

# FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE

WINTER 2016/17



Hearth Artisan Event | Vince Mo Photo

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

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

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## THE COMMUNITIES OF THE ELK VALLEY

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

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

Pop: 4,811 with a further 2,000 rural residents | Founded 1898 | Incorporated 1904

**SPARWOOD** lies in the middle of the valley and is the first community reached on entering from Alberta. The town's name is derived from the local trees that were used for manufacturing spars for ocean vessels. The town was founded as a new home for the residents of the temporary communities of Michel and Natal. Several art murals can be seen here, depicting the strong connection to coal mining, with some by Michelle Loughery who was born in the area and went on to become a world-renowned muralist.

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

At the head of the valley is **ELKFORD**, a small town with a passionate arts community. Writing, painting, photography, and pottery are among the popular endeavours, and well-known glass artist Katherine Russell has a working studio here. Elkford is the gateway to the Elk Lakes Provincial Park, a remote protected area bordering Alberta's Kananaskis Country.

Pop 2,500 | Founded 1971



## FEATURED EVENTS

### CELEBRATING MILESTONES LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY!

Celebrated annually with a big weekend of fun activities, competitions and festivities, Fernie's own mascot The Griz is turning 40! Join in on a special birthday weekend for Griz Days Winter Festival: A Celebration of our Legacy March 3-5, 2017.

From Ottawa to the peaks of the beautiful BC Rockies, Canada comes together in 2017 to celebrate CANADA 150, the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. Fernie will mark the occasion with a year of immersive and retrospective events beginning this March.

#### **Fernie Griz Days | March 3-5, 2017**

In honour of The Griz, the fabled mountain man born in a cave who shoots his musket into the clouds to bring down the famous Fernie powder snow, Fernie hosts an annual winter carnival every March. From Historic Downtown Fernie to the slopes of Fernie Alpine Resort, a weekend of activities will take place to excite and delight all ages in celebration of 40 years of winter festival fun.

At Fernie Alpine Resort, the Extreme Griz Competition and Raging Elk Dummy Downhill are as popular with spectators as they are with participants. Taking the festivities well into the evening, the Pub Crawl, Country

Stomp and Outdoor Music & Festivities are the perfect way to warm up after a day playing on the snow. There's more fun for all ages, from the Craft Fair to the Parade, Downtown Street Party, Outdoor Hockey and Fireworks! This is just a taste of what you can expect from this special birthday-year event; see the official website and social media for more details and watch out for special features, including the ParticipACTION 150 Play List and more! Make sure to pick up and wear your Griz Pin or you might be thrown in the Griz Jail!

#### **Stay up to date on Griz Days:**

[Ferniegrizdays.com](http://Ferniegrizdays.com)  
[Facebook.com/GrizDays](https://www.facebook.com/GrizDays)  
[Instagram.com/ferniegizdays](https://www.instagram.com/ferniegizdays)  
[#ferniegizdays](https://twitter.com/ferniegizdays)



## CANADA 150

March 2, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Canada became a nation in 1867 and 2017 marks Canada's 150th birthday. Major events are planned across Canada to celebrate all year long with our country's official 150th birthday being on July 1, 2017.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Canada was much smaller in 1867. It only included four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. British Columbia became part of the country in 1871.

Fernie's planned CANADA 150 events include:

**I Am Fernie**  
**Fernie**  
**Museum**  
**March 2 to**  
**May 31, 2017**

Local photographer Kyle Hamilton has documented the everyday face of Fernie from 2015 to 2017 by capturing



Fernie residents in a series of dramatic portraits. Each subject tells the story of why they live in Fernie and the importance of community and place. Related programming includes a series of hosted discussions to explore perceptions of place, identity, and community.

## Maple Leaf Tulips Fernie Eco Garden | Spring

When the flowers begin to bloom in April, take a walk to the Fernie Eco Garden on 5th Street and enjoy the spectacular display of Maple Leaf Tulips. Local gardeners and volunteers have planted a special design with the tulips as part of the Canada 150 celebrations and look forward to sharing it with you this spring!

CANADA 150 events in Fernie continue with *Connections: The Canadian Youth Identity Project* April 27 - May 23, *Fernie Artography* June 14 - September 4, *Canada Day 150 Festival* on July 1st, and *Fernie Treasures and Curiosities* September 14 - March 31. Follow further editions of the *Fernie & Elk Valley Cultural Guides* as more events and details emerge or visit [www.tourismfernie.com](http://www.tourismfernie.com).

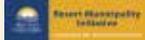


# HOSMER: BOOM, BUST & WAR

OCTOBER 13 2016 ♀ FEBRUARY 13 2017

HOSMER: BOOM, BUST AND WAR TRACES THE RISE AND DEMISE OF HOSMER AS ONE OF THE COAL MINING COMMUNITIES IN THE ELK VALLEY— FROM ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1906 BY THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY TO THE CLOSING OF ITS MINING OPERATIONS IN 1914.

