

FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE

FALL 2017



Photo: Vince Mo

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: 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: Vince Mo



A VISION FOR FERNIE'S FUTURE — J F SPALDING

When Joseph Frederick Spalding arrived in Fernie in 1904 the town was just six years old with a population of 1,400. He was a 27-year-old photographer from London, likely seeking the landscapes that would make him famous through his art. Over the next 22 years, Spalding chronicled the life of a burgeoning mining town, including the heyday 1910's when the population ballooned to over 6,000.

His photographs meticulously portray the pride, prosperity, and poverty that defined Fernie in its early years. On the wide boulevard of 2nd Avenue he captured the Edwardian elegance that

belies the town's humble stature. On the railway, in the forests, on the river, and in the mines, he photographed men working, building, and forging the future. Spalding's pictures tell the story of the birth of a community and how society—elephants and all—developed in this far-flung corner of the Canadian promised land.

Spalding brought with him a small photography business when he arrived, and in 1905 bought an established studio from A.W. Prest. He worked hard to offer every photographic service possible including portraiture with 'fancy lighting', postcard images

of the local landscape that he was proud to call “...the finest scenery there is in the whole of the North American continent,” many images that appeared in the early editions of the Fernie Free Press. His images provided a rare glimpse into what life was like before, during, and after the Great Fire of 1908. Despite losing his own home and studio, Spalding carefully documented the aftermath of the fire.

He was a well-respected member of the business community and was the Tourism Commissioner for the Tourist

Association of Southern Alberta and Southeastern British Columbia, publishing the official Automobile Road Guide to British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, covering ‘twenty-thousand miles of roads.’ Joseph Spalding left the Elk Valley to re-establish himself in Vancouver in 1925, operating several successful businesses there. He died in Vancouver after a long and illustrious career on February 11, 1958, aged 80.

For more fascinating history and imagery by JF Spalding drop by the Fernie Museum or visit www.fernziemuseum.com



THE FERNIE MUSEUM AND DOWNTOWN VISITOR CENTRE



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

EXCITING CHANGES TO THE FERNIE MUSEUM!

The Fernie Museum has enjoyed over 55,000 visitors since it opened to the public in 2013. The main floor exhibit, *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. New interactive terminals alongside refreshed displays will provide additional layers of content and showcase even more of the museum's collections in an exciting update to the current permanent collection. This new visitor experience will open December 1.

WINTER EXHIBIT

Also opening on December 1 in the temporary exhibit gallery is Fernie Treasurers and Curiosities, the final exhibit of the museum's Canada 150 cultural series. The Fernie Museum has almost 10,000 artifacts in its Cultural History Collection that relate to the human history of the Elk

Valley reflecting stories of commerce, immigration, education, community services, religion, transportation, military service, diversity and the personal lives of individuals who chose to live here. Members of the Fernie community will select 150 treasures and curiosities from the vaults; each individual will reflect on the importance of the object to Fernie's history and share their how the stories of the objects are relevant to their lives today.

MUSEUM SHOP

An exciting new permanent addition this year is the Museum gift shop, featuring a carefully curated selection of museum-quality reproductions of items found in their exhibits and collections, handcrafted jewelry and art by local artists, unique gifts such as the museum's own Fernie blend tea, and a wide selection of publications related to Fernie history not found elsewhere in Fernie. The shop opens just in time for the holiday season on December 1.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FERNIE

Fernie is named after William Fernie who, alongside Colonel James Baker, was the early driving force behind coal mining in the Elk Valley. For ten long years they struggled to raise the money necessary to build not only the mines but also the railway needed to transport the coal to the outside world. In 1897, thanks to government subsidy, Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) agreed to build the railway if Fernie and Baker agreed to develop mines and supply coal at reasonable prices.

With the arrival of the CPR in the Elk Valley in 1898, local production of coal began in earnest and the new town of Fernie took shape alongside the tracks. The construction of Fernie generated the development of sawmills, hardware stores, blacksmith shops and other suppliers. In April 1904, a fire destroyed Fernie's commercial district and later that year Fernie was incorporated as a municipality. Then on August 1, 1908, a second firestorm visited the City and razed the town in less than 90 minutes. The resulting reconstruction (brick instead of wood) dramatically transformed the city's landscape.

By 1910, Fernie's businesses and their buildings were firmly established and



the population had grown to over 6,000 residents. The Great Depression brought Fernie to its knees, reducing both population and prosperity. Only government subsidies kept the stagnant coal industry alive until the 1960's, when Japanese markets revitalized mining and coal became used for steel making. This led to the resurgence of coal mining that continues to this day.

Tourism also played a part in Fernie's past. As early as 1919 Joseph Spalding was touting Fernie's charms far and wide, and by 1963, Snow Valley Ski Development—a locally owned company—had opened the ski hill at its present site. Fernie's bid for the 1968 Winter Olympics helped lay the foundation for today's Fernie Alpine Resort and secure Fernie's future as a winter sports destination.

