

FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE

WINTER 2018-2019



Issue # 10 | Photo: Vince Mo

**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

**THE COMMUNITIES
OF THE ELK VALLEY**

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

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

Pop: 5,249 | 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: 3,784 | 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: 1,752 | Founded 1971

Photo Credit: Nick Nault

Credits - Writing & Editing by Rebecca Hall, Jikke Gyorki. Photos by Vince Mo, Fernie Museum, Matt Kuhn, Sparwood Chamber, St Eugene Resort, Nancy Stevenson, Rebecca Hall, Nick Nault, Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History, Will Barbour, Jikke Gyorki

FEATURED WINTER EVENTS

For more details visit ElkValleyCulture.com/Events



MOUNTAIN MAGIC AT FERNIE ALPINE RESORT DECEMBER 22–JAN 4

Experience the magic of the festive season at Fernie Alpine Resort with a chance to meet and take a photo with Santa, spellbinding holiday horse-drawn sleigh rides, candlelit dinners, live entertainment, and fun for little ones with the Griz Kidz Holiday Program.



SCENIC SNOWCAT RIDE & LUNCH AT ISLAND LAKE LODGE

DAILY, DEC 20–JAN 6 (EXCEPT DEC 25)
JAN–MARCH | THU, FRI, SAT & SUN

Experience the winter wonderland of the Ancient Western Red Cedar Forest on a snowcat ride to idyllic Island Lake Lodge. A delicious lunch awaits with spectacular views of the Lizard Range from the Bear Lodge Restaurant, along with time to snowshoe or cross-country ski. Optional add-on spa services also available. Reservations required. PH: 250-423-3700



HOME ROUTES – CHEMIN CHEZ NOUS HEARTLAND RAMBLE

FEBRUARY 8, MARCH 10, APRIL 7 | MOUNTAIN MEADOWS CLUBHOUSE, ELKFORD

Committed to bringing touring musicians to rural & remote areas, the Home Routes series features a variety of English and French-speaking singer-songwriters in an intimate 'house concert' environment. Artists include Montreal's Aleksi Campagne, Newfoundland's Earl & Coffin and Claire Ness from the Yukon. See calendar for dates and ticket details.



11TH REEL CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL JANUARY 25–27 | VOGUE THEATRE, FERNIE

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 two receptions. The festival opens with a gala presentation and welcome reception on Friday evening and continues with an eclectic selection of films, a young film-makers competition and complimentary programming. Tickets now on sale.



13TH ANNUAL FERNIE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 22–23
FERNIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dedicated to filmmakers who spark awareness of mountain cultures, fragile environments and the passion and perseverance of global explorers. Two nights of inspiring feature documentaries and shorts in a welcoming, social atmosphere. Presented by MAST-Mountain Activities Skills Program at the College of the Rockies. Tickets now on sale.



42ND GRIZ DAYS WINTER FESTIVAL MARCH 1–3 | FERNIE

Put on your Canadian Tuxedo for this year's Griz Days GONE DEMIN! The Powder King of the Lizard Range (aka The Griz) is embracing the Canadian fashion of jeans and jean jackets for winter's biggest party. Events include a XC ski challenge, downtown parade, Extreme Griz Competition, Pub Crawl, Dummy Downhill, Lumberjack Show, Craft Fair, Junior Griz Training Ground, fireworks, plenty of live entertainment including The Denim Daddies, and much, much more!



MISS ELLEN Q: THE PLAY & ONE WOMAN SHOW MARCH 6 | THE ARTS STATION, FERNIE

Drag Queen Superstar Miss Ellen Q is a household name in the Bow Valley, but under all that glitz and glamour, who is she really? Join us as Miss Ellen Q brings us her first ever one "woman" touring show! What secrets will she share? What we do know is that Miss Ellen Q never disappoints her fans...EVER! Tickets available from Freyja in February.



STOKEFEST WITH SHRED KELLY APRIL 6 | FERNIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Fernie's hometown musical heroes return to the stage with Stokefest, an annual extravaganza of original bootstompin' tracks, ballads and mountain music. Along with a lineup of supporting acts and a special 2-hour concert for kids and families at 5pm, Stokefest is everything you love about a festival wrapped up in one night of AWESOME.



A FERNIE MUSEUM SHOP

THE TRITES & WOOD MERCANTILE CO.



Named after the grand department store once located next door, the Fernie Museum's shop features a curated collection of jewelry, clothing and accessories, home décor, books, and stationery representing Fernie's geography, culture, and heritage.

491 2nd Avenue, Fernie BC | OPEN DAILY from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm



Elkford Arts Studio

The bright and welcoming Elkford Arts Studio offers a range of pottery, painting, drawing, glass mosaic, photography and felting classes including workshops by guest instructors and local artists and artisans. See website for dates, details and ticket links. Discover how wild surroundings can inspire you to be creative by nature!



2nd Floor, Elkford Rec Centre, 816 Michel Road
Elkfordarts.ca | elkfordartscouncil@gmail.com