THE EXHIBIT ALSO EXAMINES HOW THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR I FURTHER DRAINED THE REMAINING POPULATION, BOTH WITH MEN SIGNING UP WITH THE 54TH EAST KOOTENAY BATTALION, AND "ENEMY ALIENS" BEING TAKEN TO AN INTERNMENT CAMP LOCATED IN ANOTHER ELK VALLEY GHOST TOWN, MORRISSEY.



491 2nd Avenue | Fernie, BC  
250.423.7016 | [ferniemuseum.com](http://ferniemuseum.com)



**Handmade bagels baked in-house daily**

- Open 7am-5pm, 7 days a week, Downtown Fernie
- Second location in the Griz Inn, open for the ski season

**502 2nd Avenue, Fernie BC • [www.bigbangbagels.com](http://www.bigbangbagels.com)**

# THE FERNIE MUSEUM AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE



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



## INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS AND INNOVATIVE DISPLAYS

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

## WINTER AT THE FERNIE MUSEUM

The Museum's winter exhibit, *Hosmer: Boom, Bust and War*, traces the rise and demise of Hosmer as one of the coal mining communities in the valley, from its establishment in 1906 by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the closing of its mining operations in 1913. The exhibit is open until February 13th.

*I Am Fernie*, the Museum's spring exhibit as part of CANADA 150, will open March 2nd shows what makes Fernie such a great place to live and visit, as seen through the lens of 150 residents as captured by Kyle Hamilton, a local photographer.

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



# THE KTUNAXA NATION

## LIVING CULTURE, LIVING TRADITIONS



Ktunaxa elder at St. Eugene Resort

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

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

The Elk Valley area was the primary home of the easternmost branch of the Ktunaxa people, who are closely connected to families living at what is now Tobacco Plains. The Michel Prairie people, after whom the town of Michel was named, used the area near Sparwood to plant tobacco. Their Ktunaxa name is *kaqawakanmituqnik* and means “river running into and out again” (the Michel Creek into the Elk River).

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

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

## THE FERNIE CURSE AND THE GHOST RIDER LEGEND

A local legend says that William Fernie, on one of his prospecting trips, noticed Ktunaxa Chief's daughter wearing a necklace of shining black stones. Knowing that these stones were coal, he asked about their source. The Chief agreed to show Fernie the location of the coal on the condition that he marries his daughter. After learning the location of the coal deposits, Fernie backed out of the deal. Angered by this the Chief cast a curse on the valley—it would suffer from fire, flood and famine.

Though the city did suffer from horrific fires, mining disasters and flooding there is no evidence of the story's veracity. But many look to Mount Hosmer on summer evenings, where a shadow of the daughter standing beside the chief on his horse serves as evidence of some mystic curse.

The roots of the Ghost Rider story may be found in the Ktunaxa tradition of avoiding the Elk Valley and considering it a "bad place." Early Ktunaxa legends told of a Squirrel and his wife who controlled the entrances to the Elk Valley, letting trails become overgrown and impassable.

Another source for the legend may be gleaned from a 1908 newspaper article:



*"We have been requested to say that William Fernie denies the little after dinner stunt about him and the Indian maiden. We are glad Mr. Fernie does deny it for the future safety of our city."*

Did the story develop from a joke among the City fathers?

No matter the source, the curse seemed real enough that on August 15, 1964, at the City's request, members of the Ktunaxa Nation, headed by Chief Ambrose Gravelle, assembled in Fernie for a ceremonial lifting of the Fernie curse.

Fernie is now a prosperous and vibrant community that values its connection to the Ktunaxa Nation.

**FERNIE MUSEUM**

Visitor Information Centre, *This is Our Fernie* permanent exhibit, seasonal gallery exhibitions, special events and interpretive walks. See feature, p7.

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



**FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY**

3 floors of literature and reference materials plus regular events & programming. See feature, p22.

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



**THE ARTS STATION**

The home of the Fernie & District Arts Council. 3 floors of reception, gallery, event, restaurant and studio space. See feature, p24.

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



**THE FERNIE COURT HOUSE**

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

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



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

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

501 3rd Ave, Fernie  
 Open: Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm | [fernie.ca](http://fernie.ca)



**THE VOGUE THEATRE**

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

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



## BEANPOD CHOCOLATE

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

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



## FERNIE BREWING COMPANY

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

26 Manitou Road, Fernie  
[ferniebrewing.com](http://ferniebrewing.com) | 250-423-7797  
Open: Monday – Saturday 10am – 7/8pm, Sunday 12 – 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](http://tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/oil-derrick)



## SPARWOOD MUSEUM

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

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



## TEREX TITAN, MINE ARTIFACTS & DOWNTOWN MURALS

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

141 Aspen Drive, Sparwood | 250-425-2423



## MICHEL-NATAL HERITAGE KIOSK

A series of six panels detailing the history of the Michel-Natal communities that used to be at this location. A part of Sparwood's heritage, these panels include history of discovery, mining and the Ktunaxa Nation. See feature, p8.

