

FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE

SUMMER 2017



Photo: Wapiti Music Festival

TOURISMFERNIE.COM

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

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THE COMMUNITIES OF THE ELK VALLEY

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

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: 3,784 | Founded 1966

FERNIE is the largest and oldest of the 3 main communities in the Elk Valley. A town rich in heritage, award-winning architecture, and spectacular scenery, Fernie charms and delights all ages. Whether strolling century-old Historic Downtown, exploring the unique geography, visiting artists and artisans or revelling in the packed cultural calendar, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

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: 5,249 | Founded 1898
 Incorporated 1904

Pop: 1,752 | Founded 1971

Photo: Nicholas Teichrobb



CANADA 150 IN FERNIE

March 3, 2017 – March 31, 2018

What does community mean? For over 120 years, Fernie has been home to settlers who arrived from around the globe. Through tragedy, perseverance, and prosperity, Fernie has grown into the home and destination that we know and love today.

In celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation, Fernie's cultural organizations have come together to discover who we are—as a community, a culture, and as a small city with a rich history—and how these values fit into our country's shared history and culture in a year-long multimedia and multi-disciplinary arts and heritage initiative.

Celebrations began this spring with Kyle Hamilton's monochromatic portrait photography exhibition *I Am Fernie*; panel discussions; a display of 1400 red, white, and variegated tulips and striking red and white art installation; and Connections: The Canadian Youth Identity Project.

Events continue this summer & fall with:

FERNIE ARTOGRAPHY

Fernie Museum | June 15–Sept 4 2017

Exploring our collective sense of place and identity through visual art and storytelling. Featuring the work of Canadian artists A.Y. Jackson and David Paton, local contemporary visual artists such as Laura Nelson, Patrick Markle, and Melanie MacVoy, and video artist Gwen McGregor. The artists will each share their personal connection

and stories related to their work on the Connections App. Programming includes a curator's talk, workshops, and readings.



CANADA DAY 150 FESTIVAL

Fernie Aquatic Centre Grounds
July 1, 2017, from noon

Join a sea of red rolling towards the Aquatic Centre for Canada Day cake with the mayor, followed by an afternoon of games, live entertainment, the first Mountain Market of the summer and a spectacular firework display after dark.



FERNIE TREASURES AND CURIOSITIES

Fernie Museum

Sept 14, 2017–March 31, 2018



From a collection of almost 10,000 Cultural History artifacts, local residents will select 150 objects that reflect stories of the history, society, and personal lives of the individuals who chose to live here. Through stories of the objects' provenance, useful life and relevance, the exhibition will serve as a cultural looking glass into how society functions and how our essential—and non-essential—needs change over time.

TREASURES FROM FERNIE ATTICS

Fernie Community Centre

October 7th, then online
from November

In the style of the Canadian Antiques Road Show, local residents are invited to bring their treasures to be evaluated. Stories of the objects and their owners will be recorded for a web series to be presented on the Fernie Museum website and Connections App.

2ND ANNUAL FERNIE CHAUTAUQUA

Fernie Museum | Sept 14–17, 2017

Beginning with the Booked! Fernie Writers' Event on Thursday 14th (See P30 for details) Chautauqua continues throughout the weekend with a cultural cornucopia of entertainment, food, and

family fun. The Kootenay Hootenanny on Friday 15th is a street fair featuring string-bending, foot stomping tunes from Craig Moritz and a food truck alley.

Saturday 16th begins with a pancake breakfast and continues with cultural demonstrations including Ktunaxa Nation Youth Dancers, open doors at 10 heritage buildings, an antique car show, culture crawl, art on the lawn, children's tent, and live music throughout the day.

Sunday 17th features an interdenominational church service at Fernie's heritage Christ Church, a truly scrumptious afternoon tea, and a harvest Italian spaghetti dinner with special guest Bohdan S Kordan who will share stories about the internment of 'enemy aliens' during the Great War from his book *No Free Man*.



THE FALL FAIR

Prentice Park

September 17, 10am–3pm

Celebrating the traditions and bounty of living in the mountains with horticultural displays, blue ribbon contests, craft exhibits, art & agricultural demonstrations and a small backyard livestock zoo.



SUMMER EVENT CALENDAR

For full details visit tourismfernie.com/events.

JUNE

- 23 Live Music: Luke Wallace, Infinita
- 23 Nightlife: DJ Nemkae, The Royal
- 24 Summer Opening Day—Hike, Bike, Aerial Park, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 24 Nightlife: DJ Naturalist, The Royal
- 24 Singing Therapy Workshop, Castle on First
- 27 Live Music: Sianspheric, Kodiak Lounge
- 29 Gallery Opening: Beulah Limber - Life's Work, The Arts Station
- 30 Nightlife: DJ Emerald, The Royal

JULY

- 1 Canada 150 Festival, Fernie Aquatic Centre
- 1 Cardboard Boat Race, Maiden Lake
- 2 Downtown Summer Social, 2nd Avenue
- 2 Trails in Motion Film Festival, The Arts Station
- 2 Live Music: Piper Hays, Infinita
- 5 Live Music: Los Morenos, Station Square
- 6 Beautea Night, Infinita
- 9 Out of the Box: Dumpster Painting Event, Station Square
- 9 Live Music: Red Haven, Infinita
- 12 Live Music: Ellika Solo Rafael, Station Square
- 13 Beers & Queers Social, The Valley Social
- 14 Live Music: Lisa Anderson, Infinita
- 15 Griz Kidz Summer Carnival & Howl at the Moon Campout, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 16 Downtown Summer Social, 2nd Avenue
- 18-19 Bug-o-logy for Kids, Eco-Garden
- 19 Live Music: Easy Ruckus, Station Square
- 26 Live Music: Ben Rogers + The Bloodred Yonder, Station Square
- 27 Gallery Opening: Colleen Routley, The Arts Station
- 28-30 Introduction to Meditation, Essential Yoga
- 30 Downtown Summer Social, 2nd Avenue
- 30 Live Music: Emily Rockarts, Infinita

AUGUST

- 2 Live Music: Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra, Station Square
- 3 Live Music: West Hammock