FEATURED FALL EVENTS



Chautauqua & Fall Fair

FERNIE CHAUTAUQUA & FALL FAIR

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN | SEPTEMBER 14-17TH

A cultural event that brings the past into the future in a vibrant festival of tradition, community, and harvest. See Pg 10 for all the details.



Chautauqua & Fall Fair



BOOKED!

BOOKED! FERNIE WRITERS' SERIES

5 EVENTS SEPT-APRIL | FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY

Celebrating the Canadian literary scene, Booked! features some of the best writers from across the country. Kicking off on September 14th at the Fernie Heritage Library, Fernie's own Angie Abdou will present her new novel hot off the presses. In Case I Go is a modern ghost story about the many ways we are haunted by the misdeeds of our ancestors. Booked! events are popular so be sure to arrive early to secure a seat. A cash bar, live music, complimentary appetizers and great conversation along with the author's reading and Q&A, make this a fantastic evening for all to enjoy. A suggested \$10 donation assists with future events. Authors Patrick Lane and Lorna Crozier in October features in October, and Adam Louis Schroeder is the guest for November.



Gillbilly Fest

Fall is the season of culture in Fernie and 2017 is set to be one of the best seasons yet. Highlights to watch for include a weekend with Olympian Catherine Pendrel on Sep 29-Oct 1, the new Elk Valley Pride Festival on October 11-15, and a new Fall Food Fair for Sparwood on September 14.

For event details visit tourismfernie.com/events

2ND ANNUAL GILLBILLY FEST MUSIC - FISHING - FOOD

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1

The annual Gillbilly Festival returns for more tunes and tackle than you can shake a stick at. Bring your fishing pole and your stringed things and settle in for a weekend of jamming, fishing, feasting and fine times. The Festival welcomes Juno-award winning banjo-building duo Pharis & Jason Romero, fly-fishing and performing duo Jim and Lynda McLennan, and Chris Coole will return to round out the line-up.

FALL CRAFT FAIR

SEPTEMBER 30 | FERNIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

An annual event showcasing and selling local and area made arts, crafts, food and everything in between! Where the 'Buy Local' movement is real.



PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH DOUG SWINTON

OCTOBER 28-29 | ELKFORD ART STUDIO

The Elkford Arts Council is hosting internationally acclaimed artist Doug Swinton to teach a two day painting workshop at the Elkford Arts Studio.

Each day will start with a painting demonstration followed by a one hour tutorial. The first day will focus on composition fundamentals where they will discuss how to choose good photographs for making a painting and examine finished paintings. The second day will be a colour mixing lecture. Each afternoon will be a paint along as the instructor helps each student with their paintings.

Limited space. Fee: \$200.
Call 250-433-7007 to reserve.



SEPTEMBER
14-17, 2017

FERNIE CHAUTAUQUA & FALL FAIR

WWW.FERNIECHAUTAUQUA.COM

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE :



CRAIG MORTIZ



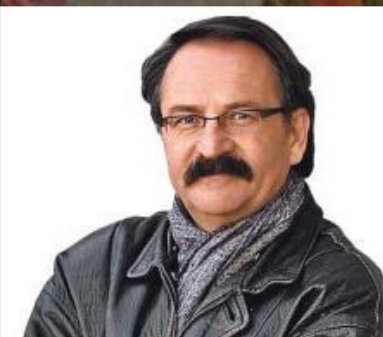
SHELLEY LYNCH



DAWSON RUTLEDGE



ANGIE ABDOU



LUBOMYR LUCIUK



THE DUE CLAUSE TRIO



REDGIRL



HEART'S CONTENT QUARTET



DORY & THE WEATHERMEN

FERNIE FALL FAIR

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

FARM-TO-TABLE GOODNESS

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

FACE TIME WITH LOCAL ARTISTS

EXPLORE 12 GALLERIES WITH ART WALK. CONNECT WITH DEMONSTRATING ARTISTS AT ART ON THE LAWN. DISCOVER FERNIE'S CREATIVE SIDE WITH ART AFTER DARK.

LIVING HISTORY | TRADITIONS

EXPLORE 11 HERITAGE BUILDINGS WITH DOORS OPEN. EXPERIENCE KTUNAXA, ITALIAN AND UKRAINIAN CULTURAL TRADITIONS. LEARN HOW TO TINKER UNDER THE HOOD WITH THE ANTIQUE CAR SHOW.

SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE :

THURSDAY 14 6:30 PM LIBRARY GARDEN

THURSDAY 14 7:00-10:00 PM \$10

WELCOME CEREMONY
KTUNAXA YOUTH DANCERS

BOOKED!
FERNIE WRITERS' SERIES 2017
HOSTED BY
THE FERNIE
HERITAGE
LIBRARY

FRIDAY 15 5:30-10:00 PM DOWNTOWN

SATURDAY 16 8:30-10:30 AM DOWNTOWN \$5

KOOTENAY
HOOTENANNY

SATURDAY 16 11:00 AM-4 PM DOWNTOWN

SUNDAY 17 2:00 PM FERNIE SENIOR'S CENTRE \$15

{ PANCAKE BREAKFAST }

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
ANTIQUE CAR SHOW

*Chautauqua
Afternoon Tea*

SUNDAY 17 5:00 PM FERNIE FAMILY CENTRE \$20

COMMUNITY
HARVEST
DINNER



Patrimoine
canadien

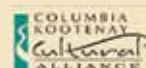
Canadian
Heritage



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
Agency of the Province of British Columbia



Columbia
Basin trust



THE FREE PRESS
FERNIEFIX



BC Hydro
Power smart



Teck



FALL EVENT CALENDAR

For full details visit tourismfernie.com/events.