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





## A HISTORY OF SKIING IN FERNIE

### THE EARLY YEARS, PIONEERS, AND PASSIONS

When the first ski tourers ventured deep into the Cedar Valley below the sawtooth peaks of the Lizard Range, they could only have imagined how Fernie would be shaped by the sport that had already captivated Europe and the Eastern seaboard of the U.S. but was mostly still the domain of elite mountaineers in the Rockies. It was the 1940s and those intrepid explorers from the Fernie Ski Club had found their way to Liverwurst Bowl, now part of the terrain at Island Lake Catskiing. A major boost to organized skiing came in April 1955 when the Fernie Board of Trade supported the club's plan to build a ski hill on Mt. Proctor. The hill would feature a rope tow, chalet, and 1,000ft access road. The Chamber of Commerce backed a bid for the 1968 Olympics during these hopeful early years. To facilitate the application, the infrastructure on Mt Proctor was relocated to Liverwurst Bowl, with plans for further development. The Olympic event was eventually awarded to Lillehammer but the process set the tone for ski developments in Fernie.

*"Much benefit should come from the publicity received during the Olympic campaign and in the near future we may see a development on our ski site that could mean a much needed secondary industry in this area."*

- Telfer Dicks, Chairman of the committee and local garage owner



Momentum built, and the current location of Fernie Alpine Resort was identified for development. With a donation of land from Galloway Lumber and an enthusiastic army of volunteers, construction quickly began and Fernie Snow Valley Ski Resort officially opened on January 10th, 1962. An A-frame Lodge was located at the current site of the Day Lodge and the Rabbit Ridge Rope Tow and Elk T-Bar offered a variety of terrain between the current sites of the Griz Inn and Bear's Den. Underground miner Louie Sclipa was the ski hill's first employee. On requesting a change of work, he was paid by Crowsnest Industries, one of the ski resort's financial supporters, to cut the ski hill road, clear trails, and operate machinery during the early construction phases. While he never skied, Louie loved his new work and continued at the ski area for seven years, operating lifts, rescuing injured skiers, and taking care of the day lodge. Louie was posthumously honoured for his dedication at the inaugural Fernie Ski Hall of Fame Banquet in 2012, just weeks after his death at the age of 88.

## PASSING THE TORCH

In 1966, Crowsnest Industries President Bill Prentice employed Heiko Socher, a forestry student at the University of British Columbia, to come to Fernie and manage the company's woodlands. On arrival, the UBC Ski Team alumnus discovered that Bill had also recently founded a ski area in Fernie, and wasted no time becoming a key figure in the local ski industry along with his new wife, Linda. In 1967, Linda opened the



ski school and one of the first ski rental businesses in the Rockies, building the A-frame store and office with the help of Margaret Stokie. After 3 years operating their ski school, the Sochers started to envision the hill's potential. The couple acquired a 30% share in the flagging business and the board agreed to Heiko becoming manager. He set to work on developing Fernie Snow Valley, adding terrain, lifts, and infrastructure, and became well known for his boundless work ethic and dedication to the ski area, constantly picking up rocks and garbage as he went. Heiko's knack for marketing brought The Griz to life as Fernie's official mascot.

In the 1980s as snowfall records regularly exceeded 10m per season, Heiko and Linda really began to make their mark. The Boomerang Triple and Elk Quad chairs were installed. The Elk T-Bar was moved, and the old rental



shop & ski school office was renovated as the new Bear's Den, a welcoming mid-mountain retreat. Others were starting to take notice and see the potential — construction on Timberline Village provided the first on-mountain residences; Timberline Condominiums and the Griz Inn opened up the mountain to holidaymakers and vacation home owners. The first Griz competition held in 1978 was a huge success, followed by the Powder-Pedal-Paddle Relay Race in 1982 and Dummy Downhill in 1987. All three events are still held to this day.

## COMMUNITY BUILDS

A huge number of locals contributed to the early success of Fernie Snow Valley. In 1969, financial support from Kaiser Coal and a public sale of shares enabled the installation of the Bear T-bar, extending the terrain high into the Lizard Bowl and providing access into Cedar Bowl. Early enthusiasts of the “old side” still defend their side of the mountain in bar-room debates and proudly affirm their allegiance on T-shirts from Giv'er Shirtworks. In 1970, Guy Guideau added the first ski-in-ski-out accommodations in the Rockies to the burgeoning resort; a modest 2-Season, 20-room motel that stood on the current site of the Griz Inn until it burned down in 1974.

Around the valley, keen entrepreneurs set their sights on alternatives to lift-accessed skiing. Following the construction of the Bear Lodge, Island

Lake Mountain Tours opened the valley's first independent snowcat-skiing operation in 1988, later rebranding as Island Lake Catskiing and developing a range of luxury experiences. On Morrissey Ridge, Kim Sedrovic started Fernie Wilderness Adventures Catskiing in the early 1990's. Both operations continue to attract visitors from around the world, providing extended access to exceptional terrain.