- 4 Live Music: Mr B-Syde
- 5 Griz Kids Howl at the Moon Campout, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 7-11 Beat the Heat Pottery Workshops, The Arts Station
- 8-9 Garden Chefs for Kids, Eco-Garden
- 9 Live Music: Tiger Moon, Station Square
- 10 Beers & Queers Social, The Valley Social
- 11-12 Wapiti Music Festival, Annex Park
- 12-13 Columbia Basin Culture/Art Tour, Downtown
- 13 Downtown Summer Social: Show n' Shine, 2nd Avenue
- 13 Bibbity Bobbity Boo Children's Festival, Rotary Park
- 14-18 Beat the Heat Pottery Workshops, The Arts Station
- 16 Live Music: Martin Harley, Station Square
- 18 Live Music: Arcadian Suns, Infinita
- 19 Saving Your Own Seeds Garden Workshop, Eco-Garden
- 23 Live Music: Cecile Doo-Kingue, Station Square
- 30 Live Music: TBA, Station Square
- 31 Gallery Opening: Becco Musso Fibre Arts, The Arts Station

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Lions Demolition Derby, Railway Ave
- 7 Beautea Night, Infinita
- 14-17 Fernie Chautauqua Festival, 2nd Avenue
- 14 Booked! Fernie Writers' Series: Angie Abdou, Heritage Library
- 14 Fernie Treasures and Curiosities, Museum
- 14 Beers & Queers Social, The Valley Social
- 17 Fall Fair, Prentice Park
- 24 Elk River Shore Clean-up, Annex Park/Elk River
- 24 Live Music: Brett Wildeman
- 28 Gallery Opening: Mark Locki Photography - Exploring the Elk, The Arts Station
- 30 Making Good Compost Workshop, Eco-Garden
- 29-Oct 1 GillBilly Festival, 2nd Avenue/Downtown

For scheduled guided hikes, walks, and bus tours please see P15

EVERY WEEK!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mondays Club Cre8 at the Arts Station (July/Aug) Open Mic Night, Kodiak Lounge, 9pm Tuesdays Storytime Under 5's, Heritage Library \$6.50 Movie Night, Vogue Theatre Karaoke at the Royal, 9pm Wednesdays Storytime Under 5's, Heritage Library Tarot at Infinita, 8pm Trivia Night at the Fernie Hotel, 9pm Jam Night at the Royal, 9pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursdays Jam Night at the Brickhouse, 10pm Team Trivia at The Pub Bar & Grill, 8pm Fridays Storytime Under 5's, Heritage Library Live music at Loaf & Infinita, 6/8pm Saturdays Open Mic at the Fernie Hotel & Pub, 9pm Vinyl Appreciation Night at Infinita, 8pm Sundays Mountain Market in Rotary Park, 10am-2pm, July/Aug Only BBQ & Beats at Infinita, 6pm |
|--|--|



FERNIE FALL FAIR

A RE-INVENTION OF THE TRADITIONAL FALL FAIR THAT IS AS UNIQUE AS OUR COMMUNITY, COMPLETE WITH BLUE RIBBON CONTESTS, HERITAGE CRAFTS, HOME SKILL DEMONSTRATIONS AND A BACKYARD LIVESTOCK EXHIBIT.

FARM-TO-TABLE GOODNESS

CELEBRATE THE HARVEST AS FERNIE CHEFS BRING THE BEST OF THE LOCAL HARVEST TO THE CHAUTAUQUA FALL TEA, THE CHAUTAUQUA COMMUNITY SUPPER, AND LOCAL FOOD TRUCKS.

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

EACH HAVE STORIES ABOUT FERNIE, PAST AND PRESENT, FROM THE KTUNAXA AND FERNIE'S EARLIEST IMMIGRANTS TO THE COAL MINERS WHO ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR COMMUNITY.



SHELLEY LYNCH



DAWSON RUTLEDGE



ANGIE ABDU



CRAIG MORTIZ



ERIN TEEPLE



DORY & THE WEATHERMEN

FACE TIME WITH LOCAL ARTISTS

EXPLORE 10 GALLERIES WITH ART WALK. CONNECT WITH DEMONSTRATING ARTISTS AT ART ON THE LAWN. EXPERIENCE ART AFTER DARK WITH THE CULTURE CRAWL.

LIVING HISTORY, LIVING TRADITIONS

EXPLORE 9 HERITAGE BUILDINGS WITH OPEN DOORS. EXPERIENCE KTUNAXA, ITALIAN AND UKRAINIAN CULTURAL TRADITIONS. LEARN HOW TO TINKER UNDER THE HOOD WITH THE ANTIQUE CAR SHOW.

FEATURED SUMMER EVENTS



Downtown Summer Socials



Wapiti Music Festival

EXPLORING HISTORY TOURS WITH THE FERNIE MUSEUM FOR WALK DATES & LOCATIONS, SEE P15.

Expanding on successful past tours, the Fernie Museum has a captivating program of tours for the whole family to enjoy this summer. Exploring The Ruins Bus Tours will visit a variety of abandoned mine sites, where local historians will bring the mines and communities back to life through stories and insights.

Heritage Walking Tours invite you to step into the past with a local historian to explore Fernie through stories of Rum Runners, the devastating Great Fire of 1908 and the buildings and characters that have shaped the Historic Downtown.

If tombstones could talk, the stories they would tell! Join knowledgeable guides on a walk through two local cemeteries and learn about the personalities and events that shaped the Elk Valley as we see it today.



WEDNESDAY EVENING CONCERT SERIES STATION SQUARE AT THE ARTS STATION

Every Wednesday in July & August, Station Square at The Arts Station becomes a mini free festival. The season kicks off in high gear with lively Latin world beats from Calgary's Los Morenos. Every week is a new revelation in summer sounds, including Golden-based rock band Easy Ruckus - July 19, Fernie favourites Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra - Aug 2, Kelowna folk duo Tiger Moon - Aug 9, and NYC's blues guitarist Cécile Doo-Kingué - Aug 23. Sip on a frosty beer or cider in the beverage garden and enjoy tasty bites from the food trucks. Activities for kids will keep the little ones happy. 5:30-9pm. Free admission.



DOWNTOWN SUMMER SOCIALS & STREET EVENTS 2ND AVENUE/HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Historic Downtown Fernie is a fun place to be in summer with its eclectic boutiques, bustling patios, and incredible views, but even more so when there's a special event to enjoy. The Out of the Box Dumpster Painting event is a fun live art expo on July 9th - watch as dumpsters are turned into works of art before they are distributed around Fernie. On the 3 other Sundays in July (2nd, 16th & 30th), 2nd Avenue becomes a pedestrianized funzone for the Summer Socials with kid's activities, live entertainment and games for all to enjoy. On August 13th, the Show n' Shine is a car enthusiast's paradise, with dozens of classic and demo cars lining 2nd Avenue. Free admission.

