

FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE

WINTER 2023-24



A GUIDE TO ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE IN FERNIE & THE ELK VALLEY

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View the Cultural Guide content and past issues online at ElkValleyCulture.com

While in Fernie be sure to pick up a copy of the latest Fernie FIX Magazine for more details on what's happening in Fernie and local stories.

Cover photo: Griz Days 2023 by Vince Mo @findingvmo

This page: Fernie winter vistas – from the snowclad peaks of the Three Sisters to the ice-rimmed Elk River – inspire artists of all disciplines. Photo by Vince Mo

THE COMMUNITIES OF THE ELK VALLEY

In the heart of the majestic Canadian Rocky Mountains, the Elk Valley is a hidden oasis of verdant landscapes, charming towns and abundant recreation. For over 100 years, pioneers have travelled to the region, first in search of valuable minerals, and now seeking a sanctuary focused on family, community and the beautiful outdoors. Mining still forms the base of a thriving economy that has now diversified and welcomes a variety of artisans, small businesses, and an active year-round recreational and cultural tourism industry.

FERNIE is the largest and oldest of the three main communities in the Elk Valley. A town rich in heritage, award-winning architecture, and spectacular scenery, Fernie charms and delights all ages. Whether strolling century-old Historic Downtown, exploring the unique geography, visiting artists and artisans or revelling in the packed cultural calendar, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Pop: 6,320 | Founded 1898 | Incorporated 1904

SPARWOOD lies in the middle of the valley and is the first community reached on entering from Alberta. The town's name is derived from the local trees that were used for manufacturing spars for ocean vessels. The town was founded as a new home for the residents of the temporary communities of Michel and Natal. Several art murals can be seen here, depicting the strong connection to coal mining, with some by Michelle Loughery who was born in the area and went on to become a world-renowned muralist.

Pop: 4,184 | Founded 1966

At the head of the valley is **ELKFORD**, a small town with a passionate arts community. Writing, painting, photography, and pottery are among the popular endeavours, and well-known glass artist Katherine Russell has a working studio here. Elkford is the gateway to the Elk Lakes Provincial Park, a remote protected area bordering Alberta's Kananaskis Country.

Pop: 2,749 | Founded 1971

Credits: Writing, editing & layout by Rebecca Hall/Tourism Fernie Design by Claris Media. Images by Vince Mo, Emily Williams, Sparwood Chamber, Sparwood Museum, Fernie Museum, Matt Kuhn, District of Elkford, Fernie Alpine Resort, Nancy Stevenson, Kerstin Maier, Glenn Donald, Terry Hughes, Destination BC, Kari Medig – DBC, Mitch Winton – DBC, Morgan Michalsky – Wild M Photos, Jolene Miner, Charles DR Photo, Janaina Spady Photography, Jamie Inman, Eva Grace Photography.

REEL CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Showcasing the talent, skills, diversity, and independence of the Canadian Film Industry.

January 26-28, 2024

OPENING AND CLOSING RECEPTIONS • INDUSTRY Q&A • 5 FEATURE FILMS • SHORTS

Visit reelcanadianfilmfestival.com to learn more about this year's line-up and to purchase your festival pass (while quantities last).

Teck

Columbia Basin trust

scan to purchase your festival pass!



Park Place Lodge

FERNIEFIX



reelcanadianfilmfestival.com



WINTER IN THE ELK VALLEY

Loaf Italian Restaurant is under new management and will offer authentic Neapolitan cuisine in the popular downtown space.

Bringing a kaleidoscope of colour to the snowclad mountains is a calendar of events to suit all appetites. From seasonal celebrations and film festivals to live music, gallery openings, and arts workshops, the Elk Valley is a winter wonderland to delight the senses.

Fernie Arts Co-op

Featuring the original works of 40+ local artists

572 2nd Ave. 250-423-7044
www.fernierartscoop.com

@fernierartscoop



Check out weekly trivia, bingo, comedy or live music at the Fox Pub in Sparwood or visit the Elkford Arts Co-op for Meditative Mondays on the last Monday of each month for an opportunity to engage with expressive arts. Chemin Chez Nous – Home Routes concerts are now offered in Fernie as well as Elkford, see website for details of this season.

In Fernie, bars and lounges from Fernie Alpine Resort to Highway #3 to Historic Downtown feature live bands, solo acoustic musicians and local and visiting DJs almost every night of the week. Sample local spirits, chocolate, or beer at an artisan producer or get your fill of the best local eats at a wide variety of restaurants and bars serving up the best in pub fare, fine dining, and international cuisine. The Elk Valley's scenic snowscapes offer inspiration for painters and photographers – rent a set of snowshoes or cross-country skis

NEW!



and discover frozen waterfalls, scenic trails, and valley vistas or explore local galleries and attractions and heritage sites on a self-guided walking tour – new brochures are now available to guide you around Historic Downtown Fernie.

Elkvalleyculture.ca
TourismFernie.com

FEATURED WINTER CULTURAL EVENTS IN THE ELK VALLEY



The Fernie winter event calendar is packed with music, film and unique outdoor entertainment all winter long. These are just a few of the highlights to look out for this winter, see calendars for more!

16TH ANNUAL REEL CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL

JANUARY 26-28, 2024

reelcanadianfilmfestival.com

Celebrating the best of Canadian film-making with full length features, documentaries and short films plus receptions, special guests and more. The weekend is held in the independent Vogue Theatre. Earlybird festival passes on sale from December 1st. See ad, P4.

SNOWED IN COMEDY TOUR

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

snowedincomedytour.com

After an extended hiatus, the famous ski-all-day-laugh-all-night tour is finally returning to Fernie with all-new performances in a new venue at Knox on 2nd. Featuring Canadian Comedy Award winner Pete Zedlacher, Just for Laugh's Dan Quinn, and CBC's The Debater's Erica Sigurdson and Paul Myrehaug! Tickets \$50, now on sale.

WINTER IN THE WILD

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024

elkford.ca

A classic mountain festival with winter activities, family fun, fireworks, snow sculptures and more!

PONIES AND PLANKS SKIJORING

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

freeequine.com

A brand new skijoring event for Fernie at the Demo Derby Grounds. Skiers, snowboarders, horses, cow boys and gals, jumps, speed and one heck of a good time. \$15 Admission at the gate.

47TH ANNUAL GRIZ DAYS

MARCH 1-3, 2024

Ferniegrizdays.com

A weekend of snowy celebrations including a downtown parade, fireworks, Extreme Griz, Dummy Downhill, Fernie Craft Fair and much more!

FEATURED MUSICIANS

MT RUSHKA



Channelling the grit and energy of the mountains of the Elk Valley, Mt Rushka is a band with a rock-solid future.

Guitarist, Will Ripley, and twin sister & bassist, Alanna Laurin, are the children of Fernie's first ever Griz. Will is a professional international guitar teacher and Alanna co-founded Society Jane, a hair salon in Fernie. Alanna is married to powerhouse lead singer, Adam Laurin, who moved to Fernie from Calgary nearly 20 years ago and founded snowboard and skateboard shop, Commit. Drummer Aaron Wrench twists wrenches at the coal mine as a heavy-duty mechanic and reconnected with Will after a 15-year hiatus after the two studied together at the Berklee College of Music's affiliate program in Nelson.

The band's name is a deliberate alliteration of Mount Rushmore in the US and a nod to the forefathers of rock music – one being Alex Lifeson of Rush, who was born in Fernie. The name also references the local mountains that form the name of the street where Will, Alanna, and Adam live, and the surname name of a neighbour.

