

A woman with her hair in a bun and wearing sunglasses on her head and a patterned apron is focused on shaping a piece of pottery on a pottery wheel. She is in a well-lit workshop or studio. In the foreground, there is a wooden table with various pottery-making tools and materials. In the background, there are several dark ceramic bottles, a white vase with dried branches and string lights, and a wooden chair. The overall atmosphere is warm and creative.

# FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE

FALL 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](http://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 locally.

Front Cover: Sarah Pike at work in her pottery studio, image by Nick Nault. [sarahpikepottery.com](http://sarahpikepottery.com)

This Page: Maiden Lake is a tranquil spot for a fall stroll. Image 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

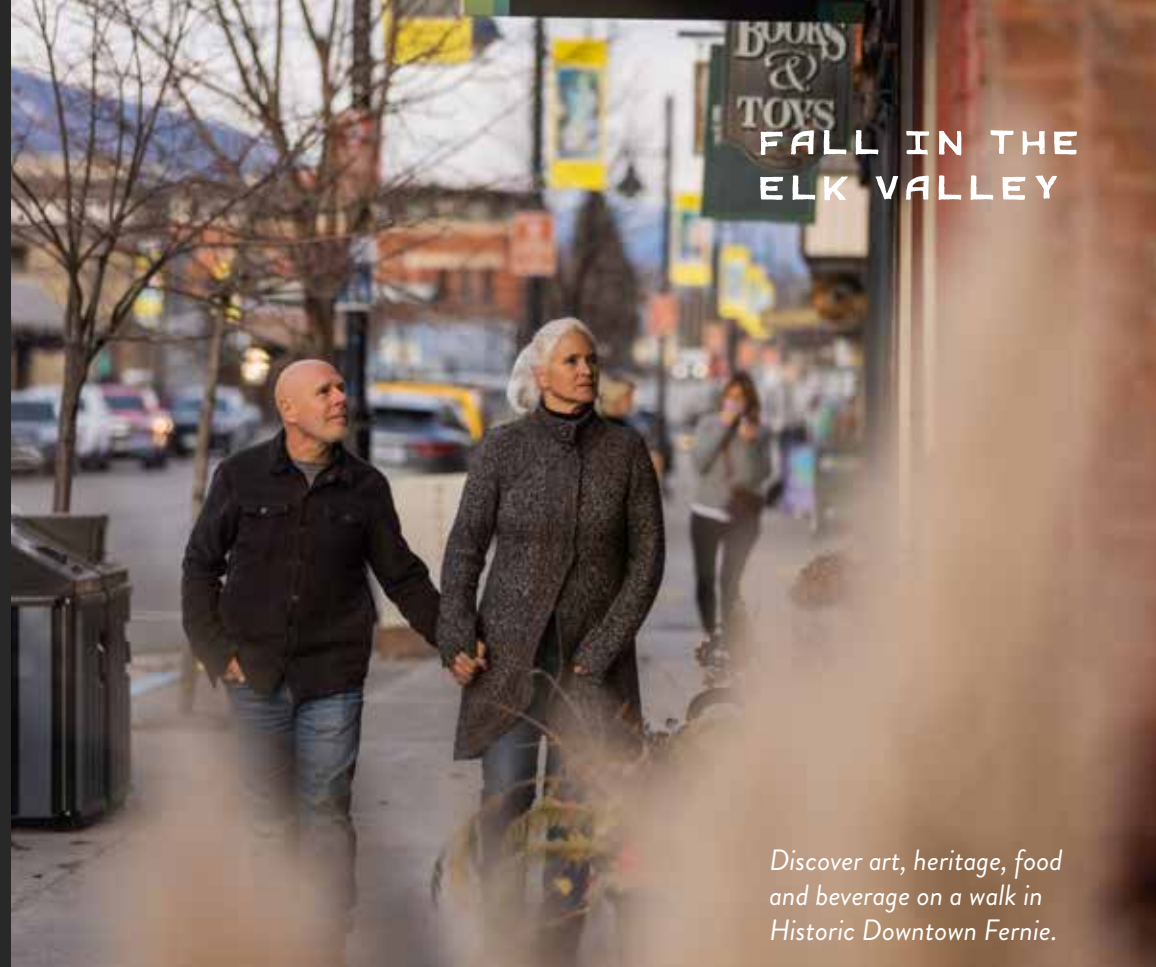
Credits: Writing, editing & layout by Rebecca Hall/Tourism Fernie with submissions from Shelby Knudsen - Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔi'it Tobacco Plains, Sami Bierman – Wildsight Elk Valley, Lindsay Vallance and John Kinnear. Design by Claris Media. Images by Vince Mo, Emily Williams, Sparwood Chamber, Sparwood Museum, Fernie Museum, Matt Kuhn, District of Elkford, Beartooth Media, Raven Eye Photography, Mitch Winton – KRT, Nancy Stevenson, Elkford Arts Studio, Summer Breeze, Nick Nault, Curtis Huisman, Nicole Leclair Photography, Jennifer Laberge, Mikaela Cannon, Davis Fultz, Carmen Dunnet, Sami Bierman, Kat Koroshun.



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.



FALL IN THE ELK VALLEY

*Discover art, heritage, food and beverage on a walk in Historic Downtown Fernie.*

As summer turns to fall, a blanket of amber, gold, and russet sweeps down the valley alongside the freestone Elk River. As the end of October approaches, dark tones take over the forest and warm lights invite you inside cosy bars and nightlife spots. Fall quickly turns to sparkling white as the snow flies in November bringing festive celebrations and gentle excursions in the winter wonderland.



**ELKFORD VIC**

PH: 250-865-4015  
750 Fording Drive

**HOURS:**

**Fall:** Open Mon - Sat, 9am - 12pm & 1pm - 5pm  
Closed Stat Holidays.



**SPARWOOD VIC**

PH: 250-425-2423  
141 Aspen Drive

**HOURS:**

**Until September 2:** Open 7 days, 9am - 6pm.  
**Fall:** Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm.  
Closed Stat Holidays.



**FERNIE VIC**

PH: 778-519-0748  
102 Commerce Road

**HOURS:**

**Until October 13:** Open 7 days, 9am - 5pm.  
**Fall:** Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm.  
Closed Stat Holidays.