WINTER CULTURAL EVENT CALENDAR

For full details visit ElkValleyCulture.com/Events

DECEMBER

- Nov30- Hearth 8 Annual Artisan Show and Sale,
- Dec1 Clawhammer Letterpress
- Until Fernie A.F. Studios Artisan Pop Up Shop,
- Dec 31 661 2nd Ave
- 1-2 Swan Lake Experience, The Arts Station
- 1-2 Live Music: Keith Greeninger, Fernie Distillers
- 1 A Winter Ball, Fernie Legion
- 1 Live Music: The Fogies & Burrllapz Film Screening, The Northern
- 1 DJ Night: 7th Birthday Keg Party, The Royal
- 2 18th Annual Santa Claus Pancake Breakfast, Park Place Lodge
- 5 Film Screening: This Mountain Life, Vogue Theatre
- 6 Last Minute Santa Make & Take Workshop, Fernie Heritage Library
- 6 Live Music: Winter Launch Party, The Loaf
- 6 DJ Night: Ed Solo with Aurora & Ality, The Royal
- 7 Live Music: RedGe & Jay, The Loaf
- 7 Live Music: Speakeasy Night, Infnitea
- 7 Opera Screening: The Pearl Fishers by Bizet
- 7 DJ Night: Burchill, The Royal
- 8 Paint Your Own Ornament, Elkford Arts Studio
- 8 Artisan Fair and Public Art Panel & Discussion, The Arts Station
- 8 Carolling Jam, Fernie Heritage Library
- 8 Gallery Reception: Searching for a Ground - Joey Kosolofski, The Arts Station
- 8 Live Music: Flowshine, The Royal
- 9 Indie Films Fernie: The Wife, Vogue Theatre
- 11 French Cooking Class, Infnitea
- 13-15 Do They Know It's Christmas: Back to the 80's Show, The Arts Station
- 14 Fernie Community Choir Christmas Concert, Holy Family Catholic Church
- 14 Live Music: Rick Miller, The Loaf
- 14 Live Music: Open Mic with Karl Schomann, Infnitea
- 14 Live Music: Shred Kelly, The Northern
- 15 T'is the Season Craft Fair, Fernie Community Centre
- 15 Tourtiere Night, Infnitea
- 15 Live Music: Jay Burns, Rusty Edge
- 17 Live Music: The O'Pears Christmas Concert, The Arts Station
- 19 Storytime Plaid Party, Fernie Heritage Library
- 19 Film Screening: Won't You Be My Neighbour? The Arts Station
- 21 Live Music: Blue Tansy, The Loaf
- 21 Live Music: Christmas Special, Infnitea
- 22 Dickens' Christmas Party, Fernie Heritage Library
- 22 Santa Swim, Sparwood Rec Centre
- 22 Live Music: Seany J & The Boys, The Northern
- 23 Santa Skate, Sparwood Rec Centre
- 23 Live Music: Christmas Carols Sing-along with Rachel, The Loaf
- 23 Christmas Roast, Infnitea
- Dec 21- Sleigh Rides, Photos with Santa & Griz Kids Activities, Fernie Alpine Resort
- Jan 4 Ugly Sweater Parties, The Royal & Kodiak Lounge
- 26 DJ Night: Boxing Day Plaid Party w/ Fernie Yacht Club, The Royal
- 28 Live Music: Locals Jam Night, Infnitea



- 28 Live Music: Aaron Alander, The Loaf
- 28 DJ Night: Duplex/4on-4on/Derek4Real, The Royal
- 29 Live Music: Shaela Miller Band, Rusty Edge
- 29 Live Music: The Runs, The Northern
- 31 Family New Year's Eve & Fireworks, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 31 New Year's Eve Parties, Fernie-wide

JANUARY

- 2 Beginner Paint Date with Sue Hanlon, The Arts Station
- 3 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Vogue Theatre
- 3 Gallery Opening: A Wonderous Whole - Liza Gareau Tosh, The Arts Station
- 4-5 Live Music: Jay Burns, Rusty Edge
- 4 Live Music: Jon Bisset at The Loaf
- 4 Live Music: Northern Quarter at The Northern
- 4 Opera Screening: Rusalka by Dvorak, The Arts Station
- 5 Live Music: Max Thomson Album Launch, The Royal
- 11 Live Music: Naena Robinson, The Loaf
- 11 Live Music: The Steadies, The Northern
- 11 DJ Night: Cain1, The Royal
- 12 Live Music: Adequate, Rusty Edge
- 12&19 Glass Mosaic Workshop with Katherine Russell, Elkford Arts Studio
- 18-20 Intro to Oil Painting with Tara Higgins, The Arts Station
- 18 Lunch n' Learn with the Fernie Museum, Fernie Senior's Centre
- 18 Live Music: Rick Miller, The Loaf
- 18 Live Music: Michael Bernard Fitzgerald, The Northern
- 18 DJ Night: Sam Klassik, The Royal
- 19 Live Music: Sean Burns, Rusty Edge
- 19 Live Music: The Runs, The Royal
- 19 Live Music: River Jacks, The Northern
- 19 Screening: Reel Canadian Film Festival Preview, Sparwood Golf Course
- 20 Live Music: Ryan McMahon in Concert, The Arts Station
- 22 DJ Night: Gang Wars, The Royal
- 25-27 11th Annual Reel Canadian Film Festival, Vogue Theatre
- 25 Live Music: Kiana & Davis, The Loaf
- 25 Burns Night, Fernie Hotel & Fernie Alpine Resort
- 25 Music: The Gaff, The Northern
- 25 DJ Night: Funky Necklace Party ft. Benanas, The Royal
- 25-26 Australia Day Parties, Kodiak Lounge, Fernie Hotel, The Royal, FAR
- 26 Live Music: Misery Mountain Boys, The Northern
- 26 Live Music: Papa King Cole, Rusty Edge
- 26 DJ Night: Kokanee Snow Dreams, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 27 Snowed In Comedy Tour, The Northern
- 31 Gallery Opening: Reflection of Spring - Alysha Clarke, The Arts Station

FEBRUARY

- 1 Opera Screening: Prince Igor by Borodin, The Arts Station
- 1 Live Music: The West, The Northern

- 2 Winterfest, Sparwood Golf Club
- 2 Live Music: Craig Cardiff in Concert, The Arts Station
- 2 Live Music: Elk Run + Riot, The Northern
- 6 Waitangi Day Celebrations, Bars around town
- 8 Live Music: Aleksi Campagne Duo, Elkford Mountain Meadows Clubhouse
- 9 DJ Night: Dubconscious, The Royal
- 14 Moontricks Valentine's Day Party, The Royal
- 14-16 Valentine's Day Dinner Specials, Restaurants around town
- 15-16 Conviction: A Radio Play, The Arts Station
- 15-16 Figure Skating Ice Show, Fernie Memorial Arena
- 15 Lunch n' Learn with the Fernie Museum, Fernie Senior's Centre
- 15 Live Music: The Runs, The Northern
- 16-17 Griz Kids AB Family Weekend Activities, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 16 Winter in the Wild, Elkford Arts Studio
- 16 Music: Taylor Ackerman, Rusty Edge
- 16 DJ Night: Ben Fox, The Royal
- 17 DJ Night: Illvis Freshly and Mt Doyle, The Royal
- 22-23 13th Annual Fernie Mountain Film Festival, Fernie Community Centre
- 22 Music: Eamon McGrath @ The Northern
- 22 DJ Night: Wadjit @ The Royal
- 23 Learn to Sew Workshop, The Arts Station
- 23 Live Music: Groove Apostles @ Rusty Edge
- 23 Live Music: Freak Motif & The Hillties @ The Northern
- 28 Gallery Opening: Rabbit Dreams of the Shapeshifter - Troy Bubba Cook, The Arts Station