Mount Rushka have performed sold-out shows in Fernie and toured throughout BC & Alberta with more dates planned for spring and summer 2024. The band's members have touring credits with The Tea Party, One Bad Son, Rev Theory, Papa Roach, and Shinedown. They launched their first single 'Moonlight' in October 2022. 'Hold On,' their third release, received over 10,000 views in the first month. They are now working on a full-length album at Calgary's OCL studios with Brian Moncarz, a Canadian producer who has worked with Alice Cooper, Our Lady Peace, and The Trews. The album is due out in spring 2024 – support the launch on Kickstarter through the Mount Rushka website. Check out Mount Ruska's #downrightrock this winter!

Mountrushka.band

[f](#) [i](#) [You Tube](#) [@mount.rushka](#)

2023-24 WINTER CULTURAL EVENTS



DECEMBER

- | | | | |
|--------|---|-------------|---|
| 1 | Opera Screening - <i>The Magic Flute</i> , The Arts Station | 10 | Kids Christmas Craft , Grow Boutique |
| 1 | Ready Paint Fire - Pottery Paint & Sip , The Arts Station | 10 | Live Music: Kentucky Eileen - Kentucky Yuletide Holiday Show , The Arts Station |
| 1 | Open Mic Jam Night , Fernie Legion | 10 | Paint n Sip with Lona Damstrom , Bramasole |
| 2 | Artisan Fair & More than a Mug Gallery Show , The Arts Station | 12 | CPKC Rail Holiday Train , Sparwood - Fernie |
| 2 | Fernie Holiday Kick-off , Station Square | 13 | Moonlight Madness , Sparwood Mall |
| 2 | Holiday Crafts , Fernie Museum | 13 | Live Music: Jon Burden , Bramasole |
| 2 | Gallery Opening - Beautifully Tiny , hsquared gallery | 15 | Fernie Community Choir Concert , Holy Family Church |
| 2-3 | Festive Cheer Jingle & Mingle , Fernie Senior's Centre | 16 | Stocking Stuffers Craft Fair , Fernie Community Centre |
| 3 | Workshop: Needle Felting Holiday Ornament , The Arts Station | 16 | Community Holiday Celebration , Fernie Heritage Library |
| 5 | Workshop: Printmaking Holiday Cards , The Arts Station | 16 | Workshop: Grinch Tree , Stemhouse Floral Studio |
| 6 | Life Drawing , The Arts Station | 16 | Live Music: Shred Kelly , Northern Bar & Stage |
| 6 | Live Music: Darin Welch , Bramasole | 17 | Live Music: Electric Blanket , Northern Bar & Stage |
| 7 | Winter Trivia with Elk River Alliance , Fernie Distillers | 19 | Monthly Poker Tournament , Fernie Legion |
| 8 & 14 | Workshop: Holiday Mountain Arrangement , Stemhouse Floral Studio | 20 | Live Music: The Audielles Festive Extravaganza , Bramasole |
| 8 | Holiday Club Cre8 for K-Gr5 , The Arts Station | 21 | Gallery Opening: A History of Local Beer , Fernie Museum |
| 8 | Holiday Paint Night with Sue Hanlon , The Arts Station | 22 | 22nd Annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa , Park Place Lodge |
| 8 | A Christmas Show , Northern Bar & Stage | 22 | Pride Screening: <i>People Like Us</i> & Panel Discussion , The Arts Station |
| 9 | Christmas 1965 Holiday Show , Elkford Golf Club | 22 - Jan 7. | Griz Kidz Family Holiday Crafts, Activities & Events , Fernie Alpine Resort |

EVENTS CONTINUED

- | | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| 23 | Live Music: Lord Knows , The Fox Pub, Sparwood | 29 | Peaks & Plates Dinner with Victor Spicer and Naena Robinson , Elk View Lodge |
| 23-24 | Ski & Photos with Santa , Fernie Alpine Resort | 31 | Textile Collective , The Arts Station |
| 27 | Live Music: Tim Ketchum , Bramasole | | |

FEBRUARY

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|--|
| 28 | Ballet Screening: <i>The Nutcracker</i> , The Arts Station | 1 | Gallery Opening: #FernieArtStreak Celebration & Gallery Show , The Arts Station |
| 31 | NYE Family Dinner & Fireworks , Cirque Restaurant | 1 | Live Music & Entertainment: Local Showcase , The Arts Station |
| 31 | NYE Dress Up and Dance Enchanted Forest with 4 DJs , Elks Hall | 2 | Opera Screening , The Arts Station |
| 31 | NYE Parties , Various Bars | 3 | Skiitour Live , Northern Bar & Stage |
| | | 4 | Snowed In Comedy Tour , Knox on 2nd |

JANUARY

- | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| 1-2 | Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour , Vogue Theatre | 6 | Waitangi Day Party , Kodiak Lounge |
| 1-31 | #FernieArtStreak , The Arts Station | 9-10 | Live Music: Envy Duo , Kodiak Lounge |
| 3 | Parent & Child Paint Along , The Arts Station | 9 | Workshop: Paint Night , The Arts Station |
| 4 | Live Music & Entertainment: Local Showcase , The Arts Station | 14 | Pottery Date Night , The Arts Station |
| 5 | Opera Screening: <i>Tosca</i> , The Arts Station | 14 & 28 | Life Drawing , The Arts Station |
| 11 & 18 | Latin Dance Social with Adriana , The Arts Station | 16-17 | 17th Annual Fernie Mountain Film Festival , Fernie Community Centre |
| 12 | Workshop: Experimental Drawing , The Arts Station | 16-18 | Winter In The Wild Festival , Elkford |
| 16 | Monthly Poker Tournament , Fernie Legion | 16 | Club Cre8 for K-Gr5 , The Arts Station |
| 17 | Life Drawing , The Arts Station | 16 | Workshop: Printmaking , The Arts Station |
| 20 | Live Music: Tyson Ray Borsboom , Kodiak Lounge | 17 | Vintage Snowmobile Poker Derby , ferniesnowmobile.com |
| 21 | Workshop: Play with Polymer Clay with Meg Moran , The Arts Station | 17 | Ponies & Planks Skijoring , Fernie Derby Grounds |
| 26-28 | 16th Annual Reel Canadian Film Festival , Vogue Theatre | 18 - 24 | Griz Kidz Family Day Crafts, Activities & Events , Fernie Alpine Resort |
| 27 & 31 | Live Music: Pat Byrne in Fernie & Elkford , homeroutes.ca | 20 | Monthly Poker Tournament , Fernie Legion |
| 26 | Club Cre8 for K-Gr5 , The Arts Station | 26 | Meditative Monday Arts Expression , Elkford Arts Council |
| 26 | Australia Day Celebrations , Kodiak Lounge & The Taphouse | 28 | Textile Collective , The Arts Station |
| 29 | Meditative Monday Arts Expression , Elkford Arts Council | 29 | Gallery Opening: Appleskins by Jolene Miner , The Arts Station |
| | | 29 | Peaks & Plates Dinner with Victor Spicer and Naena Robinson , Elk View Lodge |



MARCH

- 1-3 **47th Annual Griz Days Winter Festival**, ferniegrizdays.com
- 1 **Griz Days Club Cre8 for K-Gr5**, The Arts Station
- 2 **Griz Days Craft Fair**, Fernie Community Centre
- 3 **Raging Elk Dummy Downhill**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 3 & 7 **Live Music: Lynne Hanson in Fernie & Elkford**, homeroutes.ca
- 8-10 **Women's Day Gallery Show**, The Arts Station
- 13 **Life Drawing**, The Arts Station
- 15 **Workshop: Paint Night**, The Arts Station
- 19 **Monthly Poker Tournament**, Fernie Legion
- 23 **Fernie Stoke Fest featuring Shred Kelly**, Fernie Community Centre
- 25 **Meditative Monday Arts Expression**, Elkford Arts Council