WAPITI MUSIC FESTIVAL AUGUST 11-12 | ANNEX PARK

The sweet sounds of fresh Canadian Indie will ring out in the Rocky Mountains once again as Wapiti welcomes Tokyo Police Club and a stellar lineup of musicians for a festival that's all about family, fun, and good times in the sun. Kid's activities, beverage gardens, food & merch vendors, art installations, and more, will have you loving life in Fernie. Tickets now on sale!

BIBBITY BOBBITY BOO CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL AUGUST 13 | ROTARY PARK

Continuing all the fun in the sun of Wapiti, Kids get their very own festival in beautiful Rotary Park on Sunday, August 13th. A circus-themed extravaganza of live entertainment, music, bubbles, sprinklers and facepainting for little ones to love! Join in at special activities and crafts, and munch on free watermelon in the shade following the costume parade. All free and all welcome!



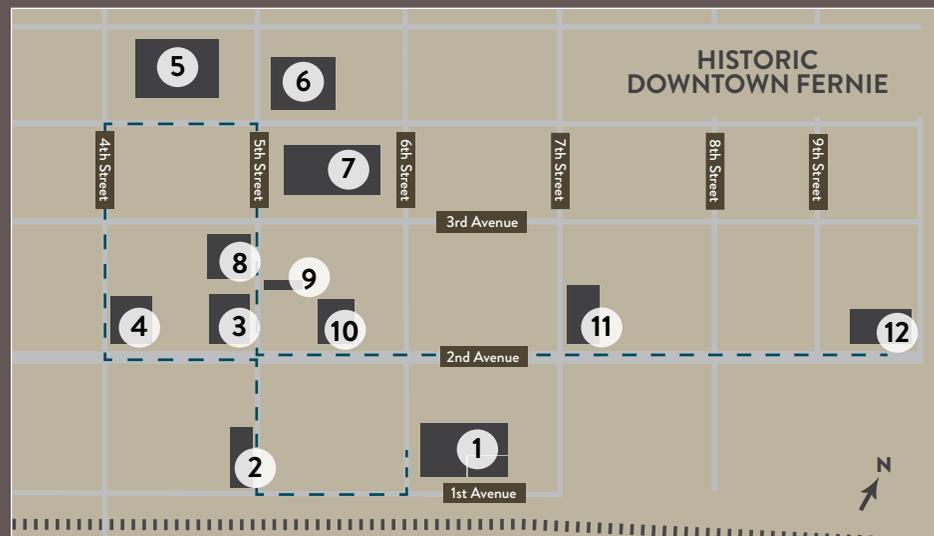
HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

A DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR OF FERNIE



As if alighting from an arriving train, begin a walking tour of Fernie at the former CPR Station, 501 1st Avenue, now the Fernie Arts Station. This tour visits 12 of Fernie's most iconic Historic Downtown buildings and features a variety of architectural styles and photo opportunities. Beautiful deep gold and rose-tinted brick and sandstone buildings line 2nd Avenue and are unique to Fernie. Look for evidence of the 1908 fire in the form of soot and smoke residue on the brickwork. Join a guided walking tour this summer at the museum.

Accessible, paved sidewalks | Approx. 45 minutes–1.5 hours



1 CPR STATION

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



As use of the automobile grew, rail travel declined and so did use of this Second-Class station that had once been the centre of activity in Fernie. Although passenger services were discontinued in 1964, the train tracks are still in daily use carrying the freight trains that regularly pass through the Elk Valley. Since 1987, the Fernie & District Arts Council has used this facility as a performing and fine arts venue. Dine trackside at the Blue Toque Café and imagine yourself arriving on the platform for the first time 100 years ago! See P18 for more.

2 HOW FOON'S LAUNDRY

491 1st Avenue | Now in use as
Fernie Elks Lodge



The Chinese entrepreneur How Foon established several businesses in this building constructed in 1908. He ran a café, laundry and shoemaking shop on the main floor and rented apartments upstairs. The Fernie Elks Club purchased the building and removed the dividing walls to open the interior for use as a hall. The exterior surface, though, retains its original outline and the original advertising mural for 'Royal Crown Soap.' Across 5th street at The 1909 Royal Hotel, note the tops of the

filled-in windows along the base of the building indicating that the street was once lower than it is today.

3 THE HOME BANK

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



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

4 THE IMPERIAL BANK 1909

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



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

with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1961 and closed the branch in 1963. Although some features have been altered, the brick and sandstone exterior retains many of its striking original features. Step inside for a taste of today; the Brickhouse serves up a large selection of Fernie Brewing Company Beers, BC wines and a tasty pub menu. The original bank vault is still in use as the chef's pantry.

5 THE COURT HOUSE

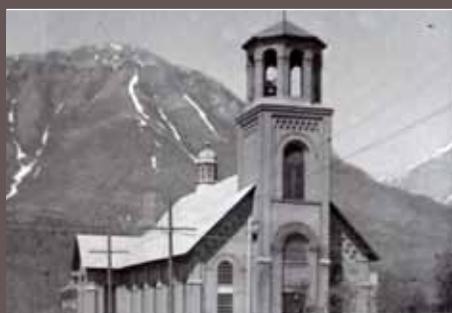
401 4th Ave | Now in use as Fernie's Government of BC Offices



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

6 HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

521 4th Avenue



The history of the church dates back to the beginning of Fernie when Father J. Welsh was sent from Cranbrook to hold masses for approximately 200 miners in 1898. Some of these miners donated one day's wages every month towards the construction of a place of worship

and volunteer parishioners completed this church in 1912. It was and still is home to Fernie's largest congregation.

7 THE CROW'S NEST PASS COAL CO. OFFICES

501 3rd Avenue
Now in use as City Hall



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

8 THE FERNIE POST OFFICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICE

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



This imposing Romanesque Revival building reflects Fernie's importance as a government centre for the region; the engraved stone signs above the entrance to the Post Office and Customs Office are still in place. The building, for a time, served as the US consul office for the region. Built in 1907, the building was gutted but not destroyed in the 1908 Great Fire. An exhibit on the 1908 Great Fire is located on the landing of the main staircase. See P22 for more.

