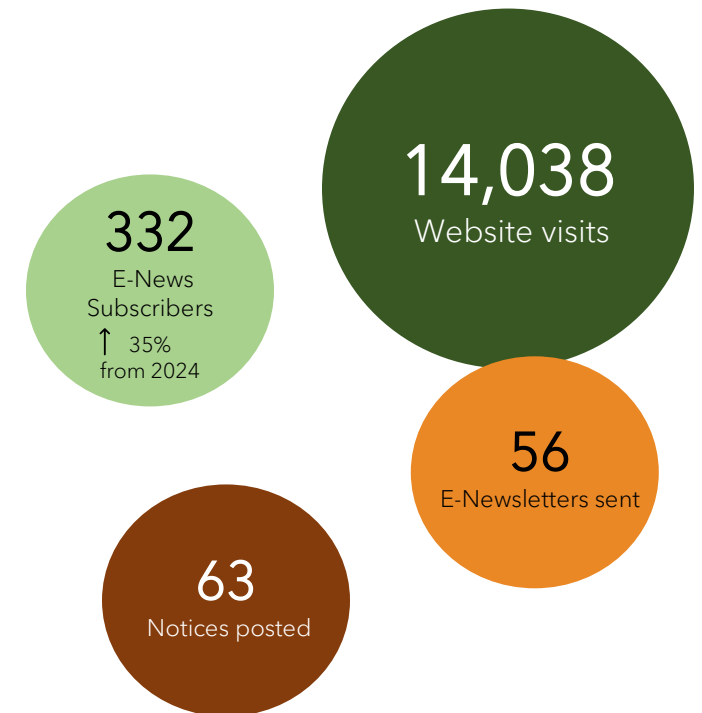
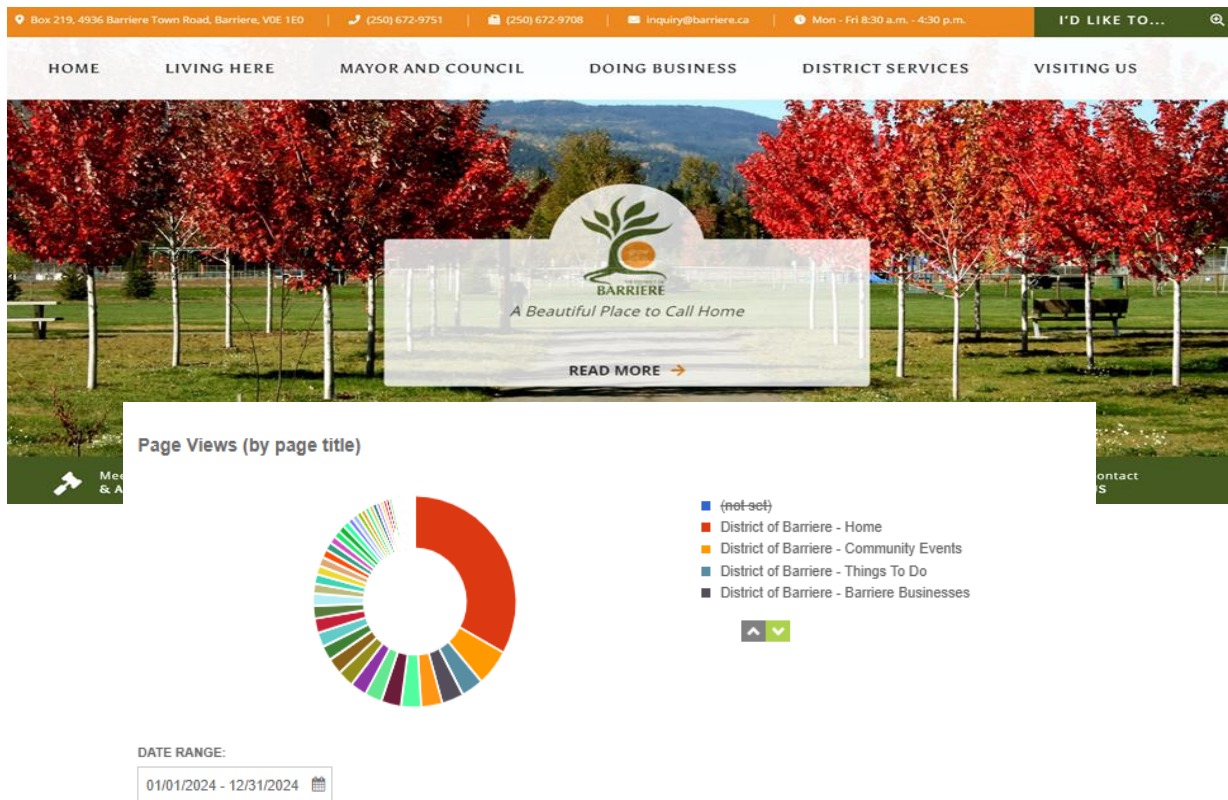
GOOD GOVERNMENT / COMMUNICATION