- 25 **Peaks & Plates Dinner with Victor Spicer and Three Strings to the Wind**, Elk View Lodge
- 27 **Textile Collective**, The Arts Station
- 28 **Gallery Opening**, The Arts Station

APRIL

- 1 **Griz Kidz Easter Event**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 2 & 5 **Live Music: Kitty & The Rooster in Fernie & Elkford**, homeroutes.ca
- 4 **Live Music & Entertainment: Local Showcase**, The Arts Station
- 13-14 **Fernival! & The Slopesoaker**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 16 **Monthly Poker Tournament**, Fernie Legion
- 24 **Live Music: Wannabe - Spice Girls Tribute**, Northern Bar & Stage
- 29 **Meditative Monday Arts Expression**, Elkford Arts Council

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS:

Writer's Gathering, Bramasole, 5-7pm, every 2nd week

Jam Night, Kodiak Lounge, 9pm

TUESDAYS:

\$8 Movie Night, Vogue Theatre, 7pm

Pool Competition, Fernie Legion, 7pm

Ladies Wine Night & Snowboard Movies, Kodiak Lounge, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAYS:

Wednesday at the Library, 2-5pm

High Flyers Pool Comp, Kodiak Lounge, 7:30pm

Live Music, Bramasole, 8pm

Team Trivia, Fernie Taphouse, 8pm

THURSDAYS:

Team Trivia, The Pub Bar & Grill, 8pm

Karaoke, Kodiak Lounge, 9pm

FRIDAYS:

Meat Draw, The Taphouse, 6:30pm

Live Music/DJ, Kodiak Lounge, 9pm

Alternating Karaoke/Trivia, The Fox Pub, Sparwood, 8pm

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS:

Tours and Tastings, Fernie Distillers, 3pm

SATURDAYS:

Meat Draw & 50/50, Fernie Legion, 4pm

Open Mic Jam, Freshies, 5-7pm

Jam Night, Fernie Taphouse, 9pm

SUNDAYS:

World's Tea Experience, Freshies, 12-3pm

Pool Tournament, The Pub Bar & Grill, 6pm

Bingo Night, Kodiak Lounge, 8pm

Park Place Lodge

Park Place Lodge proudly supports arts and culture in Fernie. Stay with us and enjoy Fernie's Historic Downtown with its unique dining, shops, cafes and attractions.



250-423-6871 | www.parkplacelodge.com | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

COMMUNITY FEATURE

FERNIE PRIDE SOCIETY

In 2016, two events were the catalyst for the formation of the Fernie Pride Society when a local couple hosted a community QBQ (queer BBQ) and the mother of a Trans teen reached out to a queer historian for help in setting up a local Pride organization. The following year, the society hosted the first Elk Valley Pride Festival, an event that continues to be a popular feature each September on the lawns at City Hall.

Over the past seven years, the society has continued to grow, advocating for the local 2SLGBTQ+ community, hosting visiting artists, and offering a variety of inclusive and accessible events to celebrate pride. Throughout the winter, watch for 'Rainbow Connections' social



events and gay ski days, and be ready to cheer and wave your rainbow flags for the Pride float in the Griz Days parade!

Ferniepride.ca



GALLERY & STUDIO LISTINGS

THE ARTS STATION

An active and engaging space for creators and creatives with gallery, theatre, studio and meeting spaces. See feature, P16.

601 1st Ave, Fernie | 250-423-4842
theartsstation.com | See #1 on map on P14



FERNIE MUSEUM GALLERY

Seasonal exhibits in the first floor gallery. Opening December 21: The Beer From The Mountains – The History of Brewing in Fernie. See feature, P31.

491 2nd Ave, Fernie | ferniemuseum.com | See #7 on map on P14



CHAINSAW CARVER

Michael A. Penny's working studio gallery producing finely detailed wood sculptures.

1439 MacDonald Ave/Hwy 3, Fernie | 250-423-0552
fernielogcarver@gmail.com



CLAWHAMMER LETTERPRESS

Contemporary & traditional custom printing, design, and fine art paintings by renowned artist Michael Hepher. By appointment.

Clawhammer.ca | 250 946 6400



ELEMENT JEWELRY CO

Modern, sculptural and understated jewellery created with passion. Specializing in custom wedding rings. By appointment.

3191 Anderson Road, Fernie | 250-430-0700
elementjewelryco.ca



ELEVATION GALLERY

Featuring exciting Canadian artwork including painting, glass and mixed media.

532B 2nd Ave | Elevationfernies.com
See #6 on map on P14



ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO

Collaborative space operated by Elkford Arts Council offering visual art classes and workshops for all ages and abilities. See feature, P15.

816 Michel Road, (2nd floor of Arena) Elkford | 250-433-7007
elkfordartscouncil.blogspot.ca



EYE OF THE NEEDLE & FERNIE FORGE

Artisan gallery & studio featuring Fernie forge metalwork, fibre art, candles, glasswork and felting classes.

260 5th Street, Fernie or 2087 Hwy #3, Fernie
250-423-2671 | fernieforge.ca | See #8 on map on P14



FERNIE ARTS CO-OP

Art by 50+ artists and artisans including textiles, paintings, photography, sculpture and more. See ad, P4.

572 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-7044
fernierartsco-op.com | See #4 on map on P14



H SQUARED GALLERY

An eclectic showcase of Canadian artists, artisans, and makers including visual art, pottery, jewellery, and lighting.

598 2nd Ave, Fernie | 778-519-5100 | Hsquaredgallery.com
See #2 on map on P14



POLAR PEEK BOOKS & TREASURES

Books by local and Canadian authors, local maps & guides, gifts, toys and local, original art & art cards. Open daily.

592 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-3736 | polarpeekbooks.ca
See #3 on map on P25



SARAH PIKE POTTERY

Unique slab-built pots with personality and a little attitude. Home studio & international sales. By appointment.

1480 McDonald Ave, Fernie | sarahpikepottery.com
250-430-7937



STEPHANIE'S GLASS & ART STUDIO

Renowned working staining glass and sandblasting studio. Custom orders, restoration and installations. New home-based location, call for appointments.

250-423-3944 | stephaniesglass.ca



STUDIO 562

Original artwork by Leanne Stothert, Tessa Stanley, Vanessa Croome, Erika Fait and others.

562 2nd Ave, Fernie | leannestothert.com | See #5 on map on P14



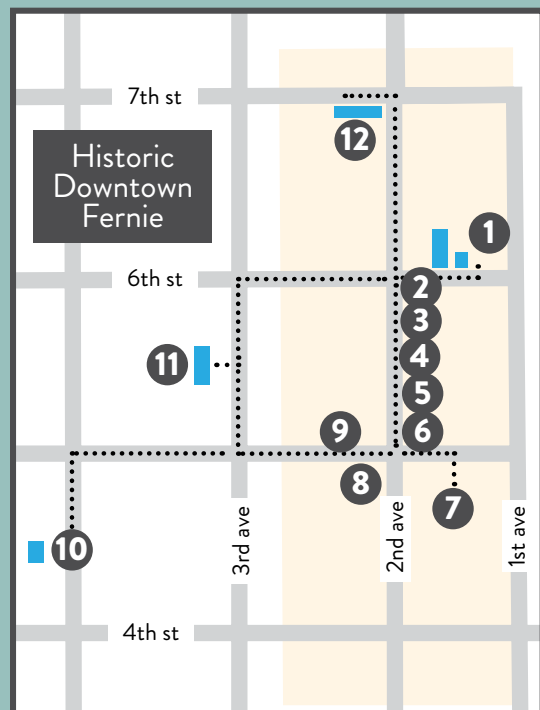


SELF GUIDED TOUR FERNIE ART WALK

Explore Fernie's art installations, galleries and working studios on an art walk through Historic Downtown. Pick up a copy of the new Fernie Art Walk Brochure at Fernie facilities and galleries and discover incredible local and regional art including installations, murals, and showrooms packed with delightful pieces to view and purchase.

