

FERNIE & ELK VALLEY

CULTURAL GUIDE



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, 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

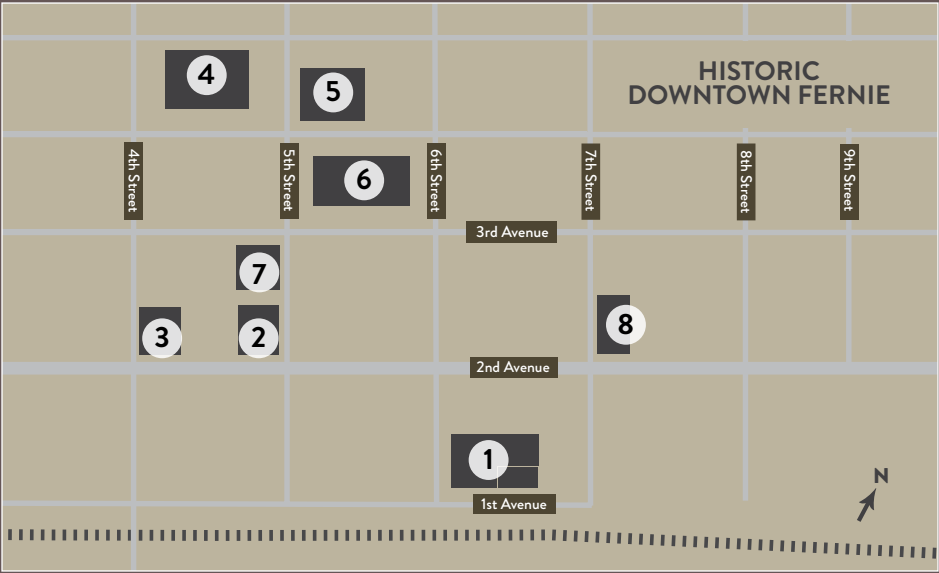
HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

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 p18 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 p8 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. See p26 for more.

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.

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 and standing on a spacious lot, 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; Mayor Giuliano welcomes visitors. 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.

7 THE FERNIE POST OFFICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICE

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



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

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 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.



SUMMER GALLERY EXHIBIT AND PROGRAMS

Currents: Artists Explore the Elk River. The Elk River has multiple identities – it is a mountain river fed by glaciers, a place for recreation for residents and visitors alike, and it offers some of the best fly-fishing in North America. Located in the 2nd floor gallery, this exhibit explores the river's impact through artworks by local artists and interactive interpretive panels and activities. A program of special events further explores the Elk River.

Summer walking tours will be offered every Saturday and Sunday throughout July and August. Advance registration is recommended but not required.

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



FERNIE IN ASHES THE GREAT FIRE OF 1908



“Fernie will rebuild. Fernie is populated by a people that is possessed with that indomitable western spirit that knows no such thing as failure, but continually follows the loadstone of success. Although there have been many distressing incidents, many losses, and many sorrowful cases of family distress, yet all will arise to the emergency presented and come out stronger and better than ever.”

- Fernie Will Rise Again,
The Cranbrook Herald, August 13, 1908



The Great Fire of 1908 was a dramatic, defining moment for Fernie that saw the community obliterated by fire in less than 90 minutes on August 1st, 1908. The fire claimed no lives, but the property loss was valued at over \$5 million dollars, a staggering amount at the time. It was the second major fire


in four years. In 1904, a fire destroyed much of Fernie's commercial core and led to the incorporation of the City of Fernie and the formation of the Fernie Fire Department.

The efforts of the firemen were no match for the 1908 firestorm; they surrendered where The Brickhouse Bar is today. People fled for the river. A Great Northern train passing through Fernie rescued many and took them to Hosmer. Surprisingly, over 16 homes survived, all at the far west end of Fernie. The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. offices (Fernie's City Hall today) also survived and became the place where refugees from the fire could obtain food and clothing. Nearby towns offered shelter, and supplies came from across Canada.

Reconstruction of the town quickly began and was largely completed by 1910. A number of the buildings were built from locally produced yellow brick. Many of the buildings seen today along Victoria (2nd) Avenue were restored in the 1980s with the assistance of provincial grants.

FERNIE MUSEUM

Visitor Information Centre, *This is Our Fernie* permanent exhibit, seasonal gallery exhibitions, special events and interpretive walks. See feature, p8.

491 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0 | 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 BC V0B 1M0
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, p18.

601 1st Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0
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. See feature, p13.

401 4th Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0
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. See p7, location 6 for more.