## GOING GLOBAL

As the '90s rolled around and Fernie Snow Valley consolidated its appeal with the addition of the Deer Chair, expanded terrain, and exciting new runs, including Stag Leap and Sky Dive, Fernie embraced a new era of enthusiasm for the ski industry. The Fernie Trails and Ski Touring Club were incorporated in 1991 and secured a permit for Thunder Meadows Hut. A 50-year Crown Land lease was signed with the Province of BC to enable the construction of new chairlifts offering access to Currie, Timber and Siberia Bowls – the “new side” – plus a lodge at the top of the Timber Express Chair. Catskiing was offered in the bowls prior to the construction of the chairlifts. Deciding not to take on the massive financial undertaking and construction of the expansion, Heiko and Linda sold Fernie Snow Valley to Resorts of the Canadian Rockies (RCR) in 1997, and expansion swiftly took hold on the renamed Fernie Alpine Resort.

New resort-style hotels and luxury log homes met the demands of the booming ski travel market and new terrain provided the excitement and fresh lines many had only dreamed about. Combined with non-existent lift lines, fun dining options, and the low Canadian dollar, RCR's international marketing machine had guests flocking in from the USA, UK, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. In town, hoteliers were forming their

own relationships with European tour operators, creating a melting pot of international ski enthusiasts who each brought their own enthusiastic style to the mountain and the après-ski scene.

By 2000, Fernie's spot on the international scene was firmly established and the Resort became a must do on the Canadian circuit. The recession of '07-08 caused a slowing of development but in hindsight, may have been the best thing to happen to Fernie. Without the mega-construction of some larger ski resorts, the proximity of Fernie Alpine Resort to the City of Fernie provides an accessibility and small-town charm rarely found within the ski industry. The town's unique charms were recognized by Hollywood in 2009 when Fernie was selected as the central location for one of the biggest ski comedies of the decade — *Hot Tub Time Machine*; a Disney production followed in 2011. The best of the Fernie Alpine Ski Team (FAST) have wowed at world cup events and local hero Emily Brydon represented Canada twice at the Winter Olympics, in '06 and '10. Seeking new activity options, local volunteer groups have worked hard to provide cross country skiing facilities in recent years. Fernie now offers no less than 5 distinctly different Nordic ski areas, some with warming huts. Most are exclusive to cross country skiers but some include options for snowshoeing, fatbiking and bringing your dogs.

## LOOKING BACK, INTO THE FUTURE

In 2012, Fernie Alpine Resort celebrated 50 years of lift-accessed skiing with a week of festivities including the inaugural Skiing Hall of Fame banquet, honouring those who have shaped the face of skiing in Fernie. The Polar Peak Triple Chair was the crowning achievement of the season, opening spectacular new terrain and bringing the title of "Most runs and



most vertical in the Canadian Rockies" to Fernie. With the recent addition of two new day-use huts for ski touring and the announcement that the International Snow Science Workshop will be held in Fernie in 2020, the ski culture of Fernie continues to forge ahead into new areas.

Heiko Socher passed away on October 7th, 2016, leaving a legacy that is celebrated from Historic Downtown to the highest peaks surrounding Fernie. In his signature understated style, Heiko built the cornerstones of Fernie's recreational heritage that will stand for many years to come and his vision for a new ski resort and village above Ridgmont — Heaven's Gate — holds untold development potential. As Fernie reflects on 50 years of skiing heritage and remembers the pioneers of the past, it is clear that the future of the industry has never been stronger.

*"At this ski show I was at in Calgary, there was a little movie that was playing at the Fernie booth. It was... I couldn't believe it when I was watching it. I thought it was incredible! It was sunny and there was so much snow! Living in eastern Canada I had never really even seen snow like that. I thought, Where is this place? I can't believe it. How can there even be this much snow!"*

- Barry Hulburd, 1973

Be sure to watch Fernie's new ski film ***Ascent To Powder – Tale of a Ski Town*** online!



# Griz Days 40th Anniversary

## A Celebration of our Legacy



### March 3-5, 2017

**Come out and see old favourites:**

- Extreme Griz Competition
- Griz Days Parade • Live Music
- Fireworks and many more!

**PLUS:** ParticipACTION 150 Play List, a national initiative celebrating Canada 150 will be on site with interactive play stations



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



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### A GREAT PLACE TO CHILL AFTER AN EPIC DAY ON THE SLOPES

100%  
GMO FREE  
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- ▶ OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 11:30AM TO CLOSE
- ▶ LUNCH AND DINNER MENU WITH HOMEMADE BURGERS
- ▶ LIVE MUSIC
- ▶ THURSDAY JAM NIGHT

[WWW.THEBRICKHOUSEFERNIE.COM](http://WWW.THEBRICKHOUSEFERNIE.COM) ▶ 401 2ND AVENUE ▶ 250.423.0009

## ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

# THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH



*R. C. Church, Fernie, B.C.*

The beginning of Holy Family can be traced to 1896 when Father John Welsh, an Oblate attached to the St. Eugene's mission of Cranbrook, was sent to the Fernie area to administer to the spiritual needs of the railway workers and the miners, a large proportion of whom were Catholic.