Between each location, look up to see the colourful banners of the Fernie Banner Project on light poles, featuring the work of local artists of all ages in a variety of mediums including textiles,

painting, drawing, photography, mixed media, pottery, jewellery, and sculpture. The banners can also be found along Hwy #3 in their second year. The Out of the Box Dumpsters are constantly being replaced and relocated, creating a new visual scavenger hunt every season. New Dumpsters are painted each summer and can be found all over Fernie. For more information about these projects and many more, visit theartsstation.com or scan the Arts Station QR code:



Legend

- 1 The Arts Station, A Hardy Town Sculpture, Grow With The Flow Mural
- 2 hsquared gallery
- 3 Polar Peek Books & Treasures
- 4 Fernie Arts Co-op
- 5 Studio 562
- 6 Elevation Gallery
- 7 Aidan Lindsay Artwork
- 8 Fernie Museum
- 9 Eye of the Needle & Blue Fernie Sculpture
- 10 Fernie Cenotaph
- 11 The Miner's Walk
- 12 All Kinds of Beauty Mural

■ Commissioned Public Art

ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO GET CREATIVE BY NATURE



The Elkford Arts Studio has been proudly promoting arts and culture in the community since 2014. The studio operates through the Elkford Arts Council Society, a registered non-profit, and is run entirely by volunteers. Its mission is to provide the Elk Valley with a range of classes and workshops – suitable for artists of all ages and abilities – including painting, pottery, drawing, glass mosaic, wood burning, wool, charcoal, crochet, felting and more.

ABOUT THE STUDIO

Located on the second floor of the Elkford Recreation Centre, the Elkford Arts Studio is a bright, welcoming, inclusive, and wheelchair-accessible place for users to create and connect. The space hosts year-round classes and workshops with local artists, and it features a full-service pottery studio and ample art supplies for many mediums. Register for upcoming classes and events at elkfordarts.ca.

Drop by the studio on the last Monday of each month from 6:30 to 9pm, for Meditative Mondays. This free, drop-in program for adults and youth (ages 16+) aims to promote mental health and artistic expression. Join in a guided activity or just enjoy the company of others - no membership or artistic experience required.

JOIN THE ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO

Annual memberships are available through the website and cost \$50 for adults and \$35 for youth/seniors. Members receive discounts on most regular programming and direct access to using the studio (a discounted daily drop-in fee applies), and membership fees go directly to supporting the ongoing operations of the studio and EACS.

816B Michel Road

elkfordarts.ca | FB: @elkfordartscouncil

Winter Hours: M – F: 8am – 9pm

Weekends: 8am – 4pm

Closed Statutory Holidays





ARTS & CULTURAL HUB THE ARTS STATION

A vibrant and engaging space for the creative community in Fernie featuring all disciplines of the arts for visitors and locals alike. The Arts Station has a varied program of entertainment and activities throughout the year including live concerts, film screenings, pottery workshops, community theatre, gallery shows, and creative classes for all ages.

LIVING HISTORY IN A HERITAGE BUILDING

From 1898 to 1964, the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) station was the economic and social hub of the community. The current station building was completed in the spring of 1909 after an earlier incarnation burned down in the Great Fire of 1908. The CPR donated the disused building to the City of Fernie and in 1987 the Fernie Arts Council began the four-year process of moving the building onto a new foundation and completely renovating the dilapidated structure. The former waiting room became the foyer gallery and every other space found new life as studios, event space, and even a restaurant. The Arts Station opened in 1990 as an indispensable base for artists in the Elk Valley.

The Arts Station has been a hub for local artists to gather and share all forms of artistic expression for 30 years and is home to many guilds. The Arts Station



produces the Fernie Banner Project and Dumpster Project each year. Outside, discover 'A Hardy Town' – a sculpture by local artist Michael Hephner and Kootenay metalworker Paul Reimer, commemorating the 1908 Great Fire. Next to the sculpture is 'Grow With The Flow' by Tara Higgins and Becca Davies, celebrating Fernie's active lifestyle and love of music.



THIS WINTER AT THE ARTS STATION

The Arts Station offers a packed program of entertainment, exhibits, workshops and presentations throughout the year. See calendars for details of activities, drop-in sessions and visiting musicians.

COMING UP THIS SEASON:

Monthly events include **Life Drawing**, an opportunity to study the human form with a nude model. **Cleansing Art Sessions** are an expressive art experience led by the Elk Valley Suicide Task Force. Laugh, connect and let your imagination guide you in mark making. Not a therapy session, these gatherings focus on building connections and offering a welcoming space. Registration is required as spaces are limited. Each month features a theme, see calendar for details. Weekend Workshops explore a range of subjects including textiles, surface design and more.

Regular **screenings of popular operas** continue in 2024 on the first Friday of each month, beginning with Puccini's *Tosca* on January 5. Admission by donation.

The Pottery Studio is a hub of activity at the station. Activities include skill building workshops, Wine & Wheel social evenings, Meet the Wheel introductory sessions, Sculpture workshops, multi-day intensives and exhibits.

Discover local art with a new shows in the foyer gallery. Opening night includes a social event with cash bar and complimentary nibbles, and a chance to meet the artists.

OPENING IN THE GALLERY THIS WINTER:

December 2: **Artisan Fair and More Than a Mug Show**

January: **#FernieArtStreak**, featuring new artwork each day

February 1: **Fernie Art Streak Celebration & Show**

February 29: **Jolene Miner – Appleskins** – see feature, P23

March 8: **International Women's Day Pop Up Exhibit**

The Arts Station welcomes **Kentucky Eileen** on December 10 for a special Yuletide Holiday Show and don't miss the new monthly entertainment series: **Spotlight**, starting on January 4th!



6011st Ave | 250-423-4842
theartsstation.com



LITERARY FEATURE

FERNIE BOOK REVIEW



Over 100 books have been written about the Elk Valley, or by local authors.

From the days of the earliest settlers and trappers, this corner of the Canadian Rocky Mountains has captivated and inspired visitors to write about their travels. 'Camp Fires in the Canadian Rockies,' first published in 1906, is a delightful tome that tells of the hunting tours of New York Zoological Park Director, William T. Hornaday who writes; "...in the valley of the Elk River we found so much of interest it is impossible to ignore this gateway to our garden of the gods.'

Historical texts and photo journals have recorded Fernie's history over the years. Some, like Sandra Semchuk's 'The Stories Were Not Told,' about Canada's First World War internment camps or Clara Graham's 'This Was the Kootenay,' about the relationships between settlers and indigenous people, maintain a factual and heartfelt tone, while others are more irreverent. Sydney Hutcheson, a political activist and sharp storyteller, offers an insight into the lives of the folk on

whose back Fernie was built in his books: Depression Stories, The Curse, and The Well'a Board.

Today, the spirit of storytelling continues. Local historian Gordon Sombrowski has published two books on life in Fernie through the 20th century, weaving together his own recollections, historical details, and creative license. The tales begin with 'What Echo Heard' and continue with 'What Narcissus Saw.' Writer and teacher, Angie Abdou, has published four novels, two memoirs, a book of short stories, and several books of essays and conversations. Her character-driven work reflects life's challenges in at-times poignant and often confronting style.

For a taste of the writer's life, drop by Bramasole for a Writer's Gathering every second Monday, and watch for Booked! events at the Fernie Heritage Library. Browse the collections of local books at the Library, Polar Peek Books & Treasures, and Fernie Museum Gift Shop.

FEATURED ARTIST DIPPER CERAMICS



Dannika Spady is originally from Calgary. She named her pottery company after scenic Dipper Lake near Kimberley, where she lived prior to moving to Sparwood recently with husband, David.