MARCH

- 1-3 42nd Annual Griz Days Gone Denim Winter Festival, Fernie-wide
- 1 Gallery Opening: Painting with Wool & Silk, Eye of the Needle Studio & Gallery
- 1 Opera Screening: Anna Bolena by Donizetti, The Arts Station
- 1 Music: Denim Daddies, The Northern
- 1 DJ Night: Pussy Power Party with Ninjette & Tracy Mihajic, The Royal
- 2 Fernie Sled Drags, Demo Derby Grounds
- 2 Music: Val Kilmer & The New Coke, The Northern
- 2 DJ Night: Fozzyfest Forest Stage Takeover Party, The Royal
- 6 Miss Ellen Q: The Play and One Woman Show, The Arts Station
- 8 Live Music: Galacticas, The Royal
- 9 Live Music: The 427's, The Northern
- 10 Live Music: Earle & Coffin, Elkford Mountain Meadows Clubhouse
- 15-16 Live Music: Jay Burns, Rusty Edge
- 15 Lunch n' Learn with the Fernie Museum, Fernie Senior's Centre
- 17 St Patricks Day Celebrations everywhere, inc From Under the Stone live, The Royal
- 19-21 Kids Theatre Camp, The Arts Station
- 24 Live Music: Slokan Ramblers in Concert, The Arts Station
- 26-28 Kids Art Camp, The Arts Station
- 28 Gallery Opening: Touch Stones - Jocelyn Mudry, The Arts Station

- 29 Live Music: Case of the Mondays, The Northern
- 30 Retro Day, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 30 Live Music: Heavy Airship, The Northern

APRIL

- 3 Hot Dog Day @ Fernie Alpine Resort & After Parties everywhere!
- 5 Opera Screening: Rinaldo by Handel, The Arts Station
- 6 Griz Kids Winter Carnival, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 6 Live Music: Stokefest with Shred Kelly, Fernie Community Centre
- 7 Live Music: Claire Ness, Elkford Mountain Meadows Clubhouse
- 12-13 End of Season Parties, All bars
- 12-14 Early Years Art Show, The Arts Station
- 13-14 Fernival & Coca-Cola Slope Soaker, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 19 Lunch n' Learn with the Fernie Museum, Fernie Senior's Centre
- 25 Gallery Opening: Fernie through my Artistic Filter - Donna Bilyk, The Arts Station

WEEKLY

MONDAYS:

- Jam Night with Zac at the Rusty Edge, 4pm
- Jam Night at Kodiak Lounge, 9pm
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays: Storytime at the Library for under 5's

TUESDAYS:

- \$6.50 Movie Night, Vogue Theatre, 7 & 9pm
- Karaoke at the Royal, 9pm
- Bingo at the Northern, 9pm

WEDNESDAYS:

- Tarot at Infnitea, 8pm
- Trivia Night at the Fernie Hotel, 9pm
- Jam Night at the Royal, 9pm

THURSDAYS:

- Team Trivia at The Pub Bar & Grill, 8pm
- DJ Club at the Royal, 9pm
- Jam Night at the Brickhouse, 10pm

FRIDAYS:

- Live music at Loaf & Infnitea, 6/8pm

SATURDAYS:

- Cultural Saturdays at the Arts Station, 9am & more
- Vinyl Appreciation Night at Infnitea, 8pm
- Live Music at the Fernie Hotel & Pub, 9pm

SUNDAYS:

- Sunday Sessions at the Pub Bar & Grill, 5pm
- Sunday Skool at the Fernie Hotel & Pub, 8pm

MONTHLY

2ND THURSDAY:

- Poker Tourney at the Fernie Legion, 6:30pm

2ND FRIDAY:

- Beers & Queers at the Valley Social, 7:30pm

2ND SATURDAY:

- The Price is Kinda Right at the Fernie Legion, 8pm

2ND SUNDAY:

- Indie Films Fernie at the Vogue Theatre, 5pm



FERNIE MUSEUM 130+ YEARS OF FERNIE HISTORY



INTERPRETING CULTURE AND HERITAGE FOR TODAY

The Fernie Museum has welcomed over 55,000 visitors since it opened to the public in 2013. Located in the 1910 Home Bank Building, the museum is a beautifully restored Italianate structure featuring decorative stonework and original wood finishes. Step inside and explore Fernie.

The main floor exhibit, This Is Our Fernie, explores the legends and mythology, fires and mining disasters, and stories of the commercial, sporting, and community life over the past 100+ years. The exhibit includes new digital kiosks featuring stories and images from the traditional occupants of the region, The Ktunaxa Nation, plus more insight into the industrial, cultural and sporting history of Fernie.

A range of engaging mini-activities for kids will keep little ones entertained. The second floor gallery features touring and temporary exhibits. Chat with the knowledgeable front desk staff for information on local heritage, events, and activities.

TRITES & WOOD MUSEUM SHOP

The museum gift shop is located in the former bank managers office at the entrance to the Museum. The shop is modelled after the Trites and Wood Department store that was once located next door and features a curated collection of items inspired directly by the museum's collection and early life in Fernie. Products include a range of books featuring local and Canadian history plus desktop goods and brass bookstands. Period-style jewellery, scarves and ties, Korite jewellery featuring ammolite gemstones, and children's toys and games. Fernie-inspired items including Murchie's Fernie blend tea, Rooftop Coffee Roasters, Fernie Ladies Apothecary Soaps, Elk River Apiaries Honey and Clawhammer Mints.

PERFECT LINE IN THE GALLERY UNTIL APRIL 14

Over a period of 18 years, Gordon Milne has attended company class each week to draw the dancers of Alberta Ballet. This ongoing relationship has inspired a very distinctive feel to his drawings and paintings celebrating

movement in dance. The exhibit which celebrates the 50 year history of the illustrious ballet troupe features 15 large-scale original paintings highlighting the grace and athleticism of ballet. A selection of supporting drawings, produced during sessions at morning class, are also on display and for sale through the Museum Gift Shop.

A Canadian artist, Gordon Milne was born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1953. He attended McMaster University where he studied printmaking and sculpture. Gordon is renowned for his portraits of athletes and has produced several collections featuring Olympic sportswomen and men. His work can be seen at the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and at the Calgary International Airport.

Work featured in the show includes The Rising; based on the artist's firm belief that our earliest instincts (aside from food, shelter and survival) include scratching images into the dirt and onto cave walls, pounding out rhythms on hollow logs and dancing around fires. The Rising is a painting about us and who we've always been - emerging from ignorance to light.

Join the artist for a creative life drawing class to be held in Fernie this winter. Gordon's use of line and understanding of form brings incredible depth and scale to his work. Learn his techniques and improve your drawing skills with a comprehensive drawing class. Dates and details to be announced, advance tickets only.