Enjoy international cuisine and farm-to-fork fare at local restaurants or stop in for hot beverages and tasty savoury snacks and home-baking at friendly cafes throughout the Elk Valley.



Explore local galleries and attractions on a self-guided walking tour or download the Iconic Fernie App or Sparwood Walking Tour App for more tips and local insights. Fall in love with Elk Valley this season.

Elkvalleyculture.ca  
TourismFernie.com

# 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](http://www.parkplacelodge.com) | [f](#) [i](#)



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## FEATURED FALL EVENTS IN THE ELK VALLEY

### FERNIE LIONS DEMOLITION DERBY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday September 1 | Gates open at 11 am  
Demolition Derby Grounds, Railway Avenue  
[Fernelionsclub.ca](http://Fernelionsclub.ca)



Fernie's longest running event is ready for the biggest smash-em up celebration of the century. Competitions include regular cars, small cars and pick up trucks and the grand prize is \$5,000 so drivers will be arriving from far and wide for a crack at the top ticket. This family-friendly, cash-only, event features bouncy castles for the kids, an expanded beverage garden, merch & concessions, a 50-50 draw, and live music from Mt Rushka!

### ELK VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL

September 18-22 | [fernieride.ca](http://fernieride.ca)



Bringing colour, love, and friendship to Fernie with four days of entertainment, arts and open hearts. The festival will feature a flag raising at city hall, bike parade, Rainbow Reads, drag story time, workshops and education, Cooking with Queens, a puppy parade, drag shows, live music and the fabulous Spectrum Arts Day on the lawns at City Hall!

### CEMETERY TOURS WITH THE FERNIE MUSEUM

Saturday & Sundays at 1pm,  
September 28 - October 27 | Meet at 1pm at the gates of St Margaret's Cemetery | \$10 per person, free for Fernie Museum members



For 130 years Fernie has buried its dead on the gentle, forested ridge just to the east of town. Today, many of the earliest lie unmarked, the only evidence of their presence forgotten obituaries and tiny names inked on cemetery maps. Join the Fernie Museum for a chance to revisit their stories: from victims of disease, fire, mine disasters and murder to hardworking immigrants, proud veterans, and criminal entrepreneurs.

### CRAFT BEER & BURGER MONTH

October 1 - 31 | The Pub Bar & Grill at Park Place Lodge | [Parkplacelodge.com](http://Parkplacelodge.com)



Enjoy hand crafted burgers featuring world flavours and unique local ingredients paired with delicious BC Craft Beers including favourites from our local Fernie Brewing Company and specialty brews from around British Columbia.

# 2024 FALL CULTURAL EVENTS



## SEPTEMBER

- 1 **50th Anniversary Fernie Lions Demolition Derby**, Demo Derby Grounds
- 1 **Live Music: Tim Ketchum**, The Pub Bar & Grill
- 1 **Music on the Mountain: Scenic Chairlift Rides, Guided Hike: Polar Peak**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 2 **Closing Day**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 4 **Live Music: All Ages Metal Show - Repugnant Scum & Chungus**, Elks Hall
- 5 **Wheels in the Valley Bi-Weekly Cruise**, Elk Valley Cruisers
- 7-8 **10th Annual Fernie Chautauqua**, City Hall Grounds/Museum
- 8 **Fernie Fall Fair**, Rotary Park
- 8 **Live Music: Naena Robinson**, Bramasole
- 8 **Live Music: L'Omelette**, Knox on 2nd
- 8 **Live Music: The Quimby's**, The Pub Bar & Grill
- 11 **Life Drawing**, The Arts Station
- 12 **Workshop: Quilt Jackets with Marissa**, The Arts Station
- 15 **Live Music: Ferdy Belland**, Bramasole
- 18-22 **8th Annual Elk Valley Pride Festival**, City Hall Grounds/Various
- 19 **Goodbye Summer Swim Party**, Fernie Aquatic Centre
- 19 **Booked! Fernie Writers Series Presents: Bernadette McDonald**, Fernie Heritage Library
- 19 **Wheels in the Valley Bi-Weekly Cruise**, Elk Valley Cruisers
- 22 **Elk River Shoreline Clean Up**, wildsight.ca

- 22 **Live Music: Hey Jack**, Bramasole
- 23 **Cleansing Art Session**, The Arts Station
- 24 **Closing Day**, Island Lake Lodge
- 25 **Workshop: Textile Collective - Meet the Machine**, The Arts Station
- 25 **Life Drawing**, The Arts Station
- 26 **Gallery Opening: Lands Far Away by Abby Wilson**, The Arts Station
- 24 **Monthly Poker Tournament**, Fernie Legion
- 27 **Workshop: Intro to AI for Artists with Abby Wilson**, The Arts Station
- 27 **Wine & Wheel Pottery Social**, The Arts Station
- 27 **Live Music: BCDC**, The Northern
- 28 **Fall Craft Fair**, Elks Hall & The Arts Station
- 28 **Fernie Ghostriders Home Opener**, Fernie Memorial Arena
- 29 **Live Music: Tenise Marie**, Bramasole
- 29 **Book Launch: Carved in Stone**, Fernie Museum

## OCTOBER

- 1-31 **Craft Beer & Burger Month**, The Pub Bar & Grill
- 3 **Final Wheels in the Valley Bi-Weekly Cruise**, Elk Valley Cruisers
- 6 **Ironman Open & Iron Lady**, Fernie Golf Club
- 9 **Life Drawing**, The Arts Station
- 11 **Thanksgiving Turkey Meat Draw**, The Fernie Taphouse
- 12 **5th Annual Thanksgiving at the Barn**, Montane Barn
- 12 **Oktoberfest**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 13 **Exhibit Closing: School's Out Forever**, Fernie Museum