As a young artist, Spady began her journey in ceramics in Cochrane in grade 8, later going on to assist and teach at the same studio from 2012 and selling at Christmas markets in Cochrane. She completed a history degree but always kept her pottery wheel with her and took a ceramics course where she developed her classic potheads series. These early works have evolved into highly decorative functional vessels featuring delicate floral accents.

In Sparwood, the artist has found a home at Moonlight Flowers, where she offers small pottery classes in hand building and wheel throwing. With her own kiln on-site, she finishes each piece in house and works on her own retail line which is available at the store. Her pieces are also available in Kimberley and online to an international market.

Spady's work focuses on organic forms and whimsical presentations, using plaster molds and a variety of pressing



techniques to create realistic floral arrangements. She has developed a line of small mushrooms and vulva mugs, which have become popular gifts and souvenirs. In the summer the artist also manages the Sparwood Friday evening Markets and is currently studying for a second degree in teaching.

As a former city kid, Spady was pleasantly surprised at how easily she fell in love with the mountains and with snowboarding, which she has taken to as a new passion after only a few daytrips as a child. She lives in Sparwood with her husband and their cat, Margo, and Great Dane called Mouse.

dipperceramics.com

 @dipperceramics

FRESHIES CAFÉ

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www.freshiesfernie.com

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- House daily baked pastries
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- Tuesdays bake sale!

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7:30 am to 7:00 pm on Saturday



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CULINARY FEATURE VICTOR SPICER



A love of cooking took Executive Chef Victor Spicer from his hometown of Calgary around the world. Along with stops in the culinary hotspots of Japan, Thailand, and France, he spent 2 years working his way across Australia, gathering experience in a variety of locations from backcountry horseback camps to 3 hat restaurants and building on his qualification as a Red Seal Chef and three-year culinary graduate from SAIT.



In Australia Spicer took up snowboarding, which led him to Fernie on his return to Canada. At Fernie Alpine Resort he took up the position of Executive Chef at Cirque Restaurant at Lizard Creek Lodge. He also developed and manages the resort's catering department which operates large events throughout the year including weddings, receptions, and special dinners at several locations on the mountain. The connection that food brings with small groups around a shared table and a passion for local produce led Spicer to start Elk Valley Catering with his wife, Karlea. They offer private dinners and special events at vacation homes in Fernie including Fernie Mountain House and The Matterhorn.

with Elk View Lodge called Peaks and Plates, a monthly series of dinners featuring a three-course menu carefully crafted from the best local ingredients and paired with fine BC wines. The evening will begin with a welcome drink and small bites, and live music featuring local musicians including Fernie's own Naena Robinson and Kootenay string quartet, Three Strings to the Wind. Designed for a maximum of 25 guests, the meal will be served long table style for an engaging evening of conversation and culinary delights. Contact Elk View Lodge to book. \$150 per person, per night.

Beginning in January, Elk Valley Catering will begin a new collaboration

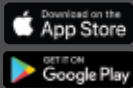
Elkvalleycatering.com

f elkvalleycatering



Explore Fernie's self-guided tours with the new mobile app!

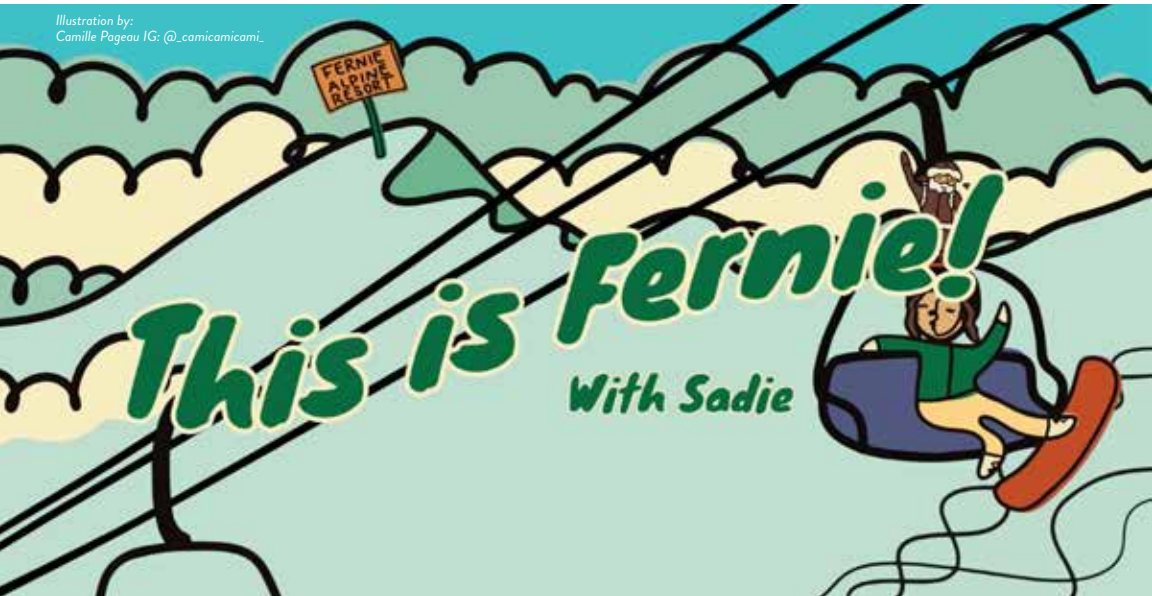
Download the FREE Iconic Fernie App.



Choose to collect points for free and redeem points for local rewards.

iconicfernie.com

Illustration by: Camille Pageau IG: @camiticami



ONLINE VIDEO SERIES

Launched in November 2022 by Tourism Fernie, this online video series is hosted by Sadie Rosgen and features great insights and stories including Fernie's incredible music scene, artisan bakeries, community culture, cool characters, and much more. Check out episode 4 for sneak peek at Fernie's Griz Days – our annual winter festival packed with legends, unique activities, entertainment, and of course The Griz, Fernie's winter mascot. See all the episodes at Thisisfernie.com



FEATURED ARTIST
JOLENE MINER

Multimedia artist Jolene Miner has felt embraced and encouraged by the local Arts community since moving to Fernie in 2019. She earned her BFA from the University of Saskatchewan in 2000 and now finds inspiration in the diverse landscapes and dramatic colour changes that we enjoy in the Elk Valley all year round. Miner began her art practice with painting and drawing, but always felt drawn to collage. A sense of wonder that she has held from childhood led her to the expressive nature of paper and found objects, embracing an artistic technique known as 'touch of the hand' where evidence of the artist's individuality and expression are welcome.

Through the use of juicy colours, simple lines, and layering, she builds engaging landscapes that capture her spirit of creativity. Always eager to learn and evolve, she has recently begun working on wood bases and adding jewel-like wax finishes. Her style is intuitive, laying down individual pieces until the picture emerges, only gluing the work down in the final stages. For a more structured approach, she turns to bookbinding. This ancient artform necessarily has more parameters but by adding embellishments and unique stitching, a variety of effects can be achieved.



The artist has led workshops at The Arts Station in Fernie and has work on display and for sale at the Fernie Arts Co-op and at Art Gallery Kimberley, where she will be featured in the Art Market until December 24. Opening February 29 at The Arts Station, Appleskins is a collection of new paintings. The artist followed a spontaneous approach with no limitations or objectives, allowing the pieces to emerge through repeating shapes, figurative references, and the occasional use of mixed media. See the show in the gallery through March. Jolene Miner lives in Fernie with husband, Jared, and their two Australian Labradoodles, Jake and Mabel, who are her favourite studio companions.