COMING THIS WINTER

Join the Fernie Museum at the Fernie Seniors Centre for the 2019 Lunch and Learn Series. Held every month from January – April, the series features a delicious home-made lunch and an engaging talk presented by an expert in their field. Watch local listings and announcements for topic information.

Tickets available on Eventbrite.com, from the Fernie Museum and at the door, subject to availability. Fridays, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19. (Dates subject to change, see local listings).

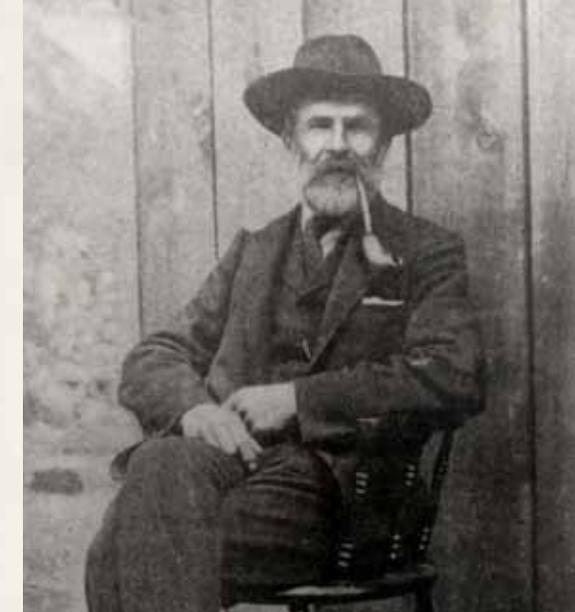
691 2nd Ave | 250-423-7016
fernziemuseum.com   



Railway tunnel construction on the BC Southern loop at Michel (c1896). Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History



Michael Phillips



William Fernie

FERNIE'S FOUNDING FATHERS

Michael Phillips & William Fernie

In 1851, 14-year-old William Fernie set sail from England for a new life in Australia. There he began the career that would eventually lead him to Southeastern British Columbia and the untouched coal fields that would be his legacy. Lured to Australia by tales of the Victorian gold rush, he quickly found work in the booming mining town of Bendigo but just 4 years later he set sail again and for several years worked as a quartermaster on the United States Mail Steamer to South America. He arrived in British Columbia in 1860 and worked in mining in the Cariboo region, eventually being appointed Gold Commissioner in 1873.

Serendipitously, 1873 was the year that Michael Phillips made his first significant foray into the Elk Valley, and the first recorded trip along Michel Creek through what is now known as the Crow's Nest Pass. Phillips returned the following year with Jim Morrissey and others on a well-provisioned prospecting expedition. The party crossed the Elk River and discovered coal in abundance; however, the treasure they sought was gold and

coal was of little interest at the time. "Woods and I went over the divide on foot to the Michel Creek waters, but could find nothing but coal and coal everywhere. We spent many weeks up Elk River, but failing to get out of the coal formation we turned back and went towards the head waters of the Flathead River."

Michael Phillips, also originally from England, came to the region by a more direct route than William Fernie, arriving at the Tobacco Plains outpost of the Hudson's Bay Company in the 1860's. Although the company pulled out of the region shortly after his arrival, Phillips saw the potential of the area and stayed, thoroughly learning the Ktunaxa language so he could communicate with the local population. He married the daughter of the Tobacco Plains Chief and eventually started a ranch where they raised twelve children.

Although Phillips maintained his interest in gold and was a successful trapper, rancher, and builder, he also saw the potential in his coal discovery.

He sent a sample, along with a hand-drawn map of the Elk Valley, to a Dr. Dawson, and elicited the assistance of then-MP R.L.T. Galbraith to secure funds to cut a trail through the newly-discovered Pass. Phillips was keen to establish the trail and secure a cattle-trading route to Fort MacLeod as the "mines at White Horse had gone down to a low ebb." William Fernie dismissed the idea, citing that "the Indians say there is no pass, and there is no use spending money to make a trail to nowhere." His brother, Peter Fernie, was equally dismissive, saying of one of the coal seams "If that's your coal I don't think much of it." Although it took several more years, Michael Phillips, along with William Ridgeway, eventually did blaze the trail all the way through to Fort MacLeod.

At some point in the next decade, William Fernie had a change of heart about the potential of the coal seams.

In 1886, he formed a syndicate with his brother Peter, local MP Colonel James Baker, and his son V. Hyde Baker, and the Hon. W.F. Aylmer, following a thorough study of the coal outcroppings in the Pass. The following year, he led a prospecting party and staked out 10,000 acres of land around the Michel, Coal & Morrissey Creeks, each of which flow into the Elk River. Applications for railway lines quickly followed, and rail links to Cranbrook were established by 1898. The MF&M (Morrissey, Fernie and Michel) Railway was added in 1900 and Fernie was incorporated as a city in 1904.

William Fernie retired to Victoria where he became well known as a philanthropist. He died there, a bachelor, on May 15, 1921. Michael Phillips lived out his life with his family on his ranch in Tobacco Plains. He died on June 22, 1919 and is buried in Roosville with his wife.



William Fernie and Peter Carosella at the cut block.

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572 2nd Ave. 250.423.7044

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thebrickhousefernie.com • 401 2nd Ave, Historic Downtown Fernie • 250.423.0009



**FEATURE BUSINESS
ELEMENT 7 NINE**

With a pursuit for originality and a passion for goldsmithing Element 7 Nine is crafted in downtown Fernie. The open working studio has a gallery style presentation featuring a full range of modern, sculptural and understated jewellery.



Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Matt and Trisha Martin moved their family of five to BC in 2016. The next year witnessed the launch of Element 7 Nine (hint: periodic table), that has quickly become known for original jewellery design with a recognizable aesthetic.

switch programs. Upon completion of his education he was offered a work placement position with a local jeweller and in hindsight recognizes this to be the catalyst to launching his career.

With a background in fine arts Matt Martin began pursuing jewellery-making after being inspired by modernist American metal sculptor, Albert Paley. He began studying jewellery making at Camosun College in Victoria, BC, and then returned to Winnipeg to enrol in the Fine Arts program at the University of Manitoba. Following his first year at the U of M he discovered an intensive Jewellery Arts program offered at another local collegiate; where the emphasis on technical processes appealed enough to make him enroll immediately and

Technically challenging and inherently creative, goldsmithing is a craft Martin has come to admire over the last 20 years. He is inspired by contrast and complexities in the natural beauty that surrounds us, strength of form often seen in architecture and sculpture, colour and the display of light in natural gemstones. Offering a full range of services Element 7 Nine specializes in custom design including repurposing gold and gemstones to create something new and meaningful.