Construction of a church began in the same year, to be completed the following June. The church was dedicated to the Holy Family because of the devotedness of the Cape Breton families who arrived in the spring of 1897. They pledged a day's pay per month. The first resident pastor, Father Meleux, assisted by Father Meissner, fluent in six languages, succeeded in forming a cohesive parish in a population comprising many ethnic groups.

The church survived the first fire of 1904 but was destroyed in the conflagration of 1908. A provisional frame building located at the site of the present Family Center, served as the church between 1908 and 1912, until a larger and more substantial church was completed.



Romanesque in style, the church has a total seating capacity of 500. The ash pews came from Ontario, the original organ from Germany, and the stained glass windows, installed at a cost of \$200 each, from France. The donors reflect the cosmopolitan composition of the congregation. The stained glass window in the tower depicts the institution of the Eucharist. The rose window above the entrance displays the coat of arms of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, whose members served this parish from its beginnings until 1930 when the diocesan clergy assumed charge. The Catholic Church remains Fernie's largest congregation.

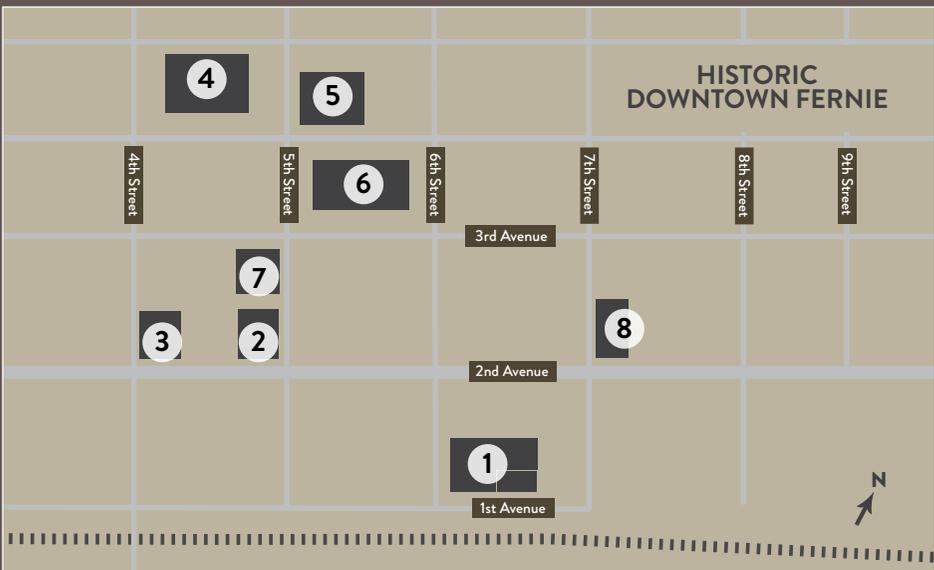
# HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

## A DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR OF FERNIE



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

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





## 1 CPR STATION

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

In its early years, the Canadian Pacific Railway station was the centre of activity in Fernie whenever a train stopped to unload passengers, mail, and other goods. As use of the automobile grew, rail travel declined and so did use of this Second-Class station. Passenger services were finally discontinued in 1964. The train tracks are still in daily use however, carrying the freight trains that regularly pass through the Elk Valley. The beautiful Rocky Mountaineer can also occasionally be spotted on a charter trip. Since 1987, the Fernie & District Arts Council has used this facility as a performing and fine arts venue. Dine trackside at the Blue Toque Café and imagine yourself arriving on the platform for the first time 100 years ago! See p24 for more.

## 2 THE HOME BANK

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



This highly decorative building was constructed in 1910 to house a branch of the Home Bank on the main floor and the Herchmer-Mitchel Law Office on the second floor. Except for the paint, the exterior is in its original configuration making this a significant heritage building. The failure of the Home Bank in 1923 cost Fernie depositors \$800,000 and led to a re-writing of Canada's banking laws. These new rules prevented the widespread bank failures in the 1930s. See p7 for more.

## 3 THE IMPERIAL BANK 1909

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



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

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

## 4 THE COURT HOUSE

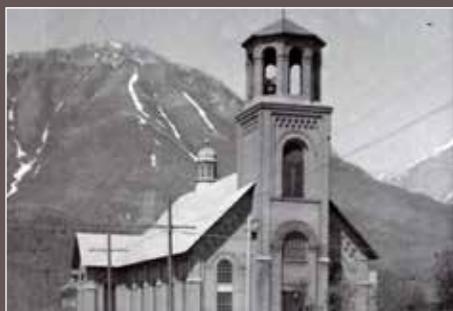
401 4th Ave | Now in use as  
Fernie's Government of BC Offices



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

## 5 HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

521 4th Avenue



The history of the church dates back to the beginning of Fernie when Father J. Welsh was sent from Cranbrook to hold masses for approximately 200 miners in 1898. Some of these miners donated one day's wages every month towards the construction of a place of worship and volunteer parishioners completed this church in 1912. It was and still is home to Fernie's largest congregation. See feature on p17 for more.