501 3rd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0
tourismfernie.com/activities/attractions/miners-walk | 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 BC V0B 1M0
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 and macaroons made in-house.

691 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0 | 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 BC V0B 1M5
ferniebrewing.com | 250-423-7797
Open: Daily, 10am – 5/6pm, hours may vary.



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, Nature Centre and geocache.

102 Commerce Road, off Hwy #3 at the Eastern gateway to Fernie
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 BC V0B 2G0
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, BC V0B 2G0 | 250-425-2423 



KTUNAXA NATION INTERPRETIVE KIOSK

A series of panels featuring the people of the Ktunaxa First Nation; their lives and traditions, and the migratory route between the Alberta plains and BC territories which followed Michel Creek. See feature, p16-17.

Michel pullout at the site of the former Michel Hotel, Hwy #3.
Map co-ords: 49.700642, -114.826999
ktunaxa.org | 250-489-2464



BEFORE & AFTER 901 FERNIE

901 Fernie, now a luxury residence with vacation rentals and an award-winning destination spa, was the Fernie Secondary School for 89 years, operating at 901 2nd Avenue from 1909-1998.

The attractive brick façade was covered with stucco in 1978 and many of the windows removed or reduced in size; the building remained like this until renovations began in 2006. The new exterior is faithful to the style and grandeur of the original building, and 901 Fernie has once again become a local landmark.



ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE THE FERNIE COURT HOUSE



The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. created Fernie as the industrial, commercial, government and cultural hub of the Elk Valley. Here, the company's head office was located and government services were quickly established to support the rapidly growing population.

Fernie has had four court houses since 1898. The first was a small building that was used for less than a year. The second, constructed in 1899, was a modest wood-frame building that housed a courtroom, a guardroom, a constable's room, a magistrate's chamber and four jail cells. It was quickly outgrown. Construction on Fernie's third, more substantial court house began in 1907 and was completed in spring 1908. It burned to the ground, along with most of Fernie, in the Great Fire of 1908. Read more p9.

The reconstruction of Fernie started almost immediately. For Fernie's fourth court house, a new larger site

was chosen on Howland Avenue (4th Avenue). Designed by George Stanley Reese, construction of the new building began in May 1909 and was completed in 1911.

The Fernie Court House is arguably the community's grandest heritage building and is the only such court house of its kind in British Columbia. The Architecture Foundation recognized it as one of BC's best buildings in 2014. The balustrade, hand carved with British Columbia's provincial flower, the dogwood, and the stained glass located in the courtroom, entrance, and stairwell, are two of the many rich architectural details of this impressive heritage building. The building has undergone few changes since it was built. It is still in use as a court house, as well as offices for the Government of BC and visitors are welcome to view the original entrance lobby during regular office hours.

NATURAL HERITAGE

THE FORESTS OF FERNIE



The Elk Valley's microclimate of sunny, warm summers and winters of light, dry snow have created a unique environment for flora and fauna and a rich ecological and geographical heritage.

MT FERNIE PROVINCIAL PARK & ISLAND LAKE LODGE

In the Cedar Valley located between Fernie and the Lizard Range, Ancient Western Red Cedars (pictured) line the trails and road to Island Lake Lodge. These trees are up to 800 years old and create a magnificent environment to enjoy Fernie's abundant natural history. An interpretive trail can be found in the Mt Fernie Provincial Park. Guided hiking is available at Island Lake Lodge.

ANCIENT COTTONWOOD TRAIL

In 2003, a grove of ancient Black Cottonwoods was discovered at Morrissey, approximately 14km from Fernie. Confirmed to be more than 400 years old, these trees are the oldest of their kind in the world and measure up to 10 metres around. A short trail with interpretive signage accesses the cathedral-like space.

The Fernie Trail Map is available online, at Fernie Visitor Centres and at outdoor shops.



STEPPING BACK IN TIME

HIKING THE COAL CREEK HERITAGE TRAIL

The Coal Creek Heritage Trail is one of the area's most easily accessible hikes. The trail provides a fascinating glimpse into the history of coal mining in the Elk Valley. A series of 15 interpretive panels along the route tell the story of the people who once lived here and the industry that thrived in the Coal Creek Valley. Artifacts, historical ruins and even a sulphur spring can be spotted on the way.

William Fernie and twenty miners imported from Cape Breton started the region's first coal mine east of Fernie in preparation for the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The mine was in operation from 1897 to 1958 and was

the heart of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. operations, along with the Michel-Natal mine.