SEPTEMBER

- 1-2 DJ Weekend, The Royal
- 1 Live Music: Hark Raving Sirens, Infinita
- 3 Lions Demolition Derby, Demo Grounds
- 3 Live Music: Cold Meats & The Runs, The Royal
- 4 Labour Day Festival, Rotary Park
- 6 Live Music: Foxglove, Infinita
- 7 Live Music: Dan Walsh, The Arts Station
- 8-9 National Western Region Mine Rescue Competition, Fernie Memorial Arena
- 8-9 DJ Weekend, The Royal
- 8 Opera Screening, The Arts Station
- 8 Live Music: Adam Hill, Infinita
- 10 Indie Films Fernie: Maudie, Vogue Theatre
- 13 Live Music: Roberts Hall, Infinita

14-17 Fernie Chautauqua & Fall Fair Weekend

- 13 Live Music: Too Many Zoos, The Northern
- 14 BOOKED! Fernie Writers' Series: Angie Abdou, Fernie Library
- 14 Live Music: Fade to Fall, Infinita
- 14 Fall Food Fair, Sparwood
- 15 Author Presentation: Lee Reid, Fernie Library
- 15 Live Music: Tim Ketchum, Infinita
- 15 DJ Night: DJ PJ, The Royal
- 16 Live Music: Los Morenos, The Royal
- 17 3rd Annual Fall Fair, Fernie City Hall
- 17 Harvest Dinner, Fernie Family Centre
- 20 Live Music: Cara Bateman, Infinita
- 21 Theatre Improv Drop-In, The Arts Station
- 22 Live Music: Rob Boland, Infinita
- 22-23 DJ Weekend, The Royal
- 24 Elk River Shoreline Clean Up, Elk River
- 26 Raw Foods Cooking Class, Infinita
- 27 Live Music: Myc Sharratt, Infinita
- 28 Gallery Opening: Mark Locki Photography - Exploring the Elk, The Arts Station
- 28 Live Music: Tim Williams, The Arts Station
- 29-30 DJ Weekend, The Royal
- 29 - Oct 1 A weekend with Olympian Catherine Pendrel, Vogue Theatre/Various Locations
- 29 - Oct 1 2nd Annual Gillbilly Fest, Various Locations
- 29 Live Music: Carly Reirson, Infinita
- 30 Fall Craft Fair, Community Centre

OCTOBER

- 1 Indie Films Fernie: An Inconvenient Sequel, Vogue Theatre
- 4 Wild Nature Workshops - Wildcrafting
- 6 Booked! Fernie Writers' Series: Patrick Lane & Lorna Corzier, Fernie Heritage Library
- 6 Opera Screening, The Arts Station
- 11-15 Elk Valley Pride Festival, Various Locations
- 13-15 Yoga Retreat, Lizard Creek Lodge
- 13 Live Music: Farmer the Band, The Arts Station
- 18 Live Music: Ava Wild, Infinita
- 19 Theatre Improv Drop-In Session, The Arts Station
- 19 Classical Music Appreciation workshop with Lorraine Kneier, Fernie Heritage Library
- 21 Fernie Community Choir Octoberfest Concert, The Arts Station
- 25 Live Music: Jeffery Straker, The Arts Station
- 26 Fernie Potters Guild, The Arts Station
- 27 Live Music: Bella Cat, Infinita
- 28-29 Painting with Doug Swinton, Elkford Art Studio
- 31 Halloween Howler, Fernie Library

NOVEMBER

- 3 Opera Screening, The Arts Station
- 4 Ski & Board Film Festival, Community Centre
- 4 Live Music: Harley Card Quartet, The Arts Station
- 5 Indie Films Fernie: Their Finest, Vogue Theatre
- 16 Taste of Fernie, Various Locations
- 16 BOOKED! Fernie Writers' Series: Adam Schroader, Fernie Library
- 16 Theatre Improv Drop-In Session, The Arts Station
- 17-Dec 3 Elk Valley Festival of Trees, Park Place Lodge
- 24 Twilight Craft Fair, Community Centre
- 25 Holiday Craft Fair, Community Centre
- 25 Bel Canto Classical Concert, Knox United Church
- 30 Gallery Opening: Holiday Wreath Show, The Arts Station

DECEMBER

- 1-2 Hearth 7 Studio Sale, 1580 McDonald Ave
- 1 Exhibit Opening: Fernie Treasures and Curiosities, Fernie Museum
- 1 Opera Screening, The Arts Station
- 2-22 Sugarplum Festival, The Arts Station
- 3 Indie Films Fernie, Vogue Theatre

- THU Team Trivia at The Pub Bar & Grill, 8pm
Jam Night at the Brickhouse, 10pm
- FRI Storytime at Library, for under 5
Live music at Loaf & Infinita, 6/8pm
- SAT Open Mic at the Fernie Hotel & Pub, 9pm
Vinyl Appreciation Night at Infinita, 8pm
- SUN BBQ & Beats at Infinita, 6pm (until mid-fall)

Check online calendars for changes to weekly events as we transition into winter!

