

FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

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.

Front Cover: The Fernie Mountain Market is held on Canada Day at the Fernie Aquatic Centre Grounds, and on Sundays from July 7 to September 29 in Rotary Park. Photo by Vince Mo.

This Page: The Painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) are abundant in the Elk Valley and lakes around Lake Koochanusa including Surveyors Lake and can often be seen basking in the sun. If you walk, swim, or paddle near wildlife, please be respectful of their habitat and always keep a quiet and respectful distance. 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, Beartooth Media, Raven Eye Photography, Mitch Winton - KRT, Nancy Stevenson, Elkford Arts Studio, Summer Breeze, BeeDee Photography, Element Jewelry, Annabelle St-Marseille.



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.



The Fernie Valley Pathway is an accessible 5.3km trail linking the Fernie Visitor Information Centre to Mount Fernie Provincial Park and Maiden Lake.

Explore the Elk Valley this summer on an interpretive tour, from guided hikes at Fernie Alpine Resort to Heritage Walks with the Fernie Museum, or a Mine Bus Tour in Sparwood; pick up a walking tour brochure or explore the Iconic Fernie App, or download the Sparwood Walking Tour App.



ELKFORD VIC

PH: 250-865-4015
750 Fording Drive

HOURS:
May - August: Open Daily
9am - Noon and 1 - 5pm.



SPARWOOD VIC

PH: 250-425-2423
141 Aspen Drive

HOURS:
Until May 17: Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm.
May 18 - Sep 2: Open Daily, 9am - 6pm.



FERNIE VIC

PH: 778-519-0748
102 Commerce Road

HOURS:
Until May 17: Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm.
May 18 - October 13: Open Daily, 9am - 5pm.



Savour the flavours of the Elk Valley with culinary delights including handmade chocolate and artisan spirits and brews, and eclectic international dining. Revel in the live entertainment scene from lazy patio sessions to full festival weekends and immerse yourself in the inspiration of the landscape with interactive art workshops, camps, and delightful galleries and boutiques.



Soothe your soul with a stroll through a leafy forest, explore scenic attractions and fascinating heritage, and discover the unique character of BC's easternmost communities this summer.

Elkvalleyculture.ca
TourismFernie.com

FEATURED SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS IN THE ELK VALLEY



The Elk Valley events calendar is packed with music, arts, and family fun throughout the spring and summer. These are just a few highlights to look out for – see online calendars for new events as they are announced!

CONVERSATIONS WITH POETS FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY | MAY 30 fernienbclibraries.coop

Join three award-winning poets Jane Byers, Leesa Dean, and Rayya Liebich, for an evening of all things poetry: author readings, discussions, poetry mad libs, writing prompts and more!

A CONCERT FOR NICU | JUNE 15 thefestivalcompany.com/events

A once-in-a-lifetime exclusive outdoor concert is coming to Fernie featuring some of Canada's top country music talent helping raise \$1.8m for the East Kootenay Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Tickets only available through unique concert packages starting at \$500 for two.



COAL MINER DAYS, SPARWOOD, JUNE 1 – 9 coalminerdays.com

WILDCAT DAYS, ELKFORD, JUNE 28 - 30

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



THE WEDNESDAY CONCERT SERIES AT STATION SQUARE, FERNIE

JULY 3 – AUGUST 14

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



WAPITI MUSIC FESTIVAL IN ANNEX PARK, FERNIE AUGUST 9 - 10

wapitimusicfestival.com

Lineup: K'naan – Dear Rouge – Rare Americans – Jesse Roper – Dawn Pemberton – Phonosonics – Brass Camel – Kaeley Jade – Alex Maher – Charles Benjamin and DJ Cona. Kids activities, beverage gardens, food & merch vendors and art installations will have you loving life at Fernie's annual music festival.



COLUMBIA BASIN CULTURE TOUR AUGUST 10 – 11

wkartscouncil.com/culture-tour

Visit the Arts Station in Fernie for demonstrations or to try your hand at pottery or printmaking. Explore the Station's archives and enjoy live music, or browse the Ice Cream show. The Fernie Arts Co-op and Eye of the Needle Gallery will also be hosting demonstrations where you can meet the artists. In Elkford, Tracey Halliday will host an exhibition of landscape photography at the United Steelworkers Hall.



THE SHOW N' SHINE, FERNIE CITY HALL | AUGUST 24 elkvalleycruisers.ca

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.



2024 SPRING & SUMMER CULTURAL EVENTS



Wapiti Music Festival in beautiful Annex Park.



The WAM BAM dirt jump jam is a great spectator event at the Fernie Dirt Jump Park next to the Aquatic Centre.

MAY

- 3 **Live Music: Yukon Blonde Shuggie Tour with Layton Kramer**, Northern Bar & Stage
- 3 **Club Cre8 for K - Gr 6**, The Arts Station
- 4 **Feast For A Cause Long Table Dinner**, Fernie Community Centre
- 5 **Parent & Child Workshop: Pinch Mugs with my Mini**, The Arts Station
- 5 **Cinco de Mayo Party**, The Pub Bar & Grill
- 6-10 **Mastermind In The Mountains Retreat**, Elk View Lodge
- 7 **Workshop: Clay Seed Balls with Fernie Potters Guild**, The Arts Station
- 8 **Parent & Child Paint Along with Sue Hanlon**, The Arts Station
- 8 **Home Routes Concert in Fernie: JD Edwards**, homeroutes.ca
- 8 **Live Music: Chali 2na**, Northern Bar & Stage
- 11 **Spring Homemade Craft Fair**, Fernie Community Centre

