

## **For Immediate Release: Barriere Heritage Society Documents Devastating McLure Wildfire**

The British Columbia Historical Federation has awarded a \$1,500 Centennial Legacy Fund grant to the Barriere Heritage Society to research and create a travelling exhibit to document the devastating wildfire that swept through their community 20 years ago. The 2003 fire destroyed houses, businesses, its major employer (Tolko sawmill) and countless trees, which dramatically altered the community and landscape. This is also a story of resilience, about a community working diligently to overcome such huge losses.

The CLF grant allows Barriere Heritage Society to acquire a digital recorder to conduct interviews with those who experienced the wildfire, and to print photos and maps for display. The Society says the exhibit will, “illustrate the fire’s force, its destruction, and its legacies.” This grant comes during the worst wildfire season on record in B.C. (in area burned), with communities around the province facing complex challenges and decisions.

The Centennial Legacy Fund was created by the British Columbia Historical Federation to aid research into B.C.’s stories, communities and diverse peoples. Institutions, communities and individuals can apply to the fund at **[bchistory.ca](http://bchistory.ca)**

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