WEEKLY

- MON Essential Oils 101 at Infinita, 1st & 3rd of the month, 6pm
Open Mic Night, Kodiak Lounge, 9pm
- TUE Storytime at Library, for under 5
\$6.50 Movie Night, Vogue Theatre 7 & 9 pm
Karaoke at the Royal, 9pm
- WED Storytime at Library, for under 5
Tarot at Infinita, 8pm
Trivia Night at the Fernie Hotel, 9pm
Jam Night at the Royal, 9pm



Three Sisters Day Spa

AVEDA

Manicures . Pedicures
Facials . Body Wraps . Massage
Waxing . Tinting
Microblading
Eyelash Extensions

Downtown Fernie, BC
250.423.6395
www.threesistersdayspa.com



Park Place Lodge

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



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

FERNIE MUSEUM


Visitor Information Centre, *This is Our Fernie* permanent exhibit, seasonal gallery exhibitions, special events and interpretive walks. Home of the Downtown Visitor Centre. See feature, P6.

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, P28.

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



THE ARTS STATION

The home of the Fernie & District Arts Council. 3 floors of reception, gallery, event, restaurant and studio space. See feature, P17.

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



THE FERNIE COURT HOUSE

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

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



FERNIE CITY HALL & THE MINER'S WALK

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

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



THE VOGUE THEATRE

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

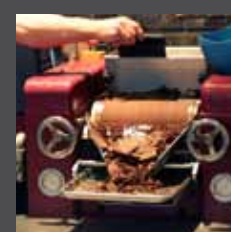
321 2nd Ave, Fernie
ferniemovies.com | 250-423-7111
Daily 7pm screenings plus weekend matinees & 9pm screenings



BEANPOD CHOCOLATE

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

691 2nd Ave, Fernie | beanpod.ca
778-519-5008 | Open: Tues–Sat 10–5pm, hours may vary



FERNIE BREWING COMPANY


The Elk Valley's only brewhouse, producing 9 core brands and a variety of seasonal and limited edition brews. Tasting room, growler sales and refills, FBC branded merchandise. See feature on P16

26 Manitou Road, Fernie
ferniebrewing.com | 250-423-7797 | Open: Mon–Thurs 11am–7pm, Fri–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun 11am–6pm




THE FERNIE OIL DERRICK

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

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




SPARWOOD MUSEUM, MINING ARTIFACT & MURAL WALKS

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

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



SPARWOOD VISITOR CENTRE & TEREX TITAN

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

141 Aspen Drive, Sparwood | 250-425-2423
Open: Daily 10am–4pm, After Oct 9th Mon–Fri 10am–4pm



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.

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.





FERNIE BREWING COMPANY — QUENCHING FERNIE'S THIRST SINCE 2003!



Fernie Brewing Company's Head Brewer, Jeff Demaniuk likes to think that Fernie Brewing Co. has a beer for practically every taste and with around 25 beers available throughout the year, they really are a true taste of Fernie.

Fernie Brewing Co. was established in 2003 as a small family concern on the edge of Fernie, continuing a long-time tradition of brewing in the Elk Valley; Fort Steele Brewery having relocated to Fernie in 1901 and remaining until the middle of the century. While that company was eventually absorbed into a beer conglomeration, the newer Fernie Brewing Company remains proudly independent and community-minded.

FBC Production began in the family barn with just a few lines, distribution was limited to the local area. As popularity quickly grew so did everything else, and new premises at the current location on the edge of town became a necessity in 2007. At their stylish award-winning craft brewery, they take no shortcuts, using premium 2-row barley malt and European Hops.

The award-winning Project 9 Pilsner is perfect post bike ride on the patio, or savour a mouthwatering What the Huck Huckleberry Wheat Ale on a cool fall evening. First Trax Brown Ale lingers on the palate for a satisfying

pint that is perfectly Fernie. Hop-heads love the ever-expanding and rotating IPA Series, which includes a new IPA every second month. Undecided and experimental craft consumers will welcome a new arrival this fall, The Professor Marzen – named after Fernie Brewing Co.'s past Brewmaster, Gord Demaniuk, and brewed with much love and respect by current Head Brewer and son, Jeff Demaniuk, and FBC's team of brewers.

Visitors are welcome at the Brewery's newly renovated and expanded Tasting Room to sample a range of fresh brews, support local initiatives and purchase a full range of products including the ever-popular growlers. Up to 12-beers are available on tap including "Cheers to Charity" Flights of 4; all proceeds from purchased flights are donated to a local charity or organization, making it undoubtedly the most worthwhile beer you'll drink all day!

