North Thompson COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION
Together we are stronger

Together We Are Stronger.

NEWSLETTER

Unleashing Potential, Transforming Futures

JULY 2026 | ISSUE #5

NOTICE: We have a new email!
info@ntcommunitiesfoundation.com

🌳 ROOTED IN COMMUNITY: NTCF DONOR TREES TAKE ROOT IN THE NORTH THOMPSON VALLEY

The North Thompson Communities Foundation (NTCF) is thrilled to announce a beautiful new addition to our local spaces. Two new Donor Trees will officially take root, standing as permanent, growing tributes to the incredible generosity of the residents and businesses that make our valley so special.

These beautiful modular wood installations, born from the "Legacy in Motion" will be installed at two central community hubs: the Barriere Business Centre and the Dutch Lake Community Centre in Clearwater.

A True Collaborative Effort
These trees are a testament to the power of regional collaboration. The NTCF extends its deepest gratitude to the District of Barriere and the District of Clearwater for their invaluable support and ongoing dedication to fostering local philanthropy.

We also want to shine a special spotlight on Trans Mountain. Their generous $10,000 contribution and partnership—alongside the support of our local districts—turned this vision into a reality, ensuring that community contributors now have a lasting, highly visible place of recognition.

Leave a Lasting Legacy
Just like our community, these Donor Trees are designed to grow. Every leaf, branch, and bird added to the display represents a tangible commitment to the future of the North Thompson Valley.

To honour the generosity of our supporters, the Foundation recognizes contributions across four distinct tiers. Donors will have their names—or the names of honoured loved ones—permanently engraved and displayed on the trees based on their level of contribution:

grow with us
THE DISTRICT OF BARRIERE

TRANSMOUNTAIN

District of CLEARWATER
adventure starts here

North Thompson COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION
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25 YEARS
LEGACY IN MOTION
$250,000 GOAL

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY: TOGETHER WE CAN REACH OUR GOAL OF $250,000

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Recognition Tier	Donation Amount
Supporter	$250+
Builder	$1,000+
Visionary	$5,000+
Legacy Leader	$10,000+

How You Can Contribute

Whether you are a resident, a family, or a local business, we invite you to become part of this growing legacy. Securing your place on the Donor Trees is simple, with a few convenient ways to give:

- **Online:** Make a secure donation through the foundation's official website at www.ntcommunitiesfoundation.com.
- **E-transfer:** Send contributions directly to treasurer@ntcommunitiesfoundation.com.
- **By Phone:** Contact Louise Lodge directly at 250-879-1268 to arrange a donation or to learn more about how your contribution will impact the community.

Every single contribution empowers the NTCF to continue its mission of funding the vital projects, grants, and non-profit organizations that enrich life for everyone here in the valley. Thank you for helping our community grow!

> *It's easier to take than to give. It's nobler to give than to take. The thrill of taking lasts a day. The thrill of giving lasts a lifetime.*

Celebrating a Century of Service: Congratulations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 242

The North Thompson Communities Foundation (NTCF) was deeply honoured to support the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 242 as it celebrated a monumental milestone alongside branches nationwide: **its 100th Anniversary.**

For a century, the Legion has served as the unwavering cornerstone of Remembrance. Beyond honoring our history, they have been powerful, steadfast advocates for veterans' rights and a driving force in strengthening the fabric of our local communities.

By supporting Branch 242 during this historic centennial, the NTCF is helping to ensure that their vital support networks and community-building initiatives continue to thrive. It is a privilege to play a part in safeguarding the legacy of those who served, helping to carry their memory—and the Legion's mission—forward into the next hundred years.

Louise Lodge, NTCF Chair, MaryAnn Shewchuk, Legion President, Joyce Laffin, NTCF Treasurer

🎓 Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

The North Thompson Communities Foundation (NTCF) is proud to continue its tradition of supporting local youth as they embark on their next chapter.

This year, we are thrilled to once again award two $1,000 bursaries to outstanding graduates in our region—one from Barriere and one from Clearwater.

A heartfelt congratulations to this year's recipients, Drydyn Oja Ames and Kenzie Stelter!

We wish Drydyn, Kenzie, and the entire Class of 2026 immense success, joy, and fulfillment in all their future endeavors. You have made your communities proud, and we cannot wait to see what you accomplish next.