@joleneminerart

THE CREATION OF THE KTUNAXA HOMELANDS

Čaqahak (Fernie) is in Qukin ʔamakʔis, Land of the Raven

The Ktunaxa (pronounced “k-too-nah-ha”) people have occupied the lands around the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers for thousands of years.

The Ktunaxa enjoyed the natural bounty of the Kootenay region (Ktunaxa ʔamakʔis), seasonally migrating throughout their homelands hunting and gathering, and using the prairie extensively in the summer to graze large herds.

The Elk Valley area was the primary home of the easternmost branch of the Ktunaxa people, and includes the area now known as Tobacco Plains to the southwest of Fernie. The Michel Prairie people used the area near Sparwood to plant tobacco. Their Ktunaxa name is ‘kʔaqawakanmituqnik’ and means “river running into and out again” (the Michel Creek into the Elk River).

The Ktunaxa origin story speaks of a time, before the people, when animals populated the world. At that time there was a disturbance caused by a huge water monster known as Yawuʔniĕ, who killed many of the animals. It was decided by the animals that Yawuʔniĕ had to be destroyed. A war party was formed by the chief animal, Naʔmuqč̣in. Yawuʔniĕ was quick to descend on the Kootenay (wu-u ʔaqʔmaknik ʔakinmituk) and Columbia (Mič̣qaqas) river system and the other animals gave chase.

Eventually Yawuʔniĕ was caught, killed, butchered and distributed among the animals. Yawuʔniĕ’s ribs were scattered throughout the region that now form the Hoodoos seen throughout the region.

In all the excitement Naʔmuqč̣in rose to his feet and stood upright hitting his head on the ceiling of the sky. He knocked himself dead. His body forms the Rocky Mountains. When the prophecy was fulfilled the spirit animals ascended above and are now the guiding spirits of the Ktunaxa. The Ktunaxa people have been in this area since Naʔmuqč̣in fulfilled his prophecy and placed the Ktunaxa people in this area to be the keepers of the land.

FIND OUT MORE:

ktunaxa.org/who-we-are/creation-story/

youtube.com/watch?v=VKaIM_zvC0&t=1s

Waterways: youtube.com/watch?v=UUrCg9jRAB4&t=14s

Hoodoos: youtube.com/watch?v=Sez2akRuVCc



HERITAGE FEATURE

THE HISTORY OF FERNIE’S HOSPITAL

Fernie was booming at the turn of the last century. The active mining, logging, and construction trades along with the everyday challenges of mountain life made adequate healthcare a high priority. Dr. S. Corsan saw this need and replaced the insufficient hospital on Baker (1st) Ave with a new one on Victoria (2nd) Avenue, along with a home for nurses on his property. Soon afterwards, he joined forces with Dr. Bonnell to build a new hospital on McEvoy (8th) Street at Pellatt (3rd) Avenue, which burned down in the Great Fire of 1908.

The doctors immediately rebuilt the hospital with 25 beds at a cost of \$20,000, opening in 1909, along with a new home for single nurses across the street. Miners paid \$1 per month in an early form of healthcare premiums. In 1924, this hospital was forced to close due to financial difficulty. Services were temporarily provided at the Nurses’ Home, but the community quickly came together to formulate a plan to re-open the Hospital in 1925. Following the Second World War, plans were put in place for a new hospital, to be Fernie’s war memorial. The 43-bed Fernie Memorial Hospital opened on

Remembrance Day, November 11, 1949, on Dalton (6th) Avenue on the site of the current Park Place Lodge.

By the 1960s, capacity was once again at a maximum due to industrial expansion at the nearby mines and the community needed a large, modern hospital to accommodate projected population growth. Plans were slow to come to fruition, with the Minister of Health finally giving approval in principle for a 60-bed facility in 1967, and the Elk Valley Hospital formally opening on June 22, 1974. All of the former hospitals have been demolished and replaced with new structures, but the Old Nurse’s Residence still stands and is now available for short term rentals.



CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

ALL KINDS OF BEAUTY MURAL

A mural by Michael Hepher reflecting the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of Fernie.

Corner of 2nd Ave & 7th St. | See #12 on map on P14



BEANPOD CHOCOLATE, COFFEE & GELATO

Artisan producers of chocolate, coffee, gelato and handcrafted truffles using traditional methods and equipment.

691 2nd Ave, Fernie | beanpod.ca | 778-519-5008



ELKFORD VISITOR CENTRE

Local information and maps, Elkford Living History interpretive displays and art glass installation by Katherine Russell.

750 Fording Drive, Elkford | 250-865-4015 | www.elkford.ca



FERNIE BREWING COMPANY

Expanded tasting room with 11 core brands & seasonal products. Branded merchandise, gifts & growlers.

26 Manitou Road, Fernie | ferniebrewing.com | 250-423-7797



FERNIE CITY HALL & MINER'S WALK

Interactive interpretive panels, local Fernie Forge sculpture, and The Face of the Miner sculpture.

501 3rd Ave, Fernie | fernie.ca
See #11 on P14 / #9 on P32



FERNIE COURT HOUSE & CENOTAPH

Award-winning 1909 chateau-style building. Visitors welcome in grounds and grand entrance.

401 4th Ave, Fernie | tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/court-house. See #10 on P14 / #7 on P32



FERNIE DISTILLERS

Handcrafted artisan spirits and liqueurs featuring local produce. Small batch distillery, tasting room and cocktails.

531 1st Ave, Fernie | www.ferniedistillers.com



FERNIE MUSEUM

Permanent & temporary displays, gift shop, special events, interpretive walks and local information. See feature, P31.

491 2nd Ave, Fernie | ferniemuseum.com
250-423-7016



FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY

3 floors of literature and reference materials plus regular events & programming.

492 3rd Ave, Fernie | fernie.bclibrary.ca | 250-423-4458
See #10 on map on P32



FERNIE VISITOR CENTRE & OIL DERRICK

Traveller information and displays, picnic area and Fairy Creek Falls trailhead. Last Standing wooden oil derrick in BC.

102 Commerce Road/Hwy 3, east side of Fernie
tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/oil-derrick



MONTANE BARN

Fernie's historic barn is home to miniature ponies, fainting goats and heritage chickens. Visitors welcome.

Montane Parkway | Montanefernie.ca



SPARWOOD MUSEUM

Preserving and sharing the histories of Sparwood, Corbin, Michel, Middletown and Natal. See feature, P28.

141b Aspen Drive | Sparwoodmuseum.ca | 250-425-0560



SPARWOOD VISITOR CENTRE & TEREX TITAN

Traveler information, interpretive displays and the 1974 Terex Titan measuring 350 tonnes and 66ft long!

141 Aspen Drive, Sparwood | 250-425-2423



THE ARTS STATION, SCULPTURE & MURAL

A creative space offering workshops, exhibits and entertainment for all ages. Home of A Hardy Town Sculpture and Grow With The Flow Mural. See feature on P16.