- 11 **Home Routes Concert: JD Edwards**, Elkford Golf Club
- 12 **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea**, Freshies
- 14 **Workshop: Sewing Alterations Basics with Louise**, The Arts Station
- 15 **Pottery Workshop: Meet the Wheel with Caroline**, The Arts Station
- 16 **Theatre Games Night with Denise**, The Arts Station
- 17 **Storytime with Mayor Milligan**, Fernie Heritage Library
- 25 **Fernie Community Yard Sales**, Fernie-wide
- 25 **Live Music: Small Town Artillery Collective with Charles Benjamin**, Knox on 2nd
- 29 **Ride with Librarians**, Fernie Heritage Library
- 30 **Conversations with Poets**, Fernie Heritage Library
- 30 **Gallery Opening: Kootenays in Colours by Tammy Marcer**, The Arts Station
- All Month **In the Gallery: Beer from the Mountains**, Fernie Museum

JUNE

- 1-9 **Annual Coal Miner Days Festival**, Sparwood
- 2 **Guided Nature Walk with Clayton Paul**, Fernie Museum
- 6 **Gallery Opening: Old School Memories**, Fernie Museum
- 9 **Fernie Community Choir Spring Concert**, Knox on 2nd
- 14 **Summer Opening Day**, Island Lake Lodge
- 14 **Club Cre8 for K - Gr 6**, The Arts Station
- 15 **A Concert for NICU**, TBD
- 16 **Father's Day Brunch**, Island Lake Lodge
- 21 **National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration**, Fernie Heritage Library
- 22 **Summer Opening Day**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 22 **Elk Valley Cruisers Wheels in the Valley Rally & Poker Run**, Fernie Legion
- 26 **Live Music: Bandidos Band**, Knox on 2nd
- 27 **Gallery Opening: ICE CREAM – a collective show**, The Arts Station
- 28-30 **Annual Wildcat Days Festival**, Elkford
- 29-30 **Music on the Mountain at Fernie Alpine Resort**, Lost Boys Café
- 29 **WAM BAM Dirt Jump Jam**, Fernie Dirt Jump Park

JULY

- 1 **Canada Day Festivities & Mountain Market**, Fernie Aquatic Centre
- 1 **Canada Day Festivities**, Elkford
- 3 **Wednesday Socials Concert Series**, Station Square
- 4 **Art in the Eve: Ice Cream Slip Casting with Becky**, The Arts Station
- 7 **Mountain Wildflowers Guided Hike**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 8, 15, 22, 29 **Club Cre8 for K - Gr 6**, The Arts Station
- 8-12 **Sketchers in the Wild Art Camp for Ages 11-15**, Katherine Russell Glass Art Studio
- 9-11 **Shine Theatre Camp for ages 7-12**, The Arts Station
- 10 **Wednesday Socials Concert Series**, Station Square
- 11 **Art on the Deck: Ice Cream Still Life Painting**, The Arts Station
- 17 **Wednesday Socials Concert Series**, Station Square
- 11 **Art on the Deck: Ice Cream Abstract Art**, The Arts Station
- 18 **Live Music: Misery Mountain Boys**, Knox on 2nd
- 20 **Full Day Timber Guided Hike**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 21 **Fossils & Geology Guided Hike**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 24 **Wednesday Socials Concert Series: Maddisun**, Station Square
- 24 **Splish, Splash, Sploosh Children's Party**, Fernie Aquatic Centre

EVENTS CONTINUED



- 25 **Art in the Eve: Ice Cream Rotoscope Animation**, The Arts Station
- 31 **Wednesday Socials Concert Series: Hello Fiasco**, Station Square

AUGUST

- 3-4 **Music on the Mountain at Fernie Alpine Resort**, Lost Boys Café
- 4 **Berries & Useful Plants Guide Hike & Full Day Timber Guided Hike**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 6 **Workshop: Intro to Urban Sketching with Karen**, The Arts Station
- 7 **Wednesday Socials Concert Series**, Station Square
- 9-10 **Annual Wapiti Music Festival**, Annex Park
- 10-11 **Columbia Basin Culture Tour**, Various Locations

- 12-16 **Sketchers in the Wild Art Camp for Ages 8-12**, Katherine Russell Glass Art Studio
- 12 **Club Cre8 for K - Gr 6**, The Arts Station
- 13-15 **Shine Theatre Camp for ages 7-12**, The Arts Station
- 14 **Wednesday Socials Concert Series: Tired Cossack & Live Painting Event**, Station Square
- 18 **Birds & Wildlife Guided Hike**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 24 **Elk Valley Cruisers Annual Show n' Shine**, Fernie City Hall
- 29 **Gallery Opening: Timeless Built Form by Steve Cho**, The Arts Station
- 31 **Full Day Timber Guided Hike**, Fernie Alpine Resort

See online calendars for new events as they are announced!



WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS:

En Plein Air, Locations Vary, 5pm, June 3 - August 26

Jam Night, Kodiak Lounge, 9pm

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY:

Coal Mine Tours, 1pm, Sparwood VIC, July - August

TUESDAYS:

\$8 Movie Night, Vogue Theatre, 7pm

WEDNESDAYS:

Art on the Deck, The Arts Station, 1-3pm, July 11 & August 1 - 15

Games, Activities, Crafts & Books, Fernie Heritage Library 2 - 5pm

Wednesday Socials Outdoor Concert Series, Station Square, 5:30 - 8:30pm, July 3 - Aug 14

Live Beats at Bramasole, 8 - 11pm

THURSDAYS:

Bi-weekly Car Cruise, Elk Valley Cruisers, 6pm, 1st & 3rd Thursday

Jam Night, Freshies, 5-7pm, from July 4

Karaoke at Kodiak Lounge, 9pm

FRIDAYS:

Sparwood Farmer's Market, Titan Park, 3:30 - 6:30pm, June 28 - Sep 6

Culture on the Lawn, Sparwood Museum, 4-7pm, June 28 - August 30

Meat Draw, The Fernie Taphouse, 6:30pm

DJ Night at Kodiak Lounge, 9pm

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS:

Tours and Tastings, Fernie Distillers, 1/3pm

SATURDAYS:

Meat Draw & 50/50, Fernie Legion, 3pm

Jam Night, The Fernie Taphouse, 9pm

SUNDAYS:

Fernie Mountain Market, Rotary Park, 10am - 2pm, July 7 - Sep 29

Heritage Walking Tours with the Fernie Museum, 11am & 3pm, July & August

Live Beats at Bramasole, 3 - 6pm

Sunday Sessions Live Music, The Pub Bar and Grill, 6 - 9pm, from June

Patio Sessions Live Music, The Fernie Taphouse, July & August

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 just a 5-minute walk from the hotel.



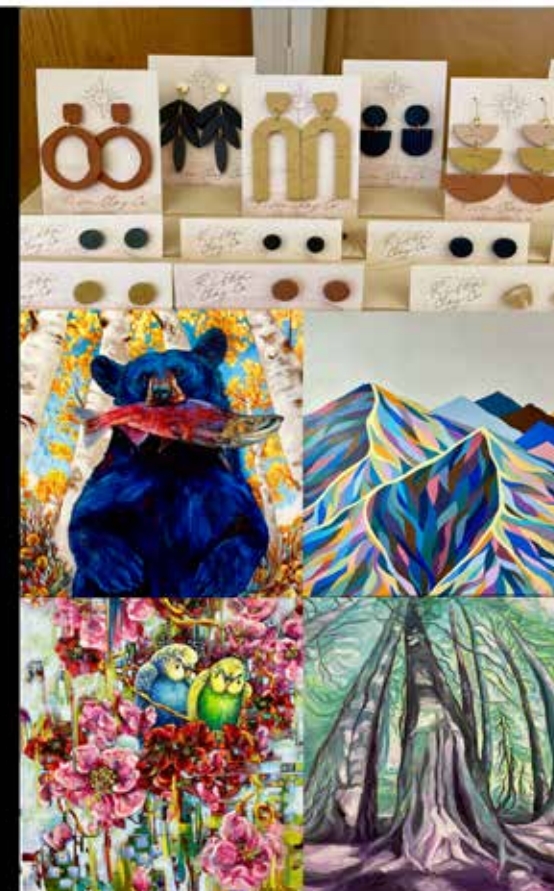
250-423-6871 | www.parkplacelodge.com |

Fernie Arts Co-op

Featuring the original works of 40+ local artists

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

@fernierartscoop



FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT

FERNIE'S DJ SCENE



From the not-so-secret garden at Bramasole, to sold-out shows featuring international heavyweights like Neon Steve and Geordie Kieffer, to the all-night magical winter forest fest known as the Mogul Smoker, Fernie's got the goods when it comes to DJ vibes. Fernie's bars host regular and guest DJ spots with local talent and DJ night returning to the Kodiak Lounge on Fridays this summer.

The talent pool is deep, with acts including Jay Ray, DingoStarr, Angie Mo, Aurora, KTTY, Philly Wonka, Naytaron and Proper Vibe playing hot tunes all around town. Here's a few more you should definitely check out this summer:

NATURALIST – MISTER MOFFAT & FLATSPIN

Formed in 2012, this brotherly duo took their name from their love of Mother Earth and all creatures, big and small. They learned their skills from friends and after 10 years of dedication, landed their dream gig of a slot at the legendary Shambhala.

Naturalist's sound is driven by a mix of happy disco, house, and breakbeats that they have dubbed 'Space Disco'. Feelgood to its core, a night with Naturalist is one where you will leave it all on the dancefloor. Festivals feature highly in the pair's future plans, with hopes of being included on the lineup

at some of their favourite stages this summer including Shambhala, Wicked Woods, Future Forest, Bass Coast, and The Unicorn Cup. A US tour also features on their future goals checklist and they will continue to host Mogul Smoker Productions events throughout the summer as they prep for the big event in November.

With a new manager and a collaboration with Sam Steele ready to release soon, Naturalist are ready to take on 2024.

 @naturalist.music

 /naturalistmusic

 /naturalistbrothers

SNCKS

The latest act to hit the Fernie DJ scene is SNCKS - Chantel Vincent and Stephanie Tomney - a dynamic homebased DJ duo. Their journey is a blend of alter egos, glitter, and pure fun. Both sharing a passion for the dance floor, they embarked on their DJ career in April 2023, honing their skills amidst their busy lives as business professionals. SNCKS thrives on disco and tech house beats, drawing inspiration from artists like Peggy Zoo and Mochakk. Transitioning from dance enthusiasts to DJs, they discovered the meticulous preparation required, yet found solace in the live performances. SNCKS embodies the spirit of techno, trusting in the power of music.