592 3rd Ave | 250-430-0700
Element7nine.com



THE ARTS STATION WHERE ART, CULTURE & HISTORY CONVERGE



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.

A HARDY TOWN – PERMANENT SCULPTURE

On the grounds of the Arts Station, a new permanent sculpture has been installed to commemorate the 1908 Fire. **A Hardy Town** is a collaborative effort from Michael Hepher of Clawhammer Press and metalwork artist Paul Reimer. Although the devastating fire of August 1908 razed the town in just 90 minutes, no lives were lost. The artwork reflects the impact the fire had on Fernie's architecture and the City ordinance that followed, directing all future construction to be of fireproof material. This commemorative sculpture is a testament to the tenacity of the people of Fernie who rose up through the ashes to rebuild and endure, and a reflection of the town that fell but was not fallen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Arts Station is a cultural hub for Fernie and features a lively program of entertainment and events throughout the year. Tickets can be found on Eventbrite.ca or contact the Arts Station for more information.

On December 13th, 14th & 15th at 7pm the **Back to the 80's Christmas**

Show will include Epic dance numbers, a lovable cast of characters and great music to send you walkin' on sunshine! Take a totally awesome trip back to December 1987 where feathered hair and Pac Man reign supreme and love and angst were in the air! Tickets will sell out so don't delay in picking yours up from Eventbrite.ca. Watch for more theatrical shows throughout the season, including **Conviction: A Radio Play** on Feb 15th & 16th, and a **Griz Days Theatre Show** on March 1st.



Throughout the winter, live concerts at the Arts Station present the kind of musical talent that musicians love to listen to, including **The O'Pears** on December 17th, **Ryan McMahon** of Lion, Bear Fox on Jan 20th, **Craig Cardiff** on February 2nd and **Slocan Ramblers** on March 24th.

Cultural Saturday is a new weekly series beginning January 5th and running

through March. The program includes a full day of creativity for kids aged 5-12 from 9am-4pm, (advance registration required, \$50) followed by an afternoon or evening arts activity for adults (registration varies, see website for details.)

The foyer gallery features a series of temporary exhibitions by local artists, with free opening receptions held on the last Thursday of every month. Shows remain on display for approximately four weeks. Throughout December, enjoy the creative colour of **Joey Kosolofski**. **Liza Gareau-Tosh: A Wonderous Whole** opens Jan 3rd, **Alysha Clarke: Reflection of Spring** on January 31st, **Troy Bubba Cook: Rabbit Dreams of the Shapeshifter** on Feb 28th and **Jocelyn Mudry: Touch Stones** on March 28th.



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

THE ARTS STATION

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

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



FERNIE MUSEUM GALLERY

Museum-quality gallery art exhibits. Winter 2018-19 show: Perfect Line by Gordon Milne. See feature, P10.

491 2nd Ave, Fernie | www.ferniemuseum.com
Open: 360 days per year, 10am-5:30pm



BRIAN POLLOCK GALLERY

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

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.

1439 MacDonald Ave/Hwy 3 | 250-423-0552
fernielogcarver@gmail.com Open most days & by appointment



CLAWHAMMER LETTERPRESS

Artisan prints, typography & original paintings. At this location with paintings by Laura Nelson and Tara Higgins, and photography by Kyle Hamilton, until December 29, 2018.

441C 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-946-6400 | www.clawhammer.ca
Enter through furniture store or via laneway across from Library garden. Open: Fri & Sat 12-5pm (Until Dec 29)



ELEMENT 7 NINE

Modern, sculptural and understated jewellery created with passion. Specializing in custom wedding rings. See feature, P15.

592 3rd Ave Unit B, Fernie | 250-430-0700
www.element7nine.com | Open: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm
& by appointment



ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO

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

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 featuring Fernie forge metalwork, fibre art, candles, glasswork and felting classes. See feature, P22.

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 by 50+ artists and artisans including textiles, paintings, photography, sculpture and more. Save the tax on all sales in December.

572 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-7044
Open: Mon-Sat 10am-5:45pm | 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

Wedding, lifestyle and photography studio. Custom framing and ID photo service.

341c 3rd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-0904 | www.khphotograph.com
Open: Open regularly & by appointment



POLAR PEEK BOOKS & TREASURES

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

592 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-3736 | polarpeekbooks.ca
Open: Mon-Thu & Sat 9:30am-5:30pm | Fri 9:30am-6pm
Sun 11am-4pm



SARAH PIKE POTTERY

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

1480 McDonald Ave, Fernie | sarahpikepottery.com
250-430-7937 | Open: Call or text for appointment



STEPHANIE'S GLASS & ART STUDIO

Renowned working Stained Glass & Sandblasting Studio. Art Gallery & Studio sales.

532 2nd Ave, Fernie | 250-423-3944 | stephaniesglass.ca
Open: Wed-Fri 10:30am-5pm | Sat 10:30am-4pm | Sun 11am-3pm



STUDIO 562

Studio and gallery space featuring original paintings of local landscapes, animals and whimsical scenes of childhood.

562 2nd Ave Fernie | leannestothertpaints@gmail.com
www.leannestothert.com | Open: Saturday 12pm-4pm



For special holiday hours, please call or see websites.
Pick up the Fernie Art Walk Map Guide at the Museum or Visitor Centre.
View it online at elkvalleyculture.com/galleries-studios

BEANPOD CHOCOLATE

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

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

Open: Tues-Sat 10-5pm, hours may vary



ELKFORD VISITOR CENTRE

Local information & maps, Elkford Living History interpretive displays.

Located in the Elkford Community Conference Centre
750 Fording Drive, Elkford | 250-865-4015 | www.elkford.ca
For hours, see inside back cover



FERNIE BREWING COMPANY

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

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



FERNIE CITY HALL & MINER'S WALK

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

501 3rd Ave, Fernie | fernie.ca
City Hall open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Miner's Walk always open.



FERNIE COURT HOUSE & CENOTAPH

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

401 4th Ave, Fernie
tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/court-house
Open: Mon-Fri 8:30am-12pm & 1-4:30pm



FERNIE DISTILLERS

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

531 1st Ave, Fernie | www.ferniedistillers.com
Open: Wednesday - Saturday Noon - 10pm



FERNIE MUSEUM

Permanent & temporary displays, gift shop, special events, interpretive walks and local information. See feature, P10.