## SPECIAL FEATURES

### FERNIE MUSEUM

**Cemetery Tours**, Saturday & Sundays at 1pm, September 28 - October 27  
**Ghost Tours**, 8pm, Oct 24 - Nov 3

- 14 **Tombstone Tournament**, Fernie Golf Club
- 16 **Live Music: Terra Lightfoot - Healing Power 2024 Western Tour**, Northern Bar & Stage
- 17 **Exhibit Opening: Tom & Marge Foran: A Retrospective Show & Sale**, Fernie Museum
- 23 **Life Drawing**, The Arts Station
- 24 **Spooky Swim Party**, Fernie Aquatic Centre
- 25 **Wine & Wheel Pottery Social**, The Arts Station
- 27 **Griz Kidz Halloween**, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 29 **Live Music: Mia Kelly**, Knox on 2nd
- 29 **Monthly Poker Tournament**, Fernie Legion
- TBC **Screening Event: Rocky Horror Picture Show**, The Arts Station
- 31 **Halloween Dance Party**, Elks Hall
- 31 **Halloween Howler**, The Pub Bar & Grill
- 31 **Halloween Party**, The Fernie Taphouse

## NOVEMBER

- 1 **Gallery Opening: The Art of the Poster by Michael Hepher**, The Arts Station
- 5 **Melbourne Cup Party**, The Fernie Taphouse
- 6 **Life Drawing**, The Arts Station
- 11 **Remembrance Day Service**, Fernie Cenotaph
- 16 **The Mogul Smoker**, mogulsmoker.ca
- 20 **Life Drawing**, The Arts Station
- 21 **Games Night Swim Party**, Fernie Aquatic Centre
- 21 **Booked! Fernie Writers Series Presents: Timothy Taylor**, Fernie Heritage Library
- 22 **Wine & Wheel Pottery Social**, The Arts Station
- 23 **Fernie Museum presents: Blood in the Snow - An Old West Murder Mystery**, Elks Hall
- 26 **Monthly Poker Tournament**, Fernie Legion
- 29-30 **Twilight & Holiday Craft Fairs**, Elks Hall & The Arts Station
- 29 **Holiday Kick Off**, Fernie-Wide
- 29 **Gallery Opening: More Than a Mug Show**, The Arts Station

See online calendars for new events as they are announced!



## WEEKLY EVENTS

### MONDAYS:

**Jam Night**, Kodiak Lounge, 9pm  
**Date Night Dinner**, Island Lake Lodge (Until Sep 23)

### TUESDAYS:

**\$8 Movie Night**, Vogue Theatre, 7pm

### WEDNESDAYS:

**Wednesday at the Library**, 1-4pm,  
**Team Trivia**, The Taphouse, 8pm, from October

**Whisky Wednesday Curated Flights**, Fernie Distillers

**Live Beats in the Garden**, Bramasole, 8-11pm (as weather allows)

### THURSDAYS:

**Team Trivia**, The Pub Bar & Grill, tentatively from November

**Karaoke** at Kodiak Lounge, 9pm

### FRIDAYS:

**Meat Draw**, Fernie Hotel & Pub, 6:30pm  
**Alternating Music/Bingo/Trivia**, The Fox Pub, Sparwood, 8pm

### FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS:

**Tours and Tastings**, Fernie Distillers, 1/3pm  
**Men's Darts**, 7pm, Fernie Legion (from Sep 20)

### SATURDAYS:

**Weekly Meat Draw & 50/50**, Fernie Legion, 4pm (except Oct 6)

**Jam Night**, Freshies, 5-7pm (as weather allows)

### SUNDAYS:

**Fernie Mountain Market**, Rotary Park, 10am-2pm (until Sept 29)

KTUNAXA FEATURE

THE ʔAKANUXUNIK' -  
YAQIT ʔA·KNUQʔI'IT  
FIRST NATION

The ʔakanuxunik' members of Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it First Nation (In English, "Tobacco Plains Indian Band") are the distinct group of Indigenous people who have occupied, controlled and been exclusive stewards over their unceded ancestral lands since time immemorial. These lands comprise 10,600 acres in Southeastern British Columbia. The Southern boundary adjoins the USA border in Montana. Highway 93 crosses the Reserve at two locations and the Reserve surrounds the Canada Customs facility.

ʔakanuxunik' people - the people that are from where the water comes out of the mountain - are one of the seven Bands of the Ktunaxa (Kootenai) speaking peoples of British Columbia, Idaho and Montana. The Chief of Tobacco Plains Indian Band is Heidi Gravelle. Outspoken, compassionate, and committed to preserving the future of her people, in 2019 she followed in the footsteps of her grandmother, Elizabeth Gravelle - the first female First Nations Chief to be elected in Canada - and became Chief herself. She was re-elected in 2023.

Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it is currently reclaiming their self-determination and sustainability, while preserving and nurturing ʔakanuxunik' land, culture, language, and ceremony. Their vision is guided by their ancestors and creator with strength and unity, ensuring that all ʔakanuxunik' are acknowledged and respected. Gravelle says that the survival of her people and their culture is contingent on the health and protection of their land and natural resources.

"We hold a covenant with the Creator to be the caretakers and stewards of Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it lands," says Nasuʔkin (Chief) Heidi Gravelle of Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it First Nation. "With that we have an obligation to restore, protect and be the voices of our lands."

The Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it First Nation is actively working to protect and further the aboriginal rights and title of ʔakanuxunik' memberships, providing opportunities in economic development, health and wellness, employment and training, and cultural heritage. In 2024, their efforts have centered around strengthening leadership-to-leadership relationships with key partners including the Province of British Columbia, Local Municipal Governments (Elkford, Sparwood & Fernie), and industry, such as formerly named Teck Resources Limited, BC Hydro, North Coal, and NWP.



The progress in Government to Government and Industry leadership-to-leadership relationships reflects the exciting work being done, specifically within the Reconciliation Department. These efforts can lay the groundwork for a future where Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it people can independently manage and protect their lands and resources.

"Our lands provide us with an ecosystem where our waters, plants and animals work together in a symbiotic relationship to sustain our people and maintain our ways of life since time immemorial," says Nasuʔkin Gravelle. "Our culture is interwoven with our land and water. They thrive together, or die together," she says. "The transformative action of reconciling our land is a pathway to healing, while honouring our culture, our creator and our ancestors. We believe this is a model for future land-reconciliation projects: ʔakanuxunik' land

stewardship directed by ʔakanuxunik' people."

