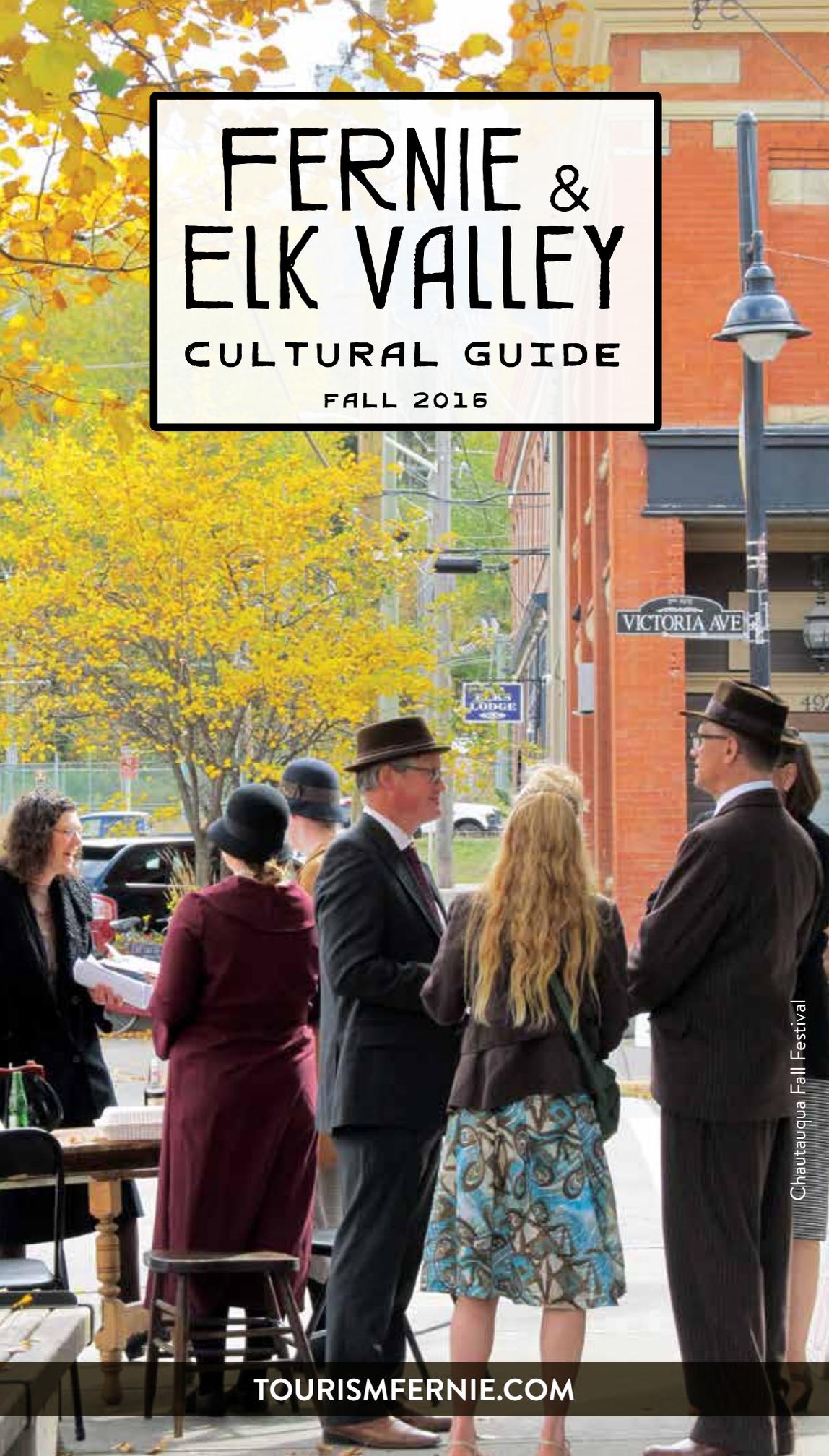


# FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE

FALL 2016



Chautauqua Fall Festival

[TOURISMFERNIE.COM](http://TOURISMFERNIE.COM)

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

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## 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 3 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: 4,811 with a further 2,000 rural residents | 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, some by Michelle Loughery who was born in the area and went on to become a world-renowned muralist.

Pop 4,200 | Founded 1966 - Celebrating 50 years in 2016

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 2,500 | Founded 1971

## RAILWAYS AND THE MORRISSEY TUNNEL

The Canadian Pacific Railway arrived in the valley in 1898 with The Great Northern Railway following shortly after in 1904. The local Morrissey, Fernie, and Michel Railway brought coal to the main lines and goods to the remote communities of Morrissey, Coal Creek and Corbin. The G.N.R. lines followed much of what is now Hwy #3, passing through the iconic Morrissey Tunnel, while the C.P.R lines remain in use today as a freight route.

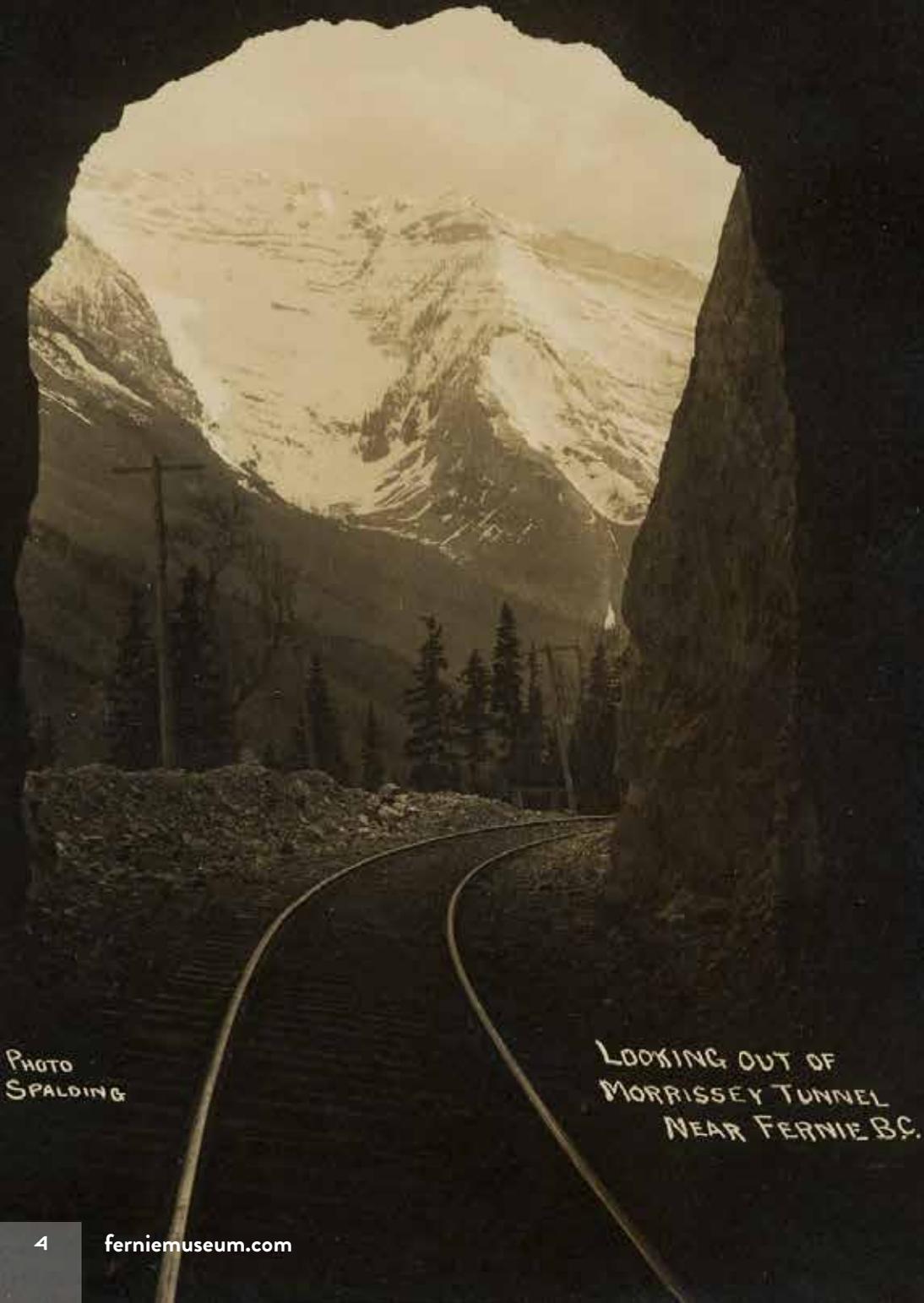


PHOTO  
SPALDING

LOOKING OUT OF  
MORRISSEY TUNNEL  
NEAR FERNIE B.C.