2024 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Work toward effective and ongoing communications with business community government & social groups	Ongoing
2. Apply for all grants that will add value to the community	Ongoing
3. Continue review and revision of old bylaws	Ongoing
4. Explore options to further engage and communicate with the public	Ongoing
5. Develop Communication Policy	Complete

2025 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Work toward effective and ongoing communications with business community government & social groups	Ongoing
2. Apply for all grants that will add value to the community	Ongoing
3. Continue review and revision of old bylaws and policies	Ongoing
4. Explore options to further engage and communicate with the public	Ongoing



Goals & Highlights

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

2024 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Review the current taxation policy	Ongoing
2. Council, through staff, will seek out new revenue opportunities which include grant opportunities	Ongoing
3. Explore Alternative Revenue Sources	Ongoing
4. Asset Management Planning	Ongoing
5. Review User Fees to ensure sustainability & fairness	Ongoing
6. Explore ways to reduce paper footprint	Ongoing
7. Work towards cost recovery service through fee assessments	In process

2025 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Asset Management Planning	Ongoing
2. Council, through staff, will seek out new revenue which includes grant opportunities	Ongoing
3. Explore Alternative Revenue Sources	Ongoing
4. Review the current taxation policy	Ongoing
5. Review User Fees to ensure sustainability & fairness	Ongoing
6. Work towards cost recovery of service through fee assessments	In process



Goals & Highlights

BUDGET PROCESS / TAX

2024 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Continue a financial planning process that reflects sound fiscal management and works toward lessening the portion of taxes paid by residential properties.	Ongoing
2. Council will increase public knowledge on assessments and taxation	Ongoing
3. Explore additional ways to further engage the public	Ongoing

2025 Goals:

Item	Status
1. Continue to refine financial planning process that reflects sound fiscal management and works toward transparency and equitable taxation.	Ongoing
2. Council will increase public knowledge on assessments and taxation	Ongoing
3. Explore additional ways to further engage the public	Ongoing

2024 Highlights- Budget Process/ Tax

A number of Public Meetings provided citizens with an opportunity to comment on the District of Barriere's annual budget.

The option to pay utility and tax bills via e-transfer now offered.

Permissive Tax Exemptions

District of Barriere Section 224 (2)(a) Community Charter Tax Exemption Bylaw No.222

Societies / Non Profit	2023	2024
Barriere & District Heritage Society Assessed under Roll No. 1245.667	\$1,001.46	\$1,381.92
Barriere & District Senior's Society Assessed under Roll No. 1245.408	\$1,164.40	\$1,162.23
Barriere & District Food Bank Assessed under Roll No. 1470.362	\$1,717.59	\$2,288.06
Provincial Rental Housing Corp Yellowhead Residence Assessed under Roll No. 1390.370	\$1,744.44	\$1,966.87
North Thompson Fall Fair Assessed under Roll No. 1465.058	\$2,286.81	\$2,670.31
North Thompson Fall Fair Assessed under Roll No. 1465.080	\$1,234.96	\$1,361.94
North Thompson Fall Fair Assessed under Roll No. 1465.200	\$13,167.48	\$17,071.46
Barriere Curling Club Assessed under Roll No. 1465.200	\$11,539.11	\$13,626.66
Interior Community Services Assessed under Roll No. 1245.420	\$2,185.81	\$2,116.82
North Thompson Legion #242 Assessed under Roll No. 1270.085	\$1,030.72	\$1,268.83
Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society under Roll No. 1470.007	\$3,361.37	\$4,698.69

Permissive Tax Exemptions

District of Barriere Section 220 (1)(h) Community Charter Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 221

Churches	2023	2024
Trustee of the Barriere BC Congregation Jehovah's Witness Assessed under Roll No. 1225.248	\$805.23	\$785.43
Roman Catholic Bishop of Kamloops Assessed under Roll No. 1470.430 (church)	\$942.78	\$1,061.19
United Church Assessed under Roll No. 1245.386	\$845.33	\$859.09
Baptist Church Assessed under Roll No. 1390.060	\$501.99	\$487.47
Pentecostal Church Assessed under Roll No. 1470.514	\$1,710.72	\$1,697.08
TOTAL 2024 PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS		\$ 54,144.05