9 SALVATION ARMY

260 5th Street | Now in use as Eye of the Needle Studio



In 1904, William Eschwig of the Northern Hotel made a trade in which he secured the Salvation Army this site in exchange for the Victoria Avenue location, where they had been operating since November 3, 1900. The original building was lost in the 1908 Fire. The replacement building, seen here, was the Salvation Army's home until 2001 when they moved to their current location on Victoria Avenue. Step inside and discover a working felting studio, beautiful antiques, and unique artisan crafts including Katherine Russel glasswork and ironwork from the Fernie Forge. The Fernie Meat Market next door has antique tins and some of the best jerky in the Kootenays.

10 ISIS THEATRE

531 2nd Avenue | Now in use as Nevados



In 1910, Wm. Eschwig began construction of the building next to his Northern Hotel. Known initially as Eschwig's Hall, it was remodeled and opened as the Isis Theatre in 1911. The theatre was again remodeled in 1930 and reopened as the Orpheum Theatre. Moving pictures entertained Fernie residents here until 1949 when the Orpheum was bought by Sam Rossell, proprietor of the Vogue Theatre. At that time, it was agreed there was not enough business for two theatres and the Orpheum closed. The Orpheum is fondly remembered by Fernie oldtimers as the site of Saturday afternoon entertainment.

11 FERNIE CARTAGE COMPANY

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



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

12 FERNIE SECONDARY SCHOOL

901 2nd Ave | Now in use as 901 Fernie & Spa 901



The Fernie Secondary School operated here for 89 years from 1909–1998. Early photographs show that the original façade looked much as it does today, however it was covered with stucco from 1978 until the time of the renovations in 2006. It was then that Parastone developed the site; revitalizing the original school and gymnasium and adding 2 new condominium buildings. Inside, the 16ft ceilings, craftsman finishes, and granite fittings make this one of Fernie's most sought after properties, while the award-winning 6,600sq ft Spa 901 offers the ultimate in urban relaxation.

Be sure to enjoy Historic Downtown's local cafés, boutique shopping and cultural attractions (see attraction listings, P24). Visit working artists and artisans in their studios (see gallery listings, P26) and soak in the atmosphere of a town rich in history and heritage.

GUIDED SUMMER TOURS, WALKS & HIKES

Explore and learn with a professional guide as you take a journey into Fernie's enthralling nature or past. The following list of guided summer interpretive hikes and tours are sure to please. Book early or request a private guided tour that works with your dates!

JUNE

- 18 – Father's Day Family Hike & Brunch | Island Lake Lodge
- 21 – Ancient Ammonite Hike | Wild Nature Workshop

JULY

- 2 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 2 – Big White Peak Hike | Island Lake Lodge
- 2 – Fossils & Geology | Fernie Alpine Resort
- 8 & 9 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 8 – Exploring The Ruins Bus Tour: Coal Creek Townsite | Fernie Museum
- 15 & 16 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 15 – Trailblazers Cemetery Tour | Fernie Museum
- 16 – Heiko's/Mountain Lakes Trail Hike | Island Lake Lodge
- 16 – Mountain Wildflowers | Fernie Alpine Resort
- 19 – Wild About Flowers | Wild Nature Workshops
- 22 & 23 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 22 – Exploring The Ruins Bus Tour: Michel Natal | Fernie Museum
- 29 & 30 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 29 – Hosmer Cemetery Tour | Fernie Museum
- 30 – Lizard Lake Hike | Island Lake Lodge
- 30 – Birds & Wildlife | Fernie Alpine Resort

AUGUST

- 5 & 6 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 5 – Exploring the Ruins Bus Tour: Hosmer | Fernie Museum
- 6 – Heiko's/Mountain Lakes Trail Hike | Island Lake Lodge
- 9 – Forage In The Forest | Wild Nature Workshops
- 12 & 13 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 12 – Disasters and Delinquency Cemetery Tour | Fernie Museum
- 13 – Berries & Other Useful Plants | Fernie Alpine Resort
- 19 & 20 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 19 – Exploring The Ruins Bus Tour: Hosmer Townsite | Fernie Museum
- 20 – Cabin Bowl Loop | Island Lake Lodge
- 26 & 27 – Heritage Walking Tour | Fernie Museum
- 26 – Family's Remain Cemetery Tour | Fernie Museum
- 27 – Big White Peak | Island Lake Lodge
- 27 – Forestry, The Secret History of Trees | Fernie Alpine Resort

SEPTEMBER

- 10 – Heiko's/Mountain Lakes Trail Hike | Island Lake Lodge
- 13 – Fungus Among Us | Wild Nature Workshops

WEEKLY SPECIALTY HIKES WITH CIRQUE RESTAURANT

- at Fernie Alpine Resort July 4 - August 27
- Tuesdays: Forage & Feast, 5pm-7:30pm
- Saturdays: Kids Nature Hike & BBQ Pool Party, 5-7:30pm
- Sundays: Birding & Breakfast, 8-10am

BOOKING DETAILS:

- Hikes by Island Lake Lodge call 250-423-3700
- Hikes by Fernie Alpine Resort call 250-423-4655
- Heritage Tours by the Fernie Museum call 250-423-7016
- Wild Nature Tours Workshops call 250-423-3322 or email elkvalley@wildsight.ca

THE FERNIE MUSEUM AND DOWNTOWN VISITOR CENTRE



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

INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS

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

This summer the museum will be offering guided walking tours of Fernie's iconic heritage buildings on weekends, and scheduled cemetery tours and bus tours to abandoned mining sites.



COMMUNITY INNOVATION

In April, the Fernie & District Historical Society launched a new heritage initiative to support awareness and the ongoing conservation of Fernie's heritage buildings in partnership with the City of Fernie. Heritage buildings are important community assets. They give our community context and meaning. Fernie's historic buildings define our community's identity and attract thousands of tourists annually. Heritage buildings provide some of our city's most affordable housing and are popular places to live, work and play. Through workshops, granting programs and tours, Heritage Fernie promotes the conservation of heritage buildings which promote our sense of place and identity and foster community and environmental sustainability. Visit heritagefernie.com to learn more about this exciting new program.