Eric Viklund Photo

Colonel James Baker, a Cranbrook landowner, and William Fernie, a former gold commissioner, formed the Crow's Nest Coal Company to develop the coal fields of the Elk Valley. William Van Horne, recognizing coal's potential to drive industrial development and fuel a booming domestic market, lobbied the Canadian government for a subsidy. The Crowsnest line was built in 1898, bringing railroad service to Fernie and a way to bring coal to market for coal companies all along the line.

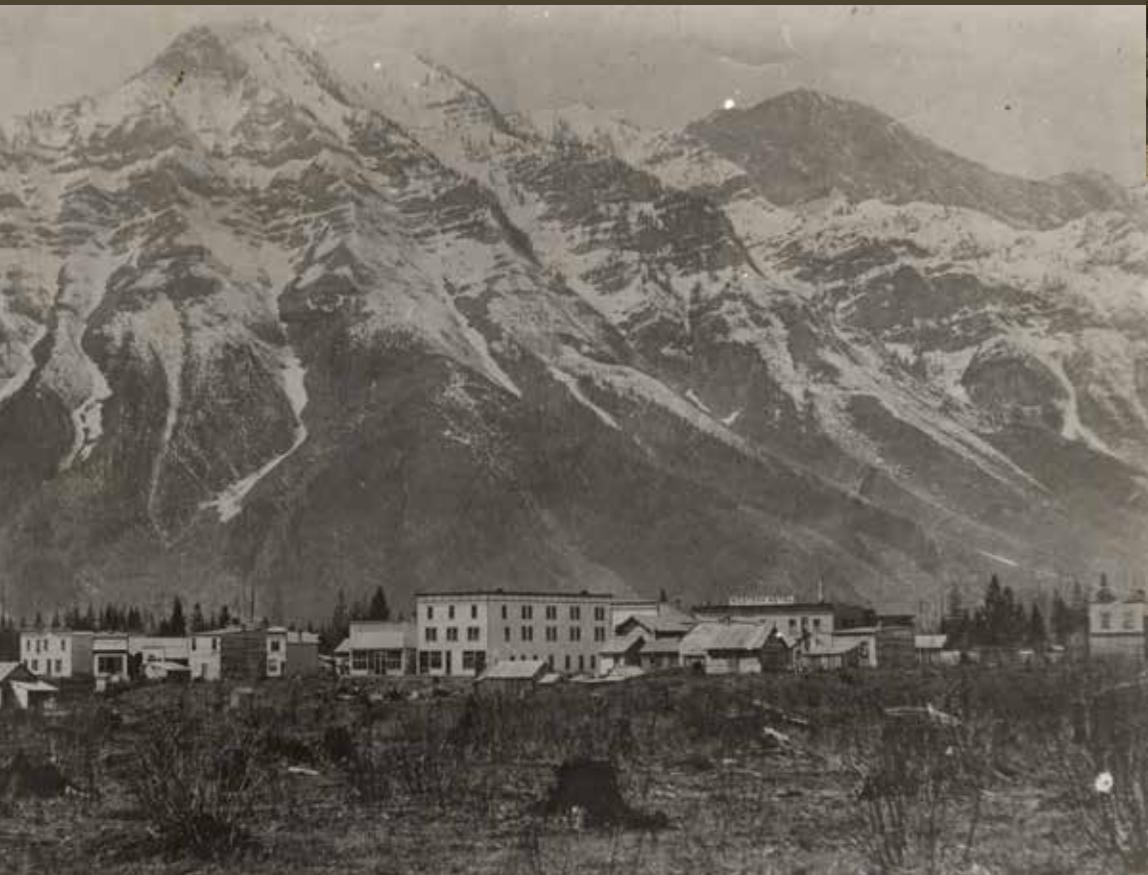
James J. Hill, the baron of the Great Northern Railway brought his railway from Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, to the Kootenay region in 1901. By 1903 the line reached Fernie and service into Fernie commenced December 15, 1904. From 1905 to 1920, the majority of the Elk Valley's coal was transported over the G.N.R. route. The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's leasing, expansion, and subsequent purchase of the Morrissey-Fernie-Michel line in 1907, allowed almost unfettered control of the region's coal fields to the coal company and the G.N.R.

The G.N.R. line slowly became unprofitable. By 1936 the line was abandoned and the rails were lifted in 1938. The Great Northern station, built

where the Park Place Lodge is located today, was abandoned. The Morrissey Tunnel is one of the last remaining reminders of the Great Northern's foray into the region. Passenger service on the C.P.R route to Fernie stopped in 1964. The C.P.R. train station building in Fernie, one of the last surviving on the Crowsnest route, was repurposed in 1990 and now serves as the Fernie Arts Station.

The Morrissey Tunnel, a landmark between Morrissey and Elko, was blasted through a band of tilted limestone around 1903 for the Great Northern Railway. A pullout on the eastern approach features interpretive panels and views of the Elk River. Bare limestone rock faces offer a dramatic contrast to the alternating sandstone layers harbouring dense forest above and valuable mineral deposits, including coal, in the shale layers below. In the valley alongside the tunnel lies the last stretch of the Elk River suitable for fly fishing. Just a few kilometres downstream, the river drops over the Elko Dam and into the Elk Canyon, turning it into a hotspot for whitewater enthusiasts. It is the lime mud, or marl, that causes the striking emerald green tones of the river.

## BOOM AND BUST: GHOST TOWNS OF THE ELK VALLEY



The early coal mining communities in the Elk Valley were boom towns which rose almost overnight. Built within a short distance of new mines, these communities promised a better life for thousands of immigrants that came to the region. The communities of Coal Creek and Michel-Natal, where the coal seams were lucrative, survived for over 50 years. Others popped up and then disappeared just as quickly when the mines were not as profitable as owners had hoped.

### COAL CREEK

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company brought in 20 miners from Cape Breton to work its first mine at Coal Creek, which was established in 1897. By 1905 the townsite became home to 1,000 residents. On May 22, 1902, an explosion in a mine left 128 dead in one of Canada's the worst mining

disasters. The mine was closed in 1958 and the townsite was dismantled. During those 60 years, the Coal Creek mine produced 20 million short tons of coal. By contrast, today's open pit mines produce 25 million metric tons per year. Very little remains of the townsite or the mine.



## MICHEL-MIDDLETOWN-NATAL

Michel was founded in 1897 and named after Chief Michel of the Ktunaxa Nation. By 1907, the settlement had spread up the valley and the village of Natal (known initially as New Michel) was established. Over time, Michel and Natal were joined by other neighbourhood communities – Middletown, Little Chicago, “Up the Valley” (the Elk Valley) and later, Sparwood. In the end it was the provincial government’s desire to beautify the southeastern entrance to British Columbia that doomed Michel and Natal. An urban renewal project for that purpose began in the late 1960s, moving most residents to Sparwood while the old communities were bulldozed and burned. Nothing remains of the former townsite.

## CORBIN

Corbin was founded in 1908 by Daniel Chase Corbin, president of Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway. The Corbin operations included one of the earliest open pit mines in the area. Corbin once boasted a population of 600. The town had its own railway, company store, and a hotel called the Flathead. The Corbin Collieries closed down their operation in 1935 and the town was abandoned. Remnants of the coke ovens remain.