"Council and I continue to diligently pursue our goal of building mutually beneficial relationships with industry and government. We will always stand together as a First Nation and speak up to preserve our land, but we've discovered that working from the inside is a better way to achieve success. While trust can't be built without the investment of time, we're getting there. Our desire is to ensure that the protection of our land be top-of-mind to everyone at the table when decisions are being made. It's a new way forward and we are proud to be breaking the trail. We hope all First Nations will follow. Together, we are stronger."

**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.

**MAIN FLOOR EXHIBIT**



**This is Our Fernie** explores the legends and myths, fires and mining disasters, and stories of commercial, sporting, and community life over the past 125+ years. Engaging displays include a timeline, artifacts, digital kiosks, and discovery items for kids.

**PRESERVING AND PROMOTING COMMUNITY HERITAGE**

The Fernie Museum holds an extensive collection of artifacts plus digitized and physical documents and images including over 100 years of local newspapers. The photographic database is available at British Columbia Regional Digitized History – bcrdh.ca.

Assistance with local heritage research and historical image searches is available for a small fee.



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



**AT THE  
FERNIE MUSEUM  
THIS FALL**

**FERNIE CHAUTAUQUA  
SEPTEMBER 7 & 8**

City Hall Grounds and 5th Street

A celebration of culture, heritage and community in the style of the Dominion Chautauquas of the early 20th century. The weekend will include arts & crafts demonstrations & displays, live entertainment, games and activities and more!

**CEMETERY TOURS WITH THE  
FERNIE MUSEUM**

Saturdays and Sundays,  
September 28 to October 27

Meet at 1pm at the gates of St Margaret's Cemetery. \$10 per person, free for Fernie Museum members. See featured events for details.

**GHOST TOURS**

Daily, October 24 to November 3

Meet at 8pm at the Arts Station, corner of 1st Ave & 6th Street. \$25 per person. Minimum age: 8. Bookings required - call/text 250-946-6484 to book.

The Fernie Ghost Tour is a parade of Fernie's most ghastly ghost stories, blood-soaked buildings and horrible happenings in the downtown core.

Listen closely and you will learn of the ghosts that haunt this hidden corner of the Kootenays, and if you peer into the darkness you may even spot a ghostly apparition...

**BOOK LAUNCH: CARVED IN STONE  
By Anne Gafiuk**

1pm, September 29

*Carved in Stone* is a collection of stories of the men and women from the Elk Valley who served during WWII, as well as those who are commemorated on the Fernie and Sparwood cenotaphs.

**BLOOD IN THE SNOW: AN OLD  
WEST MURDER MYSTERY**

Saturday November 23  
at the Elks Hall

The Museum's annual fundraiser returns as a thrilling night of murder and intrigue featuring an original storyline by Lindsay Vallance, costumed participants, spaghetti dinner, drinks by donation and as much mystery as you can handle!

**IN THE GALLERY:**

**UNTIL OCTOBER 13:  
School's Out Forever Exhibit**

View Elk Valley history through the lens of its past schools (1898-2008) and the schoolhouses lost to economic, political or social change. This exhibit temporarily shares memories of former students and teachers in a fascinating snapshot of 20th century life in the Elk Valley.

**OPENING OCTOBER 17:  
Tom & Marge Foran: A Retrospective Art  
Show & Sale**

# Fernie Arts Co-op

Featuring the original works of 40+ local artists

572 2nd Ave. 250-423-7044  
www.fernierartsco-op.com

  @fernierartscoop



## HERITAGE FEATURE

### CARRYING COAL — DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES IN THE ELK VALLEY



In a notch of the brick gateway into Sparwood lies an old relic from the Michel Mines; a Ruston Diesel Locomotive, an English made coal haulage engine that was used to tow mine cars in and out of the former mines at nearby Michel. It was brought to the Elk Valley in the early 1950s and replaced the old air locomotive workhorses that served the valley mines for the first 50 years of their existence. The Ruston's were all hydraulic and came equipped with air brakes, a crank or air start and a ceramic bead noxious fume filter that had to be continually cleaned. Pasquale Camilli, a retired Ruston operator from Michel claims those machines required a lot of a maintenance and recalls an English mechanic who was brought over to teach local operators how to fix them but observed that the “...Englishman was more concerned about getting back to England than teaching us all about the Ruston's intricacies.”



*Diesel locomotives replaced the earlier air locomotives which prevailed prior to the 1950's.*

‘outside diesel,’ capable of hauling 34 3-ton coal cars at a time. It serviced the International Coke and Coal Co. mine in Coleman till 1954 and then went to work in the Cheakamus Power Tunnel Project in Garibaldi, B.C. There, in 1956, it helped set a world record for most footage driven in 24 hours. It returned to work at Vicary Mine in Coleman in 1959 where it ran until it was replaced by conveyors in 1975.

In Fernie a diesel locomotive that served in underground haulage can be seen outside the Visitor Information Centre. The 100-horsepower engine was made by Hudswell Clark & Co. of Leeds, England in 1948 and was known as the

Diesel locomotives were noisy, smelly and temperamental but they moved millions of tons of coal from Crowsnest Pass mines in their time.

Local Spirit Distilled



531 1st Avenue, Fernie, BC



www.ferniedistillers.com





## 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, artists and artisans, 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 30 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](http://tourismfernie.com/vacation-guide).



## FEATURED ARTIST NORTH STAR PYROGRAPHY — JENNIFER LABERGE



With a degree in web and graphic design under her belt where she often worked with graphite or created cartoons, Jennifer Laberge found a passion for her current medium after purchasing a wood burner in Arkansas while visiting family. She taught herself how to manipulate wood with the instrument and learned the many intricacies of different wood types - hardwood, softwoods, grain, figuring, heartwood and even the sapwood can all burn differently and can affect the outcome of the design. A cheap skateboard served as an early canvas; she later moved on to clocks and has also worked with paper and leather. She has tried over 40 different varieties and now favours maple, basswood, poplar, and cherry.

Carefully incorporating natural features like knots and using a variety of pen tips and heat controls, she freehands original designs onto the wood. Her work often features fantasy themes including gnomes and dragons, wildlife and pets, cars, and mandalas. She usually relies on the unique colours of the burned wood but sometimes includes watercolour paint or pencil accents.