601 1st Ave, Fernie | theartsstation.com | 250-423-4842

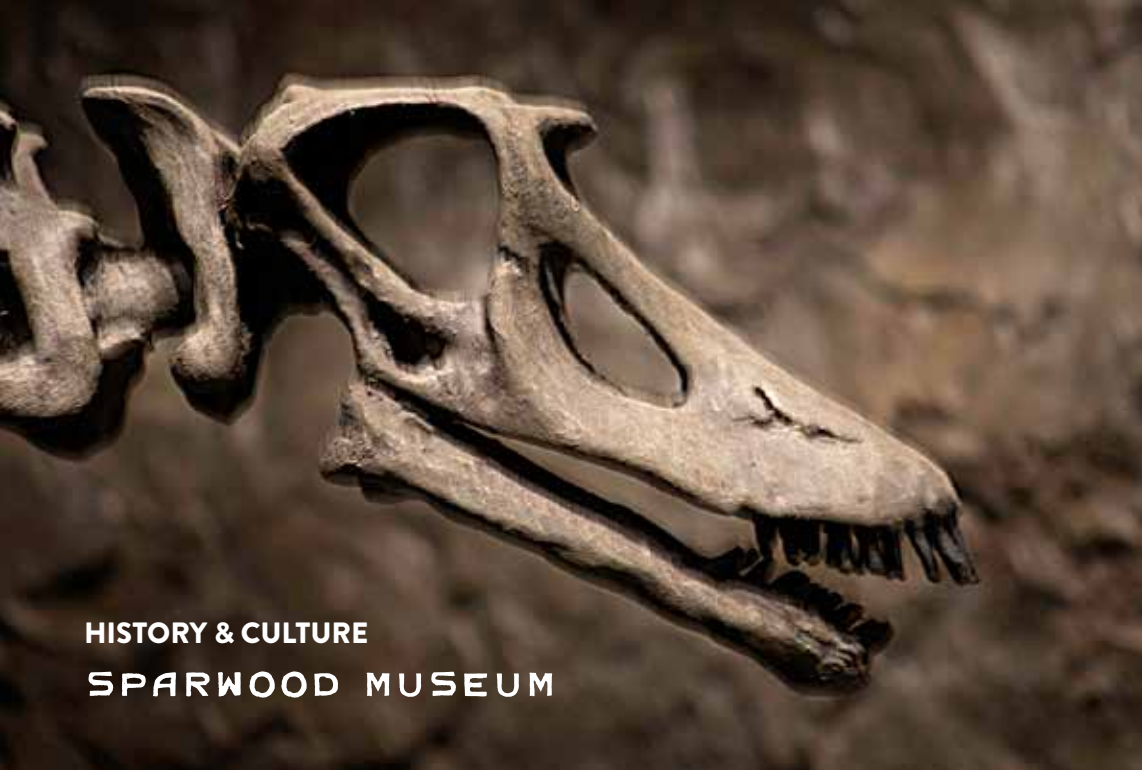


THE VOGUE THEATRE

Classical-style independent theatre featuring the latest 2D & 3D screenings, vintage movies and more. Full concession and private arcade rentals.

321 2nd Ave, Fernie | ferniemovies.com | 250-423-7111
See #4 on map on P32





HISTORY & CULTURE
SPARWOOD MUSEUM

Our story began 140 million years ago

NEW TECK DISCOVERY ROOM NOW OPEN!

140 million years ago, long necked herbivorous dinosaurs walked along the shores of an ancient lake in what is now the southeast region of British Columbia. Following this herd of gentle giants, was a pack of large predatory dinosaurs. Like lions following wildebeest across the plains, the dinosaurs waited for an opportunity to feed on the weak, old and injured in the herd.

Fast forward to today and this lakeshore is now a mountaintop region near Sparwood known as Line Creek. Amazingly, the ancient tracks from this drama were perfectly preserved and were recently uncovered during exploratory activities. Follow the trail for yourself in the Sparwood Museum's fascinating new permanent Jurassic Exhibit.



The Natal Sparwood Heritage Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing the histories of Sparwood, Corbin, Michel, Middletown and Natal. The geology of the Elk Valley has provided a rich income for settlers for over 120 years. Local mining activity is now centred around Sparwood and the Sparwood Museum tells the story of how this industry has evolved and shaped the community.

141b Aspen Drive | 250-423-0560 **f**
Sparwoodmuseum.ca

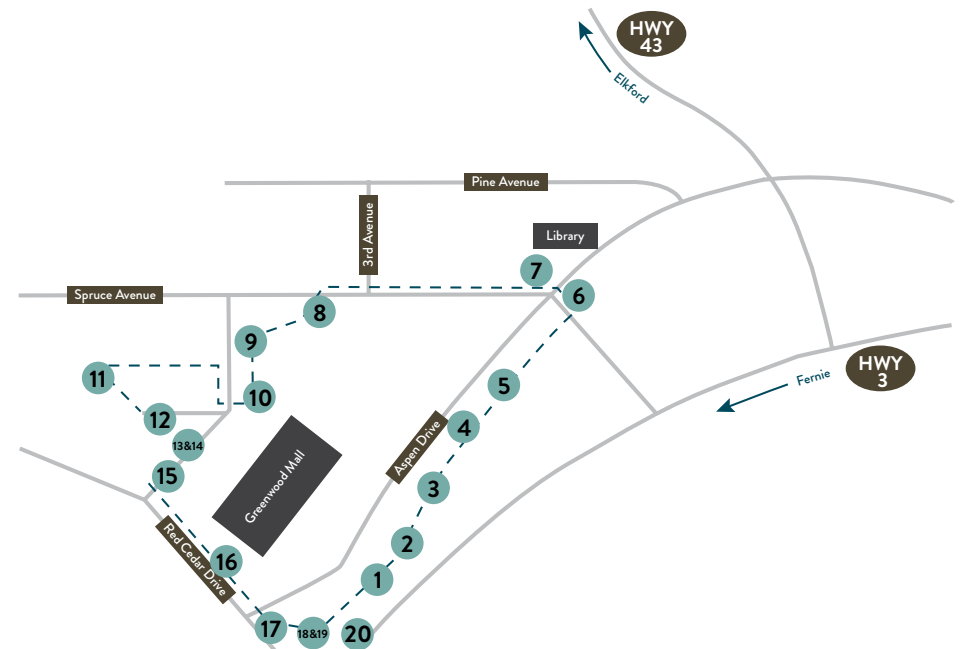
Winter/Spring Hours until May 19, 2024
Tue – Fri, 10am – 4pm
Sat & Sun, 10am – 2pm

HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE
SPARWOOD MURAL AND MINE
ARTIFACTS WALKING TOUR

The story of coal mining in Sparwood spans over a century, from the first underground mines at nearby Michel in 1899 to some of the most productive open pit mines in the world. In the 1960s, the original town sites of Michel and Natal were relocated to Sparwood. Over the years, coal extraction methods have evolved from picks and ponies to the massive electric shovels and 240-ton haul trucks of modern surface mining. The objects along the walking tour bear witness to the evolution of Elk Valley coal mining from the early 1940s through to the 1980s.

Start this easy self-guided walking tour from the Sparwood Visitor Centre. Tour walking time approximately 60 minutes.

Find more information and insights by downloading the new Sparwood Walking Tour App from OnThisSpot.



- 1 1973 TEREX TITAN TRUCK
- 2 BALMER NORTH STATUE
- 3 - 9 MINING ARTIFACTS
- 10 MURAL: SEATED MINERS, 1989, DAN SAWATSKY
- 11 MURAL: TRACK TEAM, 1995
MURAL: THE WAR MEMORIAL, 1997
- 12 MINING ARTIFACTS
- 13 14 MURAL: STEAM ENGINE, 1995
- 15 COKE OVENS, 1989, BY DAN SAWATSKY
- 16 SPARWOOD COMMUNITY ARCH AND TRAIN
- 17 SPARWOOD MUSEUM
- 18 19 GOODMAN ARTIFACT
- 20 NATAL HERITAGE SIGNS

BRAMASOLE
RESTAURANT & WINE BAR

851 7TH AVENUE | 250-430-0526 | CALL FOR RESERVATIONS | WWW.BRAMASOLE.CA



**HISTORY & CULTURE
FERNIE MUSEUM**

130 YEARS OF FERNIE HISTORY

Celebrating 10 years in the historic former Home Bank on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 5th Street in 2023. The Museum features two floors of exhibit space, a gift shop and visitor information area.