## MORRISSEY

The Morrissey mine opened in 1901. Thirteen kilometres south-west of Fernie, the remote location of the Morrissey mine resulted in the establishment of four communities: Morrissey, Morrissey Mines, Carbonado, and Swinton; quickly growing to a total peak population of over 1,500 by 1903. The mine company, deterred by several mine accidents and the unsuitability of the coal for coking purposes, closed the Morrissey mine in 1910 and abandoned the town. The townsite was reused briefly during World War I as an internment camp for ‘enemy aliens’ from 1915 to 1918. Today, only the coke ovens remain to be explored.

## HOSMER

Unlike surrounding coal mines, the Hosmer Mine was a subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Hosmer began as a C.P.R. company town. Coal production started in 1908 and by 1910, over 1,200 people lived in what seemed to be a community with a bright future. In June 1914, the C.P.R. unexpectedly announced that the Hosmer Mine would cease production immediately. Technically, Hosmer is not a ghost town, as a population of over 100 and several businesses and community organizations still call the hamlet home. The Hosmer power house, coke ovens, and other ruins can be explored, as can the Hosmer cemetery.

# THE FERNIE MUSEUM AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE



At the centre of Historic Downtown, the Fernie Museum and Visitor Information Centre makes its home in the 1908 Home Bank building. Learn all about Fernie's rich and dramatic history and heritage, things to do, attractions, upcoming events, festivals and more.

## INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS AND INNOVATIVE DISPLAYS

*This Is Our Fernie* explores the legend of a curse, fires that razed the town to the ground, and mining disasters that cut like a knife through the community. This main floor exhibit includes the interactive Fernie Faces audio/visual programs to explore history through the eyes of early residents, a mine tunnel and Discovery Drawers for the little ones to peek into, and a timeline that documents Fernie's evolution spanning an entire wall.

## FALL GALLERY EXHIBIT AND PROGRAMS

The Fall exhibit, *Hosmer: Boom, Bust and War* traces the rise and demise of Hosmer as one of the coal mining communities in the valley from its establishment in 1906 by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the closing of its mining operations in 1913. The exhibit will also examine how the beginning of World War I further drained the remaining population, both with men signing up with the 54th East Kootenay Battalion and "enemy aliens" being taken to an internment camp located in another Elk Valley ghost town, Morrissey.

Related programming includes an exhibit opening and curator's talk, a lunch-and-learn series, a tour of the remnants of the historic Hosmer townsite, and a Christmas event focusing on traditions and stories of Hosmer families.

691 2nd Ave | 250-423-7016  
fernziemuseum.com



# BOOGIE WOOGIE Blitz Ball

A FERNIE MUSEUM  
FUND RAISING PARTY



COMPANY JUMP

OCTOBER 29 | 7:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Be transported back in time to the early 1940s War Effort. A reception for local soldiers back from the front is interrupted by an air raid siren - everyone quickly makes their way to the bomb shelter. There a party is in full swing with live entertainment, special vintage cocktails, and an upscale 3 course Mess Hall supper!

**Company Jump** transports us to the White Cliffs of Dover and the eight-piece **Johnny Summers Little Big Band** will get you dancing till dawn!



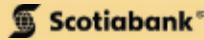
Johnny Summers Little Big Band

### Support the Effort

Join the effort and help secure a fund raising victory. Bid on fabulous auction items or purchase your "War Bonds". Funds raised support the Fernie Museum's programs and services.

*Tickets:* GO ON SALE SEPTEMBER 19  
\$80 ADULT, \$150 COUPLE | GET YOURS TODAY!  
*Exclusive Ticket Sales:* SCOTIABANK FERNIE  
502 - 3RD AVE | MON-FRI 10 AM - 5 PM

Only 150 tickets available. The 2015 Fall Museum Gala, the 1920s Speakeasy, sold out within two weeks.



491 2nd Avenue | Fernie, BC | 250.433.7016 | ferniemuseum.com



## Into the Woods

4th FERNIE LANTERN FESTIVAL

The Fernie Lantern Festival wants to transport you to an enchanting forest on

SATURDAY, NOV. 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

GET INVOLVED!

www.fernielanternfestival.com

sponsored by:

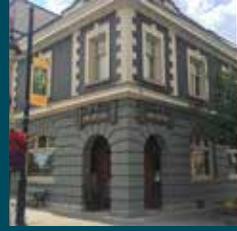


theartsstation.com

### FERNIE MUSEUM

Visitor Information Centre, *This is Our Fernie* permanent exhibit, seasonal gallery exhibitions, special events and interpretive walks. See feature, p8.

491 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0 | [ferniemuseum.com](http://ferniemuseum.com)  
250-423-7016 | Open: Daily, 10am – 5:30pm 



### FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY

3 floors of literature and reference materials plus regular events & programming. See feature, p18.

492 3rd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0  
[fernie.bclibrary.ca](http://fernie.bclibrary.ca) | 250-423-4458  
Open: Tue, Wed & Fri & 11am – 6pm | Thu 11am – 8pm  
Sat 1 – 5pm | Closed Sun & Mon 



### THE ARTS STATION

The home of the Fernie & District Arts Council. 3 floors of reception, gallery, event, restaurant and studio space. See feature, p16 & 20.

601 1st Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0  
[theartsstation.com](http://theartsstation.com) | 250-423-4842  
Open: Mon – Fri 9am – 3pm 



### THE FERNIE COURT HOUSE

Award winning 1909 chateau-style brick building and site of the Fernie Memorial. In use as the Service BC Government offices. Visitors welcome in the grounds and grand entrance hallway.

401 4th Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0  
[tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/court-house](http://tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/court-house)  
Open: Mon – Fri 8:30am – Noon & 1-4:30pm



### FERNIE CITY HALL & THE MINER'S WALK

Fernie's home of local government and the location of a beautiful tribute to the Elk Valley's mining heritage. Interactive information panels, challenges for kids, the unique Face of the Miner sculpture and local ironwork from the Fernie Forge. See feature, p17.

501 3rd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0  
[tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/miners-walk](http://tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/miners-walk) | [fernie.ca](http://fernie.ca)



### THE VOGUE THEATRE

Fully refurbished, family-owned movie theatre and arcade gallery. Comfortable new seating & 2 screens with the latest in audio-visual technology including 3D. Regular special screenings and festivals.

321 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0  
[ferniemovies.com](http://ferniemovies.com) | 250-423-7111  
Daily 7pm screenings plus weekend matinees & 9pm screenings



## BEANPOD CHOCOLATE

One of just a handful of artisan chocolate makers in the entire world producing chocolate the traditional way. Watch antique chocolate making machines, sample chocolate nibs and learn about the process from pod to bar. Freshly roasted coffee, gelato and macaroons made in-house.

691 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0 | [beanpod.ca](http://beanpod.ca)  
778-519-5008 | Open: Tue – Sat 10am – 5pm, hours may vary.



## FERNIE BREWING COMPANY

The Elk Valley's only brewhouse, producing 9 core brands and a wide range of seasonal features and limited edition brews. Tasting room, growler sales & refills and FBC branded merchandise.

26 Manitou Road, Fernie BC V0B 1M5  
[ferniewbrewing.com](http://ferniewbrewing.com) | 250-423-7797  
Open: Daily, 10am – 5/6pm, hours may vary.



## THE FERNIE OIL DERRICK

The last standing wooden oil derrick in BC. Relocated to this spot from the Flathead Valley in 1984. Interpretive panels, picnic area, Visitor Information Centre, Nature Centre and geocache.

102 Commerce Road, off Hwy #3 at the Eastern gateway to Fernie  
[tourismferniew.com/activities/attractions/oil-derrick](http://tourismferniew.com/activities/attractions/oil-derrick) 



## SPARWOOD MUSEUM

Discover the community and mining history of Michel, Natal, Middletown and Sparwood. Visual and oral histories and displays of heritage artifacts.

120 Spruce Ave, Sparwood BC V0B 2G0  
[sparwood.ca/visitors/history](http://sparwood.ca/visitors/history) | 250-425-6443  
Open: Mon – Thu, 11am – 4pm 



## TEREX TITAN, MINE ARTIFACTS & DOWNTOWN MURALS

Welcoming Visitor Centre and location of the 1974 GM Terex Titan – once the world's largest truck measuring 350 tonnes and 66ft long. Follow a series of mine artifacts into downtown Sparwood to see the famous wall murals.