The town of Coal Creek grew up around the mine. In its heyday, over 1,000 people of all nationalities lived in the community. An explosion at the Coal Creek mine on May 22, 1902 left 128 miners dead and remains one of Canada's worst mining disasters to this date. The mine closed after 61 years in operation, and today all that remains of this once vibrant community are ruins of the coke ovens and the mine plant, and imprints of the homes, stores, churches, and community halls that once proudly stood.

TRAILHEAD: The trail follows the abandoned Morrissey-Fernie-Michel Railway bed to the ghost town of Coal Creek and can be accessed from three trailheads: at the Fernie Aquatic Centre Trail Hub, at the Rifle Range on Coal Creek Road, or at the Coal Creek townsite.

From the Aquatic Centre the trail begins with the first section, ending at the entrance to St Mary's Cemetery. From here, follow Coal Creek Road

to pick up the trail again at the Rifle Range Kiosk and continue to the townsite trailhead.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Beginner, with some short steep sections. Wear layered clothing and comfortable walking shoes. Take snacks and water. Always be aware of local wildlife when hiking in Fernie.

DISTANCE: Round trip is 14 km

ELEVATION GAIN: Approx 200 m

THE KTUNAXA NATION LIVING CULTURE, LIVING TRADITIONS



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 the St. Eugene



Mission near Cranbrook, the Ktunaxa Nation continues to be a strong and thriving community. Today, there are more than 1,500 members in the BC communities of ?akisq̓nuk, ?aq̓am, ?akinkumfasnuq̓i?it, and yaqan nu?kiy. There are two Bands in Idaho and Montana connected by language and culture but politically independent.

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.



The Ktunaxa Nation Council is located in Cranbrook.

To learn more about the living culture and traditions of the Ktunaxa Nation:
ktunaxa.org | 250-489-2464

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 1991 — 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 ANGELA MORGAN

Following a ten-year period of university education in fine art that culminated in a Bachelor in Fine Arts with distinction, Angela Morgan settled in Fernie to raise a family and work full-time on her art.

Recently established in one of downtown Fernie's historic buildings, the former Trites-Wood Hardware Store, she paints with a dedication and organization that belies the lively and colourful nature of her work, celebrating humanity through the use of colour, pattern, and line. Her human figures express the poses of life, the jubilation of dance, the contemplation of parenthood, and the melancholy of summer's end. Colours fuse and meld to achieve gesture, transforming abstract images into living moments.

During open hours, visitors can experience the artist's studio in action where Angela can be found working on new pieces for any one of her

14 permanent galleries. The studio produces around 40-60 pieces per month in her trademark colourful oils, and Angela is enthusiastic to see what the space will bring in terms of new creative output. Pen & ink pieces, sculptural work and life studies are all potential future pursuits, while some smaller studies, mixed media pieces and other works are available for sale.

A new arrangement has brought traditional printmaker Michael Hephner into the space and both artists are excited about the inspirational nature of the shared space. A focused fine artist with an eye for creative colouring and whimsical large-scale subject matter, working next to a musically inclined typographer creating print pieces within the confines of traditional type and antique letterpresses is sure to be a fascinating journey of creativity and inspiration.

441 2nd Ave | angelamorgan.com



ANGELA MORGAN GALLERY

Fine art gallery and working studio in Historic Downtown Fernie. See feature story, page 19.

441C 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0

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. There's always something going on at The Arts Station.

601 – 1st Ave, Fernie, BC, V0B 1M0 | 250-423-4842

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, BC, V0B 1M0

250-430-7114 | www.brianpollock.ca

Open: Open regularly & by appointment

**CLAWHAMMER LETTERPRESS**

Historic print making and typographical art in the artisan tradition. Gallery space featuring posters, art cards, original paintings and more.

441C 2nd Ave, Fernie BC V0B 1M0

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, BC, V0B 1H0

250-433-7007 | www.elkfordartscouncil.blogspot.ca

Open: Open daily, hours vary

**EYE OF THE NEEDLE**

Artisan gallery & studio in a beautiful heritage building. Metalwork from Fernie Forge and other metalworkers, plus regional fibre art, candles and glasswork. One-on-one felting classes available.