> *"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."*
> *– Oscar Wilde*

🌟 SHAPE OUR VALLEY'S FUTURE: DISCOVER THE POWER OF $75

As the North Thompson Communities Foundation celebrates 25 years of supporting the valley from McLure to Blue River, we have launched our "Legacy in Motion" campaign with our most ambitious goal yet: raising $250,000. We are calling for the "Power of $75" because if every household gives just $75, together we will reach our target. Achieving this $250,000 milestone will permanently increase our valley endowment, ensuring we can generate local grants in perpetuity.

VITAL SIGNS 2026

Funding is only half the equation—we also need your voice to guide it. Your voice is important. Please complete our Vital Signs survey, which will help us identify the specific needs of the North Thompson valley.

The information you provide will directly shape the future of our region.

Please take a moment to fill out the survey at Vital Signs 2026 and help us move the North Thompson forward, together!

Donate Here!

VITAL SIGNS SURVEY

Complete Survey Here.

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SUMMER RAFFLE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RAFFLE WINNERS

Rick Pesklevits - Rustic Resort
Janice Stark - 2 Cords of Firewood
Carol Fraser - River Safari
Kathy Harper - Whitewater Rafting
Rick Pesklevits - Golf Passes
Bryan Beler - Tattoo GC
Mary MacLennan - Reflexology GC
Brad Laffin - Potato Box

$7,000 Raised

Thank You for your support!

JOIN OUR BOARD OR BECOME A MEMBER

A Foundation membership is free, and members receive updates on the Foundation's work, vote at the annual general meeting, and can join the board of directors.
To learn more about the North Thompson Communities Foundation, to volunteer, or to become a member, contact info@ntcommunitiesfoundation.com or visit https://www.ntcommunitiesfoundation.com/

SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors who donated the amazing raffle prizes.

Chinook Cove Golf and RV

IWE

The Rustic Resort AT THUYA LAKES

Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society

River Safari BLUE RIVER, BC, CANADA

Mythos Studio Fine Art Tattooing MythosStudio.ca Barriere, B.C.

Just U Reflexology

Kelly's Heart & Timber EST. 2025

WILL COMMUNITY AWARD

> *"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference."*
> *– Kathy Calvin*

🏆 Celebrating Community Leadership: The WILL Community Award

The North Thompson Communities Foundation (NTCF) and the Winiski family are proud to announce that the WILL (Winiski Inspiring Learning & Leading) Community Award has been presented to Barriere Fire Chief, Alexis Hovenkamp. The NTCF extends its sincere gratitude to the Winiskis for entrusting us to administer this meaningful award.

An Investment in Safety
Chief Hovenkamp perfectly embodies the award's spirit through her unwavering dedication to Barriere. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Applied Business in Emergency Services at Lakeland College, impressively funding her degree while working a second job as a Fire Dispatcher. Her goal is to apply this education locally to build a stronger emergency service network, improve preparedness, and inspire the next generation of community leaders.

Paying It Forward
Beyond her professional duties, Alexis anticipates dedicating 200 volunteer hours this year as a Director with the Barriere Firefighters Association. She utilizes her skills in event planning and grant writing to help the Association raise vital funds for firefighter training, public education, and specialized equipment. These efforts directly support our volunteer first responders while easing the financial strain on local taxpayers.

For Alexis, investing her time and expertise into local emergency services is a meaningful way to "pay it forward" to the community she loves. Please join us in congratulating Chief Hovenkamp on this well-deserved recognition!

Louise Lodge, NTCF Chair, Dan Winiski, Alexis Hovenkamp, Deb Winiski

Upcoming Events

September 6 - Ed Peekeekoot Concert, Blackpool Hall
September 14-16 - BC Connect, Kelowna
September 24 - Non-Profit Engagement, Clearwater
October 24 - Sip & Support, Barriere

More Information

SIP & SUPPORT 2026
North Thompson COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION
Together we are stronger

Join Our Premier FUNDRAISER

Sip & Support

19+ Event

BC Wine, Beer & Cider Tasting Event Includes pairings, charcuterie boards & live music, with Auction and Cash Bar

In Support of Our 25 Year Campaign.

2025 Sip & Support was a huge success. Let's make it even better this year! New wineries, breweries and cideries will be featured.

When: October 24, 2026
Where: Fall Fair Hall, Barriere
Time: 1pm - 4:30pm

TICKETS
$30 for 1 tasting
$60 for 3 tastings
$25 for non-drinkers

TASTING TABLES
Red Wine, White Wine, Beer & Cider

Tickets will go on sale soon, and you will be the first to know. Keep an eye on our website at ntcommunitiesfoundation.com