141 Aspen Drive, Sparwood, BC V0B 2G0 | 250-425-2423 



## MICHEL-NATAL HERITAGE KIOSK

A series of six panels detailing the history of the Michel-Natal communities that used to be at this location. A part of Sparwood's heritage, these panels include history of discovery, mining and the Ktunaxa Nation. See feature, p24-25.

Kiosk is in two locations, one next to the Titan Truck in Sparwood, and second on Hwy #3 east of Sparwood at the site of former Michel Hotel.  
[sparwood.ca/visitors/history](http://sparwood.ca/visitors/history) | 250-425-6443



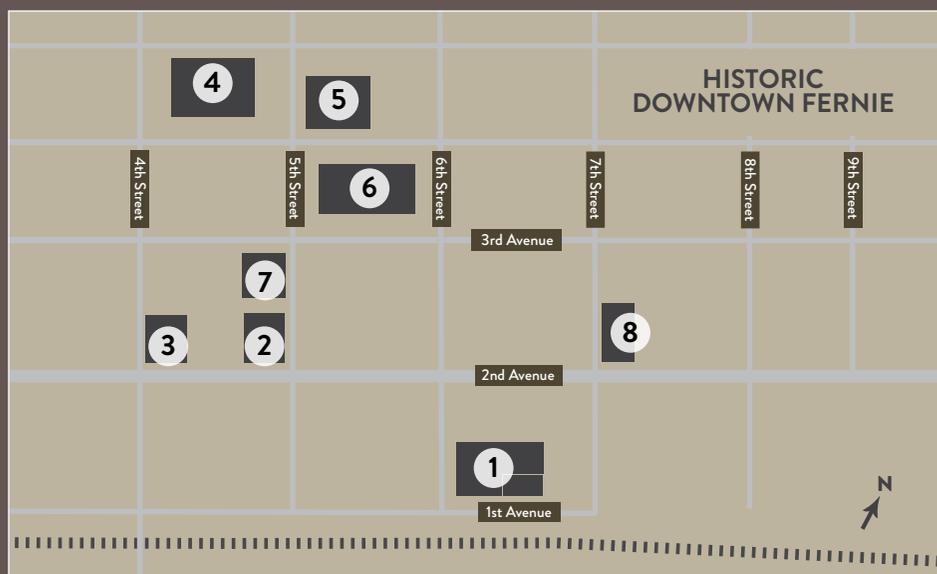
## HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

# A DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR OF FERNIE



As if alighting from an arriving train, begin a walking tour of Fernie at the former CPR Station, 501 1st Avenue, now the Fernie Arts Station. This tour visits 8 of Fernie's most iconic Historic Downtown buildings and features a variety of architectural styles and photo opportunities. Beautiful deep gold and rose-tinted brick and sandstone buildings line 2nd Avenue and are unique to Fernie. Look for evidence of the 1908 fire in the form of soot and smoke residue on the brickwork.

Accessible, paved sidewalks | Approx. 30 minutes – 1 hour





## 1 CPR STATION

601 1st Avenue | Now in use as The Arts Station

In its early years, the Canadian Pacific Railway station was the centre of activity in Fernie whenever a train stopped to unload passengers, mail, and other goods. As use of the automobile grew, rail travel declined and so did use of this Second-Class station. Passenger services were finally discontinued in 1964. The train tracks are still in daily use however, carrying the freight trains that regularly pass through the Elk Valley. The beautiful Rocky Mountaineer can also occasionally be spotted on a charter trip. Since 1987, the Fernie & District Arts Council has used this facility as a performing and fine arts venue. Dine trackside at the Blue Toque Café and imagine yourself arriving on the platform for the first time 100 years ago! See p20 for more.

## 2 THE HOME BANK

491 2nd Avenue | Now in use as  
The Fernie Museum and Visitor  
Information Centre



This highly decorative building was constructed in 1910 to house a branch of the Home Bank on the main floor and the Herchmer-Mitchel Law Office on the second floor. Except for the paint, the exterior is in its original configuration making this a significant heritage building. The failure of the Home Bank in 1923 cost Fernie depositors \$800,000 and led to a re-writing of Canada's banking laws. These new rules prevented the widespread bank failures in the 1930s. See p8 for more.

## 3 THE IMPERIAL BANK 1909

401 2nd Ave | Now in use as  
The Brickhouse Bar & Grill



On August 1, 1908, on the corner of 2nd Ave and 4th St, the members of the Fernie Fire Department made their last stand in the fight of the catastrophic fire that would consume Fernie in just 90 minutes. The Imperial Bank of Canada built a new bank here in 1909, using a standard small city branch design. The company merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1961 and closed the branch in 1963. Although some features have

been altered, the brick and sandstone exterior retains many of its striking original features. Step inside for a taste of today; the Brickhouse serves up a large selection of Fernie Brewing Company Beers, BC wines and a tasty pub menu. The original bank vault is still in use as the chef's pantry.

## 4 THE COURT HOUSE

401 4th Ave | Now in use as  
Fernie's Government of BC Offices



Lauded as one of BC's best buildings, the Court House is a spectacular chateau-style building rarely found in the area. Enjoy the grounds and beautiful views of the surrounding mountains.

## 5 HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

521 4th Avenue



The history of the church dates back to the beginning of Fernie when Father J. Welsh was sent from Cranbrook to hold masses for approximately 200 miners in 1898. Some of these miners donated one day's wages every month towards the construction of a place of worship and volunteer parishioners completed this church in 1912. It was and still is home to Fernie's largest congregation.

**6 THE CROW'S NEST PASS COAL CO. OFFICES** | 501 3rd Avenue |  
Now in use as City Hall



In 1905, the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. constructed this building as the head office to manage its expanding coal mining operations. It also housed the offices of the Crow's Nest Pass Electric Co. and the Morrissey-Fernie-Michel Railway, subsidiaries of the coal company. Constructed in cement blocks, the building survived the 1908 Great Fire and served as a place of refuge during and after the fire. It has served as Fernie's City Hall since 1984; Mayor Giuliano welcomes visitors. Located on the grounds, The Miner's Walk is a fascinating glimpse into Fernie's coal mining heritage. The walk features interpretive panels, sculpture, challenges for children, ironwork art from the Fernie Forge and municipal garden with picnic tables and benches. See p17 for more.

**7 THE FERNIE POST OFFICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICE**

492 3rd Avenue | Now in use as the Fernie Heritage Library



This imposing Romanesque Revival building reflects Fernie's importance as a government centre for the region; the engraved stone signs above the entrance to the Post Office and Customs Office are still in place. The building, for a time, served as the US consul office for the region. Built in 1907, the building was gutted but not destroyed in the 1908 Great Fire. An exhibit on the 1908 Great Fire is located on the landing of the main staircase. See p18 for more.

**8 FERNIE CARTAGE COMPANY**

701 2nd Avenue | Now in use as Urban Settler and private residences



Unlike many businesses in Fernie's Historic Downtown, the Fernie Cartage Company rebuilt its livery using rubblestone from the banks of the Elk River, rather than brick, following the 1908 Great Fire, making it unique in downtown Fernie. For many years before automobiles were commonly used, the company delivered milk, coal, and other goods with a fleet of horse-drawn drays. In the 1920s, it was "The Up-To-Date Garage," servicing a number of makes of early automobiles, and owned by prominent Italian entrepreneur, Al Rizzuto.

The walk ends on the corner of 2nd Avenue & 7th Street. Take a stroll down Main Street, sometimes known as Victoria Avenue, and enjoy streetside patios, boutique shopping and cultural attractions (see attraction listings, p10). Visit working artists and artisans in their studios (see gallery listings, p22) and soak in the atmosphere of a town rich in history and heritage. Look up for the beautiful art banners on downtown lampposts featuring a variety of new local artwork.