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

250-423-2671 | www.fernieforge.ca

Open: Thu & Fri 10am – 5pm Sat 11:30am – 5:30pm | CBT Culture Tour, Aug 13-14



COMING SOON: Leanne Stothert – 562 2nd Ave. www.leannestothert.com

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 BC V0B 1M0

250-423-7044 | www.fernierartscoop.com

Open: Mon-Sat 10am – 6pm | Sun 12pm – 4pm

CBT Culture Tour, August 13-14

**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, BC, V0B 1M0

250-423-4979 | www.kathysteadsfineartstudio.com

Open: Open by appointment and during CBT Culture Tour, August 13 – 14

**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 are also available.

341c 3rd Ave, Fernie, BC, V0B 1M0 | 250-423-0904

www.kylehamiltonphotography.com | www.khphotograph.com

Open: Open regularly & by appointment

**POLAR PEEK BOOKS & TREASURES**

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

592 -2nd Ave. Fernie BC V0B 1M0 | 250-423-3736 |

polarpeekbooks.ca | Open: Mon-Thu 9:30am – 5:30pm |

Fri: 9:30am – 6pm | Sat 9:30am – 5:30pm | 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, BC, V0B 1M1

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 for private and public spaces have been exhibited worldwide. Gallery featuring the work of other local artists and artisans.

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





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, and most programs are free to attend. 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. The Library Book Bike is a regular sight at local events and gathering places throughout the summer and fall. The Library Gardens provide a relaxing spot for reading, with spectacular views of the Lizard Range and Mt Fernie.



The library hosts regular community events such as the wildly successful Booked! Fernie Writers' Series, welcoming 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, complimented 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.bclibrary.ca



FEATURE AUTHOR

ANGIE ABDOU

Angie Abdou moved to Fernie in the late 1990s. Though she makes her home partly in Alberta now, as a Professor of Creative Writing at Athabasca University, she is still active in Fernie's literary community. She is an award-winning author who published her first book *Anything Boys Can Do* in 2006 and her first novel, *The Bone Cage*, in 2007.

The Bone Cage became the inaugural One Book One Kootenay. With that honour came a 16-library tour throughout the East and West Kootenay, which Angie did with a toddler and baby in tow. *The Bone Cage* went on to be a CBC Canada Reads finalist in 2011, where it was championed by NHL star Georges Laraque. In 2012, *The Bone Cage* was named MacEwan Book of the Year, putting Angie in a prestigious group of authors, including Margaret Atwood and Yann Martel and Michael Ondaatje. Next, Angie published a satire of ski culture called *The Canterbury Trail*. It won an IPPY gold medal (an award for independent publishing) and was named a finalist for the Banff Mountain Book of the Year.

Angie's most recent novel is *Between* (2014, Arsenal Press). It explores the lives of working mothers and Filipino nannies and has been reviewed extremely favourably by critics in *The Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *Winnipeg Review*, and *Vancouver Sun*, as well as by the book industry's publication *The Quill and Quire*. It launched in the US in April 2015, and New York's *Library Journal* listed it as a Top 13 Indie Pick for Spring 2015. *Between* was named a "Best of 2014" book by *PRISM Magazine*, *49th Shelf*, and *The Vancouver Sun*. Angie's novel-in-progress is a ghost story set in the Rocky Mountains. She is a co-organizer of the Booked! Fernie Writers' Series.



abdou.ca



CULTURAL EVENT CALENDAR

For full details, updates and more live entertainment, see www.tourismfernie.com/events

JUNE

- 4 **Patio Party with live entertainment** | Kodiak Lounge
- 8 **Lemonade Social** | Fernie Heritage Library
- 10 **Carmanah** | The Royal
- 11 **Film Screening: *Elder in the Making*** | The Vogue Theatre
- 6-12 **Coal Miner Days & 50th Anniversary Celebrations** | Sparwood
- 15 **Exhibit Opening: Currents - Artists explore the Elk River** | Fernie Museum
- 17 **Brewga Yoga & Beer** | The Castle on First
- 22 **The Flatliners & Guests** | The Northern Bar & Stage
- 24 **The Staggers & Jaggs** | The Royal
- 25 **A Summer Affair Black Tie Gala** | Fernie Heritage Library
- 30 **Gallery Opening Reception: Artists' Collective** | The Arts Station

JULY

- 1 **Canada Day Celebrations** | Fernie Aquatic Centre
- 1 **Canada Day Celebrations** | Elkford & Sparwood
- 1-2 **Wildcat Days Celebration** | Elkford
- 6 **Wednesday Concert Series: Jocelyn Pettit** | The Arts Station Square
- 10 **Downtown Summer Social: Artsy Fartsy** | Historic Downtown
- 9-10 **Out of the Box Dumpster Painting Event** | The Arts Station Square
- 13 **Wednesday Concert Series: Chinookin'** | The Arts Station Square
- 16 **Griz Kidz Summer Carnival** | Fernie Alpine Resort
- 17 **Downtown Summer Social** | Historic Downtown
- 20 **Wednesday Concert Series: The Cave Singers** | The Arts Station Square