   @sncksdjs

DJ CONA

One of Fernie's OGs on the DJ scene, Cona has a reputation for supporting up and coming acts and is always ready for a party. It all started in late '90s Winnipeg with a Daft Punk CD from Columbia House. Soon after, Cona began DJing armed with his dad's record collection, studying DJ bits caught on Much Music VHS recordings. Relocating to Fernie in the early 2000s, he would make frequent trips to Calgary with DJ Enjoy in search of the freshest vinyl.



DJ Cona started a DnB night at the Royal Hotel 20 years ago and spun records at the first Mogul Smoker with local and guest DJs. He hosted Hotdog parties for over a decade, chased off resort to the legendary Rusty Edge patio. These days, he keeps a lower profile online, but catch him this year at Wapiti, still spinning some of his dad's tunes.

ʔAMAKʔIS QUKIN - LAND OF THE RAVEN

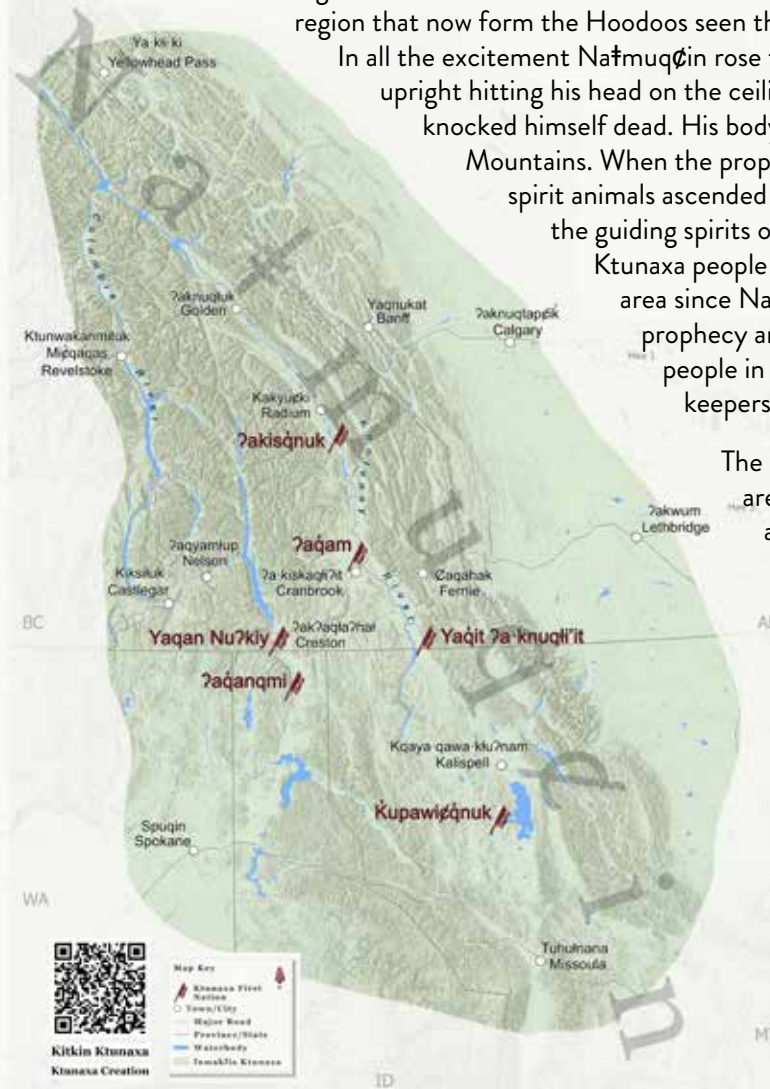
The Ktunaxa have been here for tens of thousands of years or since the time of Creation. At that time there was a disturbance caused by a huge water monster known as Yawuʔnik, who killed many of the animals. It was decided by the animals that Yawuʔnik had to be destroyed. A war party was formed by the chief animal, Naʔmuqʕin. Yawuʔnik was quick to descend on the Kootenay (wu-u ʔaqʕmaknik ʔakinmituk) and Columbia (Miʕqaaqas) river system and the other animals gave chase.

Eventually Yawuʔnik was caught, killed, butchered and distributed among the animals. Yawuʔnik's ribs were scattered throughout the region that now form the Hoodoos seen throughout the region. In all the excitement Naʔmuqʕin 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 Naʔmuqʕin fulfilled his prophecy and placed the Ktunaxa people in this area to be the keepers of the land.

The Ktunaxa occupied the area now recognized as ʕaqahak (Fernie) for thousands of years before the arrival of the settlers. The area was known to be a winter hunting area where the Ktunaxa would hunt mountain sheep, mountain goat, moose, elk deer and other animals. They would trap and fish, and harvest natural vegetation. The Elk Valley is within ʔamakʔis Qukin

(Land of the Raven) and was known for its mineral coal. The Ktunaxa would carry the coal with them to start their fires as they travelled to the different encampments as they followed the seasons in their homelands.

Find out more: Travel to the Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre at St Eugene Resort on Mission Road near Cranbrook to take an interpretive tour. The centre is open Monday to Friday, plus Saturdays from May 17 and will offer weekly drop in activities including beading, plant walks, traditional games, legends and tipi raising. To book a tour or for more details, visit tkamnintik.com.



ENVIRONMENT FEATURE ON THE FOSSIL TRAIL



In 1916, explorers discovered a marine fossil believed to be an Ichthyosaurus near the confluence of the Morrissey Creek and Elk River.