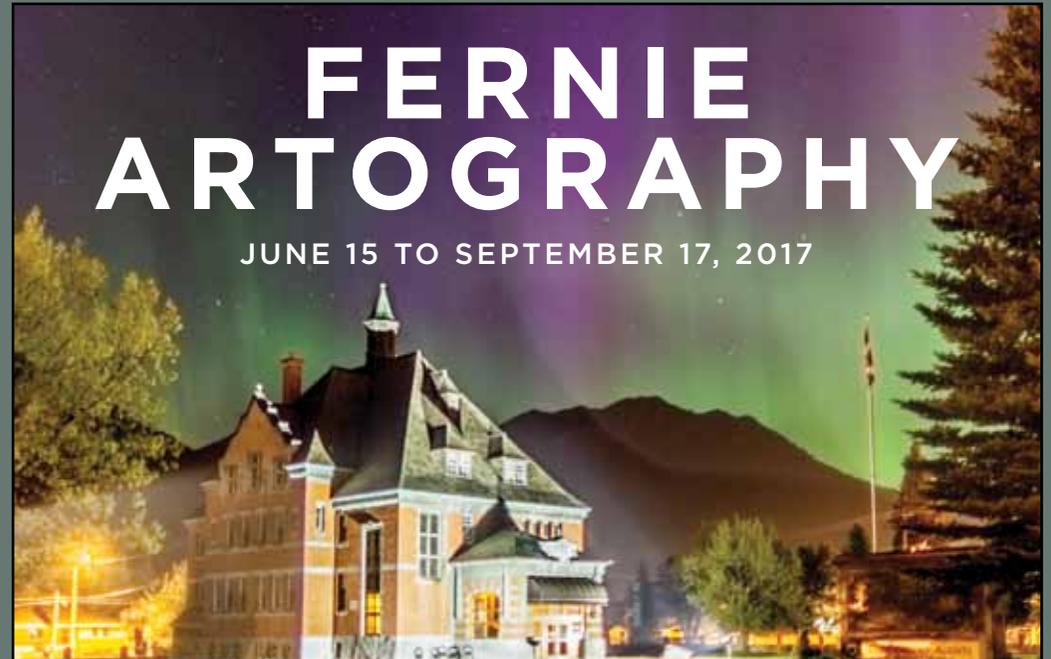
The Museum will also offer a series of walking tours this summer; see P15.

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



FERNIE ARTOGRAPHY

JUNE 15 TO SEPTEMBER 17, 2017



How wanderlust and resident artists contribute to our understanding of Fernie's natural, social, cultural and built landscapes is the subject of Fernie Artography. The exhibit draws on a wealth of artistic material from the works of Canadian artists A.Y. Jackson and David Paton to contemporary visual and video artists practicing in the Elk Valley today.

This exhibit is made possible through the support of



Park Place Lodge

Park Place Lodge proudly supports arts and culture in Fernie and CANADA 150 celebrations. Stay with us and enjoy Fernie's Historic Downtown with its unique dining, shops, cafes and attractions.



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

THE ARTS STATION



From 1898 to 1964, the Canadian Pacific Railway station was the economic and social hub of the community, bringing in merchandise, mail, and passengers into and out of Fernie at a time when the railway was the only connection between the valley and the outside world. Today, it is home to the Fernie and District Arts Council, operating as the Fernie Arts Station and celebrating over 25 years as a thriving hub for the arts.

The Fernie CPR station was completed in the spring of 1909 after an earlier incarnation burned down in the Great Fire of 1908. The station served as a thriving centre for commerce and travel until passenger service to Fernie was discontinued in 1964.

The CPR donated the building to the City of Fernie in 1979, and in 1987 the Fernie Arts Council began restoration. This involved moving the building onto a new foundation, followed by careful renovation, painting, and landscaping. It took four years, but with hard work

and the continued contributions of dedicated staff and volunteers, this dignified local landmark was transformed. It re-opened in 1990 in its new incarnation: an indispensable base of operations for artists in the Elk Valley.

Today, the Arts Station facility is as multi-faceted as the community it serves. The former waiting room hosts an elegant gallery, the basement a fully-equipped pottery studio, and the old ticket office a bustling restaurant. The train platform serves as a patio and outdoor performance space in the summer months; upper rooms are used by a wide variety of community arts groups and guilds. Baggage and freight storage has been converted into a 100-seat theatre, which features homegrown talent as well as outstanding performers from all over Canada and around the world.

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



FEATURE ARTIST
MICHAEL A. PENNY



Like many artists, Michael Penny began his working life in and around the kitchen tackling everything from haute cuisine to bartending, in locations across Canada from Montreal to BC. The late-night shenanigans of the service industry didn't suit family life, so he trained at a cabinet-making school in Vancouver and began a new life as a woodworker. Creativity was never far away, and he also spent time as an actor, painter, poet, playwright, and musician.

2011 brought major life changes. In the process of closing a cabinet making business that Michael ran with his wife Isabel, he met woodcarver Ralph Ireland. Although Ralph died that same year, his influence was profound. Through observation and practice, Michael was inspired as an artist and found a new direction for his woodworking skills. Ralph's tools of the trade were the chisel and the mallet. It was later, under the guidance of carvers Pierre Turgeon and Neil Cox that Michael discovered chainsaw carving, and just a few months later he was at

Carvapalooza with 37 other chainsaw carvers for a 4-day-long event in southern Ontario. He was hooked.

Six months later, Michael, and his wife and children Isaac and Gabriela, moved across the country from his hometown of Rawdon, Quebec, to Calgary. The new urban home proved inhospitable for noisy machine carving and along with a shortage of raw materials and suitable space Michael was compelled to temporarily hang up his chainsaw. After just two and a half years, it was clear that the metropolitan environment simply did not suit the family and they packed up and resettled in Fernie in June, 2015. Michael now spends his working life carving and looks forward to a future full of chainsaws, creativity, and plenty of family time skiing, playing hockey and enjoying life in Fernie.

Visit Michael's working studio at 1439 MacDonald Ave on Hwy #3 in West Fernie. Open most days and by appointment. 250-423-0552

PROHIBITION AND RUM RUNNING IN FERNIE



The bar room of Gate's hotel, c. pre-1908

In the shadow of national sesquicentennial celebrations, commemorating the centennial of the Prohibition Act going into effect in British Columbia has been largely overlooked.

At the start of the 20th century, Fernie was a significant regional industrial, commercial, and government centre. 11 bars within 10 blocks downtown illustrate the level of commercial activity. Numerous wholesale liquor businesses boasted stock of the finest wines and liquors west of Winnipeg and The Ft Steele Fernie Brewery produced a well-loved Pilsner beer. Shipments of liquor reached as far as Washington and Saskatchewan on the busy coal trains. Fernie was one of three mining communities known for "working hard, playing hard" that voted 'wet' against the overwhelming 'dry' vote.