**TRITES AND WOOD MUSEUM
GIFT SHOP**

The museum gift shop features a curated collection of items inspired directly by the museum's collection, and life in Fernie. Products include a range of books featuring local and Canadian history, and Fernie & area -inspired items and local artwork including local weaving and textiles from master spinner Gayle Vallance, magnets and ornaments from Wild Wolves Designs, art cards by Melanie MacVoy and paintings and prints by local artist and printmaker, Michael Hepher.

MAIN FLOOR EXHIBIT

This Is Our Fernie explores the legends and mythology, fires and mining disasters, and stories of the commercial, sporting, and community life over

the past 100+ years. Information is presented through a series of engaging displays including a timeline, artifact collections, and digital kiosks. Kids love exploring the 'see and feel' identification boxes and working century-old cash register and discovery drawers.

PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

Opening in the gallery on December 21: *The Beer From The Mountains – The History of Brewing in Fernie*. Watch the Fernie Museum's Cabinet of Curiosities series on Youtube for fascinating insights from Museum interpreter, Lindsay Vallance.

491 2nd Ave | 250-423-7016
Ferniemuseum.com
Open Daily 11am – 4pm
Closed Dec 25 & 26 & Jan 1



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HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

A DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR OF FERNIE



Deep gold and rose-tinted brick and sandstone buildings line Fernie's Historic Downtown. Take this tour to visit Fernie's most iconic buildings featuring a variety of architectural styles. Watch for ghost signs hinting at Fernie's community heritage. After the tour, find more history at the Fernie Oil Derrick, Montane Barn, or Hosmer Mine. **Accessible, paved side walks | Approx. 1 – 2 hours**



1. THE HOME BANK | 491 2nd Avenue
Now in use as The Fernie Museum

2. HOW FOON'S LAUNDRY
491 1st Avenue | Now in use as Fernie Elks Lodge

3. THE IMPERIAL BANK | 401 2nd Avenue
Now in use as The Brickhouse Bar & Grill

4. CROW'S NEST HOTEL & THE MINER'S HALL | 301 & 321 2nd Ave | Now in use as The Central Bar & Himalayan Spice Bistro, and The Vogue Theatre

5. KNOX UNITED CHURCH | 201 2nd Ave
fernieheritagetrust.ca
Now in use as a community performing arts space

6. UKRAINIAN INTERNMENT MEMORIAL Elk River – Dogwood Park | Unveiled 2005

7. THE COURT HOUSE
401 4th Avenue | Now in use as Fernie's Government of BC Offices

8. HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
521 4th Avenue

9. CROW'S NEST PASS COAL CO.
501 3rd Ave. | Now in use as City Hall

10. FERNIE POST OFFICE & CUSTOMS OFFICE | 492 3rd Avenue
Now in use as the Fernie Heritage Library

11. SALVATION ARMY | 260 5th Street
Now in use as Eye of the Needle Studio

12. ISIS THEATRE
531 2nd Avenue | Now in use as Nevados

13. NURSE'S HOME & FERNIE HOSPITAL
802 3rd Ave & 802 4th Ave | Nurse's Home now in use as short term rentals, hospital replaced with private residences

14. FERNIE SECONDARY SCHOOL
901 2nd Ave | Now in use as 901 Fernie & Spa 901

15. FERNIE CARTAGE COMPANY
701 2nd Avenue | Now in use as Urban Settler and private residences

16. CPR STATION
601 1st Avenue | Now in use as The Arts Station

Additional NEW locations; pick up a new walking tour brochure from the Fernie Museum for more details.



#4 CROW'S NEST HOTEL & THE MINER'S HALL

The 'workingman's' hotel first opened on this site in 1901. The current building replaced it in 1909 after the great fire, as The Central Hotel. The Vogue Theatre was previously the Miner's Hall, built in 1909 on a vacant lot purchased in 1904. Later renamed as The Grand, it became the Vogue Theatre in 1947.



#5 KNOX UNITED CHURCH

A wooden church was built on this site in 1898 and replaced with this church in 1910, following the great fire. The Methodist and Presbyterian congregations worshipped together and supported the formation of the United Church of Canada. Following a short period of shared ministry with Christ Church Anglican, the building was sold to the Fernie Heritage Trust Society in 2022. The property is now in use as a performing arts venue and the society is actively working to renovate the interior space and improve access.



#6 UKRAINIAN INTERNMENT MEMORIAL

During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920, thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans were imprisoned as 'enemy aliens.' The Fernie Internment camp was initially set up near this site in the ice rink and later moved to a vacant hotel in Morrissey. This memorial stone was installed in 2005.



#13 THE NURSE'S HOME AND FERNIE HOSPITAL

Doctors Corsan and Bonnell built a hospital here shortly before the great fire of 1908. After it burned down, they replaced it with a new 25-bed hospital on the same location. The hospital was later moved to 6th Avenue, and then 5th avenue, and this site was redeveloped for residential housing. The Nurse's Home was located across the street; the property still stands today and became a B&B in 1993. See feature, P25.



CLOSING WEEKEND AT FERNIE ALPINE RESORT | APRIL 13-14, 2024

FERNIVAL is Fernie's biggest free live concert featuring legends of Canadian rock music and local talent over two days. The SLOPESOAKER rounds out the weekend and closes the winter season with a huge splash down and tons of fun for participants and spectators alike.

SPRING CRAFT FAIR FERNIE COMMUNITY CENTRE MAY 11, 2024

Celebrate Mom at the Spring Craft Fair with seasonal produce and creative local artwork, jewellery, woodcrafts, leatherwork, textiles and more!

COAL MINER DAYS, SPARWOOD, & WILDCAT DAYS, ELKFORD JUNE, 2024

Celebrate the Valley's mining heritage and community with two weekends of kid's activities, parades, live entertainment, food, fun and games for the whole family to enjoy.

THE WEDNESDAY CONCERT SERIES AT STATION SQUARE, FERNIE | WEDNESDAYS IN JULY & AUGUST, 2024

Enjoy the festival-like atmosphere at the Arts Station with live music, food vendors, activities for kids, beverage gardens, and food vendors in the early evening sunshine.

WAPITI MUSIC FESTIVAL IN ANNEX PARK, FERNIE | AUGUST 2024

A stellar lineup of Canadian Indie musicians will sing to the mountains to celebrate Fernie's annual music festival. Kid's activities, beverage gardens, food & merch vendors and art installations will have you loving life in Fernie.

THE SHOW N' SHINE | FERNIE CITY HALL | AUGUST 2024

A full block of classic cars to inspect and enjoy. A fun opportunity for local and visiting car enthusiasts to meet and share car yarns.



Stop by the **Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie** Visitor Centres to learn more about these areas!

Elkford, Fernie, and Sparwood Visitor Information Centres (VIC) are part of the BC Visitor Centre Network.

Visitor Counsellors are ready to tell you about the local must-sees, where to stay, where to eat, where to ski, where to sled, what to try and more. Stop by any one of the three Elk Valley Visitor Centres for personalized assistance.



ELKFORD VIC

PH: 250-865-4015
750 Fording Drive

HOURS:

Winter: Open Mon - Sat, 9am - 5pm.
Closed Stat Holidays



SPARWOOD VIC

PH: 250-425-2423
141 Aspen Drive

HOURS:

Winter: Open Mon - Fri, 9am - 4pm.
Closed Stat Holidays.



FERNIE VIC

PH: 778-519-0748
102 Commerce Road

HOURS:

Winter: Open Mon - Sat, 9am - 5pm.
Closed Stat Holidays.



THE FERNIE OIL DERRICK

The last standing wooden oil derrick in BC towers over the Visitor Information Centre at the east entrance to Fernie. The metal components came from Akamina #1, the first oil well drilled in BC in 1907 by the Royal Canadian Oil Company, and later used for Akamina #2. They were salvaged and used for the reconstructed derrick built on this site in 1984.