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, P26.

492 3rd Ave, Fernie | fernie.bclibrary.ca | 250-423-4458
Open: Tue, Wed & Fri & 11am-6pm | Thu 11am-8pm
Sat 1pm-5pm



MICHEL-NATAL HERITAGE KIOSK

6 panels interpreting the towns that used to be situated here, along with heritage, mining, and Ktunaxa Nation content.

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



SPARWOOD MUSEUM

Discover the community and mining history of Michel, Natal, Middletown and Sparwood.

141-B Aspen Drive, next to Sparwood Visitor Centre
sparwood.ca/museum | 250-425-0560
Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 2pm



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
For hours, see inside back cover.



THE ARTS STATION

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

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



FERNIE VISITOR CENTRE & OIL DERRICK

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

102 Commerce Road/Hwy 3, east side of Fernie
tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/oil-derrick
For hours, see inside back cover.



THE VOGUE THEATRE

Classical-style independent theatre featuring the latest 2D & 3D screenings, festival and special events. See feature, P29.

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



FEATURE ARTIST

SANDRA BARRETT



Seamlessly fusing ancient and modern techniques, Sandra Barrett and her husband David create intricate and artistic 3-dimensional artwork and functional homewares. The pair work with steel, bronze, and copper using modern welding and plasma cutting equipment and a traditional coke fired hearth at the Fernie Forge in Hosmer, just outside Fernie.

The pair moved their family to British Columbia and set up the Fernie Forge through the Provincial Nominee Program, (relocating workers to rural areas) when the 1893 forge they were working out of came to the end of its natural life in England. After 10 years, they purchased the former Salvation Army Hall in Fernie and launched Eye of the Needle Studio & Gallery.

The couple's daughter, Florence, opened a sewing studio on the ground floor of the retail space while the

basement galleries were dedicated to showcasing a range of fine artisan crafts from a variety of producers in metal, glass, textiles and wax. After winning a



Canadian Leo award for her costume design on the period drama 'Eadweard,' Florence moved to Vancouver to continue her career in the film industry and the sewing studio was converted into a yarn store and workshop where Sandra offers private felting classes. Classes can be booked any time the studio and gallery is closed, providing a dedicated and supportive one-on-one setting. Depending on the preferred project, small groups can also be accommodated.

The Barretts use traditional blacksmithing skills to produce practical items including hooks, hinges and candlesticks. They have created a variety of larger installations, some of which can be seen at the Miner's Walk at City Hall and at the entrance of the Eye of the Needle Studio & Gallery. Look up at the unique handcrafted sign in wood, textiles and metal, and discover a variety of metal and glass pieces located around the front of the building.

Sandra has travelled extensively to study felted art; her 'Spiritual Temple' was chosen as the cover image and was displayed at the Craft Council of BC's 2018 exhibition 'Shrine' at Granville Island in Vancouver.

Sandra Barrett's exhibition of 'Painting with wool and silk' will be presented at Eye of the Needle Gallery, March 1 – April 20, 2019.

Eye of the Needle Studio and Gallery
Open: Thursday & Friday 10 am–5 pm
& Saturday 11:30 am–5:30pm

Fernieforge.ca | 250-423-2671 



11TH ANNUAL
REEL
 CANADIAN
FILM
 FESTIVAL



VOGUE THEATRE : 321 2ND AVENUE

JANUARY 25 - 27, 2019

REELFILMFEST.CA

Tickets on sale at
 eventbrite.com and
 from the Fernie Museum

WITH SUPPORT FROM : VOGUE THEATRE : PARK PLACE LODGE : EKC : TIFF : ISOSCELES

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.



REEL Film Festival & Griz Days Festival Packages



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



FEATURE PERFORMERS SOUNDS LIKE FERNIE!

Music-lovers no longer need to wait from weekend to weekend for the next live music night as jam nights, open mics and regular sets will flood the weekly calendar this winter. There was a time when the only sound heard on a midweek evening in downtown Fernie was the piercing whistle of the approaching coal train; not so anymore. Like the rhythm of wheels on rails, a steady staccato of home-grown talent now fills local bars almost every night of the week to please all ears – and even better, there are no cover charges.

Listen for the changes and try and keep up as we welcome a whole fleet of new seasonal musicians and their instruments this winter! Here's the lowdown.

- **Mondays** – From 9pm, the Kodiak Lounge has Fernie's freshest international flavour at backpacker central, the Raging Elk Hostel. Starting January, Zac's back at Rusty Edge to kick the week of with an après ski Jam Night.
- **Tuesdays** – It's your time to shine at Shotgun Karaoke at The Royal with Topo and Wedge, from 9pm.
- **Wednesdays** – Jam Night with Zac at the Royal from 9pm. It's live. It's loud. It could get messy!

- **Thursdays** – The original act, Jam Night at the Brickhouse. Seasoned regulars welcome new sounds every week, all year round, from 9pm.
- **Fridays** – Fridays - Live & Local - live entertainment weekly 6-8pm at The Loaf, and from 8pm at Infinitea. (Remove bit about J-Skillz)
- **Saturdays** – Live bands weekly at The Fernie Hotel including lots of local talent.
- **Sundays** - The Sunday Sessions every other week with resident singing bartender J-Skillz 5-9pm at The Pub at Park Place

Watch listings for some of Fernie's bigger local talents including Shred Kelly, The Runs, and others taking the stage at the Northern, The Fernie Hotel and The Royal.



FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY BRINGING WORDS TO LIFE



A HOME FOR STORIES

The Fernie Heritage Library is a place to discover and nurture a love of literature and language. Fun and friendly, warm and welcoming; a sanctuary for all ages filled with every variety of media. Borrow a book or movie, enjoy storytime or a ukulele class, or take in a special social event. Curl up in a huge leather armchair by the sunny upstairs windows to enjoy the views of the Lizard Range with a good read. More than you imagine, the Fernie Heritage Library brings words to life.

BUILDING FERNIE'S LITERARY HERITAGE

Housed in the beautiful historic former Customs & Post Office building in the heart of Fernie, the Fernie Heritage Library has provided library services and programs for over one hundred years. The Library has been recognized for its excellence in community programming and engagement and offers three floors of books, magazines and reference materials, a research and study room, computer use, and fax, copy, and scan services. In all seasons, it is a cozy refuge; warm in winter, cool in summer.