Cheers!



26 Manitou Rd | 250-423-7797
ferniewbrewing.com



THE ARTS STATION



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

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

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

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

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

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





FEATURE ARTIST
STEPHANIE ROGERS



Stephanie Rogers began her enduring relationship with stained glass at just 20 years old. Working as a quality control inspector in the cosmetics industry in Ottawa, she enrolled in an 8-week stained glass class at a local high school as a creative outlet. It was an immediate fit and Rogers quickly immersed herself in the industry, working in 3 studios over the course of 15 years and later attending the renowned Pilchuk Glass School near Seattle.

Rogers' 2nd Avenue studio came to fruition in 2001, after living and working in Fernie for 10 years. Here she sandblasts individual glass pieces and works on a variety of custom stained glass orders. Her work can be seen at public buildings in Fernie and hangs in private homes as far away as Edmonton and Nelson.

Over the years, restoration of heritage buildings has become a feature of Rogers' work. In Ottawa, she worked on a number of large scale projects

including several church windows well over 100 years old. In the Kootenays, she was recruited to work on a badly damaged window at the historic St Eugene Mission. The glass panels required painstaking hand-staining and painting to match the vintage colours before the window could be completely re-leaded. The window is another part of the St Eugene story that ties the property indelibly to Fernie – the building's red bricks were fired in Fernie over 100 years ago.

In January 2018, Rogers will begin work on the restoration of a number of diamond-pattern windows at Fernie's Christ Church, including one particularly challenging window over 10' long.

Drop in to Stephanie's Glass and Art Studio to chat with the artist and see her at work.

532 2nd Ave | 250-423-3944
Stephaniesglass.ca



FEATURE PERFORMER
DENISE BAUGHAN

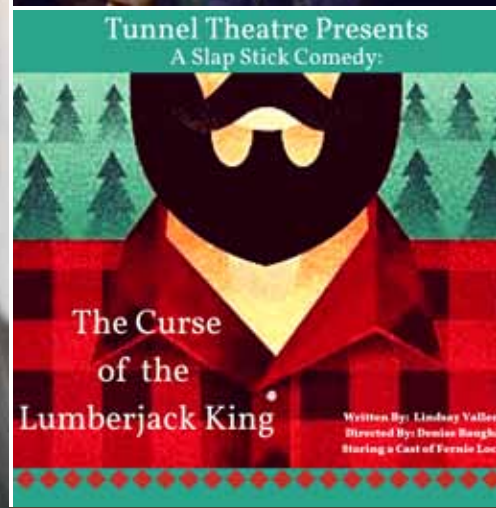
In her role as local community theatre champion, Denise Baughan writes, directs, and performs in a variety of productions from children's comedy to nationally acclaimed drama.

Denise developed her skills through intense theatre study with a focus on 'the artist,' and graduated from the University of Windsor with a Bachelor of Fine Arts for acting. She found a passion for Shakespeare and has fond memories of performing as Paulina in *A Winter's Tale*. During her studies, she became involved in Drama Education and later achieved her Bachelor of Education through Vancouver Island University. She particularly enjoys the process of developing skills with children and believes that theatre has a transformative power, building confidence and creativity through the shared experience.

In Fernie, Denise created and produced *A Fernie Collective* for The Arts Station, an immersive process which provided a deeper understanding of



Photo: Phil McLachlan/The Free Press



the local community, and resulted in many connections that she continues to foster today. She produced an adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, and most recently she produced *The Curse of the Lumberjack King*, a play by Lindsay Vallance. She is a board member of the Fernie and District Arts Council and has hosted a variety of theatre workshops and volunteered at many events over the years. She embraces the differences between acting and directing, and has channeled the unique skills associated with each role to help her become a talented master of the stage.

Starting September 21, Denise will host a monthly drop-in Improv session with an emphasis on fun and creativity. No experience is necessary, and everyone is welcome. She is also developing a Christmas show with Sadie Rosgen for performance in December. Denise lives in Fernie with her husband, Xavier, their dog, Ozzy, and cat, Oscar. She works full-time as a teacher.

ANGELA MORGAN GALLERY

Fine art gallery and working studio in Historic Downtown Fernie.

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

Open: Fri & Sat 12–5pm

**THE ARTS STATION**

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

601–1st Ave, Fernie | 250-423-4842

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

**BRIAN POLLOCK GALLERY**

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

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

Open: Open regularly & by appointment

**CHAINSAW CARVER**

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

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

fernienlogcarver@gmail.com Open most days & by appointment

**CLAWHAMMER LETTERPRESS**

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

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

Open: Fri & Sat 12–5pm

**ELKFORD ARTS STUDIO**

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

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

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

**EYE OF THE NEEDLE & FERNIE FORGE**

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

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

250-423-2671 | www.fernieforge.ca

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

**FERNIE ARTS CO-OP**

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

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

Open: Mon–Sat 10am–6pm | Sun 12pm–4pm

**KATHY STEAD – VISUAL ARTIST**

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

86 Ridgemont Dr. Fernie | 250-423-4979

www.kathysteadsfineartstudio.com | Open: Open by appointment

**KYLE HAMILTON PHOTOGRAPHY**

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

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

Open: Open regularly & by appointment

**STUDIO 562**

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

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

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

**POLAR PEEK BOOKS & TREASURES**

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

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

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

Sun 11am–5pm

**SARAH PIKE POTTERY**

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

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

Open: Call or text for appointment

**STEPHANIE'S GLASS & ART STUDIO**

Working stained glass and sandblasting studio. Stephanie's custom pieces have been exhibited worldwide. Gallery features work from other local artists. See Feature on P18.