Raised in a military family with an American father, Laberge has lived all over the USA including Massachusetts



and Tacoma, Washington. She returned to her birthplace of Sparwood around 10 years ago after getting married and having her first daughter, having lived for a while in Cranbrook.

Many customers find the artist through her Instagram page where she has over 25,000 followers, she also shares her home-based practice through other social media channels and at local craft fairs. She accepts commissions – often for pet portraits – booking around 3-6 months out and shipping worldwide. A stay-at-home-mom to 2 little girls, she enjoys reading, gardening and camping in her spare time.

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



 /NorthStarPyrography  
 /northstar\_pyrography  
 /nspyrography

**FEATURED PUBLIC ART**  
**THE FERNIE**  
**MURAL PROJECT**  
**#FERNIEMURALPROJECT**



Fernie's walls have become a little more colourful in recent years thanks to The Fernie & District Art Council's Fernie Mural Project. Since 2018, each of the project's official publicly funded community murals have been carefully selected by a jury guided by Fernie's public art policy and the unique character of each space. Each artwork enriches our community, inspiring pride, reflection, and drawing people in, contributing to economic growth and sustainability.

The latest addition to the lineup is Erich Stoffels' 'All Aboard' on the wall of Fernie Legion Branch #36 overlooking Station Square. A whimsical depiction of a traditional steam locomotive puffing through town, the piece appears to be rolling straight off the wall towards the Arts Station. Highlighting Fernie's historical connection to the railways which were the mining town's very first connection to the outside world, the artwork is also a touching tribute to Fernie's military veterans. In place of the steam that should be seen puffing from the engine are dozens of colourful poppies, the universal symbol of remembrance. Red poppies reflect those who fought for Canada with golden centres to represent the lost souls, and purple poppies recognize military service animals.



An electrician, Stoffels has lived in Fernie for 12 years and only recently turned his childhood hobby of graphic artwork into a more serious endeavour, adding commissions and public art to his portfolio. 'All Aboard' took 80 hours over 6 days to complete and is already a beloved addition to Fernie's cultural heart.

 /coasts.creatures



The first mural of the project can be found on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 7th Street, on the side of Beanpod Chocolate, Gelato & Coffee and was officially presented to the community on October 15, 2019. 'All Kinds of Beauty' by Michael Hepher is 96 feet long and around 15 feet tall. Designed to capture the beauty of our diverse community in a symbolic way, the bright, graphic work includes references to Fernie's dramatic landscapes, industry, nature, community, and recreational activities. Peeking around the corner towards 2nd Avenue



is a large raven, in honour of the Ktunaxa name for this area – Quk'in Amak'is, Land of the Raven.

Clawhammer.ca  
 /michaelhepherart  /michaelhepher



The second mural of the series can also be found in Station Square, on the south laneway wall facing The Arts Station. 'Grow with the Flow' is a collaboration between Tara Higgins and Becca Davies and highlights Fernie's love of music, arts and the outdoors. The design grew from its original concept to over 100ft in length and is the perfect addition to the home of the Wednesday Socials – a free open air concert series hosted by the Arts Station that attracts hundreds of people every week in the summer months.

Tarahiggins.com | hsqaredgallery.com  
 /inkybec\_studio  /tarahigginsartist



**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 Hopher 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. 'All Aboard' by Erich Stoffels is the newest addition across Station Square.

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



Meet the Machine with the Textile Collective



Life Drawing



Meet the Wheel

**THIS FALL 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 Arts Station will partner with **Fernie Craft Fairs** for the upcoming season as a second venue to showcase handcrafted goods from local artisans and craftspeople. Fernie Craft Fairs' new primary location will be at the Elks Hall for the 2024-2025 season. Access is by donation and entry to one will allow access to both locations with a stamp. September 28, November 28-30.

Monthly events include **Life Drawing**, an opportunity to study the human form with a nude model. September 28, October 29 & November 30.

The **Cleansing Art Session** on the last Monday of the month (starting October 28), is an expressive art experience led by the Elk Valley Suicide Task Force. Laugh, connect and let your imagination guide you in mark making. Not a therapy session, these gatherings focus on building connections and offering a welcoming space. Registration is required as spaces are limited.

Stay tuned for more workshops including **Printmaking, Pottery, Sewing, and Digital Art**, including **Quilt Jackets** with Marissa on September 12, **Meet the Machine** with the Textile Collective on September 25 and **Intro to AI for Artists** with Abby on September 27.

The Pottery Studio is a hub of activity at the station. Activities include **Wine & Wheel** social evenings on Sep 27, October 25 & November 22 plus other sessions including skill building workshops, **Meet the Wheel** introductory sessions, sculpture workshops, multi-day intensives and exhibits.

Discover local art with a new show in the foyer gallery every month. Opening night includes a social event with cash bar and complimentary nibbles, and a chance to meet the artists. Exhibits stay on display through the following month. Opening in the gallery this fall:

August 29: **Timeless Built Form** by Steve Cho

September 26: **Lands Far Away** by Abby Wilson

November 1: **The Art of the Poster** by Michael Hopher

November 29: **More than a Mug Show**

**ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO**  
**GET CREATIVE BY NATURE**



Artists including painter Summer Breeze and glassworker Katherine Russell are based in Elkford.

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](http://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**

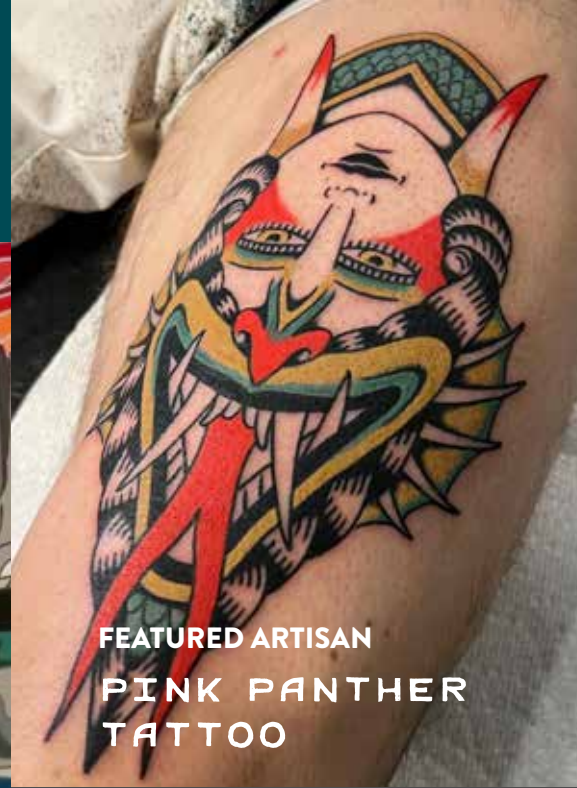
Annual memberships are available through the website and cost \$50 for adults and \$35 for youth/seniors.