ENGAGING PROGRAMMING FOR ALL

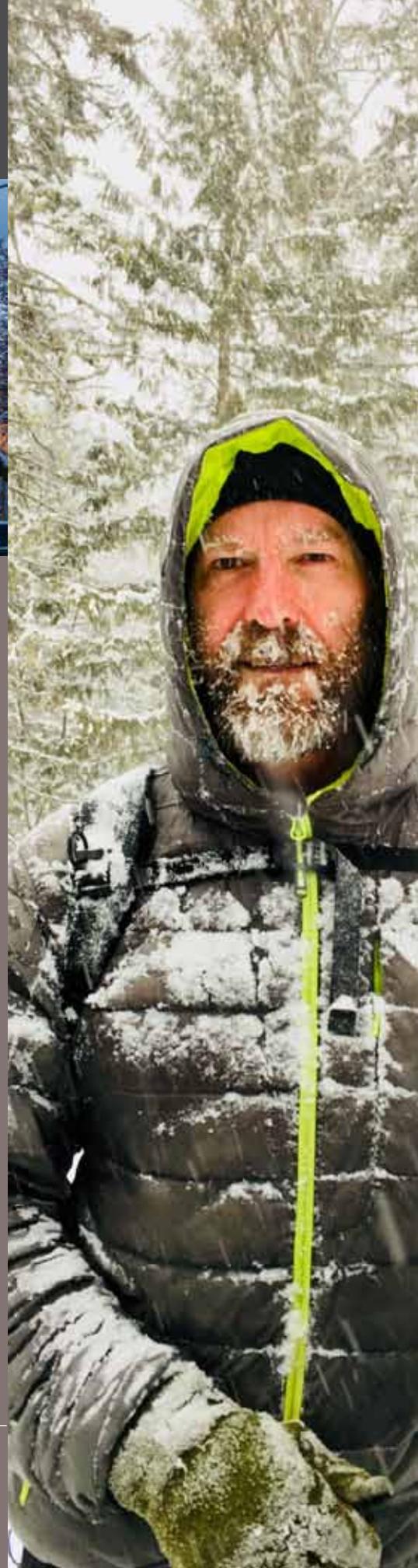
A range of engaging programming suitable for all ages from toddlers to seniors is offered throughout the year both inside the library and out in the community. All programs are free and everyone is welcome to attend.

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

Celebrate the season at the library with a plaid storytime party on Wednesday, December 19th for ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Enjoy soup, stories, songs and socializing. On Saturday, December 22nd from 2-4pm, the Dickens Christmas Party is a festive and friendly event for the whole family – enjoy cider, stories and beautiful carols led by community musicians.

Regular programming continues for kids throughout the winter with Crafternoons, Lego Building, Storytime and special events. For adults there is knitting, book clubs and literary walks. The whole family will love the Uke 101 sessions, a chance to learn the Ukulele with Fernie's own Anie Hepher of RedGirl. See local calendars for details, dates and booking info.

492 3rd Ave | 250-423-4458
fernienclibrary.ca



FEATURE AUTHOR

TERRY NELSON

As a teenager, Terry Nelson moved to Fernie with his family after many summer visits. By the early 80's he was bushwhacking through alder thickets and seeking out hunting and game trails in pursuit of now well-trodden peaks including the Three Sisters and Castle Mountain.

He recalls some of the first trails in Fernie – the Moccasin on the face of Mt Fernie and a series of interpretive trails at the current site of the Montane Trail System. Local trail luminaries including Barry Hulburd, Sean Staplin, Heiko Socher, Pat Gilmar, Gerry George, Eric Mutcher and others began to extend the trails and forge new routes for hiking and biking in and around Fernie. The Fernie Ski Trails and Touring Club was the first official trail club for Fernie. With funding from the BC Forest Service, trails at Fairy Creek and Olivia Creek were two early community projects.

As the president of the Fernie Trails Alliance for the past 7 years and instrumental in many trail building initiatives long before that, Nelson has long advocated for an extensive trail network for the Fernie Area. He recognized a need for a guide book and started work on the project several years ago. **The Fernie Area Hiking Trails and Natural Plant Compendium** will assist hikers in locating trailheads, assessing difficulty and navigating mountain terrain. A keen plant enthusiast, Nelson has included a compendium of plants that he has identified in the area, along with quotes and anecdotes to enhance the narrative. The book is not intended to be a definitive guide, he's keen to note – more of a companion to assist hiking enthusiasts in making the most of Fernie's incredible trail system. Watch for the launch event to be announced online!



FB: /terrynelson.581525





THE KTUNAXA NATION LIVING CULTURE, LIVING TRADITIONS

For more than 10,000 years, the Ktunaxa people (pronounced ‘k-too-nah-ha’), also known as the Kootenai or Kootenay, have occupied a traditional territory that spans what is now known as southeastern British Columbia, Southwestern Alberta, and parts of Washington, Idaho and Western Montana. For thousands of years the Ktunaxa people enjoyed the natural bounty of the land, seasonally migrating throughout their traditional territory to follow vegetation and hunting cycles. The Ktunaxa obtained all their food, medicine and material for shelter and clothing from nature – hunting, fishing and gathering throughout their Territory, across the Rocky Mountains and on the Great Plains of both Canada and the United States.

The Ktunaxa used the Elk Valley as a trade and travel route through the Rocky Mountains. Twice a year, bison hunts were coordinated on the prairies east of the Rockies until the bison population was decimated in the mid-1800s. The Elk Valley area was the primary home of the easternmost branch of the Ktunaxa people, who are closely connected to families living at what is now Tobacco Plains. The Michel Prairie people, after whom the old town



of Michel was named, used the area near Sparwood to plant tobacco. Their Ktunaxa name is kaqawakanmituqnik and means “river running into and out again” (the Michel Creek into the Elk River).

Despite being subjected to 120 years of living on Indian Reserves, and decades of forced attendance at a residential school at St. Eugene Mission near Cranbrook, the Ktunaxa Nation continues to be a strong and thriving community and transformed the Mission into a world-class resort. Visitors to the region can learn more about the Ktunaxa by visiting the St. Eugene Resort Interpretive Centre and the Fernie Museum. A pull-out near Michel Creek at the former townsite of Michel offers visitors further information about the Michel Plains people.

Visit www.ktunaxa.org and www.steugene.ca



BUILT HERITAGE VOGUE THEATRE

As the Great Fire of 1908 ravaged Fernie the members of the Miner’s Union must have breathed a sigh of relief. The 60ft lot they had purchased with the intention of building a hall still stood empty and the union suffered no loss of assets. Plans were ready however, and by 1909 the Miner’s Hall Opera House opened as a welcome addition to the three popular theatres already in operation in the town. The theatre space was later leased as a private business and renamed as the Grand Theatre, while the Miner’s Union continued business in the upstairs offices.