## BEFORE AND AFTER THE ARTS STATION



From 1898 to 1964, the Canadian Pacific Railway train station was a hub of activity, receiving supplies and newcomers to Fernie alike. Today, it is home to the Fernie & District Arts Council, operating as the the Fernie Arts Station and celebrating 25 years as a thriving hub of the arts in the Elk Valley.

At least two station buildings existed on this site to serve the C.P.R. line prior to the great fire of 1908. The current building, larger than its predecessors, was built after the 1908 fire and follows one of the standard designs developed by the C.P.R. for its station buildings. The Fernie station was completed in the spring of 1909, a time when *the railway station was the centre of the economic and social life of the community, for here one received mail and freight and carried on business.* Railway officials also decided that the station agent's family should live apart from the daily railroad operation so private housing was provided instead of the second floor accommodations standard across the prairies. The station remained a hub of business and transportation for more than half a century until passenger service through Fernie was discontinued in January, 1964.



The C.P.R. donated the building to the City of Fernie in 1979, and in 1987 the Fernie Arts Council began the painstaking process of restoring the old station. The revitalization program included moving the building back from the tracks and renovating, painting, and landscaping; in 1990 the building re-opened. The facility now houses a restaurant, art gallery, theatre/performance space, and various rooms and outdoor space used by community arts groups.



## ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

# FERNIE CITY HALL

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company chose Fernie as its headquarters because of its location central to their mining activities in Coal Creek, Michel, and Carbonado (Morrissey). The original wooden company office buildings had burned twice, and this was enough incentive for general manager G.G.S. Lindsey to promise that an elegant new office building would be built following incorporation of the city.

By May, 1905, cement blocks were on the site ready for the start of building, and the date for laying the cornerstone was set for June 20th. In celebration, this date was declared a general holiday for Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. employees, and Mrs. Lindsey laid the cornerstone marked '1905' using a silver trowel. There was some disappointment that William Fernie was unable to attend and officiate, as he had been instrumental in laying the foundation for the company. As part of the ceremonies, the Engineer H.B. Wright deposited a time capsule under the cornerstone containing period currency coins, company records, the first and current issues of the Free Press, the 1902 souvenir issue and the current copy of the Fernie Ledge.



'Fire-proof' masonry structures had become the trend in building, and not only did this building survive the Great Fire of 1908, it also served the community as a place of refuge during and after the fire. It remained occupied solely by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company until 1984, when the building became Fernie's City Hall. In 2011, along with other iconic locations in Fernie, City Hall was the setting for filming of the *Santa Paws 2: The Santa Pups*. The Christmas decorations that adorn City Hall each year were a gift from the film makers in thanks for the town's hospitality. City Hall is the home of the Miner's Walk, a tribute to Fernie's mining legacy featuring municipal gardens, local sculpture, and interpretive panels.

## FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY



The Fernie Heritage Library has been a centre of the community of Fernie, providing library service and programs, for over one hundred years. Housed in a beautiful historic building in the heart of Fernie, the Library offers a welcoming and inviting space for discovery, inspiration, and recreation.

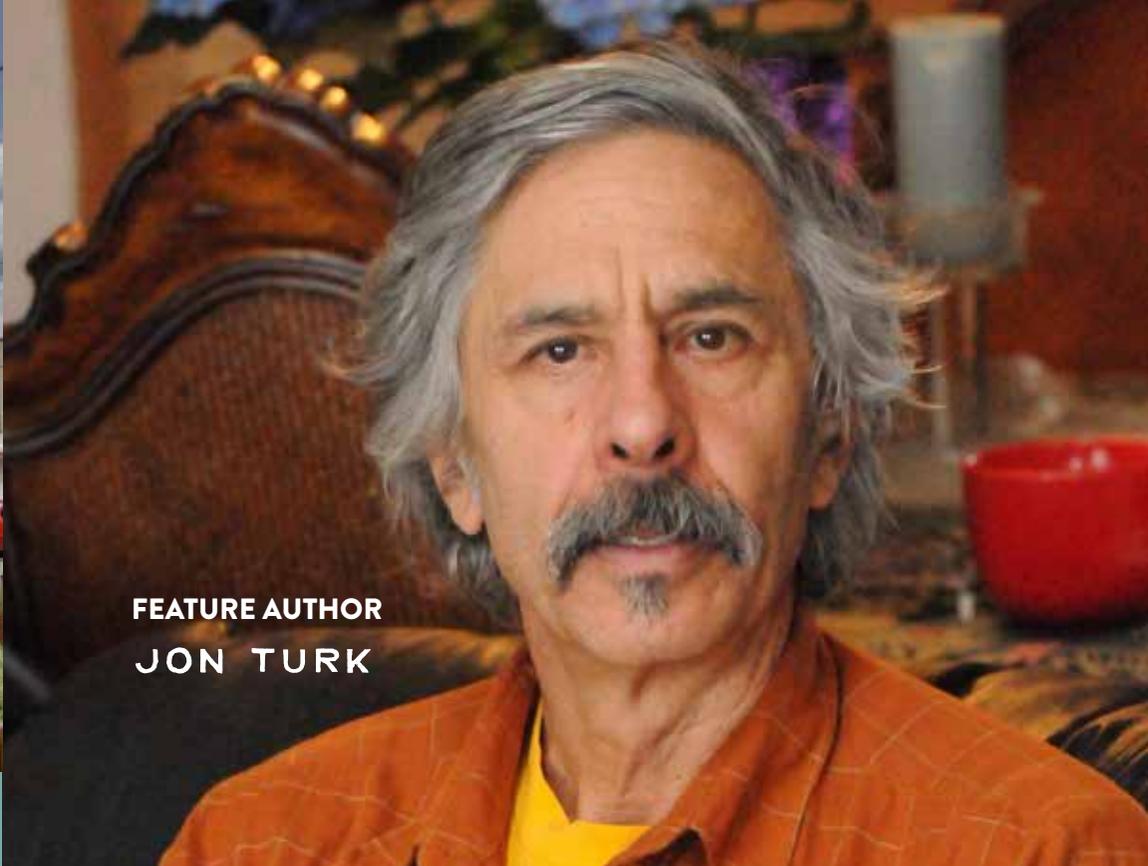
A range of engaging programming suitable for all ages from toddlers to seniors is offered throughout the year both inside the library and out in the community. Programs include reading groups and book launches, children's activities inspired by literature, and special events such as the Earth Day Celebrations and Lego Engineers Day. Library programs are free and welcome to all, and library service is available to residents and visitors alike. The Library offers 3 floors of books, magazines, and reference materials, plus a research and study room, computer services, faxing, photocopying and scanning. The Library Book Bike is a regular sight at local events and gathering places throughout the summer and fall. The Library Gardens provide a relaxing spot for reading, with spectacular views of the Lizard Range and Mt Fernie.



As well as regular programming, the Fernie Heritage Library hosts community events such as the wildly successful Booked! Fernie Writers' Series, a reading series which brings a number of Canada's top literary talents to Fernie for popular receptions. Fernie has a strong history of supporting the literary arts and has become a favourite destination among authors. Enthusiastic and informed audiences, complimented by the gorgeous heritage building in a beautiful mountain setting, make for a welcoming environment for authors from coast to coast. The library also hosts popular events for the community such as the Bibbity Bobbity Boo Children's Festival, the Lemonade Social, and the Halloween Howler.

492 3rd Ave | 250-423-4458  
fernier.bclibrary.ca





**FEATURE AUTHOR**  
**JON TURK**

Explorer. Gardener. Adventure Paddler. Scientist. Backcountry Skier. Storyteller. Many words are needed to describe Jon Turk, the 70-year-old *National Geographic* nominee for Adventurer of the year (2012) who claims to have retired 50 years ago by simply stopping what he didn't like to do. As a professional adventurer, Jon sustains himself on his books and public speaking, two income sources so tentative that he has learned to live without a five year plan.

The same year Jon received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Colorado, he co-authored *Ecology, Pollution, and the Environment* that went on to sell over 100,000 copies. More than 30 science textbooks followed before his first creative non-fiction work: *Cold Oceans, Adventures in Kayak, Rowboat, and Dogsled*, published in 1998. *In the Wake of the Jomon: Stone Age Mariners and a Voyage across the Pacific* followed in 2005; the book recalls the author's 2-year successful voyage across the Pacific. The voyage was named one of the ten greatest sea

kayak expeditions of all time by *Paddler Magazine*.