The effects of the Prohibition Act were felt immediately when it went into effect on October 1, 1917. The Fernie Free Press of May 12, 1917 in an article titled "The Future of Hotels," noted: "The hotel business is passing through a

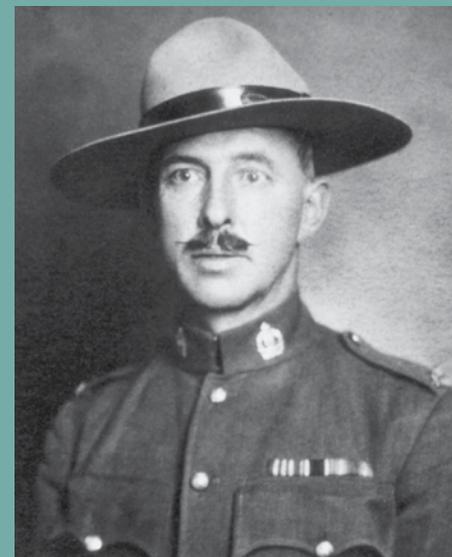
trying period. One of its main sources of revenue has been legislated out of existence throughout two-thirds of North America." By January, 1918, the Hotel Northern's ad ceased mentioning liquor, and "Café & Special Rates" were promoted. While "near-beer" could be sold in hotel bars, the hard stuff could not and the trade went underground.

In Fernie, three entrepreneurs seized opportunity and became rival bootlegging kingpins, their fortunes only increasing after BC became one of the first provinces to repeal the legislation in 1921. Emilio Picariello, Jack Wilson, and Mark Rogers all had business interests—including legitimate export and import companies—in Fernie that would provide a front for their illicit rum running enterprises.

The citizens of B.C.'s Elk Valley and Alberta's Crowsnest Pass largely turned a blind eye to regular shipments of liquor passing along the mountain back roads. APP Constable Stephen Lawson, on the other hand, was zealous in enforcing Alberta's Prohibition Act, which led to his dramatic and untimely

death on September 21, 1922. Lawson initiated a sting operation to ensnare Picariello during a regular liquor shipment from Fernie to Blairmore, Alberta. His plans were scuttled, and on a signal from his father, Pic's 16-year-old son and driver of the liquor-laden car turned quickly back into B.C. The pursuing officer shot the youngster in the hand in an attempt to get him to stop. In a scuffle between Pic and Lawson later that evening, Lawson was shot dead. Picariello and his assistant, 22-year-old Florence Lassandro, were found guilty of murder and hanged. The trial was covered across Canada, bringing the drama associated with the likes of Al Capone to the Provinces.

Fernie's bootlegging past is one of the fascinating stories being highlighted this summer in the Fernie Museum's popular walking tours on Saturdays and Sundays from July 2 to August 27. Check the Fernie Museum's website, fernziemuseum.com, for times and additional details of the Rum Running and Whiskey Six tours.



Constable Stephen Lawson, AB Provincial Police, c. 1922

Lawson served as Police Chief in Fernie from 1920 to 1922 before joining the Alberta Provincial Police. This image was taken on September 18, 1922, three days prior to his death.



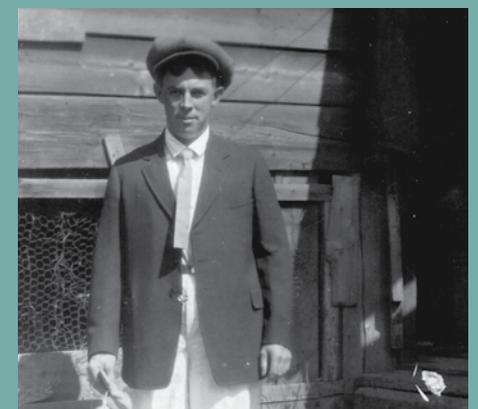
The Picariello family, c. 1915.

Picariello moved his young family from Toronto to Fernie in 1911, where he became a successful entrepreneur. Credit: Glenbow Museum



Picariello, Bottle King

Picariello's ice cream wagon being driven by his son Steve (boy in white shirt), c. 1916-1917. Picariello gave free ice creams in trade for bottles, adding to his reputation at the 'Bottle King'. Credit: Fernie Museum



Jack Wilson, Fernie, BC, c. 1920.

Wilson came to Fernie in his early 20s and soon saw the opportunities related to bootlegging. Known as Mr. Big, he worked closely with Mark Rogers from Lethbridge, who was known as the shadowy Mr. R.



FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY

The Fernie Heritage Library has provided library service and programs for over one hundred years to the community of Fernie. Housed in a beautiful historic building in the heart of Fernie, the Library offers a welcoming and inviting space for discovery, inspiration, and recreation. Over 50,000 people visit the library annually and the Library has been recognized for its excellence in community programming and engagement.

A range of engaging programming suitable for all ages, from toddlers to seniors, is offered throughout the year both inside the library and out in the community. Programs include reading groups and book launches, children's activities inspired by literature, and special events such as the Ride with Librarians and Lego Engineers Day. All programs are free and everyone is welcome to attend. The Library offers three floors of books, magazines, and reference materials, plus a research and study room, computer services, faxing, photocopying and scanning.



Enjoy spectacular views from the upper level or enjoy the Library Gardens for a relaxing spot to read or have a picnic. The Library Book Bike brings the Library programs and service to the community and is a regular sight at local events and gathering places.

As well as regular programming, the Fernie Heritage Library hosts community events such as the wildly successful Booked! Fernie Writers' Series, and the Fernie Children's Festival. Community members and visitors are always welcome in the library. For information on the Library and any of its programs, please visit our website at fernies.bclibrary.ca or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

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



FEATURE AUTHOR

GORDON SOMBROWSKI

Gordon Sombrowski is a child of the Rocky Mountains and an observer of the world. He has been an artist since he was a little boy and never lost the drive to be artistically creative even while pursuing a more traditional education as a lawyer and then settling into a leadership role in his family's business. After he turned fifty Gordon decided, with some cajoling from his husband, that some of his writing should be shared with his community. He released his first book, *What Echo Heard*, a collection of short stories about the people who lived in Fernie before the town became an international resort destination. The book explores universal themes and how they affect the townsfolk who live in the mountain environment.