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



In 1905, the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. constructed this building as the head office to manage its expanding coal mining operations. It also housed the offices of the Crow's Nest Pass Electric Co. and the Morrissey-Fernie-Michel Railway, subsidiaries of the coal company. Constructed in cement blocks, the building survived the 1908 Great Fire and served as a place of refuge during and after the fire. It has served as Fernie's City Hall since 1984. 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.

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

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



This imposing Romanesque Revival building reflects Fernie's importance as a government centre for the region; the engraved stone signs above the entrance to the Post Office and Customs Office are still in place. The building, for a time, served as the US consul office for the region. Built in 1907, the building was gutted but not destroyed in the 1908 Great Fire. An exhibit on the 1908 Great Fire is located on the landing of the main staircase. See p22 for more.

**8 FERNIE CARTAGE COMPANY**

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



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

The walk ends on the corner of 2nd Avenue & 7th Street. Take a stroll down Main Street, sometimes known as Victoria Avenue, and enjoy local cafés, boutique shopping and cultural attractions (see attraction listings, p10). 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. Look up for the beautiful art banners on downtown lampposts featuring a variety of new local artwork.

# FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY



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

A range of engaging programming suitable for all ages, from toddlers to seniors, is offered throughout the year both inside the library and out in the community. Programs include reading groups and book launches, children's activities inspired by literature, and special events such as the Earth Day Celebrations and Lego Engineers Day. Library programs are free and welcome to all, and library service is available to residents and visitors alike. The Library offers 3 floors of books, magazines, and reference materials, plus a research and study room, computer services, faxing, photocopying and scanning.

Enjoy views of the Rocky Mountains from the Library's upper level or take a moment to enjoy a little winter wonderland in the Library Garden area.



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

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



FEATURE AUTHOR  
MARY MENDUK

Gathering inspiration from her community and environment, Mary Menduk recently published her first collection of poetry *Not Even the Artist Knows the Words*. Youthful efforts in writing had been laid aside when the demands of family and career took precedence, painting courses and a weekly art group satisfying the desire for creativity. When asked by a writer “Are you interested in writing about Fernie?” a spark was ignited, and Mary began to write again.

Initially intended as a collection of family history essays to share with family members, Mary felt a strong need to record the story of her parent’s journey from Czechoslovakia to Canada in search of democracy during the Great Depression.

For six years, Mary carefully learned to craft language in a weekly supportive writing group guided by a local writer, Keith Liggett, and attending three expansive writers’ conferences hosted in Fernie. Her poetry was selected for publication in the *Fernie Fix*. A monthly open mic session held at the Central Hotel offered the chance to read pieces for an audience; the experience was so positive that it was

extended to an ongoing weekly writers group at Infnitea, where visiting writers provide inspiration to aspiring scribes.

Mary’s collected works were published in May 2016 with the assistance of local professionals, including Michael Hepher, printmaker at Clawhammer Press, who designed and printed the striking red and black cover. Subjects include the local landscape, pastimes, historical events, and political pieces portraying her father’s early involvement in politics in Czechoslovakia.

***Falling Apart***

*Listen*

*hear the ache  
of unattached leaves  
separated in loneliness  
falling*

*in primal surrender  
to a familiar  
welcoming earth  
encouraging regeneration  
fading  
into a new life.*

Mary’s artwork can be seen on the downtown banners. Her book is available from Polar Peek Books and Treasures.



## THE ARTS STATION



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

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

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

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

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



**FEATURE ARTIST**  
**SARAH PIKE**



Sarah Pike has been up to her elbows in mud since childhood. Growing up in Greater Vancouver, on Saltspring Island, and in the Prairies, she was immersed in a world of art and inspiration. She calls her parents “makers of things” and lived in a fairytale land of woodworking, fine crafts, galleries, and gardens.

Selecting her major, the tactile nature of clay won out. She recalls an early art school assignment to create 12 mugs and pick 4 for critique. Only one made it to the final fire, and eventually into her kitchen cupboard. Drinking tea from that mug turned a fortifying refreshment into a sensual exploration of inspiration, sustenance, and the reward of turning art into life. As muse and medium, she calls clay her “main squeeze.”

Sarah’s pottery takes the form of slab-built work, pots built up from bent and cut, rolled slabs of clay. The angular nature of the work and added motifs lend an air of leatherwork or pressed tinware. She draws much of

her inspiration from nature, evoking tiny forest ferns and gigantic valley vistas through a carefully placed stamp, curved handle, or subtly tinted glaze. Her career has included a teaching role in Calgary, AB, and studies in Boulder, CO, and Minneapolis, MN. Since arriving in Fernie 6 years ago, Sarah has quickly become a key figure in the local arts community. Her annual, collaborative, pre-Christmas show and sale, Hearth, at her West Fernie home is a popular date on the social calendar. Her work is available from her home studio, at the Hearth event, online, and at galleries in Edmonton, Vancouver, Banff, North Carolina, and Missouri.