After *Jomon*, Jon's focus changed to a search for inner healing, returning to Siberia to commune with the 100-year-old shaman he first met on his Pacific voyage. 'Moolynaut' had told him to: *Come back. It will be good if you do*, and he says that doing that changed his life. The result was *The Raven's Gift: A Scientist, a Shaman, and their Remarkable Journey through the Siberian Wilderness*.

Conrad Anker, North Face Extreme Alpinist, calls Jon's latest book: *An important read as our society collides headlong into an over-subscribed world*. Available from Oolichan Books in September, *Crocodiles and Ice, A Journey into Deep Wild*, will be launched at the Fernie Heritage Library on September 15th at the first event of the Booked! 2016-2017 season.



## THE ARTS STATION



It is hard to imagine that an old railway station built in 1908 in a small corner of British Columbia would today be the source for foot-stomping concerts, mouth-watering hotcakes and awe-inspiring paintings. If you've ever visited The Arts Station in Fernie, though, you'll know it to be true. The Arts Station is the heart of the arts in Fernie, a place where hundreds of painters, weavers, guitarists and guilders gather to expand their talents and inspire one another in a way that almost always involves community. The Arts Station is a home amongst artists and art-lovers, a place where anyone can take a moment to think quietly about a painting on the brick mantelpiece or sip on martinis while dancing to folk rock.

Originally a Canadian Pacific Railway station, the building suffered from vandalism and overall wear for decades before a refurbishing in 1990 — led by a group of volunteers — brought it to

its current valuable state. Today the main lobby acts as a gallery space with new artists featured each month and the original ticket office is home to the inviting Blue Toque Diner. The old luggage room is a 100-seat theatre and the basement is a potters' delight.

Having celebrated 25 years in November 2015, the Station has established its place in the local arts community. The many people behind it play host to the popular outdoor summer concert series and socials, festivals, film screenings, presentations, art classes and workshops, and even the occasional wedding or birthday party. Flowers bloom from barrels on the wraparound deck in the summer and it is a cozy space for an acoustic set when the snow falls. No matter the time of year, there is always something going on at The Arts Station. Be sure to make it a part of your visit to Fernie.

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





**FEATURE ARTIST**  
**KATHERINE**  
**RUSSELL**



After travelling the world and thriving on big city life as a young artist, Katherine Russell has found balance and inspiration in the small and welcoming town of Elkford. Katherine's introduction to glass came with her BFA studies at Calgary's Alberta College of Art and Design. A glass elective on her 'useful and employable' graphic design course quickly developed into her major in the conceptually-focused and encouraging environment. Sampling a range of mediums from photography and sculpture to welding and fibre arts provided a diverse platform from which to work, and allowed the artist to hone her talents without feeling boxed into one discipline.

Katherine's post-graduate apprenticeships with highly skilled glass artists in Black Diamond, AB, and Perth, Australia, added invaluable training in the business of being an artist. Now based in Elkford, she continues to blow glass in Black Diamond and maintain her connections to the Calgary glass community while

thriving on new relationships with a diverse array of local craftspeople. Katherine is currently collaborating with the Fernie Forge on an exciting new public art proposal. Katherine's striking pieces are well known in the Elk Valley, and can be found on Fernie's colourful art banners, as well as at Eye of the Needle in Fernie and at galleries in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina and Western Australia. Her home studio in Elkford is open by appointment.

Katherine has embraced the Elk Valley way of life with her husband and two young sons, enjoying the local trails, gardening, camping, running, and volunteering with the Elkford Nordic Club, Arts Council and Triathlon. In the fall she will be offering glass workshops at her studio and working within the local school system for initiatives including Artstarts and Artist in the Classroom.

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[katherinerussellglass.blogspot.ca](http://katherinerussellglass.blogspot.ca)  
[k.russell.glass@outlook.com](mailto:k.russell.glass@outlook.com)  
250 665 8005

**ANGELA MORGAN GALLERY**

Fine art gallery and working studio in Historic Downtown Fernie.

441C 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0

[www.angelamorgan.com](http://www.angelamorgan.com)

Open: Fri & Sat 12 – 5pm

**THE ARTS STATION**

The hub of Fernie's cultural scene. Two art galleries, 100-seat theatre, craft and painting studio, pottery studio and workshop/meeting spaces. There's always something going on at The Arts Station.

601 – 1st Ave, Fernie, BC, V0B 1M0 | 250-423-4842

[www.theartsstation.com](http://www.theartsstation.com) | Open: Mon-Fri 9:30am – 3:30pm

**BRIAN POLLOCK GALLERY**

Fine art photography gallery offering high quality large-format photo printing. Gallery selling original prints and framed artwork.

532 B 2nd Ave. Fernie, BC, V0B 1M0

250-430-7114 | [www.brianpollock.ca](http://www.brianpollock.ca)

Open: Open regularly & by appointment

**CLAWHAMMER LETTERPRESS**

Historic print making and typographical art in the artisan tradition. Gallery space featuring posters, art cards, original paintings and more.

441C 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0

250-946-6400 | [www.clawhammer.ca](http://www.clawhammer.ca)

Open: Fri & Sat 12 – 5pm

**ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO**

A collaborative space offering a variety of visual art and pottery classes, workshops and experiences for all ages and abilities. Operated by the Elkford Arts Council.

816 Michel Road, (2nd floor of Arena) Elkford, BC, V0B 1H0

250-433-7007 | [www.elkfordartscouncil.blogspot.ca](http://www.elkfordartscouncil.blogspot.ca)

Open: Open daily, hours vary

**EYE OF THE NEEDLE**

Artisan gallery & studio in a beautiful heritage building. Metalwork from Fernie Forge and other metalworkers, plus regional fibre art, candles and glasswork. One-on-one felting classes available.

260 – 5th Ave, Fernie or 2087 Hwy #3 Fernie

250-423-2671 | [www.fernieforge.ca](http://www.fernieforge.ca)

Open: Thu & Fri 10am – 5pm Sat 11:30am – 5:30pm



**COMING SOON:** Leanne Stothert – 562 2nd Ave. [www.leannestothert.com](http://www.leannestothert.com)

## FERNIE ARTS CO-OP

Art from over 60 local artists including handmade jewellery, photography, original paintings, textiles, pottery, and sculpture portraying the region and lifestyle of the Elk Valley.

572 – 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0  
250-423-7044 | [www.fernierartscoop.com](http://www.fernierartscoop.com)  
Open: Mon-Sat 10am - 6pm | Sun 12pm – 4pm



## KATHY STEAD – VISUAL ARTIST

Fine art painter and mixed media artist working in a variety of semi-abstract and realism styles.

86 Ridgemont Dr. Fernie, BC, V0B 1M0  
250-423-4979 | [www.kathysteadsfineartstudio.com](http://www.kathysteadsfineartstudio.com)  
Open: Open by appointment



## KYLE HAMILTON PHOTOGRAPHY

A wedding and lifestyle photography studio with a studio space for portraits and fine art landscape gallery prints. Custom framing and passport/ID Photo services are also available.

341c 3rd Ave, Fernie, BC, V0B 1M0 | 250-423-0904  
[www.kylehamiltonphotography.com](http://www.kylehamiltonphotography.com) | [www.khphotograph.com](http://www.khphotograph.com)  
Open: Open regularly & by appointment



## POLAR PEEK BOOKS & TREASURES

Unique selection of books by local & Canadian authors, local maps & guides, gifts, and award winning toys. Original art and art cards by local artists.

592 -2nd Ave. Fernie BC V0B 1M0 | 250-423-3736 |  
[polarpeekbooks.ca](http://polarpeekbooks.ca) | Open: Mon-Thu 9:30am – 5:30pm |  
Fri: 9:30am – 6pm | Sat 9:30am – 5:30pm | Sun: 11am – 4pm



## SARAH PIKE POTTERY

Unique, slab-built pots with personality, beauty and a little attitude. Product is sold from a small display area in Sarah's home studio in West Fernie, and internationally.