The fossil was removed and transferred to the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. The unique nature of the earth's formation in the Elk Valley means that much of the region's younger Jurassic rock has been folded and twisted so that it is now sitting beneath Devonian marine material that is around 180 million years older than the rock on which it sits. This sedimentary material, once a shallow sea near the equator was slowly pushed north, bringing with it an array of fascinating fossils including trilobites and brachiopods. Eager-eyed hikers often find loose fossils lying on mountaintop trails within the Elk Valley.

In a tributary creek in the Coal Creek valley, a giant fossilized Ammonite (*Titanites occidentalis*) was first discovered by a geological mapping crew who were studying the Fernie Formation in 1947. This fossil is the biggest of its kind ever to be found in Canada. Resembling today's much smaller nautilus, they are extinct cephalopods, and more closely related to creatures such as octopus, squid and cuttlefish. The Fernie Ammonite is still in its original location; however access routes were damaged during recent flooding and forestry activity and the fossil is



not currently accessible to the public. Work is currently underway to create an interpretive trail, which is expected to open in late summer or fall this year.

On July 21, join naturalist guides at Fernie Alpine Resort for a fascinating Fossils & Geology Hike and be sure to check out Nature Bob's Interpretive Centre at the top of the Elk Chair. The Sparwood Museum opened a new Dinosaur Exhibit in 2023 which details exciting discoveries and the story of migrating dinosaurs in the upper Elk Valley.

For more information about the geology of the East Kootenay Region: fossilhuntress.blogspot.com/2023/01/fossils-and-geology-of-east-kootenay.html



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.



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



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.



FERNIE DISTILLERS

Handcrafted, award-winning artisan spirits and liqueurs featuring local produce. Small batch distillery, tasting room and cocktail patio.

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



FERNIE MUSEUM

Permanent & temporary displays, gift shop, special events, interpretive walks and local information. See feature, P18.

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



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. Due to ongoing construction in the area, access may be limited/closed during the spring and summer.

Montane Parkway | Montanefernie.ca



SPARWOOD MUSEUM

Preserving and sharing the histories of Sparwood, Corbin, Michel, Middletown and Natal. See feature, P32.

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 P28.

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



HISTORY & CULTURE
FERNIE MUSEUM



130 YEARS OF FERNIE HISTORY

Fernie's heritage and history hub featuring two floors of exhibits, a gift shop, visitor information and historical research services.

TRITES AND WOOD MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

The museum gift shop features a curated selection 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.





PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

In the gallery through May: *The Beer from the Mountains – The History of Brewing in Fernie.*

Opening June 6: *Old School Memories.*

Guided Historical Walking Tours every Sunday in July & August with Lindsay Vallance.

491 2nd Ave | 250-423-7016  
Ferniemuseum.com
Open Daily 11am – 4pm

SEASONAL FEATURE
PATIO TUNES



Relax with live music and refreshments on patios and in garden spaces in Fernie this summer. Enjoy sunny rhythms over drinks and light bites, perfect pre or post bike ride, hike, or shopping session. Locations include:

- **Beats in the Garden at Bramasole** on Wednesdays from 8pm and Sundays from 3pm
- **Thursday Après at Freshies Café** from 5 – 7pm
- **Sunday Sessions at The Pub Bar & Grill** from 6 – 9pm
- **Sunday Patio Sessions at The Fernie Taphouse**, July & August
- **Music on the Mountain – live music at Lost Boys Café** at Fernie Alpine Resort on Saturdays & Sundays on the July & August long weekends
- And check online calendars for other locations as they are announced!

HISTORY & HERITAGE
DOWNTOWN FERNIE HERITAGE
PUB WALK



Promoting Fernie Beer in a Dominion Day parade outside The Imperial Bank, now the popular Brickhouse Bar & Grill.

Fernie's charming Historic Downtown hides deep secrets involving rumrunners, backroom clubs of an unsavoury nature, devastating fires, and even murder and malice. Follow this pub walk to learn about some of the locations still in operation, and those that didn't make it, and stop in for refreshments at four historical locations along the way.



The King Edward Hotel, still fondly remembered by local residents.



Outside The Workingman's Hotel.

#1 THE WALDORF

First built in the Old Town in 1898 and later moved into the downtown area. Burned down four times and remained in operation until the late 1950s.

#2 THE KING EDWARD

Built after the 1904 fire, in operation until it burned down in 1978.

#3 THE QUEEN'S

Opened in 1906 as a workingman's hotel offering \$1 rooms. It was converted to apartments in 1944 and torn down in 1986.

#4 THE ROMA/THE FERNIE

Phillip Carosella opened the first Roma Hotel on Victoria Avenue in 1903 as the 'headquarters for Italians in the city.' Rebuilt after the 1908 fire on the current location, the name was changed in 1945 to The Fernie Hotel, and it became The Fernie Taphouse in 2022.

#5 THE IMPERIAL

Opened in 1909 and housed liquor agent and infamous bootlegger, Emilio Picariello. Abandoned in 1914 and demolished in 1956.

#6 THE LEGION

Opened in 1926; still a popular gathering place and the home of Royal Canadian Legion Branch #36.

#7 THE ROYAL

Opened in 1909 and in operation until it was sold in 2020. A previous Royal Hotel was first opened in 1899 and

located on Victoria Avenue, enjoying the reputation as one of the best establishments in British Columbia. It burned down in 1904, was rebuilt, and burned down again in 1908.

#8 THE HOTEL FERNIE

Built following the 1908 fire and burned down in 1927. The site sat empty until the Sparling East Medical Clinic was built in 1968.