When she’s not immersed in clay, Sarah spends her time enjoying Fernie’s spectacular trails, events, and community spaces with her husband, their two children, and their dog, Lily.

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

[www.makeanddo.ca](http://www.makeanddo.ca)

[f](#) [@](#) sarahpikepottery

**ANGELA MORGAN GALLERY**

Fine art gallery and working studio in Historic Downtown Fernie.

441C 2nd Ave, Fernie | [www.angelamorgan.com](http://www.angelamorgan.com)

Open: Fri & Sat 12 – 5pm

**THE ARTS STATION**

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

601 – 1st Ave, Fernie | 250-423-4842

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

**BRIAN POLLOCK GALLERY**

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

532 B 2nd Ave. Fernie | 250-430-7114 | [www.brianpollock.ca](http://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 | 250-423-0052

[fernienlogcarver@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.clawhammer.ca)

Open: Fri & Sat 12 – 5pm

**ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO**

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

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

[www.elkfordartscouncil.blogspot.ca](http://www.elkfordartscouncil.blogspot.ca) | Open: Open daily, hours vary

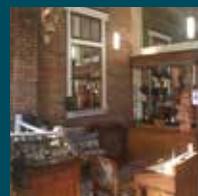
**EYE OF THE NEEDLE & FERNIE FORGE**

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](http://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.fernierartscoop.com](http://www.fernierartscoop.com)  
Open: Mon-Sat 10am - 6pm | Sun 12pm – 4pm



## KATHY STEAD – VISUAL ARTIST

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

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



## KYLE HAMILTON PHOTOGRAPHY

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

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



## LEANNE STOTHERT GALLERY

Fernie's newest studio and gallery space in Historic Downtown featuring canvas paintings of landscapes, animals and scenes of children playing.

562 – 2nd Ave Fernie | [leannestothertpaints@gmail.com](mailto:leannestothertpaints@gmail.com)  
[www.leannestothert.com](http://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](http://polarpeekbooks.ca)  
Open: Mon to Thu and Sat 9:30am – 5:30pm | Fri: 9:30am – 6pm |  
Sun: 11am – 4pm



## SARAH PIKE POTTERY

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

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



## STEPHANIE'S GLASS & ART STUDIO

Working stained glass and sandblasting studio. Stephanie's custom pieces 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](http://stephaniesglass.ca)  
Open: Tue-Fri 10:30am – 5pm | Sat 10:30am – 4pm



January 20 - 22  
Vogue Theatre  
Fernie's 9th Annual

It's cold. It's dark. It's January in Fernie.

*It's the perfect time to escape the elements and enjoy a weekend of film!*



5 Feature Films  
Visiting Special Guests  
Young Filmmakers' Contest  
Short Films  
Gala Receptions



*Get your Early Bird Festival Passes NOW!*

Just **\$30 each** at the Arts Station until Dec. 23rd.

*Hey Kids! (14 & under)*

Visit our website to find out about our Young Filmmakers' Contest... deadline Jan. 6th.

**THE FREE PRESS**



Follow us on:



For full festival details, movie info, trailers etc.:

**ReelFilmFest.ca**



Park Place Lodge is committed to supporting arts & culture in Fernie including the REEL Canadian Film Festival January 20-22, 2017. Please join us!



*Park Place Lodge*

tel: 250.423.6871

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



# CULTURAL EVENT CALENDAR

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

## DECEMBER

- 7 Live in Concert – Turboprop, Arts Station
- 8 Light Up The Night, Fernie Court House
- 9 Nightlife: Linden Anthony, Infnitea
- 10 Wreath & Ornament Making, Green Petal
- 16 Nightlife: Herky Cutler, Infnitea
- 16 Live in Concert – Shufflin’ the Blues, Arts Station
- 17 Ornament Making, Clawhammer Press
- 17 T’is The Season Craft Fair, Community Centre
- 17 Christmas Party, Fernie Heritage Library
- 17-Jan 1 Holiday Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 18 Orphan Christmas Dinner, Infnitea
- 19 Caroling with Rachel Butterworth, Arts Station
- 20 Christmas Pop-Up Market, Infnitea
- 21 A Christmas Carol Reading, Arts Station
- 22-Jan 3 Griz Kidz Holiday Events, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 23 Felt Ornament Workshop for Kids, Arts Station
- 23 Night of Christmas Carols, Infnitea
- 23-24 Ski with Santa & Photos, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 25 Christmas Dinner – Various Restaurants
- 31 New Year’s Eve Family Event & Fireworks, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 31 New Year’s Eve Events – Various Locations

## JANUARY

- 13 Booked! Fernie Writers Series: Michael Helm, Fernie Heritage Library
- 21 Kokanee Snow Dreams Festival, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 20-22 Reel Canadian Film Fest, Vogue Theatre & Arts Station
- 26 Live in Concert: Rosie & The Riveters, Arts Station
- 26 Australia Day