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](http://elkfordarts.ca) | [f /elkfordartscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/elkfordartscouncil)

Open Daily, 9am – 5pm  
 Closed Statutory Holidays



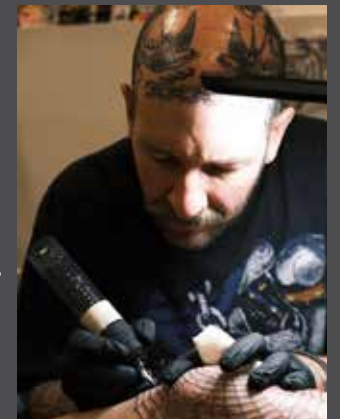
**FEATURED ARTISAN**  
**PINK PANTHER**  
**TATTOO**



Davis Fultz found his way to Fernie after studying for a BA in Vancouver and then transferring to the Kootenay School of the Arts in Nelson where he specialized in blacksmithing and welding. Following a brief stint in Montreal he returned to the west and chose Fernie where friends were living at the time. Originally from Boise, Idaho, he was encouraged as an artist by his grandma Jessie, a painter, sister Dominique, a graphic designer, and mom, Susan. Recognizing that tattooing could be a way to make a living through art, he found an apprenticeship with Becca Macdonald of the former renowned Poison Apple Tattoo studio in Fernie where he worked alongside Kent King, later working with Liam Monahan of Cryptic Hive.

Branching out on his own, Fultz began tattooing from a space at Sparrow Hair, opening Pink Panther Tattoo in 2019 where he works alongside Drew Hampson, aka Happy Stab. While he loves the simple American traditional style – distinctive and easily recognized from a distance – he says it's important to be flexible and offer a range of styles, especially in a small community. Recently, demand has increased for

fine line tattoos and Japanese-inspired designs, while our natural surroundings are also a constant source of inspiration.



Offering pop-up and flash events at the studio and at Edge of the World Board Shop on 2nd Ave, he also occasionally guests at Devotion Tattoo when he returns to his hometown in Idaho. With girlfriend Maddy, he enjoys road trips and camping and makes the most of Fernie's slopes and trails on his mountain bike or snowboard during his free time.

Drop by the studio or book a tattoo session for a cool memento of your time in Fernie!

641 7th Ave  
 250-278-7328

[/pink.panther.tattoo](https://www.instagram.com/pink.panther.tattoo)  
[/lazydavitattoos](https://www.instagram.com/lazydavitattoos)

# GALLERY & STUDIO LISTINGS

## THE ARTS STATION

An active and engaging space for creators and creatives with gallery, theatre, studio and meeting spaces. See feature, P20.

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



## FERNIE MUSEUM GALLERY

Seasonal exhibits in the first floor gallery. Opening October 17: *Tom & Marge Foran: A Retrospective Open Daily*. See feature, P12.

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, P22.

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, P14.

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

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



**FEATURED BUSINESS**  
**GLOW CANDLE CO**



Originally from Fernie, Carmen Dunnet returned to her former hometown after working in a flower shop in Cranbrook; opening The Green Petal in 2010 where she was renowned for her bridal florals and contemporary line of gifts and homewares. A decade later she sold the business to focus on raising her two daughters Eve & Noah with husband Morgan, who works in construction and is a fine art painter.

After selling the store, she took up candle making as a hobby and realized that there was a good business opportunity in hand crafted candles. She spent over 6 months testing ingredients and learning the science, which can be more intensive than one might imagine! With her love of pretty things and an eye for detail and colour, she enjoys all aspects of the product development from choosing unique containers to designing the brand identity and labels and focuses on high quality components including soy wax and cotton wicks.

Working from home and now melting wax 30 litres at a time, she has built her range over the past two years now offering 15 scents in three collections: Spa, Home, and Occasion. Each candle



features Dunnet's own hand blended scents, individually selected vessels, unique designs, and hours of detailed testing to perfect the aroma and burn quality and time. The full range is phthalate and paraben free and available online. Selected lines can also be found at the Fernie Arts Co-Op, Interior Envy, Coal Town and Spa901 in Fernie, and in Blairmore, Elkford, Cranbrook, and at local winter markets.

Dunnet enjoys the time off with her family that the business affords her in the warmer months, focusing more on production as the weather cools. In her spare time, she enjoys mountain biking and gardening.

Glowcandle.ca

f /glowcandleca  
i /glowcandle\_co

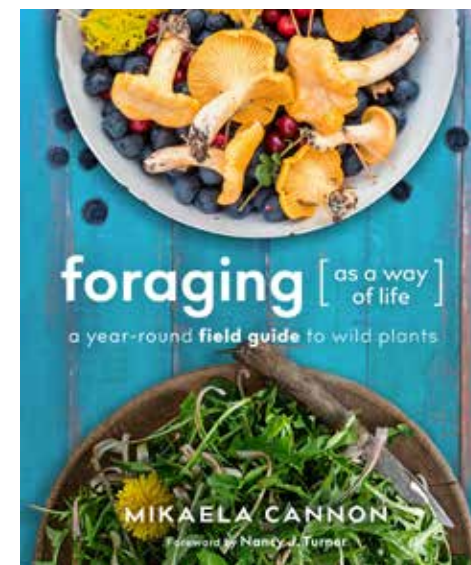


**FEATURED AUTHOR**  
**MIKAELA CANNON**

Originally from Sweden, Mikaela Cannon travelled and studied extensively in her quest for knowledge about plants. As a child she was fascinated with plants – she looked at plantains and saw band aids, only later discovering that the plant has strong wound-healing properties. In Sweden, she trained as a wilderness guide and lived in a tipi, studying the Sami culture and way of life. On canoe trips in the wilderness, she sought out local flora and learned how to use plants for food, medicine, and material.