Gordon believes that central to creating harmony and balance in our lives is knowing about and honouring our past (both the good and the bad) because this is the foundation on which we build the present and create the future. Gordon's creative and volunteer work intersects art, culture, heritage and cultural preservation. He believes

that historic communities which have become resorts, like Fernie, can only remain vibrant and authentic if their heritage is preserved, culture celebrated, and stories remembered. To aid in this effort Gordon and his family are sponsors, donors and promoters of the cultural and heritage institutions of Fernie and on a personal level Gordon has created a blog, EdwardianFernie.ca, where he muses about various aspects of Fernie's social history.

Gordon is currently finalizing a further collection of short stories and a novel. Both the collection and the novel explore the links between the past, present and the future, ideas about home and away, and how Fernie is a place and an idea that is both local and international.

What Echo Heard is available at Polar Peek Books & Treasures from Oolichan Books.



FERNIE MUSEUM

Visitor Information Centre, *This is Our Fernie* permanent exhibit, seasonal gallery exhibitions, special events and interpretive walks. Home of the Downtown Visitor Centre. See feature, P16.

491 2nd Ave, Fernie | ferniemuseum.com
250-423-7016 | Open: Daily, 10am–5:30pm



FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY

3 floors of literature and reference materials plus regular events & programming. See feature, P22.

492 3rd Ave, Fernie
fernie.bclibrary.ca | 250-423-4458
Open: Tue, Wed & Fri & 11am–6pm | Thu 11am–8pm
Sat 12pm–5pm | Closed Sun & Mon



THE ARTS STATION

The home of the Fernie & District Arts Council. 3 floors of reception, gallery, event, restaurant and studio space. See feature, P18.

601 1st Ave, Fernie
theartsstation.com | 250-423-4842
Open: Mon–Fri 10am–3pm



THE FERNIE COURT HOUSE

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

401 4th Ave, Fernie
tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/court-house
Open: Mon–Fri 8:30am–Noon & 1–4:30pm



FERNIE CITY HALL & THE MINER'S WALK

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

501 3rd Ave, Fernie
Open: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm | fernie.ca



THE VOGUE THEATRE

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

321 2nd Ave, Fernie
ferniemovies.com | 250-423-7111
Daily 7pm screenings plus weekend matinees & 9pm screenings



BEANPOD CHOCOLATE

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

691 2nd Ave, Fernie | beanpod.ca
778-519-5008 | Open: Daily 10–5pm



FERNIE BREWING COMPANY

The Elk Valley's only brewhouse, producing 9 core brands and a variety of seasonal and limited edition brews. FBC reopens from renovations at the end of June.

26 Manitou Road, Fernie
ferniebrewing.com | 250-423-7797 | Open: Mon–Thu 10am–7pm, Fri–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 12pm–6pm



THE FERNIE OIL DERRICK

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

102 Commerce Road, off Hwy #3 at the Eastern gateway to Fernie
tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/oil-derrick



SPARWOOD MUSEUM, MINING ARTIFACT & MURAL WALKS

Discover the community and mining history of Michel, Natal, Middletown and Sparwood. Follow a series of mine artifacts into downtown Sparwood to see the famous wall murals.

141-B Aspen Drive, next to Sparwood Visitor Centre
sparwood.ca/museum | 250-425-0560
Open Daily: 10am–4pm, until September



SPARWOOD VISITOR CENTRE & TEREX TITAN

Visitor Centre and location of the 1974 GM Terex Titan – once the world's largest truck measuring 350 tonnes and 66ft long!

141 Aspen Drive, Sparwood | 250-425-2423
Open Daily: 9am–6pm, until 7pm on Fridays, until September



MICHEL-NATAL HERITAGE KIOSK

A series of six panels detailing the history of the Michel-Natal communities that used to be at this location. A part of Sparwood's heritage, these panels include history of discovery, mining and the Ktunaxa Nation. See feature, P28.

Kiosk is in two locations, one next to the Titan Truck in Sparwood, and second on Hwy #3 east of Sparwood at the site of former Michel Hotel.



ANGELA MORGAN GALLERY

Fine art gallery and working studio in Historic Downtown Fernie.

441C 2nd Ave, Fernie | www.angelamorgan.com

Open: Fri & Sat 12–5pm

**THE ARTS STATION**

The hub of Fernie's cultural scene. Two art galleries, 100-seat theatre, craft and painting studio, pottery studio and workshop/meeting spaces.

601–1st Ave, Fernie | 250-423-4842

www.theartsstation.com | Open: Mon–Fri 10am–3pm

**BRIAN POLLOCK GALLERY**

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

532 B 2nd Ave. Fernie | 250-430-7114 | www.brianpollock.ca

Open: Open regularly & by appointment

**CHAINSAW CARVER**

Michael A. Penny's working studio gallery producing finely detailed wood sculptures. See feature article on P19.

1439 MacDonald Ave/Hwy 3 | 250-423-0552

fernienlogcarver@gmail.com Open most days & by appointment

**CLAWHAMMER LETTERPRESS**

Print making and typographical art in the artisan tradition. Gallery space featuring posters, art cards & original paintings.

441C 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-946-6400 | www.clawhammer.ca

Open: Fri & Sat 12–5pm

**ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO**

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

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

www.elkfordartscouncil.blogspot.ca | Open: Open daily, hours vary

**EYE OF THE NEEDLE & FERNIE FORGE**

Artisan gallery & studio in a heritage building featuring metalwork from Fernie Forge and others, plus fibre art, candles, glasswork and one-on-one felting classes.

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

250-423-2671 | www.fernieforge.ca

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

**FERNIE ARTS CO-OP**

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

572– 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-7044 | www.fernieartscoop.com

Open: Mon–Sat 10am–6pm | Sun 12pm–4pm

**KATHY STEAD – VISUAL ARTIST**

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

86 Ridgemont Dr. Fernie | 250-423-4979

www.kathysteadsfineartstudio.com | Open: Open by appointment

**KYLE HAMILTON PHOTOGRAPHY**

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

341c 3rd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-0904 | www.khphotograph.com

Open: Open regularly & by appointment

**STUDIO 562**

Leanne's studio and gallery space features canvas paintings of landscapes, animals and scenes of children playing.