## FEBRUARY

- 6 Waitangi Day
- 11-13 BC Family Day Weekend Activities, Various Locations
- 14 Valentine’s Day Events, Various Locations
- 16 Live in Concert: Craig Cardiff, Arts Station
- 17-19 Griz Kidz & Family Day Events, Various Locations
- 18 Fort Fernie Day, Fernie Heritage Library
- 18 Fernie Snowdrags, Railway Ave
- 24-25 Fernie Mountain Film Festival

## MARCH

- 2 ‘I am Fernie’ Opening Reception, Fernie Museum
- 3 Live in Concert: Slocan Ramblers, Arts Station
- 3-5 40th Griz Days Winter Festival, Community Wide
- 4 Griz Days Craft Fair, Community Centre
- 5 Raging Elk Dummy Downhill, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 8 Live in Concert: Big Little Lions, Arts Station
- 10 Booked! Fernie Writers Series: Caroline Adderson, Fernie Heritage Library
- 11 Goddess Rising Women’s Day Event, Community Centre
- 11 Kokanee Retro Weekend, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 15 Live in Concert: Andrea Superstein, Arts Station
- 17 St Patrick’s Day Events, Various Locations
- 23 Live in Concert: Catherine MacLellan, Arts Station

## APRIL

- 4 Live in Concert: Sultan of Strings, Arts Station
- 14-17 Easter Holiday Events, Various Locations
- 15-16 Fernival Festival, Fernie Alpine Resort
- 22 Earth Day, Various Locations
- 27 Live in Concert: The Small Glories, Arts Station
- 29 Spring Craft Fair, Fernie Community Centre

## Fernie Ghostriders Hockey Games,

Fernie Memorial Arena

December 9, 17 & 29, January 7, 14, 20 & 26,  
February 4, 10, 11, 17\*, 19

## EVERY WEEK!

- Mondays Open Mic Night, Kodiak Lounge  
Movie & Games Night, Infnitea
- Tuesdays Storytime Ages 3-5, Heritage Library  
\$6.50 Movie Night, Vogue Theatre  
Karaoke, The Royal
- Wednesdays Toddlertime Ages 0-2, Library  
Tarot Readings, Infnitea  
Team Trivia, The Fernie Hotel & Pub  
Jam Night, The Royal
- Thursdays Jam Night, The Brickhouse  
Team Trivia, The Pub  
Evening Drop-In Curling,  
Fernie Curling Area (Jan-March)
- Fridays Live Music, Infnitea  
Live Music, The Loaf
- Saturdays Open Mic, The Fernie Hotel & Pub
- Sundays Roast Dinner & Music, Infnitea  
Fernie Friendship Club, The Royal

## COMING THIS SPRING



Spring starts to arrive in April as temperatures warm up and the longer daylight hours give way to the sights and sounds of a fresh new season.

The biggest spring party is **Fernival**, the official closing weekend celebrations at Fernie Alpine Resort. Held over Easter Weekend on April 14-16th, Fernival will feature a free live outdoor concert, the **Coca Cola Slush Cup**, **Powder Pedal Paddle Race** and more!



Canada turns 150 in 2017 and the Fernie Museum and The Arts Station opens a year of events, starting in March with **I Am Fernie** – a photographic exhibition by Kyle Hamilton exploring the characters and citizens that make up this community. The exhibition will be on view until May 31st; related programming will include a series of hosted discussions to examine perceptions of place, identity, and community. The exploration of Canadiana continues with **Connections: The Canadian Youth Project**, April 27 - May 23rd, a collaborative art project exploring identity in young Canadians – how our young adults identify with Canada and what makes them proud to be Canadian.

April 22nd each year is **Earth Day**, the largest environmental event in the world. The Fernie Heritage Library and

community offer a variety of events and activities for all ages.

Don't miss the **Spring Craft Fair**, packed with a cornucopia of handmade local art, crafts, and treats at Fernie Community Centre on April 29th.

May is the season of bloom as patios start to emerge, valley trails open up for walks and local bike rides, and the golf course opens for those wanting to hit the fairways or simply enjoy the spectacular views of the Clubhouse patio. May also brings events such as the **Spring Bike Blitz**, the huge **Elk Valley Garage Sale**, the **Fernie Community Choir Spring Concert** and much more.

Stay tuned for the Spring issue of the **Fernie & Elk Valley Cultural Guide** coming out this April.



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

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



## ELKFORD

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
Monday - Saturday,  
9am - 5pm  
Closed Sundays



## SPARWOOD

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
Mon. - Fri. 10:30am - 6pm  
Closed weekends



**VISITOR CENTRES  
OPERATED BY**



## FERNIE

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
Highway: Mon. - Fri. 9am - 5pm, Sat. 9am - 4pm  
Downtown: Daily 10am - 5:30pm





## THE GRIZ

The face of The Griz looms over Fernie as part of Griz Peak in the Lizard Range of the Rocky Mountains. The Griz is a Fernie legend of a fabled mountain man born in a cave who shoots his musket into the clouds to bring down the famous Fernie powder snow.

**These mountains define our culture and our stories.**

#ferniestoke