#9 THE NAPANEE & KINGS

Two hotels built in 1905, the Napanee was named after the town of the same name in Ontario. Both buildings burned down in 1982 and were torn down shortly after.

#10 THE CENTRAL

The 'Workingman's Hotel' opened in 1901 by Sarah Jennings, a partner in Klausman's Fernie Brewery, and William Eshwig of the Northern.

#11 THE VICTORIA

The first hotel built on the new townsite in 1898. It offered \$2 rooms and had a porter service that met every train. The hotel was lost in the fire of 1904.

#12 THE NORTHERN

Built in 1898 by William Eshwig, a partner in the ill-fated Fernie Brewery, and Sarah Jennings of the The Central. It had extensive modern conveniences including indoor bathrooms and electric lighting, plus a bar and barber shop. Has operated almost continuously for over 125 years.



EARTH'S OWN
NATURALS

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(778) 481-5425



Local Spirit Distilled



531 1st Avenue, Fernie, BC   www.ferniedistillers.com

CULINARY FEATURE PASTRYLAND WAFFLES



Annabelle St-Marseille is from the suburbs of Montreal where she went to culinary school and started a career in finance. By 2019 she was tired of the rat race and felt an urge to return to her culinary roots after turning 30. She began looking for a new home in western Canada and landed a job as Pastry Chef at Island Lake Lodge, where she worked for two years.



While inspired by the eclectic food scene in Fernie, she couldn't find anywhere that served the perfect waffle and took matters into her own hands, starting her own business. Encouraged by Barrie Elliot of Fernie Catering Co. where she works casually, she booked the kitchen at the Fernie Community Centre and set up shop for the first time at the 2022 Craft Fair. The event was huge success, and she is now a regular fixture for the event.


Inspired by regional flavours and not afraid to experiment, St-Marseille created a forest-styled dessert featuring mushroom ice cream and spruce tips as a garnish. She loves the earthy taste of miso combined with rich caramel and is looking forward to BC cherry season,

always pushed to create new dishes to suit her own palate. Her waffles are on the menu at Mugshots and Freshies, and other baked goods are available at Miner's Mud. You can also pick up frozen waffles to go from the Local Store on 2nd Ave. Look out for a new feature waffle every month, and a future mobile set up to feature at more events.

When not concocting new combinations in her own kitchen she heads to Happy Cow, Nevados or Funky Goat Pizza for her own food fix. St-Marseille lives in Fernie with Mika, her English Bull Terrier, and Chester, an orange floor.

Pastrylandwaffles.square.site

 /pastrylandwaffles

 /pastryland_waffles

GALLERY & STUDIO LISTINGS

THE ARTS STATION

An active and engaging space for creators and creatives with gallery, theatre, studio and meeting spaces. See feature, P28.

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



FERNIE MUSEUM GALLERY

Seasonal exhibits in the first floor gallery. Opening June 6: Old School Memories. Open Daily. See feature, P18.

491 2nd Ave, Fernie | ferniemuseum.com



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 Hephner. By appointment.

Clawhammer.ca | 250 946 6400



ELEMENT JEWELRY + OBJECTS

Working studio and gallery featuring handcrafted gold and silver ware by Matt Martin and imported items.

571 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-430-0700 | elementjewelryco.ca



ELEVATION GALLERY

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

532B 2nd Ave | Elevationfernief.com



ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO

Collaborative space operated by Elkford Arts Council offering visual art classes and workshops for all ages and abilities. See feature, P30.

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



FERNIE ARTS CO-OP

Art by 50+ artists and artisans including textiles, paintings, photography, sculpture and more. See ad, P11.

572 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-7044
fernierartsco-op.com



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



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



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 stained 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





This is Fernie!

With Sadie

ONLINE VIDEO SERIES

Launched in November 2022 by Tourism Fernie, this online video series is hosted by Sadie Rosgen and includes stories of Fernie's amazing music scene, artisan bakeries, community culture, cool characters, and much more.

Scan the QR code to see all the episodes!



CULTURAL WALKING TOURS IN FERNIE

Pick up a **Fernie Heritage** or **Art Walk** brochure from the Visitor Information Centre, Fernie Museum or various galleries and locations around town. Featuring 28 locations to discover, including artisan galleries, heritage buildings, art installations and places of interest with images, maps and walking routes.

Also available online at tourismfernie.com/vacation-guide.



BUSINESS FEATURE

ELEMENT JEWELRY + OBJECTS



Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Matt and Trisha Martin moved their family of five to Fernie in 2016 and have since called the Elk Valley home. With a pursuit for originality and a passion for goldsmithing, Matt draws inspiration from the natural beauty and creative design that surrounds us.

For over 30 years, Matt has specialized in custom-made jewelry that is both unique and meaningful, often repurposing inherited pieces. Matt pursued jewellery-making after being inspired by modernist American metal sculptor, Albert Paley. He began studying jewellery making at Camosun College in Victoria, BC, returning to Winnipeg to enrol in the Fine Arts program at the University of Manitoba and later switching to an intensive Jewellery Arts program offered at another local collegiate where the emphasis was on technical processes. Upon completion of his education, he was offered a work placement position with a local jeweller which was the catalyst to launching his career. Technically challenging and inherently creative, goldsmithing is a craft Martin has been drawn to over his career. He is inspired by contrast and

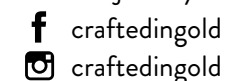


Scandi-inspired objects for your home

complexities in the natural beauty that surrounds us, strength of form often seen in architecture and sculpture, colour, and the display of light in natural gemstones.