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

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

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



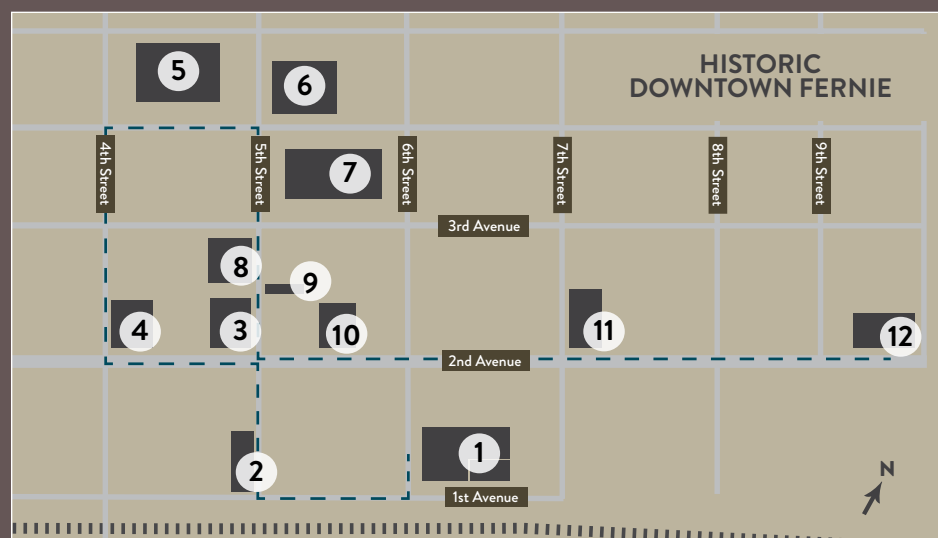
HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

A DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR OF FERNIE



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

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



1 CPR STATION

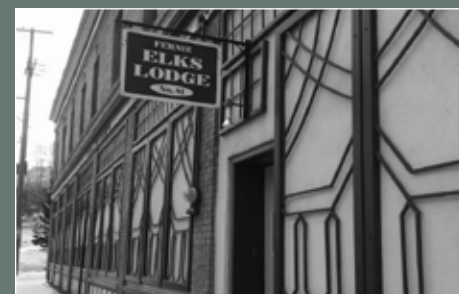
601 1st Avenue | Now in use as
The Arts Station



As use of the automobile grew, rail travel declined and so did use of this Second-Class station that had once been the centre of activity in Fernie. Although passenger services were discontinued in 1964, the train tracks are still in daily use carrying the freight trains that regularly pass through the Elk Valley. Since 1987, the Fernie & District Arts Council has used this facility as a performing and fine arts venue. Dine trackside at the Blue Toque Café and imagine yourself arriving on the platform for the first time 100 years ago! See P17 for more.

2 HOW FOON'S LAUNDRY

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



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

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

3 THE HOME BANK

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



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

4 THE IMPERIAL BANK 1909

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



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

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

5 THE COURT HOUSE

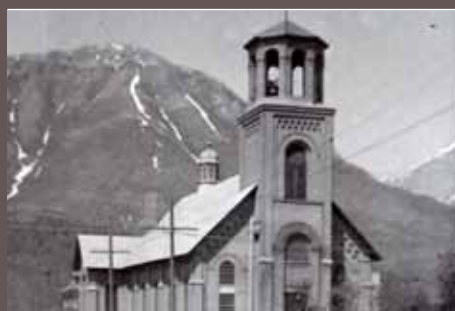
401 4th Ave | Now in use as
Fernie's Government of BC Offices



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

6 HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

521 4th Avenue



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

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

7 THE CROW'S NEST PASS COAL CO. OFFICES

501 3rd Avenue
Now in use as City Hall



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

8 THE FERNIE POST OFFICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICE

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



This imposing Romanesque Revival building reflects Fernie's importance as a government centre for the region; the engraved stone signs above the entrance to the Post Office and Customs Office are still in place. The building, for a time, served as the US consul office for the region. Built in 1907, the building was gutted but not destroyed in the 1908 Great Fire. An exhibit on the 1908 Great Fire is located on the landing of the main staircase. See P28 for more.

9 SALVATION ARMY

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



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

10 ISIS THEATRE

531 2nd Avenue | Now in use as
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



Be sure to enjoy Historic Downtown's local cafés, boutique shopping and cultural attractions (see attraction listings, P14). Visit working artists and artisans in their studios (see gallery listings, P20) and soak in the atmosphere of a town rich in history and heritage.