- 27 **Wednesday Concert Series: Ayrad** | The Arts Station Square
- 30 **Crafty Comedy – Beer & Comedy Night** | Fernie Community Centre
- 31 **Downtown Summer Social** | Historic Downtown

AUGUST

- 3 **Wednesday Concert Series: Po' Ramblin' Boys** | Station Square
- 10 **Wednesday Concert Series: The Raven & The Fox** | The Arts Station Square
- 12-13 **Wapiti Music Festival** | Annex Park
- 13-14 **Columbia Basin Culture Tour** | Various Locations
- 14 **Bibbity Bobbity Boo Children's Festival** | Rotary Park
- 14 **Show n' Shine Classic Car Show** | Historic Downtown
- 17 **Wednesday Concert Series: The Sealegs** | The Arts Station Square
- 24 **Wednesday Concert Series: Sean Ashby** | The Arts Station Square
- 25 **Gallery Opening Reception: Becca Musso Fibre Art** | The Arts Station
- 31 **Wednesday Concert Series: Tasman Jude** | The Arts Station Square

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **Lions Demolition Derby** | Railway Ave Demo Grounds
- 9-11 **Fernie Heritage Festival** | Fernie Museum/Historic Downtown
- 10-11 **Feast & Fest** | Eco-Garden/Prentice Park
- 10 **Exhibit Opening Reception: Hosmer** | Fernie Museum
- 15 **Booked! Fernie Writers' Series: Jon Turk** | Fernie Heritage Library

For weekly events and programming see p29.

WAPITI MUSIC FESTIVAL



The Wapiti Music Festival, now in its sixth year, has become a highlight of summer in Fernie. In a town made famous for its winters, summer is a multi-faceted jewel of amazing adventures and sizzling surprises, fervent days and refreshing evenings. With an abundance of outdoor activities book-ended by great indoor food and entertainment, a music festival combining all the above fits the town's zeitgeist like a custom-molded ski boot.

A couple thousand fun-lovers descend on Annex Park next to the Elk River at the foot of Mt. Fernie to loll and dance the weekend away every August. A visitor friendly festival with the feel of a local's event, Wapiti has become a fixture and a must do for new and familiar visitors to town.

The music of Wapiti is fresh, Canadian, indie. A tag line that hints at fun, friendly, frenetic, and only loosely categorizable. It's a description that also fits the average Fernieite or visitor right down to the grass between their toes.

An approachable event for those toting along friends or family of all ages, Wapiti hits all the right notes whether you want to chill or revel. With art installations, an eclectic food



village, craft-filled marketplace, and fun merchandise on hand, Wapiti is a festival for your senses. Whether you're in Fernie to live, shop, eat, play, or just soak up Fernie's summer chill, you'll find a spot to lay your blanket at Wapiti.

August 12-13, 2016 | Annex Park
Fri 6-11pm & Sat 12-11pm

Secure Bike Parking, Vendor Market, Kids Activities, Beverage Garden

TICKETS: Regular pricing \$79/\$49 Adult/Youth, Earlybird pricing while supplies last, FREE for 12 & U / 65 & O.

FEATURING: Yukon Blonde, The Matinee, Shred Kelly, Bear Mountain, The Funk Hunters, Camaro 67, Terra Lightfoot, Wooden Horsemen, Linden Anthony, Wild Honey

Stick around on August 14 for the Bibbity Bobbity Boo Children's Festival and the annual Show n' Shine!

WEDNESDAY CONCERT SERIES



For the fifth year running, music will fill the Historic Downtown of Fernie, bringing residents and visitors together to enjoy live entertainment, food, and refreshments, and an opportunity to socialize through the Wednesday Concert Series. Held weekly in July and August, these events are free and welcome all ages, tastes and backgrounds. Organizers work hard to represent an array of musical genres to satisfy all interests and perhaps spark new ones. With nine Wednesdays this summer, the lineup is not only diverse, it has some of the biggest names the series has ever known.

Kicking off the season is the West Coast's Jocelyn Pettit Band, playing original and traditional music inspired by Canadian and Celtic cultures. Later

that month, Fernie welcomes The Cave Singers – an Indie Rock band from Seattle, Washington who recently released their fifth album, *Banshee*. The tone changes in early August, as Po' Ramblin' Boys hit the outdoor stage. This Bluegrass band from Tennessee will play high-energy music from their debut album, *Back to the Mountains*.

