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Friends of Bouchie-Milburn Society

Bouchie Lake is a small, old community approximately 6 miles away from Quesnel. Bouchie Lake is not only made up of farmers and foresters, but also a wide variety of people. There are always little community events happening, for instance every Halloween there is a tailgate Trick or Treat event at the Bouchie Lake hall along with fireworks later that night provided by the community and the fire hall, designed to bring people together.

The community, we all know and love, was not always known as Bouchie Lake. It was originally known as Six Mile and Billie Bouchie, named after William Boucher and his wife who were Bouchie Lake's first permanent settlers. William Boucher was one of the sons of Jean-Baptiste Boucher, a well-known Métis interpreter who was a part of a canoe expedition on the Fraser River in 1808. The Boucher family owned lot 729 with over 320 acres. The Boucher family lived on the farm in Bouchie Lake for over 10 years from 1902 until just after 1912. After continuous usage of his name it gradually changed to Boushie then to Billie Boushie.

William Bousher was employed by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) at the Fort, before traveling by canoes to Quesnel. When he arrived in Quesnel he first lived on the west side of Quesnel. Later moving to Boushie Lake. During William Boushers time in Quesnel and Boushie Lake he was a ferryman. He ferried supplies and travellers across the wide Fraser River. Travellers who crossed the river late in the day camped on the grounds formerly used by the Horse Brigades at the junction of Nazko and Blackwater road. People were starting to realize that the Boushie Lake area was good land for farming and ranching, thus making people think about the idea of putting in a road.

From Bouchie Lake to town was 6 miles. Considering, at the time, the roads were just starting to be thought about and being built because of the Gold Rush and now districts being opened, the Boushie Lake family needed to walk or travelled by horseback into Quesnel. The trail they took was called the Collins-Overland Telegraph Trail. The entire trail is approximately 275 kilometers long, starting from 70 Mile House to the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District northwest of Quesnel.

The second settler in the Bouchie Lake area was Floyd Vernon. He came to the land when he was injured during his travels to Fraser Lake. While waiting in Boushie Lake for his wounds to heal, he found land on the lake side that pleased him. When he was fully healed he decided to stay, plant hay, and start a small cabin.

In order to inform, and honour Boushie Lake's history, the community holds a Billie Bouchie Day Celebration on May 27th. The day marks over 117 years since the Boucher family acquired 320 acres of land in the area, becoming Bouchie Lake's first permanent settlers. The event brings a variety of people together, to celebrate the past, the community as a whole and First Nations peoples.