From Sweden, she travelled to Australia where she developed her interest in ethnobotany. Working in an animal park she taught visitors to lick green ants for the taste of sour candy! At the park she met her (now) husband Peter, later moving with him to his home in Canada around 15 years ago and settling in Spallumcheen. She studied ethnobotany and biology in the Okanagan and explored herbal medicine and anthropology. Her deep appreciation for the land is guided by first nations and Indigenous traditional teachings and she strives to be a good guest on Turtle Island.

Her book – *Foraging as a Way of Life* – written over 9 years while homeschooling her two young children, is a comprehensive foraging guide



to the trees, shrubs, flowers, herbs and mushrooms that grow in British Columbia, many of which can also be found around the world. The book is carefully arranged by season, beginning in the spring as the first plants bloom into life. With a family connection to Fernie, her book is an excellent guide to local plants with extensive descriptions, medicinal information, recipes, warnings and colour photos. The book is available from Polar Peek Books and online.

Forestfables.ca

i /foragingasawayoflife



**ENVIRONMENT FEATURE**  
**EVERGREENS FARM**

Whether it is snowing, hailing, or blazing hot outside, at Evergreens Farm it's always a lush 21 degrees celsius and sunny. At Fernie's innovative new hydroponic farm, vibrant green leaves stretch towards the bright lights, thriving in an environment far removed from harsh extremes outside. Evergreens is a social enterprise operated by Wildsight Elk Valley, dedicated to providing fresh, locally grown, pesticide-free leafy greens year-round.

With only about 90 frost-free days annually in the Elk Valley, outdoor growing is limited, making the community heavily dependent on imported food. Evergreens was founded to increase the year-round supply of local food and strengthen the local food system. Controlled Environment Agriculture is an advanced agricultural method that grows plants indoors without soil. Instead, plants absorb nutrients directly from water and receive energy from full-spectrum LED lights. This method is incredibly efficient, using 90% less water than traditional farming. The climate-controlled environment ensures fresh, nutritious greens regardless of the weather outside, providing a reliable source of produce throughout the year.

Why does local lettuce matter? It's simple: less transportation means a smaller carbon footprint.

While lettuce from California or Mexico travels thousands of kilometres to reach Fernie, Evergreens Farm lettuce is grown right in Fernie at the Community EcoGarden. This not only ensures fresher greens on your plate but also supports local jobs and strengthens Fernie's food system. Evergreens' commitment goes beyond growing greens. A portion of all produce is donated to the Fernie Food Bank to bring fresh greens to food-insecure community members.

For visitors and locals eager to experience the magic of Evergreens firsthand, the Farm offers weekly volunteer sessions, a behind-the-scenes tour where you'll help pack leafy greens destined for community distribution and can learn about this incredible new facility. And you'll even leave with a bundle of fresh produce to enjoy at home.

[wildsight.ca/evergreens](http://wildsight.ca/evergreens)



**CULINARY FEATURE**  
**TWISTED FERN**

A familiar face has returned to Fernie after over 15 years in Vancouver. Fans of the former The Wood restaurant will remember Head Chef Corey Sullivan for his Paysanne-inspired cuisine and love of farm to fork ingredients. When the restaurant moved to Vancouver (renamed Twisted Fork), Sullivan's love of home-made preserves was evident in many of the dishes, and jars of his creations became part of the décor lining the walls of the restaurant's two locations where production was as many as 400 jars a week.

Sullivan trained as a chef in Ontario then worked at Lizard Creek Lodge before going into business in 2000 with two Fernie locals, siblings Mike and Andrea Leslie, before they decided to move the restaurant to Vancouver. Matthew Schaafsma also made the move from Ontario first to Edmonton and then Vancouver in 2014, working in retail and sales. The pair met almost a decade ago and tied the knot in 2022, moving to Fernie in the fall of 2023 for the small-town outdoor lifestyle that they both fondly remembered.

Schaafsma's background in sales and Sullivan's love and knowledge of preserves made their latest venture a



natural fit. Twisted Fern is a reference to the town they call home, the restaurant in Vancouver, and the unique nature of their product. While there will always be regular staples, twisted options include pineapple jam, pickled brussels sprouts, and creative relishes. Ingredients like saskatoon berries are inspired by seasonal availability and the range also features simple syrups including lavender & mint and black pepper to add a Fernie kick to your favourite cocktails.

Currently available at the Fernie Mountain Market and at Local Store from September, the couple plan to expand to other retail locations in the coming months – pick up a jar and start your day the twisted way!

[twistedfernie.ca](http://twistedfernie.ca)  
f /TwistedFern

**HISTORY & CULTURE**  
**SPARWOOD MUSEUM**




Our story began 140 million years ago ....

**NEW TECK DISCOVERY ROOM NOW OPEN!**

140 million years ago, long necked herbivorous dinosaurs walked along the shores of an ancient lake in what is now the southeast region of British Columbia. Following this herd of gentle giants, was a pack of large predatory dinosaurs. Like lions following wildebeest across the plains, the dinosaurs waited for an opportunity to feed on the weak, old and injured in the herd. Fast forward to today and this lakeshore is now a mountaintop region near Sparwood known as Line Creek. Amazingly, the ancient tracks from this drama were perfectly preserved and were recently uncovered during exploratory activities. Follow the trail for yourself in the Sparwood Museum's fascinating new permanent Jurassic Exhibit.