In 1947, Sam Rossell reopened the venue as The Vogue Theatre. While the property has housed several other businesses at various times including a grocery Co-op, furniture and second hand stores, laundry and a Piano Parlour, it has now returned to its original purpose as an entertainment venue, and the name endures.



Dennis and Roxana Djonlich purchased the building in 2006 and quickly set about fully renovating and refurbishing the dark and dated theatre. The original building is known as ‘Renaissance Revival’ and while simple, has a number of attractive period features including fanned window caps and cornices. The renovation is a combination of bright and modern with plenty of nods to the past including period-style chandeliers and a pressed tin ceiling. The theatre offers 7pm screenings of the latest films, 9pm screenings during peak periods, 3D screenings and weekend matinees. The Vogue Theatre also supports the community as a venue for film festivals and special screenings, including the Banff Mountain Film Festival, Reel Canadian Film Festival and International Fly Fishing Film Festival. A video arcade on the 2nd floor is available for private parties.

Ferniemovies.com | 250-423-7111
321 2nd Ave



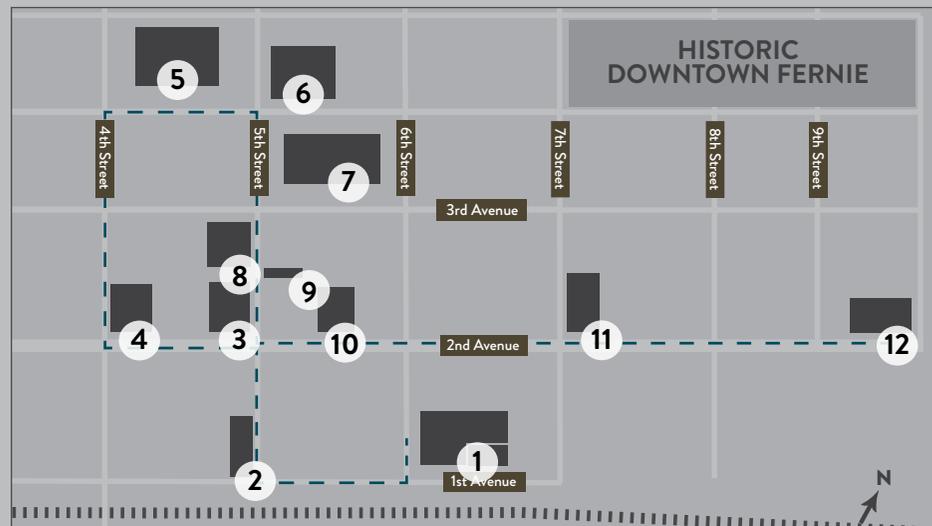
HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

A DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR OF FERNIE



As if lighting 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.

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 P16 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



This highly decorative building was constructed in 1910 to house a branch of the Home Bank on the main floor and the Herchmer-Mitchel Law Office on the second floor. Except for the paint, the exterior is in its original configuration making this a significant heritage building. The failure of the Home Bank in 1923 cost Fernie depositors \$800,000 and led to a re-writing of Canada's banking laws. These new rules prevented the widespread bank failures in the 1930s. See feature, P10.

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



Built between 1909-1911 and lauded as one of BC's best buildings, the Court House is a spectacular chateau-style building rarely found in the area. The majestic courtroom with stained glass windows is still in use today. Enjoy the grounds and beautiful views.

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 with interpretive panels, sculptures, ironwork art, benches and more.

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 P26 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. See feature, P22.

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.

After the tour, stroll down 2nd Avenue to enjoy local shops, galleries, cafes and restaurants, pubs and attractions.

COMING IN SPRING & SUMMER 2019



CLOSING WEEKEND AT FERNIE ALPINE RESORT APRIL 13-14

FERNIVAL is Fernie's biggest FREE live concert featuring legends of Canadian rock music. The Powder, Pedal, Paddle Relay Race and Coca-Cola Slopesoaker round out the weekend with tons of fun for participants and spectators alike.

SPRING CRAFT FAIR AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, FERNIE MAY 4

Explore the creative talents of craft vendors from around the region at this delightful sale of original artwork, jewellery, woodcrafts, leatherwork, home-baking, preserves, textiles and more!

COAL MINER DAYS, SPARWOOD JUNE 7-9

Celebrate the Valley's mining heritage and community with a weekend of kids activities, a parade, live entertainment, food, fun and games for the whole family to enjoy.

WILDCAT DAYS, ELKFORD JUNE, TBC

A weekend of family fun celebrating an early pioneer of the area, Wildcat Charlie Weigert featuring a parade,

fireworks, tournaments, entertainment and plenty of food and drinks.

OUTDOOR EVENING CONCERT SERIES AT STATION SQUARE, FERNIE WEDNESDAYS IN JULY & AUGUST

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

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

A stellar lineup of Canadian Indie musicians at a festival that's all about family, fun, and good times in the sun. Kid's activities, beverage gardens, food & merch vendors and art installations will have you loving life in Fernie.

BIBBITY BOBBITY BOO CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL & THE SHOW N' SHINE AUGUST 11 | ROTARY PARK 2ND AVE, FERNIE

Continuing the fun in the sun of Wapiti, kids get their very own festival in beautiful Rotary Park, while auto enthusiasts stroll downtown Fernie to enjoy the displays of classic and demo cars.



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 three Elk Valley Visitor Centres for personalized assistance.

ELKFORD

PH: 250-865-4015
750 Fording Drive

Hours: Open Monday - Saturday 9am to 5pm, closed statutory holidays

43

SPARWOOD

PH: 250-425-2423
141 Aspen Drive

Hours: Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm, closed statutory holidays

3

3

VISITOR CENTRES OPERATED BY



FERNIE

PH: 250-423-6868
102 Commerce Road

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9:30am to 5pm, closed statutory holidays

THE COAL CREEK BARN

From 1898 until 1958, Coal Creek was a busy mining community with a population of around 1,000. The pit ponies and mine horses that were used to pull the coal cars were stabled here in the only building of the Coal Creek Mine Operations that still stands today. Once neglected and at risk of being torn down, it has now been returned to its original use as a cozy equine shelter. Drop by and meet the miniature ponies of the Fernie Therapeutic Horse and Pony Club - Daphne, Sher and Cowboy. The old barn is located just off Coal Creek Road in Fernie, next to the parking area for Montane Trails.

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