The new gallery and studio at 571 2nd Ave will be a welcome addition to Fernie's Historic Downtown. The bright open retail gallery showcases their jewelry alongside a curated collection of beautiful Nordic inspired 'Objects' for your home that share in thoughtful design and reflect core values for sustainability. Offering a full range of repairs and servicing, the jewelry studio is also equipped with benches for upcoming workshops.

Elementjewelryco.ca



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 new public art regularly, including murals and the Fernie Banner Project. 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.



Hello Fiasco play the Wednesday Socials on July 31.



ICE CREAM opens in the gallery on June 27.

THIS SPRING & SUMMER 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:

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 and multi-day intensives.

Station Square comes alive in the summer months with colour, sound, and activity. In July and August, the very popular Wednesday Night Socials Outdoor Concerts feature live music with support, beverage gardens, food trucks and activities for kids. Full lineup to be announced, don't miss Maddisun on July 24 and Hello Fiasco on July 31.

The Arts Station will participate in the Columbia Basin Culture Tour on August 10 & 11 with quilting and visual art demonstrations, and workshops in printmaking and pottery. Find local art to take home in the community art show and find out more about the history of the Arts Station.

IN THE GALLERY

Discover local art at monthly shows in the foyer gallery. Opening night includes a social event with cash bar and complimentary nibbles, and a chance to meet the artists. Exhibits are on display throughout the following month.

Opening in the gallery:

April 25: Peggy Black – *The Essence of Landscapes*

May 30: Tammy Marcer – *Kootenays in Colours*

June 27: ICE CREAM Collective, with:

- **July 4:** Art in the Eve: Ice Cream Slip Casting Clay
- **July 11:** Art on the Deck: Ice Cream Still Life
- **July 18:** Art on the Deck: Ice Cream Abstract
- **July 25:** Art in the Eve: Ice Cream Rotoscope Animation

August 29: Steve Cho – *Timeless Built Form*

6011st Ave | 250-423-4842

theartsstation.com



ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO
GET CREATIVE BY NATURE

FEATURED ARTIST
SUMMER BREEZE



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 Mixed Media 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

Spring & Summer Hours:
Open Daily, 9am – 5pm
Closed Statutory Holidays



Summer Breeze grew up in Windsor, Ontario, but always longed for the wild landscapes of the Canadian west. After receiving a BA in Computer Science with a minor in Fine Arts, she found her way to Kitimat on BC's rugged coastline and completed a diploma in digital animation from BCIT, starting an arts business in 2006 and sustaining herself as an artist. Shifting her painting practice from oils to acrylics to suit her smooth, linear style better, she found there was a receptive audience eager for her bright and energetic landscapes.

Breeze loved the inspiring landscapes and arts community on the coast, but often found the light lacking. The artist's sister had moved to Fernie, and

in 2012 she moved from the coast to the mountains. Here, she met Aaron, and moved to Elkford to start a life with her new husband, where they have welcomed two daughters. In 2017 she took a step back from her art practice to focus on raising her young family. Slowly, she began to find connections with the local arts community and found time to become involved with the Elkford Arts Council, where she has been the secretary for the past four years and finds inspiration in teaching children.

Breeze is now ready to return to her practice with newfound dedication, and says she feels a shift in her energy and inspiration. She is passionate about capturing the power and dynamism of the light and skies. She has always loved to study shapes and forms which lends itself well to the subject of mountains and trees, and often includes birds and insects in her work. While not in her studio, she can often be found walking the Trans-Canada Trail with her family. Find her work at Mel's Kitchen in Elkford, and new retail spaces in the Elk Valley this summer.



Summerbreeze.ca

f [theartofsummerbreeze](https://www.facebook.com/theartofsummerbreeze)
i [summerbreeze_art](https://www.instagram.com/summerbreeze_art)



HISTORY & CULTURE

SPARWOOD MUSEUM

The Natal Sparwood Heritage Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing the histories of Sparwood, Corbin, Michel, Middletown and Natal.


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.



Culture on the Lawn is held every Friday evening from 4 – 7 pm from June 28 – August 30, 2024. This outdoor event showcases Elk Valley arts and celebrates Sparwood's culture both past and present. In conjunction with the Sparwood Market, artisans will demonstrate their skills in various mediums including painting, sketching, and crochet, and musicians will perform live on the lawn. Join in the summertime fun at the Sparwood Museum!

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

Summer Hours: May 13 – Sept 2, 2024
Open Daily, 10 am – 6 pm
Fridays until 7pm for Culture On The Lawn.