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.

It's all about attention to detail and exclusive offers at Fernie's Super 8. Conveniently located between Fernie's Historic Downtown and Fernie Alpine Resort.



Rates start at \$99 and include:

- Super Start Breakfast
- Strong unrestricted Wi-Fi
- New Large Hot Tub
- Sun Deck & BBQ
- Guest Laundry
- Ample Parking
- Business Centre
- CAN/US Long Distance Calling
- Secure Ski & Bike Storage
- 100% Non-Smoking
- Kids Under 16 Stay Free
- Wyndham Rewards loyalty program

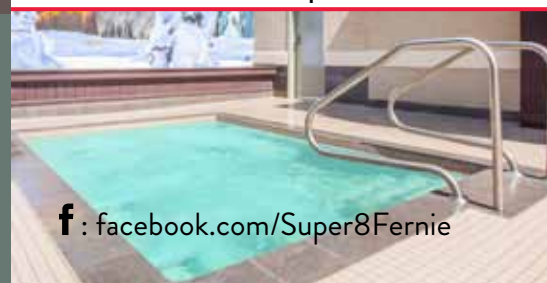
Ask about our pet friendly rooms!



With all these amenities included you'll start your day full and rested while saving money! That's value and convenience, exclusively offered only by Super 8 Fernie.



ferniesuper8.com | 1-877-447-6788 | 2021 Highway 3



f : facebook.com/Super8Fernie



FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY

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

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



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

As well as regular programming, the Fernie Heritage Library hosts community events such as the successful BOOKED! Fernie Writers' Series, Bibbity Bobbity Boo Children's Festival, the Lemonade Social and Halloween Howler. For more information visit their website or follow them on Facebook or Instagram.

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



FEATURE AUTHOR SHELBY CAIN

Raised in the Kootenays, Shelby Cain has been a Fernie resident for the past seven years. And if you ask her, she'll tell you they've been the best seven so far.

Shelby studied biology at the University of Alberta, but it was only when she had her first child that she considered writing. Not as a career, at first, but as a cathartic creative outlet. After a late-night Google session that included "How to write a book," she wrote a draft of her first novel, *Mountain Girl*. Seven years, and many edits later, *Mountain Girl* found its way to the shelves of bookstores across Canada via Fernie publisher, Oolichan Books. With support from the abundantly talented Fernie arts community, and a cover designed and painted by Fernie artist Vanessa Croome, the process was beyond fulfilling.

But why stop there? When Cain and two of her 'soul sisters' decided they needed a better excuse to get together they formed Wild Honey — a folk-roots trio — where Cain sings and writes songs. They play venues across British



Columbia and Alberta, including Wapiti Music Festival in Fernie and the Vogue Theatre in Vancouver. An EP is due out this fall. On November 3rd, Wild Honey will take to the stage at the Key City Theatre in Cranbrook, to accompany the incredible Cariboo Express ensemble led by Barney Bentall.

Cain's freelance writing has been published in national and international publications. She's won several awards for her short stories in both fiction and non-fiction and is a regular contributor to Fernie Fix and Kootenay Living magazines. A second novel, another page-turning thriller, is currently in the works thanks in part to an Arts, Heritage and Culture grant from CBT and the CKCA. She hopes you'll see it at a bookstore near you next year.



COMING THIS WINTER



FERNIE TREASURES & CURIOSITIES

DECEMBER 1ST – MARCH 31ST
AT THE FERNIE MUSEUM

There is intrigue in the vaults of a museum! The fascination of historic objects is the foundation for museum collections. On December 1st, join the Fernie Museum for the launch of 'Fernie Treasures and Curiosities' - a specially curated exhibition of 150 artifacts from the museum's vaults of almost 10,000 artifacts. Each item will be hand selected by a member of the community, who will reflect on the importance of the object and share how the objects, or their stories, are relevant to their lives today. Free event, cash bar.

SUGARPLUM FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 2ND – 22ND AT
THE ARTS STATION & HISTORIC
DOWNTOWN

Returning for the second year, The Sugarplum Festival celebrates the whimsy and wonder of Christmas in one of the snowiest towns in the Canadian Rockies. The Nutcracker is a globally beloved ballet and provides the theme for the festival which includes a screening of a performance by the

ROH, live theatre, craft workshops for children, and Carols by Candlelight with hot chocolate to round out the festival.

10TH REEL CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL & FERNIE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

January brings the 10th annual Reel Canadian Film Festival; a celebration of talent, diversity and excellence within the Canadian Film Industry. In February, the Fernie Mountain Film Festival celebrates the best of global filmmaking with a focus on mountain cultures, fragile environments, and the passion and perseverance of global explorers.

GRIZ DAYS WINTER FESTIVAL

MARCH 2ND – 4TH
Griz Days is Fernie's annual winter carnival with tons of fun for the whole family. From the slopes of Fernie Alpine Resort and the Extreme Griz Competition, to the streets of Historic Downtown Fernie and the Parade and Fireworks, Griz Days Fernie's biggest party of the year with all the wintery fun you can imagine!