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

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

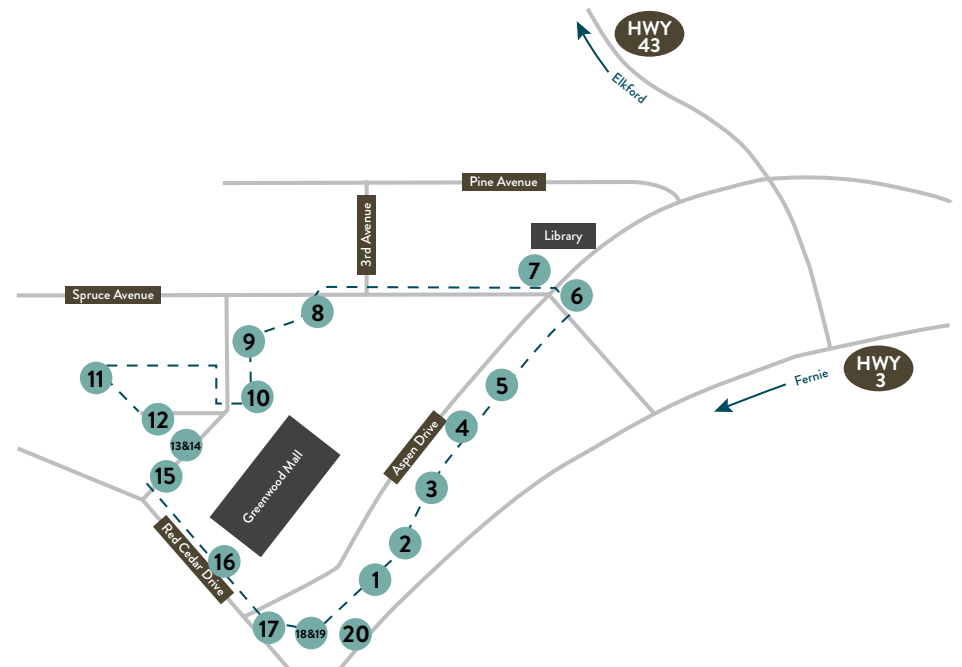
**Fall & Winter Opening Hours:**  
September 3, 2024 - May 19, 2025  
Monday to Friday, 10 am - 2 pm  
Saturday and Sunday, 10 - 2 pm

**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**



## 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](http://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](http://www.elkford.ca)



### FERNIE BREWING COMPANY

Lively tasting room and patio featuring 10 core brands, non-alc lines and seasonal specials plus growlers and custom merch.

26 Manitou Road, Fernie | [ferniewbrewing.com](http://ferniewbrewing.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 | [fernies.ca](http://fernies.ca)



### FERNIE COURT HOUSE & CENOTAPH

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

401 4th Ave, Fernie  
[tourismfernies.com/activities/attractions/court-house](http://tourismfernies.com/activities/attractions/court-house).



### FERNIE DISTILLERS

Handcrafted cocktails from award winning spirits made on site. Small batch distillery, tasting room, tours, snacks, and a family friendly experience. See ad P14.

531 1st Ave, Fernie | [www.ferniedistillers.com](http://www.ferniedistillers.com)



### FERNIE MUSEUM

Permanent & temporary displays, gift shop, special events, interpretive walks and local information. See feature, P12.

491 2nd Ave, Fernie | [ferniesmuseum.com](http://ferniesmuseum.com)  
250-423-7016



### FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY

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

492 3rd Ave, Fernie | [fernies.bclibrary.ca](http://fernies.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  
[tourismfernies.com/activities/attractions/oil-derrick](http://tourismfernies.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 fall.

Montane Parkway | [Montanefernies.ca](http://Montanefernies.ca)



### SPARWOOD MUSEUM

Preserving and sharing the histories of Sparwood, Corbin, Michel, Middletown and Natal. See feature, P30.

141b Aspen Drive | [Sparwoodmuseum.ca](http://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 & MURALS

A creative space offering workshops, exhibits and entertainment for all ages. A *Hardy Town Sculpture*; *Grow with the Flow* & *All Aboard* murals located outside. See feature, P20.

601 1st Ave, Fernie | [theartsstation.com](http://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 | [ferniesmovies.com](http://ferniesmovies.com) | 250-423-7111



AS THE SNOW FALLS  
EVENTS IN FERNIE, COMING THIS  
WINTER



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

**2ND ANNUAL PONIES & PLANKS  
SKIJORING** | FEBRUARY 15, 2025 |  
FERNIE DEMO DERBY GROUNDS,  
RAILWAY AVE

One of the most spectacular winter events to watch, 2025 will see the return of this fascinating winter sport as horses tow skiers around a track and over jumps and bumps. Beverage gardens & concessions. Don't miss this chance to see a unique Canadian winter sport!

**17TH ANNUAL REEL CANADIAN  
FILM FESTIVAL** | JANUARY 24-26,  
2025 | VOGUE THEATRE

reelfilmfest.ca

A celebration of the rich diversity and creativity of the Canadian Film Industry, RCFF is a 3-day gala presentation of the year's top features and shorts with receptions, special guests, and a young film-makers showcase. Tickets on sale from December.

**FERNIE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL**  
FEBRUARY 2025 | LOCATION TBA  
ferniefilmfestival.com

Dedicated to filmmakers who spark awareness of mountain cultures, fragile environments, and the passion and perseverance of global explorers. The Fernie Mountain Film Festival features a selection of the best landscape documentaries and studies. A photo competition and food and beverage concession add to the festival atmosphere.

**GRIZ DAYS** | FERNIE-WIDE  
FEB 28 – MAR 2, 2025

fernigrizdays.ca

Fernie's biggest festival of the year honoring The Griz, Fernie's official winter mascot. Downtown Parade, Street Party & Fireworks, Extreme Griz Competition & Junior Griz Training Grounds, Craft Fair, Live Entertainment, Team Challenges and much, 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

Choose to collect points to redeem  
for local rewards.



Scan the QR code  
or visit [iconicferniefest.com](https://www.iconicferniefest.com)  
to download the free app.



## THE ELK RIVER

The Elk River is a 220km freestone tributary of the Kootenay River connecting Elk Lakes near the Continental Divide, with Lake Kooconusa and the Columbia River.

In the Elk Valley, the river is treasured as an endless source of inspiration for local artists, a world-renowned fly-fishing destination, and a favourite for family float trips, white water rafting, and adventure kayaking. Many parks are located along its banks and the paved, accessible 5.3km Fernie Valley Pathway follows its course from the Fernie Visitor Information Centre to Mt Fernie Provincial Park.