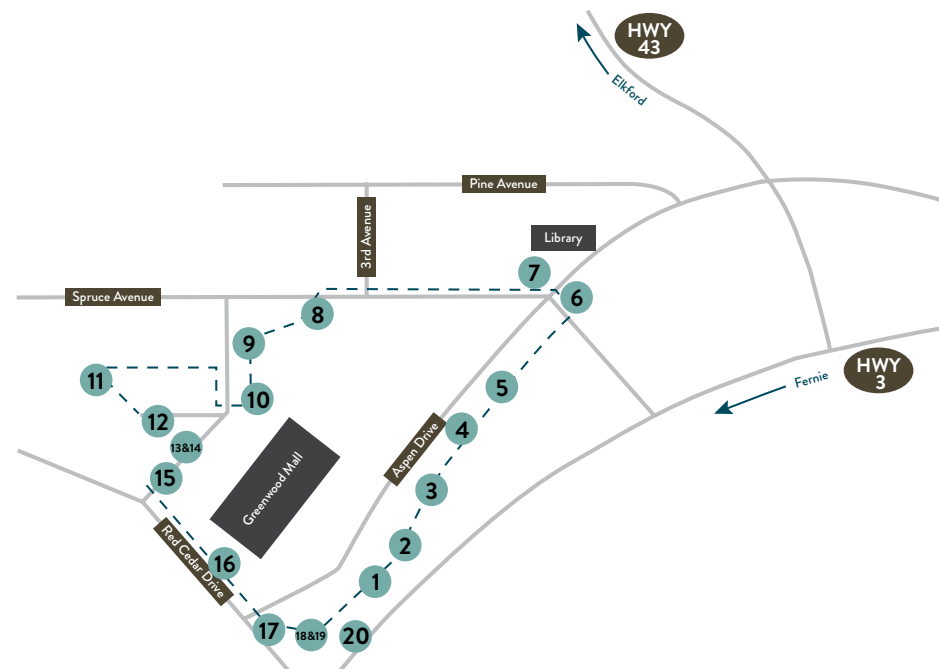
HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

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

EVENTS IN FERNIE

FALL & WINTER 2024 - 2025



These are just a few of the highlights to look out for this fall and winter, see calendars for more!

50TH ANNUAL DEMOLITION DERBY | SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Expect a huge celebration for this very special edition of Fernie's longest continuously running event – a family favourite and great entertainment in the early fall sunshine. Car, truck and powder puff categories, beverage gardens, concessions, and tons of smash-em-up fun!



FERNIE CHAUTAUQUA
SEPTEMBER 13 – 15, 2024
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FERNIE
fernitechautauqua.com

Centred on the lawns at City Hall in the heart of Fernie, the annual Fernie Chautauqua is a celebration of heritage and culture featuring history, music, and art hosted by the Fernie Museum.



ELK VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 18 - 22, 2024
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FERNIE
ferniepride.ca

Bringing colour, love, and friendship to Fernie with four days of entertainment, arts and open hearts including the Spectrum Queer Arts Day, Rainbow Reads, bicycle & puppy parades, drag shows & storytime, and live entertainment on the lawns at City Hall.



5TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING AT THE BARN | OCTOBER 12, 2024
MONTANE BARN

A heritage day featuring miniature animals, family photos, live music, food and drinks, games and family fun hosted by the Coal Creek Heritage Society.



CEMETERY TOURS | OCTOBER 2024
ST MARGARET'S CEMETERY

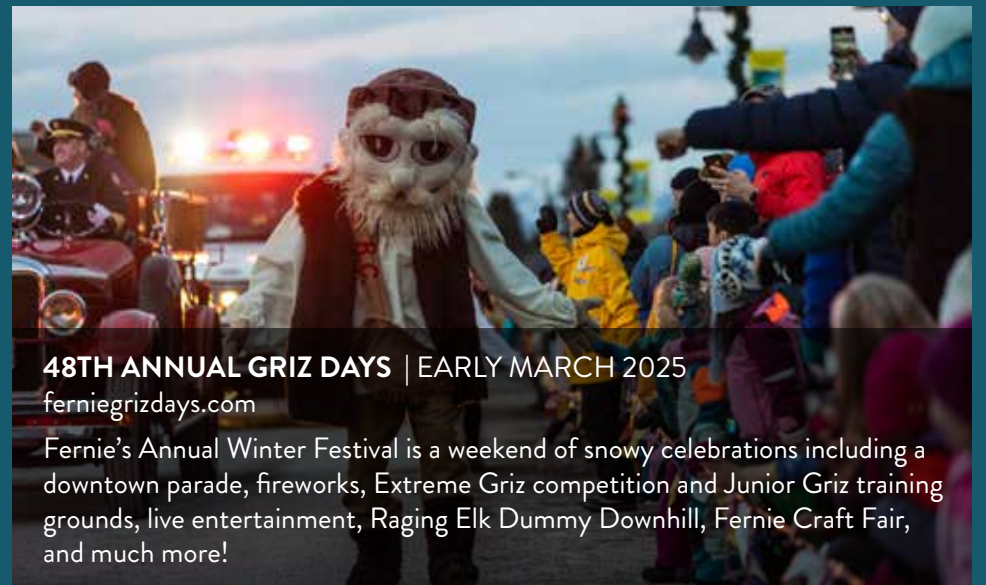
Take a cemetery tour with an interpretive guide this fall and hear tales of some of Fernie's long departed souls. Hosted by the Fernie Museum.

17TH ANNUAL REEL CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL | JANUARY 2025
VOGUE THEATRE | 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.

PONIES & PLANKS | FEBRUARY 15, 2025 | DEMO DERBY GROUNDS
freeequine.com

The first annual event was a huge hit in 2023, and will return to the Demo Derby Grounds in February 2025. Skiers, snowboarders, horses, cow boys and gals, jumps, speed and one heck of a good time.



48TH ANNUAL GRIZ DAYS | EARLY MARCH 2025
ferniegrizdays.com

Fernie's Annual Winter Festival is a weekend of snowy celebrations including a downtown parade, fireworks, Extreme Griz competition and Junior Griz training grounds, live entertainment, Raging Elk Dummy Downhill, Fernie Craft Fair, and much more!



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

Themes Include:

Taste of Fernie | Family Fun | Nature Walks
Heritage | Best Views | Art Walk

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for local rewards.



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to download the free app.

