



## History of the Voyageurs in Barriere

British Columbia and the Town of Barriere are inextricably linked to the history of the Voyageurs.

The Voyageurs consisted of French Canadian, Scottish, Metis and Aboriginal peoples from all over Canada. They first made their way to British Columbia in the 1780's working for the Northwest and Hudson's Bay companies, canoeing into remote areas and building forts to trade furs with the indigenous peoples.

All along the highways of British Columbia are familiar place names that originate from the era of the Voyageurs: Fort St. James, Quesnel, Lac La Hache, Tete Jaune (which means Yellow Head in French - a nickname given by the Voyageurs to a blonde Iroquois-Metis trapper named Pierre Bostonais - and now the official name of Highway 5), Little Fort, Barriere, Cache Creek, Fort Langley and so on.

The Barriere River was named by the French Canadian Voyageurs because of the difficulty of traversing it due to its shallow waters and numerous rocks. The Simpcw people also used the river's rocks to create dams with funnels for catching fish. Archibald MacDonald, Chief Trader for the Hudson's Bay Company, registered the name of the Barriere River in 1828 with the District of Kamloops, decades before B.C. became a province.

The Barriere area remains an irresistible habitat for those seeking a natural environment with abundant fish, wildlife and authentic wild rivers, lakes and forests, all waiting for you to explore them as the Voyageurs once did.