This is just a taste of what's on offer and with each week building off the last, you won't want to miss a Wednesday Concert this summer. For dates and band names, see calendar, p25.

Station Square at The Arts Station.
Corner of 1st Ave & 6th St.

Refreshments 6 - 9pm
Free Live Music 6:30 – 8:30pm

PATIO SEASON

From May to October, stroll Historic Downtown Fernie and enjoy the lively patio scene. Coffee shops, bars and restaurants along 2nd Avenue install wooden-decked patios complete with umbrellas and table service for relaxing over drinks or enjoying a meal with family and friends.



On 4 select Sundays in July and August, the Summer Socials turn Fernie's Downtown into a street-fair of family fun and entertainment. Take in art demos, a classic car show and activities for all ages on 2nd Ave between 4th & 7th Streets.

Riverside patios can be found at the Stanford Resort and Bridge Bistro, or retreat to the mountains at Fernie Alpine Resort or Island Lake Lodge. Try a rooftop patio at The Curry Bowl, or a garden escape at Mugshots Bistro or Nevados.

SUMMER MARKET SEASON



A summer staple, outdoor markets in the Elk Valley and South Country are a cornucopia of artisan creations, local produce and unique treasures.

The **FERNIE MOUNTAIN MARKET** season kicks off at the Canada Day Celebrations at the Fernie Aquatic Centre on July 1st, continuing on Sundays in July & August from 10am – 2pm at Rotary Park.

RIVER VIEW FARMERS' MARKET, ELKFORD

Thursdays 3:30-8:30pm,
June 30 – September 29

SPARWOOD MARKET

Titan Park - Fridays from 4 – 7pm,
July 8 – September 16

BAYNES LAKE MARKET

Saturdays 9am – 12:30pm,
June 30 – September 3



Experience Our Rocky Mountain Splendour

Fernie is rich in experiences where one can delve into nature. From hiking to fly fishing, river rafting to golfing, mountain biking to camping, ziplining to climbing - or simply chasing waterfalls. Find your Fernie splendour.



COMING THIS FALL & WINTER



The cultural scene shifts focus in September as weekly and monthly entertainment series' begin and special arts events fill the cultural calendar. The popular monthly Indie Films Fernie series brings the best independent films to Fernie for a single night screening at the Vogue Theatre from September through to April, while Canadian and international talents take to the stage for the concert series at the Arts Station. Also at the Arts Station, look for the 'What the Dickens' Christmas Festival running throughout the month of December plus monthly Gallery opening receptions.

Film Festivals are a highlight of Fernie's winter, with the Reel Canadian Film Festival showcasing the best of Canada's film-making talent in January, and the Fernie Mountain Film Festival celebrating mountain culture in February. The Booked! Fernie Writers' Series brings four literary heavyweights to the Fernie Heritage Library during the cooler months.

Watch for the fall/winter issue of this guide coming soon!

WEEKLY CULTURAL EVENTS IN FERNIE, JUNE – SEPTEMBER

MONDAYS

Jam/Open Mic Night at Kodiak Lounge

TUESDAYS

\$6.50 movies at the Vogue Theatre

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Concert Series (July & August only)

Jam Night at The Royal

THURSDAYS

Jam Night at the Brickhouse
Team Trivia at The Pub Bar & Grill

FRIDAYS

Live Entertainment at Infinita

SATURDAYS

Downtown Interpretive Walking Tour – Fernie Museum (July & August only)
Open Mic, DJ & Live Entertainment at The Fernie Hotel & Pub

SUNDAYS

Mountain Market at Rotary Park (July & August only)
BBQ & Beats at Infinita



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
And open Sundays:
July 3 to August 28

43

SPARWOOD

HOURS OF OPERATION
Daily 10am - 6pm

3

3

VISITOR CENTRES
OPERATED BY



FERNIE

HOURS OF OPERATION
Fernie Highway: Daily 9am - 5pm
Downtown: Daily 10am - 5:30pm

THE LEGEND OF THE GHOSTRIDER

On sunny evenings, look to the north as the sun sets, and watch the shadowy figure of Fernie's Ghostrider ride out from the face of Mt Hosmer. Shrouded in myth and legend, this icon and mascot of Fernie binds past and present in perpetuity.

Experience Fernie this summer.



Can you see the shadow in the middle of the mountain?

#ferniestoke