1480 McDonald Ave, Fernie, BC, V0B 1M1  
250-430-7937 | [sarahpikepottery.com](http://sarahpikepottery.com)  
Open: Call or text for appointment



## STEPHANIE'S GLASS & ART STUDIO

Working stained glass and sandblasting studio. Stephanie's custom pieces for private and public spaces have been exhibited worldwide. Gallery featuring the work of other local artists and artisans.

532 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-3944 or  
250-423-0433 for private appointments | [stephaniesglass.ca](http://stephaniesglass.ca)  
Open: Tue-Fri 10:30am – 5pm | Sat 10:30am – 4pm



## THE KTUNAXA NATION LIVING CULTURE, LIVING TRADITIONS



For more than 10,000 years, the Ktunaxa people, also known as the Kootenai or Kootenay, have occupied a traditional territory that spans what is now known as southeastern British Columbia, Southwestern Alberta, and parts of Washington, Idaho and Western Montana.

For hundreds of generations, the Ktunaxa used the Elk Valley and the Crowsnest Pass as a trade and travel route through the Rocky Mountains. Twice a year, Bison hunts were coordinated on the prairies east of the Rockies until the bison population was decimated in the mid-1800s.

The Elk Valley area was the primary home of the easternmost branch of the Ktunaxa people, who are closely connected to families living at what

is now Tobacco Plains. The Michel Prairie people, after whom the town of Michel was named, used the area near Sparwood to plant tobacco. Their Ktunaxa name is kaqawakanmituqnik and means “river running into and out again” (the Michel Creek into the Elk River).

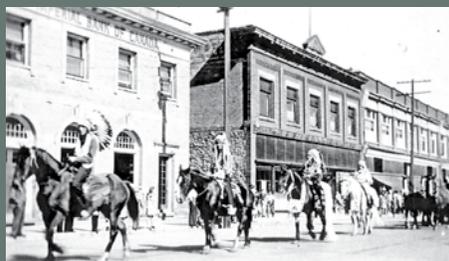
Despite being subjected to 120 years of living on Indian Reserves, and decades of forced attendance at a Residential School at the St. Eugene



Ktunaxa elder at St. Eugene Resort

Mission near Cranbrook, the Ktunaxa Nation continues to be a strong and thriving community. Today, there are more than 1,500 members in the BC communities of ?akisq̓nuk, ?aq̓am, ?akin̓kum̓asnuq̓i?it, and yaq̓an nu?kiy. There are two Bands in Idaho and Montana connected by language and culture but politically independent.

Visitors to the region can learn more about the Ktunaxa by visiting the St. Eugene Mission Interpretive Centre and the Fernie Museum. A pull-out near Michel Creek at the former townsite of Michel offers visitors further information about the Michel Plains people.



The Ktunaxa Nation Council is located in Cranbrook.

To learn more about the living culture and traditions of the Ktunaxa Nation:  
[ktunaxa.org](http://ktunaxa.org) | 250-489-2464

# CULTURAL EVENT CALENDAR

For full details, updates and more live entertainment,  
see [www.tourismfernie.com/events](http://www.tourismfernie.com/events)

## SEPTEMBER

- 4 Fernie Lions Demolition Derby  
Railway Ave.
- 8-11 Chautauqua & Fall Fair  
Ferne Area
- 10 Our Harvest Feast & Fest  
Prentice Park
- 11 Guided Hike on Heiko's Trail  
Island Lake Lodge
- 11 Indie Films Fernie - *Marinoni*  
Vogue Theatre
- 15 Booked! Fernie Writers' Series -  
Jon Turk, Fernie Heritage Library
- 16 Live in Concert:  
Pop & Jazz- Coco Love Alcorn  
The Arts Station
- 19 Indie Films Fernie  
Vogue Theatre
- 23 Big Nate Day Ages 7+  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 24 Fernie Colour Crawl  
Station Square
- 30-Oct 2 GillBilly Fest  
Various Locations

## OCTOBER

- 1-2 GillBilly Fest  
Various Locations
- 1 Fall Craft Fair  
Ferne Community Centre
- 1 Fishing Stories  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 2 Indie Films Fernie - TBD  
Vogue Theatre
- 6 Miss Ellen Q Fundraiser for the Arts  
The Arts Station
- 8 Live in Concert: Canadian Fingerstyle  
Guitarist - Don Alder  
The Arts Station
- 14 Booked! Fernie Writers' Series -  
Alix Hawley, Fernie Heritage Library
- 15 Ukulele 101 Family Saturday  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 17 Live in Concert: Jazz- Parker Abbott  
Trio, The Arts Station

- 19 Author Reading - Donna Macdonald  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 22 Root Beer Fest Ages 7+  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 28 Halloween Howler  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 29 Boogie Woogie Blitz Ball  
Ferne Museum & Area

## NOVEMBER

- 5 Fernie Ski & Board Film Festival  
Ferne Community Centre
- 6 Indie Films Fernie - TBD  
Vogue Theatre
- 10 Live in Concert:  
Singer/Songwriter- Krief  
The Arts Station
- 16 Live in Concert: Jazz/World Music -  
Montreal Guitar Trio  
The Arts Station
- 19 Lego Holiday Family Saturday  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 19 Fernie Lantern Festival:  
Into the Woods  
The Arts Station
- 25 Spies & Surprise Ages 7+  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 25 Twilight Craft Fair  
Ferne Community Centre
- 26 Holiday Craft Fair  
Ferne Community Centre

## DECEMBER

- 1-23 What the Dickens  
Christmas Celebrations
- 4 Indie Films Fernie - TBD  
Vogue Theatre
- 7 Live in Concert:  
Jazz/World Music- Turbopop  
The Arts Station
- 17 Community Christmas Party  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 21 Storytime Plaid Party  
Ferne Heritage Library
- 23 Movie & Popcorn Ages 7+  
Ferne Heritage Library

*a fundraiser for the arts by freyja lifestyle*



# Miss Ellen

*and the pumas*

**Thursday**  
**October 6th** tickets \$30

*all info* [freyjalifestylefashion.com/events](http://freyjalifestylefashion.com/events)

**BONUS PERFORMANCES** by  
*Visa De' Klein & Chi Chi*



women's mountain lifestyle apparel: 602B 2nd ave Fernie BC

[freyjalifestylefashion.com](http://freyjalifestylefashion.com)

## FALL FEATURED EVENTS



Fall in Fernie features a cornucopia of cultural delights from early September until winter sets in.

### CHAUTAUQUA! SEPTEMBER 8-11TH

Now an annual festival, Chautauqua is a spectacular four-day celebration of the history and culture that has shaped Fernie's community, past, present and future, on September 8-11, 2016. Highlights include the living traditions of the Ktunaxa First Nation in a passionate performance of traditional dance and storytelling, a taste of Fernie's Italian community at a banquet supper with author Lynne Bowen, and the naturally delightful Our Harvest Feast and Fest and Fall Fair.

A backdrop of Historic Downtown Fernie's iconic rose-gold sandstone buildings and early fall foliage sets the scene for a party of epic proportions. Chautauqua evokes the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of yesteryear with the foot stomping beat of the Kootenay Stringbenders at the Kootenay Hootenanny and other local talents on the Chautauqua stage, farm-to fork goodness at harvest celebrations, and



plenty of local art, history, and tales of the past. Take an architectural heritage walking tour, explore Fernie's talented community of artists at open houses and art demonstrations, enjoy social events or discover local interpretive trails or the new community archives. For more information visit [ferniechautauqua.com](http://ferniechautauqua.com).

## THE ARTS STATION CONCERT SERIES SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

Music in the mountains sounds a little more special when you add the friendly, funky venue of the Arts Station. The Concert Series is a firm favourite on the Fernie cultural calendar and has featured an array of musical stylings over the years, from down-home Bluegrass to Classical Spanish Guitar to the ever-popular Jazz performances.