562–2nd Ave Fernie | leannestothertpaints@gmail.com

www.leannestothert.com | Open: Saturday 12pm–4pm

**POLAR PEEK BOOKS & TREASURES**

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

592–2nd Ave. Fernie | 250-423-3736 | polarpeekbooks.ca

Open: Mon–Thu 9:30am–5:30pm | Fri & Sat 9:30am–6pm

Sun 11am–5pm

**SARAH PIKE POTTERY**

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

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

Open: Call or text for appointment

**STEPHANIE'S GLASS & ART STUDIO**

Working stained glass and sandblasting studio. Stephanie's custom pieces have been exhibited worldwide. Gallery features work from other local artists.

532 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-3944 or

250-423-0433 for private appointments | stephaniesglass.ca

Open: Tue–Fri 10:30am–5pm | Sat 10:30am–4pm



WELCOME TO KTUNAXA TERRITORY



The Elk Valley falls within the Ktunaxa traditional land district of qukin PamakPis, or Raven's Territory.



Long, long ago, the Ktunaxa had permanent living ground in the Elk Valley. The land was used throughout the year for many reasons. The Ktunaxa grew tobacco in various places in the valley. It was also the route by which Ktunaxa would travel to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains to hunt bison. It is now indisputable that this area and the larger area of qukin PamakPis in its entirety were originally and continuously occupied by Ktunaxa speaking people even as glaciers still sat on the mountains—long before, and well after, Europeans arrived and established what is now the USA/Canada border.

Before the arrival of the Europeans, the Elk Valley was a wild, vibrant and sacred landscape. It was protected and cared for by the Ktunaxa people, who followed the law of the land called qukin Pāknumuṭtītīt—the land provides the resources to survive, and in return, people uphold their covenant with the creator to protect and not overuse the land.

This is the legacy that current Ktunaxa communities continue to uphold. It is a legacy you see in every grizzly bear cub, every moose track, every elk by the road, every ancient cottonwood. The Ktunaxa efforts to preserve their culture, history and language have been, and continue to be, vital to sustaining this land and all its inhabitants—plants, animals and humans.

As an oral society (one without written word), the Ktunaxa rely on complex and sophisticated stories to maintain historical records and sustain their culture and identity. Oral histories offer a unique connection to the past and often teach important lessons about culture, the land, and how one should interact with both people and the environment.

Squirrel of the Elk Valley

Many many years ago, boastful Squirrel considered himself to be as strong and powerful as Grizzly, who is the greatest of all animals. To prove himself, Squirrel set out to close the Elk Valley and declared that no living creature should enter for as long as he remained alive.

Squirrel guarded the western entrance of the Valley from Sheep Mountain (Mount Broadwood, near Elko), while his wife watched the eastern entrance near Crow's Nest Mountain with the help of Raven. A Bighorn Ram who lived in a cave on Mount Broadwood helped Squirrel. Whenever another creature tried to enter the Valley from the west, Ram killed it by pushing rock down the mountainside onto it. If any creatures tried to enter from the east past Squirrel's wife and Raven, they became entangled in the dense underbrush and timber, where they starved to death. Since nobody ever trod the Valley, the growth soon became impenetrable.

After many years, Yau-Ke'Kam, a Ktunaxa youth of Olympian stature, decided to end Squirrel's foolish pride and tyranny. He tricked Ram and killed Squirrel, then forced his way through to the other entrance of the Valley. Squirrel's wife and Raven, not expecting an attack from that direction, were easily overcome. Yau-Ke'Kam decreed that henceforth, any others who reached too far in greed would meet some disastrous end...



Thank you to the Ktunaxa Nation, Fernie Museum, CBT and the Fernie Nordic Society for this information. This version of the "Squirrel of the Elk Valley" story is quoted from Fernie Historical Association's 1977 publication, *Backtracking with the Fernie and District Historical Society*.

COMING THIS FALL



INDIE FILMS FERNIE
FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH, SEPTEMBER – APRIL | THE VOGUE THEATRE

A project of the Arts Station that continues to go from strength to strength, screening thought provoking and well-crafted films from around the world. Part of TIFF's Film Circuit. Many films sell out, so be sure to arrive early to ensure your seat. See local listings for details of dinner & a movie deals with local restaurants. 5pm. \$10.

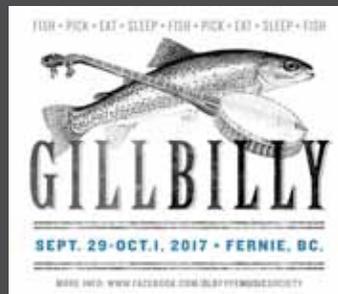
BOOKED! FERNIE WRITERS' SERIES
FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY

Fernie author Angie Abdou will be joined by members of the local Ktunaxa Nation to launch the new season with her latest book *In case I go* at the Fernie Heritage Library on September 14th. Booked events attract a full house for an engaging and entertaining evening of literary discussion and music, and of course, a reading and Q&A with the author. The season continues with events in October & November, plus Joseph Boyden and Esi Edugyan in 2018. 7pm. Entry is free, complimentary appetizers and cash bar.



GILLBILLY FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 1 | THE ARTS STATION

There's music in them there hills! The annual Gillbilly Festival returns for more tunes and tackle than you can shake a stick at. Bring your fishing pole and your stringed things, and settle in for a weekend of jamming, fishing, feasting and fine times in the deep Canadian Rockies.



Elkford, Fernie, and Sparwood Visitor Centres are part of the BC Visitor Centre Network.

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

ELKFORD
PH: 250-865-4015
750 Fording Drive
HOURS: Mon-Sat 9am - 5pm



SPARWOOD
PH: 250-425-2423
141 Aspen Drive
HOURS: Daily 9am - 6pm until September



VISITOR CENTRES OPERATED BY



FERNIE
PH: 250-423-6868
102 Commerce Road
HOURS: Daily 9am - 5pm
491 2nd Ave Downtown Location
HOURS: Daily 10am - 5:30pm



A WALK BACK IN TIME...

The **Ancient Cottonwood Trail** winds through a grove of the world's oldest-known black cottonwood trees. This old-growth forest is a biological treasure trove, full of an amazing variety of plants and animals. The 1 km easy trail leads you through the lush understory of the forest and over little bridges before reaching the largest trees. Along the way, interpretive signs explain the ecological role of cottonwood trees and highlight some of the resident plants and animals.

In 2003, scientists confirmed the ages of the trees, putting the oldest at more than 400 years old. The cottonwood forest is part of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Elk Valley Heritage Conservation Area. The trail is 16 km SE of Fernie on Hwy 3. Turn off on Morrissey Road. The trailhead is located just past the bridge by the train tracks.