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

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

ELKFORD

PH: 250-865-4015
750 Fording Drive

HOURS: Mon-Sat 9am – 5pm

43

SPARWOOD

PH: 250-425-2423
141 Aspen Drive

HOURS:
Daily 9am-4pm
till October 9th,
then Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

3

3

VISITOR CENTRES
OPERATED BY



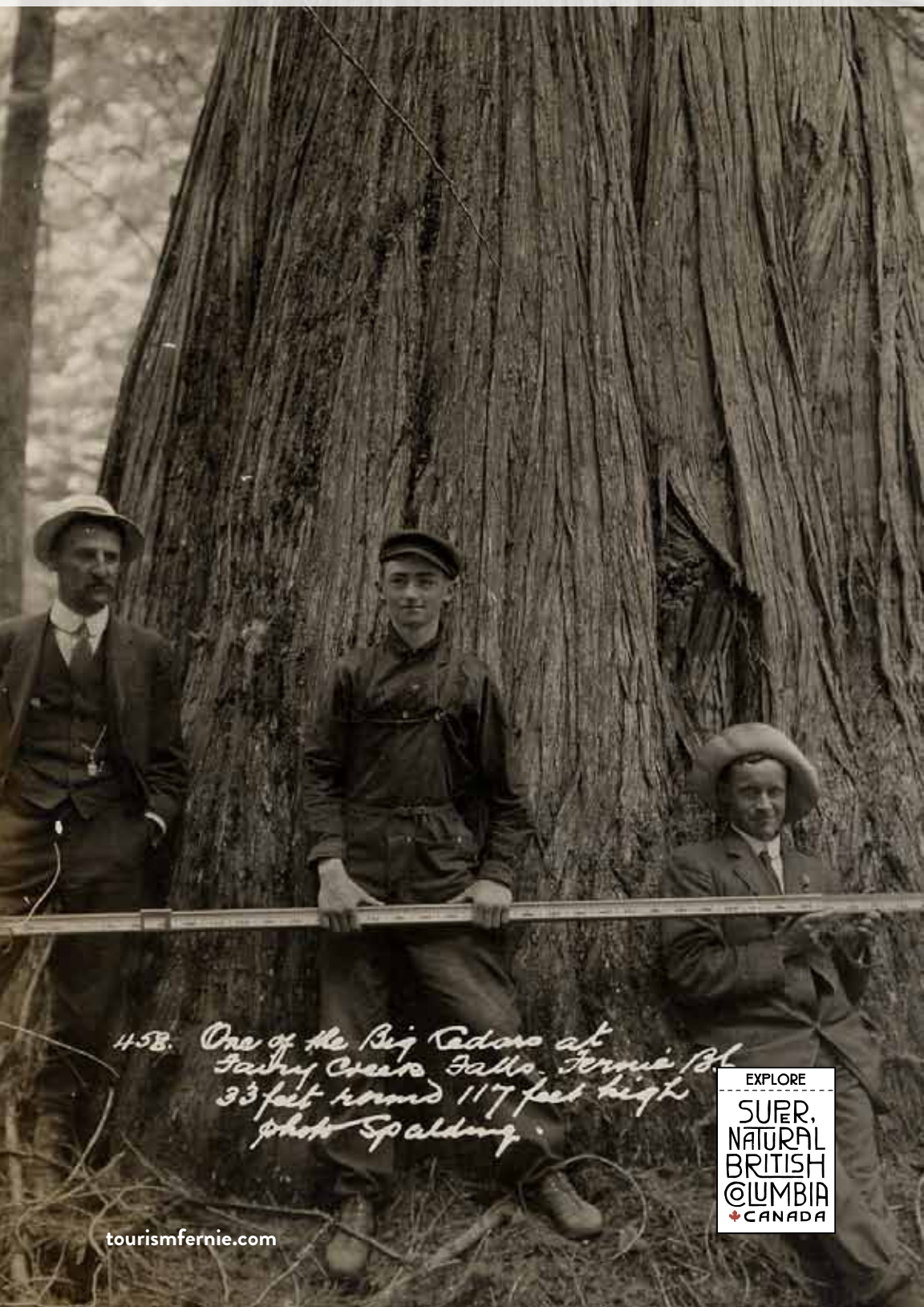
FERNIE

PH: 250-423-6868
102 Commerce Road
HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm

491 2nd Ave Downtown Location
HOURS: Daily 10am – 5:30pm

LUMBERING ALONGSIDE COAL MINES

This image was taken by JF Spalding and shows the richness of lumber in the Elk Valley in the early 1900's. By 1907 there were 15 sawmills operating in the valley, each capable of 40,000 feet of lumber per day. A couple thousand men were employed in these mills. The mills cut, floated, hauled, dressed and shipped wood products as far away as Manitoba.



45B. One of the Big Cedars at
Fairy Creek Falls, Fernie B.C.
33 feet round 117 feet high
photo Spalding.