The 2016 season kicks off with returning favourite Coco Love Alcorn and the *Wonderland* release tour on September 16th. Don't miss your chance to see the Vancouver finger style guitarist that Carly Rae Jepsen called 'Amazing' - Don Alder plays in Fernie on October 8th.

Later in the season, Jazz is featured in two distinctly different styles. The



Parker Abbott Trio will bring their unique blend of acoustic and electronic sounds on keyboard and percussion in October, while the Montreal Guitar Trio are sure to impress with their string mastery in November. Krief also features in November, bringing the deep and dramatic sound of his newest album *Automanic* to the Fernie stage.

Concert Series performances begin at 8pm and tickets are available online at eventbrite, or from the Arts Station or Freshies. \$20/adults, \$14 youth. (Discounts available for members.)

## BOOKED! FERNIE WRITERS' SERIES SEPTEMBER - MARCH

For a remote little town, Fernie has an astonishingly active book scene. 2013 marked the first season of Booked!, a writers' series at the Fernie Heritage Library. Past guests have included lauded and awarded stars of Canada's literary world including Terry Fallis, Gail Bowen, Raziel Reid, and Will Ferguson; each drawing enthusiastic crowds of up to 100 guests.

Booked! events are free to attend and always feature local musicians, complimentary snacks, and a cash bar for the hour-long welcome reception from 7-8pm. The guest writer takes the stage at 8pm for a reading and hosted Q&A. Topics ranging from hockey legends to astrophysics to street art have been featured in the engaging and entertaining sessions.



This fall, Booked! enters its fourth season, opening on September 15th with local favourite, *National Geographic's* Adventurer of the year nominee Jon Turk and his new book, *Crocodiles and Ice*. Giller finalist Alix Hawley continues the series on October 14th, with Michael Helm and Caroline Adderson rounding out the season in January and March. [ferniesbclibraries.coop](http://ferniesbclibraries.coop).

## COMING THIS WINTER



Griz Days Winter Festival  
40th Anniversary - March 3-5, 2017

The Arts Station invites you *Into the Woods* to light up the night at the colourful and creative biennial Lantern Festival on November 19th. Continuing the fun, What the Dickens is a month-long celebration of all things festive during December.

January brings us the 9th annual Reel Canadian Film Festival; a celebration of talent, diversity and excellence within the Canadian Film Industry. In February the Fernie Mountain Film Festival celebrates a decade of screening the best of global filmmaking with a focus on mountain cultures, fragile environments and the passion and perseverance of global explorers.

In March, the Griz is celebrating a big birthday and plans are underway for a fantastic Griz Days Weekend. Don't miss Fernie's biggest party of the year with all the wintery fun you can imagine!

### WEEKLY CULTURAL EVENTS SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

#### MONDAYS

Jam/Open Mic Night at Kodiak Lounge

#### TUESDAYS

\$6.50 movies at the Vogue Theatre  
Storytime at Fernie Heritage Library

#### WEDNESDAYS

Jam Night at The Royal  
Toddler time at Fernie Heritage Library

#### THURSDAYS

Jam Night at the Brickhouse  
Team Trivia at The Pub Bar & Grill  
Toddler time at Fernie Heritage Library  
Lego Club at Fernie Heritage Library

#### FRIDAYS

Live Entertainment at Infnitea  
Toddler time at Fernie Heritage Library

#### SATURDAYS

Open Mic, DJ & Live Entertainment at  
The Fernie Hotel & Pub

#### SUNDAYS

BBQ & Beats at Infnitea



**Elkford, Fernie, and Sparwood Visitor Centres 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 hike, where to bike, what to try and more. Stop by any one of the four Elk Valley Visitor Centres for personalized assistance.



**ELKFORD**

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Monday - Saturday,  
9am - 5pm

And open Sundays:  
July 3 to August 28



**SPARWOOD**

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Daily 10am - 6pm



**VISITOR CENTRES OPERATED BY**



**FERNIE**

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

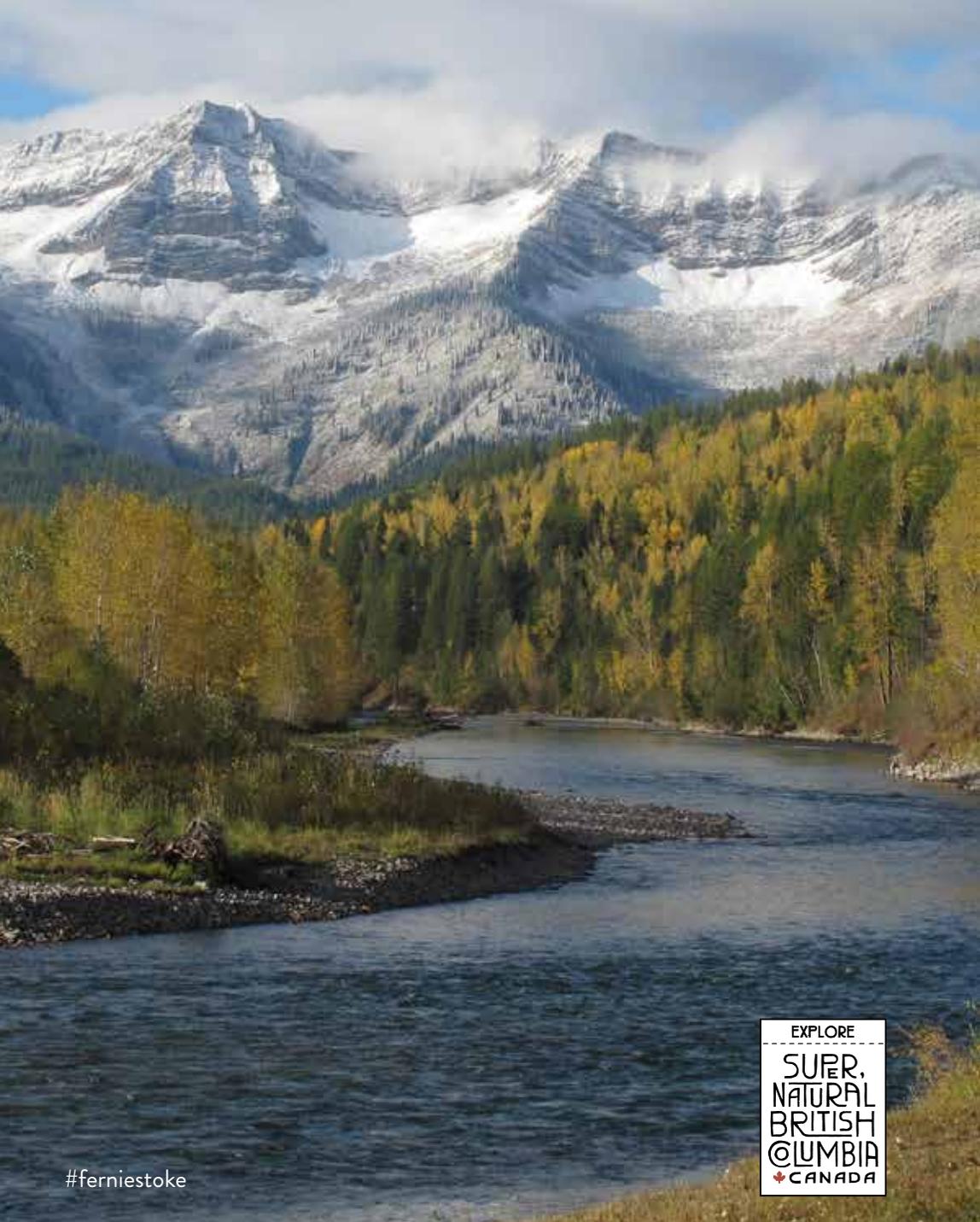
Fernie Highway: Daily 9am - 5pm  
Downtown: Daily 10am - 5.30pm

## THE ELK RIVER

The Elk River has multiple identities. It is a river named Wasa?ki by the Ktunaxa people, fed by the ancient Petain Glacier. It is a source of sustenance and energy. It is a place valued by residents and visitors alike for recreation and fishing.

The Elk River is central to who we are and what we do.

**Experience Fernie and the Elk River this fall.**



#ferniestoke

